



## Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group

### *January 2017 Newsletter*

#### **Four Pillars to provide Board Focus**

Following approval at the October AGM of our new Strategic Plan, the “December Board Meeting” spent considerable time discussing the resourcing and priority issues that arise from it. Prior to the meeting our Chair, Jim Wilson, distributed a stimulating paper that summarised many of the implications and opportunities that he could see in this space and challenged Directors to enter into a vigorous discussion of these and any other pertinent issues.

*Emerging from the Board discussion was a re-affirmation that our core business is entering into dialogue with government at all levels regarding policy and regulatory settings that impact on the productivity of our member companies.*

However, there was recognition that, within the constraints of our resourcing model, TAPG has shown itself very adept at undertaking a range of other tasks through project work that could best be described as “extension” activities in areas such as soil health and innovative farming practice. These activities had been undertaken either as stand-alone TAPG projects or in partnership with other agencies, groups or companies.

In taking stock of these initiatives and again, in the light of the new strategic plan, the Board established four pillars of priority around which it would authorise future activity.

**The following point's best describe these pillars:**

- 1. Market Access with strong Export emphasis.**
- 2. Freight Provision that provides a flexible range of options.**
- 3. Industrial Frameworks with strong support for labour market reforms.**
- 4. Soil Health Advocacy and extension initiatives.**

**The Agenda for the February Board Meeting to be held on Wednesday 14 will devote additional time to revisit this discussion with a view to further refinement of these statements and development of accompanying implementation plans.**

### **Waste Water Forum**

**TAPG, in conjunction with member company RMCG, Tas. Water and the EPA will be convening a Waste Water Forum that will be open to all members of the Tasmanian Agricultural Community for whom waste water is an issue.**

**While full details are not available at this point the Forum will provide an opportunity for participants to examine the planning and practice of companies who are successfully moving towards meeting their obligations in this space. Full explanation and discussion of the legislative framework surrounding waste water will be provided together with opportunities to work in small workshop groups designed to help your company set and move towards meeting its specific goals.**

**It is anticipated that this will be a free one day workshop.**

**Full details will be circulated as soon as possible.**

## **Board Membership Changes**

The election results last year were endorsed by the members present at the AGM. The following table represents the current Board Membership following the subsequent resignation of Mr Allan Barr necessitated by his promotion within the national Ruralco structure:

<b>Vegetable Processing</b>	<b>Gregory Bullock</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2018</b>
<b>Plantation Forestry</b>	<b>Jim Wilson-Chairman</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2018</b>
<b>Other Crop Processing</b>	<b>Rohan Kile</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2018</b>
<b>Agri-Business Marketing</b>	<b>Anthony Houston</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2017</b>
<b>Fresh Vegetables</b>	<b>Mark Kable</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2018</b>
<b>Other (Business Development)</b>	<b>Nicola Morris</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2017</b>
<b>Discretionary (Regulatory Affairs)</b>	<b>Current Board Vacancy (vice: Allan Barr)</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2017</b>
<b>Vegetable Processing</b>	<b>Jo Tubb</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2017</b>

<b>Agribusiness Services</b>	<b>Graeme Palmer</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2017</b>
<b>Dairy Processing</b>	<b>Richard Fisher</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2018</b>
<b>Primary Production</b>	<b>Rosie Mackinnon</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2017</b>
	<b>Keith Rice</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2018</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Logistics</b>	<b>Dean Hart</b>	<b>Term concludes Oct 2018</b>

***“The Minister of the day is invited to send a representative to all Board Meetings as a non-voting “Observer”. The current representative is Mr. Ashley Bastock.”***

***“Past Director, Mr. Allan Barr, in his new national role with Ruralco has been invited to attend occasional meetings as an observer and provide the Board with insight into developments across Australia.”***

## **Precision Agriculture EXPO, 20 April, 2017 - Deloraine**

Our third annual Precision Agriculture EXPO will again be held at the Deloraine Community Complex.

This year's Theme for Equipment Displays and Field Demonstrations will be *Tillage and Seeding* and this theme will also carry through into the Spatial Technology Booths based in the Rotary Pavilion.

A major new component to this year's program will be the Poppy Growers EXPO supported by Poppy Growers Tasmania, Tasmanian Alkaloids and Sunpharma.

Dr Jason Scott will provide growers with a Poppy Mildew Update while major Poppy Industry Leaders will provide a challenging session titled: "Industry Outlook 2020".

Later in the morning Professor Salah Sukkarieh will be introducing the Robotics Research conducted by the University of NSW prior to the field demonstration of their robotic weeding machine in the afternoon.

We will have "pre-planted" crops available for field walk comparisons that will demonstrate the value of precision seeding equipment along with a "live-feed" demonstration by TOPCON Australia from their demonstration fields in Adelaide.

The final program and running sheet will be published following the next committee meeting on 14 February. This will be sent to you by e-mail and appear in agricultural news outlets.

This program will more than justify your time to attend.

Please RSVP to this free event for catering purposes.

## **HIA Tasmanian Visit**

In June 2016 HIA announced the appointment of Mr Michael Rogers as a dedicated Trade and Export General Manager to strengthen the nation's fruit, vegetable and nut export capacity.

TAPG is a member of the Tasmanian Fruit and Vegetable Export Facilitation Group and was represented at a meeting with Michael prior to Christmas in Melbourne where we lobbied for assistance with funding for maintenance of our initiatives in establishing and operating our facilitation group. Other funding matters directly related to Fruit Growers Tasmania were also discussed.

The major outcome of that meeting was a commitment by Michael Rogers to come to Tasmania in January to gain a better understanding of our company's circumstances and capacity as he had never been to Tasmania previously.

During the four day Tasmanian visit Phil Pyke (CEO-FGT and Chair, Export Facilitation Group), Ian Locke (Export Facilitator) and Terry Brient (EO, TAPG) hosted Michael while visiting a range of fruit and vegetable producers across Tasmania along with representatives from the Department of State Growth.



(Photo shows: Ian Locke (Export Facilitator), Michael Rogers (General Manager Trade-HIA), Jason Schmidt (Regional Manager – Tasmania Berry Category – COSTA) inspecting the new East Devonport Cool Store.

HIA's capacity to resource a range of projects in Tasmania remains in negotiation at this time and members will be advised of these outcomes as they are confirmed.

### **Vale: Mike Gow**

As advised to members previously, our industry has lost one of the pioneers of the contemporary agri-business structure in Tasmania with the passing of Mike Gow. Along with Buz Green, Mike co-founded Serve-Ag in 1978 and together they built the company's reputation through introduction of new technology and provision of "at the elbow" field support for farmers.

Mike was a past Chair of TAPG as well as serving on the University Board. In both roles his broad vision for the future of agriculture in Tasmania was recognised and respected.

On behalf of the TAPG Board and membership we pass on our condolences to Mike's family and friends throughout the industry.

For Comments or other feedback on this Newsletter please contact the Executive Officer:

Terry Brient

[terry.brient@gmail.com](mailto:terry.brient@gmail.com)

This Newsletter should be read in conjunction with the following Attachments:

1. Chairperson's Report 2016
2. TAPG Strategic Plan