



# 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> AUG 2024  
CARRICK INN HOTEL  
CARRICK TASMANIA**

JOIN US ON THIS 10TH ANNIVERSARY TO CELEBRATE AND FAREWELL TASSIE'S BEST LITTLE FESTIVAL WITH THESE CLASS ACTS SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2024

## HIGHLIGHTS

**DINE AMONG THE VINES**  
LONG TABLE LUNCH  
PREPARED BY SELENA LOWE, FOUNDER AND CULINARY WHIZZ BEHIND 'THE KITCHEN COLLECTIVE'. SELENA HAS A VERY STRONG AND QUICKLY GROWING LOCAL FOLLOWING. BOOKINGS FOR LUNCH ARE ESSENTIAL BY 11TH MARCH



**PENNY WOODWARD**  
WELL RENOWNED AUSTRALIAN GARDEN WRITER SPECIALISING IN EDIBLE & USEFUL PLANTS. AUTHOR OF 8 GARDENING BOOKS, INCLUDING AWARD-WINNING GUIDES TO GARLIC & TOMATOES.



**ANALIESE GREGORY**  
HAILED AS ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING CHEFS OF HER GENERATION, ANALIESE GREGORY HAS SWAPPED THE DAZZLING MICHELIN STAR RESTAURANTS OF PARIS'S LE MEURICE AND SYDNEY'S QUAY FOR RUGGED TASMANIA.



**TASMANIAN GARLIC & TOMATO FESTIVAL**

ALSO FEATURING...  
BJOERN SCHORPP - CHEF | TIM REED - FARMER & SOIL EXPERT |  
TOMATO TOURS WITH ANNETTE REED | LIVE MUSIC | FOOD STALLS

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## 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024 12.00pm

Carrick Inn Hotel

46 Meander Valley Road, Carrick TAS 7291

No.	ITEM	DETAIL	WHO
<b>1. Meeting Open</b>			
1a	Welcome & apologies		AR
1b	Confirmation of Chair & Secretary for AGM		AR
1c	Minutes of last AGM 2021-2022		
<b>2. Annual Reports</b>			
2a	Chair's Report		AR
2b	Financial Report		ZW
2c	Committee Statement of Solvency		ZW
2d	Motion to accept Honoraria for 2024-25		ZW
2e	Other Reports	Other reports to be tabled	
<b>3. Retirement &amp; Election of Office Bearers</b>			
3a	Thanks to outgoing Committee Members		AR
3b	Declaration of all positions vacant		
3c	Nomination of Returning Officer if required		AR
3d	Election of Office Bearers	Chair, Vice-Chair (if desired), Secretary, Treasurer	RO
3e	Election of Committee Members	5-8 people including office bearers	RO
3f	Appointment of a Public Officer		RO
<b>4. Closing Items</b>			
4a	Close		Chair

Abbreviations:

AR – Annette Reed

ZW – Zara Walkden

RO Returning Officer



## 2022-23 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023. 11.00am.

Carrick Inn Hotel

46 Meander Valley Rd, Carrick, Tas, 7291

ITEM	DISCUSSION
<b>1 Meeting Open</b>	
1a. Attendance & Apologies	Attendance: Christopher Walkden (CW), Zara Walkden (ZW), Mary Gill (MG), Allan Roark (ARoark), Donny Martin (DM), Fiona Cowan (FC), Annette Reed (AReed), Nevil Reed (NR)  Apologies: - Michael Heazlewood (MH), Marc Bennic (MB), Jenny Eddington (JE), John Harris (JH)
1b. Confirmation of Chair and Secretary for AGM	Chair Annette Reed Secretary Fiona Cowan Confirmed by consensus
1c. Minutes of last AGM 2021-22	Typographical corrections to be made 1. Honorarium should be \$5000 2. Financial balance should be \$32703.66 1° FC 2° ZW
<b>2 Annual Reports</b>	
2a. Chair's Report	Read and Tabled  1° AReed 2° NR
2b. Financial Report	Read and Tabled  3. Opening Balance (as at 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022) \$32703.66 4. Total Loss \$26 800.07 5. Total Income \$27176.75 6. Closing Balance \$33 080.34 7. Surplus \$376.68  Motion moved that this is true and accurate record 1° ZW 2° FC
2c. Committee Statement of Solvency	Motion moved that Committee is satisfied that it is in a position of solvency and that it can pay any debts that should arise 1° ZW 2° FC. All in agreement
2d. Motion to Accept Honoraria for 2023-24	Motion moved that the organisation put a total amount of \$6500 towards the 2023-2024 Honoraria positions including Co-ordinator, Stallholder Manager and Past Stallholder Manager 1° ZW 2° FC
2e. Other Reports	Other reports tabled in the 2022-2023 Annual Report Document 1° CW 2° DM
<b>3 Retirement &amp; Election of Office Bearers</b>	
3a Thanks to the outgoing Committee Members	Thanks expressed to all members for their engagement and enthusiasm.
3b Declaration of all Positions Vacant	Declared by A. Reed
3c Nomination of Returning Officer	Not required as no contested roles
3d Election of Office Bearers	Chair – Annette Reed Vice-Chair – Michael Heazlewood Secretary – Fiona Cowan Treasurer – Zara Walkden  AReed 1° FC 2° MH 1° FC 2° FC 1° AReed 2° ZW 1° CW 2°
3e Election of Committee Members	4 Committee Members Donny Martin Nevil Reed Mark Bennic Mary Gill  DM 1° FC 2° NR 1° AReed 2° MB 1° FC 2° MG 1° DM 2°
3f Appointment of Public Officer	Appointment of Christopher Walkden to role - DM 1° AReed 2°
<b>4 Closing Items</b>	
4a Close	Committee thank Carrick Inn Hotel for hosting AGM

Notes: Moved by (1°) Seconded by (2°)

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Ten years! What a journey! When Nevil and I established this little experiment back in 2015, it was *simply that*. Part of a bigger project, just to see how it went. In that first year, on a budget of \$200, relying almost entirely on family and friends and with almost no promotion, the first festival attracted over 500 visitors – enough to convince us that we were onto something and that it was worth another go. We could never have imagined ten years ago that we still would be here.

In 2024 we have finished on a high, with a full carpark, a beautiful day, a paddock full of stalls, excellent speakers, great music and our best crowd ever (well over our target of 2000). We finished as we had hoped, with people wanting more and sad to see us go.

The festival has had its challenges over the years. We have battled volunteer shortages, wild weather and disastrous seasons, but our greatest challenge was arguably Covid. It was only due to the tenacious efforts of our ever-resourceful and ever-patient Coordinator, Allan, that we were able to negotiate the Covid nightmare and never missed an event.

But the challenges, however big, have always been outshone by the positives. Right from the start our festivals have been blessed with some wonderful guest speakers, excellent musicians and world-class chefs. Festival visitors have always been treated to a wide range of educational and entertaining family activities, all in a unique setting that cannot be duplicated.

At this point I want to acknowledge three locals- our nearest neighbours - who saw the value in this festival for their community and have been here since the start, in one form or another: Michael Heazlewood, Christopher Walkden and Jenny Eddington.

In our very earliest days, Christopher recommended we contact a man called John, who had been MC for an event he'd been involved in. We did contact him and John Harris has remained a part of the TGTF family ever since. Every year, without fail, he has turned up and carried us all through the day's programme with his own unique style. John, you have always been one of our biggest champions. You have always seen the value in this event and your enthusiasm has always shone through. So much so that it was John who led us to our Coordinator of the last five years, Allan Roark.

Allan, I hope you know how much we have all appreciated your calm and steady leadership, sometimes in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. You have been the rock we needed and it's a good thing we've called it a day because I dread to think how we would have filled your shoes. Thank you, Allan, for all you have done (except your jokes).

I cannot overstate my gratitude to the committee and managers who have kept the festival running like the smooth, well-oiled machine that it has become. The wide range of skills, knowledge and qualifications that you have all brought with you over the years has ensured that each year the event has grown in strength and impact. It bears repeating the comments I made in this same space last year about the TGTF committee and management:

What is it about this committee that I love? It's our like-mindedness. We are all here for the same reason; because we all believe in our community, in the right to good health and good local food, in the importance of education and awareness-raising and in being able to celebrate and share what we have with others. It's the friendship and camaraderie that exists within this team. It's the relaxed, friendly, approachable nature of every single committee member. It's the imagination, innovation, ideas and experimentation that brings freshness and vibrancy to every new year. It's the willingness to go above and beyond to fill a gap, to seek solutions and to step in to ease someone else's load. It's the forgiving nature of each committee member when one of us at any one time doesn't quite get it right. It's the knowledge that every single one of us, no matter how busy or caught up we are in our own lives, is always doing the best we can. And it's the way that we can all sit down at the end of a busy working bee, during festival set-up or after the event and share a meal, a joke and a problem. No one can ask more than that. So to all committee members, thank you.

I want to make special mention this year to Bec Rumble, who stepped relatively late into the demanding role of Stallholder Manager. The transition was smooth and seamless and the results on festival day were testament to her skillfulness.

Every year, wonderfully enthusiastic volunteers have rolled up and pitched in to help. I believe that 2024, due in large part to our Volunteer Manager, Mark, was our best year yet for volunteers. To our amazing volunteers, we literally could not do it without you. It seems you are part of a dwindling breed, but you are the very stuff that helps communities stay alive and thrive.

Thank you to the three Scout Groups who supported us in your various roles – Westbury Venturer Scouts, Tamar Sea Scouts and Hellyer Scouts. To the workers from Deloraine House, thank you for your work in the Children’s Area. And to the team from Northern Tasmanian Cavy Club, for your help on this year’s gate.

To Phil Brumby and team – thank you yet again for standing by throughout every festival to deal with anything from the smallest scratch to the biggest medical crisis. We cannot operate without services like yours, so thank you.

Finally, a huge thank you to my family. To Nevil, for going along with the daft idea of a festival in the first place and sharing this rollercoaster ride all the way. To our children for willingly sharing your family childhood home with a bunch of strangers and for pitching in to help out in any way you could. Thank you to my siblings and extended family for being the world’s best volunteers – pitching in and helping out, whenever asked, however you could. Special thanks to Graeme for year upon year of testing and tagging, to Michael for managing the parking, Mark for directing traffic and Debra for first aid and anything else that was asked of you.

So here we are, having declared the Tasmanian Garlic & Tomato Festival as we know it, officially ended. With no plans for a 2025 event in the offing (although talks are in progress) and most of our committee moving on, the Organisation is set to elect a skeleton committee to navigate the next stage – whatever that may be. This is an oddly bitter-sweet moment. Together, we have built the festival to be better and better each year. Together, as a team, we have worked well, always with good humour, kindness and generosity towards each other. We are not winding up, like so many other festivals, because of exorbitant insurance fees, lack of money or volunteers. We are bringing this event to a close simply because those who started it are exhausted and cannot continue to deal with the stress of maintaining such a high standard for another year.

And the saddest thing for me? It’s when my grandchildren say, “Nanna, *please* can we have another festival? *PLEASE?*” My grandchildren have absolutely loved having their farm over-run with visitors (and have been the only children to ever find themselves in the Lost Children’s Tent – not because they *were* lost but because they were so much at home that others *thought* they were lost), but given their young ages, even the eldest will scarcely remember the wonderful festivals that happened at Nanna and Grandpop’s.

To all of you who have contributed to “Tassie’s Best Little Festival”, thank you. You have helped bring joy to thousands of people as you have worked over the last ten years to bring this festival to life. It is due to your efforts that the TGTF has injected millions of dollars back into the community and contributed many thousands of dollars to other community organisations. Together, we have created a class act of which we can be justly proud.

*Annette Reed*  
*Founder (2015) and Chair Tasmanian Garlic & Tomato Festival 2023-24*



## FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>Opening Balance 01/07/2023</b>	\$33,080.34
<b>Total Loss</b>	<b>\$37,953.17</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	\$38,997.87
<b>Surplus</b>	\$1,044.70
<b>Closing Balance 30/06/2024</b>	\$34,125.04

There are currently no outstanding bills present to be paid.

*Zara Walkden, Treasurer*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023-24

### **Annette Reed (Chair) - Selbourne**

Annette, the original brains behind the idea of an on-farm tomato and garlic festival, is a true local to the district, having grown up within a stone's throw of her now-home of thirty-five years, at Selbourne. While totally impractical with tractor engines and water pumps, Annette nevertheless dares to call herself a farmer. She prides herself on her ability to think outside the box and come up with great ideas (some of which occasionally come to fruition). Always with farming at her heart, but originally working as a language teacher, Annette has been a social worker, disability support coordinator, carer, writer, presenter and organizer on numerous committees (including her highly treasured former role as Chair of Tasmanian Women in Agriculture).

### **Michael Heazlewood (Vice Chair) – Selbourne**

Having grown up and lived all his life just across the road from the festival grounds, Michael has been a part of this festival from the start. That is not surprising as he has devoted his life to serving his community in one way or another. He has been a member of practically every community organisation in his local area, including cricket and badminton clubs, the Selbourne Hall Committee, Four Springs Volunteer Fire Brigade and now the TGTF. He is also a long-serving member of the SES. Definitely someone we want on our side.

### **Zara Walkden (Treasurer) - Selbourne**

Zara has lived in Selbourne with her husband Christopher since 2001. She is a Library Services Officer with Libraries Tasmania and has been at the Deloraine Library for seven years. She owns Four Springs Cavy Stud which breeds and shows pedigree Cavies (guinea pigs). Yes, showing guinea pigs is a thing. Many moons ago she was part of Rural Youth Org. of Tasmania and participated in many committee roles giving her a good foundation for taking on the role of Treasurer for the Festival.

### **Fiona Cowan (Secretary) – Birralelee**

Fiona currently lives and works in Launceston. When she's not working hard in her role as a doctor at LGH, she is working hard alongside her partner, Donny, as they build their farm and rush towards completing their new home at Birralelee. Fiona joined the festival committee three years ago, first taking on the role of Secretary, then finally adding Heirloom Heaven Manager and Bushwalk Manager to her repertoire. Her quiet, practical, efficient, no-nonsense (not to be confused with no-fun) approach to everything festival-wise has made her a highly valued member of the festival team. Thanks to her trudging through the bush with lots of confusing signs and a big ball of string, our bushwalk was again amazing.

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023-24

### **Nevil Reed (General Committee Member) – Selbourne**

Nevil is a quiet, contemplative farmer of few words, a dry, quick sense of humour and with a long history in customer service, locksmithing, heavy machinery operation and community volunteering. An innovative dirt-patch lover of tomatoes and garlic, he has spent many years developing and refining his skills as a self-taught horticulturalist, poly tunnel designer, builder and all-round, general fixer-upperer. His hands-on, functional, practical approach is invaluable to the TGTF.

### **Mark Bennic (General Committee Member) - Westbury**

Mark, officially the tallest member of the committee, is a local organic farmer for whom the concept of local, nutritious, quality produce is a part of his everyday thinking. He and his wife Shelly own and operate a very popular organic grocery store in Launceston. It was through this connection that Mark and the TGTF committee first met up and we were thrilled to have him come on board two years ago.

### **Donny Martin (General Committee Member) – Birralee**

Donny is a carpenter by trade, first discovered the TGTF when he and Fiona wandered onto the festival site for a couple of workshops. Donny brings very practical skills and insights, together with enthusiasm for good food and community involvement to the local festival. His super-calm, steady and cheerful approach to life and to his role have made him an invaluable member of the committee, especially when the pressure is on and a calm, relaxed manner is called for. We can't wait to see him and Fiona complete their house and become permanent, full-time members of the local community.

### **Mary Gill (General Committee Member) - Westbury**

Mary is a long term resident of Meander Valley and has been an enthusiastic volunteer in various organisations during this time. She currently works in waste management which she finds is a great way to try and influence people to reuse, reduce their consumption and to get their recycling done correctly.

### **Christopher Walkden (Public Officer)**

– Selbourne

Christopher has lived in Selbourne since 2001, meaning that he will be a local in only another 25 years. He and his wife have a mixed cattle / guinea pig / kiwifruit hobby farm which has never come close to breaking even. His eclectic assortment of interests include vegetable gardening, carnivorous plants, electric vehicles and electricity generation/storage.

Christopher hopped on board the festival committee as a way to be involved with the local community. Having resigned from the committee, he still took on specific jobs related to technology, planning, governance and communication. The committee has greatly benefitted from his sharp, analytical mind and attention to detail in his current roles.



Donny Martin, Fiona Cowan, Zara Walkden, Michael Heazlewood (front), Mark Bennic, Nevil Reed, Annette Reed, Mary Gill

## FESTIVAL COORDINATOR

### Allan Roark (Feb 2020 - current) – Dilston

Allan has been patron of Tasmania's largest rural event Agfest for several years and is passionate about our rural sector and our food produce. He was the owner/manager of Archers Manor Hotel for many years (hence his passion for Tasmanian quality produce).

He is a former professional race car driver with a passion for road safety and driver training. (Many of his meetings have been attended via Zoom as he flits off around the country, off some of the most beaten tracks, delivering training programs). Allan holds a Business Management degree from the University of Tasmania. With this background in business and events, his practical, no-fuss approach along with his bright and friendly personality (and numerous somewhat dodgy jokes and turns-of-phrase) have made him the perfect person to fill our Coordinator role.

## COORDINATOR'S REPORT

It's mixed emotions writing this report; jubilation, relief and also much sadness. This was my fifth and final time as coordinator. I had planned to step back as coordinator and allow someone else to step into the managerial position as my other main work sees me travelling constantly. My plan was to be assistant coordinator but that obviously changed when the committee made the tough decision that this was to be the final one.

And what a great festival it was; perfect weather, amazing speakers, fantastic chefs, great entertainment, incredible stalls and a good crowd in attendance. In the words of the lawyer from the movie *The Castle.....* 'It's about the Vibe' and what a good vibe there was. Yes, there were some minor problems and a couple of people requiring minimal first aid but overall the festival was as smooth as crème cheese on a bagel.

When I was initially asked along I was told that it was a bunch of people who were looking for some guidance on running events that had outgrown them. Nothing could be further from the truth. What I found were people with a powerful passion for this festival and that really is the secret to any successful event. These people have now become lifelong friends and I'm proud to have contributed in my own small way to helping the festival (although to be fair, the Covid years were a bit complex, frustrating and occasionally difficult, even if we were found in breach of one of the rules upon inspection...but that is another story).

A massive thanks to the current committee, Zara Walkden, Michael Heazlewood, Mary Gill, Mark Bennic, Nevil Reed, Donny Martin, Fiona Cowan, Bec Rumble, Christopher Walkden who have guided this festival well and are to be commended for their efforts. Former committee members Jen Eddington, Gabriel Stannus, Vicki Jordan, John Harris and others have also been instrumental in the success of the festival.

Our carparking crew led by Michael Brown kept traffic flowing effortlessly. Phil Brumby made life easy on the first aid front, dispensing band aids with a smile and his own brand of inimitable good humour. Our commercial cleaners Anna and her crew who made sure the Portaloos were clean and comfortable, which are an important yet often overlooked component of any event. John Harris has been the MC throughout and has as always delivered for the festival in what is a difficult position but as ever the professional made it seem easy.

Mark Bennic's volunteers have been amazing again this year and Mary Gill's bin crew made it effortless to ensure recycling, food waste etc. all went into the right bins.

This year's chefs Bjoern Schorpp and Analiese Gregory's food items were sublime and the comedy duo of Bec's



husband Paul and Bjoern was hilarious. (There are currently around 2788 comedians out of work but these guys could launch a second career easily).

Our entertainment went off really well and both acts have gained extra gigs as a result. It was good to have *Take Two Party Duo* back with Darren & Kath, as well as Tori Rattray. Tori was a late addition after another performer cancelled just over three weeks out. She was able to sneak in some original music into her set which was great.

Bec Rumble stepped up to the plate as our stallholder manager and did an exceptional job particularly having big boots to fill after Christopher Walkden's efforts over the past 9 years. Not only did she put on the boots, but she kicked ass with them as well.

Zara has done a marvelous job as treasurer and along with our secretary Fiona they form a formidable team. Donny's signs are always on point (Bada boom – see what I did there) and if the building thing doesn't work out a signage guru gig could well be future career.

I'm gonna miss Mike on the walkie talkie saying "Allan we have a real problem." It made it super easy to differentiate between the real and imaginary problems. Thanks mate.

Last and by no means least, our Chairma.....nah can't say that anymore...chairperson?... chairwoma... our chair Annette Reed, you have accepted me as a colleague and friend and from a small idea this festival grew into 'Tasmania's best little festival'. It's tough to hand over your festival idea to a stranger and entrust them with keeping your dream alive. I have always enjoyed the meals around your dining table and the welcoming nature of yourself and Nevil. Sadly I never got time to take one of your tunnel tomato tours. We wish you both well as you scale back and or successfully sell the business. Thanks for letting us take over your farm on that third Sunday in March.

Cheers Allan

**Allan Roark, TGTF Coordinator**



Volunteer Keygan Reed, Committee member Mike Heazlewood, Coordinator Allan Roark, Volunteer Alan McInnes .

## FESTIVAL MANAGERS

**Bec Rumble** – Bec, together with her husband, Paul, live on a farm at Birralee, where they have established their own small business, Lone Goose Farm, growing Muscovy ducks. Bec took on the Stallholder Manager role partway through the year, and hit the ground running. From the moment she joined us, she brought her invaluable expertise and experience in business, marketing and great networks.

**Michael Brown** – Michael is a local farmer, who knows only too well the work that goes into organising events. He has been heavily involved in Venturer Scouts, the Harveyle Rodeo and numerous other organisations and events for many years. Since the early days of the festival, Michael has coordinated and managed the parking team, a role that is crucial to the smooth running of the festival.

**STALLHOLDERS** – Bec Rumble

**SITE** – Nevil Reed & Donny Martin

**BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE** – Nevil Reed & Donny Martin

**SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS** – Annette Reed

**VOLUNTEERS** – Mark Bennic

**MARKETING & PROMOTION** – Allan Roark

**CHILDREN'S AREA** – Mark Bennic

**COMPETITIONS & GAMES** – Mark Bennic & Fiona Cowan

**HEIRLOOM HEAVEN** – Fiona Cowan

**SIGNAGE** – Donny Martin

**PARKING** – Michael Brown

**WASTE MANAGEMENT** – Mary Gill

**GATE & TICKETING** – Zara Walkden

**INFORMATION TENT** – Michael Heazlewood

**RISK MANAGEMENT** – Allan Roark

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Allan Roark

**SPONSORSHIP & GRANTS** – Allan Roark



## GATE & TICKETING REPORT

This year's volunteers at the gate were members from the Northern Tasmanian Cavy Club. Eight members manned the gate, two lines were formed, one for prepaid tickets and one for cash/card sales. Good signage ensured that most people ended up in the right place and the lines moved at a good pace. Most of the early arrivals had prepaid tickets.

The ticketing system worked very well with members scanning the prepaid tickets from their phones via the Trybooking app. It became a bit of a competition between members to see who had scanned the most people in. Eight was a good number to get the patrons into the grounds for the early morning rush and then be able to give each other breaks when things slowed down around lunch time.

Many thanks to the NTCC members for their support and positive attitude which made the gate work a fun place to be.

*Zara Walkden (Gate & Ticketing Manager)*



Long Table Lunch – An addition to this year's programme.

## STALLHOLDERS REPORT

We had 45 stall holders occupying 55 stands. We had 8 stall cancellations (11 sites) in the two weeks leading up to the festival, including one on the morning of the festival and one no show.

These cancellations meant there were some 'gaps' in the stall holder paddock but it didn't feel empty - it just created a better corridor to get to the Tomato Patch tours and Bushwalk.

We had 12 food stalls (inc two coffee vans). The queues for food were quite long, so it would have been beneficial to have the extra stalls, however customers seemed to be enjoying what we had on offer.

This year all food stalls accepted volunteer food vouchers. - 74 food vouchers were issued - 63 were redeemed. This was a very practical way we could say thank you to our volunteers.

We also positioned all the alcohol vendors facing the food area - meaning we had a food and drinks area of the festival.

Speaking with the stall holders on the day - they felt it was a fantastic festival. Many sold out of product - some saying it was the most financially viable event they'd attended in the last year. I did send an email on the Friday before the festival advising the festival was looking to be a sell out and advising them to bring enough stock, saying "if you don't have it you can't sell it" - a number of vendors parroted this back to me on the day.

In relation to bump in, on the Saturday I did not require a helper. On the Sunday morning I had someone at the entrance to the paddock pointing people in my direction. I also had Christopher in the Food area helping set vendors up with power. I handed out the welcome sheets, liquor licenses and food voucher information once stalls were set up and calm.

Bump out was speedy with all vendors off site before 5pm.

*Bec Rumble (Manager)*



## SITE / BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

After ten years of growing and refining, this aspect of the festival, we finally think we have it right. Over the ten year period we have grown from one person trying to do everything, to one person trying to direct many volunteers to two people dividing their skills and expertise to break down tasks into very manageable blocks. The last few years have been increasingly enjoyable and efficient. Almost sad to see it end.

*Nevil Reed & Donny Martin (Joint Managers)*

## SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS REPORT

Our festival theme this year was *What's Growing in Your Backyard?* This question provided a perfect springboard for all of our guest speakers to focus their presentations. It was an honour for me to be able to open our final festival with an opportunity to reflect upon and thank our many backyard-grown committee and volunteers across the last ten years. Equally, the ever-popular tomato tours provided an opportunity to show visitors exactly what is growing in the backyard of the farm on which this festival is situated.

In the Speaker's Tent, we were very pleased to welcome back two highly popular and exceptional presenters in Penny Woodward and Tim Reed. Penny is an author of several books, notably including publications on garlic and tomatoes. She is an experienced organic gardener and former horticultural editor of ABC's Organic Gardener Magazine.

Tim was 2021 Landcare Farmer of the Year and is Vice President of Soil First Tasmania and on the management team of Tamar NRM. He has a deep understanding of the importance of healthy soil as the foundation for growing good food, both in the paddock and in the back yard.

Dr Elizabeth Haworth is a specialist in infectious and environmental diseases. A farmer and gardener herself, she was able to give some very practical advice on how to look after ourselves in our own backyards.

The Chef's Marquee was very well attended due to its two very popular drawcards, Analiese Gregory and Bjoern Schorpp. Analiese is a world-class chef, who has now made her home in southern Tasmania. She is known for many things including her own tv show, her recent book and her former Hobart restaurant Franklin. German-born Bjoern has worked as a chef in restaurants across the world, finally making Launceston his home. He can currently be found at the very popular modern restaurant, Tatler Lane.



We are immensely grateful to both Analiese and Bjoern for the added flavour they brought to our festival. Much thanks also to our volunteer chef's assistant, Paul Hallier, who ensured the chefs had everything they needed and prompted some excellent discussion between the chefs and the audience. Musicians and singers on the main stage had the crowd thoroughly entertained throughout the day. This year, we introduced something a little different in the form of a Long Table Lunch. Thirty lucky guests got to dine among the vines with a delicious lunch catered by Selena Lowe and staff from The Kitchen Collective. Huge thanks to all of our speakers and presenters. You fascinated, entertained, inspired and enthralled.

*Annette Reed (Manager)*

## HEIRLOOM HEAVEN REPORT

This stunning display again took its rightful place in the centre of the festival grounds.

Congratulations to Heirloom Heaven Manager Fiona Cowan for her absolute command of this project. Not only did she and her volunteers put together the display of over 200 heirloom tomato and other varieties in record time but she implemented a most simple and ingenious device to help cut down on the need for volunteer security guards to prevent people touching the display. It's called ... a rope. How did it take us ten whole years to think of such a simple solution?



## VOLUNTEERS & MEMBERS REPORT

Great volunteers this year again, the beauty of this year is that we had lots of returning volunteers who just know how things worked and the site was set up with ease, pack down was also very efficient.

We were able to find a few extra volunteers via Facebook posts and word of mouth. Without our many volunteers, set up and pack down would have been very long. Instead, it was quite quick and with little stress. The day ran well.

It was also good to have so many volunteers join us for our wind-up celebratory barbecue and to be able to thank them for all their efforts.

*Mark Bennic (Manager)*



*Thank you to our many wonderful volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you.*

## GAMES & COMPETITIONS REPORT

This area ran pretty well this year. We ran three competitions in a prominent area:

1. Tomato & Spoon Race-kids only
2. What a Mouthful Tomato Competition
3. Garlic Eating Competition

These were run for both adults and kids. Lots of fun was had by all and we had some great prizes. We had prizes from Little wishes, The Organic Grocery Store, Seed Freaks to name a few.

PRODUCE COMPETITIONS- There was a lot of produce this year. The quality was good. We had great prizes from The Organic Grocery Store, Seed Freaks, Legana Plus to name a few....

Thanks to our judges- Zofia and Harry.

*Mark Bennic (Manager)*



## WASTE MANAGEMENT REPORT

This year we continued our Waste management system started in 2023. Stall holders were asked to provide a list of what waste items their stall so we had an idea of what we would need to manage and to pay a small fee if they did not take all their own waste home with them. Two stall holders paid to leave their waste with us and we provided bins for them to do so.

We provided wheelie bins to collect landfill waste, recyclables and a smaller bin for food and organic waste. Bins were set up in 3 Hubs, with a set of each bin type at each hub. Again, the 1<sup>st</sup> Tamar Venturer Unit were our wonderful "Bin fairies", standing in pairs at each bin and helping festival patrons dispose of their waste correctly. This worked very well with no contamination of waste and a great camaraderie between the Venturers and patrons. The Venturer unit were even approached by organisers of another festival to provide the same service for them.

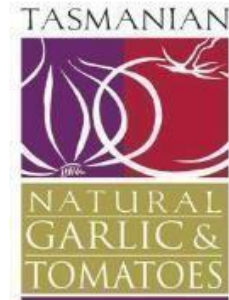
Compostable packaging is still unable to be sent to FOGO which meant all of this went to landfill. At the end of festival, we had one wheelie bin full of cans (240l bin); 1 bin of cardboard; 16 bins of landfill waste; half a bin of plastic bottles and a small quantity of glass bottles. We had 6 bins (partially full) of food & organic waste for composting (70l bins).

Again, it was a pleasure to work with the committee and 1<sup>st</sup> Tamar Venturer unit in managing the waste in such a pro-active way.

*Mary Gill (Manager)*



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



**The Honourable Guy Barnett**  
*(Programme printed by the office of Guy Barnett MP)*



## THE FESTIVAL SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS THESE LAST 10 YEARS!**