

POPPY GROWERS TASMANIA INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 23rd June 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presented by

Philip Loane

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 23rd June 2021

I am pleased to present my Presidents Report for season 2020/2021.

Well, what a season!

All against a global pandemic Covid 19.

The Season

Dry to begin with particularly on the North West Coast. Then cold set in all over the State, with snow in August. This was followed by two heavy downpours of easterly weather in September and October. We then had some good follow up rains. The cool summer conditions prevented the crop from maturing as we would have liked causing some very late harvests. Some extremely heavy rains on North West Coast during harvest.

The season culminated in higher than budgeted yields with lower than budgeted assays.

Most growers reported good to very good returns.

Area 2021/22

We commenced last season with an announcement by Extractas that they would be reducing their growing area by 3500 Ha, from 6500 Ha to 3000 Ha for season 2020/21.

Ironically we commence this season with Extractas increasing its area to 5150 Ha and SunPharma reducing its area by 2500 Ha from 4000 Ha in 2020/21 to an harvestable area of 1500 Ha in 2021/2 plus 200 Ha of white seed.

It is important to note from an holistic view, the 2021/22 area will be almost the same as the 2020/21 area, notwithstanding that Sun will not be growing in the South this coming season.

Bothwell AGM

Poppy Growers Tasmania have chosen to hold its AGM in Bothwell this year to demonstrate our support for Southern growers.

Southern Growing

While we all have rode the area up – area down rollercoaster over the past few years and once again this coming season.

The one standout feature for the 2021/22 season has been the withdrawal of SunPharma from growing in the South.

Given the lifting of Tasmanian – Victorian travel restrictions at midnight on Monday, I am bitterly disappointed that Mr Urvish Bhavsar, Head of Sun Pharma’s Australian Operations is not with us and will not be presenting today.

We do however look forward to hearing from Dr Tiago Tomaz, Head of SunPharma’s Tasmanian Operations as he sets out Sun’s plans for a return to the South.

Covid 19

Clearly we continue to live in extraordinary times with Covid 19 continuing to rage in many countries across the globe.

Thankfully elective surgery is being reintroduced for those long suffering folk who require new hips, knees, shoulders and such.

Our product is indispensable for these patients plus those suffering from cancer, trauma and terminal illness pain.

The abovementioned demand for pain management medicines should have a positive impact on demand for our raw material going forward.

Red/Wild Poppies

This past season we experienced what many describe as the heaviest infestation of red/wild poppies throughout all growing regions.

PGT has had lengthy discussions with the companies regarding this serious and increasing problem.

All are of the view seasonal conditions had an overwhelming influence on last seasons increased concentration of red/wild poppies.

Both Sun Pharma and Extractas have announced advanced chemistry applications to assist with management of this serious issue.

Systemic Downy Mildew

Systemic Downy Mildew hit with vengeance in December 2014.

The industry together with TIA and the State Government commenced a research project in 2015/2016 and found the problem was greater than initially envisaged.

Emanating from this initial project the industry, TIA and State Government were successful with their application for an ARC Linkage Research Project.

This \$1.2 million 5 year research project commenced in 2017 with completion earlier this year.

I am very proud that industry, government and TIA/UTAS all worked collaboratively on this major research project.

We have already seen new crop management systems and crop protection programs implemented as a direct result of this important research.

I did hope to have the final report available tonight, but alas it will not be available until October/November of this year.

We will make it available to all growers as soon as it is released.

In closing, I have some people to thank:

- I would particularly like to thank all the company field officers and contractors for their valuable advice, assistance and professionalism in the manner in which they go about their respective business and delivery of their services.
- Also the PACB and staff for their diligence and cooperation when administering our world renowned security procedures.
- All form essential elements of this vanguard global industry.
- My gratitude and appreciation to the Committee of Management for their commitment and support over the past 12 months, it has been truly appreciated.
- I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to **Josh Langmaid** as he joins the Committee representing the Devonport/Forth/Penguin/Burnie region, welcome Josh!

This is the first time for a number of years that we have a full Committee representing all growing areas; a very pleasing situation.

- And last but not least to you, our growers, thank you for your ongoing support, because without you we have nothing and would not have the warrant to represent you and speak on your behalf.

My very best wishes for a successful 2021/22 season and for more positive times ahead.

I know we as an industry still face some challenges in the global market place, however I have total confidence that more positive times lay ahead and that the Tasmanian poppy industry will continue to be the gold standard by which our global competitors seek to be measured.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would now Move that my report be received.

* * *