



Queensland Rural Industry Training Council December 2011 Newsletter

DECEMBER

SPECIAL

FEATURES

- ◆ Chairman's Report - the year in review
- ◆ QRITC Awards - Dinner & Presentation
- ◆ AGM
- ◆ Office Closure



Barb Bishop with
Yvon Wigley

Message from the Chair 'the year in review'

In March QRITC began a new phase of development to change to a skills based Board, and the Board Members who were duly elected made a clear commitment to put shoulders to the wheel and to work with staff to guide QRITC into the future.

Most members would agree that in general terms it usually takes some time for new Board Members to understand the business and the organisation, however, a combination of the new Board Members and the skills that they brought to the table meant that this happened fairly quickly along with the corporate knowledge that was retained with Wendy Allen and Barbara Bishop

The fact that QRITC has become a business and in fact has needed to – to survive, has meant that there has needed to be some significant decisions made by the Board and those decisions have been made from a professional business perspective.

We know that in the next three (3) months we are going to have a State election and there is also a strong possibility that a Federal election may follow. We are well aware that once an election is called and the Government goes into caretaker mode there is almost no business conducted. In addition there has been a definite change in Government strategy in relation to funding training programs and there is no doubt that Government is targeting the resource industry as a training priority. All of these things indicate that 2012 may well be a very tough year for training.

The mining industry as a whole have been quite upfront about targeting staff who have the sort of experience that we might class as provided by rural industries. This means that there are many vacancies within the rural

industries that QRITC represents and at this point in time there is no indication that there may be funding available to train people to fill those vacancies. QRITC is working closely with Government to ensure the interests of our industries are supported.

An analysis of contents of the forum held earlier in the year highlighted the need to lift the QRITC profile. A combination of Board members and our CEO have been consciously working to address this and as a result have attended a good number of conferences, seminars and Industry Working Group meetings. The jewel in the crown was of course the Inaugural QRITC Training Awards which were held in Brisbane on the evening of Thursday, 1st December 2011. Although it has been some time in the making the Yvon Wigley Scholarship Achievement Award was a significant part of the proceedings with Yvon attending (and having a great time) and making the presentation of the Scholarship.

The event was extremely well attended and I am pleased to say that I think it is going to be difficult to make the event any better, this of course gives me the opportunity to congratulate Barbara Bishop and her team Michelle & Joanne and also to thank the Board members for their strong support.

We all now approach Christmas and the festive season and most of us at some point will be travelling on our roads so please travel safely. I have much pleasure in wishing QRITC staff, Board members and members a very happy and safe Christmas and prosperous New Year.

John Fraser
Chairman



QRITC's Training Achievement Award Gala dinner and award presentation



Award finalists with QRITC
CEO Barb Bishop and AgForce
President Brent Finlay

The Queensland Rural Industry Training Council (QRITC) celebrated outstanding training achievement at its Inaugural Rural Industry Training Achievement Awards, in a gala atmosphere 160 guests attended a dinner and awards presentation ceremony at the Chelsea Ballroom, Mercure Hotel Brisbane on Thursday evening, 1 December 2011.

The awards are intended to promote rural industry skills training and further education across rural and remote Queensland, with the focus on up-skilling our rural workforce and better preparing them to further their education and skills knowledge to meet the demands of an increasing need for recognized qualifications across the many and varied industry sectors.

The MC for the evening, QRITC's CEO Barbara Bishop said the Training Awards provided an opportunity for rural and remote Queenslanders to be recognised for their achievements in training and working in their industries. Barb said that the finalists demonstrated the excellent value to rural and regional Queensland of Vocational Education and Training. The finalists, aged from 16-74 years, represented a wide range of industries including beef cattle, cropping and grains, horse breeding, pig production, dairy, bees and honey production, park ranger, fruit and vegetable research, waterwatch, natural area management and park management. Finalists and their families, training providers and employers travelled from as far away as Weipa and Coen in Cape York to attend the event.

The category nominations awarded this year were in Agriculture, Production Horticulture, Amenity Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management as well as the Young Achievers Award and Chairman's Award. With eighteen finalists chosen, Brent Finlay President of AgForce presented the finalists certificates.

The winners from each category were: Wendy Hiscoe for Agriculture Production; Jericho Storey-Robinson for Production Horticulture; Phillip Sharp for Amenity /Lifestyle Horticulture; Jennifer Creek for Conservation and Land Management; and Fraser McIntyre for the Young Achiever Award; there was also a special category for Chairman's Award which went to Joseph Allport. The winner's certificates and cash prizes were presented by Robert Setter, Associate Director General, Department of Employment Economic Development and Innovation, responsible for Science, Agriculture, Food and Regional Services.

The winner's presentation was then followed with the major award for the evening, the Yvon Wigley Scholarship, awarded to Wendy Hiscoe. The scholarship recognises former Executive Officer with Queensland Rural Industry Training Council, Yvon Wigley, for her passionate dedication to her work and her contribution in raising the profile of QRITC as an industry voice for rural and remote Queensland.

QRITC's Chairman, John Fraser said the quality of the finalists was outstanding. In addition to the Young Achiever Award he presented a special Chairman's Award to Joseph Allport a school based trainee from Scotts College in Warwick.

The QRITC Chairman John Fraser, the Board and its CEO Barbara Bishop and team would like to thank all the finalists, their families and guests, presenters, sponsors, training organisations, industry and government representatives and give special thank you to Yvon Wigley and her family for their support and making the evening a night to remember.



Wendy Hiscoe—
Agriculture Production
and Yvon Wigley
Scholarship winner
with Rob Setter, DEEDI

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Queensland Rural Industry Council AGM

The QRITC AGM was held on Thursday 1 December, 2011 at the Mercure Hotel, Brisbane. The AGM was well attended with 27 of our 54 financial members attending as well as staff and Board members. Members were presented with the 2010—2011 Annual Report, available to view on our website at www.qritc.org.au.

The Board's Chairman, Treasurer and CEO all tabled their Annual Reports to the meeting, and copies will be distributed shortly.

QRITC is pleased to announce the appointment of two new Directors to the Board. The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Brian Sams, Principal Teacher Horticulture, Southern Queensland Institute of Technical & Further Education as the Amenity/Horticulture representative and Nicole Bourne the Animal Care and Management representative, Nicole has a retail business and is based in Toowoomba.

At the conclusion of official business of the meeting one of the tasks set for members meeting was to participate in an informal forum discussion, with the topic question: The members forum was 'What do you want QRITC to look like in 2015'? Members were split in groups and invited to provide their thoughts/ideas. This then provided some interesting feedback and general discussion from the group. This information will be compiled and presented to the Board for further discussion and consultation, and will provide a useful tool for further developing the business and strategic direction of QRITC.

The Board Chair and CEO were very pleased with the attendance and the positive feedback received from those present.

Office Closure: Our office will be closed from midday Wednesday 21 December 2011 and reopen Tuesday 3 January 2012.



Some of the 160 guests gathered in the foyer of the Chelsea Ballroom, Mercure Hotel Brisbane for the Training Achievement Awards



Again we wish to acknowledge the tremendous support from our generous sponsors for helping to make the 2011 QRITC Rural Industry Training Awards a huge success, thank you. Of course we look forward to your continued support in 2012

Queensland Rural Industry Training Council
 Primary Producers House
 L8/183 North Quay, Brisbane QLD 4000
 p 07 3238 4800 | f 07 3238 4850 | e administration@qritc.org.au