



2017 Tasmanian Branch AFSA Annual General Meeting

Kingston Hotel, Kingston 2.30pm Friday 18th August 2017

- Present** Bill and Kathryn Earley, Tim Murfet, Sara Rogers, Craig Swan, Darren Quinn, Bruce McIntosh, & Krysteen McElroy
- Apologies** President Bill Earley declared the meeting open and called for any apologies. Apologies were recorded from – Noel Quinn, Geoff Quinn, Beams Bros, Rodney and Mandy Fowler, Troy & Sally Harper, Brent Rogers, McDougall's, Calvin King, Scott Evans, Phil Salter & Nicholas Bond
- Sponsors** Although there were no sponsors present, President Bill paid tribute to those companies and individuals who that had once again supported the Tasmanian Branch of AFSA.
- Minutes** The minutes of the previous AGM having previously been circulated were confirmed on the motion of ...
Moved ...T. Murfet... **Seconded**... K. Earley..... **Motion** ... Carried.
- Business Arising from the Minutes**
1. Discussion on transport – re the commonsense approach to Transport
 2. Flags still all having difficulty finding the right place to put them on trucks – chain of responsibility – we all need to read the rules and do the best with what we have.
 3. It was stated that there were still issues regarding the system for booking fertiliser and although there had been improvements in some areas, it remained an issue requiring the attention of those responsible for its effective and efficient operation. Quinn's commented still having trouble last week, with special blends as not on system.
 4. Is fertilizer accredited – why aren't they, when it arrives on ship
 5. AFSA Trailer – need to too talk to Kevin Beams and get him to purchase new trays for trailer and AFSA to pay
 6. Discussion re Fertcare course – need to organise another course have at least 14-20 – also discussion on trying to finish course there and then no homework to take home!!! Bill to talk to Martin Brennan
- Presidents Report** Bill presented a comprehensive report on AFSA (TAS) State & agriculture activities (Copy attached)
Moved B. Earley **Seconded**... T. Murfet ... that Presidents report is received.
- Financial Report** The audited Financial Report was presented by the Treasurer Kathryn Early (copy attached). The report indicated the sound financial position that the branch enjoyed with total funds being \$19214.90 represented by a Cheque A/C of \$4126.61, At Call A/C of \$1120.58 and a Fixed Term Deposit of \$13967.71.
Moved ... K.Earley... **Seconded** ... D. Quinn ..that Financial Report is received.

Election of Office Bearers

Craig Swan to the chair for the election of officers

President – there being no further nominations Bill Earley was duly re-elected.

V. President – there being no further nominations Bruce McIntosh was elected ...
Moved D. Quinn .. **Seconded...** T. Murfet

Secretary /Treasurer – there being no further nominations Shona Murfet was elected **Moved...** T.Murfet **Seconded...** K Earley

Committee: D. Quinn, Tim Murfet

Bankers – Westpac to remain as branch bankers.

Auditors – J Hendricks was reappointed as branch auditor.

General Business.

Craig Swan – Thank you for inviting me over for your AGM-membership Australia wide is a good result.

- Large projects AFSA – Work place H&S on line portal can be customised to own business – yearly subscription and for all to use, been audited and covers all national regulations
- Accuspread online module upgrade
- Trying to Market AFSA – customers don't know us or Fertcare, Accuspread – 15million people on face book – ambition to get 1000 members on AFSA face book page – need any photo's or stories please send to Krysteen and she will post them.
- Feel we are all very fortunate to attract Krysteen McElroy to AFSA Executive officer, she has proved herself to be very good for the association.

Krysteen McElroy -

Board, state committees and networking

- need to get young members to a national development traineeship, and need a Tasmanian member on board and someone to go to National conference.
- National board of directors – big change since old national committee – board now working hard on projects.
- Encouraging younger members to attend Board meetings as an observer to learn what is required.
- Get in and have a go – take on Vice role gives experience without responsibilities, Highlight that taking on Vice role indicates willingness to take on Chair role in next year

What is value of being AFSA member and how we can give value for money

- Innovations – any new thing happening in our industry
- Trials and research – maybe need to take things forward for future needs and requirements
- New spreading machinery – wherever possible should be accredited by an independent quality assurance person
- Fertcare course – later in year and have good numbers and should look at spreader module and transport module
- Being on the front foot environmentally (example of Crafer Farms in NZ)
- QA accu-spread testers is important for national standard and is pass mark on Accu-spread to low?
- AFSA needs to be more contractor focussed and look at business operating systems, OHS and benchmarking. Relate more to the greater good – people and training.

Moved a motion to send out a register to members for wasted time at Impact depots by spreaders and transport employees - **Moved** ... T. Murfet ... **Seconded** ... D Quinn .. **CARRIED**

AFSA Tas Branch Downtime register –

Due to some concerns about the amount of downtime being experienced at Impact Fertiliser sites, it was decided that a register be kept by members and employees in spreaders and road trucks and forwarded to Bruce McIntosh. This register of wasted time will be correlated each month until end of December by Bruce McIntosh and Krysteen McElroy. This will entail any time of 15 mins or more in waiting for product or paperwork, and any time wasted in waiting for scheduled bookings. This will then be presented to Impact Fertiliser Management by our National President Craig Swan to show our concerns with the wasted time we are experiencing at these sites and show the down time we endure with this unproductive system, so please note all times on your paperwork so as Bruce and Krysteen can liaise with you each month.

Discussion on member's employees being poached for employment by other members in work hours – all agreed that this was unethical and total disapproval by all members present and should not happen within the Tasmanian Association.

Meeting Closed 6pm

2016-2017 AFSA Tasmanian Branch Presidents Report and AFSA winter report

G'day all, another year has rushed past and now the cold weather is with us here in Tassie again, we have until now had a reasonably mild autumn/winter, not much rain over June and July so farmers enjoying an easier than usual start to winter. Some rain has happened over this past month so it's more like a normal winter, good falls of snow on most of our mountain ranges as well.

The dairy industry has done a total back flip in Tassie and a better opening price for this year will get our dairy farmers spirits up and going again, this will give us all a positive flow on affect throughout our communities, last year we saw the low prices and things were quite depressed in this area of agriculture.

Sheep and Beef producers are still getting great prices for their meat, and these farmers are enjoying great returns at present, hopefully it all remains sustainable and the flow affect will continue from this sector as well.

The cropping guys are gearing up for an earlier than usual plantings due to the dryer than usual winter season we are enduring. Most of the Spuds are out, Broccoli is all finished, and Carrots are underway at present.

The Poppy industry is in for another below average year with planting areas still depressed, will take a few more years to come out of an oversupply of end products.

Next year's Cereal Grain prices are looking only ok but with the dairy upturn we will no doubt see bigger usage so no doubt prices will lift in the wake of this.

Medicinal Hemp has finally been given the go ahead in the state so this will see farmers offered another crop in their cropping rotations and another alternative crop.

Our membership is holding steady, not going ahead and not going backward, so just holding its own. I've been slack on new member recruiting, need to draft a letter to agri businesses and potentials in Tassie and try to get them on board, will work on this.

I've been watching for some time now the occupational health and safety in our industry, apparently common sense has slowed to such a slow pace that it has stopped and is now not allowed to be driven anywhere by anyone, what a total disaster it has come to this!!! Bring back "The Common Sense" we desperately need it back in our workplaces to keep all this overpriced, over bureaucratic and totally over governed, hoo haa that has crept into all our businesses. I see our national board has drafted and are to implement an OH & S package for all our members this should help all of us, stay tuned as this unfolds.

Now I've had that rant, I would like to say remaining in the presidents chair as an owner operator of a couple of businesses, I am finding I cannot devote the time and effort this position needs and deserves, when this is happening it's time to get out. I am going into my 5th year as president and this will be my last year in this position, I have said it before the

position needs a person that has constant contact with an office environment so as time and resources can be devoted to our members and national counterparts requirements.

Hope you all have a great winter and spring and catch up whenever

Cheers from Bill