



Guy Barnett MP

LIBERAL MEMBER FOR LYONS

THE PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA - HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ADJOURNMENT SPEECH – TASMANIAN RURAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR - CAROL BRACKEN

WEDNESDAY, 29 April 2015

Mr BARNETT (Lyons) - Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to pass on congratulations to the latest Tasmanian Rural Woman of the Year, Carol Bracken, who was awarded her special honour yesterday in this Parliament. Many members in this Chamber were there. Members of the upper House and members of the public were very pleased to see this award presented by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Jeremy Rockliff.

Carol Bracken is supported by her husband Nathan and her two children and mother, who was there yesterday standing very proudly and smiling broadly at the end of the day. On a 65-hectare property at Glengarry they are growing hazelnuts on nine hectares. It is not that far from my hometown of Hagley where I was born and raised in the Meander Valley.

I congratulate Carol on her efforts. Might I also congratulate the five finalists who were very worthy. Carol told her story and thanked those who were present for this wonderful award and, in particular, Minister Rockliff. Congratulations and thanks also to the Rural Industry Research and Development Corporation for their wonderful support and the State Government for the support of this award. It provides incentive, encouragement and a boost in support for rural women in Tasmania.

I wanted to acknowledge and say well done to Christine Mann who received the Encouragement Award. Christine, whom I met yesterday for the first time, is from White Hills. She is an olive producer there with some 9 000 trees. I see her property from time to time when I am on my bike having a ride on the weekends or in the early mornings. It is a lovely part of Tasmania.

It would be remiss of me if I did not mention last year's award winner, Annette Reed, who grows tomatoes and garlic at Selbourne in the Meander Valley. She gave a terrific address to all those present, noting her positive disposition, her lifelong learning approach, and that life is a journey. She talked about that quote in her address to the audience, thanking the Government and the RIRDC and others for the opportunity to be the Rural Woman of the Year. She spent quite a bit of time in the US and told us about things she has learnt and messages she has brought back for other rural women in Tasmania. In fact, across the board she is now giving workshops. She has done two and I think there are another three workshops to go, with some 40-50 or more people attending.

Carol will be heading away to Oregon for her study tour with a \$10 000 bursary which will support that. No doubt she will come back and again will participate in workshops upon her return. She noted that we import 2 000 tonnes of hazelnuts per annum into Australia, which is a lot when you think that



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in Australia we only produce 70 tonnes; so look at the upside potential. It would be very exciting if we can make that come to fruition. Once again, congratulations and well done to Carol Bracken.

Tasmanian women in agriculture strongly support this award. It now has over a thousand members and is growing. It is a voluntary, grassroots organisation that started in 1994 and they are going great guns. I am supported in my Deloraine office by Debbie Morice, who does a great job and is a keen supporter of Tasmanian women in agriculture. It is a great honour to congratulate these fine women for their success and to say congratulations and well done.

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