

Presidents Report 7th August 2010

The Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies Next Generation Committee has had a busy and eventful year. As a group we have become more recognised, supported and valued within Queensland due to our activities this year.

Members Representing QCAS in QLD

This year at the Royal Brisbane Show, we've have representatives from the QCAS Next Generation learn from experiences stewards in the QLD Finals competitions. The support from QCAS cannot be underestimated as we a learning a great deal from their experienced stewards. This year we have helped steward at Young Judges and Paraders in Stud Beef, Prime Beef, Dairy, Goats, Utes, Natural Fibres, Grain and Rural Ambassador competitions.

We've also had representatives from the QCAS Next Generation Committee attend and help out at the Queensland Merino and Sheep Finals, Mt Morgan Show, Oakey Show, and other various events throughout the year. It has been fantastic to see youth representation at these events and I hope that we continue

2010 Show Day Youth Conference & Workshop

On the 23rd and 24th of January 2010, the QCAS Next Generation Committee, a youth sub-committee of the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies, held a youth *Show Day* workshop and conference at the Heritage Royal Toowoomba Showgrounds. With sponsorship from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 35 youth representing 9 of the 11 Queensland sub-chambers attended the workshop as well as 12 distinguished guests and representatives from QCAS, FCAS, RASQ, DAFF, RNA FDC and the Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia. The project was managed by the QCAS Next Generation Committee and was overseen by QCAS CEO Mark Bryant. All decisions for the workshop were made by the committee.

The Show Day Workshop, held over three days, helped to provide the 37 young attendees with the skills they need to fully engage with established agricultural show societies within their region. This was accomplished by hands on activities, guest speakers and shared experiences between youth and distinguished guests. Sessions during the workshop included:

- How to run a successful meeting & Succession Planning
- Public Speaking and Announcing
- Workplace Health and Safety - Show hazards and risks
- Our Show - What is the best thing about your show?
- How to get Youth Involved
- Making Money Work for You
- An d an impromptu discussion on the Rural Ambassador and Showgirl Competitions

Andrew O'Brien from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry also talked to the attendees about DAFF and the work that they do for rural industry. Through the department's speakers, the youth attending the workshop were able to be made aware of other opportunities to become engaged in government and industry policy development such as FarmReady, climate change issues, and other DAFF Next Generation initiatives.

The youth involved in the workshop have become a part of the QCAS Next Generation network. This committee was established to ensure networks and information are constantly exchanged and refreshed so they remain relevant to the QLD Show Movement. Therefore with the delegates now open to communication from the QCAS Next Generation committee and QCAS itself, the delegates can be aware of more information, ideas and support offered by different organisations and can also pass this information on to their own individual show societies.

Following the project, the QCAS Next Generation Committee will create a template for a 'best practice document' which will detail individual activities held at shows, the success of these activities, cost, numbers of people needed to run the event, and any other important information. The Committee will then distribute this template to all show societies, delegates that attended the workshop, and sub-chamber. The Committee will then collate this information to create a document available for all show societies. It is hoped that this will help bring communication gaps between individual show societies as well as provide them with a useful tool that has the potential to add news and diverse events and activities into local shows.

From the discussions at the workshop, the delegates indicated that they wanted to be provided with more grant information and a grant perusal service for show societies. It is hoped that the Next Generation can investigate this further to help provide this service.

After much debate and discussion, it was concluded that all show societies and young members within this want more clarification on the role and purpose of both Showgirl and Rural Ambassador. The Next Generation Committee will now investigate on this issue, examining the QCAS Constitution and putting questions to the Board of Directions to obtain further clarification and will then report back to all delegates.

The 2010 *Show Day* Conference and Workshop was a great success and the committee received some excellent feedback from the delegates that attended.

2011 Conference

In January 2011 it is hoped that the QCAS NG will repeat the success of the 2010 gathering by holding our 2nd Youth Conference and Workshop in Brisbane. This will provide delegates with knowledge and practical skills through hands on activities, guest speakers and shared experiences between youth and distinguished guests. Further details will be available following the exhibition.

Young Farmers and Entrepreneurs Breakfast

On the 8th of August, the QCAS Next Generation will be jointly hosting the Young Farmers and Entrepreneurs Breakfast at the Royal Brisbane Show. 103 people have bought tickets for the breakfast and we have some invited guests including Eric Summons as MC, Tom Potter from Eagle Boys Pizza as the guest speaker, and the Queensland Country Life. Although we encountered problems during the organising process, we can learn from this for future events. I feel that it is necessary to work with other young committees to promote rural youth, particularly within the show movement. We hope to hold this breakfast again in the future and hope to see it build over time to incorporate more rural youth within the show movement.

Membership

Although on in our first 18 months, we have obtained many people interested in getting involved with the QCAS Next Generation Committee. Due to increase involvement and the QCAS Constitution, formal membership is now needed by members however interested parties can still stay involved through a network system. An increasing interest base and formal membership shows us that we are moving forward and gaining the support of rural and regional Queensland Shows as well as the youth within these areas.

Executive Members

I would personally like to thank the Executive Members this year for their support and hard work over the last 12 months. Rowan O'Hara, Bruce McConnel, Amy Trace, Janine Milne, Kate-Ann Flegler, Michelle Omyla, Kylie Welke, Lyle Hasselbach, Gavin Smith and Jacinta Ryan have been invaluable to me and I have appreciated their help, support, guidance and opinions. During this year, due to a new addition in their family, Jacinta Ryan stood down as part of the QCAS NG Executive Committee and we welcomed Gavin Smith to the Executive Committee. We wish Jacinta, Matt and their family all the best for the future.

Our successful year would not have been possible without the support of the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies and in particular, their board of directors. We, as a committee, sincerely appreciate their support, guidance and advice throughout the last year. I hope that we can continue to work positively together in the future to provide ongoing support to Queensland shows and rural youth within the show movement. I would also like to thank Mark Bryant, who has not only been our main contact at QCAS and provided us with advice, but has also been an unflinching and constant support for our committee. Without his support and encouragement I feel we wouldn't be at the strength we are today.

I would like to thank all members of the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies Next Generation Committee for a fantastic year and I hope we can continue to grow from strength to strength in the future.

Carla Tierney
President, QCAS Next Generation