



The history of Table Cape Farm Paul and Bronwen



Paul, Alistair and Eric
at Launceston show



Bronwen and Paul
in the tulips - 1986



Gavin, Les, Margaret and
Bronwen planting tulips - 1986



Bronwen on the farm

Paul and Bronwen, with Eric, took over the management of the farm in 1981 and immediately set about finding a new specialist enterprise to take the business through to the year 2000.

The choice of intensive horticulture was easy, given the outstanding cool temperate climate and highly fertile volcanic soil at Table Cape. The idea of tulips came from Professor George Wade, Paul's Agricultural Science Professor from 1972-1976.

The first 1,000 tulips were imported in 1984 in a partnership with Paul's sister Margaret and brother-in-law Gavin which continued until 1987. Slow development continued until 1987 when a major commercialisation was embarked upon involving selling the Poll Hereford stud and a farm and the importation of tulips and nerines.

Since then, the business has continued to expand through production and import and currently has a total of approximately 27 ha of bulbs - 15 ha tulips, 5 ha dutch iris and 7 ha of lilies.

Tulip bulbs are exported as far as the UK and Holland, and all bulbs are sold throughout Australia.

Additionally, tulip flowers are grown in 4,000m² of greenhouse with local and imported bulbs from February to November, iris flowers in late spring and lily flowers from October to May.

The total farming operation creates 12 full time jobs and as well as a large amount of seasonal work. The tulip bulb harvest alone will employ approximately 30 people for one month. The annual full time equivalent workforce is approximately 20.

As well as the farming activities, the retail ventures of spring tourism and mail order were added to the business in the early 1990s. The mail order business continues to grow and the spring tulip flowering is the backdrop for the annual Wynyard Tulip Festival, which commenced in 1990.

In 2006 a Farm Shop was opened to allow at least some form of a year-round tulip experience for people unable to visit in spring.



Paul and Bronwen at Launceston
Garden Festival - 1999



Prof. Wade and Paul at
Table Cape - 2005



Bronwen admiring the tulips - 1987