

Welcome to the Winter edition of In A Capsule News!

*Poppies:
A Proud Tasmanian Industry*

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Roadside and Paddock Regrowth

Our industry enjoys international recognition from the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the market and from our competitors as the global leader in the production of concentrate of poppy straw to be utilised by the world pharmaceutical industry in the production of pain management medicines.

This enviable reputation cannot be taken for granted and has only come about through cutting edge plant breeding research and development and crop management practices coupled with strong government regulation in respect of industry security.

All of this so our industry can develop and prosper with the application of sophisticated science and technology to a natural plant.

At a recent poppy industry meeting which included representatives from the three poppy companies (Palla Pharma, Sun Pharma and Tasmanian Alkaloids), the Poppy Advisory and Control Board and Poppy Growers Tasmania a debrief was conducted in respect of last season together with forward planning for the coming season where possible emerging risks were identified.

With the advent of significant roadworks throughout the State, particularly on the Midland Highway and upgrades to major secondary roads, it was considered a renewed focus was warranted in respect of roadside regrowth and paddock regrowth both of which represent significant industry security and crop health issues.

The science emanating from Systemic Mildew Research by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture/UTAS informs us that all forms of poppy regrowth create a perfect incubator/nursery for the spread of this severe poppy disease.

In addition, industry regulation dictates that all regrowth must be destroyed. On farms this is the responsibility of the landowner and we remind

members of their requirement to effectively manage regrowth on farm in a timely and effective manner. This will greatly assist in maintaining the confidence of the national and international regulators and the global market by showcasing that we have robust on farm security and hygiene measures in place.

Roadside regrowth has many facets –

- New roadworks – top soil disturbed/removed from poppy growing areas and redistributed along the new works
- Wind and bird distribution
- Long life oilseed
- Road maintenance – grading verges
- Timeliness of roadside spraying
- Seed falling from – Drills, Harvesters & Harvest Trucks

The PACB is working collaboratively with State Growth and Local Government regarding regrowth occurring at new works, local upgrades and maintenance as well as roadside maintenance.

Clearly the onus falls on the industry to ensure that drills, harvesters and trucks are thoroughly cleaned of loose seed before leaving the paddock.

The industry group determined that an updated joint industry strategy be developed to focus on roadside and paddock regrowth, in the knowledge that whilst even with the best hygiene practices we can't entirely eliminate the risk of regrowth and it needs to be addressed on a continuing basis.

With sowing already underway, the immediate industry focus will be on sowing/drilling equipment. Growers and contractors are urged to "blow down" all equipment before leaving the paddock to ensure loose seed is not deposited in other areas of the farm or on adjacent roads.

Further information on the strategy will be released in due course. We look forward to the support and co-operation of all industry participants as we implement measures to address these issues.

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Updated PGT Website

Our website www.poppygrowers.com has recently been updated and we invite members to visit the site which contains the latest information regarding:

- AGM 18th June 2020 President's Report, Treasurer's Report and Audited Financial Report.
- PGT's Rural Water Use Strategy Submission

Field Officer News—Farewell and Welcome

Sun Pharma

Highly respected Sun Pharma Field Officer for the North East, Michael Coote, has called time on his 25 year career in the poppy industry to follow a long held dream to go full time farming in his own right.

Michael completed an Agricultural Science Degree in 1980 and spent several years working on farms on the mainland. Upon his return to Tasmania he commenced with General Jones as their potato field officer where he stayed until the poppy industry beckoned in 1995.

He has been the North East Field Officer for Glaxo now Sun Pharma since that time.

He said he has really enjoyed his job, especially the trust the company placed in him to do the job with very little interference from head office.

He said the company was very supportive of its field staff with all staff happy to share information in a collaborative manner.

What will he miss the most about leaving after all these years? His instantaneous response in typical Michael fashion was:

- His Sun Pharma colleagues;
- Sun Pharma itself;
- And of course his growers, he would really miss the personal contact with growers.

He said growing poppies still remains a bit of a challenge compared to other crops but if you work with growers, good returns are achievable.

He finished with some reflection that irrigation will be great for Scottsdale and it has been an enormous privilege to work with the farmers in the North East.

PGT extends its most sincere thankyou to Michael for his enormous contribution and unwavering support for the poppy industry in the North East and wishes him every success in his future endeavours.

Welcome—Will Byrne, the new Sun Pharma Field Officer for the North East.

Will completed a UTas Agricultural Science Degree in 2009 and commenced work with Serve-Ag as an agronomist working in Devonport, Longford, Midland and North East areas.

For the past two years or so he has been working for Riviera Farms in East Gippsland Victoria in management and hands on roles.

The pull of Tasmania being strong he and his wife decided to bring their young family home. Now a new career in poppies with Sun Pharma.

Will freely admits he does not have experience with poppies which Sun and Michael see as an advantage as they want him to learn the poppy fundamentals from the collective Sun knowledge/experience bank.

Will sees having Michael as his mentor for his first season as a great advantage, having that knowledge and experience at hand is just fantastic, he said.

We take this opportunity to welcome Will and wish him every success in his new role as the Sun Pharma Field Officer for North East Tasmania.

Sun Pharma Field Officers and Districts

Circular Head/North West — Russell Barker, 0428 144 464, currently on sick leave—we wish Russell a full and speedy recovery.
Stephen Redpath, 0408 144 462 — Is filling in for Russell during his period of leave.

Western/Central — Nick Cook, 0418 140 164

Eastern — Steve Cook, 0418 507 015, Northern Regional Field Manager

North Eastern — Will Byrne, 0427 227 314

Northern Midlands — Mark Tate, 0407 099 150

Central Midlands— Peter Roberts, 0418 126 869, **Andrew Legro**, 0457 507 892

Southern—Rick Crossland, 0408 144 466, **James Warner**, 0408 144 467, Southern Regional Field Manager

Tasmanian Alkaloids

Another highly respected and very experienced field officer to leave the industry in recent times is Frank Whish-Wilson.

Frank describes his decision to put his hand up for a voluntary redundancy during the recent whole of business restructure at Tas Alk as one of the most difficult decisions of his working life.

He said Tas Alk was a "wonderful employer and all those employed at Tas Alk were wonderful people to work with."

Frank completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science Degree in 1990, and then went to work for Roberts Ltd as a general sales field agronomist in the Smithton/Wynyard area. Next move was a transfer to Roberts Vegetables in 1993 as Onion Field Officer.

Frank then moved over to Field Fresh in 1996 following the merger of Roberts Vegetables and Vecon.

He commenced with Tas Alk in 1999 as field officer for the Kindred, Elliott area up until 2008 when he took over the Sassafra, Moriarty, Wesley Vale area.

During this time he was appointed the Regional Co-ordinator responsible for several field staff servicing poppy crops from the far North West to Elizabeth Town. He trained numerous Field Officers over that time and regularly had award winning crops.

Frank said he was attracted to Tas Alk in the beginning because he felt it was an exciting industry and a great opportunity "it certainly has lived up to my expectations" he said.

Frank will not be lost to growers in the Wesley Vale/Sassafra area as he has now taken up a position with BRA, tending crops with somewhat smaller flowers. In his quite understated manner he said he was excited with the challenge of lifting the profile of pyrethrum and increasing the area in his district.

PGT once again take this opportunity to acknowledge Frank's great contribution to the industry over the past 20 years and we wish him every success in his future endeavours. *On a personal note,*

I have really enjoyed working with Frank as my field officer for the past 12 years. His knowledge, support and easy going manner has been greatly appreciated.

Philip Loane
President, PGT

There has been a slight rearrangement of Tas Alk areas on the North West Coast between Phillip House, Brent McNaughton and Ross Bongioletti, with Ross taking over most of Frank's former area.

Isobel Marshall

Isobel started with Tas Alk on a contract basis 7 years ago, before moving on to a permanent position, servicing crops in the Oatlands to Epping Forest area. Isobel returned to work after her first child was born, but decided to resign recently following the birth of her second daughter.

Being married to Oatlands farmer and poppy grower Anthony Weeding, Isobel is assured of a continuing involvement with poppies.

Once again we take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to Isobel in her new roles as mother of two and full time farmer.

Robert Dudgeon

Rob started work in 2019 for Tas Alk as a trainee Field Officer. From a poppy growing farm at Pawtella, Rob studied Ag Science at UTas before working for several agricultural contracting businesses both locally and interstate.

Rob also spent time working for a large farming enterprise in the midlands, with particular responsibility in the cropping side of the business.

Rob has very capably taken responsibility for the Midland area following on from Isobel's maternity leave of last Spring. Due to the reduction in crop size this year, Rob's position has been reduced from full time to part time.

Jon Doust

Jon also started work with Tas Alk in 2019, looking after crops in the Southern region of the State. With a university degree and many years of agronomy experience working for Roberts, Simplot, Sun Pharma and Elders, Jon is well credentialed to look after poppies, especially as his grandfather, the late Bob McKay was the first Tas Alk Field Officer appointed in the Southern area of the State in the late 1970's. Jon will also be working part time this year as part of the restructuring process, and smaller crop size.

PGT is very pleased that Tas Alk was able to put arrangements in place to ensure that Rob and Jon were not lost to the industry.

We look forward to the time when area increases become warranted and these positions once again become full time.

Tas Alk Field Officers and Districts:

Phillip House, far North West.....0418 588 756
Brent McNaughton, North West.....0427 042 633
Ross Bongioletti, mid North West.....0418 364 561
Dylan Craw, North.....0418 126 826
Danny Schoemaker, Central North.....0439 249 702
Rohan Dingemane, Northern Midlands.....0400 681 077
Robert Dudgeon, Midlands.....0455 341 089
Jonathon Doust, South0418 325 598

Palla Pharma Field Staff:

David Cowle0409 300 562

Poppy Growers Tasmania Committee of Management for 2020/2021

Name/Address	Contact Numbers	District
Philip Loane – President	0418 104 422	Sassafras/Devonport East/Moriarty/Sheffield
Glynn Williams - Vice President	0419 895 332	Forth/Ulverstone/Penguin/Burnie
Tom Edgell - Treasurer	0438 595 515	Derwent Valley/Bothwell
Colin Chaplin	0419 380 413	Sassafras/Devonport East/Moriarty/Sheffield
Gavin Clark	0418 576 653	Hagley/Elizabeth Town
Stuart Coles	0437 021 478	Hagley/Elizabeth Town
Andrew Dowling	0407 406 229	Northern Midlands/Cressy/Fingal
Marcus Harris	0407 872 024	Sassafras/Devonport East/Moriarty/Sheffield
Rodney Jones	0418 656 630	Forth/Ulverstone/Penguin/Burnie
Stewart McGee	0417 920 750	Northern Midlands/Cressy/Fingal
Michael Nichols	0409 451 430	Circular Head
Phillip Partridge	0400636836	Scottsdale/North East
Walter Thompson	0417 552 529	Coal River
Phillipa (Pip) Webster	0438 046 149	Southern Midlands
Keith Rice - Chief Executive	63 43 2244 0418 133 234 poppygrowers@bigpond.com	Poppy Growers Tasmania Inc

Growing Trees on Farms—Research Project

Researchers from the University of Tasmania would like to hear from you!

Dr. Dugald Tinch and PhD Candidate Zara Marais are working on a project that aims to understand how farmers make decisions about planting trees on their farms. They hope to find out which factors are most influential in these decisions:

- Does tree species and arrangement make a difference, and what about cost?
- Which 'ecosystem services' (e.g. shelter, erosion control) are most important to farmers when it comes to planting trees, and
- Does that change depending on the size or the type of the farm?

The end goal is to gain a better understanding of farmer preferences and priorities, which will ultimately help to improve extension efforts in farm restoration and agroforestry.

You can contribute by filling out a 10 minute survey, with a chance to win a \$50 Bunnings voucher.

If you have any questions about the survey, you can contact the researchers directly at zara.marais@utas.edu.au.

Please [click here](#) to participate in the survey or copy this link below into your internet search bar <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TQMR56B>

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Steady performance during volatility

Prime Super has a history as a steady performer and investment options offered by the fund are consistently rated in the top quartile when compared to other funds.

An industry analysis of the investment performance and the risk-adjusted profile of MySuper products at 31 March this year ranked Prime Super third in field of 42 Australian super funds. The analysis, by financial services data analyst Rainmaker Information, looks at investment performance with reference to risk and volatility measures.

In addition, a recent *SuperRatings Fund Crediting Rate Survey March 2020* the Prime Super's five-year returns for key investment options in comparison to other funds^[1] are as follows:

Investment option	Comparative ranking over 5 years to 31 March 2020
MySuper	3 rd
Managed Growth	1 st
Conservative	2 nd
Property	1 st
Cash	6 th

Please note: past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

In an investment market that is experiencing fluctuations that include steep daily and weekly declines, it is important to remember that

superannuation is a long-term investment and the market will eventually rebound.

As the challenges from COVID-19 continue, there is closer scrutiny of its effects on the economic and financial sector, including super. We remain in close communication with our investment adviser and investment managers as we continue to review the fund portfolio to respond to market developments.

Our conservative long-term view means we prioritise long term outcomes across all sectors, including traditional growth sectors. This may take a little away from short-term returns but has rewards over the medium to long term.

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Contact your Regional Manager to find out how
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