

B.A.A.T

Autumn Edition – No: 50
2016



N.S.W. Association of Agriculture Teachers Inc



www.nswaat.org.au

ABN Number: 81 639 285 642



President

Justin Connors
Manilla Central School
Wilga Avenue Manilla
NSW 2346
02 6785 1185
president.nswaat@gmail.com

Secretary

Carl Chirgwin
Griffith High School
Coolah St,
Griffith NSW 2680
02 6962 1711
CARL.CHIRGWIN1@det.nsw.edu.au

Treasurer

Graham Quintal
16 Finlay Ave
Beecroft NSW 2119
0422 061 477
treasurer.nswaat@gmail.com

Technology & Communication

Ian Baird
Young NSW
02 6382 7950
webmaster@nswaat.org.au

Ben Bowman
Scone High School
benbowman3@gmail.com

Georgina Price
Forbes High School
georgina.bolam1@det.nsw.edu.au

BAAT Editors

Erin O'Neill
Lake Cargelligo Central School
baat.editor@gmail.com

Robbie Ashurst
Crestwood High School
robbie.ashurst@det.nsw.edu.au

Email List Manager

Jashim Uddin (Broken Hill HS)
jashim.uddin1@det.nsw.edu.au

SAAG Reps:

John Killeen (Bossley Park HS)
john.killeen1@det.nsw.edu.au

Kristina Hotson (Camden HS)
kristina.hotson@det.nsw.edu.au

EDMODO

Phil Armour (Yass High)
philip.armour@det.nsw.edu.au

Archivists

Tony Butler (Tumut High)
anthony.butler5@det.nsw.edu.au

Phil Hurst (Hawkesbury)
philhurst@bigpond.com

Nigel Cox (Singleton)
nigel.cox@det.nsw.edu.au

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President's Report

Once again a very busy quarter. I hope everyone had a good break and back ready to tackle another year.

I would like to take this opportunity to describe the benefits of the various TPL/conferences available to us. As you are all aware, TPL for Agriculture is limited, especially Institute registered TPL. Of late, the NSWAAAT has managed to register the past two conferences (Ballina 2015 and Perth 2016), with more on the agenda; a mini-conference and the biennial event, this time in Sydney 2017. Although these conferences are run in the holidays they are a great resource to all involved. Personally, running the conference in the holidays helps me convince the powers to be within my school to fund it, as they save money on casual bills. So don't be put off by losing a week, just treat it as a holiday. From memory we aligned 22.5hrs to Ballina and 34hrs to Perth, a real step forward to collecting your 50 hours every maintenance period (5 years).

The NAAE conference was held in south-western WA this year. A brilliant road trip touring through different farming regions and specialised Agricultural Colleges. Although our plans had to change due to unforeseen bushfire activity; it provided a sensational platform to learn from industry professionals and explore distant enterprises. I still can't fathom how they can grow crops on such sandy dry soils; amazing. The conference disguised an underlying mental health focus into its program, whereby guest speakers discussed valuable and insightful points about keeping your grey matter active and balanced within our ever increasing stressful environment. One little tip I took away was the use of audible books traveling to and from work, forcing your brain to disengage from the days happenings (especially handy for myself, as my wife loves to talk school to and from work). Overall, NSW was well represented with around 20 delegates out of the 110 attending. I especially loved the South African cuisine provided. Sensational! It was a brilliantly organised and executed conference, embracing a fantastic opportunity to network with colleagues from near and far. The next NAAE conference will be held in Tasmania Jan 2018. The organisers John and Liam are promising a great show traversing much of the country side, dining on all the local delights. Be sure to book early, and turn it into a holiday with a few days before or after making it a great excuse for a sizeable tax deduction.

While discussing conferences, our NSWAAAT Sydney conference is looming near, Jan 2017. Once again we will endeavour to register this with NSWIT providing valuable registered hours for your accreditation purposes. After speaking with organisers in Sydney, things are progressing well. Accommodation has been organised, sponsorship being sourced, bus tours arranged and ideas being explored. All on track for an exciting snapshot of Farming on the Fringe. Once again, spaces will be limited so book early once registrations are open.

With over a 100 members, we want our website to be more functional, therefore we are currently in the process of updating it to be more user-friendly and resourceful. Our plan is to unclutter the homepage and cluster resources into drop down boxes where members can access static programs, resources, assessments, specific dates of interest and upcoming competitions etc. Obviously as a collective group we all need to contribute so keep an eye on your emails and Facebook for when we are ready to upload.

Finally, I am running a small "mini conference" for new Ag teachers (less than 2 years' experience) in Week 8 Term 2 here in Tamworth. However, I am fearful that I will miss someone as the various Departments haven't been very forthcoming with details of new teachers. If you know of anyone who fits into this category, please email me their details ASAP. The goal of the conference is to create a support network amongst those teachers and a mentor base delivering some ideas and strategies for new teachers in their respective schools.

All the best.
Justin Connors

justin.j.connors@det.nsw.edu.au

0411 116 691



Membership

- Current Association Membership List

*as at
5 April 2016*

Financial until end	First Name	Surname	School
2016	Cassie	ANDERSON	St Paul's College
2016	Philip	ARMOUR	Yass High School
2016	Robbie	ASHHURST	James Ruse Agricultural High School
2016	Sunrae	BAILLIE	Great Lakes College, Forster Campus
2016	Susan	BEHAN	Denison College - Kelso High Campus
2016	Louise	BIANCHI	St Gregory's College, Campbelltown
2016	(William) David	BLOWES	Molong Central School
2016	Craig	BOURNE	Singleton High School
2017	Cathy	BREENE	Oakhill College
2016	Ali	BRIGGS	AgForce Queensland
2017	Deborah	BUNN	Galston High School
2016	Jennifer	CAINES	Mount Annan Christian College
2117	James	CAUGHEY	Hay War Memorial High School
2017	Dale	CHADWICK	Gundagai High School
2016	Gary	CHERRY	Tweed Valley Adventist College
2016	Carl	CHIRGWIN	Griffith High School
2016	Geoffrey	CLERKE	Caroline Chisholm College
2016	Stephanie	COLGAN	Red Bend Catholic College
2016	Justin	CONNORS	Manilla Central School
2017	Ben	COOMBES	Peel High School
2016	Elena	DAGHER	Bossley Park High School
2016	Alison	DAHLENBURG	St Frances de Sales Regional College
2016	Sophie	DAVIDSON	Cotton Australia
2016	Anita	DE LA MOTTE	Bomaderry High School
2017	Donna	DEAN	Vincentia High School
2017	Christine	DUVER	Woolgoola High School
2016	Nicole	DWYER	Gunnedah High School
2016	Susan	EARL	Red Bend Catholic College
2016	Nicole	EVANS	Arndell Anglican College
2017	Guy	FAHEY	Albury High School
2016	Leanne	FERGUSON	Orange Anglican Grammar
2016	Michelle	FIFIELD	NSW DPI
2017	Rob	FORSBERG	St Joseph's College
2017	Sarah	FOSTER	Dubbo Senior College Campus
2016	Ann	FRIZELL	CSU Student
2016	Teacher of Agriculture	GETT, Verity	Wee Waa High School
2016	Andrew	GILL	Medowie Christian School
2016	David	GILLARD	Wagga Wagga High School
2016	Justine	GREEN	CSU Student
2016	Lara	GRIFFIN	Pittwater High School
2017	Belinda	HAIGH	Dubbo School of Distance Education
2016	Adrian	HARRISON	St Gregory's College
2017	Teacher of Agriculture	HAWKINS, John	Wingham High School
2016	Colin	HAWTHORN	Red Bend Catholic College
2016	Callie	HEATH	Mulwaree High School
2016	Stuart	HEMMINGS	dotEdu Consulting
2016	David	HENRY	Karabar Distance Education Centre
2017	Kate	HERWIG	Lisarow High School
2017	Michael	HOLLAND	Scone Grammer School

Financial until end	First Name	Surname	School
2016	Teacher of Agriculture	HORLEY, Ken	Yeoval Central School
2016	Kristina	HOTSON	Camden High School
2017	Peter	HUMPHRIES	Deniliquin High School
2016	Grant	JACKSON	Gosford High School
2017	Tara	JANE	CSU Student
2016	Samantha	JARRETT	Mount View High School
2016	Jacquie	JOHNSON	Pre-Service Trainee Teacher
2019	Karen	JOHNSTON	Hurlstone Agricultural High School
2016	John	KILLEEN	Bossley Park High School
2017	Ilka	KLEPPER	Cootamundra High School
2016	Eliza	LANGFORD	Leumeah High School
2016	Hayley	MAHONEY	Chevalier College
2016	Teacher of Agriculture	MARITA, Sofia	Kingswood High School
2017	Melissa	MARSHALL	Moruya High School
2016	Diana	MARTIN	Murwillumbah High School
2016	James	McDONALD	Yass High School
2016	Jo	McHUGH	McCarthy Catholic College
2016	Jacqueline	McINTOSH	Crookwell High School
2016	Mick	MELINO	St Johns College
2017	Luciano	MESITI	Colo High School
2017	Christina	MIKAN	St Ignatius' College, Riverview
2016	Heidi	MITCHELL	Tamworth High School
2016	Megan	MROWKA	Dubbo College South Campus
2016	Bal	MUDLIAR	Hoxton Park High School
2016	Rochelle	MUTTON	Mackillop College
2016	Simone	NEVILLE	Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College
2016	Steven	NOAKES	Kadina High School
2016	Steve	NOTT	Carinya Christian School
2017	Trish	PEARCE	Trinity Anglican College
2016	Justine	PHILLIPS	Xavier College, Llandilo
2016	Kathleen	PLATTS	Jindabyne Central School
2016	Claire	POLOSAK	Pittwater High School
2017	Georgina	PRICE	Parkes High School
2017	Graham	QUINTAL	Retired
2016	Warwick	ROLFE	Hunter River High School
2016	Peter	RYAN	Nowra High School
2017	Natasha	SHANKELTON	Tullamore Central School
2016	Warwick	SHAW	Woodenbong Central School
2016	Kara	SHERWOOD	"The Islands"
2016	Nicole	SIMMONS	Warialda High School
2016	Kathy	SIMS	RuralBiz Training
2016	Leanne	SJOLLEMA	WA College of Agriculture, Cunderdin
2016	Brent	SMITH	Bulahdelah Central School
2016	Geoff	SMITH	Oakhill College
2017	Jade	SMITH	Dunedoo Central School
2016	Paul	SMITH	Cowra High School
2017	Rachel	SMITH	Trinity Catholic College
2016	Laura	SOUTHWELL	Karabar High School
2017	Teacher of Agriculture	STANFORD, Cassandra	Mudgee High School

Financial until end	First Name	Surname	School
2016	Edward	STEFANSKI	St Gregory's College
2017	Stuart	STOUT	Leeton High School
2016	Sarah	STREETER	CSU (Student)
2016	Katrina	THOMAS	Condobolin High School
2016	Laura	TOLLEY	Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
2016	Brian	TRENCH	Camden Park Env Ed Centre
2016	Katie	TWOMEY	James Ruse Agricultural High School
2016	Caroline	UNTERRHEINER	Tumbarumba High School
2016	Skye	VAN DEN BERGE	Marion College
2016	Jane	WALKER	Chatham High School
2016	Teacher of Agriculture	WALTERS, Bruce	Pennant Hills High School
2016	Sarah	WESTERWAY	Ulladulla High School
2017	Wayne	WHALE	St Paul's College
2016	Nigel	WHITE	Dubbo College Senior Campus
2018	Melissa	WILLCOCKS	Inverell High School
2016	Paul	WITHERS	Batlow Technology School
2018	Maurice	WOODMAN	Murray High School
2018	Beth	WORTHY	Sapphire Coast Anglican College
2017	Jan	YOUNG	Murrumburrah High School
2017	Nathan	ZINGA	Kinross Wolaroi School

E&OE (please advise the Treasurer)

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

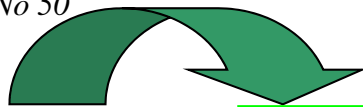
John	LEE
Robyn	O'LEARY
Gail	ROBERTS
Norm	ROBINSON
Trevor	SEWELL
Jenni	WILKINS

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)

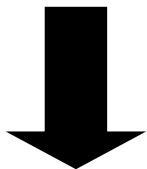
Affiliate Membership – (NAAE)

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



NSWAAT Autumn Muster

**A
g**



TREASURER

Graham Quintal

16 Finlay Ave
Beecroft NSW 2119
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,
or download it from the
[NSWAAT Website](http://www.nswaat.org.au)
&
send to the Association's
treasurer with your
payment.*

NSWAAT WEBSITE

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 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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NAAE Conference Pics



Ride'm Cowgirls



Not All Work and No Play



Kristina Liam Luke



Teachers are a lot like mushrooms....



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

THE ARCHIBULL PRIZE 2016 IS OPEN FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST YOUR SCHOOL CAN TURN CREATIVITY IN TO CASH COWS

Is your school looking for new opportunities for students to work together to meet the key learning area requirements?

Are you interested in a way for teachers to build cross-curriculum partnerships with other teachers?

We have the perfect program for you!

Expressions of Interest to participate in The Archibull Prize 2016 competition are now open for primary and secondary schools in the following areas: Sydney, Brisbane, and the regional NSW areas of the Hunter, Wollongong, Central NSW and the Riverina. Schools outside these regions are encouraged to contact Lynne Strong of Art4Agriculture for more information.

The Archibull Prize is a world renowned art and multimedia competition focusing on the theme of **'Feeding, Clothing and Powering a Hungry Nation is a Shared Responsibility'**.

Students investigate the biggest threats facing the future of farming in Australia (including climate change, declining natural resources, food waste and biosecurity) as well as the potential for farmers to power Australia with renewable energy.

Competing for cash prizes and the national title of Grand Champion, participating schools research a farming industry while creatively transforming life-size fibreglass cows into amazing agricultural inspired artworks.

Schools also create a suite of digital multimedia communications and are paired with Young Farming Champions who visit schools, taking the farm straight into the classroom.

Being a part of The Archibull Prize is a chance to put your school on the map, with the 2015 National Grand Champion winner, Matraville Sports High School's 'Cowch', now on display in the halls of the NSW Parliament.

Over the past five years The Archibull Prize has consistently shown that the students involved were deeply engaged in a range of learning experiences. Teachers saw the impacts first-hand of a successful combination of arts and multimedia activities, along with project-based learning across multiple key learning areas. Put simply, The Archibull Prize is a successful addition to any learning program.

Visit our website: <http://www.archibullprize.com.au/> and view past Archibull Winning Entries at <http://archibullprize.com.au/halloffame>

EMAIL YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Lynne Strong

E: archibull@art4agriculture.com.au | M: 0407 740 446



SAGE (*Sustainable Agriculture & Gardening Eurobodalla*) Helping Young People Grow Their Future



L-R: Gus Hyde, Kyle Levier, Brodie Carrington, Brianna Tuckey, Jarrod Davis, Paul Lanfear, Jemma Moretti, Kaitlin King, Darnica Kopt-Dart, Natasha Ralph, Mellissa Marshall, Maddy Fisk, Sophie Campbell

Increasingly, we are focussed on university as the main pathway to a satisfying career. That's certainly true for people inspired by those more traditional vocations, such as medicine, business, science and the like, but for many kids, those careers aren't for them. High schools are faced with the constant challenge of engaging these young people in their education and helping them find something to spark their interest in a possible career direction.

The NSW Department of Education runs a "School to Work" program, where schools can partner with local businesses or community groups to develop creative projects aimed at capturing these kids' imaginations with something a bit more left-field of the usual suspects of career choices.

Back in 2014, Tracey Hogg, the then Careers Advisor at the **Moruya High School** (now Deputy Principal), approached Sandra Makdessi, SAGE's Education Coordinator, with the idea of creating a program that would get students thinking about alternative career options by participating in a community gardening project. Exactly what the project would be, they didn't know yet, but they knew it was a great idea, so the funding for "Growing Your Future" was sourced and the school and SAGE started working out the details.

The premise of "Growing Your Future" – that growing food is a legitimate career option – was the perfect entry point for SAGE's involvement. The high school's Agricultural Studies classes have boomed in the last couple of years after teacher **Mellissa Marshall** joined the staff and began injecting her passion into the role. So within the school, there was already a growing interest in the idea of farming that SAGE could help nurture.

Not only that, this was exactly the sort of project SAGE likes: kids growing food. What's more, teenagers growing food. While SAGE is working on multiple fronts to reconnect our community with our food system and grow more growers, teenagers are normally a hard group to reach.



Kyle Levier mentored the students in the market garden they created from scratch

SAGE already has experience with encouraging agriculture as a career path, as we have been running our own Market Garden Intern program for three years now. In each of those years, we have trained and mentored a new vegetable grower and supported them to get established in our area. Kyle Levier was our inaugural intern back in 2013-14. He was an inspired first choice. His affable and amiable nature saw him through a very difficult year of being the guinea pig for an internship that is only now finding its feet.

While advice and help is always available, the intern is still very much in charge of their own learning. In 2013, the SAGE Garden was also still in its infancy and not yet fully functioning, so Kyle's learning curve was steep — but he handled it admirably. This made him the natural choice to be the project mentor.

By the middle of 2015, the project had taken shape. Original ideas of raising crops to sell at the farmers market were discarded when it was realised that the project needed a finish line — an event. The idea to hold a long table lunch for the students' families and friends on the weekend of the 2016 Southeast Harvest was agreed upon, giving the students a goal to aim for. The project would require multiple skills: planning, marketing, hospitality, cooking, creative writing, technology and more. With Kyle's and Mellissa's help, the students would have to prepare the soil, plant and maintain the crops, deal with unforeseen disasters, then turn all that work into an event — a manifest achievement.



Teacher Mellissa Marshall has reinvigorated the Agricultural Studies curriculum at the school

Next came the task of selecting the students. As the current MHS Careers Advisor Kimberley Eke put it,

“While we wanted to target disengaged students, we still wanted students to have enough motivation and drive to actually want to be there and to be able to learn something and take something away from the program.”

Students volunteer to participate in School to Work projects, which opens it up to all students, not just kids doing Agricultural Studies, but the school conducted an interview process to ensure the students involved really wanted to be involved. This was not going to be just an excuse to get out of Wednesday afternoon classes. It also meant the group had the required capabilities to cover all the different activities to complete the project. Senior students aren't on campus on Wednesdays, so students from Years 9 and 10 were selected.



Kyle brought along some of his tools for the students to try



Learning outside the classroom



These guys live on site and did a great job with helping prep the soil



They made some great compost



You don't see many market gardeners with black nail polish



Students formed up the beds by hand

Work began in earnest in Spring 2015. Kyle proved to be a natural with the students, as his enthusiasm for growing food clearly registered with them... which is saying something. With Kyle's instruction and Mellissa's supervision, the garden took shape in the school's ag plot and the crops went in. Over six months, soil was examined and tested, improved and amended, compost was made, beds were dug, seedlings were raised, planted out, weeded and maintained – even over the Summer holiday break. A menu was chosen and logistics for the long table lunch were planned. Finally, in the middle of March 2016, the surviving crops were harvested, prepped, cooked and served at a lunch for around 50 guests at the SAGE Garden.

Mellissa emphasised that the students themselves largely determined the structure of the project.

“The kids are designing it, because they’re the ones who are deciding what we’re growing and how [the lunch is] going to run, so they’re the ones who are going to have to decide when things are getting planted.”

Kyle was able to lead the students through each step of the process and draw on outside resources to help them, including expert advice from local soil guru Bruce Davison.

Within weeks of the project commencing, at least one student was inspired enough to start his own garden at home to replicate what the group was working on at the school’s garden. If that doesn’t sound like much, think again. This teenage boy realised that growing your own food is worthwhile for the sake of his and his mother’s health and wellbeing. That’s pretty huge and it’s this kind of work at the coalface that creates that kind of change. While chatting to another three students, they revealed a clear appreciation of the value of this sort of project, of working on something from scratch to three course meal. As one of the students said while turning compost, “It’s cool — like — seeing everything — like — come together, because in the actual classroom, you don’t do much, but with people who want to actually do this... stuff gets done.” Yeah. Totally.



Organised chaos



Harvest day – time to enjoy the fruits of all that labour



The school has a great Ag plot and aquaculture shed



Bean picking



Digging for carrots



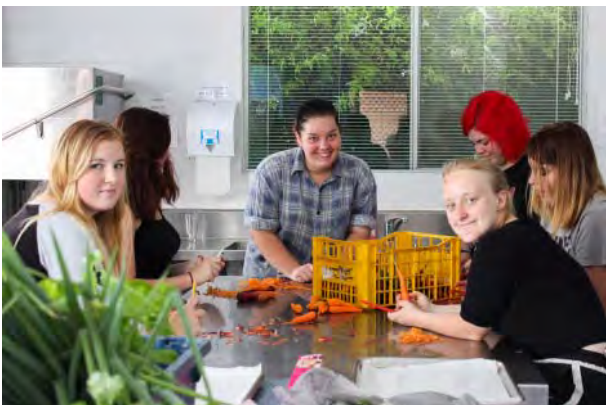
Colourful silverbeet



Beautiful carrots



Prep begins in the CWA Tea Rooms kitchen



Looking at the camera was not popular



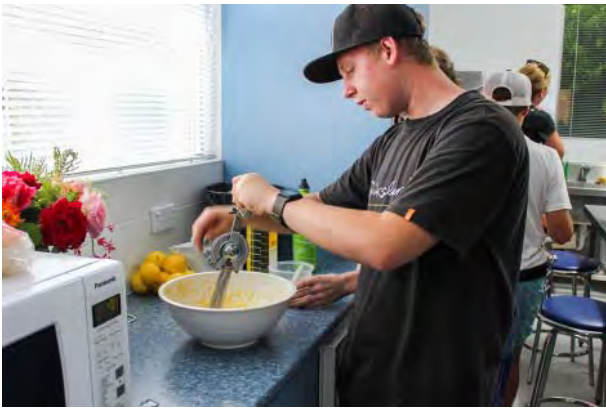
Fabulous green onions



The students were really engaged with the cooking



Batter for the fish some of the boys caught the night before



It's hard to be cool with a mixer in your hand

The “Growing Your Future” students were from Years 9 and 10, so thoughts of agriculture as a career were nebulous at best, but there was a clear interest for the project or something similar to be transferred into the curriculum. Kyle’s contribution has triggered a tsunami of ideas for Mellissa to incorporate into future Ag Studies lesson plans. Those initial thoughts of growing food to sell at the farmers market might yet come to fruition. That’s something that excites Kyle. As he said,

“If we can demonstrate that hey, you can stay in the area, you can work for yourself, you can make an income from this if you do it right — like any small business — and you can surf or you can still go riding horses or whatever you want to do, and stay here with your family, there’s opportunity here.”

He added that being involved with food production isn’t all “airy-fairy” and about saving the world. “You really want kids to think ‘OK, I like growing vegies, how can I make an income from it? Could I have a market stall, could I supply a catering business...?’ You really want them to consider it as an income stream.”

Teenagers typically don’t want to give too much away (just getting them to look at a camera is a challenge), but at the SAGE Garden last Sunday, it was clear that this group were enjoying a real sense of achievement. From the early morning harvest at the school garden, to the chaos of preparing the food in the Moruya CWA Tea Rooms kitchen, to serving their guests, their enthusiasm and pride shone through.



Mellissa blanching the leafy greens



The boys cooked the flatbread



The main dish was a delicious noodle and salad stack



A bit of everything, thanks



This Moon and Stars Watermelon was the watermelon of your childhood



The watermelon sorbet was a very successful experiment



Students thanking everyone who got the project off the ground



A special gift for Kyle, a lemon tree



One of the students brought in bunches of flowers from home



Carrot and beetroot dips



Pumpkin dips creatively presented



Served with crudité's also from the garden



Pumpkin soup for entrée



Some of the friends and family members



Students enjoying the results of their efforts

Your Future” contain enormous potential for creating home-grown employment and ultimately a stronger local economy, a proud community identity and unique local culture.

The challenge now is to keep that spark alive and show these young people that this project doesn't have to end with a lunch. It could be the beginning of a rewarding life growing food for our community. Links like the one now forged between Moruya High School and SAGE — and hopefully more community organisations in the future — will construct alternative pathways towards rewarding careers that don't immediately occur to many young people. It's another spoke in the wheel of the work SAGE is doing to rebuild our local food system. Projects like “Growing

<https://sageproject.org.au/2016/03/18/sage-helping-young-people-grow-their-future/>



Resources

HSC Online ([www.http://hsc.csu.edu.au](http://hsc.csu.edu.au)) has been closed “... after broad consultation with stakeholders including teachers and students.”

“The overwhelming feedback received from teachers and students was that there are many websites available for HSC students to use and that information provided at HSC Online is of limited used to those teachers who provided feedback.”

Well, for those who did find it useful, there is an archive of the site at:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140126065901/http://hsc.csu.edu.au/>

Unfortunately, some of the links do not work any more, but most do, and some can be found by performing a web search. I suggest that if you want any of the material, you download to a drive in case they close this website.

eSPADE is a Google Maps-based information system that allows easy, no-cost, map-based access to a wealth of soil and land information from across NSW, including:

- soil profiles
- soil and land resources mapping
- soil landscape mapping
- land systems mapping
- statewide mapping of Land and Soil Capability
- statewide mapping of soil fertility

The data accessible through eSPADE is sourced mainly from the NSW Soil and Land Information System (SALIS).

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/eSpadeWebapp/>

eDIRT is an Internet application for the in-field digital recording of soil information. Its primary role is to replace the previous generation of scannable Soil Data Cards used to enter soil information into the NSW Soil and Land Information System (SALIS). The Soil Data Cards are still available, but eDIRT provides a quicker, more efficient and more accurate way of recording soil information and getting it into SALIS.

For best use of eDIRT we recommend the use of a touch-enabled mobile device (tablet or large smartphone).

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/edirtwebapp/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fedirtwebapp>

Further info on both these at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/soils/data.htm>

The NSW Soil Knowledge Network have put together a playlist of two of their most video series. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYR2Z1c1kEO2hUJs7PHuiuw>

For these and other YouTube videos, you can download them using an installed program such as Free YouTube Downloader (<http://youtubedownloader.com/>) Having them on a USB stick or hard drive means you can play them without having an internet connection, such as down on the farm, or when the network invariably goes down.

Following on from its successful distribution of the Teacher's Resource Kit, the Poultry CRC has produced downloadable versions of much of the content of the Teacher's Folder. The worksheets complement the materials provided in the kit and can be used with the kit or on their own.

You can download the complete set of worksheets in one PDF by clicking [here](#) (3.2MB)

If you would like the full PDF with answers included, just email us at [Poultry Hub](#) from your **Department of Education or other school email, telling us what school you are currently teaching in**, and we will email it to you.

One of the best sites for animal breeds, suitable for Stage 4 students, can be found at Oklahoma State University. Their Department of Animal Science has an extensive database of Sheep, Cattle, Horse, Pigs and Poultry breeds. While the introductory page has a login section, ignore that and click on the animal type tab at the top of the page and navigate to each breed.

Go to: http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/acl_users/credentials_cookie_auth/require_login?came_from=http%3A//www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/

Details of mushroom varieties grown in Australia and a history of mushroom growing can be found on the [Australian Mushrooms website](#).



Upcoming Agricultural Events

Agricultural Shows

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](#)
[Mendooran Show - 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 Show - 30th April to 1st May](#)
[Gosford Regional Show - 30th April to 1st May](#)
[Narrabri Show - 30th April to 1st May](#)

May 2016

[Coonamble Show - 3rd to 4th](#)
[Warialda Show - 5th to 7th](#)
[Gulargambone Show - 7th](#)
[Walgett Show - 7th to 8th](#)
[Nyngan Show - 8th to 9th](#)
[Wee Waa Show - 13th to 15th](#)
[Warren Show - 14th](#)
[St Ives Show - 21st to 22nd](#)
[Bulli Show - 28th to 29th](#)

For future shows go to <http://www.agshowsnsw.org.au/index.php/shows>

Don't forget the Hawkesbury Hoof and Hook Competition. Entries close this Friday 8th April. Entry form [here](#).

Field Days

[Tocal Field Days](#) 29 April – 1 May
[Agfair Broken Hill Inc.](#) 6 - 7 May
[Riverina Field Days](#) 13 – 14 May
[Mudgee Small Farm Field Days](#) 15 – 16 July

For details of Field Days in other states go to <http://www.aafda.com.au/events.html>



Schools in the News

MORUYA HIGH SCHOOL

Year 12 Agriculture and Earth and Environmental Science Tour 'THE TOP BLOKES AND SHEILAS TOUR'



Seasoned campers, seven days in.

Moruya High took learning on the road this year, embarking on a 2300km agricultural and environmental tour of the Murray and Murrumbidgee River systems. Capitalising on the overlaps between the Stage 6 Agriculture and Earth and Environmental Science courses, Duncan Norris and



School of the Road: student-centred learning under the red gums

I designed the tour to cover the Caring for Country and Introduced Species topics for Earth Science, and the Plant and Animal Production and Farm Product Study components of the Agriculture syllabus. In addition, the students engaged in Chemistry soil and water practicals, explored biotechnology and genetic engineering for Biology & participated in nightly tutorials for Mathematics, English, Art and other HSC subjects.

Most of our students had never been west of Canberra, and had no experience of broad acre farming or large scale irrigation. In planning the trip we wanted them to not only improve their knowledge of our subjects but also experience something of their own country. By the end of the eight day tour our eighteen students had travelled from Hume Dam along the Murray all the way to Echuca, then up through Deniliquin to meet the Murrumbidgee before turning east to head home. They'd swam in the Murray and the Murrumbidgee, camped in six different towns, ventured on a paddle steamer, negotiated a peace treaty with a black snake, seen brumbies and emus and feral cats, and became absolute guns at setting up tents and packing trailers. Whilst these particular experiences don't correlate to HSC outcomes, they could be considered formative moments and will definitely be remembered by our students long after they finish high school.

We owe a great debt to a number of people for their assistance with our trip, but Aimee Snowden and Carl Chirgwin stand out. Peter Cole, a retired teacher who accompanied us on the trip, also needs special mention. His professionalism and steady judgement, along with his extensive experience as an outdoor education teacher were fantastic assets to Duncan and me as well as to our students.



Aimee Snowden of Little Brick Pastoral introduces our students to irrigation on the Murray River

Aimee Snowden of Finley is an Agricultural Business student at Charles Sturt University and has previously worked for Murray Irrigation. She is a self-confessed 'irrigation nerd' and, luckily for us, the cousin of one of our students. Aimee runs Little Brick Pastoral (formerly known as The Lego Farmer). She is a passionate advocate of agricultural education and meticulously planned the first leg of our journey.

After meeting us at Yarrawonga Weir, she and her family led us through the intricacies of irrigated farming. Her mum and dad, Lynda and Phil, welcomed us onto their lucerne property at Finley, even running their overhead pivot system for the day so the kids could see. They are on 25% allocation so that is a big deal and we really appreciate it. Aimee and her family also organised a visit to a neighbouring dairy, timing our schedule to coincide with milking. The Snowden's dedication and generosity to our trip was amazing: they even ran a reconnaissance mission into Barmah Forrest the weekend before we arrived to ensure our minibuses would make it.

Camping in Barmah that evening was the most remote experience some of our students had ever



Sampling soil and water for Chemistry

had. It was also the first time many of them had seen or used a long drop, another fantastic life lesson! Our Earth and Environmental Science students took the opportunity to run a number of soil and water tests, and examine some human impacts on the environment.

After inadvertently camping in the middle of a black snake's home in Moama, suffering mild-to-moderate hearing loss thanks to Murray River corellas and subjecting the kids to a gourmet experience of grasshopper pancakes in Echuca, we made our way to Deniliquin. It was

the wonderful Peter Humphries of Deni High who inspired the students to rename our trip the “Top Blokes and Sheilas Tour”. Peter gave us a tour of the school farm and led the kids through drafting and drenching sheep. This was a real buzz for the non-Ag students, some of whom showed a definite talent for livestock handling.



Drenching sheep in Deniliquin



Top Bloke Peter Humphries

Peter also introduced us to Adrian Dunmore of Rodwells who gave us a crash course in rice and maize farming. Coming from an agricultural region where most bed prep is done with a broad fork or – if you are lucky – a small tractor, it was a real experience to see laser levelling of fields. The Earth and Environmental Science students paid close attention to rice field ecology, remarking on the diversity and abundance of organisms.



Adrian Dunmore explains rice production

cotton production. Initial nerves and reservations soon gave way to tentative friendships between the two groups of students. They've since maintained contact on the Facebook page set up by our students to document the tour. We are hoping we can reciprocate their generosity and host them on the coast at some stage.

I can't thank Carl Chirgwin enough for his contributions to this part of our trip. He initiated contact with Peter Humphries of Deni High, and also planned out the next day's adventures for our students, even providing worksheets. He is an absolute legend.

Carl and his Griffith High students met us at our camp site the next morning and we travelled in convoy to see popcorn, maize and



Griffith and Moruya High at Somerset Farm, Coleambally

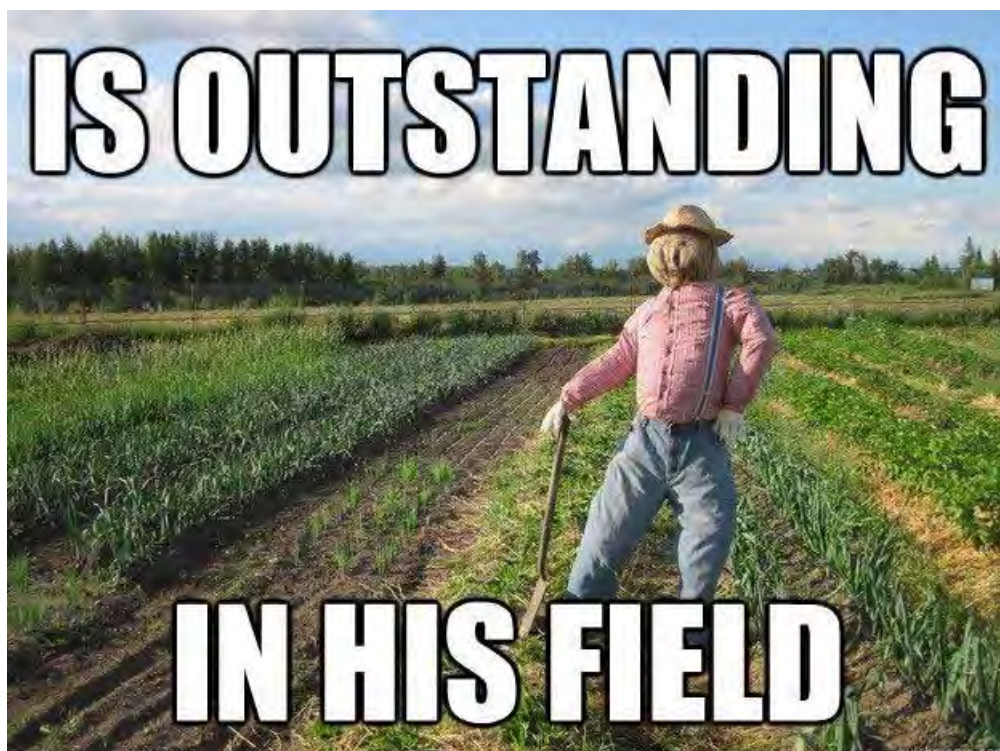
The Griffith and Moruya student's explored popcorn as a Farm Product Study at Kyola Farm in Coleambally. We tested moisture content in popcorn in the field, had a demonstration of the header in action and then explored the marketing of popcorn and maize. I can confidently say we came home with enough popcorn to last us until 2017. Freedom Foods also provided samples of a number of extruded maize products. Yum!

Keith Sturge of Somerset Farm then led us through maize and cotton production. One of the great bonuses of our trip was the number of cross-curricular learning opportunities which arose. Seeing Bolgard cotton in the field alongside a pigeon pea refuge crop gave the students firsthand experience of genetic modification in practice. On returning to school, the Biology students already had an understanding of transgenic organisms and their application, and were able to relay this in depth to their class mates.

The return leg of our journey included a welcome topographic relief. Carving through hills and grazing country on our way to Cootamundra was a novel experience after days of flat irrigated terrain. For our last camping experience we explored erosion and fire management around Woods Reserve in Canberra. We even managed to finish off our popcorn experience with a paddock to the plate (or box) movie night in Woden.

Reflecting on the trip, I now realise what a massive venture it was. Our principal placed enormous faith in us to not only look after our cargo of students: he'd also placed a significant portion of their HSC year in our hands. It seems to have paid off. The students came back with a new sense of where their food comes from, the landscapes and people of their country, and an insight into some central components of multiple HSC subjects. Driving back into Moruya, mountains on one side and sweeping coastline on the other, the students engaged in a heated conversation about water allocations in Finley and Deniliquin compared to the verdant, almost soggy paddocks of the Moruya river flats. They were seeing their tiny town, and their place in the world, in a new light.

Melissa Marshall
Agriculture Teacher



ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE

Wednesday morning, the 24th of February arrived and so did seventeen very excited St Gregory boys to start the journey to Canberra Royal Show, along with the cattle and sheep. Once arrived at the showground it was a quick unpack of the cattle to prepare them for the under 14 school parading competition that was on Wednesday afternoon. Once this was finished, the cattle had a wash and were put into their beds, and the boys continued on to the motel to have dinner. After dinner it was back to the showground to ensure all the cattle and sheep had their dinner and were taken for a walk and then put into their beds for the night.

Thursday the 25th of February saw all boys up bright and early at 5am, to have breakfast and to start washing and blow drying the cattle for the 14 to 17-year school parading competition. From the school parading competition, we gained a number of excellent results, which included: Jordan Fenech 5th, David Watson 5th, Joshua Fenech 2nd, Elijah Moss 1st in his heat and 5th in the final, Alex Pace 4th and Samuel Prince highly commended.



Thursday afternoon, the school sheep were judged, where a number of excellent results were achieved, such as, grand champion ram, reserve champion ram, reserve champion ewe, 1st place for ewe lamb woolly and shorn.

Friday saw the show open to the public, and two of our cattle being judged, one being a shorthorn heifer that placed 4th and a Charolais heifer that placed first. As night time came along, the boys were able to watch the fireworks before we went back to the motel for the night.

Saturday morning rolled on by, again the boys were up early at 5am, to begin the preparation of the school's Limousin cattle for their judging day, results obtained from this were: our bull placed 2nd, one of our heifers placed 3rd and our final black Limousin heifer placed 1st and then went on to win senior champion and grand champion Limousin cow and the supreme exhibit of the breed. Saturday afternoon saw our St Gregory's boys win a number of ribbons with the sheep, these included: Daniel Watkin placing 2nd in the junior sheep handling competition and Lachlan Mclean placing 3rd, as well as Lachlan Watkin placing 7th in the senior meat judging.

Sunday was a busy last day for us at the show and was our most successful day. The day started with us parading our supreme exhibit heifer against all other female breed cattle and we were successful and were awarded the champion female of the show. From this we then went onto compete against the champion bull of the show, where we were also successful, where we were awarded the supreme beef animal of the show.



Sunday afternoon then saw the boys putting in all the energy that they had left, to gain results in the senior sheep handling Sam Prince 2nd, Lachlan Watkin 3rd, Will Cadden 4th and Zak Hackett 7th. In the intermediate meat breeds judging David Watson was awarded 5th. In the overall meat breeds judging Lachlan Mclean was awarded 3rd as well and being awarded 2nd in the open merino judging.

This year's Canberra Royal was the most successful to date for the college and it would not have been possible without all the dedication that the seventeen boys had in the days leading up to the show, as well as while we were at the show.

Louise Bianchi,
Agriculture teacher

COLO HIGH SCHOOL

Outstanding school results at the 2016 Sydney Royal Easter Show

Poultry successes

Many NSW high schools have achieved excellent results at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show in a range of poultry competitions. With school only and open competition categories, and the popular Steggles Meat Bird Pair competition and the Hyline Brown Egg Laying competition, and the Youth Poultry Showmanship Competition, there are many opportunities for schools to compete in the poultry world at the Royal Easter Show.

In the schools and open categories (excluding Meat Birds and Hylines), 23 schools achieved excellent results with their poultry entries. Namely, schools with outstanding results were Elderslie, Kincumber, Elizabeth Macarthur, Gosford, Galston and Colo High Schools, and Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College, just to name a few. It was a challenging time to enter birds when many are moulting, so it's a credit to all teachers and students to see the excellent preparation put into the birds.

Steggles Meat Bird Pairs competition results

With hot temperatures, various predators and long distances to transport, this year's Steggles meat bird challenge was the toughest in a while. Many schools struggled to keep their meat birds cool enough so they could spend time eating, instead of panting! In the end, the hard work and perseverance of students and teachers paid off with some fantastic results. Elderslie High School came away with champion meat bird pair and best meat bird carcass pair. They were given a run for their money by The Kings School, Colo High, Muswellbrook High, Oakhill College and Finley High in the male and female carcass competition. In the project component, Hastings Secondary College - Port Macquarie Campus, St Stanislaus College Bathurst, and Aurora / Jindabyne Central School, Jindabyne had excellent results.



Hy-Line Brown Commercial Layer competition results

The Hy-Line Brown layer competition is a very challenging competition, as it all started way back in November when the young pullets were delivered to schools and the raising program began. The quiet nature of the birds and the excitement in students when they start laying, makes this a very engaging competition. Again, the hard work and research conducted by students and teachers has shown wonderful results.

Mulwaree High School, Goulburn came out on top with Most Successful Exhibitor In Hy-Line Brown Commercial Layers Egg Laying Classes, with first place for team presentation and eggs. Oaklands Central School, Oaklands, Orange Anglican Grammar Orange and Glen Alice Public School Glen Alice produced outstanding results as well in the team presentation and eggs competitions. In the project component, Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park, Camden High and Oaklands Central School, Oaklands produced outstanding project reports.



In other poultry competitions

Forty five students from around the state competed in the Royal Easter Show State Poultry Youth Showmanship Competition on Saturday 19 March. The competition's aim is to test student's ability to handle poultry and speak to a judge and audience about the characteristics of the breed they chose. Colo High School achieved first place and champion school, with Ralph Battle putting in an outstanding effort.

The other results were:

- 2nd place went to Oliva De La Mare Of Elderslie High School
- 3rd place went to Kane Gerrets Of Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College
- 4th place went to Hannah Jenkins Of Elderslie High School
- 5th place went to Warwick Reinhardt of Colo High School
- 6th place went to Tiarleah Tate Of Kincumber High School
- 7th place went to Theveen Chinnathumby Of Elderslie High School
- 8th place went to Kane Callum Of Kincumber High School

The judges commented to students on the improvement to last year in the in-depth knowledge of their breeds.

Other Royal news

The 14th Norman Lethbridge Award has been won by Stephanie Ferguson from The Scots School, Bathurst. Second prize was awarded to Tara Arduin from Menai High School. Runners up were Benjamin Giblett from The Marian College, Kenthurst and Joshua Decent from Colo High School.

The Norman Lethbridge Award was created in memory of the late Norman Lethbridge, a past secretary of the NSW State Committee of Angus Australia. Each year it is awarded to a student / cadet, 16 to 25 years of age, studying agriculture or a similar subject and residing within 200 kilometres of Sydney.

Congratulations to all schools for their successes.

Luciano Mesiti





School Poultry winners at the Sydney Royal



WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This program was developed a few years ago to allow students from the local feeder Primary Schools to experience a "paddock to plate" style adventure. We were also hoping that it would draw more students to the public educational system. The aim of this program is for the students to grow their food, harvest it, cook it and then sit down to a wonderful meal with the WHS executive, WHS student assistants, and the Primary Schools Principals.

Most years, 2 Primary Schools participate (Windsor Public and Windsor Park Public) but we were adventurous one year and had 4 primary schools participate (above mentioned schools plus Pitt Town PS and Oakville PS).



What students need to bring: Water bottles, sturdy old shoes, hats for gardening

Day of cooking: tea towel and an apron, enclosed shoes

High School students are needed as assistants - choose Ag kids for the gardening, Cooking kids for the kitchens (will need to involve Home Ec. Teachers) I usually have 6 students who also help me in the kitchen.

Cost for PS students = \$5/student

Timing is important in regards to the growing period and harvest time. The Program goes for 13 weeks whereby the Primary School visits the farm once a fortnight for 1 hour. The last period of the day is the best time for the PS students. I usually start at 1.30pm, finish by 2.30pm.

Vegetables that can grow within this timeframe are chosen: SPINACH, BEETROOT, SHALLOTS, POTATOES, BEANS, ZUCCHINI, CUCUMBER, GARLIC, RADISH. We also use the EGGS, HONEY, FETA, GOATS MILK, ANY HERBS. I have grown meat birds in batches of 20 (1 bird = 4 - 6 servings). However, I do find there is a lot of cooked wastage.

The program starts in the 2nd week of August and runs through to the 2nd week in November.

Week 1 – gardens are already prepared for planting seeds and seedlings that take 10-12 weeks

Week 3 – keep planting, replace seedlings that have died mulch gardens with goat shed compost, also use dynamic lifter

Week 5 – weed and more mulching, farm tours to goats, chickens

Week 7 – plant lettuce and radishes. Maintain gardens. By this stage we have lady beetles (discuss importance in pest control) look at flowers of zucchinis (male vs female), look at developing fruits. Some vegies can be picked to take home such as spinach

Week 9 – Plant bean/tomato seeds into "jiffy pots" to take home in week 11

Week 11 – harvest more vegies, usually I have chicks, bottle fed kids etc. Take plants home, supply some to the PS to grow at school is possible.



A week before the “cook off” day I let the Home Ec teachers know what I have got, so other produce can be bought as back up if anything fails. A menu plan is developed based around what has been grown.

Week 13 – All day event. Starts at 9 am and finishes at 2.30pm. Students are split into 2 groups.

Group 1 – harvest all the vegies and collect eggs etc. Place into wheelbarrows and take to the kitchens.

Group 2 – begin preparation of chickens (thawed out before event), desserts etc

Once the produce arrives in the kitchen, the best produce is used in the cooking. The rest of the produce is washed, divided into shopping bags for the students to take home.

Group 1 continues cooking – usually chickens, dessert, punch, potatoes

Group 2 rinses the vegies and cooks other yummy things. They also set up the dining area

(It's important to clean up/wash up as we go otherwise the mess gets too big!!)



Food we have cooked for the main meal

Roast chicken pieces

Double baked potatoes (a real hit)

Zucchini and Spinach slice (a real hit)

Beetroot salad with dressing (lemon, garlic, honey egg) – they love it

Tossed salad with feta

Buttered beans

Desserts

Usually don't have a lot in it that we grow...it's basically made for a treat. We usually stick with chocolate mousse with strawberries and cream.

Like I said, timing is essential and we have all the food cooked and ready by 12.00pm.

We then have a buffet style presentation and a formal sit down meal. I usually get up and thank the PS students for their involvement, talk about the “adventure” and the importance of eating good food.



We present each student with a certificate of participation. Usually the Primary school presents us with a limerick or posters ...good way of incorporating literacy.

Lastly, around 1.15pm everyone pitches in to clean up. We all head back to the kitchens and fill up the commercial dishwasher, wash bowls etc, take vegetable scraps to the chickens.

Finally, after the PS students have collected their goody bag of vegies (divided up by the WHS students) we wave them goodbye.....and then fall into an exhausted heap!!!!

Liz Ruis

Elderslie High School

Elderslie High School Take Poultry To Sydney Royal

Each year we load up our trailer and take a large team of poultry into Sydney Royal. One of the highlights is rearing our meat birds for the Meat Bird Pairs Competition. We receive 12 day old meat birds 6 weeks before the show and a team of dedicated students rear them, record their growth rate and feed intake as well as monitoring climatic conditions. This year, along with the other 96 schools from around the state who entered the competition, we had a major battle to keep them cool during many incredibly hot days and the students were able to observe the effect that this had on their feed intake.

We also enter the Hyline Egg Laying Competition where we received 6 young birds late last year and then select a team of 3 to enter the show.

We have a large range of pure breeds at school and many of these were entered in the Schools Classes. The week before the show is incredibly hectic. The birds need to go into the Royal 3 days after our local Camden Show. We have a bit of a production line going with the more experienced students supervising the washing and the younger students are always keen to do the blow drying.

Our results, this year were fantastic. Our Meat Bird Male Pair AND our Meat Bird Female Pair were awarded first place and hence the Championship Award. Our Male Meat Bird Carcase also won first place and then the Championship Award. This made us the most successful school in this competition – yet another award and the wonderful Sydney Royal Medallion to bring home with our 3 beautiful glass trophies.



In the School Pure Breeds classes we won 5 Championship Ribbons and one Reserve Champion making us the most successful exhibitor in the schools poultry classes.

Six of our very keen students competed with 45 others in the Poultry Showmanship Competition where they present their chosen bird and discuss its features. This is a fantastic opportunity for students with a passion for poultry to demonstrate their skills. Three of our students were awarded ribbons – 2nd, 4th and 7th place.

The students were treated like celebrities whenever they went into the poultry pavilion wearing their Elderslie Agriculture shirts and came home from the event full of enthusiasm to prepare their birds for the National Poultry Show in June.



The schools poultry classes are free to enter and the poultry folk at the Royal are incredibly encouraging of the students. The Meat Bird Pair competition is sponsored by Steggles and provides fantastic prize money. It is a fantastic event for schools to enter and gains lots of publicity for our subject.

Megan Atkinson
Agriculture Teacher

Mount Annan Christian College

Alpaca participants Camden show



Ute for the grand parade



Prep for Hyline layer comp at the Royal.



Mount Annan students perfect their heifer-raising skills

Students from **Mount Annan Christian College** have gone to the top of the heifer-raising class after winning a new regional competition.

Five schools and one home-schooled student took part in the inaugural Legendairy heifer-raising competition at the Camden Show on Friday and Saturday, 11 and 12 March.

The success of the competition could lead to its expansion across New South Wales.

Organiser Luke Micallef said the school-based competition had reinvigorated the Camden show's dairy exhibit.

"There were just under 100 head of cattle which was a big increase on the past few years," Mr Micallef said.

"There's no doubt the school competition helped to boost numbers," he said. "The milking class was about normal but there was a big increase in the heifer classes and in the first Jersey class."

The dedication shown by Mount Annan students in raising their heifer was recognised by judge, Jim Strong from Albion Park.

"The judge felt the Mount Annan student parading the heifer had the best knowledge and the school's students in general had gained most from the experience," Mr Micallef said.

The winning heifer was an Ayrshire supplied by the Hayter family from Werombi.

The schools had been raising their heifers for the past month and students had gone beyond the call of duty to ensure they were well presented.

"Some schools entered two heifers and some students were at the showgrounds till 11 o'clock at night getting the heifers ready," Mr Micallef said. "They really put in an amazing effort."

All schools involved want to return next year and other schools have shown interest.

"Fingers crossed it can grow from here," Mr Micallef said.

Mount Annan Christian College agriculture teacher **Jenny Caines** said the competition was a great learning experience for students.

"We raised two heifers for about three weeks," she said. "They were a bit skittish to start, so we put them on leads and taught them how to walk."

The students also hand fed the heifers, clipped them, and washed them on hot days.

"They did a really good job making them look good and getting them used to being handled," Mrs Caines said.

A core group of six students were involved in raising the heifer and others helped at different times.

"Some students were quite comfortable but others weren't used to being around cows so it helped them to get over any fears," Mrs Caines said.

The heifer was led by Cassandra Herdman who impressed the judges and her school.

“Cassie’s not from a farming background but she’s a beautifully calm animal handler,” Mrs Caines said.

The school hopes to expand on the program next year.

“We would like to build on it,” Mrs Caines said. “It’s something industry-based and knowing about animals is a great learning experience for students.”

The school competition was designed to give students exposure to the dairy industry and experience in handling animals as well as improve participation in the dairy section of the show.

It was supported by Dairy Australia’s Legendairy communications initiative to raise the profile and reputation of the dairy industry.

To read more Legendairy stories, visit: www.legendairy.com.au

For media and Legendairy inquiries please contact:

Mark Pearce – Media Manager, Dairy Australia
03 9694 3809 I 0423 783 756 I mpearce@dairyaustralia.com.au

Suzi O’Dell — Communications and Engagement Manager, Farm Communities, Dairy Australia
03 9694 3718 I 0439 336 369 I sodell@dairyaustralia.com.au



Jenny Caines, Nicholas Robinson, Emily Willard, Spot (cow) , Georgia Upston, Chocolate (cow) Zali Dunn, Cassandra Herdman. (Picture courtesy of Legendairy)

Dubbo College – Senior Campus

Dubbo College steer takes out Schools champion at Sydney Royal Easter Show



Dubbo College Agriculture teacher Sarah Foster and Year 12 student Chayce Giles show the winning ribbon for Champion School Steer at this year's Royal Easter Show, as the college's Limousin cow "Wyalla Handbook" looks on.

Dubbo College has taken out Champion School Steer at the 2016 Royal Easter Show, much to the excitement of students and staff throughout the college.

College agriculture teacher **Sarah Foster** travelled to this year's show with five students, two steers and a heifer.

The team spent eight days in Sydney showing the cattle, with the pure-bred Limousin steer "Special K", led by Chayce Giles, winning top billing in the highly competitive schools section.

For 17-year-old Chayce, the win capped off six months of work with "Special K", which included helping to break him in, handling and leading him in preparation for the show.

"I was so excited when he was announced the Champion steer in the schools hoof and hook competition," Chayce said.

"The other members of the team were all cheering behind me and then there was just this big media scrum around Special K."

"It was a fantastic achievement because it really is the top award for all schools in the state."

Other students making up the Dubbo College team included Year 12 students Leiha McGeorge, Laura Sandford and Tegan Shields, as well as Samantha Smart from Year 11.

The close-knit team also received a Highly Commended in the trade cattle class, with the college-bred Limousin-Angus cross steer “Little Angus”.

Chayce is a keen agriculture student who developed her love for the practical side of the subject in her junior years with teacher David Piper at Delroy Campus. “I’ve always loved agriculture and at Delroy I had a lot to do with handling sheep and horses,” she said.

“We helped to break in colts and fillies and learned how to care for sheep and I just loved it – that’s why I’m studying both agriculture and primary industries in Year 12.

“If I do well in my HSC later in the year, I would like to go on and study agriculture at university.”

Chayce and the other team members have been honing their cattle-handling skills at Senior Campus under the guidance of Sarah Foster.

As the campus agriculture teacher for the past three years, Sarah has been working to improve the school herd.

“We’ve been culling any cattle with below-average breeding values and any with an attitude problem,” Sarah said.

“The result is there are fewer cattle but they are better quality.

“We now have a predominantly Limousin stud, with the addition of an Angus cow and a Murray Grey cross cow so we can cross breed.

“We purchased Special K from local breeder Benjamin Toll about six months ago and with our grain feeding regime, the steer put on more than 200kg.

“We are now waiting to hear how he performed over the hooks and that information should come through in the next few days.”



CHEVALIER COLLEGE

Show time

It has been a busy start to the year for the Chev Show Team. We have exhibited cattle, Square Meaters kindly on loan from Weethalle stud in Camden, at Kangaroo Valley, Moss Vale, Robertson and Camden shows. We will also be exhibiting at Hawkesbury show in the middle of the school holidays, with steers going to the hoof and hook competition.



Kaelan – 3rd place in paraders at KV show



Sarah - reserve champion "lotus"



Kaelan – 1st with "flossy"

The team has had success in cattle classes and junior paraders.



Bridie - third place with the steer

We (Yr 11 and 12 Primary Industries classes) also exhibited sheep at Camden show and again at the upcoming show at Hawkesbury. We won supreme champion, champion ewe for two ewes and had success in the handlers classes.



Ruby- second in "lamb capers"



MacAndrew- third in "lamb capers"

Whilst at Camden show four students entered the "Young Farmers" challenge and came second! A huge achievement after being up early, shown cattle all day in the heat and then competed in this event. St Gregs only beat us by 10 seconds.



Kaelan, Lilly, Robbie, Ben and Denzle - second in the young farmers challenge

For the first time we competed in the Schools Alpaca Competition at Sydney Royal Easter Show. The students were sponsored with animals from Story Book Alpacas in Bargo. This event consisted of the students taking their alpacas through a course and answering questions about the alpaca industry. We were up against other schools that had been competing with alpacas during the show and at other shows. This did not deter our show team and we came third!!



Emma, Hannah, Ben, Kaelan, Denzle, Lilly - third place in Sydney Royal Alpaca competition

I am so proud of the show team kiddies, they have all improved on their skills and are more self-confident. They get up early, wash in the cold, spend a long day looking after their animals and return home late. They have represented Chev proudly.



Its tiring but fun! - Erin



Erin and Lilly



Lilly and Capsy

Hayley Mahoney



Selected snippets from the December 2015 to March 2016 PIEFA Newsletters. The reference page for all PIEFA Newsletters is:

<http://www.piefa.edu.au/pagesarchives/newsletters.htm>

Foundation News

PIEFA welcomes a new member

We are pleased to announce [NSW Farmers](#) has joined PIEFA. NSW Farmers is a strong and united voice for members on issues that affect farm businesses, farms and families. Their vision is to make farming in NSW more competitive and sustainable.



Minister encourages students to choose a career in agriculture

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, has encouraged young Australians to consider a career in agriculture. In a media release issued earlier this year, the Minister said the future food and fibre task will be a massive challenge for both Australia and the world, but it is one that will also create significant opportunities for those wanting to get involved.

"I would strongly encourage our next crop of young Australians to consider fields of study—both undergraduate and post-graduate—that will help them make a strong contribution to our primary industries. Agriculture is an incredibly challenging and rewarding career, feeding and clothing people here and around the world, but it is important young people are aware of the tremendous opportunities available in agriculture, right across the supply chain from paddock to plate, or to the garment factory, as the case may be."

The Minister highlighted the work being done by [PIEFA](#), [Career Harvest](#) and the [Horizon Scholarship](#) to support and encourage students to choose careers in agriculture. The Minister also outlined the [support available to students](#) from the Australian Government.

[READ THE MEDIA RELEASE](#)

Resources on Primezone

NEW! Soil Wealth – looking after soils

The Soil Wealth project is aimed at assisting vegetable growers look after their soils, but the resources may also interest students. The resources provide information on new approaches like reducing tillage, growing biofumigation and cover crops or using compost. Resources include factsheets, videos and demo farm Facebook sites.

[VIEW RESOURCES](#)

Investigating Australian approaches to fish, seafood & meat production

Years 7 & 8: Design and Technologies, Science and Geography

Tis the season for enjoying fresh seafood and hot Christmas dinners. Don't forget PEIFA's educational resources will help your students investigate Australian approaches to producing fish, seafood and meat.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

Australian Pork Ltd Education Toolkit

Multiple Years: Technologies, Science and Geography

Or do you enjoy a Christmas ham? Don't forget Australian Pork Limited has developed three Food Production Education Resources designed to help students understand the systems of care used by farmers for pigs that are grown, raised and processed for food and how farmers manage these systems.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

Cotton Education Kit

Cotton Australia's kit for secondary students is a 73-page downloadable PDF with content linked to the QLD, NSW, Victorian and National curriculum across subject areas including agriculture, science, textiles and design, business studies, economics and more.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

Member News

Free, fun and engaging incursion opportunities from Target100

Target 100 has developed three 45 minute video conference lessons that are curriculum linked with key messages in science and sustainability. It's easy to get involved and the lessons can be conducted through interactive whiteboards. New to 2016, students will also have the opportunity to meet a cattle and sheep farmer and ask questions about how they produce beef and lamb. The subject themes available are:

Stage 1: [Greener Farms](#)

Stage 2: [Farming Throughout History](#)

Stage 3: [Future Foods](#)

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Free cotton resources for schools

Cotton Australia has free sampler packs available to teachers and students. It includes:

- A seed planting kit
- How to Grow a Pair of Jeans brochure
- Pocket Guide to Cotton brochure
- Cotton samples
- Cotton retro stickers

Cotton Australia also has free posters available to schools, with two examples below.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



School News

Primezone Partner Schools announced for 2016

PIEFA wishes to thank all schools that applied to be a Primezone Partner School for 2016. The field was extremely competitive, included an even spread of schools from the city and country and demonstrates the commitment of many schools to food and fibre education. The 2016 Primezone Partner Schools are:

Australian Capital Territory
University of Canberra High School

New South Wales
Dungog Primary School
Cornish College

Industry News

Biosecurity planning for schools (NSW)

Biosecurity is the protection of our economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants. Biosecurity protects primary industries and underpins the health and wellbeing of our community and environment. It keeps our waterways, state forests, parks and infrastructure free from serious pests and weeds, and, it keeps our animals free of serious disease. A biosecurity planning for schools unit of work, tailored to NSW biosecurity regulations and Stage 4, 5 and 6 agriculture syllabus outcomes, was developed from existing Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) resources and piloted through the 2015 [Archibull Prize](#). The unit of work is now available for all schools and includes the following:

- an audit of current biosecurity measures implemented at the school
- development of a school farm biosecurity plan with planning template provided
- participation in a scenario biosecurity incident to expose students to the wide range of careers involved in managing such an event.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Week of Tastes

Registrations are now open for the Week of Tastes, a food education program for grade 4 students providing an interactive and multi-faceted program where students:

- learn how they use their 5 senses through actual contact with food - experiential learning and active participation
- learn that it is fun trying new and unknown foods - overcome food neophobia
- improve their food literacy - develop a rich vocabulary
- learn about other food cultures and food careers
- meet food producers in their community eager to share their food knowledge.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

See the dairy industry supply chain

Applications are now open for the 2016 Warrnambool Cheese and Butter Adrian Meade Dairy Innovation Program. This is a structured workplace learning opportunity for twelve Year 10 and 11 students keen to learn about careers across the entire dairy industry supply chain. This six-day program will run in June/July and applications are invited from students aged 15 and over in WCB's milk supply area.

Applications close 29 April 2016 and selection is by interview.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



Blue Gum Farm TV

Set in rural Queensland *Blue Gum Farm TV* is a real-life farm adventure allowing children to discover where fresh food is produced - from milking the cow, collecting eggs or harvesting vegetables this program shows fresh food straight from its source.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



Recognition for AgVision at the Easter Show

June High School teacher, Sandra Heffernan has been recognised by the Royal Agriculture Society of NSW as a Champion of the RAS for her commitment to agriculture and promotion of agriculture in education. Sandra is the driving force behind AgVision, a biennial agricultural careers day, dedicated to inspire and inform students from Years 9 to 11 of the range of careers available in agriculture, science, technology and agribusiness. Sandra coordinates a team of staff to plan, organise and host over 50 workshops presented by 100 industry experts to over 500 students from across NSW. In 2015 the RAS partnered with June HS to deliver AgVision 2015 at the Sydney showground.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

PIEFA Conference



- Two days of action-packed speakers, workshops and networking
- A complimentary welcome networking function
- 5-star catering over the two days (separate tickets are required for conference dinner)
- A chance to interact with our fabulous sponsors.

[REGISTER NOW!](#)



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

A report card on agricultural education in NSW: how far has it come?

This is a Land Newspaper article looks at the transformation of agricultural education since the release of Pratley report. Go to:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-31/tide-turning-on-agricultural-education-in-nsw/7279028>

Australian egg farmer profile: Dion Andary

AECL has produced a video profile of South Australian free range egg farmer Dion Andary explaining how he farms and some of his opinions on free-range farming.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQDZJ679PNE&sns=em>

Also, Choice has produced a **Free-range eggs buying guide** showing which brands meet the recommended model code of 1500 hens per hectare.

<https://www.choice.com.au/food-and-drink/articles/how-free-range-are-your-eggs#mrasn=99621.140473>

Target100

Meet Australian cattle & sheep farmers, discover 100 research projects and learn more about what is important to the sustainability of the industry

Find out all about it at: <http://www.target100.com.au/Home>

Art4Agriculture Young Farming Champions

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) continue to support their Young Farming Champions (YFCs) once the initial program is complete – engaging them with both industry and community audiences; and providing financial assistance to attend workshops, exhibitions and conferences.

The YFC program is just one feature in an increasingly busy educational offering of the research, development and marketing body. Together with initiatives such as the National Merino Challenge, Breeding Leadership, Learn About Wool kits, Wool4School and various student and post graduate scholarships, AWI is strongly committed to education and training of the next wool leaders.

The first step to becoming a Wool Young Farming Champion begins with an application form. Expressions of interest open for the Wool Young Farming Champions program in March 2016. Please contact program manager Lynne Strong on lynnestrong@art4agriculture.com.au or 0407 740 446.

Read about the Young Farming Champions at their [website](#)

ParaBoss

ParaBoss is a suite of three products developed for the management of blowflies, worms and lice. The WormBoss, FlyBoss and LiceBoss websites are sources of detailed management information and regional programs that will assist in managing the major parasite risks for sheep. They have been developed by expert panels of parasitologists and veterinarians from across Australia.

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



Terry's little show champions

By JESSIE DAVIES

March 22, 2016, 2:53pm

<http://www.theland.com.au/story/3805464/terrys-little-show-champions/?cs=4941>



St Lawrence's Primary School, Coonabarabran, celebrating their success at Sydney Royal Show

WEEKS of lunchtimes spent in the Ag plot paid off for the students of St Lawrence's Primary School, Coonabarabran, who swept the floor with their show team of Dorset Horn and Poll Dorsets at the Sydney Royal Show last week.

Ten wide-eyed Year Six students showed on behalf of Bimbadeen Park, owned by the school's science relief teacher Sue McGoldrick.

They claimed a coup of ribbons and trophies, including the prestigious W. J. Dawkins Perpetual Trophy for the best bare shorn Dorset Horn ram. In the schools interbreed competition they won the champion schools ram and took out the title of grand champion schools exhibit.

The team's success was extra special to the small school's family following the sudden passing of their beloved principal, Sue's husband Terry McGoldrick, in October. A longtime exhibitor, he was also dear to many sheep breeders, judges and stewards who gather each year at the Sydney Royal.

Mrs McGoldrick said the students worked hard for their success.

"They broke in the sheep, fed them and looked after them for the three months leading up to the show and helped me card their wool, clip their feet, wash them for the show ring," she said.

Bimbadeen Park were named the most successful Dorset Horn exhibitor having won grand and reserve grand champion Dorset Horn ram as well as grand and reserve grand champion Dorset Horn ewe. They placed in numerous classes in the Poll Dorset competition.