

**Summer Edition – No: 49  
2015**

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



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

ABN Number: 81 639 285 642



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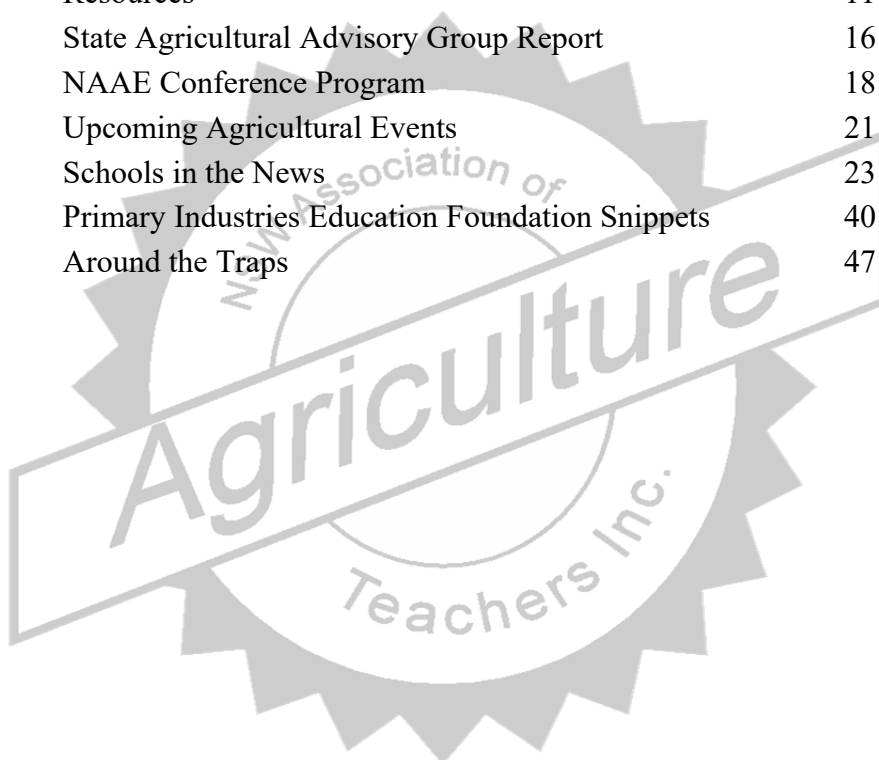
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# President's Report

What a great start to spring and summer.... Wet weather all around the state.... From 100+ mm down in Wagga at the start of November, through to Walgett and beyond. Great to see those normally dry landscapes like Burren Junction a bit boggy.... Hopefully setting up a nice summer, however the SOI may tell a different story. Stay positive....

Thanks to Ivan Gant for his work updating our constitution allowing us to stay incorporated. The association had to change a few things in our constitution after our BGM in January where we voted to become unincorporated. It was discovered after the BGM, that it was best to stay incorporated for numerous reasons. So Ivan took on the job to liaise with NSWPTC and Fair Trading to keep us incorporated. This involved a few minor changes including the inclusion of an AGM (not BGM) each year. We will look into doing this via electronic hook up early next year.

The executive has decided to look into freshening up our website, trying to make it more transparent and fluent. This will involve specific links such as Stage 4, Stage 5 and Stage 6 resource pages, Primary Industries resources, a member's page which will list all current financial members (for those who are unaware of their financial status). This financial status will also extend through to the access of email distributions and Facebook members. Be sure to have a look to see if you're financial, to allow you to continue accessing these online resources.

Throwing a bit of ICT into your teaching classes, I recently discovered "kahoot.it". This a publicly available website generating various online quizzes whereby the student uses their own phone or device attached to the net to answer various questions. The website then generates statistics about the results. Possibly a quick interactive way to determine prior student knowledge before attacking a new subject.

The NAAE conference in Western Australia is progressing well towards January. Alysia has reported to me that there are 17 delegates from NSW attending the conference, a fantastic attendance from this side of Aust., although out-gunned by Qld this year with a total of 19 delegates. Graeme Harris and I are currently trying to negotiate with the NSWIT about getting the conference a registered course to help with maintenance hours. For those new scheme teachers and others, we all know how valuable a registered course is..... These conferences are a brilliant form of TPL both in theory, practical and my favourite; the social aspect. Networking with like-minded colleagues, discussing ideas etc. Only just last week Carl was discussing an idea he was researching about "hay bale gardens". He was trying to resurrect an old tennis court with compacted road base underneath.... I quickly googled it, to find ample ideas, images and instructions. A bale of Lucerne, 3 spuds, some urea and 20 minutes later, I had negotiated my first ever hay bale garden... How easy... Well worth a look. And without that bit of networking, I never would have researched and tried it.

Earlier this term, John Killen and a few old hats approached me regarding the re-formation of the Sydney Branch of NSWAAAT. After several meetings, a few discussions and finally a vote, I would like to congratulate Luciano Mesiti as President, Justine Phillips as Secretary and Nicolet Westerhof as Treasurer. These guys and others in the group will head up the organisation of the Sydney conference for 2017. The planning of the conference is well underway with the location and activities almost in concrete. Again, once the program is finalised, I intend to register the conference with NSWIT for more registered hours towards our maintenance requirements which everyone will soon need to complete, unless you're getting ready to retire ;-)

A huge thank you to Erin O'Neill for her time and efforts towards publishing a great BAAT for the past few terms. Erin's commitments at school and home have changed somewhat and she can no longer continue as BAAT editor. Robbie Ashhurst will take over, and thus far has published an exciting and vibrant BAAT. Another big thank you to Graham Quintal for guiding and helping Robbie find her feet with this edition of BAAT. If you can all help Robbie out in future BAATs with pictures, info and resources I would be very appreciative.

Well, other than wishing I owned another 1000 head of finished Wagyu steers with the markets the way they are, that's it from my corner. I hope you all have a merry and safe Christmas and a relaxing break away from your school and work commitments.

All the best.  
Justin Connors


[justin.j.connors@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:justin.j.connors@det.nsw.edu.au)

0411 116 691

**If any members know of any new (1st and 2nd year Ag teachers) in schools near them, who may require assistance with the Ag plot / resources / budgets / networking / etc, would you please contact Justin ASAP. The senior NSWAAAT executive would plan to visit them on a road trip early next year, to see if we can assist them in any way.**

# SOIL TEXTURES FROM AROUND NSW

	SAND	SILT	CLAY	
FARRER	43	54	3	Silt loam
Attunga	24	13	63	Clay
Coota	19	78	3	Silt loam
Deni	3	10	87	Clay
Murrumbidgee	33	60	7	Silt loam
Yanco	40	58	2	Silt loam
Griffith	55	34	11	Sandy loam



Networking over NSW - ask your mates to bring some soil next time you catch up





# Membership

## - Current Association Membership List

*as at  
9 December 2015*

First Name	Surname	School	Financial until end
Teacher of Agriculture		Dapto HS	2015
Teacher of Agriculture		Moss Vale HS	2015
Teacher of Agriculture		Mudgee HS	2015
Teacher of Agriculture		Pennant Hills HS	2015
Teacher of Agriculture		Wingham HS	2017
Teacher of Agriculture		Woodenbong CS	2016
Teacher of Agriculture		Wee Waa HS	2016
Teacher of Agriculture		Kingswood HS	2016
Susan	ADAM	Northern Beaches Christian School, Terrey Hills	2015
Bryon	ADAMSON	Corowa HS	2015
Cassie	ANDERSON	St Paul's College, Walla Walla	2018
Philip	ARMOUR	Yass HS	2016
Robbie	ASHHURST	Crestwood HS, Baulkham Hills	2015
Megan	ATKINSON	Elderslie HS	2015
Sunrae	BAILLIE	Great Lakes College, Forster Campus	2016
David	BAKER	Macarthur Anglican College, Camden	2015
Dianna	BEALE	Tumut HS	2015
Susan	BEHAN	Denison College - Kelso High Campus	2016
Louise	BIANCHI	St Gregory's College, Campbelltown	2016
Erin	BLAKE	Hurlstone Agricultural HS, Glenfield	2015
David	BLOWES	Molong CS	2015
Ben	BOWMAN	Scone HS	2015
Graham	BRAMLEY	St Paul's College, Kempsey	2015
Eddie	BUCKINGHAM	Mullumbimby HS	2015
Jennifer	CAINES	Mount Annan Christian College	2015
Scott	CALLAGHAN	Mount Austin High, Wagga Wagga	2015
Carl	CHIRGWIN	Griffith HS	2016
Tamara	COLE	Model Farms HS, Baulkham Hills	2015
Stephanie	COLGAN	Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes	2015
Justin	CONNORS	Manilla CS	2016
Ben	COOMBES	Peel HS, Tamworth	2017
Elena	DAGHER	Bossley Park HS	2015
Anita	DE LA MOTTE	Bomaderry HS	2016
Erin	O'NEILL	Lake Cargelligo CS	2015
Alice	DORMAN	Trangie CS	2015
Christine	DUVER	Woolgoolga HS	2017
Nicole	DWYER	Gunnedah HS	2016
Susan	EARL	Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes	2015
Cameron	ELLISON	McAuley Catholic School Tumut	2015
Guy	FAHEY	Albury HS	2017
Leanne	FERGUSON	Orange Anglican Grammar School	2016
Sarah	FOSTER	Dubbo Senior College Campus	2015
Ann	FRIZELL	Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga	2016
Melissa	GAMBLE	Farrer Memorial Agricultural HS, Tamworth	2015
Verity	GETT	Wee Waa HS	2016
David	GILLARD	Wagga Wagga HS	2016
Milton	GOWER	Macarthur Anglican School, Camden	2015

First Name	Surname	School	Financial until end
Richard	GRANT	James Ruse Agricultural HS, Carlingford	2015
Lara	GRIFFIN	Pittwater HS	2015
Claire	HARDY	Menai HS	2015
Graeme	HARRIS	Farrer Memorial Agricultural HS, Tamworth	2015
Leonie	HARRIS	Frensham, Mittagong	2015
Lois	HARRISON	Merriwa CS	2015
Bill	HASZARD	Retired	2015
John	HAWKINS	Wingham HS	2015
Colin	HAWTHORN	Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes	2015
Callie	HEATH	Mulwaree HS, Goulburn	2016
Stuart	HEMMINGS	Dotedu Consulting Services, North Bondi	2016
David	HENRY	Karabar Distance Ed Centre, Queanbeyan	2016
Kate	HERWIG	Lisarow HS	2017
Michael	HOLLAND	Scone Grammar School	2015
Ben	HOLMES	Alstonville HS	2015
Kristina	HOTSON	Camden HS	2016
Peter	HUMPHRIES	Deniliquin HS	2017
Grant	JACKSON	Gosford HS	2015
Charlie	JAMES	Singleton HS	2015
Jacque	JOHNSON	Pre-Service Trainee Teacher	2016
Karen	JOHNSTON	Hurlstone Agricultural HS, Glenfield	2015
Jarrold	KELLY	Kyogle HS	2015
Prue	KESBY	St Mary's College, Gunnedah	2015
Kerry	KETE	Bowraville CS	2015
John	KILLEEN	Bossley Park HS	2015
Mykel	KOLLER	Nagle College, Blacktown	2015
Jillian	KUCHEL	Coolah CS	2015
Shayne	LAWRENCE	Dungog HS	2015
John	LEHMAN	Yolla District HS, Tasmania	2015
Renae	LIDGARD	Molong CS	2015
Scott	MACKENZIE	Georges River College, Penshurst Campus	2015
Steve	MAGINNITY	Alstonville HS	2015
Hayley	MAHONEY	Picton HS	2015
Bruce	MANKTELOW	Bomaderry HS	2015
Melissa	MARSHALL	Moruya HS	2015
Diana	MARTIN	Murwillumbah HS	2016
Peter	MATUS	Denison College, Bathurst HS Campus	2015
Greg	McALPIN	Hurlstone Agriculture HS, Glenfield	2015
James	McDONALD	Yass HS	2016
Jacqueline	McINTOSH	Crookwell HS	2016
Leigh	McLEAN	Portland CS	2015
Allan	McMILLAN	Wagga Wagga HS	2015
Maree	McNEIL	Shoalhaven HS, Nowra	2015
Mick	MELINO	St Johns College, Lismore	2016
Luciano	MESITI	Colo HS, North Richmond	2015
Tim	MINEHAN	Young HS	2015
Elizabeth	MUDFORD	St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton	2015

First Name	Surname	School	Financial until end
David	MULLER	St John Evangelist Catholic HS, Nowra	2015
Rochelle	MUTTON	MacKillop College, Bathurst	2016
Simone	NEVILLE	Tuggerah Lakes Sec College, Berkeley Vale	2016
Bronwyn	NIELSEN	Calrossy Anglican School, Tamworth	2015
Steven	NOAKES	Kadina HS, Goonellabah	2016
Justine	PHILLIPS	Xavier College, Llandilo	2016
Georgina	PRICE	Parkes HS	2017
Graham	QUADE	Tullamore CS	2015
Graham	QUINTAL	Treasurer NSWAAAT	2017
Renato	RAMSAY	Sydney Distance Education HS	2015
David	RANDALL	Richmond HS	2015
Tiffany	ROBERTSON	Coonamble HS	2015
Warwick	ROLFE	Hunter River HS, Heatherbrae	2016
Katie	ROWE	Gulargambone CS	2015
Peter	RYAN	Nowra HS	2015
David	SAUNDERS	Orara HS, Coffs Harbour	2015
Natasha	SHANKELTON	Tullamore CS	2017
Warwick	SHAW	Woodenbong CS	2015
Nicole	SIMMONS	Warialda HS	2016
Kathleen	SIMS	RuralBiz Training, Dubbo	2016
Leanne	SJOLLEMA	McCarthy Catholic College, Tamworth	2016
Brent	SMITH	Bulahdelah CS	2016
Geoff	SMITH	Oakhill College, Castle Hill	2016
Jade	SMITH	Dunedoo CS	2017
Paul	SMITH	Cowra HS	2016
Deb	SNAITH	Macintyre HS, Inverell	2015
Laura	SOUTHWELL	Karabar HS, Queanbeyan	2016
Stuart	STOUT	Leeton HS	2015
Leigh	THATCHER	Pittwater HS, Mona Vale	2015
Laura	TOLLEY	Farrer Memorial Agricultural HS, Tamworth	2016
Brian	TRENCH	Camden Park EEC, Menangle	2016
Katie	TWOMEY	James Ruse Agricultural HS, Carlingford	2016
Caroline	UNTERRHEINER	Tumbarumba HS	2016
Sky	VAN DEN BERGE	Marion College, Kenthurst	2016
Ron	VICTOR	Morisset HS	2015
Jane	WALKER	Chatham HS, Taree	2016
Nikia	WATERS	Hillston CS	2015
Gary	WEBB	Finley HS	2015
Nicolet	WESTERHOF	Elizabeth Macarthur HS, Narellan Vale	2015
Nigel	WHITE	Dubbo College Senior Campus	2016
Mark	WHITFELD	All Saints College, Bathurst	2015
Melissa	WILLCOCKS	Ashford CS	2018
Maurice	WOODMAN	Murray HS, Lavington	2016
Jennifer	WOODWARD	Byron Bay HS	2015
Luke	WOODWARD	Richmond River HS, Lismore	2015
Beth	WORTHY	Sapphire Coast Anglican College, Bega	2016
Jan	YOUNG	Murrumburrah HS	2015



## Life Members

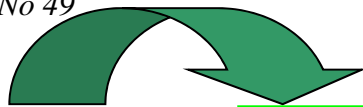
Ian	BAIRD
Tony	BARNETT
Don	BARTHOLOMEW
Lisle	BROWN
Tony	BUTLER
Peter	CRICK
Rod	FRANCIS
Ivan	GANT
Bob	GUEST
Graeme	HARRIS
Phil	HURST
Peter	JONES
John	LEE
Robyn	O'LEARY
Gail	ROBERTS
Norm	ROBINSON
Trevor	SEWELL
Jenni	WILKINS

## Associate Membership

Sally	BANNERMAN	SACEC
Arthur	KELLY	NSW BOSTES
NSW	RAS	Sydney Olympic Park
Cameron	ARCHER	Chairperson PIEFA
Ben	STOCKWIN	CEO PIEFA
Jade	HAUSER	UNE (NSW)

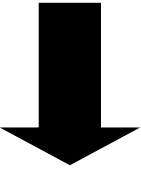
## Affiliate Membership – (NAAE)

Alysia	KEPERT	Agriculture Curriculum Consultant (WA)
Andrew	COSBY	Elisabeth Murdoch College (VIC)
Andrew	JOKANTAS	Nhill College (VIC)



## NSWAAT Summer Muster

**A  
g**



### TREASURER

Graham Quintal

16 Finlay Ave  
Beecroft NSW 2119  
[treasurer.nswaat@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.nswaat@gmail.com)

*If you are:*

- *not financial or*
- *a new graduate or*
- *your membership status has lapsed*

*& you require*

- *Resources.*
- *Aggie contacts.*
- *Information/subsidies of Agriculture Teachers conferences.*
- *Assistance in your professional duties.*

*...then you need to join the Association to assist in maintaining:*

- *the Association's strength & support across the state,*
- *the place of your subject in the school curriculum,*
- *networking throughout the state,*
- *delivery of a BAAT, once a term via email,*  
*(Bulletin Association of Agriculture Teachers)*
- *your say in Agriculture & PI teaching issues,*
- *access to professional readings.*

**COMPLETE THE  
"APPLICATION FOR  
MEMBERSHIP"  
FORM ON THE NEXT  
PAGE  
&  
SEND TO THE  
ASSOCIATION'S  
TREASURER WITH  
YOUR PAYMENT.**

## NSWAAT WEBSITE

**[www.nswaat.org.au](http://www.nswaat.org.au)**

*Please visit the website and catch up on what has been happening.*

*There are many resource links to assist your teaching of Agriculture and Primary Industries.*

**M  
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# Membership Application



ABN: 81 639 285 642

TITLE		NAME			
SCHOOL					
POSTAL ADDRESS					
				Postcode	
EMAIL					
PHONE				FAX	
MOBILE				DATE	
MEMBERSHIP	School		Individual		Payment Method

Email this Membership form to: [treasurer.nswaat@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.nswaat@gmail.com) and make cheques payable to:  
**NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers** (not NSWAAAT)

**Post cheque to:**

**OR**

**Pay via Direct Deposit:**

**Graham Quintal**  
**16 Finlay Ave**  
**BEECROFT**  
**NSW 2119**

**Account Name:** NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers  
**BSB:** 082 939  
**Account Number:** 639 757 522  
**Reference:** Your Initial, Surname and "Memb".

**MEMBERSHIP FEES: \$60 / annum**

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTED	No of Years	
PAYMENT \$		

\* Membership is based on a calendar year.

**Office Use Only**

Date Received		Receipt #		Receipt Sent	
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# Resources

## Primary Industries Worksheets

Below is the link to a Dropbox I set up with all the resources from the Primary Industries teacher training in Dubbo.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/twhykekqubrl971/AADyguUwmJVf1fWCxbxR265Ca?dl=0>

Sarah Foster  
Agriculture and Primary Industries Teacher  
Dubbo College Senior Campus

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## MLA Resources Sheets

MLA ([www.mla.com.au](http://www.mla.com.au)) have a number of publications free to download, but they are sometimes difficult to locate.

The first of these are "FAST FACTS" - Facts and figures about Australia's meat industries: beef, sheep and goats, including numbers by state, exports, production and consumption levels, and Australia's position relative to other countries. You can find these [here](#).

I have put together some rough worksheets to support the sheep and beef sheets, and have uploaded them, along with the 2015 Fast Fact Sheets, to Edmodo.

The second are a set of information sheets, 5 on the Sheep Industry and 8 Cattle Industry. I cannot find them on their website now, but I have electronic versions, which I have uploaded to Edmodo. I have joined them into 2 files. There are a couple of worksheets I put together some years ago which accompany them. Do what you like with them.

Graham Quintal  
Retired Aggie

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## The Virtual Farm Visit

This interactive website provides you with the ability to investigate farms carrying cattle and/or sheep in the Kimberley, Central West NSW and the Gippsland in Victoria. The program addresses issues associated with Science, Technology, Sustainable Futures and Society and the Environment. The website uses video and sound, so your students will need earphone/headsets to use in a classroom/computer lab setting.

Throughout the interactive you will be able to download fact sheets.

Go to: <http://virtualfarm.mla.com.au/>



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

School of  
Agriculture and Food Sciences



[SCHOOL WEBSITE](#) | [VIEW ONLINE](#) | [SEND TO A FRIEND](#)

## Registrations are now open for the 2016 UQ Sunflower Competition.

We would like to invite you and your class to register now for the 2016 UQ Sunflower Competition, proudly hosted by the University of Queensland's School of Agriculture and Food Sciences.

[\*\*Register Now!\*\*](#)

For further information and a copy of the competition rules, please visit the official UQ Sunflower Competition [webpage](#).

The School of Agriculture and Food Sciences  
The University of Queensland  
Tel: 07 3365 1171 | 07 5460 1321  
Email: [agriculture@uq.edu.au](mailto:agriculture@uq.edu.au)  
CRICOS Provider No. 00025B



## **NSWDPI Schools Program News**

Following the successful collaboration with the Archibull Prize which this year incorporated a biosecurity planning in schools unit, the schools team is putting biosecurity on the learning agenda for year 5 and 6 NSW students and teachers with the launch of Investigate: fire ants, the 2016 Science and Technology competition.

Investigate provides authentic learning experiences and supports the development of science and technology skills while learning about fire ants, a topical biosecurity threat. To compete, classes will design and complete an investigation to check their school for fire ants and create a communication product to educate their school and local community. Teachers will be supported through the competition with a comprehensive learning sequence, competition guide, video conference and personal support as requested.

With some great prizes on offer, including \$1000 to the winning school, spread the word and get your local schools involved. For more information please see the competition website <http://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/home/investigate> or contact [schools.program@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:schools.program@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

From the website you can access a wide range of resources including Teaching Resources, details on Biosecurity, videos, the Competition Guide and Registration form, as well as a host of other information.

You are encouraged to get involved.





Department of  
Primary Industries

## 2016 Science and Technology Competition



Use your science and technology  
skills to investigate whether  
**FIRE ANTS ARE IN YOUR SCHOOL?**

**FREE  
ENTRY**

**Entry is free and open  
to all Stage 3 students  
in NSW Schools**

Links to the NSW Syllabus for Science and  
Technology, English and Geography.

Competition guide, teacher handbook and learning  
sequence can be found online at  
<http://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/home/investigate>

**Registrations open November 4, 2015**  
Competition to be run Term 1, 2016

**PRIZES**

### Prizes:

All participating schools  
and students will receive a  
Certificate of Participation.

The following prizes will  
be awarded to schools that  
demonstrate creativity  
and excellence in their  
communication product  
and incorporate evidence  
of an outstanding  
investigation. (Judging  
criteria available).

**1<sup>st</sup> \$1000**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> \$750**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> \$500**  
Highly  
Commended  
**\$250**

*Investigate provides authentic learning  
experiences to support students development of  
science, technology and communication skills.  
Real-world content guides the application of  
these skills in a meaningful learning context.*

### Compete in three easy steps:

- 1** **Design and complete an investigation** to lure ants and find out if there are fire ants in your school.
- 2** **Create a communication product** to inform and educate your school and community about fire ants and your investigation findings.
- 3** **Complete the student and teacher entry and exit surveys** for extra points.

Email: [schools.program@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:schools.program@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Online: <http://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/home/investigate>

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)



This could a great opportunity for students who may be leaving at the end of this year or doing a gap year to get some free accredited training.



Department of  
Primary Industries



# Would you like to gain skills in rural operations ?

## Funding maybe available to cover your training costs

Location: Tocal College Yanco Campus

Contact us now as places are limited

Are you interested in gaining skills in rural operations ?  
Our courses are practical and "hands on",  
Training will be held at our facility at Yanco early in 2016.  
Training includes the following key areas:

- Workplace health and safety
- Tractor operation
- Chainsaw operation
- Quad bike & Side by side vehicle handling
- Chemical accreditation
- Confined Spaces
- Forklift Licencing

Contact: Michelle Houghton - ASAP

Phone: 0269512501

Email: michelle.houghton@dpi.nsw.gov.au

PROfarm is the training program delivered by NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) to meet the needs of farmers, primary industries, agribusiness and the community.

Courses are delivered locally by skilled and experienced DPI staff. Many courses are available online or a combination of online and face-to-face.



## Any questions about these or other PROfarm products?

For enquiries & registrations call:



PATERSON ► HUNTER VALLEY  
**1800 025 520**

CENTRAL TABLELANDS / GREATER SYDNEY /  
SOUTH EAST REGIONS **02 4640 6333**

TAMWORTH ► NORTHERN NSW  
**02 6763 1276**

TRANGIE ► WESTERN NSW  
**02 6880 8023**

YANCO ► SOUTHERN NSW  
**1800 628 422**

DUBBO ► CENTRAL NSW  
**02 6881 1290**

For an up-to-date schedule of courses see [www.profarm.com.au](http://www.profarm.com.au)

# State Agricultural Advisory Group

## Report for 2015

The State Agriculture Advisory Group was set up a number of years ago to provide advice to the Department of Education about the allocation of money and also tractor replacements for schools that teach the Agriculture and Primary Industries syllabuses.

The Group has 5 members: Chairperson, 2 permanent members and 2 NSWAAAT representatives. Our role is to ensure that the allocation of funds is a fair and equitable system for all involved utilising the completed surveys from each school.

The money is broken into 2 parts:

- **Stores:** to purchase what you need such as feed and equipment; and
- **Maintenance:** to be used to service and maintain that tractor in a safe workable condition.

A minimum amount of funds is set to ensure that smaller schools are catered for just as well as the larger schools.

The allocation for 2016 has been completed and schools will be receiving their funds over 2 payments:

- **Payment 1:** during weeks 1-2 of Term 1; and
- **Payment 2:** during weeks 1-2 of Term 2.

Check with your SAM after these dates, to confirm your schools allocation.

## Tractors

Several issues arose during our discussions regarding the tractors allocated to schools studying Agriculture.

### ***Issue 1: Maintenance***

Maintenance of each tractor is a crucial factor for its longevity. Reports received from Australian Hammer Suppliers noted the following as the main causes of concern that have been raised through their routine maintenance checks.

1. Wires/insulation chewed through by rats and mice
2. Radiator full of grass seeds and other by-products causing overheating
3. Petrol being used instead of diesel
4. Batteries losing charge if not used regularly.

Please ensure that you maintain all your equipment to optimum working conditions at all times. Regularly conduct pre-, and post-operational checks to reduce the likelihood of problems occurring, including the starting of tractors and other machines to charge the batteries. This will improve the efficiency and reliability of the equipment, as well as reducing any potential future financial burden.

Under the current contract with Australian Hammer Suppliers, each school is provided with four services where the Department picks up the tab. Once all services have been completed, the school must plan for any future service to come from their own budget. This is where this grant can assist.

Principals can search through the Assets Management System to determine what service number their school is up to.



## Issue 2: Tractor Replacement

The Tractor Replacement Program in Public Schools, as it was known, that has run since the late 1990's replacing tractors that have become old and /or unsafe, **has now finished**. Funds for this program are now non-existent and as such the tractor you have in your school that is designated the Teaching and Learning Tractor, with the contract fitted safety devices, is the last one your school will receive. All schools (except some recent starters and re-starters) should now have a compliant tractor.

It is advised that if the existing tractor is deemed unsafe, or no longer serviceable, the replacement of this tractor (from the contracted supplier, currently Australian Hammer Suppliers), must be planned for in future budgets within their school.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their hard work in preparing, collating and analysing the data, prior to our meeting. Many long hours have been spent in working through your surveys to ensure that this remains a positive process for all schools and to encourage the continual participation in our Agricultural programs.

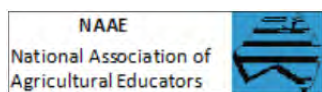
Kristina Hotson  
Camden High School

## SAAG Members

Chairperson:	Clifford Ralph	Principal Richmond HS
Permanent Members:	David Randall 2015 (Luciano Mesiti 2016)	Richmond High School Colo High School
NSWAAT Members	Craig O'Brien John Killeen Kristina Hotson	Moss Vale High School Bossley Park High School Camden High School



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

January 10-15<sup>th</sup> 2016

SUNDAY 10		MONDAY 11	
Arrive at Perth airport by 8am OR Check out of Perth hotel by 8.30am		7-8am	Breakfast in dining room
From 9am	Load coaches (Delegates to make their own way to 151 Royal St East Perth)	7.45-8.15	Registration for WA non- residential delegates
10.30	Depart East Perth	8.30-9am	Formal proceedings begin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conference opening</li> <li>Acknowledgement of major sponsors</li> <li>Welcome to country</li> <li>Housekeeping day 2</li> </ul>
11.15	Mushroom exchange OR Supafresh salad leaves farm (t.b.c)	9am-9.30am	
12.45	Lunch in Mandurah	9.30-10am	Geoff Moyle Director of Agricultural Education, "The Agricultural Education Landscape in WA"
2pm	Depart for Lake Clifton	10-10.30am	Morning tea
2.30	Arrive Lake Clifton to view thrombolites (facilitated by Earth Sciences WA)	10.30-11.15am	Guest presenter
		11.15am-12pm	Morning concurrent sessions (1x3 options 45 min each)
5pm	Arrive WACOA Harvey Registration and accommodation	12-12.45pm	Lunch in dining room
6.30pm	Welcome BBQ Evening entertainment	12.45-3.00	Afternoon concurrent sessions (3x3 options 45 min each)
		3-3.30 pm	Afternoon tea
		3.30-4.30pm	Workshops- practicals
		4.30-5.30pm	Workshops- education resources
		5.30pm	Optional college campus tour/wine tasting
		7pm	Dinner in dining room Evening speakers & Entertainment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture's role in science education</li> <li>Agriculture in the media</li> </ul>

TUESDAY 12		WEDNESDAY 13	
6.30-7.30 am	Breakfast in dining room	7-8am	Breakfast in dining room
8am	(travelling day) depart college  Route 1: "Steak and Eggs" tour Boyup Brook-Kojonup- Denmark Blackwood Valley Beef (organic) Katie Joys Free Range Eggs Masons Rolled Oats Sheep Breeding facility (t.b.c)  OR  Route 2: "Fruit and Veg" tour Manjimup-Mt Barker-Denmark Manjimup truffles Fontanini apples & avocados lunch Planfarm presentation	8.30-9am	A word from our sponsors
		9-10 am	Presentation: Food tourism
		10-10.30	Morning tea  (stalls in breakout area)
		10.30-12.30	Brain ambulance "Keeping sane in a busy workplace"
		12.30-1.30pm	Lunch in dining room (stalls in break out area)
		1.30-3pm	Afternoon concurrent sessions (2x3 options 45 min each)
5pm	Arrive WACOA Denmark campus settle into accommodation	3-3.30pm	Afternoon tea
5.30pm	Optional college campus tour	3.30-4.15pm	Afternoon concurrent sessions (1x3 options 45 min each)
		4.15-5pm	Workshops- practicals or campus tour
7pm	Dinner in dining room  Evening speakers and entertainment: • Agricultural Education – a European perspective	6pm	Depart for Ocean Beach  Dinner Evening entertainment
		9.30pm	Depart for college



THURSDAY 14		FRIDAY 15	
7-8am	Breakfast in dining room	6.30-7.30 am	Breakfast in dining room and load coaches
8-9am	NAAE Biennial General meeting	8.30am	Depart for Albany and Perth  Coach transport to either Albany or Perth airport
9-10am	NAAE "Working Together" discussion	(Do not book flights before 7pm)	
10-10.30am	Morning tea		
10.30-12.00	Speed dating in alternative agricultural industries		
12-12.45pm	Lunch in dining room Great Southern showcase		
12.45pm	Depart college Tour 1: Valley of the Giants / Green's Pool  OR Tour 2: Albany Anzac Centre		
5pm	Arrive back at college		
6pm	Depart for conference dinner		

## Upcoming Agricultural Events

### January 2016

Bowral Show - 9th to 10th  
 Pambula Show - 9th  
 Albion Park Show - 16th to 17th  
 Candelo Show - 17th  
 Kiama Show - 22nd to 23rd  
 Eurobodalla Dist Show - 23rd to 24th  
 Berry Show - 29th to 30th  
 Bundarra Show and Rodeo - 29th to 31st  
 Morisset-Lake Macquarie Show - 29th to 31st  
 Bungendore Show - 31<sup>st</sup>

### February 2016

Manilla Show - 5th to 7th  
 Nowra Show - 5th to 6th  
 Tenterfield Show - 5th to 6th  
 Crookwell Show - 6th to 7th  
 Nimmitabel Show - 6th  
 Rydal Show - 6th  
 Uralla Show - 6th  
 Dunedoo Show - 12th to 13th  
 Glen Innes Show - 12th to 14th  
 Kangaroo Valley Show - 12th to 13th  
 Cobargo Show - 13th to 14th  
 Henty Show - 13th  
 Bega Show - 19th to 21st  
 Gulgong Show - 19th to 20th  
 Gundagai Show - 19th to 20th  
 Guyra Show - 19th to 20th  
 Maitland Show - 19th to 21st  
 Robertson Show - 19th to 20th  
 Ashford Show - 20th to 21st  
 Comboyne Show - 20th to 21st  
 Luddenham Show - 20th to 21st  
 Oberon Show - 20th  
 Gunning Show - 21st  
 Armidale and New England Show - 26th to 27th  
 Barraba Show - 26th to 28th  
 Binnaway Show - 26th to 27th  
 Canberra Royal Show - 26th to 28th  
 Cessnock Show - 26th to 27th  
 Rylstone-Kandos Show - 26th to 27th  
 Blayney Show - 27th  
 Wallamba Show - 27th  
 Sofala Show - 28<sup>th</sup>

### March 2016

Inverell Show - 3rd to 5th  
 Castle Hill Show - 4th to 6th  
 Deniliquin Show - 4th to 5th  
 Milton Show - 4th to 5th  
 Moss Vale Show - 4th to 6th  
 Mudgee Show - 4th to 5th  
 Newcastle Show - 4th to 6th  
 Tamworth Show - 4th to 6th  
 Wingham Show - 4th to 6th

Boorowa Show - 5th  
 Braidwood Show - 5th  
 Cumnock Show - 5th  
 Delegate Show - 5th  
 Goulburn Show - 5th to 6th  
 Tumut Show - 5th  
 Dalgety Show - 6th  
 Jingellic Show - 6th  
 Koorawatha Show - 6th  
 Coonabarabran Show - 10th to 12th  
 Bingara Show - 11th to 13th  
 Camden Show - 11th to 12th  
 Gloucester Show - 11th to 12th  
 Gresford Show - 11th to 12th  
 Lithgow Show - 11th to 13th  
 Muswellbrook Show - 11th to 12th  
 Walcha Show - 11th to 13th  
 Cooma Show - 12th  
 Taralga Show - 12th to 13th  
 Wakool Show - 12th  
 Adelong Show - 13th  
 Bemboka Show - 13th  
 Tarago Show - 13th  
 Sydney Royal Easter Show – 17th to 30th  
 Baradine Show - 19th  
 Bombala Exhibition - 19th  
 Tumbarumba Show - 19th  
 Mendooran Show - 26th to 27th  
 Jerrawa Show - 28<sup>th</sup>

### April 2016

Gilgandra Show - 1st to 2nd  
 Stroud Show - 1st to 2nd  
 Wauchope Show - 1st to 2nd  
 Batlow Show - 2nd  
 Blacktown City Show - 2nd to 3rd  
 Kempsey Show - 5th to 6th  
 Bathurst Royal Show - 8th to 10th  
 Bonalbo Show - 8th to 9th  
 Macksville Show - 8th to 9th  
 Yass Show - 9th to 10th  
 Woodenbong Show - 10th  
 Maclean Show - 12th to 13th  
 Grafton Show - 15th to 16th  
 Gunnedah Show - 15th to 17th  
 Hawkesbury Show - 15th to 17th  
 Bourke Show - 16th  
 Orange Show - 16th to 17th  
 Yeoval Show - 19th  
 Cobar Show - 22nd to 23rd  
 Coffs Harbour Show - 22nd to 24th  
 Moree Show - 22nd to 23rd  
 Wellington Show - 23rd  
 Dubbo Show - 29th April to 1st May  
 Bellingen River Show - 30th April to 1st May  
 Gosford Regional Show - 30th April to 1st May  
 Narrabri Show - 30th April to 1st May

## **Field Days**

Total Field Days: 29 April - 1 May 2016

[www.tocalfielddays.com](http://www.tocalfielddays.com)

Agfair Broken Hill Inc: 6 - 7 May 2016

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

Riverina Field Days - Griffith: 13 - 14 May 2016

[www.riverinafielddays.com](http://www.riverinafielddays.com)

Mudgee Small Farm Field Days - Gunnedah: 15 - 16 July 2016

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

Agquip Field Days: 16 - 18 August 2016

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

Henty Machinery Field Days: 20 - 22 Sept 2016

[www.hmfd.com](http://www.hmfd.com)

Murrumbateman Field Days: 15 - 16 Oct 2016

[www.mfdays.com](http://www.mfdays.com)

Australian National Field Days - Orange: 20 - 22 Oct 2016

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

Farming Small Areas Expo & Equine Exhibition - Hawkesbury Showground, Richmond: Nov 2016

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

# Schools in the News

## NSW schools take on Ag and Food Week trial

By RUTH CASKEY

Nov. 16, 2015, 10:30 a.m.



**FOOD AND FIBRE:** Ruythe Dufty with Nemingha Public School students Abbey Greentree, Amelia Hawes, Oliver Brennan and Thomas Lesslie.

SCHOOLS across the state will look to involve agricultural education in their curriculums following the success of the first agriculture and food week.

The project was among more than 40 recommendations from Professor Jim Pratley's Review into Agricultural Education and Training in 2013.

Ruythe Dufty, director for public schools NSW, Tamworth network, volunteered her region to trial the project.

"Our schools were doing a lot in that area anyway with vegetable gardens, kitchen areas, chooks and making links with their communities, so we thought we had the perfect area to trial it."

The idea was a success, involving 15 schools across the Tamworth and Gunnedah areas.

It began with a food and fibre open day for primary schools at Tamworth's Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School in August.

"They were expecting about 40 students and ended up with 250," Ms Dufty said.

"It was led by year 10 and 11 students who had stations with poultry, cooking, a milk and cream station where children made butter, and a variety of cattle.

"They had a beast marked up with the different cuts of meat which was fascinating for the kids. They could really understand where their meat comes from."

While introducing agriculture isn't new for many of the state's regional primary schools, the project further developed what they were already working on.

“Some schools have pretty extensive garden areas and keep farm animals, but what they hadn't gone into is linkages with the community and agriculture, so they organised farm visits and one school had somebody from the local wholegrain mill come in to talk to students,” Ms Duffy said.

“One of our smaller schools, Tambar Springs Public, regularly hosts a luscious lunch where the whole community is invited and they had a pop up stall during AgQuip where they were selling some of their food for travellers.”

Using resources published on the pilot project's website, schools can blend agriculture into English, mathematics, science, health, creative arts and languages.

“It's about raising awareness with our young people about the link between sustainability, knowing the foods you eat and supporting agriculture,” Ms Duffy said.

“It's more of a challenge for the city-based schools, but even if they can't go to a local farm, the students can certainly grow a garden and use the produce in their school canteens.”

Resources for schools wanting to mix agriculture into the NSW curriculum could be found online at [www.learning.schools.nsw.edu.au/foodagweek](http://www.learning.schools.nsw.edu.au/foodagweek)

This article is from [The Land](#) website

# MORUYA HIGH SCHOOL

## Growing Your Future: The SAGE School to Work Program

SAGE is ‘Sustainable Agriculture and Gardening Eurobodalla’ community group and is run by volunteers to develop a market garden and gardening demonstration site in Moruya. They also operate the Farmers Markets, run numerous community education programs and train market garden interns to open their own local agricultural businesses.

They have joined forces with Moruya High School and now operate a successful School to Work program entitled ‘Growing Your Future’.

Read more on the Moruya High School [blog](#).

## Boots for Change program

Look at the ABC TV News report about a student-led initiative to support farmers, Follow this [link](#) and click on the picture of the boot to watch the video.

Melissa Marshall  
Agriculture Teacher



# MARIAN COLLEGE

Here are some pictures of the Marian College, Kenthurst, steer Rocky at his new home in Cattai. He has made friends with the new owner's dog.

Rocky was bred at Emu Plains Correctional Centre and hand-raised by Year 9 Ag students.



## Glossodia Public School and Marian Catholic College Receive Landcare grants

Hawkesbury  
**GAZETTE**

Oct. 1, 2015, 10:05 a.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL projects by students at Glossodia Public School and Marian Catholic College in Kenthurst have earned them Junior Landcare grants of \$1000.

The grants are part of the second Jemena Junior Landcare Sustainability program, designed to enhance biodiversity improvement and promote education about healthy eating.

Glossodia Public School's project involves the setting up of four worm farms and two compost tumblers.

The worm farms, sustained by food scraps collected by the pupils, will produce waste to fertilise the school's vegetable gardens, which in turn grows food for the school canteen.

Marian College students aim to build an aquaponics system for the growth of vegetables and fish.





The system involves feeding plants with nutrient-rich water, made possible by fish waste.

Rocks in the water bed in turn filter the liquid through bacteria multiplying on the rocks.

Students will have to regularly feed the fish, but otherwise the system is meant to function symbiotically.

It will also be solar-powered, when the school's budget allows it.

Jemena, a company providing gas and electricity to thousands of people in eastern Australia, said its aim was to encourage innovation among young people.

"We've been bowled over by the fantastic ideas from these ingenious youngsters," a spokesman for the company, Ian Israelsohn, said.

"Through these grants, we want to encourage kids as well as promote smarter use of resources."

Landcare Australia, which is devoted to optimal management of land and water, was also proud of its part in the program.

"We are fostering an interest in looking after Australia's crucial land and water assets, with a focus on enabling people to make a positive difference at a local level," Landcare's chief executive Tessa Jakszewicz said.

## Landcare RASH Manual

<http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/watershed-landcare-incorporated/resources-case-studies/soil-health/rash-manual/view>

## A day in the life of soil role play game

[https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/69398/DILOS-instructions-v1.0.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/69398/DILOS-instructions-v1.0.pdf)

Sky Van Den Berge

# COLO HIGH SCHOOL

## Unischools Steer Competition

Several Western Sydney schools have engaged in two cattle competitions this year.

Unischools Steer competition Live Day was held on August 8th at Hawkesbury Showground. Unischools Steer Competition is an annual steer raising competition supported by University of Western Sydney Hawkesbury, who provide the Hereford steers for the competition. This year's big winners were in first place, Xavier College Llandilo, second place Macarthur Anglican College, Camden and third place to Colo High School.



## Penrith Show results

The Penrith Show schools competition was held on August 29th and 30th. It is a 2 day event encompassing the raising of a dairy steer or heifer to be presented for judging, cattle parading, schools display, poultry judging and rural Olympics competitions. The school display was won by Bede Polding College, Windsor. The steer raising competition was won by Xavier College, Llandilo and the heifer competition by McCarthy Catholic College, Emu Plains. The cattle parading competition was won by Colo High School. On Sunday there were two main competitions, the Rural Olympics, won by Colo High School and the Poultry judging competitions, individual won by Caroline Chisholm College and the team event by Colo High School.



Luciano Mesiti



# GRIFFITH HIGH SCHOOL

## Students outshine competition



**WINNERS:** Kaylah Buljubasic and Samuel Hipkiss were rewarded for their hard work and dedication. Picture: Riley Krause

Griffith High School students Kaylah Buljubasic and Samuel Hipkiss recently took out first and third place at the regional finals of the WorldSkills primary industries competition. As the gold medal winner, Kaylah will now go on to join the NSW state team at the national finals in Melbourne next year.

The pair competed in five disciplines – livestock handling, tractor servicing and operation, fencing, boomspray calibration and a general team task – but Samuel said nerves weren't really a factor. "It's all basically stuff that we've done here at school or outside through Primary Industries," he said. We both enjoyed it more than we were feeling it was a competition, it was more, have fun and get involved."

Kaylah was surprised more than anything upon hearing the good news that she had taken out the gold. "I actually thought Sam would have got first place, but I was very happy to get it, wasn't really expecting it so I'm pretty proud," she said. "Being a female and coming first might encourage other females to get into this line of work."

Both students have been involved in their school's agriculture class for a few years now and hope that this competition gives them a leg up in the industry.

Griffith High's agricultural science teacher Carl Chirgwin was extremely proud that two students were able to medal at the competition. "The school likes giving students these opportunities and these two took it," he said. "I'm very ecstatic that they both got medals, and for Kaylah to now go to Melbourne puts us in high esteem. Very proud of them." He hoped that other students might see Kaylah and Samuel's success and try to achieve that for themselves one day.

"These two got awarded their medals on assembly as well, and a lot of students were just like, 'wow'." "A few kids came up to me afterwards and asked 'is Kaylah going to the Olympics next year or something' and she pretty much is."

## The Area News

Friday Oct. 30, 2015

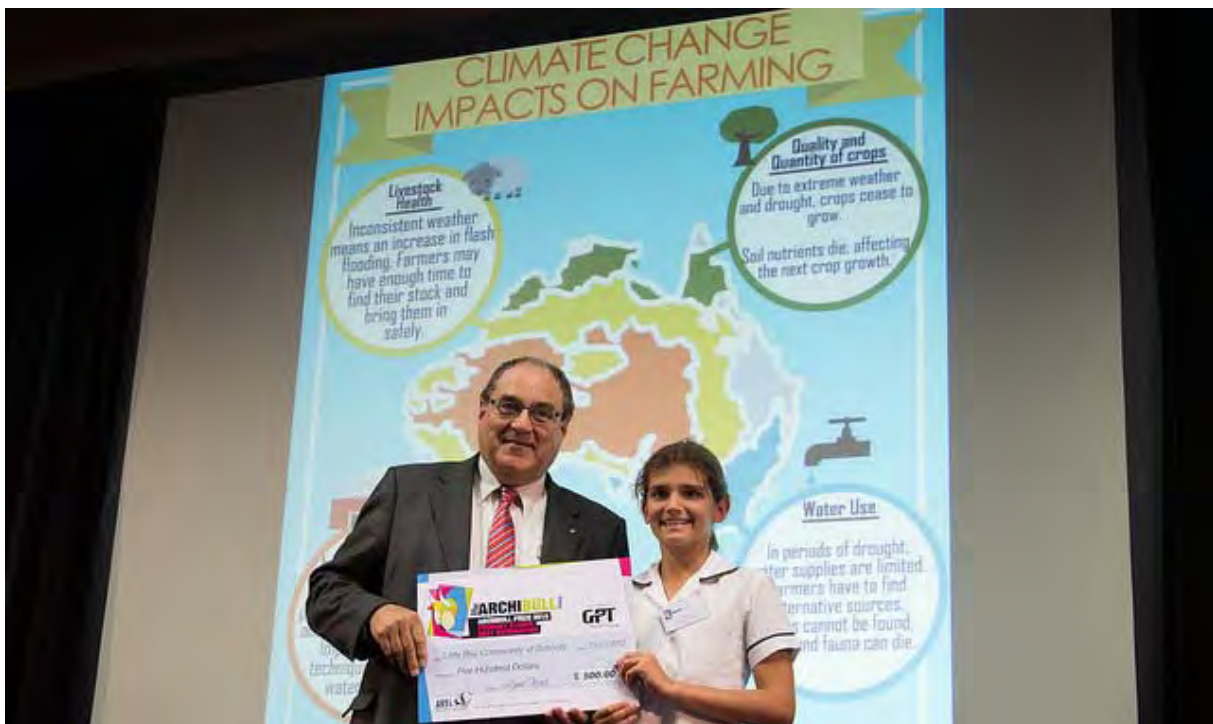
Carl Chirgwin

# Matraville Sports High School

The school has taken out Grand Champion at this year's national Art4Agriculture Archibull Prize Awards, announced at the Sydney Showgrounds this month. They were one of 18 schools across New South Wales and Queensland competing in the program, which is now in its fifth year, by decorating fibreglass cows representing the grain, cattle and sheep, wool and cotton industries.



For more information about this winning entry, go to <http://matravillearchibull.blogspot.com.au/>





# Mudgee High School

## Champion Steer for Mudgee High School

Mudgee High School students exhibited 3 steers at the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza in Scone over the weekend. Two of the steers came from John and Carol Evans, Ilford, and the other came from Waverly Station, Scone.

The twenty students who attended participated in the Paraders competitions, as well as exhibiting the steers against others of a similar weight range. Two of the steers weighed between 450 and 500kg, Heavy Middleweight class, while the third weighed over 500kg, Heavyweight class.

One of the Limousin cross steers, weighing 457kg, came first in his class and went on to win Champion Heavy Middleweight of the show, the lightest of the 65 exhibits in that class. This also placed him in the top 4 of the entire show, with a total of 253 exhibits.

The competition ranged from government schools through independent schools to private, individual exhibitors. The calibre of entries is always high, and winning a Champion ribbon is a prestigious outcome. These achievements would not be possible without the support of the teachers, parents and the wider Mudgee community. This year parents and the community donated hay, transport, clipping and show day support.

All of the students who attended represented Mudgee and MHS in a safe, respectful and responsible manner. They are a credit to the school and the wider Mudgee community. It is important to be able to offer education in agriculture, as there is a worldwide need to feed what is a rapidly expanding population using the ever-diminishing resource that is arable land. It is promising to see such enthusiastic and capable young people embracing experiences that open doors into agriculture careers.





## Ag Students Tour Tamworth Region

On the 26/27 November, 12 students from MHS travelled to Tamworth on a “Beef Tour”. All students who attended are currently studying Agriculture for the HSC, or will be studying it next year, and are doing their Farm Product Study on beef.

The tour started with Caroona Feedlot. Caroona is one of the oldest feedlots in Australia and is part of the JBS group, which are the world’s largest meat producers.



The group then visited Thomas Foods sheep abattoirs in Tamworth. It was a privilege to be given a behind the scenes tour of the facilities and see how efficient the process is.



An excursion is never complete without a group bonding session. The group decided that Ten Pin Bowling would suit this purpose. So, after having beef for dinner, we had many laughs and knocked a few pins down! Friday morning started with a tour of the TEYS/Cargill beef abattoirs. This was also a great opportunity and the students enjoyed the experience.





The final visit was to the Tamworth Local Lands Services. They talked to the group about animal and plant production in the Tamworth region, specifically about the benefits that tropical grasses and legumes can have in our pastures.

It is also necessary to experience local attractions whilst travelling away, so a tour to Tamworth would not be complete without a photo with the Golden Guitar!



All students said they had a great time on the excursion and would definitely do it again. The thing we were all pleasantly surprised about was how each business goes above and beyond the animal welfare requirements to ensure the comfort and pain free experience for the animals.

All of the businesses were happy to accommodate us. They pride themselves on their efficiency, cleanliness and welfare standards and are happy to show others. Below is a list of contacts if anyone else would like to organise a similar excursion.

Caroona Feedlot - (02) 6747 4704 - [Richard.Nicholls@jbssa.com.au](mailto:Richard.Nicholls@jbssa.com.au)

Thomas Foods - (02) 6764 9900 - [Jack.thompson@thomasfoods.com](mailto:Jack.thompson@thomasfoods.com)

TEYS Cargill - (02) 6764 6700 - [jshaw@teysaust.com.au](mailto:jshaw@teysaust.com.au)

Local Land Services Tamworth - (02) 6742 9220 - [George.truman@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:George.truman@lls.nsw.gov.au)

Cassandra Stanford  
Agriculture Teacher

# Yass High School

## Worldskills Regional Finals

The Worldskills Competitions that will choose the competitors from Primary Industries students from across the state have been going ahead in recent weeks. The winners will face-off in a separate competition to see who goes to Melbourne next year to compete in the National Finals.

The students compete at venues across the state in five skill areas. These are, livestock, tractors, chemicals fencing and team work.

On Thursday 12th of November, four students competed at Yass HS in the Illawarra regional final and this resulted in Sarah Targett of Yass HS coming first and Travis Ginders also of Yass HS coming achieving second place.



Sarah is pictured demonstrating tractor pre-start checks while Travis strains up some plain wire during the competition.

Competition on the day was solid with all four competitors achieving scores within 10 points of each other and the wet conditions in the morning session placed considerable pressure on them to perform to their best.

Phil Armour



# CRESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

## Marking HSC Agriculture

Unlike Science and other subjects that are now marked on line, Agriculture is still marked with the actual student's papers in several enclaves around NSW. We were at Homebush, Sydney.

This is an excellent forum in which to share ideas and understand, to stimulate your ideas and provide a range of alternative ways on how you want to teach these ideas to your students. You meet up with colleagues you may have not seen since last year's marking or some you have not seen for years, as well as introduced to the new and fresh faces – the next phase of the Ag teaching fraternity.

Agriculture marking is not like any other faculty that is under the big metal roof. The camaraderie is amazing. All the teachers talk to each other and share teaching resources as well as marking in a very professional manner. And they make sure that they have a damn good time. Meal breaks are taken outside and away from marking desks and to see who can win at the most challenging devised game of boules. Lunch on Saturday was our fill of fresh bread rolls and prawns. And of course we had the stimulation (?) of hearing AC/DC rehearsing before their concert!

This was my first experience at marking and I certainly hope to be back next year. One of the best professional learning events that I attended this year. It has given me much greater confidence in teaching my students about what the markers are looking for in their answers.

Homebush 29 Oct - 3 Nov, 2015





## What do Ag teachers do on their day off?

Of course they head out to Western Sydney University for a master class in beef cattle judging from Stuart Glover. Organised by Stephen Blunden to assist teachers to understand what judges are looking for in beef cattle and how to teach this to the students in preparation for the Uni Steers competition next year.

Twelve Agriculture teachers from State, Catholic and Independent high schools met in the University cattle grounds and were instructed first hand from a most passionate and knowledgeable cattle judge. It was a little damp, but as we all know, nothing beats first-hand experience.

Saturday 28 November, 2015





## Agriculture in Nepal in 2015.

In the last holidays I went trekking in the Himalayas of Nepal with friends. Although physically demanding and visually stunning as expected, it was the agriculture that really surprised me. Australia with its highest peak just over 2000m has no idea of the considerations and pressures placed on farming up to 5000m.

As we made our way up towards Everest Base Camp we watched the landscape and agriculture markedly change. There is low land agriculture which is more what we are used to with the usual equatorial/temperate animal and crop farming – rice, millet, corn, apples, goats, etc. As we increased our elevation, many of the crops were no longer sustainable. Glass/poly houses are becoming popular to extend the growing season and protect crops in higher altitudes.



However, one particular staple crop that can be grown below sea level, can also be grown up to nearly 5000m – the humble spud. Potatoes are now a significant food crop in Nepal. They are grown in small family holdings with stone wall boundaries. As we climbed, we trekked through Rhododendron forests, Juniper covered mountain sides and tall pine forests until we were above the tree line and these forests gave way too bare or sparse and desolate groundcovers and rocks.

There is not much sustenance available in this area and in winter there is absolutely none. Yet somehow yaks and dzo (a hybrid between the yak

and domestic cattle) manage to forage a satisfactory existence until winter. Farmers grow grasses and hay from other crops during warmer months and dry these and store for animal fodder in the winter. Vegetables like mushrooms, peas, barley, corn and potatoes are harvested and/or also dried for human consumption in the winter. These farms are generally small holdings usually passed down through the family using hand built stone fences as their boundaries.

Fuel is also an issue. Previously wood was the predominant building and fuel material but farmers are having to adapt as this is no longer an available resource. Above 4000m there are no trees and even below this level, there are now government constraints on the removal of both dead and live trees. Nepal is recognising the damage that has been caused to the landscape of their country and are attempting to become more sustainable and overcome some of their land degradation issues. Many landslides have occurred as a result of the removal of trees from mountain sides.

Fuel is required for heating and cooking especially in winter – so again much preparation must be done in advance for those winter months when there is no access to these isolated communities.



There is no shortage of yak poo so it is collected, flattened into about 20cm discs and left to dry on walls of houses, fences or low rooves. Once dry, these yak patties too are stored away as additional fuel for winter heating. There is no vehicular access to this high altitude country. All food, building materials and equipment must be brought in by yak, donkey or human transport. They face long distances, at high altitudes, on steep cliffs and across incredibly long spanned suspension bridges swaying high over loud, fast flowing rivers. As you can imagine, this poses many obstacles to daily life as everything you want must make this same perilous journey.





Such a different environment yet with so many similarities to Australia. We even ran into a young 15 year old boy who had dropped out of school to begin the hard life of carrying and transporting products that are nearly double his own body weight because he didn't like the fact that his teacher had confiscated his phone during class! Social, religious, cultural and environmental differences are significant but underlying teaching issues are still the same, even on the other side of the world.

Yaks are very important to the farmer. They are a considerable initial outlay but as they can work productively for up to 30 years, this is a good investment for the farmer. Yaks plough fields, transport goods, provide milk.

As in Australia, many farmers have to have outside work to supplement their income. They will often go away for 6 to 12 months taking on the role of porters during trekking season leaving behind their wives and families to manage the farm whilst they are away. Produce from the farm is mainly used for their own consumption and any excess is sold at a bountiful number of Saturday markets. There is quite an exchange of product between low and high altitude produce at these markets. To increase revenue, many farmers have realised if the 'value add' they can significantly improve their sales and will use their yak milk to produce cheese, spin and knit yak wool and are turning out other products that appeal both to locals and tourists.



## PIG TALES

When I began at Crestwood last year, all the year 9 students were clamouring for THE PIG. I was a bit too new to Agriculture, and the school, to do anything in 2014 but determined that I would 'lift my game' and carry on with the Crestwood tradition for 2015.



I had discovered Dave Giblin at Chifley College, Bidwell Campus the year before and contacted him early in term 1. I was ready with a small covered pen about 4m x 3m and he had currently had Large Black piglets. We took a 4 week old female (just in case of boar taint) and the students chose the fairly obvious name of *Liquorice*.

She was such a delight. So cute and friendly and all the kids loved her. At first we kept track of her weight with one of my Year 9's holding her and standing on my bathroom scales, then re-weighing the student and subtracting to obtain the difference. Pretty quickly she became too heavy and too long to do this and so we resorted to the tape measure method.



Measure Heart Girth in metres	1.270
Square this number to get Girth Result	$1.270 \times 1.270 = 1.6129$
Multiply Girth Result by Length in metres	$1.6129 \times 1.020 = 1.6452$
Multiply the result by 69.3 to get live weight in kilograms	$1.645158 \times 69.3 = 114$

A little convoluted, I know, but the kids quickly knew the routine and would pull out their phones to do the calculations and they always proved accurate.

Liquorice loved diving into her water trough for a swim - until she became too big. And of course would then like a nice dry area to lay down in to relax.

We fed her pellets daily and I would go 'dumpster diving' every second day to the bins of a local fruit market before school and come back with amazing 'treats' for our piglet. She was especially keen on watermelon, rice, milk and would munch and slurp her way through her big, yellow container of fresh food and leftovers.



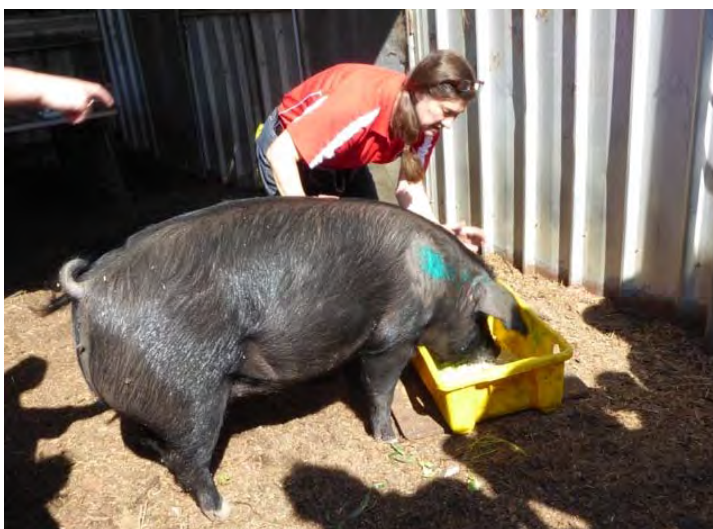
She grew and continued to entertain us all. She enjoyed playing 'chasings' and would absolutely 'die' for a 'tummy tickle' that students were only too keen to give her.

In the first week of term 2 we had all that rain. Crestwood was closed to students for 2 days due to the inundation of water into classrooms and I had to find some way to get our animals out of the pools that their regular housing had now become. I made rabbit enclosures from desks turned on their sides in the classroom. Put up extra roosts and moved food and water up higher for the chickens and made a boat out of an upturned tractor roof and then anchored it for Liquorice. She was so happy to get out of the 30cm high river that was running through her pen and into the thick, dry sawdust lining her new home.

About 3 weeks later, we discovered that she had developed worms. This area had housed pigs a couple of years before and worm eggs must have been brought up with the rising flood waters. We drenched Liquorice and moved her into a clean shed and began daily removal of any waste.

We knew that once a pig was over 90kg we would have a problem finding somewhere that would slaughter and butcher her. Also, in NSW, any animals over 25kg going to abattoir now require a PigPass number and shoulder brand/tattoo. We had to obtain a new PigPass number - not really too difficult and the people were lovely at Local Land Services. Then the only abattoir within cooee that would take her at this size was down at Wollondilly.

We had to tattoo our farm number onto Liquorice before she would be accepted at the abattoir. The school already had the striker and I just had to purchase some fresh ink. I looked up on Google what to do and practiced at home the night before. Year 9



were all ready. We inked up the striker and I swung with gusto. But the tattoo did not appear to have penetrated properly. Students then trimmed the hair to form a clear 15cm square area and I struck more convincingly the second time. She was ready for market.

It took an hour to get our 150kg pig onto the trailer and head off. Of course, clever girl that she was, she got her nose under the trailer gate and lifted it up off its hinges and fell out onto Norwest Blvd in peak hour traffic. Police and Fire arrived due to the disruption to traffic and a whole other saga ensued to get her back and continue on to Wollondilly abattoir.

The butcher had not had a pig of her size for about 10 years. Apparently a 150kg pig would usually only yield about 20% meat due to their high fat content. We were very pleased as Liquorice yielded just over 50% meat.



**They have a very neat system.** You deliver the pig to Wollondilly and select which butcher you wish to use and they will organise transport from abattoir to butcher. The butcher pays for the slaughter and transport and then you pay butcher all at once for all fees including butchering.

I went out to Lluddenham to collect the meat and Wow! even to a vegetarian, the smell from the bacon and sausages was AMAZING!! Two days later we had a big BBQ for all Ag students. They paid \$2 to be included (either 'Eating Liquorice or No Liquorice) and I fired up the BBQ to cook sausages, bacon and the ribs that I had marinated overnight. I supplied BBQ and Tomato sauce but most did not use as they said the flavour was so fantastic.

I have now sold off the rest of her bacon, sausages, ribs and roasts and this has covered the cost of slaughter and butchering. Reports back from teachers has been extremely positive. I was concerned that some of the roasts would be too fatty - but apparently all was good.

Difficult, when you can't confirm yourself and have to rely on others. But NOTHING can beat the involvement that all Ag students and especially Year 9 got from raising a cute little piglet all the way through to slaughter and consumption.

Many of you have probably raised pigs before and in a far more organised and sensible manner. However, for a first timer with no one to guide me, **I LOVED it and so did the kids.** I would DEFINITELY do this again.

**The changes I would make for next time.** Liquorice was so easy to train - really just like a dog. I think I would have put her on a lead and allowed students to take her for walks through the school. Exercise and more involvement with students not doing Agriculture. I would have taken the time and used more of Ashley's resources. I just did not have the time to review them before hand and they were very good. The industry resources available from APL on line are amazing! However, I did not have access to a computer and projector at this time and could not take advantage of them.

**And for those who have not studied pigs in real life. Do it. It is not that difficult. If I can do it, then anyone can and the rewards for the whole Agriculture department are incredible.**

Robbie Ashhurst







**Selected snippets from the June to October PIEFA Newsletters. The reference page for all PIEFA Newsletters is: <http://www.piefa.edu.au/pagesarchives/newsletters.htm>**

### **2016 Primezone Partner Schools - Call for EOIs**

Applications are now open for schools to apply to be one of 12 Primezone Partner Schools. Funded through PIEFA as part of the Department of Education's 'Agriculture in Education' program, successful schools will receive \$10,000 in funding to support Food and Fibre education programs. In return for this funding schools will need to:

- Trial PIEFA's Agriculture in Education Units within their school context and complete the necessary feedback survey
- Host 3 Professional Learning sessions for teachers in their school and school cluster promoting their own Food and Fibre education program and the Agriculture in Education resources
- Attend and present at a state or national teacher education conference to share their work
- Share any resources developed as part of the funding received.

To apply, interested schools will need to complete a short [EXPRESSION OF INTEREST](#) form outlining their school, their existing programs and how they would use the funding.

For more information about the program please contact [ceo@piefa.edu.au](mailto:ceo@piefa.edu.au)

### **PIEFA 2016 'Food and Fibre Matters' Conference**

PIEFA is pleased to announce that [REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN](#) for our conference to be held in Canberra from 1 - 3 May 2016. This landmark conference pulls together key international leaders in food and fibre education for the first time in the one conference. Truly an event not to be missed. Sponsorship and display tables are also available.



The PIEFA conference has become the lead conference for food and fibre education in Australia. With the Australian curriculum in the final stages of implementation nationally and the issues of climate change and food security at the forefront of the national agenda, there's never been a better time to improve our students understanding of food and fibre production.

### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

#### **Teachers and Educators**

There are 168 compulsory examples of food and fibre production in the national curriculum. Learn from the best and gain access to the best resources in the country to help you implement them in the classroom. (NOTE: Participating teachers will be issued with a certificate of attendance in accordance with the 'Proficient' standards of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. Teachers who chose to present a workshop session will be issued with a certificate in accordance with the 'Highly Accomplished' standards. See [website](#) for more details).

### **Industry**

Find out how teachers and students are learning about food and fibre production and learn how your industry can build links with teachers to create meaningful engagement with students.

### **Government**

Discover how you can implement food and fibre education at system level and experience a one-off opportunity to hear from five international experts in the field.

Opportunities exist for speakers and presents from all three areas to share their resources, programs, knowledge and experience before an exclusive and influential audience. A call for these will be issued very soon!

### **CONFERENCE SPONSORS**

PIEFA is pleased to announce the following organisations as conference sponsors:

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources  
Rabobank  
Murray Darling Basin Authority  
RuralBiz Training

### **REGISTRATION**

Remember, you can register online NOW for our Conference. Thanks to the generosity of PIEFA sponsors, our 2016 Conference represents excellent value for money.

Register by 29 February 2016:  
\$350 per delegate

Register from 1 March 2016:  
\$400 per delegate

Your registration includes:

- One ticket to the Welcome Reception at the Burbury Hotel on the Sunday night before Conference.
- The two-day Conference - including access to plenary sessions, keynote speeches, workshops, lightning sessions and display area (trade fair).
- All catering during the Conference, including morning and afternoon teas, and lunch.

Please note tickets to the Conference Dinner can be purchased separately for \$80.00 each, which includes a complimentary drink on arrival.

[Register Now](#)

### **PIEFA and Career Harvest join forces**

PIEFA and Career Harvest have formed a national alliance to service the career education needs of primary industries. The collaboration will provide a range of outcomes including development of resources for teachers and students, professional development opportunities for teachers, and promotion of careers in primary industries.

More Information at <http://www.careerharvest.com.au/news/piefa-and-career-harvest-form-alliance/>

### **PIEFA changes its email address**

In a move that will undoubtedly reduce the incidents of RSI across the country, PIEFA has changed its web address to [www.piefa.edu.au](http://www.piefa.edu.au). The email domain name has also been updated to reflect the change. Our CEO Ben Stockwin can now be contacted at [ceo@piefa.edu.au](mailto:ceo@piefa.edu.au). While we will continue to receive emails sent to the former domain, we ask you to note the change.



## PIPS pages get a refresh

We've given the Primary Industries Partnerships in Schools (PIPS) toolkit page a refresh, with improved navigation in a mobile friendly format. The PIPS toolkit includes resources to assist build links between agribusiness and school classrooms to open up a wide range of career opportunities in Australia's primary industries.

More Information at <http://www.piefa.edu.au/pips/index.html>

## Get social with PIEFA!

Have you connected with PIEFA on social media yet? We have a [Facebook](#) page and we're on [Twitter](#). We share news, events and information on food and fibre education from around Australia. Please connect with us, like and share!

## Resources on Primezone

### Agriculture in Education resources a hit with teachers

In May we launched the new Agriculture in Education resources. Teachers who trialled the materials have endorsed the resources as relevant, rigorous and engaging with 100% of teachers saying they increased their understanding of both the Australian Curriculum and the primary industries sector, 94% of teachers said their students found the subject matter engaging and 100% said they would recommend the resource to a colleague.

View the resources at <http://www.piefa.edu.au/units/index.htm>

### Exploring the production and marketing of seafood

#### Year 9 - 10, Design and Technologies, Science

This unit consists of five inquiry teaching sequences about seafood production and marketing in Australia. The unit encourages students to investigate and make judgements about the production and marketing of seafood. It explores the variety of technologies and methods used by the wild-catch and aquaculture industries to catch or farm seafood. It also explores the challenges and opportunities that exist in seafood production in Australian and overseas contexts, including depletion and recovery of fish stocks, developing new aquaculture technologies, consumer perceptions, and media coverage

View the resources at <http://www.piefa.edu.au/units/index.html#910>

## School News

### Perth metropolitan high schools' primary pitch

Traditionally food and fibre programs have attracted an early childhood audience, but high schools are making it a priority to engage with upper primary audiences who may then be attracted to their agriculture programs. [Kiara College](#) and [Kelmescott SHS](#) are tailoring their programs for different year group's curriculum needs. Alysia Kepert, curriculum consultant, Agricultural Education said "In WA, year 7s have now moved into high school which has reduced the primary audience, so it was a prime opportunity to look at how the program could be more effective. In addition, we are moving away from a one-off excursion experience to a package that teachers can deliver pre- and post-visit to consolidate student learning about food and fibre".

*Teacher Brian Schneider talking about the health and welfare of young chickens with Mt Pleasant Primary School children*



Year 6 Mt Pleasant Primary School students trialled the new delivery and content related mostly to the biological science descriptor of the Australian Curriculum. Mt Pleasant PS is a 2015 Primezone partner school located 10km south of Perth CBD.

### **Murrumburrah High School (NSW) takes on the STEM challenge**

[Murrumburrah High School](#) is a small rural high school working hard to promote agriculture as a worthwhile and exciting career option. As a PIEFA Primezone School, as well as a school chosen for STEM in NSW, Murrumburrah High School will be trialling a STEM unit that crosses over the faculties of Mathematics, TAS and Science. Students are beginning to realise that agriculture encompasses a wide range of disciplines and skill sets. It is hoped that by showing students the need to involve multi disciplines in solving problems, their appreciation of the subjects and range of opportunities available will expand. It is envisaged that the trial program will then be adopted as one of the subjects covered in stage 4 and chosen by stage 5 students as an elective. This will then demonstrate to students the need to take subjects in stage 6 that will lead them towards more STEM related careers and further education upon graduating from high school.



*Murrumburrah High School students will benefit from a trial of subjects that combine their school's selection as a PIEFA Primezone School and STEM school.*

### **Farrer Agricultural High School (NSW) fosters future lamb industry leaders**

The White Suffolk sheep flock at Tamworth's [Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School](#) provides students with hands-on livestock skills, self-confidence and knowledge. The Year 10 Animal Management students are actively involved in stud breeding decisions and management, ranging from routine chores of feeding, vaccinating, drenching and crutching through to genetic selection, artificial insemination, pregnancy scanning, data collection and DNA testing. Students are also responsible for compiling the sale catalogue and conducting the sale each September. The flock's management calendar is structured to fit around the students to ensure they are able to undertake or be directly involved in each and every activity. Agriculture is a compulsory subject for all students in Years 7 to 10, and an elective subject for Years 11 and 12. Aside from prime lambs and wool science, students can also study agronomy, beef management, dairying and horticulture. [View the full Article here.](#)

### **Primezone School Profile: [Brewongle Environmental Education Centre](#) (NSW)**

In 2015, 12 schools received funding from PIEFA as part of the Australian Government Department of Education's 'Agriculture in Education' program. Each month we will profile one of our 'Primezone Partner Schools.'

Brewongle Environmental Education Centre embraces themes of environment, sustainability, indigenous values among many others. They are a school run by the NSW Department of Education and provide curriculum based programs for all schools and students from K-12 in the Western Sydney Region. Their vision is to deliver focused, relevant, world class, engaging sustainability education programs.

The centre designs and implements relevant and contemporary teaching and learning programs within the context of the natural, cultural and built environments. There is a strong emphasis on student centred/inquiry based learning programs utilising a range of current information and communication technologies.

They are located in the forest above the rich Hawkesbury River valley at Sackville North about 25 minutes from Windsor.



They run several food and fibre based programs including an agricultural soils based program for HSC Earth and Environmental Science students at a local organic pig farm and a soon to be developed 'Ag Mystery' program for stage 5 Agriculture students.

## Sales success for Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School

Last month we introduced you to Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School where a White Suffolk sheep flock provides students with hands-on livestock skills, self-confidence and knowledge. In September, the Year 10 Wool Science class conducted Farrer's 21st Annual White Suffolk Ram Sale. Farrer offered 60 rams for sale and we're happy to report they had a 100% clearance rate and received a top price of \$17,000. Students sold rams to 10 studs across NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

[More Information](#)

## Industry News

### VIDEO: Queensland Beef – World-class quality for global markets

The Queensland government has released a video highlighting the importance of that State's beef industry. The size and diversity of the beef industry, combined with high standards in biosecurity, food safety, animal welfare and environmental management positions Queensland to deliver world-class quality for global markets.

[Watch the Video here](#)

### Quiz: How much do you know about Australian food production?

Australian fresh food production is valued at more than \$42 billion annually and contributes millions of export dollars to the Australian economy. ABC Rural has developed this short quiz to test your knowledge of Australian food production.

[Take the quiz](#)

### Rabobank Farm Experience Program (FX) launched

Rabobank FX is an educational program giving city school students the opportunity to stay on a farm. FX aims to give students the opportunity to experience food and fibre industries and learn about career opportunities while experiencing the rural lifestyle first hand, working on a farm for a week and attending various related agribusinesses.

For [more information](#)

### Agriculture & law graduates earning equivalent starting salaries

The University of Queensland's Dean of Agriculture, Professor Neal Menzies has been in the media recently after telling delegates at the National Horticulture Convention that with less than 800 graduates for more than 4000 jobs, agriculture graduates are starting their careers on the same salary as graduate lawyers. This shortage of candidates also means agriculture graduates have a wide range of career options. However, Professor Menzies warned that agriculture has a poor record at attracting tertiary graduates meaning the workforce is not as highly educated as the rest of the community.

[For more information](#)

### Raise your forks Australia!

From Farm to Fork, an initiative of Landcare Australia, is a campaign all about getting together to enjoy Australian food by hosting a feast or taking part in a fresh living challenge, while raising funds in supporting farmers and helping educate kids about where food comes from.

[For more information](#)



## New App connects local farmers

The new Paddock to Plate App connects local farmers to ingredient lists needed to make nutritious recipes and reduce food miles. Each farmer has a profile on the App making it easy to learn more about how they produce their food and contact them with questions. Founder of From Paddock to Plate, Louise FitzRoy said the purpose of the interactive food education hub, which includes a national Schools Program alongside the App, is to help educate people about where food comes from, build support for Australian farmers, inspire careers in agriculture and encourage healthy eating. The Paddock to Plate App is free to download in the Apple App Store and on Android.

## Behind the News - Quarantine Questions

With Johnny Depp back in the news recently, students may be wondering why all the fuss about two dogs? This story from Behind the News explains why Biosecurity is so important to Australia and Australian agriculture in particular.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## NSW Department of Primary Industries Schools Program

NSWDPI has established a school programs team to increase the profile of agriculture, biosecurity and careers in NSW schools. The team has adopted the theme "Safe food starts in the paddock and ends on your plate" in order to put agriculture and biosecurity on the learning agenda for the State's primary and secondary school students. The education officers, Michelle Fifield and Jess Fedorow based at Orange and Jo Hathway at Tocal, are developing high-quality teaching material and professional development opportunities for NSW teachers. Please contact the schools team at [schools.program@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:schools.program@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or visit their [WEBSITE](#) for more information.

## NEW! Science and technology resources from Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia has released five new educational posters. They cover modern Australian cotton production practices, sustainability measures, the field to fashion process and where cotton is grown in Australia. Posters are currently being printed but are now available on the [website](#). The new Australian Cotton Story video for high schools is now also available [online](#).

[MORE INFORMATION](#)





## **Media Release: 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2015**

### **PIEFA applauds Prime Minister's innovative focus on the teaching of STEM**

The Chair of PIEFA, Dr Cameron Archer AM, welcomed yesterday's launch by the Prime Minister of the National Innovation and Science Agenda statement, for its focus on the importance on the development of resources and the need quality teaching related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects in schools.

"It is extremely encouraging to see the Prime Minister put a focus on the teaching and learning of STEM in schools," Dr Archer said. "The food and fibre sector continues to be a mainstay of the Australian economy through its ability to continually innovate and invent using STEM skills. Maintaining and developing the capacity to continue to do so is a key challenge for the sector as is its ability to attract young persons to the enter the industry."

A survey by PIEFA in 2012 sent a warning that this capacity is under threat through a combination of a lack of knowledge and understanding of the modern food and fibre industries. Among some disturbing findings were the figure that;

- Only 55% of students surveyed linked innovation to food and fibre production
- Only 43% of students linked science to food and fibre production

To assist in reversing this PIEFA has played a pivotal role in working with the Australia Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to ensure that there is appropriate content in the curriculum to support the teaching and learning of STEM and has recently, with the support of the federal Department of Education, developed and released a range of resources to support the, now, 168 content descriptions within the curriculum.

PIEFA CEO Ben Stockwin explains, "The vast majority of food and fibre production outcomes within the Australian curriculum are within STEM subjects. In fact a number of states, such as NSW and Queensland, teach the subject of Agriculture as either a Technology or Science subject."

A \$48 million commitment to the teaching and learning of STEM in schools is strongly applauded by PIEFA, who stands ready to assist in its implementation.

#### **Contacts:**

**Dr. Cameron Archer AM, Chair**  
**Mr Ben Stockwin, CEO**

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[www.primezone.edu.au](http://www.primezone.edu.au)



**AgVision 2016** will be held at Junee High School on Wednesday 7 September 2016. Make sure to get it on to your school calendars and we look forward to seeing you all again on that date. More information to follow in the New Year.

Contact: Elaine Bunyan, Careers Adviser  
 Junee High School - 02 6924 1666  
[elaine.bunyan@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:elaine.bunyan@det.nsw.edu.au)

The **NSW Soil Knowledge Network** have released 5 new short videos describing the Iconic Soils of NSW. They are:

<a href="#">Black Vertosol</a>	<a href="#">Yellow Sodosol</a>	<a href="#">Podosol</a>	<a href="#">Red Dermasol</a>	<a href="#">Red Chromosol</a>
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### Keeping Poultry in Schools

Nine [videos](#) on the basics of keeping poultry in schools, produced by the Poultry CRC. They include choosing birds, housing, feeding, watering, management, health and preparing birds for show.

### Country Education Foundation of Australia

The [CEF 2016 Tertiary Scholarships Guide](#) for Rural and Regional Students is now bigger and better than ever before. It contains hundreds of scholarships and grants from more than 20 partner universities and scholarship providers across Australia. It has been prepared by the CEF to help students access financial support for tertiary study.

### New Principal for Tocal College

Darren Bayley has been announced as the new Principal of Tocal College. Making sure more young people pursue a career in agriculture is one of his top priorities. [Learn more about Mr Bayley](#) and his intentions to build on the strong foundations of Tocal College.



## Local rural leaders to claim up to \$25,000 in Grants

Wednesday 28 October, 2015

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Foundation is on the search for young, motivated leaders in rural areas who are looking to improve their community through local projects.

Funding of up to \$25,000 will be available for Community Futures Grants, a program for NSW residents aged 35 and under, which encourages young people in rural areas to take a leadership role in improving their local community.

Now in its eighth year, the Community Futures Grant has gifted over \$425,000 to projects across NSW and will commit a further \$90,000 in 2016. The majority of funds were raised during the Sydney Royal Easter Show, with a large portion coming from the sold out Ag Bag, the Foundation's very own Australian produce Showbag.

RAS Foundation Executive Officer Kate Ross said the Community Futures Grants have the potential to galvanise a town and make a real difference.

"We're proud to say at the Foundation we've genuinely been able to make a difference in rural NSW communities and bind them together with projects that provide tangible assets and outcomes," said Ms Ross.

"Over the last seven years, we've granted 24 NSW communities with funding and now we're on the search for the next leaders and towns with big and small aspirations. If you've got a great idea and would like to make a difference in your community, submit your application to us at the RAS Foundation," Kate Ross said.

Applications for the Community Futures Grant will be judged on several criteria including innovation, impact on the community and plans for implementation. Applicants must identify an existing community organisation or group to partner with to deliver their project. Eligible entrants must be 35 years or under on 1 May, 2016 and projects must be located in rural or regional NSW.

Communities have greatly benefited from the Grant and some excellent projects have been funded, including a mobile agricultural workshop in Coonamble, a natural outdoor play space in Gulargambone, a community arts hub and street rejuvenation in Trundle, and construction of a multipurpose community building in Comboyne.

Interested applicants are encouraged to visit [www.rasnsf.com.au/grants](http://www.rasnsf.com.au/grants) to find out more about the grant and to complete the online application form.

**Applications close at 5pm on 6 December, 2015** and the recipients will be announced at the 2016 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

< ENDS >

### About the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Foundation:

The RAS Foundation is a charitable foundation that encourages educational opportunities and helps build strong and sustainable rural and regional communities through a range of targeted grants and scholarships.

Visit [www.rasf.org.au](http://www.rasf.org.au) for more information on the RAS Foundation.

For further information, including high resolution images, please contact:  
James Riordan – Public Relations Manager  
M: 0419 483 407 | P: (02) 9704 1222 | E: [jriordan@rasnsw.com.au](mailto:jriordan@rasnsw.com.au)





## A new Superb Parrot website for the community monitoring program!

Earlier this year colleagues in Queanbeyan developed a new Superb Parrot website to provide people interested in the Superb Parrot an opportunity to exchange information about the species, particularly the community monitoring programs, but across a broader geographic range. This website allows people to post and share observations and photographs with everyone who accesses the website.

This page also provides opportunity for you to record your sightings of Superb Parrots. Have a look here: <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/superb-parrot>

Feel free to share the link with your family, friends and work colleagues so they can find out more about the Superb Parrot.

### A few rules for the website

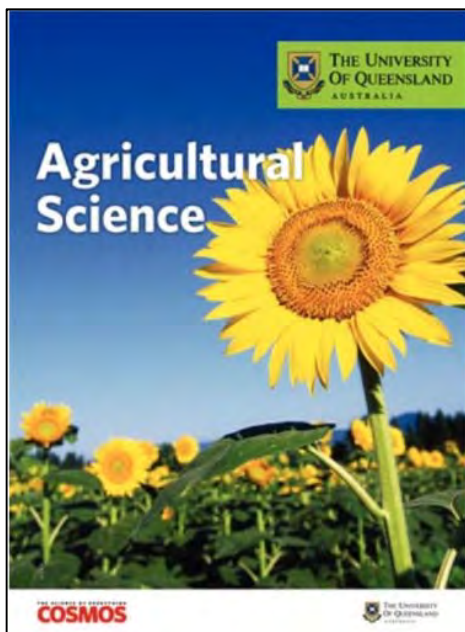
You will need to register your email address to share your stories, and we will also have to check and accept them before they are published. This is a precaution we need to take so nothing inappropriate is posted on the website which is standard internet protocol. We can also open or close your posts for comments, let us know if you wish us close your stories off for comment. We will also make a judgement on how appropriate any comments are to make sure our website stays family friendly and focussed on the life and times of the Superb Parrot.

Feedback about this website is welcome – is it useful, easy to use, or not? We look forward to hearing from you via the website!

Regards,

David Parker  
Senior Threatened Species Officer  
Ecosystems and Threatened Species - South West Region  
Regional Operations Group, Office of Environment & Heritage  
PO Box 1049 Griffith NSW 2680  
Ph: 02 6966 8120 || Mob: 0428 620 104

## Discover Agricultural Science



The Agricultural Science study guide is an initiative of the University of Queensland, designed to help high school teachers engage and involve their students.

Sustainable agriculture is vital to the future of Australia. It will feed and clothe the nation into the next century. This study guide will allow teachers to help their students explore the many scientific areas that support sustainable agriculture.

[Click here](#) to download the digital version of *Agricultural Science*.

[Click here](#) for information on Careers with Code



## International Year of Soils



2015 is the International Year of Soils. Soil underlies the production of food, resources for building and many fundamental aspects of civilisation.

Soil is non-renewable and must be studied, understood and nurtured like any other limited resource.

Visit the [FAO](#) site for free educational resources.

[Click here](#) to download educational material, fact sheets, infographics and posters.

## Ag Teacher Wanted

Barham high school is looking for an Ag teacher for 2016. If you know of anyone, could you please contact them.

They are looking for a teacher qualified in Agriculture with other qualifications that would assist them in teaching, possibly industrial technology for 2016

The suitable applicant would have to have Agriculture as a subject qualified to teach as this would enable them to undertake retraining in Primary Industries, (If they have PI qualifications even better.) It is anticipated the teaching load would be:

Stage 6	VET PI
Stage 5	Ag
Yr 8	Ag
Yr 7	Ag
Stage 5	Timber classes x2
Yr 7	Tech Mandatory
Yr 8	Tech Mandatory

Barham is a 6 point school which also attracts a 70% rental subsidy and there is accommodation available. Barham is 3.5hrs from Wagga/Albury and Melbourne.

If you know of anyone can you ask them to contact:

Brendan Yu (HT - TAS/PDHPE)	<a href="mailto:brendan.yu1@det.nsw.edu.au">brendan.yu1@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	0428 532 899
OR		
Glenn Buchanan (Principal)	<a href="mailto:glenn.buchanan@det.nsw.edu.au">glenn.buchanan@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	0490 023 777

## Blair announces Hurlstone Agricultural High to be based in Richmond from 2020

By NICK HEYDON: Nov. 18, 2015, 12:52 p.m.

### THE LAND



National Party MLC and former Hawkesbury Agricultural College student Rick Colless, Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair, Member for Hawkesbury Dominic Perrottet (at rear), and Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli and Western Sydney University vice-chancellor Professor Barney Glover (at front).

**HURLSTONE** Agricultural High School will be based at Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury campus from 2020. Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli and Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair announced the plan at the Richmond campus today. More than \$35 million will be provided for the new school, while more than \$30 million will be provided to upgrade the existing site at Glenfield to create a new educational precinct.

Mr Piccoli said the new Hurlstone Agricultural High School would be a state of the art high school, with years 7 to 12 "on the site of perhaps one of the most historic universities with respect to agriculture in Australia".

*"This is the single biggest investment in school agricultural education in this state's history."*

- Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli.

Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury campus was originally Hawkesbury Agricultural College, which was established in 1891. "Today is an absolutely historic announcement about the future provision of agricultural education in this state - this is the single biggest investment in school agricultural education in this state's history," he said.

"Hawkesbury has an incredibly long history in terms of teaching agriculture, and to have a state of the art high school here is going to be one of the things that really drives agricultural education in the 21st century." He said the announcement was not only about agricultural education, "but also a massive investment in classrooms across South Western Sydney".

Western Sydney University vice-chancellor Professor Barney Glover said this move was set to bring together "two of NSW's most important and long-standing agricultural institutions, representing an important renewal of progression of a proud agricultural education tradition". The new Hurlstone is set to cater for up to 1500 students, and will be an academically selective agriculture school, also offering boarding facilities.

This is not the first move for Hurlstone; it was established in 1907 at Summer Hill before moving to the current Glenfield site in 1926.

It will be based on seven hectares of land at Western Sydney University, and will be able to have access to 1400ha of farming land.

As for the Glenfield site, a new selective high school is set to be established catering for more than 1000 students, and there will also be land set aside for a new primary school. About 140ha of surplus land at the Glenfield site is set to be sold to provide additional housing in the area and to make the project possible.

In addition, it was announced that more than \$100 million will be provided to allow for an additional 180 classrooms in South Western Sydney, achieved through upgrades to additional schools and the creation of new schools.



## Forget cancer: the worst thing about bacon is that it used to be a pig

Paul Sheehan

*The Sydney Morning Herald*

October 28, 2015

It's no surprise that processed meat can cause cancer. But what we need to hear about is the process of where our meat comes from.

Our neighbours love bacon. On most mornings, the smell wafts up to my attic bedroom. It is a glorious smell, yet bacon is never on my menu. When I smell bacon I think of the piglet and the potato chips.

There is a video on YouTube of a [piglet eating potato chips](#). It squeals with delight when each chip is offered. The chip is then consumed with a symphony of grunts of pleasure. You can only love that piglet.



A pig in a sow stall: The industrial scale processing of pigs, chickens and cattle would appal most people if they were exposed to the process. Photo: Aussie Farms

Years ago, I began to navigate the gap between the smell of bacon and the lives of piglets. This gap is the process that leads to a pig becoming bacon.

As the saying goes, when it comes to a breakfast of bacon and eggs, the chicken is involved but the pig is committed.

Because I have a good idea about what happens between those characterful pigs and pork meat, I gave up eating meat. It was an incremental moral process which started 10 years ago and is now complete. I eat fish, lots of fish, but no red meat or pork, and no chicken unless it is the only option.

Pigs are full of character and most breeds will readily become a part of a human family if allowed to, yet what the Australian people have tolerated for decades – pigs being raised for consumption in sow stalls in which they can barely move – is a stain on our nation.

Australia is bipolar when it comes to the treatment of animals. We have one of the world's most entrenched systems of factory farming, where industrial scale processing of pigs, chickens and cattle would appal most people if they were exposed to the process, co-existing with one of the world's highest rates of animal companionship.

Almost two out of every three Australian households, 63 per cent, include at least one animal, 33 million of them, according to the RSPCA. This is almost 10 million more than the human population.

Almost 40 per cent of households include a dog, there are about 4.2 million of them, and 29 per cent of households have a cat.

They all certainly make their presence felt, as every animal owner can attest. Our household has changed this year since a little cat decided he wanted to live with us. His needs begin early and end late.

I now suffer from cat lag.

I have also started visiting the horse owned by the woman who sells me my cat food. When she bought the horse its owner was crying, and this is how she described her first encounters with her new horse: "He stood at the corner of his vast pasture screaming for her and holding vigil at the gate, waiting for days for her to come and fuss over him."

I go and feed him apples. Fortunately, he is not a racehorse. If you knew what happens to most horses bred for racing who can't run fast enough, it would change the way you think about racing.

This is another way we casually avert our gaze from reality, for sake of convenience, cheap food, or entertainment.

We can no longer avert our gaze from the realities of the greyhound racing industry. It is so weighed down by revelations of systemic animal cruelty, in addition to the corruption that has long been associated with the sport, that it will have trouble surviving.

The demise of greyhound racing would be a marker of the social awakening that is gradually dismantling our selective amnesia about factory farming and commercial racing. We know things are bad, but most people don't want to know too much.

I was recently on a farm where two orphaned lambs had been rescued and raised at the homestead. They are named Polly and Lilly. They live on the paddock next to the house. When I went to visit, Polly and Lilly, now grown, ambled over to say hello. They are part of the family.

I don't eat lamb. And I grew up eating lamb for the Sunday roast, and regard it as the best of meats.

Chickens, we conveniently assume, are creatures with a very small brain, so it is fine to eat them without a thought. Our consumption of chicken has more than doubled to 40 kilograms a year over the past 35 years. But if you saw the conditions in which most chickens are kept, to keep costs down, you would be appalled.

Cheap meat always comes at a price, and the price is high for the animal involved.



# *Merry Christmas everyone*

