

NSW Association Agriculture Teachers

J.A Sutherlands Award

Mr. Ian Baird

2010

Citation

Mr. Ian Baird is a dedicated and committed Agriculture teacher who has used his expertise in the field of Agriculture Technology to assist in the development and maintenance of the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers Website over the past seven years from 2004 – 2010 inclusively.

Ian commenced teaching Agriculture Science in 1975 at Yanco Agriculture High School and by 1977 Ian was stock master.

In 1978 Ian had moved to Windsor High School where he taught Agriculture Science.

1979 saw Ian in charge of Agriculture in the New Hebrides. He established a Farm Club and became involved in Curriculum Development. Ian was appointed Chairman of the National Curriculum Development Committee and worked with Alan Sutherland who was a consultant to the committee.

Ian became Agriculture teacher at Murrumburrah High School in 1983 and MHS is his current school. Ian developed the school farm of 13 hectares. He was involved in sheep breeding (President of Gromark Sheep Society); Showed cattle at local and state shows: 1988 to 1999. Ian was the Principal organiser & coordinator of student workshops for the Murrumburrah High School Field Days which were a feature of the school for a 5 year period. In 1993 the field days hosted the National Treefest. In 2007 Ian focused his teaching on the Technology aspect including Animal & Plant units in an Agriculture context.

Ian has been a consistent HSC marker of agriculture from 1978 to 2005. Ian has been a long standing member of the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers.

His involvement is as follows:

- **A financial member from 1975 through to the present.**
- **Member of the State executive from 2004 to the present.**
- **Responsible for the Associations web site from 2004 – 2007 & has a joint role from 2008-2010.**
- **Committee member for organizing the 2006 State Agriculture Teachers Biennial Conference in Wagga Wagga.**

As Website/ICT coordinator Ian has:

- Further developed and added enhancements to the website which was initially set up by Graeme Harris.
- Established new web-pages, maintained existing web-pages by keeping the information current and enhancing the pages with colour and graphics.
- Deleting obsolete text.
- Testing the updated web-pages in a browser to check user access.
- Checking links, redoing links.
- Uploading files to the website/organising PDF's and text documents into folders for webpage access.
- Checking on website traffic on a monthly basis.
- Providing the State Executive with statistical information on member access to the website.
- Troubleshooting technical issues with the website which involves communicating with the web-host, often over extended periods of time.
- Liaising with members of the State Executive to establish what is required to keep members up-to-date.
- Teaching materials, resources, Association newsletters, conference agendas and sponsor articles, agriculture correspondence, various reports, Association bulletins are among some of the information provided by the state executive which is uploaded to the Associations web site.

As Website/ICT coordinator, Ian has established a state wide network of current Agriculture resources which is readily accessible by teachers and anyone interested in Agriculture education.

Ian's reliable involvement with the website facility has enriched the teaching of Agriculture by providing education materials required to deliver quality education to all students.

Evidence of Ian's valuable contribution to Agriculture education can be reflected in the Website hosting statistics which reflect an increasing 'hits' and 'traffic usage' to the Associations Website.

Ian Baird is an outstanding Agriculture worker and is a worthy recipient of the J A Sutherland's Award for his significant contribution to the teaching of Agriculture in NSW and for his contribution to the NSWAAAT website over the past seven years.

**Compiled by Phil Hurst
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