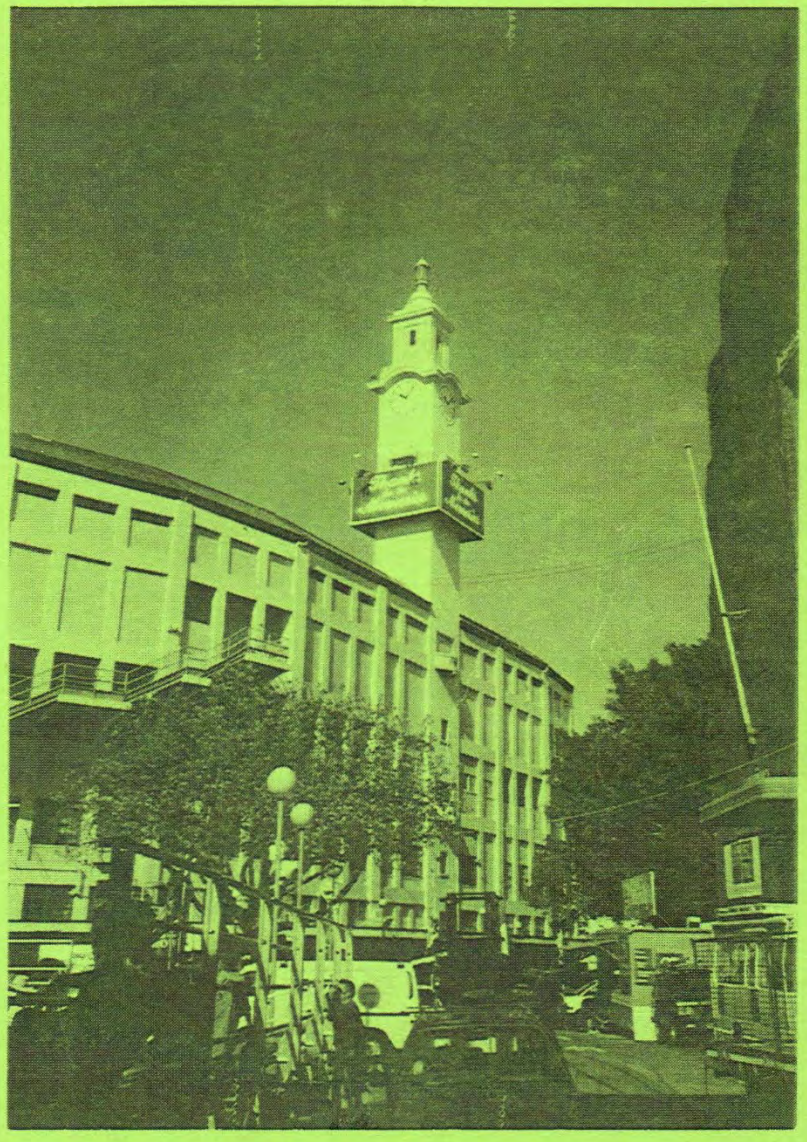
NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers Inc.

Bulletin of the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers

B·A·A·T·



inside....

"Thanks for the Memories" RAS 1997
1996 HSC Sample Answers/Section 3 Hints
Griffith High School
1997 Conference Evaluation

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NSW Agriculture
University of Western Sydney
Hawkesbury

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APPENDIX

1996 HSC Sample Answers
incl. Section II Hints

EVALUATION SHEET

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of the 1997/98 edition of BAAT.

Firstly, we must thank John Musgrave for his outstanding efforts in producing BAAT over the past two years. He consistently produced what was truly a first class magazine. Throughout 1997/98 BAAT will be produced by an editorial team whose details are found at the foot of this page.

1997 Biennial Conference

The years conference was an outstanding success. Congratulations go to all those involved including presenters, organisers, Berry Sport and Recreation staff and, most importantly, the participants. The efforts of Trevor Sewell were outstanding. His leadership and encouragement were a source of inspiration to the committed and hard working team. We wish the Bathurst/Orange teachers all the best for the organisation of the 1999 Conference.

Networking

There are many difficulties associated with teaching Agriculture in NSW given the relatively small numbers of students educated by an even smaller number of teachers spread over a vast geographical area. It is therefore essential that we support each other. To this end BAAT can be used as a means of keeping in touch and minimising that feeling of isolation. This is particularly pertinent given the current minimal Training and Development funding in DSE schools. Without interaction by networking between members across the State there is a real risk of declining interest, enthusiasm and participation in Agriculture in NSW secondary schools. BAAT is a very important vehicle for teachers across the State to have input, whether by supplying a resource that is useful to others or in asking for help or, most importantly, by filling in and returning the evaluation sheet so that we can aim this magazine at what you need. We thank Kieran O'Keefe and Griffith High School for their valuable and interesting contributions to this issue of BAAT.

Professional Profiles

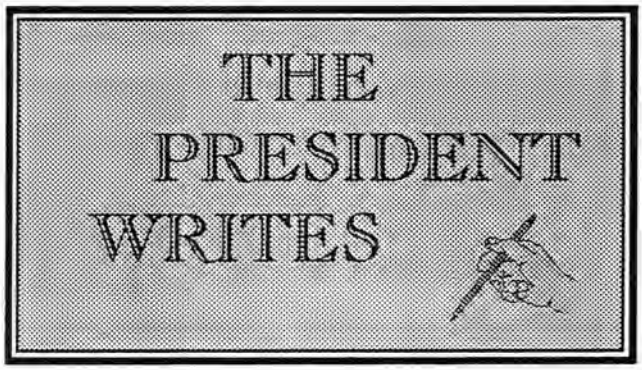
In the second issue we will be running a series of personal profiles on a range of people who have key roles in Agriculture. These profiles will include members of the executives of the State and Sydney branches of the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers, our Board of Studies representative, Jenni Wilkins, as well as Phil Hurst and Peter Jones. We hope that it will be helpful to be able to put a face to a name and to know who to contact if the need arises.

Funding/Machinery

All DSE schools would have received the first semester instalment of the 1997 "Agriculture Supplement". This figure is equivalent to $41.90 per student enrolled in Years 10 and 12 (both 2 & 3 Unit) in 1996. In addition, there is the Machinery Maintenance Allowance of between $200 and $600 depending on the size of the enrolment. If you have any queries about this, contact your Principal or Peter Jones (Colo High School). Negotiations are currently under way with the DSE for the re-establishment of the "Tractor Replacement Program" as well as funding of the seed, fuel and fertilizer grant based on the numbers of Agriculture students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. A survey is to be sent out in early Term III to your Principal. Please keep a look out for it and fill it out correctly. It must be returned by the closing date if you want to be considered for funding in 1998.

Craig O'Brien	Russell Firth	Ross Irvin	David Kent	Don Selway
Moss Vale High School	Vincentia High School	Lake Illawarra High School	Chevalier College	Frensham
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STATE BRANCH PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to the first BAAT for 1997. I hope everybody enjoyed their short Easter break. The 1997 State Agriculture Conference held at Berry was thoroughly enjoyable. Comments ranged from awesome, fantastic, informative and impressive. The 'Taste of the South' was out of this world. You couldn't give prawns, oysters or ostrich meat away. The South Coast Team deserve a special thanks for their team work, enthusiasm and dedication over two years for their organisation of the conference. The committee includes Trevor Sewell, Craig O'Brien, Phil Armour, Sue Hope, Dave Kent, Don Selway, Russel Firth, Ross Irvin, Anita de la Motte, and Peter Osterloh. A very special thanks must go to Trevor Sewell who chaired the South Coast Committee and Wendy Sewell who worked tirelessly behind the scene.

▲ *OUTGOING EXECUTIVE*

Congratulations to the Outgoing Executive; President; Stuart Grimmett, Secretary; Jayne Hoffman, Treasurer; Mick Melino and BAAT Editor; John Musgrave who have done a fabulous job over the last two years. The standard of the BAAT magazine is extremely professional and of the highest quality.

▲ *INCOMING EXECUTIVE*

The incoming executive include; President Sue Hope (Goulburn High), Secretary Trevor Sewell (Moruya High), Treasurer Phil Armour (Yass High) and Editor BAAT Craig O'Brien (Moss Vale High). The 1997-8 executive will enjoy the challenge for the next two years in maintaining Agriculture at the forefront of education.

▲ *BOARD OF STUDIES*

Jenni Wilkins has been appointed as the Senior Curriculum Officer in the Technology Area at the Board of Studies. Sally Bannerman is the new Project Officer who is working for two days per week in the Junior Agriculture Syllabus area. Jenni has given enormous support to the Association over a number of years. The association is extremely fortunate to be able to call on Jenni's expertise at any time. I am sure Jenni will enjoy her new appointment.

▲ *AWARDS*

The winner of the 1996 Charles Mullavey Memorial Award with the highest achievement in 2 Unit Agriculture HSC was Ms Ju-Lee Ooi who attended James Ruse Agriculture High School. Mr Matthew Wood of John Paul College, Coffs Harbour achieved the highest score for the 3 Unit Agriculture Project. Both students have achieved excellence in Agriculture at the highest level. Each received $50 and a certificate from the association in recognition of their excellence.

▲ *THE MINISTER'S YOUNG DESIGNER AWARD*

Sheree Bourke from Menai High School will be representing the Association of Agriculture Teachers at meetings for the Ministers Young Designer Award. As these awards are supported by our Association, perhaps teachers would like to encourage Year 7 and 8 students to develop design projects and submit them into the competition. State winners' designs will be exhibited at the Powerhouse Museum.

▲ *J. A. SUTHERLAND AWARD*

The J. A. Sutherland Memorial Award was presented to Mr Peter Jones of Colo High School. Peter has put in an extraordinary amount of time into Agriculture in his teaching career. Peter has been involved on countless committees, HSC Marking Teams, Development Teams, Consultant Roles and Rural Industries. On behalf of all members of the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers I congratulate Peter for his enormous contribution to Agriculture in the past 15 years.

▲ *CURRICULUM DIRECTORATE/TECHNOLOGY LEARNING AREA*

A draft document 'Enhancing Student Learning Computer Based Technology in the TAS KLA' has been sent to each Association. Evaluations of the document are expected to be sent back to the Curriculum Directorate by 11 April 1997. The document contains a number of classroom initiatives in the TAS area and contains some excellent ideas for Agriculture involving computers and the Internet.

▲ *1999 CONFERENCE*

Western Region will be organising the next Biennial Conference in 1999. The venue is still to be decided upon but Orange or Bathurst are possible options. A recommendation from the 1997 Conference suggests that the Western Region Conference be held in the last week of summer and include the second last weekend.

Contact Karen Damic, Tracey George, Pat McCann, Reg Kidd and Owen McLaughlan.

▲ *MEMBERSHIP FEES*

It has been moved that Membership fees be $30 per year. Since the amount of Professional Development money in schools has just about dried up it is more important than ever to become a new member of the association or renew one's membership. The strength in our association is reflected in the amount of communication between Agriculture teachers around NSW. A sense of purpose, friendship and collegiality has developed over the years between members of the Association. NOW is the time for teachers to join or rejoin the association. Stuart Grimmet has written about networking and the gains to be made from networking in NSW. It is more important than ever due to funding cuts that we pursue contacts in our local area. We need to share ideas and keep up with the never ending changes in Agriculture and DAT. Please send your membership fees to Phil Armour of Yass High.

▲ *ARCHIVES*

Stuart Grimmet has offered to develop a set of archives relating to the Association's activities over the past years. When Stuart has completed the collection of archives the President of the Association will act as the 'keeper' of the archives. I would be delighted if past members could help Stuart out with any material of historical significance.

▲ *PRESIDENT'S AWARDS*

Stuart Grimmet awarded a number of recipients with pennants for their contribution to Agriculture over the past 2 years. Recipients included:

BAAT Editor	John Musgrove
Treasurer of 1995-6 executive	Mick Melino
District T and D Coordinator	James White
Animal Welfare Committee	Phil Hurst
President of Sydney Branch/Agriculture Competition	David Buckley
Support given to S. Grimmet	Jenni Wilkins
Promoting Agriculture Education	Ken Langford
Past President	John Lee
Agriculture Competition	Ian Judd

Congratulations to all the recipients who have made enormous contributions to the education of students in our schools over the past two years.

▲ *McGAW'S RECOMMENDATIONS*

Professional Associations have had the opportunity to identify areas of concern regarding McGaw's recommendations. The Executive of this Association expressed major concerns with Recommendations 12 and 23. I believe that country schools will be significantly disadvantaged with the running of Advanced and Standard courses in Years 11 and 12. I would think that most country schools would run one course, most probably the Standard course because of allocation restraints in senior years. As a consequence, the 5-6 brighter students who had the opportunity to complete 3 Unit Agriculture prior to 1999 would most probably be denied the opportunity.

The 20-70 scale has no sound basis. Marking out of a smaller number could disadvantage the better student because the range of scores are compressed.

The time frame for the implementation of McGaw's recommendations are unrealistic. ie. rewriting new syllabi, finding common ground in terms of reporting using a standard framework and seeking agreement from Universities in the way they are going to use HSC results for their university entrance in the next 18 months. This would have to create a dilemma for all concerned, in particular the Board of Studies which is to be reduced in size.

Sue Hope
President - NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers

FUTURE

In edition two of BAAT there will be profiles of all members of executive of State Branch, Sydney Branch and other people who have a major role in Agricultural Studies in NSW.

Sydney Branch

NSW ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE TEACHERS

WHAT HAS SYDNEY BRANCH BEEN UP TO?

Teachers from Sydney Branch have been very involved in organising and/or promoting a series of events which have been aimed at lifting the profile of Agriculture, both within our schools and across the wider community. These have grown to become eagerly anticipated annual events.

A major achievement has been the success of Ag Camps, held for both Junior and Senior students of Agriculture, attracting students from a wide range of both metropolitan and non-metropolitan schools.

Junior Ag Camp, now in its fourth year, offers Year 10 Ag students the opportunity of spending three days on campus at UWS - Hawkesbury, participating in hands-on activities as diverse as: landscaping with computers, creating bonsai, and semen evaluation. The camp is a unanimous success every year and is truly a tribute to the Ag teachers, UWS - Hawkesbury staff and students who spend months organising, then three incredibly solid days running the event.

The Senior Ag Camp which enjoyed its first year in 1996, proved equally successful. Year 11 students were invited to spend two days living on campus at The University of Sydney farms in Camden. They attended lectures and participated in workshops run by the teaching staff of the University. Again, the success enjoyed by this camp was directly attributable to the efforts of the committee of Sydney Branch teachers organising the event.

In 1995 a sub-committee was formed to resurrect the NSW Agriculture Competition. Approval of this decision was signified by the large numbers of entries received from all over the state. Responses increased the following year, ensuring the Ag Comp. the status of an annual event.

Several sub-committees are involved in liaising with local show societies to organise and promote school display competitions. Teachers from Sydney Branch have enjoyed a long association with Penrith, Castle Hill, Hawkesbury and Camden Shows. A very hotly-contested school display competition has become a popular feature of Ag View, enjoying crowds of up to 45,000 people. Sydney Branch is also involved in a display and the promotion of Agricultural careers at the Royal Easter Show, working in conjunction with tertiary institutions and the Department of Agriculture.

* * * *

SYDNEY BRANCH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

If we are to be teachers, then we must always be students. In the brief time that I have been teaching, I sometimes reflect on the knowledge that I have learned and often feel ignorant of what I do not know. We as teachers are in a powerful position. It is our chosen role to develop the minds of our youth and is a job not to be taken lightly. As Agricultural teachers we possess the good fortune to teach one of the greatest subjects on offer. It is our job and our passion.

I have been nominated to represent the Agriculture teachers in the Sydney region. It is a position I do not take lightly as I have large shoes to fill. The people before me have performed to a very high standard and I feel honoured accepting the task. My name is Ian Judd, and some may know me from my association with the Agriculture Teachers Association, Agricultural Shows, HSC marking and in the organisation of AgCamp. I pledge, as your new President, to do whatever is in my power to make the teaching of Agriculture in the Sydney Region, a stimulating, rewarding and a beneficial experience for both student and teacher alike. The teaching of Agriculture is unlike other subjects, we are not confined to the classroom for our lessons, instead possessing the option of working outdoors with nature and enjoying the practical aspect of our subject.

It is therefore the right of every Agriculture teacher to be able to teach their lessons under the best possible conditions. Teaching is difficult enough without sufficient resources and ideas to make it enjoyable for both student and teacher. In 1997 the Sydney Branch of the Agriculture Teachers Association would like to make your job easier and more productive. Our goals are simple and achievable. With your assistance we plan to continue with the Agriculture Competition, AgCamps and our links with shows such as the Royal Easter and Agview. In addition, we would like to address issues such as class sizes, teacher allocation, networking of resources and the inservicing of teachers. Inservices would comprise of camps and dinners to help build the social and professional network that is required for a successful organisation. We the committee are your representatives. Talk to us, tell us what you want and what you need? It is easier to do nothing and procrastinate, than to strive and excel. Let's not reinvent the wheel! Vast experience exists in schools and we would like to utilise it. By working together we all benefit and the students of Agriculture perceive Agriculture to be the great subject we know it to be.

I look forward to working with you all and hearing of your ideas.

Ian Judd
Menai HS
President Sydney Branch
NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers

THE J. A. SUTHERLAND AWARD

for excellence/contribution to Agricultural Education in NSW Secondary Schools

INTRODUCTION

This is a description of the criteria for the awarding of the J. A. Sutherland Award.

(i) the 'Alan Sutherland Memorial Award' be presented to an Agriculture teacher who is judged to have made a significant contribution to the teaching of Agriculture;
(ii) the recipient be a secondary school teacher who is a member of the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers;
(iii) the award be judged by a committee comprising the executive of four and two other members nominated by the committee;
(iv) nominations for the award be made by any member or group of members in writing at least three months before the Biennial Conference.
(v) nominations or a summary of nominations be included in the Association Newsletter prior to the Biennial Conference;
(vi) the judging committee reserves the right not to make an award in any Biennial;
(vii) the award takes the form of -
  a. a perpetual trophy inscribed with the name and year of the recipient, and
  b. a personal award to the recipient;
(viii) in the event of the Biennial conference not being funded, the award be made and members advised in the next newsletter.

A significant contribution should include -

* a work or event from which many benefit

OR

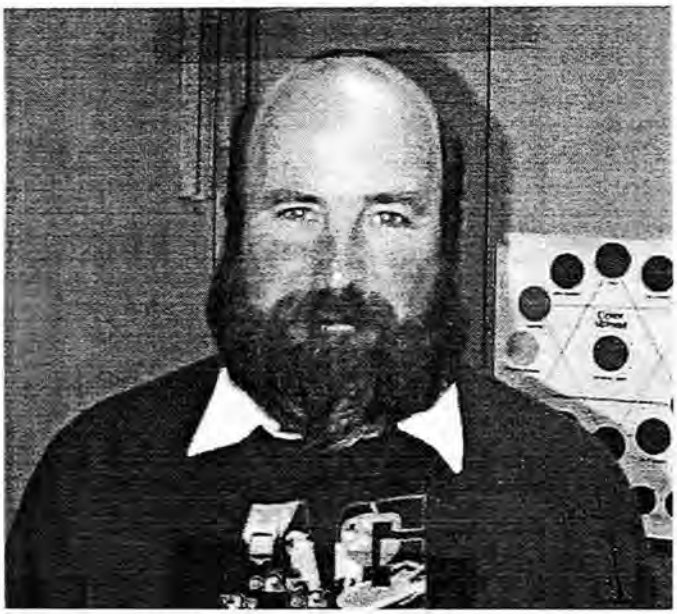
* an outstanding worker

OR

* an innovation

Editor's Comment -
There are many people who are making significant contributions to Agricultural Education in our schools. The J. A. Sutherland Award is the means to give recognition of these peoples' efforts. Nomination should be passed on in writing to the state executive.

CONFERRAL OF J. A. SUTHERLAND AWARD TO PETER JONES OF COLO HIGH SCHOOL



Peter has been the backbone behind Agriculture in the Sydney Region for the last 15 years. He has put in an extraordinary amount of time making sure that Agriculture runs efficiently. This has expanded into other areas with involvement at the State and National level. You will find that the majority of the extra work Peter has undertaken uses an enormous amount of his time and effort without monetary gain.

Trained

Diploma Applied Science (Agric)	Wagga Agricultural College 1971-73
Diploma of Education	Wagga Agricultural College 1974
Diploma of Horticulture	Orange Agricultural College
Rural Industries CEC	1995

Teaching appointments

1975-79	Riverstone High School
1980 - present	Colo High School

Committees

* Sydney **Branch NSWAAT at least 15 years on the committee,**
* 1994 **National Association of Agricultural Educators Biennial Conference**
* 1991 **Sydney/Western Region Agriculture Teachers Conference** (Organiser)
* NSW Agricultural Education Cooperative (Combined TAFE, Department of Agriculture and Agriculture Teachers' Royal Agricultural Society) **show display** for Agricultural Education (last 3 shows)
* **Met. West Regional Agriculture Committee** (Executive Officer 8 years)
* **Met. West Agriculture Curriculum Committee** (6 years)
* **AgCamps** 94, 95, 96.

Highlight

* First Agriculture teacher appointed to Colo High School and has developed the department to a level of being selected as the first **Centre of Excellence for Agriculture.**

* 1992 - A member of the development team for **Agricultural Education (Curriculum).** This Unit was part of a joint program sponsored by NSW Department of School Education, NSW Education and Training Foundation and The University of New England Orange Agricultural College. It was designed as part of a post-graduate Masters Program. He has continued as a marker for this unit.

* A member of **Design and Technology Agriculture Briefs** writing team. These are a series of design briefs which can be used to teach Design and Technology with an Agricultural flavour.

* **Senior Marker** for Higher School Certificate Marking since 1993.

* Organised numerous **inservices for teachers** in the Sydney Region.

* Has been called upon by Department of School Education officials in a **consultancy role** on;
  - **Farm assistance** Enterprise Agreement
  - **Agriculture Funding** - State Machinery Replacement Scheme and State Agricultural Stores and Maintenance funding.

* A member of the team which sets **The NSW independent Trial HSC Examination**

* Collected, collated and distributed over $100,000 worth of confiscated **Hydroponics** equipment to schools teaching Agriculture in Metropolitan West. He continues to liaise with the NSW Police Department and collects and distributes more equipment as it becomes available.

* **Rural Industries**
  - Regular **presenter** at all Rural Industries CEC teacher training course since 1995
  - Attracted funding from ASTF to **devise and deliver a conference** for teachers of Rural Industries Content Endorsed Course and edited the very useful support document for teachers that emerged from this conference
  - **Accredited Chemical Users Trainer and Assessor**. Run the Farm Chemical Users course for teachers of the Catholic Education Commission.

Nominator
Philip M. Hurst
Hawkesbury High School

Seconder
Jenni Wilkins
Board of Studies

NSW SCHOOLS ANIMAL CARE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT

The main items that the committee will be working on this year are:

* The review of **Animals in Schools - *Animal welfare guidelines for teachers.***
* The development and implementation of a training package designed to inform schools of their obligations under the Animal Research Act (1985) and to promote awareness of the committee.
* Add incidents where animals have been killed or vandalised to the Critical Incidents Policy of the School Systems.
* Continue the monitoring visits to schools.
* Random survey of schools to monitor the extent of compliance with the Animal Research Act.
* Respond to the Draft **Animal Code of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes**.

If you have any questions regarding the work of the Committee do not hesitate to contact your NSWAAT representative on the committee.

Phil Hurst
Hawkesbury High School
Hibberts Lane
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Ph (045) 796800 Fax (045) 796733
email philhurs@ozemail.com.au



A Word from our Gold Sponsor -

COTTON FOUNDATION

COTTON EDUCATION #1

Cotton Australia's education program is aimed at encouraging young Australians to carefully investigate for themselves all aspects of the critical issues now facing Agriculture in Australia, to demonstrate that decision-making is oftentimes a difficult exercise, and to skill them for involvement in community-based committees and groups.

Here is one aspect of the program:

Youth Challenge Forums, are developed and presented by Melbourne-based Ryebuck Media during May each year and are generally held in Sydney and Brisbane and several large regional centres throughout NSW and Queensland. The day-long Challenges are designed to be applicable across the curriculum and present students with a hypothetical situation on video (in 1997 it was *Are Cotton Farmers Good Water Managers)*, take them through a fun interactive on decision-making before they break up into workshops to devise a solution for the hypothetical. Their solution is then presented through a role-play or dramatisation. The emphasis is on fun, investigation, and making decisions.

Schools are invited to send one teacher and up to 10 students, and Cotton Australia offers reimbursement of replacement teacher and travel costs.

Students who attend the Challenge Forums are then invited to do a further Research Project on the issue presented. The research might be presented in a photo essay, on a video, via a 1000 word essay and so on and the eight outstanding researchers win a two day, all expenses paid trip to the city hosting that year's Cotton Conference or Cross Industry Forum (in 1997 that is Brisbane) where they spend a day and a half sightseeing and half a day working on presentations and then presenting their findings to the Cotton Industry.

To register your interest in attending the 1998 Youth Challenge series call Ryebuck Media on (03) 9500 2399.

COTTON
AUSTRALIA

1997 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE of the NSW ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE TEACHERS (Berry NSW)

SUMMARY

The overwhelming balance of opinion expressed support for the conference, enthusiasm for the format and strong interest in the various presenters. It appears that the mixture of workshops, practical experience and lectures or single presenters was a balance which suited all.

Comment during and after the conference indicated that the participants enjoyed the total experience. The general consensus was that far from being an intrusion on their holidays, it was both a social experience and professionally stimulating.

Included below is a list of contacts of individuals or organisations which supported the 1997 Conference. We wish to thank them very much for their interest in Agricultural Education.

Shelley Spriggs
Cotton Australia
Ph (02) 9319 3677
Fax (02) 9319 3192

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36 Bolong Road
Australian Cooperative Foods
BOMADERRY NSW 2541

Mr M. Harvey
The Land Newspaper
General Manager
PO Box 999
NORTH RICHMOND NSW 2754

The Manager
Bega Dairy Coop Society Ltd
Lagoon Street
BEGA NSW 2550

Group General Manager
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Mr Peter Tuziak
Manager
Promotions, Information & Education
Services Branch
Work Cover NSW
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Clarence Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Mr David George
Department of Agriculture
DUBBO NSW 2830

Assoc. Prof. Jim Pratley
c/- Charles Sturt University
Faculty of Agriculture
PO Box 588
NORTH WAGGA WAGGA 2678

WRITTEN COMMENTS

- Outstanding conference.

- Stunning conference. Food, location and accommodation were good. A good blend of social and academic contact with fellow Agriculture teachers. Many thanks to the whole team for what has been an energising and invigorating experience.

- Great conference. Organising committee have set a high standard. Well done.

- Workshops fantastic, but don't make us choose so many.

• Excellent four days. Mind the weather!!! (Ed. It rained every day, all the time.) The sessions were well organised, I would have liked to do all of Tuesday's sessions. Plenty of networking and great ideas being passed around and discussed. Food was average except for the Tuesday and Wednesday nights. They were great. Well done.

• I am well impressed by the scope of topics and also the comprehensive level to which they have been presented. The standard of speakers was of the highest level and was a major part of the Conference. The location was very good, but the accommodation was Spartan. One disappointment was, I was led to believe we would be doing a wine tasting and this is a vital industry for the South Coast. The bus tour was outstanding, particularly the Alpacas, Mushroom farm and Proteas.

• Great workshops, food and company, tour etc. Perhaps look at a higher standard of accommodation.

• Bloody great. Congratulations to the Committee.

• Thanks to the Committee for their efforts in compiling an excellent Conference.

• The first conference that I have attended. Awesome. The time spent with fellow Agriculture teachers was great. It's good to meet new people and see people more often that HSC marking. The resources are great - although it would be good to see more teacher involvement on this level. The lectures at times were full on, but the workshops, particularly hands on ones were very helpful. The 'Taste of the South Coast' and the dinner were fantastic. At times the lectures/group work were pushed close together and perhaps a bit more time to move around between. A great week. I'll be back.

• A great conference - the relaxed atmosphere made it very enjoyable. Possible suggestions for next conference - Workshops/seminars on product study ie maybe an afternoon where you choose to either go to wool, meat, vegetable, etc. and we get people in to update on production, processes and statistics. Anything that gives us teaching resources/props is excellent. Well done.

• Great job. Your hard work organising it all was well worth it! Even in our holidays.

• Venue was very good and all organisational details were excellent. Well organised, cooperative, interesting, appropriate - generally well done and congratulations to the organising committee.

• Overall an excellent conference. Of course, reverting back to the conference starting on the Saturday would be desirable. One session on the "Green Book" and "Years 7 to 10 Syllabus" seemed to be squeezed for time, which is unfortunate considering their importance. The organisers deserved congratulations for an excellent effort.

• Exposure to a big range of resource people (from mines up ....) and being able to pick up gear on the spot without cost. First but not last. All workshops very good.

• Jampacked days Tuesday and Thursday. Well done.

• A thoroughly good Conference. I am now suffering from information overload.

• The conference has been excellent. Being a first year out has allowed me to cement great contacts and develop great friendships. The conference itself was educational in learning about alternative farming and we should make "How I do It" a permanent session at continuing conferences. I thoroughly enjoyed "Taste of the South Coast" and the meal at the conference dinner. Thank you for a great 4 days.

• Very little coverage of the South Coast Dairy Industry. If using adhesive name tags, provide a couple per participant. A freebie T-shirt would have been nice. Venue and catering was excellent.

• Thank you for a valuable conference - well run, informative and very enjoyable. Shall see you at Orange. Many thanks.

• An excellent conference. Well done and congratulations to all involved. Great to see Agriculture is alive and well on the "Coast".

• Congratulations for such a terrific 4 days - it was so professionally run and speakers were most impressive on every occasion, not to mention the great company. Can't wait for the next one.

• Overall the conference was very valuable to me. Presenters and topics were well chosen. Vast range of materials invaluable.

• I'm just writing a quick note to say thank you for the invitation to attend and present material on Climate at the conference. I enjoyed my time, and trust the material was of benefit. I also wanted to say I appreciated the gift, and also to mention well done to yourself and your committee on the organisation and structure of the programme.

CONFERENCE EVALUATION

1997 Biennial Conference of Agriculture Teachers - EVALUATION

Ratings: **1** - Excellent **2** - Very Valuable **3** - Valuable **4** - Some Use **5** - Little Value

	RATING RESULTS				
SESSION - Title	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
How I Do It	8	7	6		
Gene Technology - Janelle Kennard	23	3	1	1	
Genetics - Janelle Kennard	21	2	3		
Climate on Farms - David George	2	6	6		
Lamb Cuts - Barry McDonald, Bill O'Halloran	14	2			
Best Practices in Agriculture Teaching - Jim White	10	7	2		
Farm Safe	3	6	3		
Pastures - Growth and Management - Gavin Chittick, ACF	3	7	2	2	
Product and Market Specifications - David Gibbs, Macdonalds	6	4	9	7	
Australian Agriculture Teachers' Association - Jenny Wilkins	2	7	11	3	
Agriculture Education - Panel	3	5	13	2	1
Taste of the South Coast	29	2	2	1	
Bus Tour - Alpacas	27	2	2		
Bus Tour - Proteas	27	4	2		
Bus Tour - Mushrooms	23	5	2	1	
Bus Tour - Ostriches	8	4	8	6	3
Bus Tour - Bradman Museum	10	4	6		1
Conference Dinner	22	5	3		
Lecture - Assoc. Prof. Jim Pratley - Agriculture Beyond 2000. Charles Sturt University	14	10	6		
Workshop - HSC Marking - Jenny Wilkins	7	5			
Workshop - WorkCover - Peter Tuziak	8	3	4		
Workshop - Rural Industries - Work placement etc. - Peter Jones	2	2			
Workshop - Computers in Agricultural Education - Project - Anthony Hele		3	5	2	2
Workshop - Wool - New Developments - John O'Sullivan	5	6	3	1	
Workshop - Whole Farm Planning - Land Care - Graham Quintal, John Reynolds	9	10	4		
Workshop - G					
Workshop - HSC Marking, 3 Unit - Rod Francis, Peter Jones	4	1			
Workshop - Green Book - Profiles - Jenny Wilkins		3	1		
Sponsors - displays, involvement	7	9	6	1	

N.S.W. ASSOCIATION of AGRICULTURE TEACHERS

-1999 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

at

Bathurst or Orange January 1999

Contacts-

Pat McCann-James Sheahan Catholic High School Orange

Tracey George- Bathurst High School

Owen McLaughlan- Canowindra High School

Reg Kidd- T.A.F.E. Western Area H.Q. Orange



A GOOD TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

is one who realises the value of Technology Education by:

- demonstrating a vision
- promoting active learning
- engaging students
- implementing exemplary teaching programs

Professional Teachers Associations across Australia are invited to nominate a Technology teacher for the

TEFA TEACHER AWARD

The TEFA Teacher Award will be presented in September, celebrating National Technology Education Month sponsored by the Technology Education Federation of Australia

Visit the TEFA Web Site http://www.ash.org.au/teachers/tefa/ for details of National technology Education Month and the technology Education Calendar for September.

More details following.

Contact Anne Howard TEFA Project Officer
phone 02 9939 6026, mobile 0412 35 8019, fax 02 9777 0175,
email annehow@ozemail.com.au

TEFA – the Technology Education Federation of Australia represents

ACET Australian Council for Education through Technology ■ ACCE Australian Council for Computers in Education
CAMEO Council of Australasian Media Education Organisations ■ DECA Design in Education Council Australia
HEIA Home Economics Institute of Australia ■ NAAE National Association of Agricultural Educators

Illustration from *Design and Technology 7–10 Teaching Kit, Picture This Design That.*
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Farmsafe
NEW SOUTH WALES

The 4th Biennial State Conference

"Working Together for Improved Farm Safety"

Hosted by Farmsafe Central West

Bloomfield Hospital
Orange, NSW
Friday 27 June, 1997

8.30am to 5.00pm



CONFERENCE PROGRAM ....

8.30am	**REGISTRATION**
	Chair: Mal Peters - Chairman Farmsafe NSW, Executive Member NSW Farmers
9.00am	Welcome - Cr Richard Niven, Mayor of Orange
9.10am	Open - Mr Peter Andren, Federal Member for Calare
9.20am	Chairman of Farmsafe NSW - Mal Peters, NSW Farmers
9.30am	"Working Together for Improved Farm Safety" - Dr Lyn Fragar, Australian Agricultural Health Unit
10.00am	Managing Farm Safety - Commodity Groups - Mr James Houlahan
10.30am	**MORNING TEA**
	Chair:Harold Balcomb - Chairman Farmsafe Central West
10.50am	Child Safety on Farms - Mrs Ronnie Hazelton
11.15am	Backcare - Mr John Flint
11.40am	Regulations - Workcover
12.05pm	Divisions of General Practice - Dr Mark Gray
12.30pm	**LUNCH**
1.30pm	Safe Tractor Access Platform Demonstration - Orange TAFE
2.00pm	**Rotational Demonstrations/Workshops**
*	Managing Farm Safety Skills Assessment
*	Farm Safety Solutions Display & Demonstration
*	Workshop Risk Assessment
3.00pm	**AFTERNOON TEA**
3.20pm	Plenary - Expert Panel Summary
5.00pm	**Close** - Dr Kevin Sheridan, Director General NSW Agriculture

Registration cost is $20 and includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch and conference proceedings.

An Informal Dinner will be held at the Union Bank Cafe in Orange on Thursday evening prior to the conference at 7.30pm (cost not included). If you would like to attend please indicate numbers to assist with booking.

Contact : Mrs Ronnie Hazelton
Address : Farmsafe Central West
Bloomfield Hospital
Forest Road
ORANGE NSW 2800
Fax : (063) 607755
E-Mail :
hazeltonr@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Branch

NSW ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE TEACHERS

AG CAMP 96 - MISSION POSSIBLE

Our mission, and we chose to accept it, was to take 130 Year 10 students and 80 Year 11 students and launch them into three days of fun, action packed and educationally challenging activities designed to motivate and instruct them in all aspects of Agriculture. Once again in 1996, a Junior AgCamp was held at the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Campus catering for Year 10 students from over 40 schools around Sydney and from as far away as Bathurst. 1996 saw the launch of a Senior AgCamp, where Year 11 students packed their bags for the University of Sydney Farms at Camden for three days of intense and fascinating activities with teachers and lecturers at the Uni.

So, what is AgCamp? Dr Grahame Wells, the AgCamp Chairperson, has these words of wisdom :

"The Camp provides talented Agricultural students the opportunity to consider careers by becoming involved in a range of activities. We show the students that there are careers in Agriculture everywhere. You may never get your feet wet in a paddock but you can still be practising Agriculture."

The major thrust of AgCamp is to expose many of the brightest students to the varied careers that are available in Agriculture - from research to on-farm activities. Whilst at the Camp students are involved in Agribusiness, Sheep, Cattle and Poultry Husbandry, Computer Technologies, Dairying, Horticulture, Plant Breeding, Farm machinery, farm visits and 'hands on' research activities in University Laboratories with University Research staff. The activities are run by Agriculture teachers in conjunction with University staff. Agriculture students from the University act as mentors working closely with the school students to ensure active learning with maximum fun. It should be noted that every person involved in the Camps does so in a voluntary capacity. It is a credit to all involved for their hard work, dedication and professional contribution to help make AgCamp one of the highlights of the Ag calendar each year.

The Junior and Senior AgCamp Committees would like to extend a huge thank you to the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Campus and the University of Sydney for their commitment, support and enthusiasm for the AgCamp concept. We would also like to thank our sponsors for their generous and valued contributions. They include - CIBA-Geigy, RAS, Dept. of Ag, NSW Farmers, Yates, Sara Lee, The Land, Kick AM, Windsor Framing, Nepean Distributors and Scholastics.

AcCamp is a brilliant concept and we look forward to many years of educational and entertaining Camps. Anyone wishing to be involved in either the Junior or Senior Camp may contact Dr Grahame Wells at Riverstone High School on phone (02) 9627 1484. We desperately need teachers to help with activities at the Camps, so come along, be involved and have a great weekend at either the Junior or Senior Camp. Seeya there !!!!

Agriculturally Yours ...

Ian Judd
Secretary Senior AgCamp

Scenes from AgCamp 96





1997 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Introduction

As the 1997 Sydney Royal Show was the last at Moore Park, we felt that there was a need to have a report on such an historic occasion. We decided to involve students from Moss Vale High School and Chevalier College, Bowral, and for them to give their impression of the various aspects of the 1997 Show.

Irrespective of the results printed, their efforts were outstanding and the positive feedback from people that they interviewed was beneficial to themselves, their schools and to Agricultural Education in High Schools.

SYDNEY '97 - AN OVERVIEW

"To be a viable, profitable promotion of excellence for the agricultural sector and best operator of exhibition and entertainment facilities in Australia."

This is the Royal Agricultural Society's mission statement and they sure lived up to it at this year's 1997 Sydney Royal Easter Show after 115 years at Moore Park.

Many people travelled from places near and far to witness the last ever Sydney Royal Easter Show at Moore Park, before transferring to its new home at Homebush Bay.

Crowds gathered over the extended sixteen days, seeing wonderful exhibitions, including farming displays, competitions and, of course, the traditional parade and fireworks.

After chatting to a number of adults who were in the organisation of the show we learned that there is a number of award schemes that we can participate in to gain experience and knowledge, so that one day we can become a decision maker of how the show is run.

These include :

- # 1997 Rural Achievers Award
- # 1997 Show Girl
- # Junior Judging

School students can also participate in the School Steer Judging Competition which involves showing their school's steers. So we set off to the Paddington Pavilion to see if we could talk to a few students who were taking part in this event.

When we arrived there we made up our minds that this was a great animal feature of the show. We soon found out the schools all over NSW had entered cattle into the show and each school's cattle were easy to identify with their banners hanging above their cattle stalls.

After we introduced ourselves and got our conversation going, we found that the school students ranged from Year 9 up into the Senior years. Their involvement in the show was to prepare and to show the cattle and we found it very interesting what they really had to do. The students' benefits included bettering their skills of showing cattle and to gain experience at this level of competition.



Moss Vale High School student Lonnie-Anne Hearne interviewing a Kings School student for his opinion on the move to Homebush.

When we asked the students about the big move to Homebush their answers were all the same. They believed Moore Park had more character and atmosphere and they said they did not want all of the old buildings being pulled down.

After talking to the students we were able to track down the manager in charge of the goats. Her job was to look after the goats to make sure the students were caring for them properly.

Sydney Show '97 (cont'd)

This year a record six schools entered and the students were there to learn about the needs of their animal and how to look after them. When we asked her about the move to Homebush she said it would be great and a lot better.

After interviewing these people we took a look around this pavilion and saw that the pigs were set up in their displays. (We thought the piglets were really adorable.)

After spending much time walking around the show ground and enjoying the displays, we found a lot of children walking around with mum and dad or with their school class. We were able to talk to a few of them. Most of them seemed to be enjoying their time at the Royal Easter Show and they were looking forward to going to next year's show at Homebush.

After spending two days at the show we were lucky enough to go to the Education and Technology Centre. Here we got to look over the hydroponic workings, which was the main feature of this display. Our job was to bag up sacks and give them out to the children who came in to look around. The main point of this activity was to get younger children growing and caring for a plant and hopefully learning the true value of plants in our world today. It was great helping out and looking at the interesting displays and reading all of the information that went with the displays. We also got a T-shirt and cap for lending our hands to help out. The T-shirt and cap saying "Agriculture, a job with a healthy future".

After spending two days there we were really able to get a behind the scenes look at how much work and how many hands are needed to get this event up and running each year. We gain a lot of experience on writing about something so big with so many things to cover to get every part of the show.

We enjoyed ourselves and really liked looking around the displays, talking to people and seeing what they thought of the show. The final word on the move to Homebush, we think it will be great! But we understand that Moore Park is part of our past and the history of the Royal Easter Show, and we will be sad to see it go.

We really believe that this is a step forward into the future and we think that it is time to move on. We would like to thank everyone we talked to, and all the students who we enjoyed interviewing.

We would like to give a special thank you to Mike Harvey, from the Land newspaper, who gave us a great view of his opinion on what he thought of the show and helped us to establish ours. We would also like to thank the teachers for providing transport and advice so we could get started.

Lonnie-Anne Hearne
Brooke Shipway
Crystal Price
Year 9 Moss Vale High School

HOMEBUSH "A STEP FOR THE BETTER"

No longer will the sound of cattle be heard in the pavilions of the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) Showground at Moore Park. As of 1998, the Royal Easter Show is moving to Homebush, its new venue. The Venue change was decided when the fifty four members of the RAS voted unanimously for the move to Homebush.

Kevin Everett, a member of the RAS said that it was going to cost them $15 million to rewire all the old buildings and estimated $136 million in maintenance and restoration by the year 2020 if the Royal Easter Show was to remain at Moore Park.

The move was met with varied reactions. A farmer watching the cattle showing said, "Everyone criticises change ... but in ten years they'll say it's the best thing that ever happened." A parader from King's School said, "I don't want to go."

Many people are hoping for better conditions for the cattle. A member of one of the many cattle show teams commented, "Hopefully, there will be better facilities and more space for the cattle to lie down."

The majority of people are sad to be leaving behind the atmosphere of the show at Moore Park but are optimistic about what lies ahead at Homebush. Stuart Menzies, a parader from Moss Vale High School said, "Homebush should be pretty good," while Michael Miller, head steward thought it would be a step for the better.

So, whilst leaving behind the atmosphere that 115 years at Moore Park has created, we are looking forward to the next 115 years at a bigger and better venue.

Lauren MacDonald

Sydney Show '97 (cont'd)

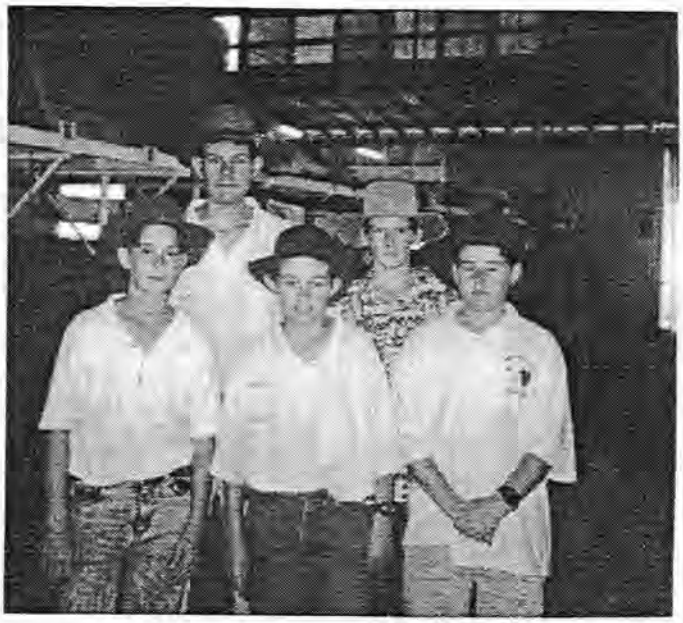
PARADING

Parading, like many other activities at the Royal Easter Show is a sport, but like many sports done well, it sometimes approaches art. At first it seems a simple skill; leading cows around a ring and sometimes using a stick to straighten the animal's stance, but in these apparently simple acts lies the art of parading. As we approached the parading ring for the first time, I had no idea of this and at first it seemed pointless and silly, people parading around a ring with cows and a man in a white suit studying each cow very carefully and at the end announcing a seemingly random winner.

As I watched, I slowly began to understand the routine that the paraders went through. At first the paraders and the steers, bulls or heifers were gathered by men in checked suits called Stewards. The job of the Steward is to make sure that all enrolments are there and that everybody is ready to go. One Steward commented, "It's a hell of a job. Luckily it's only a couple of days each year!" Once marshalled, the steers, bulls or heifers are led around the rectangle by the paraders until all of the paraders are assembled around the ring. Then slowly the judge directs them in front of him and the paraders attempt, with the least amount of fuss, to place their animals well. A heat winner from Dorrigo High School said, "When I'm out there I try to get the weight of the beast over its shoulder blades at the front and if I get that right I try to place their back legs square to their body. While I'm doing this I try to keep the head up so the animal looks alert". This gives some idea of the skill of parading.

The Judge of the parading competitions at the Royal Easter Show, Mr James Laurie, says that the rules are quite simple. He states that the ideal parader "would be well attired, would have complete control over the animal, and, most importantly, would be able to anticipate what the beast will do next". He went on to say, "The parader must have some affinity with the animal, he should always be aware of the judge and his position and place his beast relative to the judge. He should also properly use the cane, rope and nose ring."

As you listen and talk to people you begin to fathom the enormous amount of preparation that goes into a single entry in a parading competition. It is a standard condition that at least three months preparation work must go into each steer, bull or heifer before it can be entered into the Royal Easter Show. A boy from the King's School said he would have prepared his animal for at least six months. It is surprising that with the emphasis placed on the training of the animal, people stress that the judging has nothing to do with the animal; it is purely based on the skill of the parader. The training that the animal undergoes is to promote a basic level of understanding of the commands that the parader will give to the beast. In the parading the competition is broken up into four distinct groups called classes. These are referred to as classes F1, F2, F3 and F4. In class F1, the competitors must attend a school and must parade a steer that has been trained solely at the school. The competitor must be under 18 years of age. In class F2 the parader must be under 15 and can lead a steer (a castrated male) or heifer (a female that has not calved more than once). This year in class F2 a Royal Easter Show record was set with 172 entries. A Steward, Mr Kevin Everette, said that that was nearly definitely an Australian record and may even be a world record. This seems to indicate the popularity of the Royal Easter Show for Agricultural events.



Umina High School Show Team.

In class F3 the paraders must be under 25 years of age and must parade a junior bull (a male under 18 months of age). One entry in this class saw a small girl parading one of the biggest junior bulls, which made for an interesting judging session where the judge lost sight of the parader for a short time! Class F4 is effectively the open division where there are no age limits and the bull must be over 18 months of age.

This class can provide some interesting entertainment and it is not recommended that you sit in the front seats! At one stage a bull sat down and simply refused to get up again. This provided some interest, with the parader frantically pulling on the nose ring and ropes and the bull simply sitting there enjoying all the attention he was getting!



Moss Vale High School Show Team with their steers.

Within the classes there is a relatively straightforward heat system. In most classes there is no need to split the entries up into two or more heats and from each of these heats a number of paraders (usually three) is chosen to advance to the next heat. When all of the heats have been completed the final is run similarly except that in a close finish, where the judge cannot decide who should be selected, he picks out the top six paraders and they swap animals. They then complete one circuit of the ring and the judge points to the winners in order. They are then presented with a sash and they are walked off. All the sashes this year have a special marking so they can be identified as the ribbon of the last show at Moore Park. At one end they display the clock tower in a circle.

The next day we returned to watch and talk to people about the Hoof and Hook competition. This is where the emphasis is taken off the parader and placed almost entirely on the steer. At first the atmosphere seems the same, apart from the extra people present because the show is now open to the public, but there is one major difference. Paraders cannot be bought and sold for profit; steers can. It is this fact that fills the stand with suited men with mobile phones, noting down very carefully each winner for the auction that afternoon.

This time the judge is not looking for the skill of the parader but the build of the steer and estimating how it will look as a carcass. A boy from Chevalier College said "the parader's got to show it off a bit but it's mostly the steer ... if you've got the best steer but you muck up you are still going to win". To have a good steer you must have one with good muscle balance and definition, and a minimum of fat over the muscle is also very desirable. In the judging, the judge has two aids to help him. Beneath each steer's number is a fraction, which shows the steer's rib reading as the top number and its rump reading as the bottom number, both in millimetres. The rib is taken above the twelfth rib on either side of the animal while the rump reading is taken halfway between the coccyx and thigh bones. If the animal has good muscle balance then the rump reading should be about fifty percent more than the rib reading. If both the animal's fat readings are ten or above it is disqualified.

As in yesterday's competition, an enormous amount of preparation goes into the steer. The difference in the Hoof and Hook Competition is that the lead up will directly influence the place of the steer. Generally the steers are taken out of the paddock three months prior to the competition and grain fed; this causes the fat to form sinews through the muscle so it is not noticeable when the steer is cut up. Also the breeders try to "exercise without exercising" the steers so that good muscle definition is achieved but the fat does not group outside the muscle where it is noticeable and will degrade the quality and the price. Because of the money to be made on steers, dealers are commissioned to look after the selling of them, much like real-estate agents. They take a commission of the selling price in exchange for dealing with the complications of selling the steers. These dealers are easily noticeable around the stands. They wear suits, carry mobile phones and are usually with a companion



Under the watchful eye of the Judge.

selling agent of the same company talking and waiting for the results to come through. They are usually contacted by the farmer and the dealer comes to have a look at the steer to decide whether it may fetch a decent price. Only then will the dealer decide to deal with it.

After lunch the crowds push their way into the Dalgety Centre to watch and sometimes buy in the auctions. To buy at auction you must register before the sale in the Dalgety Centre. You sit in an area cordoned off so the auctioneer does not have to look all over the stand for the bidders. During the auction the buyers have many things to think about and do if they are to make a living from the steers. *Firstly*, they must try to envisage what the carcass will look like when it is hung up as this will influence the price that they can resell the carcass for. They do a very similar job to the judge in the ring so often note down what he said in order to help them buy. *Secondly*, they attempt to guess the weight of the carcass because that will decide how much they will pay for the steer as they bid by the kilo, not for the total steer. *Thirdly*, they must stick with their decided price when bidding. It is often very tempting to go just that extra bit higher when bidding but this may sometimes mean the difference between a profit and a loss.

Hosted as part for the auction is the Young Auctioneers' Competition where the junior auctioneers from all over Australia come to compete. There are many skills that go to make a good auctioneer. Their primary role is to record bids accurately and keep the bidding going but the real skill is in keeping the pressure on the buyers so they literally do not have time to think. It is in this way that they push buyers into paying prices they might not normally pay and therefore extract more money for the selling agents, breeders and in the long term, themselves. The auctioneers try to keep the bidding going by calling out the current price followed by the next increment. These are said as fast as can be done while still keeping the numbers clear. When there is not a bidder, the auctioneer inserts "fillers" like "come on, fine steer this ..." and then returns to the increment. If still no bid exists, he starts the "going once, going twice ..." routine.

All these years I have thought of the Royal Easter Show as rides, fairy floss and showbags. Since my school trip to the show to report on the steers, I think of it as it really is - an agricultural show where hopes are shattered or strengthened and Sydney-siders can see a glimpse of rural life.

Geordie WilliamsonYear 9 Chevalier College

Another word from our Gold Sponsor -

COTTON FOUNDATION

Cotton Education #2

Cotton Australia's education program is aimed at encouraging young Australians to carefully investigate for themselves all aspects of the critical issues now facing agriculture in Australia, to demonstrate that decision-making is oftentimes a difficult exercise, and to skill them for involvement in community-based committees and groups.

Here is another aspect of the program :
A **Farm Field Day** program has been designed to allow one or two classes to spend a day at a cotton farm investigating the many aspects of farming. This program begins with a quick tour of the farm to give students an opportunity to orient themselves with the aid of a farm map, again poses a hypothetical on video, moves through the decision-making stage, and sees the group break up into investigative workshop groups - whole of farm planning, irrigation, nature reserves, soil quality and crop rotation, water quality, harvesting and processing and so on. The groups then workshop a presentation on what they have learned in their group for the benefit of students in the other groups.

To arrange a Farm Field Day for your class, ring Shelley Spriggs on (02) 9319 3677.

Pre-farm visit reading and stand-alone **structured investigative projects** for the classroom are available in STUDIES magazine which is sent free of charge to every school in Australia. If you don't have access to STUDIES magazines in your school, call (03) 9500 2399 to order your free copies.

Student and teacher study materials, along with a 'front-end' to guide students and teachers to the information most applicable to different areas of the curriculum, are available free to charge from Cotton Australia. Call (02) 9310 3677.

Cotton Australia's world wide web site - www.farmwide.com./au/nff/cotton/cotton.htm - carries a lot of general information on cotton growing in Australia; and we can be emailed for further information on shelleysp@msn.com.

COTTON
AUSTRALIA

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

After 115 years at Moore Park, the Royal Agricultural Society is moving again.
What will people who set up and run the show be gaining? What will they leave behind?

Lucy Miller and Sarah Murray, of Chevalier College, take a closer look.

HISTORY OF THE ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Since its foundations in 1822, as a group aimed at "furthering the quality of Australia's primary production by means of contests and competitions", the Royal Agricultural Society has organised and run 169 shows at three different venues. After the initial 57 shows at Parramatta and the Clevedon Paddocks (later known as Prince Alfred Park), the society gambled its last seventy one pounds on Moore Park. The site was then improved, with additions such as sideshows (1888), rides (1901) and the Royal Hall of Industries (1913) until it became the venue we now bid farewell to after 115 years.

THE LAND

The Land has been involved with the Show for many years, having had a photographer there since 1911. It also sponsors the Miss Showgirl Competition that began in 1932. A spokesperson said that they believed that this year would be the best year ever, and that there wouldn't be a dry eye on the final Saturday night. They are looking forward to the move, however, as they believe that the show at Homebush will be much more youth oriented. "Surveys have shown that most of our readership is over 55," the spokesperson added, "and we feel the need to change this."

INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH

According to Mr Walter Vecchief, a representative for International Hospital Health, the proposed 1998 Homebush Bay Easter Show appears to have, on paper, "better planned facilities" yet he has reservations about how successful it will be in practice. He also says that the Royal is a "show off place" and believes that its change in position will not affect its major aim of allowing people from different parts of the state and country to "show off" their wares.

THE FIRE BRIGADE

The Fire Brigade is regularly involved with the Show. This year they manned a display in the Government Pavilion, complete with burnt out kitchens and mats to help practise the "stop, drop and roll" procedure (much to our embarrassment as we were forced to have a go). The dedication of the Fire Brigade is obvious; when we asked the spokesperson Ian Crimmer why the model was so realistic, he replied that they had actually burnt it and then added the finishing touches with spray paint. Luckily there has never been a serious fire during the show; the only one occurring a few days before the show opened.

THE DISTRICT EXHIBITIONS

The district exhibitions require a tremendous amount of organisation and co-operation, with each one being prepared up to a year in advance. The Central District display for example took 12 months planning, 150 people and 7 days to judge using :

2 200 articles	35 000 staples
50 fleeces	7 000 apples
45 varieties of grain	300 oranges
100 bottles of honey	30 pineapples
3 tonnes of pumpkin and melons	12 bales of hay
30 varieties of grasses	
50 bottles of jam and preserves	

But that is just what was used ON the display! The Southern District alone brought 10 000 apples with them, each one having been selected according to size, shape, colour and quality. Only the finest were used, each placed exactly on the display with the darkest side of the red facing up. The beans were chosen by length and then soaked for hours to straighten them. The many bottles of preserves are co-ordinated by one person, each taking 7-8 hours as every last piece of carrot and celery is put in place, forming delicate patterns and apparently tasting delicious.

The final product - the display - is one of international significance, with representatives from England, the USA and even the Chelsea Flower Show visiting. Southern District spokesperson, Joe Medway, said, "It's unique. There is nothing else quite like it in the world."

There are very strict rules governing this unique event. It is divided into two categories - the produce and the display - for judging by 64 judges. All items used for the display must be commercially grown in the region and only a very small percentage of artificial material can be used. We realised just how small when it was explained to us that the South East Queensland District's display was borderline because of the dyes used in the back wall. Once the Show starts the display team is kept busy selling photographs and fruit to help cover the costs, and checking on the condition of the display. Many

people this year had fears about the extra four days and the effect that that might have on the fruit, because once the display was arranged rotting fruit could not be replaced.

The judging is very competitive and, at times, controversial, although despite the rivalries, friendships are still developed. Mr Medway told us of one such relationship. For many years the Northern District had borrowed a pumpkin from the Southern District. The Southern District did not mind this until one year, after the unpacking, they discovered that they were short one brown pear. An envoy was sent to the Northern District seeking assistance and casually reminding them of the pumpkins. After much negotiation the Northern District produced one brown pear - and never again borrowed a pumpkin.

PIGS AND PEOPLE

For the past three years, there has been a "pigs and people" display, run by Debbie McLoud of Boenboe, Joadja and according to her it has been a great success. Big pigs and little pigs, adult pigs and baby pigs, boy pigs and girl pigs (piglet, gilt, sow, boar and barrow to give them the correct terms) are displayed so that people can see them and give them a pat. It seems that pigs as pets are becoming more and more popular, particularly since the movie "Babe".

Even though the buildings will be better, Ms McLoud is still saddened by the move to Homebush. "The atmosphere will just not be the same. Everything here - the smells, the noise, the crowds - is a vital part of the show and Homebush Bay just can't match it."

J. FORSTER, HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Mr J. Forster, an honorary life member, disagrees. He believes the venue will change but not the function - to bring the country to the city. He recalls a moment a few years ago when a collection of farm machinery was displayed. The children from the city had never seen anything like it before and climbed all over it. This always stayed in his memory as a wonderful example of what the show was all about, yet as Moore Park ran out of room, it was stopped. He therefore believes that it is important to move to a larger venue so that the show can continue to fulfil its function fully.

MATERNITY WARD

One of the six staff at the full scale maternity ward for sheep, Mrs Angie Baesso, explained that this was her first Royal Easter Show in Sydney. She expressed a love for the atmosphere of the Show and hopes that in the move to Homebush this is not altered.

The maternity ward at this year's Royal Easter Show was the first full scale ward, although there had been a trial the previous year. So far it was running without a problem with an on call vet and ample cooling for sheep.

SHOWBAGS

Mr G. W. Price (CPA) and spokesperson for the Showbag Factory agreed that the move to Homebush Bay will indeed be a "different concept" and with luck the proposed facilities will come to fruition.

The concept of the "Showbag" originated with the idea of a sample bag put out by large companies such as Nestles and Kraft in a marketing effort to introduce new products. This was introduced in the 1920's and has today become a major industry with today's showbags divided into two main selling categories - confectionery and novelty - and fetching anything from $2 to $10.

Along with many other showbag companies, the Showbag Factory's main target is "the younger children" says Mr Price, as the children of today's generation are being introduced to a whole independent purchasing belief not held in his day.

The Royal Easter Show can sell up to 100 000 showbags. This in turn causes amazing competition between the four represented companies, yet even the intense competition does not interfere with an obviously friendly, co-operative and to some degree, social atmosphere.

CHANNEL 7

"There are lots of fantastic things happening at Homebush, and this is another one of them," says Channel 7 reporter Kylie Gillies about the move to Homebush Bay. Channel 7 is a major sponsor of the Royal and this is evident even when walking through the Show. The fantastic Channel 7 Theatre is just one example.

AUSTRALIAN FLOWER GROWERS

In her 31st year at the Royal Easter Show, Margaret Bryce of the Australian Flower Growers' Association was feeling somewhat nostalgic about the move to Homebush Bay, "although the facilities are said to be a great improvement." The Flower Industry of NSW consists of independent flower growers and florists, relay organisations (Interflora), nurserymen and suppliers. The theme for this year's Royal presentation was a funeral tribute to the Show. Other aspects of the floral presentation included a bouquet for Miss Showgirl and a basket of flowers for the Governor's wife.

COMMONWEALTH SHEEP

The sheep have had their own show in the Commonwealth Sheep Pavilion since 1972. Ewen MacInnes, the Honorary Vice President, expressed obvious nostalgia when questioned on his view concerning the move to Homebush Bay yet says the steady progress was "unavoidable".

The Australian Wool Industry is at the moment becoming less and less prosperous for those in the industry even though the quality of wool at this year's Royal Easter Show demonstrates a constant improvement.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

A spokesperson for the Surrey Hills Police Department explained that the police have had constant interaction with the Royal Easter Show since it began in 1822 and will continue this partnership to Homebush Bay. He also expressed personal satisfaction with the move due to the fact that the Flemington Police will now have the responsibility of patrolling the Show and he will at last be able to spend his Easters at home.

On a more serious note, he explained that with any large group of people congregating there was bound to be thieving and conflicting interests. He estimated an average of 4 to 5 arrests each Show and 1 to 2 deaths, most commonly due to heart attacks.

THE AUSTRALIAN MINT

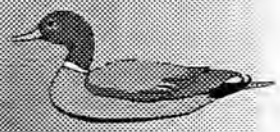
Despite the many police patrolling the ground, the Mint display has been robbed several times, though without much success. One year, an entire bottom set of dies was stolen but without the top half they could not be used. As they have never been sold, it can only be assumed that someone has them hidden under a bed. Out of interest, we asked, "What is the most frequently asked question?" To our amazement it is, "What is the difference between proof and uncirculated coins?" Duh? We were none the wiser.

In unearthing many emotions and opinions about the move to Homebush Bay, we discovered some regret, some anticipation and some confusion. There was, however, one sentence common to all :

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

HELP !!

Ideas wanted on how to stop Wild Ducks eating Vegetables.



Contact :

Russell Firth
Vincentia High School
The Wool Road
Vincentia 2540

SPACE AVAILABLE

This space

is available

for

commercial advertising

Please contact :
Craig O'Brien
Moss Vale High School
PO Box 137
MOSS VALE NSW 2577

Phone : (048) 681717 Fax : (048) 682787

AGRICULTURE at JAMES RUSE AGRICULTURE HIGH SCHOOL

Farm
The 10 hectare farm is the centre of Agriculture Teaching at James Ruse. There are a number of enterprises and areas on the farm :

Angus Stud consisting of six breeders and a bull as well as their offspring. The cattle are in constant use in practical lessons. The cattle are shown by an enthusiastic group of students at the Castle Hill and Hawkesbury Shows.



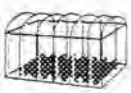
Prime Lambs - the aim is to run ten first cross ewes and a suitable terminal sire. At present dogs have reduced the ewes to five. The current ram is a Texel x Poll Dorset. The lambs should be interesting.



Sharlea Super Fine Merinos - there are 48 wethers housed in a shed where they are fed a controlled diet. The result is a very clean , very uniform fibre diameter wool. The average for last year's shearing was 16.3 microns. Students are involved in the daily feeding and care of the sheep including weighing.

Chickens - meat chickens are grown in batches of 100. They are used in the Preliminary Course for a ten day nutrition trial by Year 10 and 11 students and then grown on to slaughter. Thirty layers are housed in a deep litter system in the new poultry shed as are the meat chickens. There are 15 hens and a rooster being run in a free range situation.





Glasshouse and Shade House - this complex is used for seedling raising and plant propagation.

Apiary - this consists of eight hives.

Plots - Years 7 to 9 are allocated small plots to grow vegetables in. Each class has the same area of land for three years which gives the opportunity for them to implement some longer term strategies for conserving and improving the soil.

Washington Navel Orchard - ninety six trees have been planted replacing a collection of all different kinds of citrus trees. The aim was to have a more commercial approach and produce some fruit which could be sold.

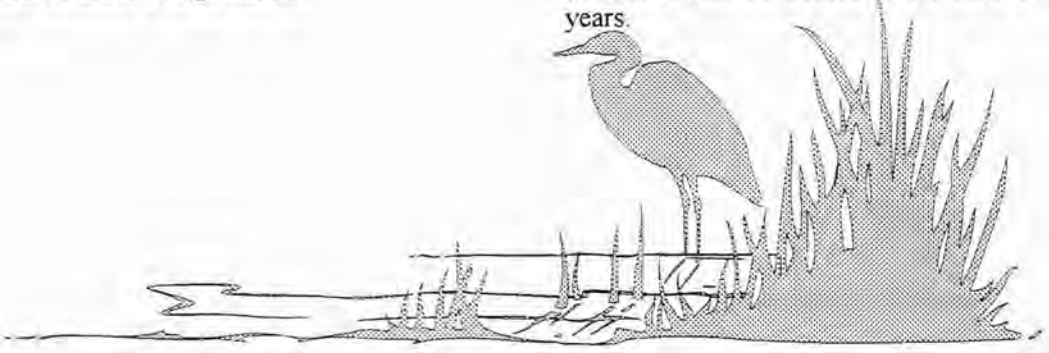


Peach Orchard - the collection of various old deciduous trees has been removed and will be replaced by seventy early peaches. Two varieties will be planted with the aim of producing fruit for sale in the first week of December each year.



Dam Bush Regeneration - the dam area was overgrown with weeds such as Lantana and privet. With assistance from parents and students at working bees, these have been removed and many native trees and shrubs have been planted. A lot of these have been grown by students from seed collected around the school using the glasshouse and shadehouse.

Pastures - there is a continuing program of pasture improvement linked with growing oats as a winter forage crop. For a particular paddock the program is: first year - a forage oat crop is grown using a prepared seed bed; second year - improved pasture is sown using a prepared seed bed. The pasture mix includes white clovers, rye grasses and lucerne. It is not grazed for 12 months to allow good establishment and seed production. Third year - grazing. All paddocks will be treated about once every twelve years.



James Ruse (cont'd)

AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

All students at James Ruse study Agriculture to the HSC. Those that enter at Year 7 sit the HSC in Agriculture at the end of Year 11. The 35 students who arrive at the beginning of Year 11 sit at the end of Year 12. There are 120 students in each of Years 7, 8 and 9, 125 in Year 10 and 150 in Years 11 and 12. Classes and courses are organised as follows :

School Certificate

Year	Number of Classes	Periods per Fortnight
7	6	7
8	6	6
9	6	7

2 Unit Agriculture

Year	Preliminary No. of Classes	HSC No. of Classes	Periods per Fortnight
10	5		10
11	2	6	10
12		2	10

3 Unit Agriculture A class of Year 11 and 12 students which is run out of school hours.

Agriculture Teaching Staff

Sue Annetts (part time)
Mal Bray (part time)
Lisle Brown - Head Teacher
Rick Kemp
Andrew Arnison
Richard Grant
Gail Roberts

Farm Staff

John Miller
Mark Blades

Students

The student population of James Ruse has changed considerably over the time I have been at the school. At least 60 percent are of Asian origin. They are all very capable academically. Agriculture is important to them and the great majority enjoy it.

Lisle Brown
Head Teacher - Agriculture

WANTED

Information on

"Front-positioned Tillering Machines"

for inter-row cultivation.

Contact :
Ross Irvin
Lake Illawarra High School

Phone : (042) 963 844

WANTED

3 Point Linkage Adaptor
for
Howard 2000 Implements

Contact :
Craig O'Brien
Moss Vale High School

Phone : 017 893 933

LETTER OF THANKS

25 Bangalow Tee
SAWTELL NSW
2452
4th April 1997

Ms Susan Hope
President NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers
Goulburn High School
GOULBURN NSW 2580

Dear Ms Hope,

I am writing to you to thank you for my recent award concerning my achievement in 3U Agriculture.

I am very grateful for the award and thank all members of the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers involved.

A formal presentation of the award has been planned by John Paul College for later in the year.

Thank you once again for the generous award and I wish you and all members of the Association all the best in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Wood

NSW HSC ON-LINE PROJECT

56 Tecoma Drive
GLENORIE NSW 2157
22/4/97

Craig,

As one of my jobs, I am writing material for Curriculum Directorate for the HSC On-line project. Gayle Robinson who is the Senior Curriculum Advisor, asked me to write this article to let Agriculture teachers know about the project.

I would appreciate you publishing this in the next edition of BAAT. If you have any enquiries please ring me on (02) 9652 1291 or Gayle on (02) 9886 7542.

Regards,

Sally Bannerman

The NSW Department of School Education and Charles Sturt University are developing a project which will provide support for teachers and students of the HSC via the Internet.

The project was introduced by the Minister on August 15, 1996, went on-line on March 3, 1997 and will be officially launched around the end of April, 1997.

Resources have initially been allocated to the development of on-line materials in six subject areas : Agriculture, Computing Studies, English, Geography, Japanese, Mathematics and the distinction subject Cosmology. This means that our subject is lucky enough to have this facility available to it.

The Agriculture node will include Internet site reviews, information from professional teacher associations, news groups, teaching resources, reviews of current publications relevant to HSC Agriculture and information from the NSW Board of Studies about syllabuses, examinations and assessment.

As of March, 1997, site reviews have been carried out by some Agriculture teachers, with Rod Francis from Charles Sturt University and Sally Bannerman designing and writing material for the Agriculture node.

This facility has the potential to be an extremely valuable resource available for both student and teacher use. So you can help make this facility work by involving yourself in the following ways :

- use the Agriculture node yourself and encourage students to use it
- give feedback about the site
- let those involved in the production of the Agriculture node material know what you would like on the site, and finally -
- contribute any material you have that you think may be relevant and of use to others.

All material is closely examined to ensure that it is appropriate and relevant before it is placed on the node.

For more information regarding the Agriculture HSC On-Line project, ring Gayle Robinson (02) 9886 7542.

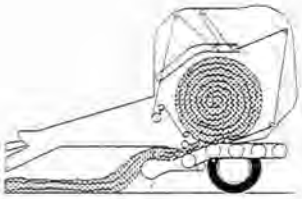
World Wide Web Addresses

Ag Net - Australian Agriculture	http://agnet.com.au/
AgResearch (New Zealand)	http://www.agresearch.cri.nz/
Agriculture on the Internet	http://www.abdn.ac.uk/~agr342/agriwww.html
AgriGator	http://gnv.ifas.ufl.edu/www/agator/html/ag.html
AusAID	http://www.dpie.gov.au/dfat/dept/ausaidmnu.html
Australian Bibliographic Network	http://www.nla.gov.au/2/abn/checklist.html#ozline
Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics	http://www.abare.gov.au/
Australian Dairy Industry	http://www.dairy.com.au/
Australian Farm Holidays	http://www.aaa.com.au/Farm_Holidays.html
Australian Farm Radio and Weather	http://www.aaa.com.au/Farm_Radio.html
Australian Government Information	http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/gov/ozgov.html
Australian Government Survey Organisation	http://www.agso.gov.au/
Australian Journal of Agricultural Research	http://www.cis.csiro.au/cis/journals/ajar/index.html
Australian Rural Telecentres Association	http://www.netc.net.au/Telecentres.html
Australian Surveying and Land Information Group	http://www.auslig.gov.au/
Australian Women in Agriculture	http://www.netc.net.au/awia.html
Board of Studies	http://www.opennet.net.au/partners/bos
Bureau of Meteorology	http://www.bom.gov.au/
Bureau of Resource Sciences (BRS)	http://www.nric.gov.au/brs/brsindex.html
Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, Australian National University	http://cres.anu.edu.au/
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)	http://www.worldbank.org/html/cgiar/centers.html
Co-operative Research Centre for Tropical Pest Management	http://www.ctpm.org/
CSIRO	http://www.csiro.au/
CyberFarm	http://w3.ag.uiuc.edu/INFOAG/cyberfarm/
Department of Primary Industries & Energy	http://www.dpie.gov.au/
Economic Development Register (Victoria)	http://www.vicnet.net.au/~mav/eco/register.html
Electronic Commerce Office (ECO)	http://caspa.das.gov.au/ECO/
Environmental Resources Information Network (ERIN)	http://www.erin.gov.au/
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	http://www.fao.org/
General Agreement on Tarriffs and Trade (GATT)	http://ra.irv.uit.no/trade_law/gatt/nav/toc.html
Government Electronic Marketplace Service (GEMS)	http://caspa.das.gov.au/GEMS/
Grains Research & Development Corporation	http://www.dpie.gov.au/grdc/
Hansard (Australian Government)	http://www.aph.gov.au/library/trialhom.html
High Plains Climate Center (USA)	http://hpccsun.unl.edu/
"Introduction to the World-Wide-Web - The Course", University of Melbourne	http://www.its.unimelb.edu.au:801/courses/wwwintro/WWW/bookmark.htm
International Arid Lands Consortium	http://ag.arizona.edu/OALS/IALC/Home.html
International Wool Secretariat	http://www.wool.com.au/

Land and Water Resources & Development Corporation	http://www.dpie.gov.au/lwrrdc/home.html
Landcarenet	http://www.agfor.unimelb.edu.au/LCWeb/LCWeb.html
Lincoln University, New Zealand	http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/
Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (Scotland)	http://bamboo.mluri.sari.ac.uk/MLURI_welcome.html
Massey University, New Zealand	http://www.massey.ac.nz/
Meat Research Corporation	http://www.dpie.gov.au/mrc/
National Drought Mitigation Center (USA)	http://enso.unl.edu/ndmc/index.html
National Drought Policy (Australia)	http://enso.unl.edu/ndmc/austral.html
National Farmers' Federation	http://coombs.anu.edu.au/SpecialProj/NFF/NFFHomePage.html/
National Library of New Zealand	http://www.natlib.govt.nz/welcome.html
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)	http://www.noaa.gov/
New Zealand Government	http://www.govt.nz/govt/
Not Just Cows	http://www.monash.edu.au/library/guides/agriculture.html
Queensland Department of Primary Industries Climate Information Highway	http://www.dpi.gld.gov.au/longpdk/
SilverPlatter	http://www.SilverPlatter.com/
Telstra	http://www.telstra.comau/direct/index.html
United Dairy Farmers of Victoria	http://www.dairy.com.au/udv.html
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	http://www.unep.no.unep/
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	http://www.undp.org/
US Farm Bill	http://www.hillnet.com/farmbill/
United States Department of Agriculture	http://www.usda.gov/da/index.html
Valdivia	http://www.erin.gov.au/life/valdivia/valdivia.html
Wageningen Agricultural University (Netherlands)	http://www.wau.nl/
Western Australian Land Information System	http://waliss03.dola.wa.gov.au/
World Bank	http://www.worldbank.org/
World Wide Web Sites of Interest to Agriculture	http://www.gennis.com/aglinks.html
World Wide Web Virtual Library: Agriculture	http://ipm_www.ncsu.edu/cernag/cernag/cern.html#LISTS
Web sites for Dairying	
Dairy Research and Development Corp	http://www.adc.aust.com/drdc/drdc.html
Australian Dairy Corporation	http://www.adc.aust.com
Australian Dairy Industry Council	http://www.dairy.com.au
The Canadian Dairy Research Network	http://res.agr.ca/PUB/CDRN/engmain.html
Owenlea Farm	http://www.bright.net/~fwo/index.html
Internet Resources for Agriculture (Virginia Tech)	http://128.173.65.16/lbmhp/interag.html
Internet Resources for Agricultural Education	http://128.173.65.16/lbmhp/interaged.html
NetVet Cow Home Page	http://netvet.wustl.edu/cows.html
Forage Information System	http://www.forages.css.orst.edu/index.html
Silos WWW Home Page	http://www.riv.csu.edu.au/

Penn State's Forage Home Page	http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/casdept/agronomy/forage/forages.html
Martindale's Health Science Guide : Vet Centre	http://www-sci.lib.edu/HSG/Vet.html
Ontario Milk Producers Organisation	http://www.milk.org
United Breeders	http://www.ubi.com/
Large Herd Conference	http://hindi.co.nz/agri/culture.html
Research	
Dairy Food Safety Laboratory	http://www.vetnet.ucdavis.edu/dfsl/dfsl.html
Agbiotech Information Library	http://www.lights.com/gaba/library.html
CSIRO Division of Food Science & Tech	http://library5.dfst.csior.au/
CSIRO Research Programs & Projects	http://www.csiro.au/csiro/csirores.html
Marketing	
International Food Products	http://www.tmrinc.com/ifpd/
Agri-Net	http://www.agri-net.com/
Horticulture	
Horticulture information on the Internet	http://envhort.ucdavis.edu/horttech/hort.htm
Americal Society of Horticultural Science (AH\SHS)	http://www.ashs.org
Australian Society for Growing Plants	http://www.ozemaio.com.au/sgap/index.html
Co-operative Research Centres for Tropical Plant Pathology	http://www.tpp.uq.edu.au
F@arming on-line (Rural Press)	http://www.rpl.com.au/farming/
International Society for Horitcultural Science (ISHS)	http://www.agr.kuleuven.ac.be/ishs/ishshome.htm
Plant tissue culture information exchange	http://agie_horticulture.ramu.edu/tisscult/tcintro.html







THE MINISTER'S YOUNG DESIGNERS' AWARDS

The Minister's Young Designers' Awards encourage school students to look at the world around them to investigate products, systems and environments, and to design a successful solution in an area of interest to them. The challenge offered to students is to develop a project that meets a clearly identified need. The awards aim to build students' confidence by acknowledging their achievements. Students may undertake individual or group activities in the development of the design project.

The awards encourage students to develop:

- **creative qualities** (imaginative ideas, innovative developments, improvements of concepts and techniques);
- **quality thinking in decision making** (thorough exploration of identified problems and issues, investigation, reflection, evaluation);
- **sensitivity and responsiveness to the needs** of people, communities and the environment.

THE ORGANISERS

The Minister's Young Designer's Awards are *presented by* -

NSW Department of School Education
Board of Studies NSW
Catholic Education Commission
Association of Independent Schools

and supported by -
Association of Agriculture Teachers
Australian Teachers of Media (NSW)
Institute of Technology Education
NSW Educators of Technology Association
NSW Computer Education Group
Technology Educators Association
Technology Education Federation of Australia
University of Sydney.

THE AWARDS

Students will receive the following recognition -

- a **Certificate of Participation** for each student and school taking part in the awards;
- **Certificates of Merit** for the best five individual and/or group entries at each school;
- **District Awards** - a district judging panel will select the best project (using the judging criteria) for each of the ten context areas in Design and Technology. Certificates will be awarded for each context area.

The best three entries will then be submitted to the state finals;

- **State Awards** - a state judging panel will select the best four projects which will receive state awards plus up to five highly commended awards. Appropriate award certificates will be given to each of these.
- **Powerhouse Museum Exhibition** - the state winners together with a selection of other state finalists will be exhibited in the Powerhouse Museum for approximately ten weeks commencing at the end of October. Students whose projects are selected for exhibition will be notified.

Minister's Designers (Cont'd)

THE DESIGN PROJECT

The Audience - the awards are open to Years 7 and 8 students in government and non-government schools in NSW, either as individual or group entries.

The Challenge - to develop and present a design project that meets a clearly defined need.

Entry Requirements - the design project should address one of the following context areas -

agriculture	the built environment
clothing & accessories	leisure & lifestyle
engineered systems	manufacturing
food	information & communication
health & welfare	transport & distribution

The design project will include -

- a design solution that could be in the form of a set of sketches, plans, drawings, video, publications, prototypes, computer software, models or other products;
- a folio that shows a clearly defined need, how the design was developed and reasons for the decisions made during its development.

TIME FRAME

- *6 June* - Expression of interest forms to MYDA Project Manager
- *14 October* - school award winners to district judging centres
- *20 October* - district judging and award presentations completed
- *24 October* - district award winners to state judging centre
- *12 November* - proposed date for presentation of state awards at Powerhouse Museum
- *12 November - 15 December* - proposed date for exhibition of selected state finalists at Powerhouse Museum.

Any enquiries to :

Sherie Bourke
Menai High School
ILLAWONG NSW 2234
PO Box 338
MENAI CENTRAL NSW 2234

Ph (02) 95437000
Fax (02) 95435513

NOTICE :

Please, if at all possible, send B&W photographs for use in the BAAT.

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING

Please contact the Editor.

A REPORT FROM GRIFFITH HIGH SCHOOL

with thanks to Kieran O'Keefe

Gromark Sheep

The Gromark is a **self replacing Australian Breed** developed in 1965 from stud Border Leicester and Corriedale breeds producing wool which has the characteristic length from the Border Leicester but the style and **soft handle** from the Corriedale.

"Griffith High Gromark" fleecewool grown at the School Farm, is a high yielding lofty fleece with excellent length, lustre and soft handling. As it is an open fleece, it is very easy to spin and ideal for the beginner spinner or student. It is also chosen by experienced spinners for its softness, lustre, and the fact that it requires little preparation and is quick to spin.

Gromark wool generally ranges from 50s to 56s count. The strength means it is durable and highly suitable for outdoor wear providing bulk for warmth. Its loftiness makes a light weight garment which does not weigh you down or pill and is exceptionally soft for a broader fleece type.

"Griffith High Gromark" wool makes excellent Aran knits. It is lustrous, washing to a beautiful natural white. It is also highly suitable for dying, adding to its versatility and choice for hand spinners because it takes the dye up so well. Some fleeces are also chosen for weaving and rug making.

Fleeces are handpicked, skirted and weighed for the hand spinner. Rugged fleeces are available (from sheep which have worn a coat to protect the fleece from vegetable matter, dust, weathering and ultra violet exposure). Un-rugged or uncoated fleeces are also available.

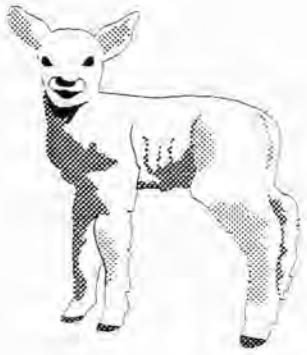
Please contact (grower) to arrange to see the current fleeces or samples. Wool may be purchased at various field days, by mail order or by visiting Griffith High School. Samples are available for a small charge, refundable on purchase of fleece wool. **Customer satisfaction is a priority.**

Gromark wool can be purchased in kg lots (greasy) for $8.00 per kg.

Gromark Flock at Griffith High School -

1 x 3 year old Ram
9 x Young Rams
16 x Ewes

(in 1996, 30 lambs weaned
= 170% Marking)





YEAR 9 students Robert Lee, Andrew Gifford and Gavin Wickenden check the teeth of their school's latest acquisitions for age and health.

Griffith High establishes Gromark Stud

THE Griffith High School Agriculture faculty have recently established a Gromark sheep stud at the school.

Sixteen ewes and a ram were purchased during the drought from an established stud on a Young district property.

Students will be involved in the normal husbandry of the sheep as well as preparing fleeces for sale to hand spinners, keeping lambplan records on the sheep and the selection of replacement ewes and rams for sale.

It is also envisaged that students will show the sheep at various field days during 1996.

The Gromark is a fixed crossbreed developed in 1965 by crossing Corriedale ewes with twin and triplet stud Border Leicester rams and then applying heavy selection pressure for growth rate and to a lesser extent, twinning and fleece weight whilst maintaining a high level of visual calling.

The end result is a self replacing breed that has a high performance on the meat side as well as excellent wool production.

The wool is in demand from hand spinners as it has a long staple, soft handling and strength chosen for hand knitting especially high quality outdoor wear.

Lambs produced from Gromarks are fast growing lean lambs with an ideal carcase for the domestic (elite or trim lamb) and export markets.

Gromark rams can be used:

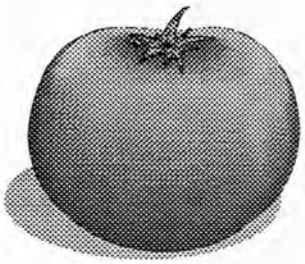
1. As an ideal terminal sire with either first cross ewes or Gromark ewes to produce the preferred large lean lambs.

2. With Merinos to produce excellent first cross ewes.

3. For self-replacing Growmark breeding.

Agriculture classes, both junior and senior will use the stud as a resource to gain hands on experience in selection, husbandry and marketing of the sheep and their wool.

Tasty Tomatoes



Over the past two years we have run a Tastiest Tomato Competition with the "taste-off" during February. This was conducted through the local show society with judges from Griffith restaurants and South Pacific Seeds. $500 prize money was donated and a great deal of good publicity for the Agriculture Department at the school resulted. Sections in the competition were ***Largest, Best Cherry, Tastiest*** and ***Junior Section.***

Other activities at Griffith High School include -

Port Production

The photograph below illustrates Year 9 students crushing grapes to extract the juice from which a Tawny Port was made to be sold as GHS Ag.Farm Port.



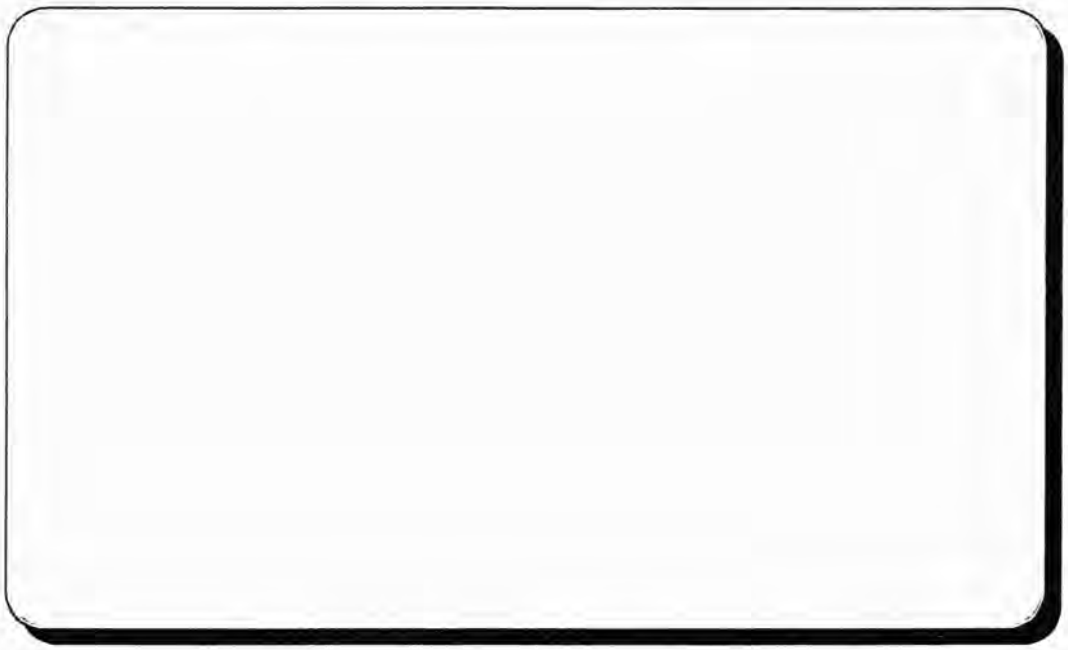
Students are also involved in Steer Competitions organised through the local Show Society.

JUNIOR DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY : AGRICULTURE

DESIGN BRIEF TO DESIGN, CONSTRUCT AND TEST A YABBY TRAP

SKETCH OF MODEL



MATERIALS NEEDED

TESTING

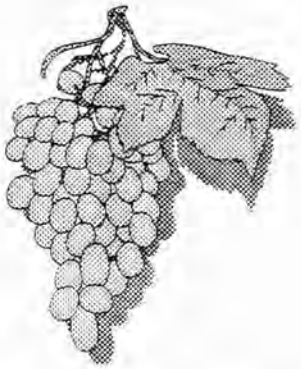
AN EXCURSION TO TEST YOUR TRAP WILL BE HELD LATER THIS TERM. YOU WILL RECEIVE ONE MARK FOR EACH YABBY CAUGHT. THERE WILL BE PRIZES FOR THE BIGGEST AND THE MOST CAUGHT. YOU MAY WORK IN PAIRS OR ON YOUR OWN.

GRIFFITH EXCURSION

Teachers interested in using the Griffith area for an excursion could contact Kieran. He may be able to arrange for the use of the Griffith Rugby Club as a base at a minimal cost.

He will be able to provide contacts for:

Barters Chickens
Tabbitta Feedlot (60,000 hd)
Large Scale Vegetable Production
CSIRO etc
Wineries
Citrus Farms and Juice Factory
Rice Farms
Rice Mill & Cooperative
South Pacific Seeds.



It would be up to the individual school to arrange their own itinerary once the initial contacts had been made. Kieran could provide assistance in arranging a BBQ tea and act as a go-between for other services.

TEACHING RESOURCE

Kieran has compiled a book for Year 8 Agriculture. The students purchase this for $2.50. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this resource, contact him care of Griffith High School.

KIERAN'S REQUESTS FOR FUTURE EDITIONS

a. Literacy worksheets specific to Agriculture
b. Book reviews
c. Video reviews
d Video worksheets.

The editors would be pleased to receive any of the above for future publication. Please forward such items/articles to any of the editorial team.

This space is available for you



FAX needs/Sales to Editorial Team

SENIOR ASSESSMENT TASK

Supplied by Ron Anson, Science Head Teacher, Griffith High School

ANALYSIS OF CORN GROWING TRIAL
Year 12 Assessment Task I

Name _____

Plot Assignment

Row	Treatment

Row 1 defined as the row closest to the grape vines
Row 2 defined as the middle row
Row 3 defined as the row closest to the sheep fence
Treatment 1 = 5 cm plant spacing
Treatment 2 = 10 cm plant spacing
Treatment 3 = 20 cm plant spacing
Treatment 4 = 40 cm plant spacing

What to Do

A. 1. Select 8 corn plants from the middle section of your assigned plot and count the number of ripe cobs per plant.

1. 2.
3. 4.
5. 6.
7. 8.

B. 2. **Retaining the leaves**, collect all the corn cobs from your assignment plot area and put them into a labelled bag.

Record

Total Number of Cobs

Total Weight of Cobs

A Marketable Cob will be any Cob which is 15 cm or more long when the top and bottom of the cob have been trimmed

Total Number of Marketable Cobs

Total Weight of Marketable Cobs

Results for the Market Weight of Cobs Per Plot

1. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____
2. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____
3. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____
4. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____
5. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____
6. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____
7. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____
8. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____
9. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____
10. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____
11. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____
12. Row _____ Treatment _____ Market Weight _____

Year 12 Assessment Task I Continued
Use your own paper to answer the questions below

Calculations to show ONLY 2 decimal points

Aim : To investigate the effect of plant density on the yield of corn plants.

Write your name on your paper.

Q1 Showing your working, calculate the average number of ripe cobs per plant on your plot area. (1 mark)

Q2 Produce a results table to show the market weight of cobs per plot from the data sheet produced yesterday. (4 marks)

You will need to move to standard deviation on your calculator to find standard deviation for results.

On the table show
a. Heading for data collected
b. Data collected in a table
c. Mean of each treatment
d. Standard deviation for each treatment use.

When complete, hand in your paper.
A correct results table for Q2 and other data will be given to you to complete Q3 to Q6.

Write your name on your second paper.

Q3 Use the information sheet to help you with this task.
Show all working. (3 marks)

a. Determine if the data between treatments 1 and 2 is significantly different using the standard error method.

b. Determine if the data between treatments 1 and 4 is significantly different using the standard error method.

Q4 Write a conclusion to the corn growing trial. (2 marks)

Q5 Experiment Discussion (2 marks)
Include any discussion points you consider relevant.
eg why results for each treatment may be different
how we tried to reduce the concept of bias in our experimental design
observation of how the plants grew differently.

Market Weight Cobs Per Plant

	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	Treatment 3	Treatment 4
Row 1	2.57	1.85	10.90	4.05
Row 2	2.15	2.60	4.73	4.00
Row 3	2.25	3.03	4.08	3.65
Mean	2.32	2.49	6.57	3.90
Standard Deviation	0.22	0.60	3.76	0.22

Number of Cobs Per Plot

	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	Treatment 3	Treatment 4
Row 1	25	52	55	20
Row 2	48	49	41	31
Row 3	71	39	25	22
Mean	48	46	40	24
Standard Deviation	23.00	6.80	15.00	5.80

Number of Market Cobs Per Plot

	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	Treatment 3	Treatment 4
Row 1	12	9	41	12
Row 2	10	11	18	15
Row 3	8	13	16	14
Mean	10	11	25	14

ANALYSIS OF CORN GROWING TRIAL
Year 12 Assessment Task II

Name _____

Treatment 1 = 5 cm plant spacing
Treatment 2 = 10 cm plant spacing
Treatment 3 = 20 cm plant spacing
Treatment 4 = 40 cm plant spacing

Q1 Write an aim for the Corn Growing Trial (1 mark)
ie. What were we trying to find out.

Q2 For question 2 use the class produced results sheet which shows **Market Weight of Cobs Per Plot.** (3 marks)

On the graph paper provided prepare a suitable graph that would show the relationship between **Plant Density** and **Mean Market Weight of Cobs Per Plot.**

Q3 For a plot which is 2 metres long, and 1.6 metres wide and where there are 4 rows of plants –

a. Calculate the number of seeds required to achieve Treatment 2. Plants 10cm apart. (2 marks)

b. On the scaled diagram below show the four rows of corn **and** indicate the spacing between the rows. (2 marks)

Q4 The data in the table below shows the statistics for the number of cobs per plot for each of 4 treatments.

Number of Cobs Per Plot

	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	Treatment 3	Treatment 4	Row Mean
Row 1	25	52	55	20	*36*
Row 2	48	49	41	31	*42*
Row 3	71	39	25	22	*45*
Mean	48	46	40	24	*42*
Standard Deviation	23.00	6.80	15.00	5.80	*3.5*

a. What does the Standard Deviation Statistic tell us? (1 mark)

b. The row means are shown as italicised numbers.
The numbers are reasonably similar.
Is this what you would expect? Explain your response. (1 mark)

c. Using the standard deviation technique, (a guide sheet is provided to you) show whether or not the **mean results between;**

Treatment 1 and Treatment 3

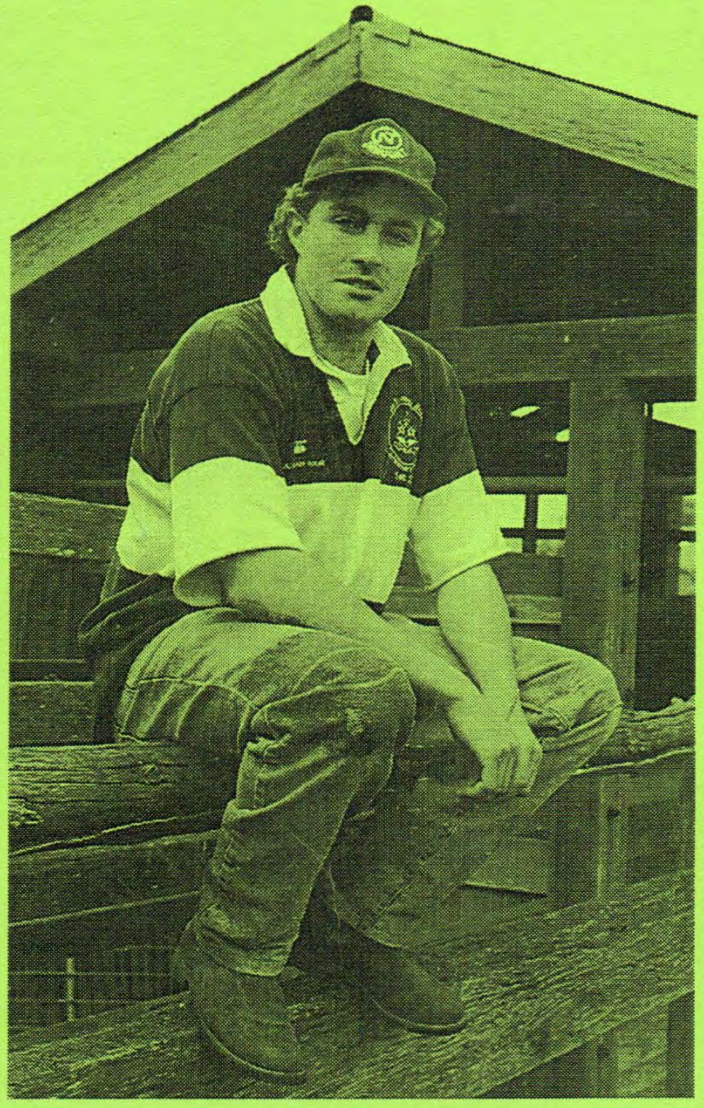
and

Treatment 2 and Treatment 3

are **significantly** different.

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