



DairyTas Board
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Your Levy at Work

10th November 2016

Media Release

DairyTas 2016 Annual Meeting Summary

DairyTas continues to roll out programs with annual expenditure of over \$1M to dairy farmers and communities around Tasmania.

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, DairyTas Chairman Symon Jones pointed to a number of highlights for DairyTas in 2015/16 as dairy farmers faced major seasonal challenges and a lower milk price as international conditions continued to deteriorate. As a result of these factors milk production dropped 0.9% across the state. The highlights from DairyTas included projects such as:

- Feed budgeting for 84 farms in 2016
- 125 FertSmart nutrient budgeting plans for farmers
- Commencement of the Taking Stock farm management program with 60 farms in 2015/16
- Financial, business and HR management workshops across the state
- Faces of Tasmanian Dairy promotional videos
- Tasmanian dairy promotion in the UK
- School based programs including Cows Create Careers, Picasso Cows and Beacon Foundation
- Smithton wins Legendairy Capital award for Tasmania
- Image building in Circular Head
- 9 local Discussion groups supported
- Focus Farm at Limberlost Dairy in Kayena
- Tasmanian dairy conference and industry awards
- Industry training workshops and NCDE courses with TasTAFE

During 2016/17 DairyTas has run over 65 industry events for dairy farmers and service providers from its 20 plus programs. DairyTas' activity covers a wide range of topics and projects managed on a collaborative basis with Dairy Australia, TIA Dairy Centre, TasTAFE and AgriTas to ensure a coordinated delivery to farmers. Funding is secured from Dairy Australia via the farmer levies, Commonwealth and State Governments, industry and service providers.

Towards the end of the 2015/16 year DairyTas' focus has been on the dairy business support tools and on social and mental health well being of our dairy farmers. A number of farmer support tools and group activities have been planned and delivered for 2016/17. The signs are more positive now as milk price starts to increase and the seasonal conditions improve through late spring in Tasmania. Tasmanian dairy farmers still face severe pressures on their businesses as the new season unfolds but the signs are promising that we have turned a corner there.

DairyTas also has a strong focus on community and educational events like 321Go, rural Agricultural Shows, Legendairy Capital, plus the Cows Create Careers and Beacon Foundation school projects. Plus the dairy careers days will run again in 2017.

In 2016/17 the dairy farmer focus will continue around business and financial management workshops with Dairybase, plus Taking Stock and Feed Budgeting continuing. A new round of Clean Rivers has commenced with 21 farms to be approved in 2016/17 and FertSmart farm plans will continue, and plans are evolving for a revised young dairy network activity including the Stepping up/Stepping Back program. A new focus farm will be selected in early 2017 and ongoing support will be provided for dairy discussion groups.

So far in 2016 DairyTas has rolled 142 Taking Stocks and 127 Feed Budgets to our 440 dairy farmers around the state.

The AGM saw dairy farmer Grant Rogers from Ouse retire from the Board after 6 years and he was replaced by Wolfie Wagner from AgCap, which operates 4 dairy farms in Tasmania.

The Board has appointed Simon Elphinstone from Flowerdale as the new Chairman and Simon Bennett from Elizabeth Town as deputy Chairman for the coming 12 months. Simon Elphinstone farms with his brother Cameron on a robotic milking farm after having converted the farm from a beef property 3 years ago.

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