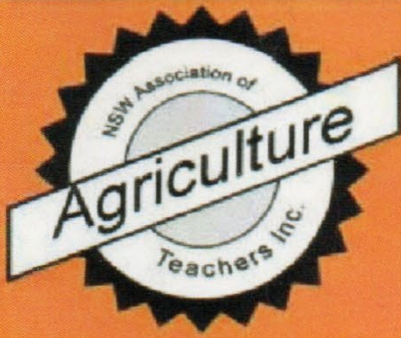




Bulletin of the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers

B.A.A.T.

2008





N.S.W. Association of Agriculture Teachers Inc



www.nswaat.org.au
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Presidents View Point.....

"Dust storm": Menindee Road, Western NSW Dec. 2007



Primary Industries Education Foundation: (PIEF) **Promotion of Agriculture in Schools:**

^ *At the National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference, held at Deakin University Geelong Victoria in January of this year; an exciting entity for the promotion of Primary Industries/Agriculture to Schools was announced.*

^ *Mr Cameron Archer; Principal Tocal Agricultural College Patterson, introduced and launched an exciting company which has been established to support Agriculture teaching throughout Australia.*

^ *The development of this company has taken some considerable time and effort over the last eighteen months with the involvement of a number of key organisations including:*

- *Promotion of Agriculture to Schools Network*
- *National Farmers Federation*
- *Meat & Livestock Australia*
- *Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation*
- *National Association of Agricultural Educators*
- *Cotton Australia*
- *Royal Agricultural Society of NSW*
- *Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry*
- *AgForce Queensland*
- *LandLearn Programme*

^ *The establishment of a federal tripartite organisation involving primary industry, government (state and federal) and education is referred to as: "Primary Industries Education Foundation".*

^ *The Primary Industries Education Foundation (PIEF) will be significant for Agriculture & Primary Industries throughout the country by providing the following objectives:*

- *Providing national leadership and coordination of initiatives to promote primary industries education to schools through a partnership between industry, government and educators.*
- *Commission, co-ordinate, facilitate and manage national projects to promote primary industries education in schools.*
- *Provide a source of credible, independent educational resources for schools to maintain and improve community confidence in Australia's primary industries.*

^ *PIEF will be structured as a company including a Board of Directors and membership from industry, education and government.*

^ *Financing the company will be provided from membership and both industry and government input.*

^ *This is an exciting development on a national scale to support all areas of Agricultural education including school, TAFE, tertiary, industry and future careers.*

^ *In the past there have been difficulties in organising state and federal funding from both industry and government levels to support agriculture education. PIEF provides a 'one stop' shop for assisting agriculture education at all levels. This company is a plus for students, educators, the community, industry and government. All groups working together to achieve the same aim for Agriculture and its future in this country.*

^ *You may recall that there were moves in mid 2007 to organise a similar group in NSW. The Association was active in this quest; however energies have now been diverted to ensure that the national agenda for the promotion of Agriculture in schools under PIEF be supported in its direction.*

^ *The outcomes identified from the NSW 'Roundtable' discussion (outlined in December BAAT 2007) will form part of the national agenda under the umbrella of PIEF.*

ISSUES IMPACTING ON FUTURE OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

- POSITIVE SOLUTIONS EXPLORED -

^ An important forum held at the national conference in January, was the investigation of issues that impact on the teaching of Agriculture Education across the nation along with searching for positive solutions to these issues that were identified by delegates.

^ The main issues identified at the conference were as followed:

- Negative growth in Agriculture education.
- Negative image of Agriculture in the media.
- Working conditions in Agriculture.
- Skills shortages/up-skilling of existing staff (attraction/retention).
- Communication of Agriculture opportunities to students.
- Agriculture teacher shortage.
- Career advisors – role in career decisions of students and their own perceptions.
- Curriculum and financial squeeze of Agriculture Education in schools.
- Country/City divide.

^ These Agriculture Education issues, once identified were tabled at each state level with delegates discussing possible solutions to these issues at a 'round table' and these solutions/suggestions were collectively gathered for future amendment.

^ The identified States solutions/suggestions to address these Agriculture Education issues have been listed in this BAAT.

EXECUTIVE FOR THE NSW ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE TEACHERS NEEDED:

^ The current executive will relinquish their positions at the biennial conference to be held at Deniliquin from 6-10th October.

^ It is important that a group of enthusiastic Aggies take on the challenge to continue dealing with issues that are relevant to all Agriculture teachers throughout NSW to maintain this vital subject and continue to lift the profile that Agriculture has in the community.

^ The executive of the NSWAAAT has been in the Riverina for the past four years. It's important that the Association move to a location where the work that this executive has been involved in over the past few years continues. If you have a band of people willing to take on the Association then contact me at Tumut High School ph 0269471077.

2008 BIENNIAL AGRICULTURE TEACHERS CONFERENCE:

^ Recently your school would have received the Associations newsletter and upcoming conference invitation/agenda & application form. If you have not received this then please visit the Association's webpage www.nswaat.org.au & you can download the relevant information about the conference.

^ The conference committee, lead by Robyn O'Leary: Finley High & Peter Humphries Deniliquin High have worked very hard along with the members of the executive to plan the conference around the theme 'Flowing Towards the Future'.

^ The conference will be held from Monday 6th to Friday 10th October 2008 at Deniliquin. As details emerge about the planning of the conference, it will be posted on the Associations web site; so I encourage you to check the site regularly.

^ The committee is very conscious of the distance for people to travel to the conference. Delegates can fly into Albury where a bus will take you to Deni. Times of flights to & from the conference are listed on the registration forms. If you have enquiries about the conference registration, please contact the Associations Treasurer Johana McCarthy at Hillston Central or self at Tumut High School.

^ The conference has a good mix of Agriculture curriculum matters for both Stage 5 & 6, along with an update on current research & innovations in the sheep & rice industries. One of the highlights will a dinner cruise on the Murray.

^ The 10th Deni Ute Muster is held the weekend before the conference so have an extended holiday in the south western part of the state & enjoy the hospitality of the region.

^ I urge you to support your Association, subject and colleagues by attending this Biennial conference.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP:

^ If you are a new Aggie to the profession or have allowed your membership to lapse, please download the membership form available from the website at: www.nswaat.org.au and send completed details and payment to the Associations treasurer Johana McCarthy 60-80 Moore Street Hillston NSW 2675

^ List of current members is in this BAAT. Any enquiries about membership directed to Johana.

2007

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

HIGHEST ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

➤ 2 Unit Agriculture Course

James Chun Man Sin
James Ruse Agricultural High School

➤ Top Agriculture Project

Madeline Eve Kavanagh
Galston High School

➤ 2 Unit VET Primary Industries

Caitlin Jane Mack
Hurlstone Agricultural High School

NSWAAT congratulates the top students in the 2007HSC & in particular the fine efforts of their teachers.

NSWAAT:

Top Achievers in 2007 HSC

Congratulations to the top student achievers in the 2007 HSC for:

- *2 Unit Agriculture*
- *2 Unit Agriculture Project*
- *2 Unit Primary Industries*

Congratulations to these students & a special mention to the students' teachers & their schools.

The NSWAAT presented each achiever with a trophy & certificate in recognition of their fine achievement.

Charles Mullarvey Awards

Top Student:

**2 Unit
Agriculture**

*James Chun Man Sin
James Ruse
Agricultural High School*



Top Student:

**2 Unit
Agriculture Project**

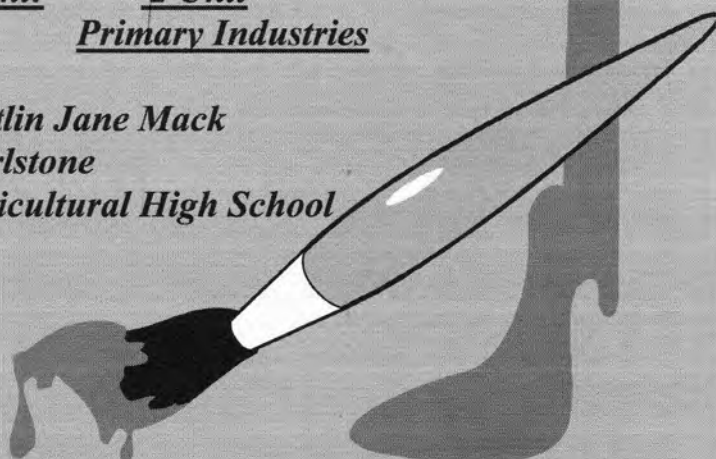
*Madeline Eve Kavanagh
Galston High School*



Top Student:

**2 Unit
Primary Industries**

*Caitlin Jane Mack
Hurlstone
Agricultural High School*



Highest Academic Achievement



2 Unit Agriculture 2007 HSC

Charles Mullavey Memorial Prize 2008

James Sin of James Ruse Agricultural High School was first in 2 unit Agriculture at the 2007 HSC with a mark of 99 and as a result receives the Charles Mullavey Memorial Prize.

This is the result of a combination of many things. He has a very high academic ability. He is a dedicated student. He has support from his family and he has had the privilege of doing Agriculture at James Ruse with its experienced and committed staff.

His teacher for the HSC was Gail Roberts and James's first in the state was the fifth in a row for Gail. This record is unequalled in any subject at the HSC.

James's parents migrated to Australia from Hong Kong in 1992 when he was one year old. James attended Eastwood Public School prior to entering James Ruse in Year 7.

This year in year 12 he is studying 2 Unit English (advanced), English extension 1, 2 Unit Mathematics, Mathematics Extension 1, 2 Unit French Continuers, French Extension, 2 Unit Economics and 2 Unit Philosophy. James would like to study a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Law at University next year.

At school James is involved with Rural Youth, Interact, the Poultry Squad and Weatherwatchers. James enjoys tennis, music, and reading.



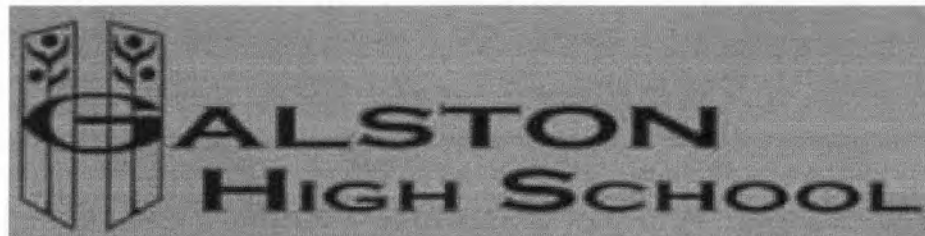
James Chun Man Sin is the recipient of the Charles Mullavey award for being the student who achieved the highest academic result in the 2 unit Agriculture course in the 2007 HSC



James Sin receiving his NSWAAAT trophy from Agriculture teacher Gail Roberts.

NSWAAT congratulates Gail Roberts on her outstanding results in being the first teacher to have the fifth top academic student in consecutive years in Agriculture or any subject in the HSC.

2007-05-25



Madeline Kavanagh of Galston High School; receiving her NSWAAAT trophy from Agriculture teacher Sheryl Thornthwaite, recognising her outstanding effort in the 2007 Agriculture HSC by being judged to have submitted the top Agriculture Research Project.



2007
HSC

Top Research Project

2007

HSC

Madeline Kavanagh

WHERE COME FROM –

- Completed HSC in 2007 at Galston High School, Sydney
- Come from a semi-rural community, with 2 brothers, mother and father

WHAT DONE –

- Finalist in BHP Billiton research project competition in 2004
- Participated in the CSIRO Student Research Scheme 2006

WHAT WANTS TO DO –

- About to begin BSc (Ad.) at the University of Sydney, with a hope to move towards becoming a research scientist or lecturer, in a yet unspecified area
- Particularly interested in biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, biotechnology, pathology, etc.
- Travel, be involved in volunteer abroad work and university exchange programs

SYNOPSIS –

- Chose to investigate methods that could be used to reduce methane emissions from rice paddies – irrigation management and fertiliser application
- Tried to think of something I actually cared about and the two biggest problems I could see assaulting Australia immediately, and which had the potential to cause damage long into the future, were drought and climate change
- Not only do these environmental issues threaten Australia's many varied and fragile ecosystems but could significantly reduce agricultural productivity
- Knew little to nothing about rice when I began but did a lot of research
- Rice is the most significant wetland crop in the world being the dominant calorie source for a major proportion of the world's population
- Due to the nature of how rice is grown, the industry emits large amounts of methane (60 tg) into the atmosphere annually
- Methane has a dramatic global warming potential, and the impact of its predicted increase in production from increases in rice agriculture - to satisfy global food demand - has been identified.



*NSWAAT congratulates
Madeline on her fine
efforts in the 2007 HSC*

**TOP
STUDENT**

**2007
HIGHER
SCHOOL
CERIFICATE**

**2 UNIT
VET PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

CAITLIN JANE MACK

**HURLSTONE
AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL**



Where is Hurlstone?

- Hurlstone Agricultural High School is located at Glenfield in the South Western suburbs of Sydney which is celebrating its centenary this year is a selective co-educational high school which caters for both day and boarding students. The school currently has about 960 students.

Resources at Hurlstone

- The school is located on about 100 Hectares of land and because of its status as a Agricultural High school the school has an impressive range of Agricultural enterprises from a commercial dairy milking 40 cows each day, a barn yard laying system of over 300 poultry and a large range of other farm animal enterprises as well as a range of horticultural activities.
- This means that Hurlstone Primary Industries students were exposed to a large variety of enterprises and working situations within the school environment.

VET at Hurlstone

- The school even though it is a selective high school which places a strong emphasis on academic achievement also recognizes the place of VET courses within the curriculum and at any time the school will have a number of students attending various courses usually run through the local TAFE system.



*NSWAAT
Congratulates
Caitlin
on her fine
efforts in
Primary
Industries
at the
2007 HSC*

^ CAITLIN WAS A BOARDING STUDENT AT THE SCHOOL WHOSE FAMILY OPERATES A MIXED FARM IN THE MAITLAND AREA OF NSW. NOT ONLY DID CAITLIN EXCEL ACADEMICALLY SHE ALSO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE WIDE RANGE OF EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES THAT THE SCHOOL OFFERS ALL IT STUDENTS.

^ CAITLIN REPRESENTED THE SCHOOL IN ITS VERY SUCCESSFUL GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE RURAL YOUTH GROUP AT THE SCHOOL ATTENDING BOTH THE ROYAL EASTER SHOW AND THE NATIONAL STEER SHOW AT DUBBO WITH GREAT SUCCESS.

^ IN HER SENIOR YEARS CAITLIN ALSO SHOWED LEADERSHIP IN THESE AREAS SUPPORTING AND MENTORING THE YOUNGER STUDENTS IN THESE GROUPS.



NSW AGRICULTURE TEACHERS

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

6th – 10th October 2008

DENILIQVIN

- CONFERENCE
INVITATION**
- CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION FORM**
- CONFERENCE
- AGENDA**



N.S.W. Association of Agriculture Teachers Inc

www.nswaat.org.au
ABN Number 81 639 285 642



***'Flowing towards
the future'***



**NSW AGRICULTURE TEACHERS
CONFERENCE
6th – 10th October 2008**

DENILIQVIN

INVITATION TO AGRICULTURE & PRIMARY INDUSTRIES TEACHERS

Dear Colleague,

^ You are invited to join with your teaching colleagues to participate in the Agriculture Teachers conference and enjoy an educational & social experience.

^ The Western Riverina branch of the Association is hosting the 2008 biennial conference at Deniliquin High School.

^ The conference is to be held from Monday 6th – Friday 10th October 2008 in the second week of your term 3 holiday break.

^ "Flowing towards the future" is the theme of this conference with a wide range of tours, speakers and workshops to enrich your knowledge & practical application.

^ If you have not attended an Ag Teachers conference for some time or perhaps this may be your first; I strongly urge you to consider attending.

^ If you are interested in attending this conference please follow the steps listed below:

NSW AGRICULTURE TEACHERS CONFERENCE

MONDAY 6th - FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER 2008



1. Mail completed form with either a deposit or full payment of:

Members:	deposit:	\$230	or	full payment:	\$330
Non Members:	deposit:	\$260	or	full payment:	\$360

2. Cheques need to be payable to:

NSWAAT Biennial Conference 2008

5. Please send completed form & payment to:

**NSW AAT Biennial Conference
Johana McCarthy
Hillston Central School
62 - 80 Moore Street
HILLSTON NSW 2675**

By: FRIDAY 12th September 2008

3. This action will secure your place at the 2008 conference.
4. Those delegates who pay a deposit will need to pay the balance at the conference registration.
5. Any delegate wishing to attend the conference & who does not notify the organising committee before Friday 12th September 2008 may jeopardise their placement at the conference.

For further details please contact:

**Tony Butler
Tumut High School
Tumut NSW 2720**

**Ph: (W) 02 69471077
(H) 02 69475228**

Fax: 02 69472497

Email: president.nswaat@gmail.com

OR

**Johana McCarthy
Hillston Central School
Hillston NSW 2675**

Ph: (W) 02 69672277

Fax: 02 69672385

Email: treasurer.nswaat@gmail.com

**## REGISTRATION FORMS & PROGRAM CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM:
www.nswaat.org.au**



**N.S.W. Association
of Agriculture Teachers Inc**



www.nswaat.org.au
ABN Number 81 639 285 642

Location: DENILIKUIN
Theme: 'Flowing towards the future'
Symbol:  Murray River
Accommodation: 'Four Posts' Youth Camp
Cost: \$330 member \$360 non member

Please return this form with
deposit or full payment by:

**Friday 12th September
2008**

Cheques payable to:
NSWAAT Biennial Conference 2008

Payment to:
**NSWAAT Biennial Conference
Johana McCarthy
Hillston High School
62 - 80 Moore Street
HILLSTON NSW 2675**

Please note:

*The Association is not
registered to collect GST*

Title: _____ Surname: _____
Given Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____
Occupation/ Position: _____
Organisation/ School: _____
Postal Address: _____
Town/Suburb: _____
Postcode: _____ Mobile No: _____
Phone(W): _____ Phone(H): _____
Fax: _____ Email: _____

Special Requirements: (dietary/ medical or other)

Personal Details

Registration

Please select the appropriate option for yourself:

PART A: DELEGATE COSTINGS	COST	Number of people Attending	Total Cost
DEPOSIT:		↓	
Association Member:	\$230		\$
Non Member:	\$260		\$
Polo Shirt : [Size:]	-----		
[Polo shirt sizes are: <u>S to 5XL</u>]		TOTAL:	
PART B:		Number of people	
OPTION 1: FULL PAYMENT		Attending	
# Conference Package WITH Accommodation		↓	
- Shared room/ - All meals/ tours - Conference Dinner			
Association Member:	\$330		\$
Non Member:	\$360		\$
Polo Shirt : [Size:]	-----		
[Polo shirt sizes are: <u>S to 5XL</u>]		TOTAL:	
OPTION 2: FULL PAYMENT		Number of people	
# Conference Package WITHOUT Accommodation		Attending	
- All Lunches - Morning & Afternoon teas - All tours - Conference Dinner		↓	
Association Member:	\$230		\$
Non Member:	\$260		\$
Polo Shirt : [Size:]	-----		
[Polo shirt sizes are: <u>S to 5XL</u>]		TOTAL:	\$
		Deposit Paid:	\$
		Amount Owing:	\$

Delegates flying into Albury need to inform Johana or Tony for pick up arrangements at the airport.

HOW TO GET TO DENILQUIN?

OPTION 1: DRIVE (APPROX. 8HRS FROM SYDNEY)
OPTION 2: FLY INTO ALBURY BY 'REX'
 DEPARTS SYDNEY: 11.35AM
 ARRIVES ALBURY: 12.55PM
 FREE BUS PROVIDED TO DENILQUIN

HOW TO GET HOME?

OPTION 1: DRIVE
OPTION 2: 'REX' FLIGHT FROM ALBURY
 DEPARTS ALBURY: 1.35PM
 ARRIVES SYDNEY: 2.55PM
 FREE BUS PROVIDED TO ALBURY

NSW AGRICULTURE TEACHERS CONFERENCE

MONDAY 6th - FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER 2008



Monday 6th October 2008

3-6pm	Registration	Four Posts Youth Camp: Deniliquin
6-6.15pm	Conference Welcome	Four Posts Youth Camp: Deniliquin
6-11pm	BBQ & camaraderie	Four Posts Youth Camp: Deniliquin

Tuesday 7th October 2008

7.15-8am	Breakfast	Four Posts Youth Camp: Deniliquin
8.15am	Transit	Depart for McCaughey Memorial Institute Jerilderie
9.15-10.30am	Session 1	McCaughey Memorial Institute: Rice Research
10.30-11am	Morning Tea	McCaughey Memorial Institute: Jerilderie
11-12.30pm	Session 2	McCaughey Memorial Institute: Rice Trials
12.30-1.15pm	Lunch	McCaughey Memorial Institute: Jerilderie
1.15-1.45pm	Transit	Depart for Falkner Memorial Field Station Deniliquin
1.45-2.45pm	Session 3	Falkner Memorial Field Station: Mulesing/Sheep Innovation & Research: Aust. Wool Innovation
2.45-3.15pm	Afternoon Tea	Falkner Memorial Field Station Deniliquin
3.15-5.45pm	Session 4	Falkner Memorial Field Station: Sheep Genomics & Research Centre Tour
5.45-6.15pm	Transit	Four Posts Youth Camp: Deniliquin
7.00pm	Dinner	Four Posts Youth Camp: Deniliquin

Wednesday 8th October 2008

7-7.45am	Breakfast	Four Posts Youth Camp: Deniliquin
8.00-8.15am	Transit	Deniliquin High School
8.30-9.15am	Session 1	Opening of Conference: Murray Irrigation 'Agriculture/Water & Future'
9.15-10.15am	Session 2	Murray Irrigation: Farming Practices/Resources
10.15-10.45am	Morning Tea	Deniliquin High School
10.45-11.30pm	Session 3a	Technology in Stage 5 Ag Curriculum: SMART board & others
11.30-12.15pm	Session 3b	Animal Ethics & Welfare: National & State
12.15-1.00pm	Session 3c	Stage 6 Agriculture Curriculum: Exams/Program
1.00-1.30pm	Lunch	Deniliquin High School
1.30-2.15pm	Session 4	Education Forum: Stage 6 Research Projects
2.15-3pm	Session 5a	Deniliquin High School: Chook AI
3-3.45pm	Session 5b	School Steer Evaluation & Selection
3.45-4.05	Afternoon Tea	Deniliquin High School
4.10-4.40pm	Session 6	Peppin Heritage Centre: Deniliquin
4.40-4.50pm	Transit	Four Posts Youth Camp: Deniliquin
4.55-5.55pm	Session 7	NSWAAT: AGM (Four Posts Youth Camp)
6.45pm	Transit	Deniliquin RSL
7-11pm	Dinner	Conference Dinner: Deniliquin RSL Club

Thursday 9th October 2008

7-7.45am	Breakfast	Four Posts Youth Camp: Deniliquin
8.15am	Transit	Depart for Kyabram: Victoria
9.30-10.30am	Session 1	Kyabram: Milk Factory Tour
10.30-11.00am	Morning Tea	Kyabram: Milk Factory
11-12pm	Session 2	Dairy Australia Kyabram: Cows Create Careers
12-12.45pm	Session 3	Dairy Australia Kyabram: Teaching Resources
12.45	Transit	Kyabram
1-1.45pm	Lunch	Kyabram Park
1.45pm	Transit	Kyabram: Cheese Factory & Wine Tasting
2-3pm	Session 4	Kyabram: Cheese Factory & Wine Tasting
3-3.15pm	Transit	Kyabram: Rotary Dairy & Technology Initiatives
3.15-4.45pm	Session 5	Kyabram: Rotary Dairy & Technology Initiatives
5pm	Afternoon Tea	Kyabram Park
5.30pm	Transit	Echuca
6.00-8.45pm	Dinner	Murray River Cruise & x3 course Dinner
9-10pm	Transit	Four Posts Youth Camp: Deniliquin

Friday 10th October 2008

7-7.45am	Breakfast	Four Posts Youth Camp: Deniliquin
8.00am	Transit	For Home

ATTRACTION:

Before the Ag Conference Attend the

10TH DENI UTE MUSTER
3rd & 4th October

visit

www.deniutemuster.com.au

HOW DO I GET TO DENI?

Car:

From Sydney: head down the Hume Hwy.

After Gundagai: turn onto the Sturt Hwy & head towards Wagga, Lockhart, Urana, Jerilderie, and Conargo then onto Deni.

The trip takes about 8 hours.

Fly:

'REX' (Mon 6th Oct)

From: Sydney (11.35am)

To: Albury (12.55pm)

Free Bus to Deni ~2.5hrs

'REX' (Fri 10th Oct)

From: Albury: (1.35pm)

To: Sydney: (2.55pm)

Free Bus to Albury ~2.5hrs

Conference Cost/Delegate:

\$330 Assoc. Members

\$360 Non Members

SUN RICE

MURRAY IRRIGATION

MURRAY DAIRY

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
AGRICULTURE EDUCATORS
CONFERENCE
NAAE**

**GEE LONG
JANUARY 2008**



**NSW
PRESIDENTS
REPORT**



NSW ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE TEACHERS
ANNUAL REPORT
2007



RE-APPOINTMENT:

- ^ Robert Cain resigned from his position as President of the Association as of March 2007. The Associations constitution states that the Presidency position can revert to a past president of the Association.*
- ^ I was re-appointed to the position after discussions with the current executive.*
- ^ The new executive are located throughout the western Riverina district & all have varying skills and ambitions which will only enrich the Association for the next term.*
- ^ Due to the isolation, the executive have been able to meet regularly via teleconference facilities.*

AGRICULTURE CLASS SIZES:

- ^ Earlier in March the NSW Teachers Federation pursued the issue, that Science be considered as a practical subject and therefore limit class sizes to 20 students. Staffing formulas & all other resources should of course be adjusted accordingly. This concept would assist to attract Science teachers & would also enable adequate supervision for students to ensure their safety.*
- ^ The approach to take to bring Agriculture classes in line with this proposal is to approach your local federation sub branch & move motions to the effect that:
'Agriculture is included with Science as a practical subject. Teaching Agriculture to class sizes of more than 20 students per class has safety implications particularly with students using various pieces of agricultural machinery such as, plant, animal and agriculture equipment. Students are involved in handling plant and animals in practical classes where the ratio of equipment to students is generally unequitable.'*
- ^ This process is both; a time & lengthy one & will only have support if the message is sent to our employer from across the state many times over.*
- ^ This proposal investigates class sizes for Stage 5 Agriculture Technology.*
- ^ Currently Agriculture classes in Stage 5 can have up to 30 students per class. As we all know, this can be unmanageable with the limited resources we have at our disposal.*
- ^ Agriculture class sizes were a result from discussions some thirty years ago whereby Industrial Arts class size was set at 20 with no assistant; Home Economics had classes reduced to 24 maintaining an assistant while Agriculture maintained an assistant but no movement occurred with class sizes.*

STAGE 6: AGRICULTURE: REVIEW PROCESS:

- ^ The BOS conducted meetings at Bathurst and Lismore at the end of term 2 this year regarding the minor review process for the stage 6 Agriculture syllabus.*
- ^ The BOS circulated information about the minor changes to the syllabus to schools in the region close to these centres.*
- ^ This was a minimal review of the syllabus and investigated the areas of exam specifications with paper 2 regarding the block question in the elective questions.*
- ^ The second area of the review process investigated; was to bring the Agriculture 'Learn to' & 'Learn about' into line with the format of the TAS syllabus.*
- ^ The outcome of these meetings was as followed:
 - i. Attendance at the meetings from Agriculture teachers was disappointing and the results of the areas for investigation were not conclusive to continue with a minor change.*
 - ii. The elective proposal for the review process was rejected by those in attendance at the meetings.**
- ^ The BOS has postponed any minor changes to the stage 6 Agriculture syllabus and the status quo will remain for the syllabus.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO IAN BAIRD:

ASSOCIATION TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

- ^ The Association successfully nominated Ian Baird for the Professional Teachers Council Outstanding Professional Service Awards for 2007. The award was announced on World Teachers Day in October and recognises individual committee member's outstanding professional contribution to education in NSW made through a professional teachers' association.*
- ^ Ian's role as the Association Communication & Technology coordinator for the past four years has ensured that the Associations web site is current, resourced and available to Agriculture teachers.*

AGRICULTURE AT THE STATE AGENDA:

Promotion of Agriculture in Schools:

^ In July I represented the Association at an important 'roundtable' meeting with the NSW Farmers Association to discuss the situation with falling numbers of students entering Agriculture courses at the university level.

^ To discuss a shared strategy aimed at reversing this trend, this meeting involved agriculture related education stakeholders such as:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - NSW Farmers Association | - Australian Farm Institute | - TAFE |
| - Westpac Agribusiness | - Rimfire Resources | - Twynam Agricultural Group |
| - Australian Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology | | - University of New England |
| - University of Western Sydney | - Cotton Australia | - NSW DPI |

^ The areas for discussion were:

- ^ Key impediments to choosing agricultural vocations as their preferred career.
- ^ Concepts to improve students taking up agricultural vocations as their preferred career
- ^ Defining the key elements of a strategy to facilitate tertiary agricultural studies as a preferred career path for students.

Outcomes of the 'Roundtable' were:

- To progress to a formal alliance to address this crisis.
- Develop & execute a strategy to lobby the Federal Government to:
 - Waiver Higher Education Contribution in the first year (HECs)
 - Reducing the cost of HECs fees to students (short term)
- Provide scholarships for Agriculture & related subjects, through the Alliance obtaining sponsorship
- Assist existing programs to promote agriculture in primary & high schools
- Develop promotional campaigns targeted at highlighting agricultural careers.

^ Much discussion was centered on the 'supply' & 'demand' of agriculture students in High Schools, TAFE, University and Industry with avenues of how to address each level to change the trend of declining numbers electing to be involved in Agriculture.

^ This issue has had attention since the 'Roundtable' discussion both at the NSW Farmers Conference in July & through media publications on the issue.

^ This issue is central to our interest in education & it's vital that the Association be involved in the Alliance that is to be formed.

NSW PREMIERS AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP:

- The inaugural Visy scholarship in Agriculture was announced in August by NSW Premier Morris Iemma. The recipient was Ian Chapman of TAFE NSW: Western Institute.
- Ian received the \$15000 scholarship from the Premiers Department to undertake a holistic course in sustainable agriculture offered in the USA. Ian will be able to deliver this course to students in the NSW TAFE Western Institute next year.
- At the presentation ceremony Premier Iemma stated that Agriculture is a significant industry to the NSW economy. He outlined the importance of sustainable farming in maintaining the resources farmers have to produce the states food supply for both the local economy & export market. He noted that farmers in NSW have done it tough during the recent drought & that governments need to be sensitive and supportive to farmers otherwise food prices & the economy are affected.

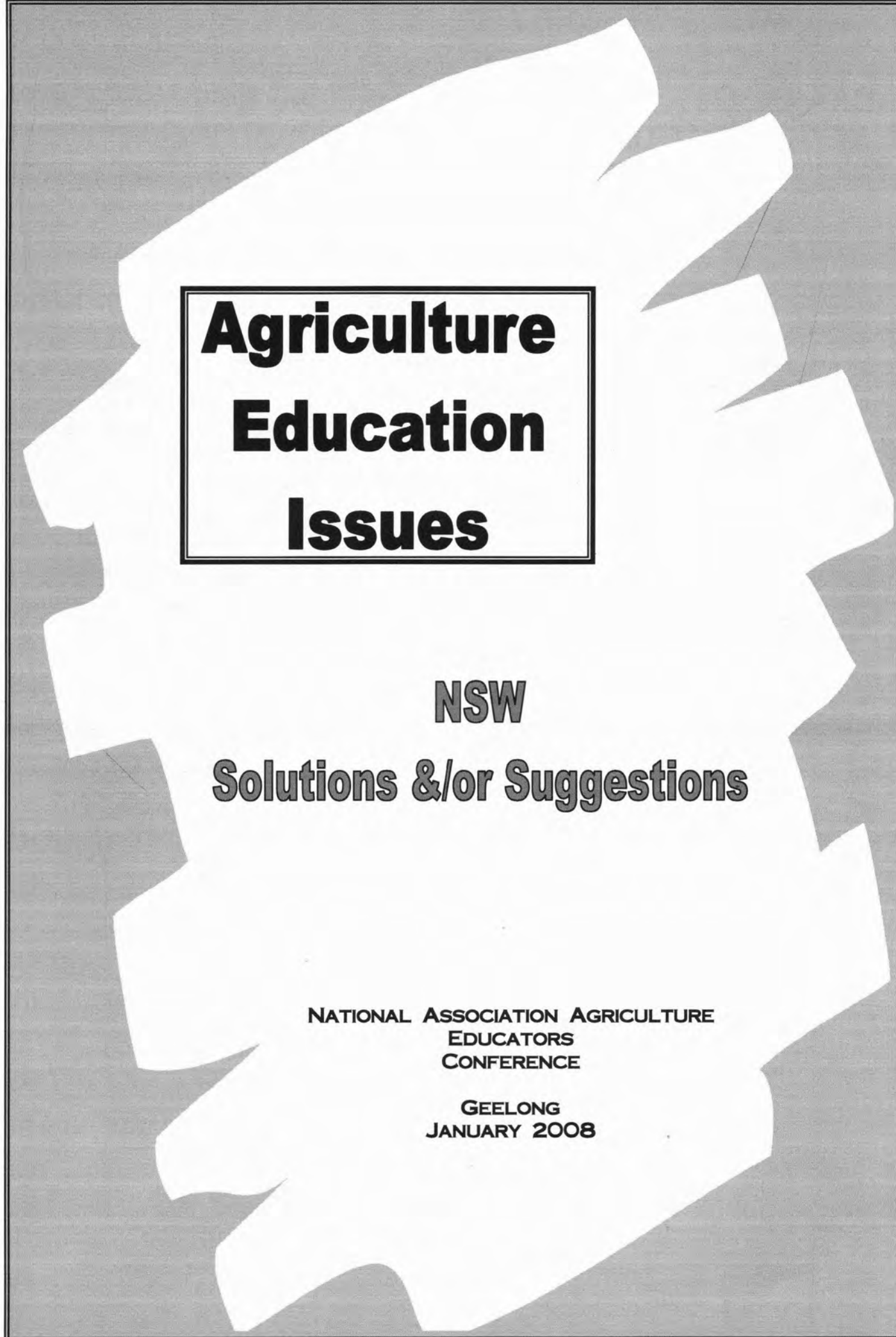
NSW AGRICULTURE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER:

^ The Association sends out each semester a 'mail merge information newsletter' to each school throughout NSW. Distribution of this newsletter includes government & non government schools as well as universities & TAFE campuses. The newsletters are distributed to well over 1200 localities including both members and non members of the Association.

^ The 2007 newsletters are located on the Associations web page.

NSW AGRICULTURE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE:

- ^ The biennial conference will be held at Deniliquin from Monday 6th to Thursday 9th October 2008
- ^ Planning includes visits to rice farm & mill, 'Shear Outback', milk & cheese factory, rotary dairy & Euhuca boat cruise.



Agriculture Education Issues

NSW
Solutions &/or Suggestions

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AGRICULTURE
EDUCATORS
CONFERENCE**

**GEELONG
JANUARY 2008**

~ AGRICULTURE EDUCATION ISSUES ~

^ The main Agricultural Education Issues identified at the national conference in January were as followed:

- Negative growth in Agriculture education.
- Negative image of Agriculture in the media.
- Working conditions in Agriculture.
- Skills shortages/up-skilling of existing staff (attraction/retention).
- Communication of Agriculture opportunities to students.
- Agriculture teacher shortage.
- Career advisors – role in career decisions of students and their own perceptions.
- Curriculum and financial squeeze of Agriculture Education in schools.
- Country/City divide.

~ SOLUTIONS &/OR SUGGESTIONS ~

- NSW -

- *Negative growth in Agriculture education.*
 - ✓ To lift the profile & importance of Agriculture Education, the production of a package with the facts on Agriculture careers & the availability of positions in industry.
 - ✓ Gary Tongs: Rural Skills Australia ACT, has the appropriate package & will disseminate to delegates.
 - ✓ School based profile: Newsletters/ career & jobs on notice boards/ contact & networking opportunities into feeder schools.
 - ✓ Agriculture camps or similar on state/ regional or local basis.
 - ✓ Adopt a school/ interschool/interstate exchange programs (Agribusiness).
 - ✓ Adopt a scientist (online) or Agricultural occupation.
 - ✓ Agriculture dinners: promote local success stories and individuals or groups who have assisted school agriculture students.
- *Negative image of Agriculture in the media.*
 - ✓ Agriculture camps or similar on state/ regional or local basis.
 - ✓ Adopt a school/ interschool/interstate exchange programs (Agribusiness).
 - ✓ Adopt a scientist (online) or Agricultural occupation.
 - ✓ Agriculture dinners: promote local success stories and individuals or groups who have assisted school agriculture students.
- *Working conditions in Agriculture.*
 - ✓ Delegations to employer.
 - ✓ Role of government/ industry/ employer.
 - ✓ Possible role for Primary Industries Education Foundation through awareness of the conditions and action through government and industry delegations.
- *Skills shortages/up-skilling of existing staff (attraction/retention).*
 - ✓ NSW: has mechanism to train staff (teachers/farm & general assistants) & students in the safe use of tractors & chemicals in work environment.

- *Communication of Agriculture opportunities to students.*
 - ✓ 'School to work' booklets.
 - ✓ School newsletters/ notice boards/ guest speakers in the 'field'.
 - ✓ Career expos/ enrichment days linked to schools, universities & TAFE campuses.
 - ✓ Involve students in field days/ shows/ agriculture camps.

- *Agriculture teacher shortage.*
 - ✓ Promote & encourage benefits of being a teacher to students.
 - ✓ Use of Associations home page to advertise to prospective Agriculture teachers, the willingness of schools to have interns or practicum teachers. Accept interns into schools.
 - ✓ Use of Education officers linked to universities to encourage the benefits of teaching Agriculture in schools.
 - ✓ Future Agriculture teacher graduates to have qualifications of Primary Industries to their professional status.
 - ✓ Association to develop packages for newly graduated Agriculture teachers to assist in their transition into the teaching profession.

- *Career advisors – role in career decisions of students and their own perceptions.*
 - ✓ To lift the profile & importance of Agriculture Education, the production of a package with the facts on Agriculture careers & the availability of positions in industry.
 - ✓ Gary Tongs: Rural Skills Australia ACT, has the appropriate package & will disseminate to delegates.
 - ✓ Work with careers adviser on career expos & highlight the importance of Agriculture as a career.
 - ✓ Pamphlets on Agriculture careers available to students via careers desk, resource centre & administration office.

- *Curriculum and financial squeeze of Agriculture Education in schools.*
 - ✓ Agriculture teachers to become involved in appropriate committees such as financial and curriculum committees within their schools.
 - ✓ Teachers have an input involving school based decisions on such matters as school courses offered for selection by students throughout the schools curricula and the financial direction of funds to appropriate areas including Agriculture.
 - ✓ Examples of Agriculture budgets to be placed on Associations web site for access by new graduates into the profession.
 - ✓ Up skill Agriculture teachers in the budgeting needs for the Agriculture area through workshops or at networking events.
 - ✓ Approach the principal and discuss financial requirements of the Agriculture area of the school.
 - ✓ Involvement of the community in funding arrangements be it 'in kind' or 'targeted' finances for particular projects.
 - ✓ Highlight the relevance of Agriculture to the curriculum & the wider community.

- *Country/City divide.*
 - ✓ Possible exposure through the Primary Industries Education Foundation to highlight the various career opportunities in Agriculture via national publicity using media/ government and industry organisations.
 - ✓ Publicity throughout metropolitan schools/ TAFES/ universities regarding Agriculture career opportunities.





MEDIA RELEASE

**'Farmers to work
with schools to ease
skills shortage'**

MEDIA RELEASE

A C Archer

April 2008

Tocal College campuses:

Principal Tocal College

Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre

<<http://www.mrsc.nsw.edu.au/>> , Yanco

Director, Tocal Agricultural Centre

C B Alexander Campus <<http://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/>> ,
Paterson

'Tocal', PATERSON NSW 2421, Australia

Ph 4939 8812 Fax 4939 8919 Mob 0427 202 948



'FARMERS TO WORK WITH SCHOOLS TO EASE SKILLS SHORTAGE'

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is calling on Australian farmers to team up with their local schools in establishing Trade Training Centres - newly funded on-campus learning centres that give students stimulating hands-on experience in agricultural trades.

An initiative of the Australian Government, the scheme gives local secondary schools the opportunity to apply for funding between \$500,000 and \$1.5 million to establish a farm-based Trade Training Centre to equip students with the skills for a wide variety of rewarding farm apprenticeships.

"Australian farms need a higher skilled workforce than ever before," NFF President David Crombie declared. "Communities across rural and regional Australia rely on a dynamic farm sector. As major employers, we must provide interesting, challenging and rewarding employment opportunities that deliver long-term benefits to employees and our regions.

"When we emerge from drought, the NFF calculates that Australian farms will need an extra 100,000 new employees to return to pre-drought production levels. The majority of these positions demand a new set of skills, so training opportunities are vital.

"Agriculture must remain both environmentally-sustainable and internationally-competitive to continue to drive over \$103 billion in annual Gross Domestic Product for the national economy, underpinning 1.6 million Australian jobs direct on-farm and through the supply chain.

"Australian farmers lead the world in creating and implementing state-of-the-art technology on-farm to drive productivity growth, but we've done so while also developing new environmentally- and carbon-friendly farm systems. Australian farms are at the cutting-edge of meeting the climate change challenge.

"In keeping with these current and emerging developments, a new generation of agricultural employees is required to fill an increasingly diverse range of employment opportunities. This Program allows local schools to arm their students with the knowledge, insight and skills for a head-start on their agricultural careers.

"As the Program is open to all trades, it is vital that farmers seize this initiative by actively seeking out local schools to promote, and provide advice about, agriculture's needs and support school proposals for funding.

"By giving priority to schools in regional areas, the Australian Government has recognised the importance of a healthy local community in supporting agriculture, which is vital to the economic, environmental and social fabric of the nation.

"The NFF has been intimately involved in shaping the Program with the Australian Government, ensuring agriculture not only has access to the scheme, but that priority is afforded to rural and regional schools.

It's now up to farmers to make the program work for them and their communities."

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**Media Contact:**

Brett Heffernan on (02) 62... or 0408 448 250 or [bheffernan@nff.org.au](mailto:bheffernan@nff.org.au)

**Public Affairs Officer**

Emma Keogh

National Farmers' Federation

PO Box E10 Kingston ACT 2604

T 02 6273 3855 F 02 6273 2331

E [nffmedia@nff.org.au](mailto:nffmedia@nff.org.au) <<mailto:nffmedia@nff.org.au>> W

[www.nff.org.au](http://www.nff.org.au)

<<http://www.nff.org.au/>>



# Media Release

Teaching Australia

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP LIMITED

Immediate release 26 March 2008

## Teachers learn from the future

Teaching Australia today released a scenario book *Teaching for Uncertain Futures*, about possible futures for teaching in Australia through to the year 2030.

*Teaching for Uncertain Futures* is the work of teachers and principals from around Australia who were involved in a national scenario building project, the Open Book Scenarios, supported by Teaching Australia in partnership with the Neville Freeman Agency. The central question of the project was "What will the Australian teaching profession have to do to be successful in 2030?"

"It is a truism that today's world is complex and uncertain," Fran Hinton, Teaching Australia Chief Executive said. "Scenario building provides an exciting tool that schools can use to step away from the here and now, see the future in different ways and consider quality teaching in terms of future needs."

As Oliver Freeman, Director of the Neville Freeman Agency explained, "Scenario-building doesn't set out to predict the future, but to identify the significant factors that affect the way the future will unfold. The idea is to prompt people to think differently about how they work and to take broader approaches to planning."

The Open Book scenario builders created four quite different alternate worlds for 2030. They found that important aspects of teaching and the teacher's role – optimism and commitment, motivating students, skilled use of technologies, close community partnerships and collegiality, among others - remain constant across quite different imagined futures.

*Teaching for Uncertain futures* provides a catalyst for schools to plan and reflect on how they can best prepare students for the future. It is a great starting point to heighten awareness of future influences and to explore ways in which the teaching profession can maximise the opportunities of the future, for students and for the nation. "Schools might be interested in using the book in the context of the Australia 2020 Summit in April," Fran Hinton suggested.

Teaching Australia will build on the Open Book Scenarios initiative by supporting professional learning opportunities and activities for schools and school communities.

*Teaching for Uncertain Futures* is available on request from Teaching Australia, email [info@teachingaustralia.edu.au](mailto:info@teachingaustralia.edu.au)

Media inquiries: Karen Clark (02) 6125 7651 or (02) 6125 1643, mobile 0405 476 065

**Introducing--**

**Primary Industries  
Education Foundation  
(PIEF)**

**Promotion of**

**Agriculture**

**in School**

## **Primary Industries Education Foundation: (PIEF)**

### **Promotion of Agriculture in Schools:**

^ At the National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference, held at Deakin University Geelong Victoria in January of this year; an exciting entity for the promotion of Primary Industries/Agriculture to Schools was announced.

^ Mr Cameron Archer; Principal Tocal Agricultural College Patterson, introduced and launched an exciting company which has been established to support Agriculture teaching throughout Australia.

^ The development of this company has taken some considerable time and effort over the last eighteen months with the involvement of a number of key organisations including:

- Promotion of Agriculture to Schools Network
- National Farmers Federation
- Meat & Livestock Australia
- Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation
- National Association of Agricultural Educators
- Cotton Australia
- Royal Agricultural Society of NSW
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
- AgForce Queensland
- LandLearn Programme

^ The establishment of a federal tripartite organisation involving primary industry, government (state and federal) and education is referred to as: "Primary Industries Education Foundation".

^ The Primary Industries Education Foundation (PIEF) will be significant for Agriculture & Primary Industries throughout the country by providing the following objectives:

- Providing national leadership and coordination of initiatives to promote primary industries education to schools through a partnership between industry, government and educators.
- Commission, co-ordinate, facilitate and manage national projects to promote primary industries education in schools.
- Provide a source of credible, independent educational resources for schools to maintain and improve community confidence in Australia's primary industries.

^ PIEF will be structured as a company including a Board of Directors and membership from industry, education and government.

^ Financing the company will be provided from membership and both industry and government input.

^ This is an exciting development on a national scale to support all areas of Agricultural education including school, TAFE, tertiary, industry and future careers.

^ In the past there have been difficulties in organising state and federal funding from both industry and government levels to support agriculture education. PIEF provides a 'one stop' shop for assisting agriculture education at all levels. This company is a plus for students, educators, the community, industry and government. All groups working together to achieve the same aim for Agriculture and its future in this country.

^ You may recall that there were moves in mid 2007 to organise a similar group in NSW. The Association was active in this quest; however energies have now been diverted to ensure that the national agenda for the promotion of Agriculture in schools under PIEF be supported in its direction.

^ The outcomes identified from the NSW 'Roundtable' discussion (outlined in December BAAT 2007) will form part of the national agenda under the umbrella of PIEF.

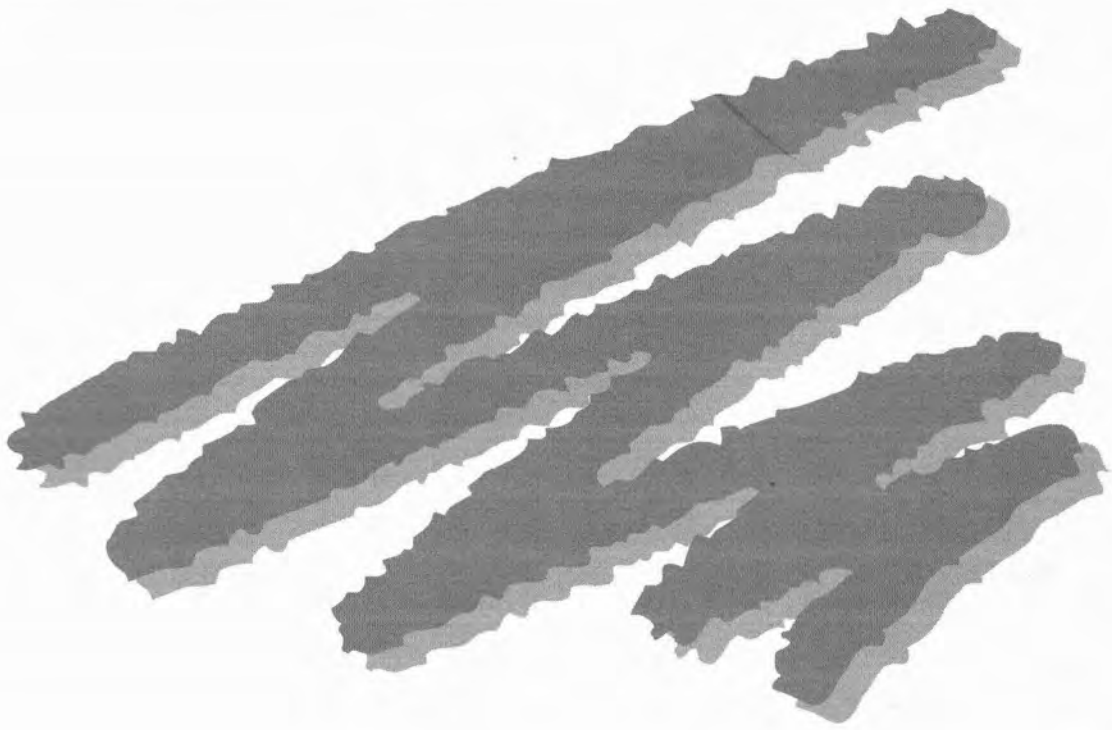
*T. Butler  
Jan. 2008*

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**Professional  
Development  
Workshops  
2008**

**Semester 2**



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# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS SEMESTER 2 2008

# WORKSHOPS

## WHO'S CONDUCTING THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

Curriculum K-12 Directorate will be running a series of workshops throughout NSW during semester 2 for Technology teachers. Three different workshops will be presented at various locations.

### **ANIMALS & AGRICULTURE TEACHING 7-12**

A workshop to review teaching and animal management practices in agriculture 7-12. Explore new resources and strategies to enhance practices and achieve compliance requirements.

|                   |               |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 29 July 2008      | Gosford       | For more information contact:<br>Sally Bannerman 9886 7426 or<br>email <a href="mailto:sally.bannerman@det.nsw.edu.au">sally.bannerman@det.nsw.edu.au</a><br><b>Available to all schools</b> |
| 7 August 2008     | Orange        |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12 August 2008    | Coffs Harbour |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 20 August 2008    | Yanco         |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 26 August 2008    | Coonabarabran |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10 September 2008 | Windsor       |                                                                                                                                                                                              |

### **CTJ for School Certificate Technology Subjects**

A professional learning program focusing on quality assessment practices in School Certificate technology subjects. Includes two one-day face-to-face workshops, online learning and syllabus-specific, expert-teacher support.

|                          |            |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 May and 3 June         | Armidale   | For more information contact:<br>Lyndall Foster 9886 7623<br>email <a href="mailto:lyndall.foster@det.nsw.edu.au">lyndall.foster@det.nsw.edu.au</a><br><b>Available to all schools</b> |
| 9 May and 4 June         | Grafton    |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 15 May and 10 June       | Newcastle  |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 31 July and 27 August    | Corowa     |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1 August and 28 August   | Queanbeyan |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5 August and 4 September | Bankstown  |                                                                                                                                                                                        |

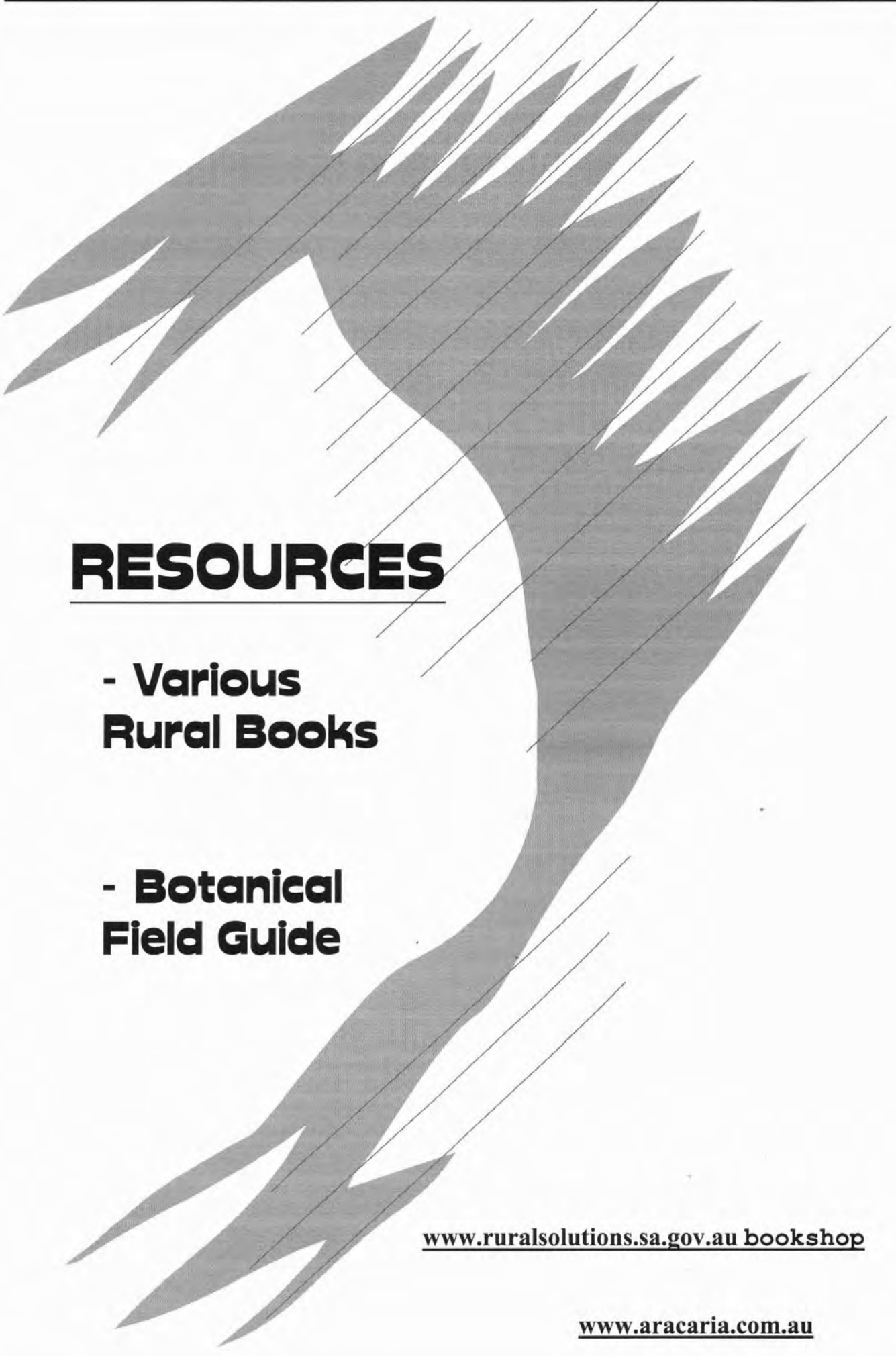
### **Teaching Digital Media Projects**

One day 'beginners' workshop providing resources and skill development. Enables teachers to implement digital media projects, addressing Stage 4-5 technology syllabus content. Includes video editing, camera work. This is a repeat of the *Teaching digital media projects* run during 2007. Due to their success it was decided to give more teachers the opportunity to attend.

|                   |              |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 August 2008     | Windsor      | For more information contact:<br>Julie King 9886 7163<br>email <a href="mailto:julie.king@det.nsw.edu.au">julie.king@det.nsw.edu.au</a><br><b>Available only to DET schools</b> |
| 13 August 2008    | Gosford      |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 26 August 2008    | Albury       |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3 September 2008  | Campbelltown |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12 September 2008 | Ballina      |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 15 October 2008   | Narrabri     |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 21 October 2008   | Batemans Bay |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 29 October 2008   | Muswellbrook |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 5 November 2008   | Broken Hill  |                                                                                                                                                                                 |

**You can view the agendas and enrol online at**

<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/technology/prolearn/workshops/index.htm>

A large, stylized, grey silhouette of a tree with many pointed leaves, positioned on the right side of the page. The tree's trunk and branches extend from the bottom right towards the top left. Several thin, parallel diagonal lines cross the entire page, from the top left to the bottom right.

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# **RESOURCES**

**- Various  
Rural Books**

**- Botanical  
Field Guide**

[www.ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au](http://www.ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au) bookshop

[www.aracaria.com.au](http://www.aracaria.com.au)

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# RESOURCES

## Roseworthy Information Centre

Leaders in Rural Books, Resource Material and Information Connection



## Newsletter

e-newsletter edition 5, May 2008

Please find listed below some important Agriculture resources that may assist you in your teaching.

### Insects Ute Guide & Weeds Ute Guide

Those of you who have been waiting on the updated/revised edition of the Insects Ute Guide and the reprint of the Weeds Ute Guide will be pleased to hear that at long last they are available for purchase once again both at the previous price of \$27.50.

### CFS Map Book for Mount Loffy

The second edition of the CFS Map Book for Mount Loffy (now called Emergency Services Map Series) is once again available also. The CFS Map Books are all in the process of being updated and this has now been taken over by Dept. of Environment & Heritage, rather than the CFS themselves.

### 2008 Spray Charts:

The 2008 Spray Charts will soon be available for sale from the Information Centre and your local Rural Solutions SA office - the cost this year has increased slightly to \$7.50 per chart, you can call us on 1800 356 446 to order your copy OR keep checking the online shop as we will add them to the list as soon as we have them on hand.

## Rural Books and Resource Material

### i. Fertiliser Essentials



David Brouwer Our Price: \$36.00

Full-colour book covering the basics of fertiliser use for healthy soils and profitable agriculture. Includes details on nitrogen, phosphorous and other essential nutrients, chapters on acid soils, testing, choosing and costing fertilisers, and the role of organic fertilisers.

### ii. Farm and small business record book

G.H. Randell, L.N. Trapnell, W.W. Fisher Our Price: \$42.95

Keeping good financial and physical records is an important aid for successful financial management of any farm, small business or organisation where exchanges of cash take place.

This publication will enable you to keep good records for taxation and for the management of your business.

### iii. AgSkills - Tractor

Jennifer Laffan and David Brouwer Our Price: \$24.95

Tractor Agskills provides a basic guide to some of the skills needed in tractor operation and maintenance.

The book contains step-by-step instructions, diagrams, and full-colour pictures.

This book will help you - perform a pre-start safety check, change oil and filter, operate a tractor and implement in field conditions, reverse a trailed implement and attach, operate and remove a PTO driven implement.



#### **iv. In search of sustainability**

Jenny Goldie, Bob Douglas, Bryan Furnass Our Price: \$29.95  
What must we do to achieve a sustainable society? There is no single answer. The first steps towards sustainability cover a whole spectrum of economic, social & environmental issues. In this publication Australian leaders from a wide range of fields discuss the key issues we must address if we are to move towards a more just & sustainable future. Australian leaders from a wide range of fields discuss the key issues we must address if we are to move towards a more just and sustainable future.



#### **v. The complete book of vegetables, herbs and fruit**



Matthew Biggs, Jekka McVicar and Bob Flowerdew Our Price: \$45.00

This exceptional book highlights more than 1,000 vegetables, fruits, and herbs, providing all the information you need for growing, harvesting, and cooking.

The Complete Book of Vegetables, Herbs and Fruit - is the definitive Australian sourcebook of growing, harvesting and cooking fresh and delicious produce in your own home.

#### **vi. Weeds of the South East**

F.J. Richardson, R.G. Richardson & R.C.H. Shepherd  
Our Price: \$69.95

Written in easy-to-understand language and beautifully illustrated, this is a field guide for anyone interested in the identification of pest plants and the preservation of our native flora.

An essential tool for community and government organisations, park rangers, weed officers and advisers, agronomists, landholders, horticulturists, landscapers, amateur naturalists and gardeners.



#### **vii Farm Diary - Simple solutions for busy farmers.**

Produced by Agri-Data Systems P/L Our Price: \$38.50

The Farm Diary is used to record and manage information collected on individual paddocks.

Some of the advantages of the Farm Diary include:

All paddock inputs and activities recorder in triplicate Standardised whole-farm QA package covering seeding, spraying, harvest and grain storage with no duplication. Declaration easily removed and passed on to end-user.

A hard copy of data can be faxed or posted

#### **viii What tree is that?**



Stirling Macoboy Our Price: \$25.00.

This completely revised edition, with existing entries updated and new ones added, includes: All the favourite trees from around the world & from all different climates. More than 900 species & 300 genera Trees listed alphabetically by genus Beautiful colour photographs, often detailing the fruit & flowers as well as the whole tree

#### **Contact**

The Online Bookshop and Resource Centre provides access to our publications, software and video sales 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Visit the Online Shop now: <http://www.ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au/bookshop>

We are located at Norton Rd , Roseworthy Campus, Adelaide University, Roseworthy. Office Hours: 8:45am - 4:30pm Monday - Friday.

Phone (TollFree): 1800 356 446 or 8303 7624

Email: [bookshop@ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au](mailto:bookshop@ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au)

# RESOURCES

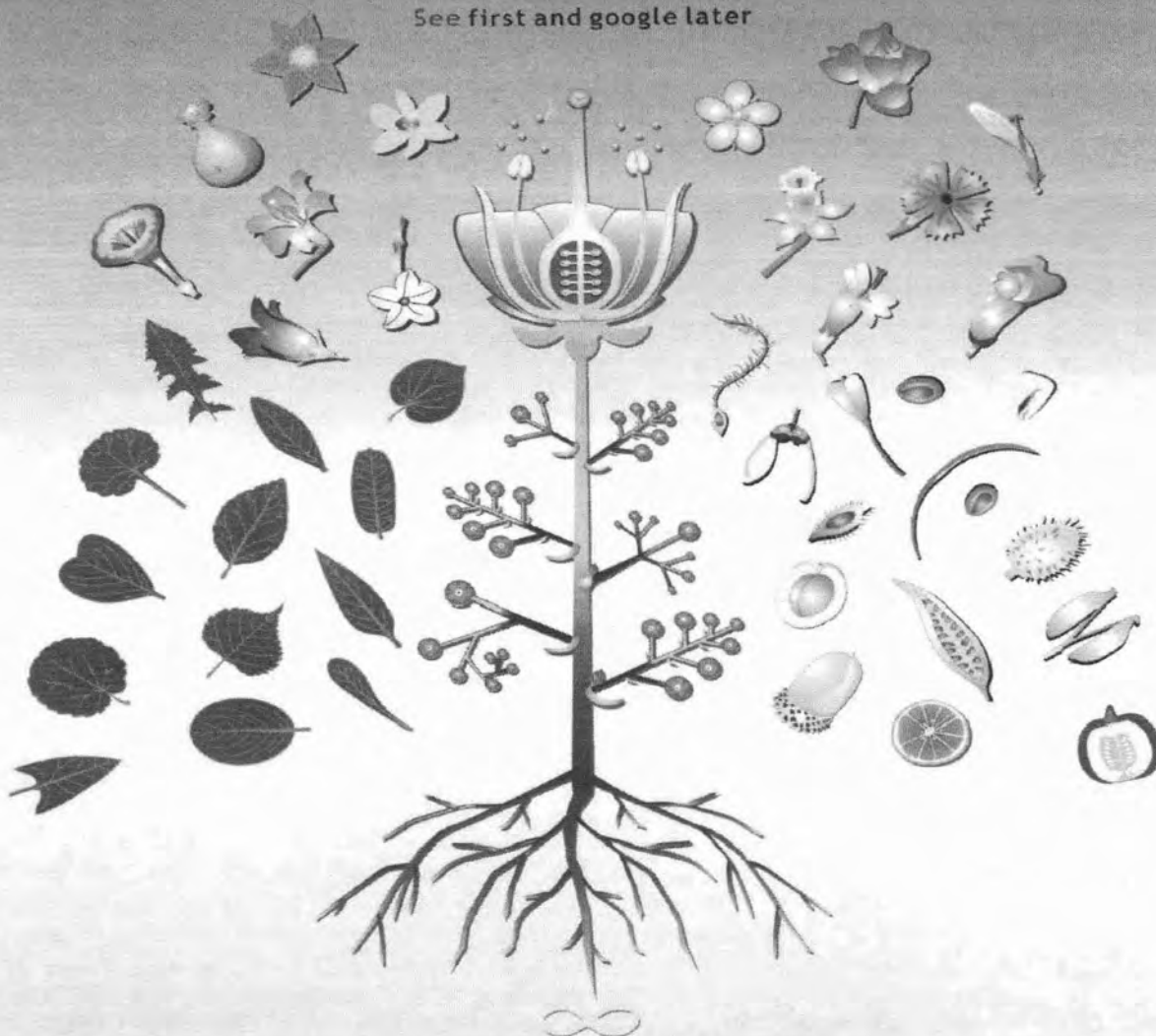


Aracaria Biodynamic Farm, Mullumbimby. [www.aracaria.com.au](http://www.aracaria.com.au)

PO Box 480, Mullumbimby, 2482

## BOTANICAL FIELD GUIDE

See first and google later



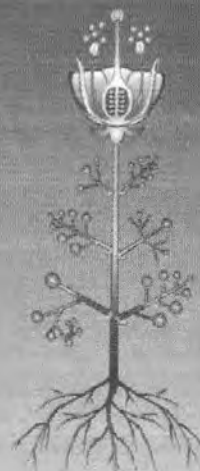
Flower Anatomy - Fruits - Seeds  
Vegetative Spreads - Monocots - Dicots  
Stem - Root - Grasses - Sedges - Leaf Types  
**280 SYMBOLS & 400 KEYWORDS**

by  
Stefan Mager

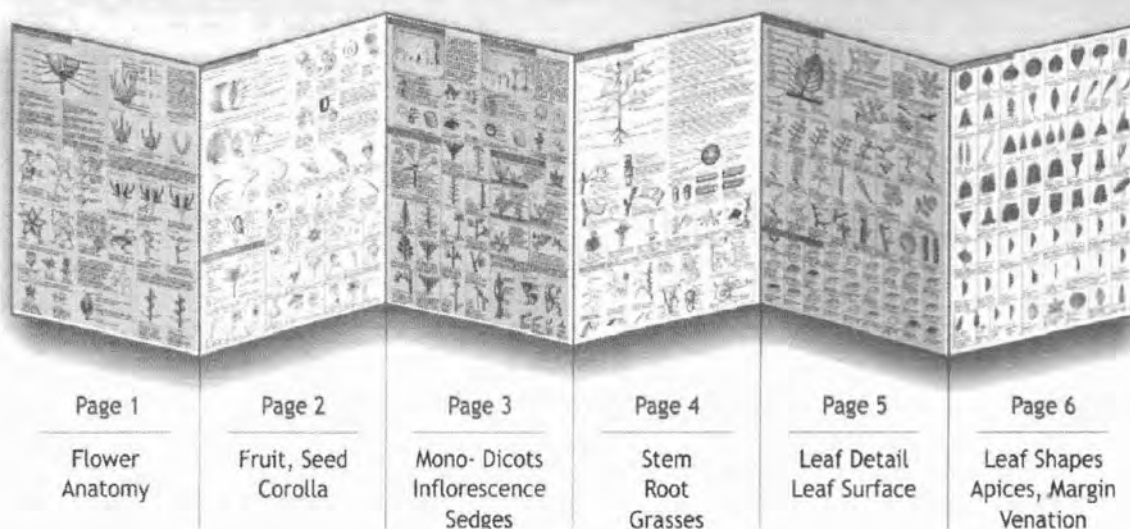
### **The Botanical Field Guide:**

A useful teaching resource for Agriculture Science. The retail price is \$12, & is illustrated; laminated chart format makes it ideal for outdoor use.

**THE BOTANICAL FIELD GUIDE** offers, in symbol and keyword format, a substantial overview of the plant world. Plants express life. They sustain the environment and feed humans and animals alike. For the conscious observer the plant becomes more than the sum of its parts. The plant can be experienced as an unfolding event that moves through the seasons from seed to leaf to flower to fruit and to seed again. Make this comprehensive and robust Guide your companion wherever you live, city or country. Use it to look for and to check details; to classify, to reference, to compare and to remember keywords for later research. Very soon your eyes will become more discerning and your discoveries will be a richly satisfying source of inspiration. Living with, understanding and respecting the omnipresent processes of Nature by way of personal, direct observation will help cope with the environmental changes that inevitably lie ahead.



**280 SYMBOLS WITH EXPLANATIONS AND OVER 400 GOOGLE-READY KEYWORDS:**



#### SIX EASY STEPS TOWARDS A NEW WAY OF SEEING:

##### 1. Look



Make it a natural habit to look at the plants that grow around you.

##### 5. Look Again

This second, informed look may be the deepening of a relationship with the plant. Searching for ONENESS with Nature is important because as long as we (as the subject) are separate from Nature (as the object), Nature and the Human Being in the World will be at odds with each other and no solution for pressing environmental problems is possible.

##### 2. Full Attention



Give the object of your focus full concentration.

##### 3. Silent Pause

Now let this experience resurface and perhaps speak to you. Something may arise that you have never noticed or experienced before. The great poet and scientist, J W Goethe describes this experience as coming to know the plant's archetype.

##### 4. Reflect and Clarify

Use the Botanical Guide to clarify your observations or to refresh the memory of your observations. You can relax in the knowledge that all the keywords are readily available for future research.

##### 6. A New Way of Seeing

Goethe, in his botanical pursuits, came to the realization that it is not just a question of seeing new things. He sought a NEW WAY OF SEEING the familiar things. The Botanical Field Guide has been created with this insight in mind. It provides a resource and reference tool that helps deepen observations and assists in the process of carrying out these observations.



**MURRUMBIDGEE**

**RURAL**

**STUDIES**

**CENTRE**

**(MRSC)**

Situated in the heart of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area at Yanco, Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre provides a wide range of training course fro primary producers, owners of small farms, new entrants to agriculture and horticulture, and to those thinking of investing in a rural enterprise.

An invitation letter is attached for Agriculture teachers to consider the benefits of using the MRSC; contact John Collins at the Centre on (0)2 6951 2632

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Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre (MRSC) was created in 2005 following closure by NSW Department of Primary Industries of Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture (formerly Yanco Agricultural College).

Since 2005 NSW DPI has been generous in its willingness to allow MRSC to experiment with ways of providing edutaining that benefits rural industries, organisations and communities.

MRSC consists of accommodation in various styles (motel, residential hall and bunkhouse), training rooms of various sizes and shapes, sporting and recreational facilities and a wide variety of plant and equipment useful for educational processes. Of perhaps greater value is our staff of roughly 25 people dedicated to furthering educational objectives. Our staff members have intense networks with governmental, private and NGO organisations in the state of NSW generally and in the Riverina in particular.

One educational activity we have developed in a small way is provision of excursions for metropolitan and other high school students. The excursions have generally been one-off affairs, arranged in response to specific requests from individual schools. Topics covered have included agriculture, conservation and geography, as well as "retreats" and team building exercises. There is no reason why topics such as environmental studies, history, social studies, biology and others could not be catered for.

Staff of MRSC would like to grow and regularise the number and range of excursions conducted from our premises and it is in pursuit of that objective this request is written.

MRSC staff have intense networks of contacts with individuals and organisations at all levels and of various interest groups in the Riverina. What we do not possess is professional knowledge of school syllabi and of current educational practices as they occur in schools.

We would be interested to support any teacher discipline association wishing to write excursion plans using our facilities and networks. We see our assistance being of most use to teachers of senior high school students.

The disciplines need not be purely academic arts and sciences -- we have access, for instance, to a range of rural "vernacular architecture" and machinery that would be of interest to technical / mechanical students.

The support we can offer is negotiable. We might arrange introductions to leaders of racial, industry, governmental and NGO bodies willing to make themselves or their facilities (sacred sites, farms, factories, conservation areas, interesting buildings) available to groups of high school students. We would be willing to negotiate accommodation, clerical, publishing and other services with members of teacher discipline associations who wished to spend some time in the Riverina undertaking research in order to write detailed excursion plans. It is possible that particular discipline associations would wish to retain copyright over excursion plans and MRSC could then offer an administrative service to collect licence fees from schools using those excursion plans, thus generating a small income stream to the discipline association. We might help publicise and promote excursions interstate or with non-school groups. We could assist in development of budgets and of Risk Management Plans for each excursion, for distribution to teachers or schools interested in taking advantage of excursion plans. I see MRSC providing booking and administrative services once an excursion plan is functional.

If any teacher discipline association executives were interested to follow up or expand upon ideas contained in this letter we could arrange a group introductory session at Yanco at a mutually agreeable time, or we can deal with individual discipline associations as required. We ask however that any teacher approaching us do so with the written imprimatur of their association.

John Collins

Manager, Continuing Education

Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre (MRSC)

PMB YANCO NSW 2703

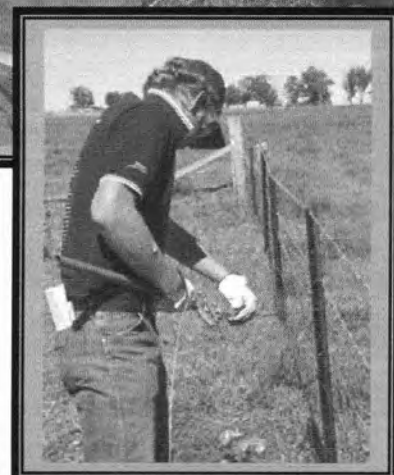
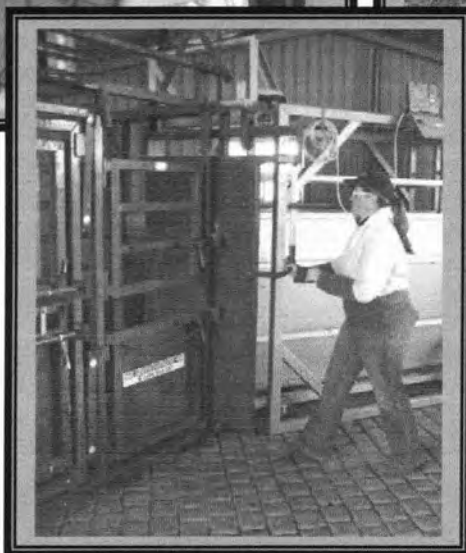
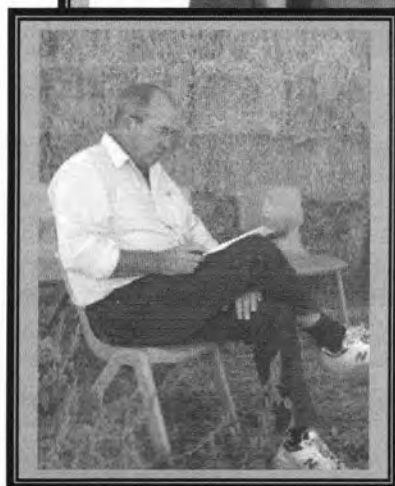
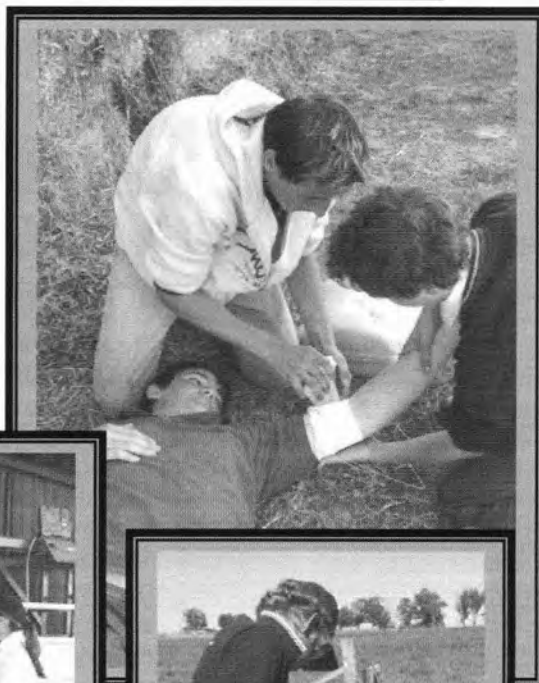
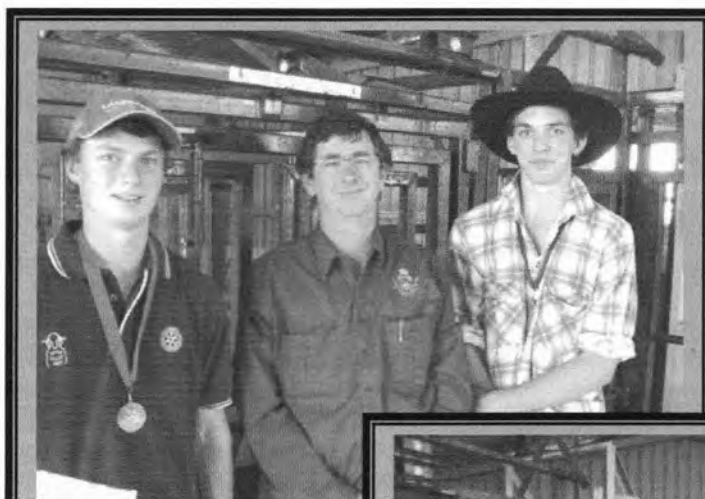
(0)2 6951 2632 (0)2 6951 2616 (fax) Mobile 0419 407 804

[www.mrsc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mrsc.nsw.edu.au)

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# worldskills Australia





## **What is World Skills:**

WorldSkills Australia is a national, organization(est 1988) that provides young Australians aged 23 and under the opportunity to:

- gain new skills,
- compete against their peers in their chosen trade and
- fast track their skills and career development.

The world skills competition stimulates the motivation of students by focusing on the 'fun' of learning through interesting and diverse skill challenges.

The aim of WorldSkills Australia is to challenge young people, their teachers, trainers and employers to achieve world class standards in work skills and to promote the status of vocational education and training across Australia.

In the 2007/2008 competition, the Primary Industries students were challenged to three tasks throughout the competition.

Firstly students needed to drench a small mob of steers which involved mustering, yarding, weighing, recording, calibrating the drench gun, reading the chemical label and drenching the cattle.

The student's second task was to replace a broken steel post in a fence. This task involved students selecting the appropriate fencing equipment and materials needed to complete the repair task.

The final task was a first aid scenario where a patient had been involved in a farming accident and first aid required.

## Some FACTS about World Skills

### World Skills:

57 years history of World Skills

49 countries involved

40 skill s area in competition



### Purpose:

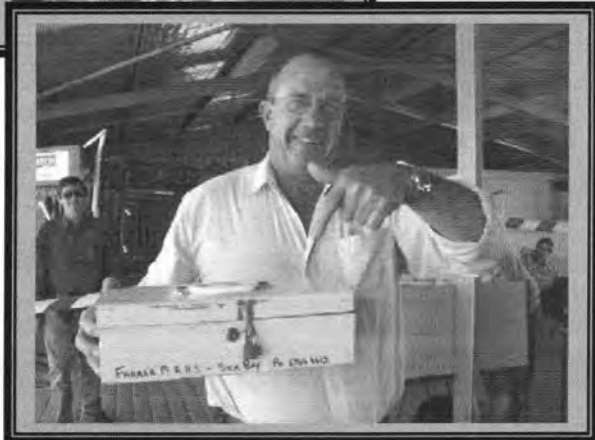
- is to promote & celebrate skills excellence,
- inspiring young people and
- providing them with an opportunity to showcase their trade and skill talent.



### How excellence in these skill areas Achieved:

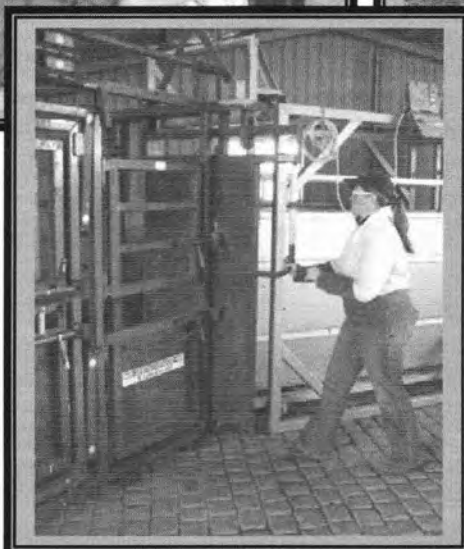
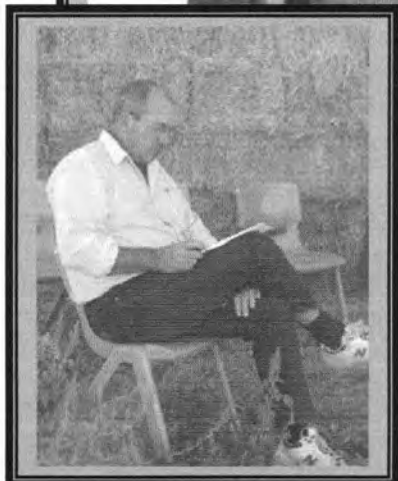
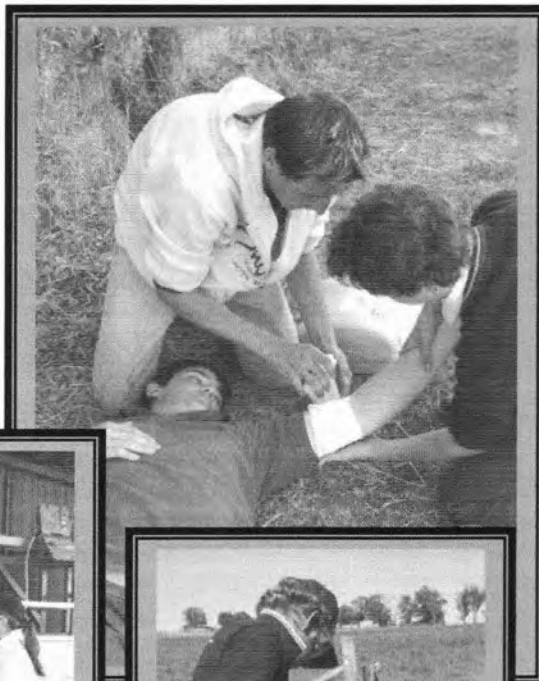
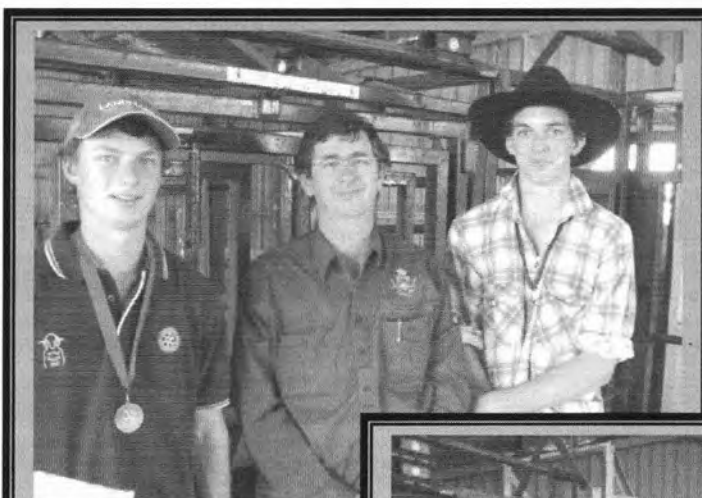
- Through competitions held on a
  - Regional Competition
  - State Competition
  - National and
  - International level.

### Primary Industries State Competition at Tamworth





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**Primary Industries State Competition at Tamworth**



# Barham High

Barham High is a small high school of 250 students located on the Murray River half way between Swam Hill and Echuca. It is a fantastic school with great students and staff. Approx 70 students from years 9 to 12 do Agriculture or Primary industries. Our main activities focus around cattle and sheep. While we are surrounded by farms the mix of farm and city students is about 50 50. The drought has taken a large tole on the general welfare of the students and with no signs of it ending any time soon the concern for student welfare takes on an increasing important role in my teaching day. It is important that we as Ag teachers show that there is hope and a future in the Agriculture industry so it was good timing that the school recently won supreme carcase exhibit at the National beef Expo in Bendigo in Bendigo Victoria. The students prepared the animals for show and all gained first hand experience at the event leading the schools or other studs cattle. The students enjoyed all the different aspects associated with animal husbandry and show preparation and are now even more enthusiastic about our next competition.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MY PADDOCK

## DENILIQUN HIGH SCHOOL

Deniliquin High School is a comprehensive high school in the South Western Riverina. It has a population of 630 students, about a third of whom are from district properties. Deniliquin, situated on the Edward River about 740 km from Sydney, is the rural service centre supporting the agricultural production of the surrounding district. It is the third largest town in the Riverina, with a population of 8,100 people, in a catchment boasting 15,000. Agriculture is the traditional staple of the region's economy.

### A Class set of lambs



Rice in particular, is now an integral part of Deniliquin's cropping industry (over half of Australia's rice crop is produced in the region - except not during the last few years of drought), along with wheat, barley, oats, oil seeds, lucerne and a variety of pastures. The last supports significant production of dairy, beef and prime lambs.



Irrigation dam at the school farm



Originally, huge pastoral stations produced sheep and wool on a broad scale. Deniliquin is the home of the Peppin merino, the medium wool strain that 75% of Australia's sheep are descended from.

Today the township is surrounded by highly developed farms and grazing land and a sophisticated irrigation system sustains a large and diverse range of agricultural activity.



# Agriculture at Deniliquin High School



The school farm is separate from the school and students are bussed there. It is 32 ha in size with about half lasered for flood irrigation – representative of the district situation.



We run sheep for lamb and wool production, beef cattle and poultry. Irrigated pasture is important for production and students also grow small areas of vegetables and crops. Irrigated lucerne for grazing and hay has established on a 4 ha area. Students are actively involved in all aspects of production and teaching programs are complimented with practical experiences at the farm.

The area has suffered greatly with the drought and there has been no relief in the first third of 2008. We have also had no irrigation water for two years and only an 8% allocation in 2005/6.

There are two Ag teacher's here – Peter Humphries and Emily Pearn, and one on maternity leave-Genny Dunmore.



Due to the nature of the town and district and the facilities available for agriculture at the school, a large number of students study Ag technology subjects from years 7 to 12. Each year we would run the following:

- Technology Mandatory in Years 7 & 8
- 2 elective classes Yr 8
- 2 elective classes Yr 9
- 2 elective classes Yr 10
- Agriculture Yrs 11 and 12
- Primary Industries Yrs 11 and 12



About 200 students are involved in ag one way or another. Classes are large in the junior years and quite strong in Senior Agriculture. Primary Industries classes are a fair size – typically starting with 15 – 20 in Year 11 and finishing with a dozen or so in Year 12.



At the school farm we have a mixture of sheep including Border Leicesters, Dorsets and First Cross. We breed lambs for sale and as replacements. We join about 15 ewes in March, shear mid year and lamb in August.

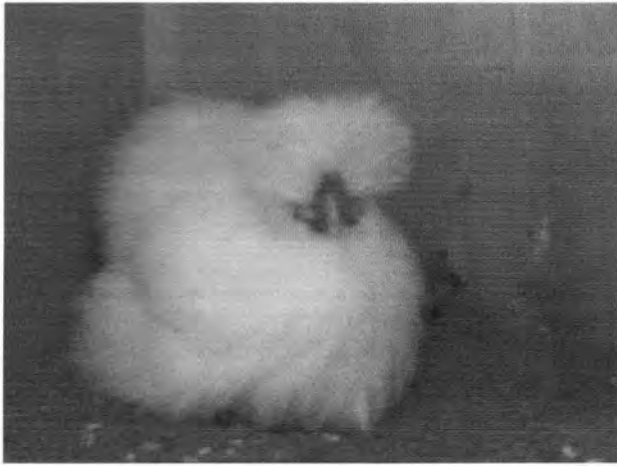
We try to ensure students are confident with animals and in husbandry techniques.



# Chooks !



At the farm, we keep a variety of poultry which we show. These include Anconas, Pekins, Silkies and Australorps – both full sized and bantam.



# MURRAY GREY CATTLE



Deniliquin High School currently runs about 20 stud Murray Greys. We have had to cut back because of the drought but generally calve 6 – 8 cows each year. The cattle have had a couple of outings to shows but are generally run as a production herd. They are joined in winter to calve in March and April. Our stud prefix is Harfleur and students have great fun naming the calves each year. Last year we had a set of twins which caused great excitement.

# COME TO DENI

The Ag teacher's conference will be held in Deni in October and we would love you to come. It is a beautiful town which is fighting hard against the affects of 7 years of drought and a visit from you will help. We are sure that the Deniliquin district will be very interesting to you all and that you will get lots out of the conference.



Deniliquin is situated on the Edward River in the heart of Riverina sheep station country and on the fringe of the world's largest River Redgum forests. Try camping, kayaking, fishing, bird watching, water skiing, swimming or bushwalking. If you want something more relaxing what about a trip out to the famous Conargo Hotel for a quiet drinking whilst watching the sunset across the flattest place on Earth.

## Deni Ute Muster - 3rd and 4th of October

If you would like to come earlier you could experience the record breaking ute muster. Not only do 6000 + utes converge on the town but crowds are entertained by artists including Lee Kernaghan, the Sunny cowgirls, Casey Chambers, The Living End, James Reyne and Mark Seymour. Enter your ute for the Show and Shine competition or just watch the ever passing parade. There are family friendly camping facilities, entertainment for every age, Holden displays, crocodile encounters and much, much more.

Visit the website and see what the Muster has to offer on:

<http://www.deniutemuster.com.au/>



The Mosaic Holden Ute

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# **Membership**

**• Current Association  
Membership**

**• Membership Application**

*May 2008*

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|       |            |                                    |       |            |            |
|-------|------------|------------------------------------|-------|------------|------------|
| 07    |            | Royal Ag Society NSW               | 07/08 | Ian        | Hatherly   |
| 07    |            | Orange Field Days Co-Op            | 08/09 | Colin      | Hawthorn   |
| 07    | Teacher Ag | Colo High School                   | 07    | Belinda    | Henderson  |
| 07/08 | Teacher Ag | Dapto High School                  | 07/08 | Robert     | Henderson  |
| 07    |            | James Sheahan                      | 07/08 | Jayne      | Hoffman    |
| 07    | Teacher Ag | James Ruse Ag High                 | 07    | Sue        | Hope       |
| 07    | Teacher Ag | John Paul College<br>Coffs Harbour | 07/08 | Peter      | Humphries  |
| 08    | Teacher Ag | Camden High                        | 07/08 | Stuart     | Irwin      |
| 07/08 | Teacher Ag | Kingscliff High                    | 07    | Kennedy    | Jones      |
| 07    | Teacher Ag | Mudgee High                        | 07/08 | Ian        | Judd       |
| 07    | Teacher Ag | Narooma High                       | 08    | Joan       | Keiger     |
| 07    | Teacher Ag | St Joseph's Aberdeen               | 07    | Howard     | Kennedy    |
| 07    | Teacher Ag | Toorima High                       | 07    | Pru        | Kesby      |
| 08/09 | Teacher Ag | Yass High                          | 07    | John       | Killeen    |
| 07    | Brian      | Adams                              | 07/08 | Terry      | Kirby      |
| 07/08 | Bryon      | Adamson                            | 07/08 | Owen       | Knight     |
| 07    | Bob        | Anderson                           | 07    | Mykel      | Koller     |
| 07    | Charles    | Anderson                           | 07    | David      | Lamrock    |
| 07    | Graeme     | Anderson                           | 07    | Abdul      | Lawal      |
| 07    | Phil       | Armour                             | 07    | Lynne      | Leotta     |
| 08/09 | Belinda    | Auld                               | 08    | Renee      | Lidgard    |
| 07    | Attila     | Babos                              | 07    | Greg       | McAlpin    |
| 08/09 | Fiona      | Bailey                             | 07    | Lynda      | McCallum   |
| 07    | Karlene    | Bailey                             | 08/09 | Patrick    | McCann     |
| 07    | Ian        | Baird                              | 07/08 | Johana     | McCarthy   |
| 07    | Ian        | Bishop                             | 07    | Ross       | McGregor   |
| 07    | Karen      | Brook                              | 07/08 | Jacqueline | McIntosh   |
| 07    | Craig      | Bourne                             | 07/08 | Owen       | McLaughlan |
| 07/08 | Cathy      | Breene                             | 07    | Alan       | McMillan   |
| 07    | Amanda     | Brien                              | 07    | Maryann    | McRae      |
| 07    | Melissa    | Broughton                          | 07/08 | Bruce      | Manktelow  |
| 07    | Lisle      | Brown                              | 07/08 | Jennifer   | Manna      |
| 07    | Leeta      | Craiger                            | 07/08 | Diana      | Martin     |
| 07    | Dale       | Chadwick                           | 07    | Peter      | Matus      |
| 07/08 | Megan      | Chandler                           | 07/08 | Mike       | Melino     |
| 08/09 | Caroline   | Coleman                            | 07    | Christina  | Mikan      |
| 08/09 | Justin     | Connors                            | 07/08 | Tim        | Minehan    |
| 07    | Ben        | Coombes                            | 07/08 | David      | Muller     |
| 08/09 | Nigel      | Cox                                | 07/08 | Kevin      | Muller     |
| 07    | Ian        | Crabb                              | 07    | Simone     | Neville    |
| 07    | David      | Crick                              | 07    | Bronwyn    | Neilsen    |
| 08/09 | Peter      | Crick                              | 07    | Trevor     | Newman     |
| 07    | David      | Crofts                             | 07    | Craig      | O'Brien    |
| 07/08 | Elena      | Dagher                             | 07/08 | Phillip    | Oliver     |
| 07/08 | Gerard     | Delany                             | 07    | Adrian     | Palmer     |
| 07/08 | Anita      | De La Motte                        | 07/08 | Graham     | Pagden     |
| 07/08 | Erin       | Dennis                             | 08/09 | Graham     | Quintal    |
| 07    | Michelle   | Dowsett                            | 07/08 | Renato     | Ramsay     |
| 07/08 | Cameron    | Dustine                            | 07/08 | Ian        | Richardson |
| 08/09 | Susan      | Earl                               | 07/08 | Gail       | Roberts    |
| 07    | John       | Eggleston                          | 07    | Peter      | Robinson   |
| 07    | D          | Ferris                             | 07    | Warwick    | Shaw       |
| 07    | Aaron      | Flagg                              | 08    | Beverley   | Small      |
| 07/08 | Rob        | Forsberg                           | 07/08 | Jade       | Smith      |
| 07    | Ivan       | Gant                               | 07/08 | Paul       | Smith      |
| 07/08 | David      | Gillard                            | 07    | Peter      | Smith      |
| 08    | Helen      | Glover                             | 07/08 | Geoff      | Spence     |
| 07/08 | Milton     | Gower                              | 07/08 | Maxwell    | Stewart    |
| 07    | Clinton    | Gribble                            | 07    | Cathy      | Stimson    |
| 07/08 | Neil       | Griffith                           | 07    | Vanessa    | Taylor     |
| 07    | Leonie     | Harris                             | 07/08 | Leigh      | Thatcher   |

|       |         |          |       |              |          |
|-------|---------|----------|-------|--------------|----------|
| 07/08 | Ian     | Thompson | 07    | Doug         | White    |
| 07    | Stephen | Trickett | 07    | Paul         | Withers  |
| 07/08 | Gary    | Webb     | 08    | Jennifer Ann | Woodward |
| 07    | Wayne   | Whale    | 07    | Beth         | Worthy   |
| 07    | Rick    | Wheaton  | 07/08 | Jan          | Young    |
| 08    | Tracey  | Burton   | 08/09 | Cliff        | George   |
| 08/09 | Ilka    | Klepper  |       |              |          |

### ^ WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION?

- MAINTAIN NETWORKING THROUGHOUT THE STATE.
- BE A MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL TEACHING ASSOCIATION.
- CURRENT INFORMATION ON:
  - ✓ NEXT STATE AGRICULTURE TEACHERS CONFERENCE.
  - ✓ SYLLABUS UPDATES/PROGRAMS & RESOURCES.
  - ✓ ISSUES THAT EFFECT YOUR AGRICULTURE TEACHING.
  - ✓ PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES & INTERNET LINKS.
  - ✓ ORGANISATIONS THAT CAN ASSIST IN DELIVERY OF AGRICULTURE TO YOUR STUDENTS.
  - ✓ HAVE AN INPUT INTO AGRICULTURE & P.I. TEACHING ISSUES.
- RECEIVE A BAAT TWICE A YEAR.

*"BULLETIN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE TEACHERS"*

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



To:

THE N.S.W. ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE TEACHERS

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| TITLE: _____          | NAME: _____ |
| SCHOOL: _____         |             |
| PHONE: _____          | FAX: _____  |
| EMAIL: _____          |             |
| POSTAL ADDRESS: _____ |             |
| POST CODE: _____      |             |

### MEMBERSHIP FEES:

\* 1 YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_ \$60 (2008)

\* 2 YEARS: \_\_\_\_\_ \$120 (2008-09)

**N.B.** Subscription applies for period from January 2008 for either one or two year period.

# Subscription Required: \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s)

# Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward completed form with payment to:

Johana McCarthy  
Hillston Central School  
62 - 80 Moore Street  
Hillston NSW 2675  
[treasurer.nswaat@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.nswaat@gmail.com)

|        |              |
|--------|--------------|
| Phone: | 02 6967 2277 |
| Fax:   | 02 6967 2385 |

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