



Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group

July 2017 Newsletter

What's Coming Up?

Waste Water Forum

TAPG, in conjunction with member company RMCG along with NRM (North), Tas. Water and the EPA are convening a Waste Water Forum on Thursday 27 July that is open to all members of the Tasmanian Agricultural Community for whom waste water is an issue. Members have already received a detailed program by e-mail.

Annual Election of Board Membership

Directors on our Board are appointed for a two year term. Our election cycle sees half the positions becoming vacant each year. Nominations are now being called for the following positions:

Agri-business Marketing

Business Development

Regulatory Affairs

Vegetable Processing

Agribusiness Services

Primary Production

Any “retiring” Director is eligible for re-election to another two year term.

Nomination forms are available by contacting the Executive Officer at:

terry.brient@gmail.com

Or, phone: 0407 287 537

“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.”

Industry Forum and Annual General Meeting

This popular industry gathering will again be held towards the end of October or early November depending on the Minister’s availability.

The precise date, venue and program details will be advised through our regular Member Updates.

TAPG Annual Awards for Agricultural Excellence

At the recently held July Board Meeting Directors approved further revisions to this policy document.

Accordingly, nominations are now called for these awards as detailed below.

Nominations should be received by **COB Friday 18 August** and will be considered by the Board at their meeting on Monday 4 September.

Prior contact with the EO is strongly recommended to anyone considering forwarding a nomination.

As a guide to anyone thinking of providing the Board with a nomination for these awards the Categories and Criteria for each are provided below:

TAPG Awards & Recognition Policy

Categories and Criteria for Nominations

Introduction:

Following the Board's adoption of our Policy on this matter it was resolved that a guideline document be produced for initial use and further development based on the year to year experience of the Board in determining awards.

Categories:

While the following categories are proposed there is not any expectation that potential awardees need to be nominated in any or all of them in any one year. The intention is that they simply serve to stimulate nominations and to focus discussion on the nature of the awards.

Suggested Categories:

- **Life Time Achievement** – “a sustained contribution over the course of a career.”
- **Innovation** – “a changed practice/machinery improvement, application of technology or related change.”
- **Scientific Advancement** – “recognition of research accomplishment within the agricultural industry.”
- **Market Development** – “awarded for accessing nontraditional or high value *niche* markets.”
- **Product Development** – “establishment of a new opportunity to extend agricultural productivity or reinvigorate an existing product.”
- **Service to the Agricultural Community** – “where an individual or group has supported the agricultural industry either directly or through representation.”
- **Training & Recruitment** – “recognition of industry changing processes including the Occupational Health & Training sector.”
- **Young Entrepreneur/s** – “acknowledgement of individual initiative and endeavour by younger person/s engaged in the industry.”

Criteria & Selection Process:

1. Nominations will be called in July of each year. Nominators will be urged to discuss the process with the Executive Officer.
2. Nominee details will be submitted to the Board using a common template that will allow easier comparison of candidates.
3. The emphasis in determining all awards will be on “high order” examples.
4. The Board will capture the essence of this detail through their discussion and determination of acceptability with any nomination.
5. The Citation included with the award will detail the key elements of the nomination that led to the award.

Conclusion:

Once discussion on these matters is settled by the Board the machinery processes of timelines, notification to recipients and media release needs to be determined to allow for presentations to be made at an appropriate occasion such as an Industry Forum or the AGM of TAPG.

Working Party: Draft Guidelines, Rick Rockliff, Terry Brient (March 2010)

Inaugural Presentations, 2013

Revisions: 2014, 2016, 2017

Precision Agriculture EXPO, 20 April, 2017 - Deloraine

Our third annual Precision Agriculture EXPO was again held at the Deloraine Community Complex with close to 300 people attending.

The trial of conducting a major commodity EXPO within the overall program was deemed a great success with the Poppy Growers EXPO well supported by Poppy Growers Tasmania, Tasmanian Alkaloids and Sunpharma.

In evaluating this year’s program, our committee have agreed to continue the strategy by including an EXPO on Potatoes in next year’s event.

Other features will include significantly more use of field machinery demonstrations and reportage on State and Federal funded extension projects. The event will be held on Thursday 19 April, 2018.

Green Paper on RD&E

TAPG submitted a response to the invitation from Government to comment on the Green Paper for Growing Tasmanian Agriculture-Research, Development & Extension for 2050. Ultimately, this will lead to a White Paper that will become Government Policy in the future.

Without providing all of the submission detail here we have reproduced the main comments signed off by our Chairperson, Jim Wilson, for the information of members:

Current Strengths as Drafted

- *In keeping with its parent document: Cultivating Prosperity: A 2050 Vision for Agriculture, the production of the Green Paper is to be applauded. Understanding that the RD&E settings must align and support the attainment of the productivity targets listed within the 2050 Vision may seem self-evident but actually requires higher order planning and implementation.*
- *The Green Paper not only provides an invitation from Government to the private sector to generate further growth, it also makes a bold statement in the market place that Tasmania is 'Open for Business'.*
- *This focus on RD&E is not only appropriate but essential if the growth targets encapsulated in the Vision are to be realised.*
- *There is an acknowledgement that while Tasmania has fantastic resources in UTAS, TIA and Industry Service Providers these resources require optimisation through a model that delivers tailored (industry owned) research direction and extension.*
- *The acknowledgement that research and demonstration farms are currently underutilised is supported by Industry and presents an opportunity for more effective outcomes.*
- *The invitation to form a "Road Map" for RD&E should invigorate both Industry and traditional providers to more effectively utilise both private and public resources to deliver on the 2050 Vision.*

Opportunities for Improvement

- *The RD&E White Paper should acknowledge and support the enhancement of a sustained 'Growth Culture' amongst the broadest interpretation of the Tasmanian agribusiness community. The ultimate delivery of the Vision requires our businesses and community to be excited about growth, and look for pathways to realise it.*

- *Food Production and Fibre Production are often used side by side in contemporary agricultural policy settings. Plantation Forestry should be included within the scope of the 2050 Vision as an agribusiness involved in Fibre Production on >300,000 ha of Tasmania's productive land. This position reflects TAPG's sustained view that Plantation Forestry is simply another integral industry to optimising Tasmania's productive capacity.*
- *The DPIPWE Enterprise Suitability Mapping project provides 'shelf ready' information to hypothetically 'optimise' Tasmania's land mass and establish how much GDP is possible under existing enterprises. This output will provide some sense of reality around the possibility of a \$10b target for Community, Industry, and Government.*
- *The research direction of TIA requires more direct engagement from, and accountability to, Industry that ensures it is targeted to applied challenges and opportunities. This could take the form of an 'advisory council' that meets regularly to define direction and review output. Outputs must be successfully deployed through contemporary extension that involves demonstration growers and service providers. The ultimate output vehicle for public research could take the form of an annual 'Extension Day' for all interested stakeholders.*
- *The Education and Training agenda is critical to Tasmania's long term capacity for growth. Current Primary and Secondary educators will require professional development that assists them to integrate agribusiness content into the existing curriculum.*
- *The logistics industry (freight) requires engagement from public and private interests to ensure capacity growth commensurate with the private sectors response to the 2050 Vision.*
- *The RD&E Paper is well recognised by 'Industry'. However, successful deployment will require a social licence to attract investment and weather inevitable storms associated with a global community engaged with food and fibre production. The 2050 Vision requires direct engagement with interested parties that can be advocates during the life of the Vision.*

Conclusion:

TAPG acknowledge and support the Government's interest in maintaining momentum towards the 2050 Vision, and the development of the White Paper as an integral step.

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

Terry Brient

terry.brient@gmail.com