
Oysters Tasmania

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Ben Cameron – a new leader in Tasmanian oyster industry

Ben Cameron, Assistant Manager at Cameron of Tasmania, recently completed the first part of the National Seafood Industry Leadership Program. The first residential was held over three days in Hobart, Tasmania, and has included participants in the program going on a boat visit to Tassal salmon farms and the Get Shucked oyster farm off Bruny Island. The course has initially introduced Ben to aspects of team building and leadership, team communication and formal procedures such as how to Chair a meeting.

Guest speakers at the course included Kaylene Little (Tassal), Neil Stump (TSIC) and Stuart Richey (FRDC). An industry dinner was organised by the participant group and attended by local seafood industry members and Tasmanian Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck (Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry).

Ben will be undertaking the second three day residential in Sydney in June.

“The course is very valuable”, said Ben. “I think I am the youngest person there, so really any other young oyster farmers who are looking to sort of step up a bit and gain some skills for their workplace or for industry in the future, should apply for it next year. I also imagine there are a few people already in industry as junior managers/ new/prospective members of the various industry boards who would find this challenging and beneficial.”

Ben wishes to acknowledge the CRC Oyster Consortium, especially Rachel King, who suggested Ben for the course and helped him in gaining funding and acknowledges the efforts of others in the industry who have helped him along the way.

Ian Duthie – Nuffield Scholar to study shellfish cultivation



Ian Duthie

Hatchery manager for Spring Bay Seafoods, Ian Duthie, was a recent recipient of a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship sponsored by the FRDC. Ian will use his scholarship to study shellfish cultivation techniques.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships, each worth \$27,000, give young Australian primary producers the opportunity to travel internationally and explore agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context. Ian plans to visit aquaculture operations and research facilities in the US, Canada, Spain, Italy, France, Netherlands and United Kingdom.

Current applications for the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarships opened on 1 April 2010 and will close on 30 June 2010. The FRDC would encourage all relevant members of the seafood industry to consider applying for this valuable experience.

Melshell Oysters introduces Uni Students to 'Great Oysters from Great Oyster Bay'

Mature MBA students of the business department at Deakin University visited Melshell Oyster Farm, earlier this year as part of their study tour "Investing in Sustainable Future". Students particularly enjoyed sampling the produce and were also demonstrated the production techniques used on the farm.

After a brief presentation by Ian and Cass Melrose outlining some strengths and weaknesses of the industry and possible opportunities and threats that may affect the sustainability of Melshell Oysters, students engaged in a valuable discussion around these issues.

Coordinator, Helen Chuter said the students "thoroughly enjoyed and learned from the experience".

The visit was a great opportunity for partnership between industry and education. While in Tasmania, the students visited other industries including viticulture, forestry and eco tourism. Helen believes Tasmania is a great choice to host these tours because it provides such diverse industry within fairly close proximity. Another tour is to take place in November 2010



Deakin MBA students at Melshell Oysters

St Helens oyster farmers meet with George River Water Quality Panel

On 20 April, Oysters Tasmania facilitated a meeting in St Helens between the George River Water Quality Panel and shellfish industry representatives. This meeting provided an opportunity for Panel members and industry to discuss directly the concerns and expectations of the local industry and for Panel members to view firsthand the areas in question.

Following this meeting, growers have worked with Oysters Tasmania to prepare a formal submission to the Panel, which documents main discussion points and key questions for the Panel to consider.

The Panel was established by the Tasmanian government to address scientific research issues raised in the Australian Story ABC television program (which ran in two parts over 15 and 22 February 2010). Further information on the Review, including the Panel Members and FAQs (e.g. the Panel terms of reference), is available at www.georgeriverwater.org.au

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