

**2006
Conference**

**25th – 29th
April
2006**

**Charles Sturt
University**

Wagga Wagga

2

CORRESPONDENCE

^ NSW AAT letters:

Issue:

“Landline” ABC Media Program

- Mr Donald McDonald ABC Board Member
- ABC Board Response.

Issue:

“Tractor instructor training

- Mr Colin Parker
Regional Director Riverina Region

^ Director of industrial Relations:

“Farm Assistant – New Award”

^ Minister of Agriculture

- Letter to Registered Beef Producers (PIC)

^ Department of Primary Industries

^ The National Parks and Wildlife Service, has restricted the entry of horses into 600 hectares of the Kosciuszko National Park.

^ Scientists, land managers, & other observers have found that these hard hoofed animals can cause erosion & spread weeds.

Section 2 sponsored by:





N.S.W. Association of Agriculture Teachers Inc

www.nswaat.org.au

ABN Number 81 639 285 642



Mr. Donald McDonald AO
ABC Board Member
c/o Board Secretariat
14th floor 700 Harris Street
Ultimo NSW 2007

12th November 2004

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Dear Donald,

As president of the NSW Agriculture Teachers Association, and on behalf of our members I wish to inform you of the abhorrent decision by the ABC to modify the Landline Rural program from its present form of one hour duration to a viewing time of just half an hour.

The NSW Agriculture Teachers Association Inc. is a professional teaching organisation which consists of 450 agriculture teachers in NSW from the NSW Department of Education, Independent & Catholic Education Office Schools. In NSW the agriculture subject is being delivered at 300 secondary schools from years 7 to 12. Agriculture is a dynamic subject in the NSW education curriculum, meeting the diverse needs of students from metropolitan and rural communities.

The Landline program provides students and agriculture professionals' across the spectrum from schools to tertiary institutions with current up to date information on current farming practices, agricultural commodity market reports, weather patterns, new innovations and technology in agriculture businesses in Australia and overseas.

By altering the format of the Landline program, seriously places in jeopardy a significant vehicle of learning for all farmers, students and professionals from many agriculture fields.

The duty of the tax payer funded ABC organisation is to provide its audience with balanced programs for all sectors of the community. By altering the Landline program it significantly reduces the only effective form of current agriculture programming that is available to the agriculture sector. The style of the program lends itself to educating the general public about agricultural issues and this is a critical feature in broadening the knowledge of people living in metropolitan areas.

Schools across Australia use the Landline program to take students to various parts of the continent exposing them to the diversity of agriculture enterprises and methods of farming that students cannot be exposed to either in their districts or via a text book. The immense learning value of the Landline program is that short segments on various topics, are concise and extremely well presented. This format captures the imagination of students of all abilities and hence increases the learning value of such a program.

This association denigrates any decision to modify the Landline program based on the extreme learning value this program has had over many years.

I strongly urge the ABC Board to reconsider your proposed decision to modify Landline program for the benefit of agriculture learning.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony Butler

2 December 2004



ABC
Australian
Broadcasting
Corporation

Mr Tony Butler
President
NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers Inc
Tumult High School
Bogging Place
TUMULT NSW 2720

Corporate Affairs
ABC Ultimo Centre
700 Harris Street
Ultimo NSW 2007
GPO Box 9994
Sydney NSW 2001
Tel. +61 2 8333 1500
abc.net.au

Dear Mr Butler

Thank you for your letter about the weekly rural current affairs program *Landline*, produced by the ABC's News and Current Affairs division. The Chairman has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I would like to assure you that the ABC recognises the importance of *Landline*, particularly to rural and regional Australians. The program will return in 2005 in its regular Sunday time slot in its usual one-hour format. I attach a media release, issued on 29 November 2004, for your reference.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

pp *Geoffrey Crawford*

GEOFFREY CRAWFORD
Director of Corporate Strategy and Communications

A Texan Farmer goes to Australia for a holiday.

There he meets an Aussie farmer and gets talking.

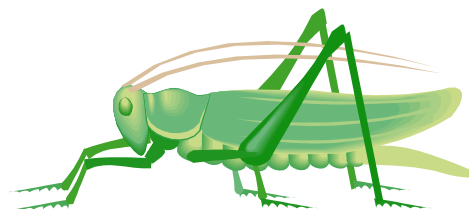
The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Texan says, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large."

Then they walk around the farm a little, and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle. The Texan immediately says, "We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows."

The conversation has, meanwhile, almost died when the Texan sees a troop of kangaroos hopping through the field. He asks, "And what the hell are those?"

The Aussie, fed up with the Texan's bragging replies with an incredulous look,

"What, don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas?"



media release



ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
News and
Current Affairs

Landline 2005

Media reports have suggested the ABC TV rural current affairs program, Landline, may not appear in its regular slot or its regular form next year.

The new season of Landline will return in 2005 at midday on Sundays, providing one hour of Australia's leading coverage of issues affecting rural communities and industries.

There has been no change to the ABC's commitment to the resourcing of the program, despite speculation to the contrary.

Landline will also continue to be aired during the summer, with a series of encore programs featuring the best of Landline content from throughout 2004

John Cameron
Director
ABC News and Current Affairs
Ph: 612 8333 3095

The Association would like to congratulate the following students, their teachers & schools, for their fantastic achievements in the 2004 Higher School Certificate.

Top Students 2004 Higher School Certificate:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|--|
| - 2 unit Agriculture: | Student: | <i>Margaret Wing Yan Li</i> |
| | School: | <i>James Ruse
Agricultural High School</i> |
| - Agricultural Project: | Student: | <i>Shelley Piper</i> |
| | School: | <i>Calrossy School</i> |
| - Primary Industries: | Student: | <i>Alexander Burgess Buxton</i> |
| | School: | <i>Hurlstone
Agricultural High School</i> |



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Mr. Colin Parker
Riverina Regional Director
Level 4: 76 Morgan Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Dear Colin,

12th November 2004

As president of the NSW Agriculture Teachers Association, I wish to inform you that there are a number of DET Agriculture teachers in the Riverina region who do not possess formal qualifications as tractor instructors or require updating.

These Agriculture teachers need to deliver adequate training to their students in Agriculture classes knowing that their tractor instructor certification and training in this area meet current qualifications and OH&S requirements.

In May this year the NSW Agriculture Teachers Association conducted their biennial conference at Armidale. At this conference there were a number of Agriculture teachers that participated in a tractor training course to satisfy current qualifications to train students in the safe operations of tractors.

The Department of Education & Training provided finances to support this training. The Agriculture Teachers Association wish to request a similar tractor training course is available to teachers in the Riverina region and that this course is conducted in the immediate future.

Investigations into conducting similar tractor instructor courses would be necessary throughout the State. Ongoing courses will be required for agriculture teachers and people who enter the Agriculture teaching profession.

These issues of safety and training in schools need to be investigated adequately by the Department of Education and Training to maintain currency of its employees in the delivery of the Agriculture syllabus throughout NSW.

21 Riverina teachers have requested tractor training instruction/update.

A canvass of other DET schools throughout the Riverina region and the State would identify Agriculture teachers that may need formal training.

This issue needs to be addressed with out delay, and I would like to discuss this matter with you at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony Butler
President NSW Agriculture Teachers Association.

NEW FARM ASSISTANT AWARD:

Emailed to schools on Friday 13th August 2004

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

**SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
DIRECTORS**



Early Childhood and Primary Education
Secondary Education
Technical and Further Education
Vocational Education and Training
Higher Education
Adult and Community Education

**IRC 04/16
DN/04/00336**

FARM ASSISTANTS – NEW AWARD

As a result of a section 19 review a new award titled the *Farm Assistants (Department of Education and Training) Wages and Conditions Award* was made before DP Harrison in the Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) on 28 July 2004.

Section 19 (1) of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* requires each award to be reviewed at least once every three years. At the previous section 19 review of 2001, the IRC asked the parties to give consideration to whether the *Farm Assistants (Department of Education and Training) Hours Award* could appropriately fit with another award.

The 2004 section 19 review consolidated the *Farm Assistants (Department of Education and Training) Hours Award* with the *Farm Assistants Department of Education Agreement no. 2309 of 1981*, with appropriate links to the *Crown Employees Wages Staff (Rates of Pay) Award 2002*.

The new award does not change existing employment conditions, with the exception that junior rates no longer apply. Those employees currently employed as juniors will now receive adult rates and will be advised accordingly. Rates of pay and allowances have not changed and are in accordance with the *Crown Employees Wages Staff (Rates of Pay) Award 2002*.

The new award replaces the *Farm Assistants (Department of Education and Training) Hours Award* and the *Farm Assistants Department of Education Agreement no. 2309 of 1981*.

The new award can be viewed on the intranet at the following URL:

<http://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/directorates/personnel/awards/awards.htm>

Should you have any enquiries concerning this matter, please contact Ruth Rutledge, Industrial Awards and Conditions on (02) 9561 8846.

Graham Devlin
Director of Industrial Relations
3 August 2004

• 35 Bridge Street • Sydney NSW 2000 • GPO Box 33 • Sydney NSW 2001 •
• telephone 02 9561 8000 • facsimile 02 9561 1079 • www.det.nsw.edu.au •

A full version of "The New Farm Assistants Wages & Conditions Award" is in Section 6 of this BAAT.



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

MA05/34

**Your school
should have
received this
letter & PIC card
in early May
2005**

Dear NSW Livestock Producer

I am pleased to provide a card containing the details of your Property Identification Code (PIC).

This code is assigned by your local Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB) to a parcel or parcels of land operated under single management. These property codes have been used for many years on tail tags to assist in identifying properties for animal disease and residue management. Increasingly, consumers of our food and fibre require proof of traceability from the property of birth through to market.

Your PIC number is necessary for ordering livestock identifiers (tags), registering for Livestock Production Assurance (LPA)/NVD forms, completing Travelling Stock Statements and Animal Health Statements for cattle and sheep.

The cattle industry commenced a new traceability system with the introduction of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) on 1 July 2004. This scheme moves to the next stage from 1 July 2005 with transaction recording at saleyards and abattoirs and when all cattle moving from a property must be identified with an NLIS device. Buyers and sellers of cattle will need to provide their PIC details to legally buy and sell cattle. This card is provided to assist you when you are requested to provide your PIC for stock transactions and movements or when ordering identification devices to apply to livestock.

For further information on PICs and ordering NLIS devices you may contact your Rural Lands Protection Board or visit the Agriculture section of the Department's website on www.agric.nsw.gov.au. For information on the NLIS you may phone the NSW NLIS Helpline on 1300 720 405.

Please check your details on the enclosed card and return the reply paid slip with any changes if necessary.

Yours sincerely

IAN MACDONALD MLC

LEVEL 30 GOVERNOR MACQUARIE TOWER 1 FARRER PLACE SYDNEY NSW 2000 AUSTRALIA
TELEPHONE: (02) 9228 3344 FACSIMILE: (02) 9228 3452
E-MAIL: office@macdonald.minister.nsw.gov.au

- ✓ ***If your school has a registered Property Identification Code (PIC)***
- ✓ ***You should have received a plastic card in early May (similar to a credit card) from your Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB)***
- ✓ ***The above letter from the Minister For Primary Industries: Ian MacDonal MLC outlines the purpose & the benefits for such a card.***
- ✓ ***If you have not received your card then contact your nearest RLPB.***
- ✓ ***Another card for the wallet to make it had to sit down or find that video card in the purse.***



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Now incorporating NSW Agriculture
ABN 51 734 124 190-004

Our Ref: OUT04/6259

23 December 2004

Ms Jan Young
Murrumburrah High School
Smith St
HARDEN NSW 2587

Dear Ms Young

2004 SUMMER BULLETIN No 25

I wish to compliment you and your committee of agricultural teachers for the inclusion of National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) items in your '2004 Summer Bulletin No 25'.

On behalf of the NSW NLIS Advisory Committee and Department of Primary Industries we appreciate the interest and exposure you have facilitated by including NLIS in your publication.

If your organisation requires information or resources, please contact me on 1300 720 405 or by email, michael.beer@agric.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Michael Beer
NLIS Executive Officer

Extensive Industries Development
Livestock Advisory Services
Locked Bag 21
161 Kite Street
ORANGE NSW 2800

Tel: 02 6391 3376
Fax: 02 6391 3551

What We Recycle.....

91kg of material is recycled by each person annually

✓ Paper	62kg
✓ Glass	22kg
✓ Steel	1.7kg
✓ Aluminium	>1kg

Source: Dept. of Environment & Conservation