Hemp Association of Tasmania (HATas)
Annual General Meeting
Held Thursday 25th July 2019
Tramsheds Function Centre

Present: Tim Schmidt (Chair), Tim Castle, Daniel Cadart, Alex Keach, Tim Crow, Georgia Hofto, Blair Jepson, Rodney Chugg, Dave Stoney, Alistair Cameron, Ian Thompson, AG Morrison, Felipe Favore, Morgan Leath.


Nominated by Ian Thompson. Seconded by Tim Crow

Item 1.1 Opening Remarks

The Chair declared the general meeting open at 3:10pm and welcomed all to the meeting and took apologies.

Agreed that apologies be accepted.

Nominated by Ian Thompson. Seconded by Tim Crow

Item 1.2 Minutes from Previous AGM

It was agreed that:

The minutes of the previous AGM meeting be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Nominated by Tim Crow. Seconded by Ian Thompson

Item 1.3 President’s Report

The President’s report presented as per Appendix A.

It was agreed the President’s report be accepted.

Nominated by Dave Stoney. Seconded by Alistair Cameron.

Item 1.4 Financial Report

Was shown to be a $14,500 profit for the year. $21,000 in bank. On plan. Grower levies for 2018/19 year will be reflected in 2019/20 accounts as accounted for once collected.

A copy of the audited accounts also available on website.
Tim Crow nominated accounts be accepted seconded by Dave Stoney.

* Refer to the attached signed annual report.

**Item 2.1 Election for Office Bearers**

**For Re-Election**

President Tim Schmidt  
Nominated by Tim Crow Seconded by Blair Jepson.

Treasurer Daniel Cadart  
Nominated by Dave Stoney. Seconded by Alex Keach

Board Member: Alex Keach  
Nominated by Tim Castle. Seconded by Daniel Cadart

Board Member: Terry Memory  
Nominated by Tim Castle. Seconded by Tim Crow

**New Board Members**

Vice President: John Heard  
Nominated by Daniel Cadart. Seconded by Alex Keach

Secretary: Tim Crow  
Nominated by Tim Schmidt and seconded by Blair Jepson.

**Item 2.2 Appointment of an Auditor & Remuneration**

Auditor Peter Singline be retained for the next 12 months to undertake the audit.

Nominated by Daniel Cadart. Seconded by Dave Stoney.
Item 2.3 Membership & Levy Adjustment

Item 2.3.1 Increasing the HATas levy and changing the levy’s structure:

   a. Increasing the levy from 0.5% to 0.75% of net proceeds;
   b. 0.1% payable to compensate the processor for collection and remittance to HATas; and
   c. Capping levy at $2,500.

Agreed:

1) 0.5% of gross farm gate income;
2) Processor to imbed into the Hemp Contract that “the grower agrees to the Contracting Party to share their contact details and crop production information with HATas”. To be positioned above the signature section of the contract;
3) Contracting Party is released from paying the HATas levy. Contracting Party can send crop data at the end of each season and HATas will then invoice the grower directly; and
4) Levy to be capped at a maximum of $2500 plus GST.

Alistair Cameron moved item to be accepted. Dave Stoney seconded.

Item 2.3.2 Appointment of 1 signatory to bank payments.

Agreed:

HATas move to a higher level of payment structure to facilitate payments, i.e. rather than change signatory arrangement HATas to investigate system that notifies second signatory of pending invoices.

Issue to be revisited if this cannot be done.

Moved by Alistair Cameron, seconded by Tim Crow.

OTHER BUSINESS

Alistair Cameron moved a motion for dedication to Phil Reader.

Supported by Blair Jepson.
APPENDIX A – PRESIDENT’s REPORT.

President’s Report July 2019-07-25

Welcome:

Well, talk about punching above our weight. The Tasmanian hemp industry has achieved some amazing growth over the last 12 months with 1,361ha grown, up from 450 ha the year before. That is a tripling of area, plus an estimated increase in average yield from 1t/ha to a massive 1.3t/ha. In fact, some growers have been achieving comparable returns to poppies, only a lot less risk. We estimate that Tassee has produced over 1,500 tonnes of the best quality hemp seed you can find anywhere in the world, which is easily more than half Australia’s production for the year.

What a long way we have come, and we are only at the beginning.

Our vision is to have all facets of the hemp plant being produced and processed in Tasmania, including building, material and herbal applications, bringing solid returns for Tasmanian growers and community.

However, to achieve this we need progressive changes in legislation and our growers and processors to become far more competitive compared to global competitors.

This is something HATas is trying very hard make happen.

So, what is HATas and how do we provide value:

HATas is a grower-based organisation representing its members and industry stakeholders to facilitate the development and growth of the hemp food and fibre production industries in Tasmania.

To do this we provide:

- A collective where members together can provide a strong united front for their industry
- An avenue of communication throughout the industry
- The ability to lobby Government
- An interface for the industry to engage with the community
- An impartial institution to resolve industry issues
- Collaboration and cross pollination of ideas within the industry.
- Promotion of research to improve industry productivity
- Information on the industry: without HATas no crop info would be collated
- Forums to assist the growers and service providers to learn about growing the crop.
What have we achieved for your hard-earned levy money:

- Secured generous Government funding of $150,000 over 3 years so we have the resources to make things happen
- Appointed an EO, Tim Castle who has worked very hard to make things happen
- Set up legal and financial structures that will endure for the Association, thanks to Daniel Cadart
- Personally, visited more than half the growers to encourage a levy and membership
- Supply applications and submissions to Agrifutures for research funding – now in the pipeline
- Organised workshops for agronomists and growers
- Imported seed varieties and conducted trials culminating in successful field days (WA & NSW visitors)
- Supported Chemical permit applications by Ananda Foods so you can utilise essential chemicals
- Highlight a needed change in the mulch legislation
- Meet and liaise with State Growth on development of hemp licence forms
- Meetings from time to time with the Minister and Govt representatives on industry issues
- Organise and design an Association logo and Branding
- Initiate top crop program with Southern Farming Systems and collect the information
- Provide impartial options and information to growers on who they can grow hemp for in Tasmania

As you can see from this long list of achievements, we have been very busy, however we are not the only ones. The industry has many contributors, and I’d like to introduce you to some of these key hemp industry participants. If you like, it’s the who’s who of Tassie hemp:

- Terry Memory: 13 Seeds
- Tim Crow: Hemp harvest
- Konrad Chung: Midlands seeds
- Dave Stoney: Red Agri
- Rodney Chugg: Red Agri
- Alex Keach: ECS Botanics
- Felipe Favaro: Hemp Foods Australia
- Ananda Foods: Absent
- Caroline Atkinson: Dept State Growth
- Morgan Leath: Tas Seed Dressing and Storage – Carrick
- Phil Warner: Founder EcoFibre

Also, I would like to recognise past contributions of Lisa Estreich and Blair Jepson in aiding the establishment of the hemp association.
Many of us were saddened with the news of the passing of Phil Reader on the 26th June this year. The Association owes a great debt of gratitude for the years of dedication and work carried out by Phil; he is sorely missed.

So, what is our plan for this next 12 months:

- Communicate our achievements more: newsletters & website
- Promote our branding: – It’s important that we all ask, as consumers, for Tassie hemp. Woolworths at the moment have a brand called Macro. I have inquired twice as to the origin of the hemp they are selling and still they can’t tell me.
- Arrange for contracting companies to have a levy clause in their contracts. We need to be self-funded just like the poppy industry.
- Support research into hemp fodder production: A UTAS student will undertake research this season.
- Ensure we get our fair share of Agrifutures funding
- Encourage further investment in the industry including a fibre/hurd processing facility
- Explore options for our own planting seed production industry
- Enlist your help to bring about legislative changes so we can sell hemp residue as mulch.

Challenge for the future:

At the moment we are in a race, and we are coming from behind. Other countries such as China and Canada have been growing hemp for many years and right now can undercut Australian hemp seed in price by a great deal e.g. $2.50 for Canadian product compared to $3.50 for Australian.

The Solution:

Become more efficient at what we do, through practise, learning and research, we have excellent research personnel and facilities here in Australia to help us break new ground in yields and production.

Develop our branding, yes, we can command a premium in the marketplace just as the Australian olive oil industry has, but we have to earn that place.

Deregulation of the industry to allow seed for food, hemp stalks for building and fibre and leaf for CBD production to flourish. This allows us to spread industry risk over many different markets and will boost the profitability of the industry. I have already seen this happening in Romania and no reason why it cannot happen here.
Conclusion:

When it comes to hemp, we have a great opportunity to set ourselves apart as a State, as we do in many other areas of agriculture. Now is the time for us to claim this place in our culture and show leadership to the rest of the Nation by building a wholesome industry around this amazing plant.

I congratulate you all on producing, processing and selling the best hemp in the world, we have proven, even with the new growers, that we can achieve great gains. And further gains we will make to build a strong and profitable Tasmanian hemp industry.

And finally, this is what HATas is all about...if we as an association can get you all to work together as an industry, then I’m sure we’ll be able to achieve something remarkable.

END