

**Spring Edition – No: 52
2016**



N.S.W. Association of Agriculture Teachers Inc



www.nswaat.org.au

ABN Number: 81 639 285 642



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President's Report	2
2017 NSWAAAT Biennial Conference	3
Membership List	4
NSWAAAT Spring Muster	9
NSWAAAT 2016 Annual General Meeting	11
JA Sutherland Award and Life Membership Nominations	11
Department of Education Agricultural Survey & Funding	14
Workshops, Competitions and Opportunities	15
Resources	23
Upcoming Agricultural Events	29
Schools in the News	31
Primary Industries Education Foundation Snippets	46
Around the Traps	51

President's Report

Another busy quarter, and it seems like I'm scratching my head to collect info to disperse to you guys. Certainly my school is keeping me busy with various sporting excursions (me being the token bus driver and male teacher), breaking in steers ready for comps in Oct/Nov and what seems to be a revolving audit door.

Just finish one audit and I'm preparing for another one. I wonder if anyone out there would be interested working with us to create a google doc template of such whereby we could share out to all teachers, and they can tailor to their own specific needs. Would be great to have a PI doc which just ticks all the boxes, a HSC monitoring document, a chemicals document and a farm diary style document managing all their required animal info etc. The naked document could be left up on the NSWAAAT webpage for all to access. Speaking of webpages, you may have noticed, our webpage is in the process of being revamped. Please bear with us here, Rome wasn't built in a day. We are hoping to have the updated site live and operational ASAP.

Sally Bannerman, the Lighthouse schools of Education group and the NSWAAAT are conducting a 2-day Early Career Teacher seminar in Term 4. Trying to ensure all those newer and converted teachers have access to the right knowledge and tools to do their jobs. Participants have already been invited via Sally's office and preparations are in full swing.

I hope everyone had a chance to look at the consultation document regarding Tech mandatory. We have discussed with PIEFA and at this stage are comfortable with the proposed possible changes of the document. Now we need to wait and see how the final product will be published.

Finally, our Biennial Sydney Conference is looming near. I would like to put in a huge thank you to those involved in its creation. Countless hours have been donated to ensure this event will be a success. Various sponsors have been formalised along with all the fine details such as bus tours have been checked and ready to go. Be sure to register and get on board. This will be a fantastic professional development opportunity centrally located for all in Sydney. This program will attract NSWIT registered hours and really will be worth giving up 4 days of your Christmas holidays. Keep an eye on your emails and the website/Facebook to get registration details.

Cheers
Justin





Membership

• Current Association Membership List

*as at
4 October 2016*

Financial To end of	First Name	Surname	Location
2016	Susan	ADAM	Northern Beaches Christian School
2016	Cassie	ANDERSON	St Paul's College
2016	Philip	ARMOUR	Yass High School
2016	Robbie	ASHHURST	James Ruse Agricultural High School
2017	Megan	ATKINSON	Elderslie High School
2016	Sunrae	BAILLIE	Great Lakes College, Forster Campus
2017	Dianna	BEALE	Tumut High School
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	Graham	BRAMLEY	St Paul's College
2017	Cathy	BREENE	Oakhill College
2016	Ali	BRIGGS	AgForce Queensland
2017	Deborah	BUNN	Galston High School
2017	Lynda	BUTTSWORTH	Jamison High School
2016	Jennifer	CAINES	Mount Annan Christian College
2016	Paul	CANNINGS	Pittwater High School
2017	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
2017	Luke	COLLINS	Yanco Agricultural High School
2016	Justin	CONNORS	Manilla Central School
2017	Ben	COOMBES	Peel High School
2016	Elena	DAGHER	Bossley Park High School
2016	Alison	DAHLENBERG	St Francis de Sales Regional College
2016	Sophie	DAVIDSON	Cotton Australia
2016	Anita	DE LA MOTTE	Bomaderry High School
2017	Donna	DEAN	Vincentia High School
2016	Alice	DORMAN	Trangie Central 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 Department of Primary Industries
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	David	GIBLIN	Chifley College, Bidwill Campus
2016	Andrew	GILL	Medowie Christian School
2016	David	GILLARD	Wagga Wagga High School
2016	Milton	GOWER	Macarthur Anglican School
2016	Sian	GRAY	Richmond High School
2016	Justine	GREEN	CSU Student
2016	Lara	GRIFFIN	Pittwater High School

Financial To end of	First Name	Surname	Location
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	Teacher of Agriculture	HERWIG Kate	Lisarow High School
2016	Briony	HODGES	Nepean CAPA High School
2017	Michael	HOLLAND	Scone Grammer 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	Jacque	JOHNSON	Pre-Service Trainee Teacher
2016	Jarrold	KELLY	Denison College-Kelso High Campus
2016	John	KILLEEN	Bossley Park High School
2017	Ilka	KLEPPER	Cootamundra High School
2016	Mykel	KOLLER	Nagle College
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
2017	Leigh	McLEAN	Portland Central 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
2016	Eugenia	O'BRIEN	University of Sydney
2016	Erin	O'NEILL	Lake Cargelligo Central School
2017	Trish	PEARCE	Trinity Anglican College
2016	Justine	PHILLIPS	Xavier College, Llandilo
2016	Lucy	PITKIN	Elderslie High School
2016	Kathleen	PLATTS	Jindabyne Central School
2016	Claire	POLOSAK	Pittwater High School
2017	Georgina	PRICE	Parkes High School
2016	Janet	PRICE	O'Connor Catholic College
2017	Graham	QUINTAL	
2016	Warwick	ROLFE	Hunter River High School

Financial To end of	First Name	Surname	Location
2016	Peter	RYAN	Nowra High School
2016	Letisha	SALZKE	Braidwood Central School
2017	Natasha	SHANKELTON	Tullamore Central School
2016	Teacher of Agriculture	SHAW, Warwick	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
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
2017	Amanda	STATHAM	West Wyalong High School
2016	Edward	STEFANSKI	St Gregory's College
2017	Stuart	STOUT	Leeton High School
2016	Sarah	STREETER	Charles Sturt University (Student)
2016	Katrina	THOMAS	Condobolin High School
2016	Laura	TOLLEY	Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
2016	Brian	TRENCH	Camden Park Environmental Education 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
2017	Gary	WEBB	Finley High School
2016	Nicolet	WESTERHOF	Elizabeth Macarthur 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
2017	Jennifer	WOODWARD	Byron Bay High School
2018	Beth	WORTHY	Sapphire Coast Anglican College
2017	Jan	YOUNG	Murrumburrah High School
2017	Nathan	ZINGA	Kinross Wolaroi School

141 Members

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

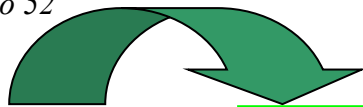
Associate Membership

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

Affiliate Membership – (NAAE)

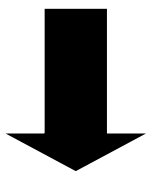
Alysia	KEPERT	Agriculture Curriculum Consultant (WA)
John	LEHMAN	Yolla District High School (TAS)
Hayward	PAYNTER	Waikerie High School (SA)





NSWAAT Spring 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 NSWAAT)

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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2016 NSWAAAT Annual General Meeting

6.00pm - Monday 7th November

Charles Sturt University (address to be advised once agenda is finalised)

Wagga Wagga

- Please advise of any agenda items that are needed for discussion
- All positions will be declared vacant
- Any nominations for a NSWAAAT Life Member and/or JA Sutherland Award will be judged as well (**see details below**)
- All agenda items, interest in taking on a position or other needs; please email: secretary.nswaat1@gmail.com

For the reasons of us being an incorporated organisation under the Professional Teachers Council - we need to conduct an AGM annually - and then people in the voted positions will only hold their position until the BGM at the NSWAAAT Sydney Conference in January 2017.

The J. A. Sutherland Award

For excellence / contribution to Agricultural Education in NSW Secondary schools

The most prestigious award that can be awarded to any teacher of Agriculture in NSW is the J. A. Sutherland Award. The J.A Sutherland award is named after Alan Sutherland.

In 1993 it was decided to confer posthumously the J.A Sutherland medal to Ian Parbery, the foundation President of the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers (1973-1974). This set the bar high and to be associated through the award with Ian Parbery is indeed an honour.

[For further information: BAAT 2011 Summer Bulletin No.39]

The ten most recent recipients of the J. A Sutherland Award are:-

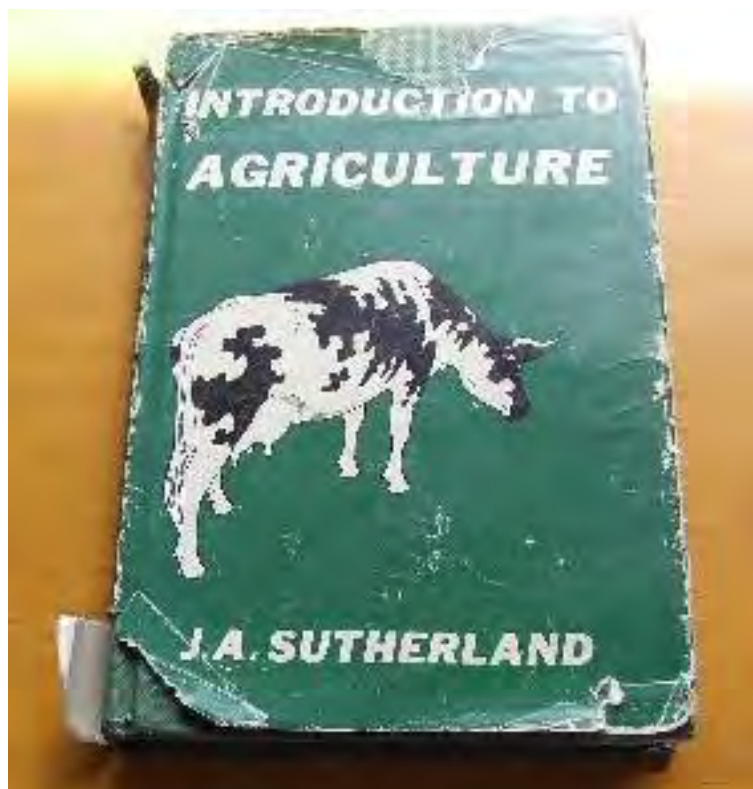
1997	Peter Jones
1999	Dr Rod Francis
2001	Jenni Wilkins
2003	Trevor Sewell
2004	Tony Barnett
2006	Robyn O'Leary
2008	Lisle Brown
2010	Ian Baird
2013	Ivan Gant
2015	Graeme Harris

The criteria for making the J. A. Sutherland Award are as follows:-

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

A significant contribution should include a work or event from which many benefit OR an outstanding worker OR an innovation

Read [A Tribute to Alan Sutherland](#)

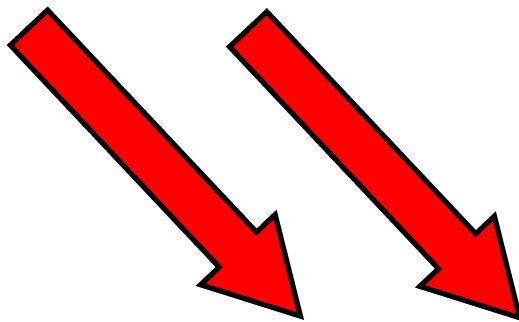


Life Members

For significant contribution to the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers.

Norm Robinson	John Lee	Robert J Guest
Norm Thomas	Peter Crick	Ivan Gant
Don Bartholomew	Robyn O'Leary	Graeme Harris
Peter Jones	Lisle Brown	
Rod Francis	Gail Roberts	
Jenni Wilkins	Ian Baird	
Trevor Sewell	Tony Butler	
Tony Barnett	Phil Hurst	

Note: JA Sutherland awardees are also life members so are included in the above table



Call for Nominations

Nominations are invited from members for either of the above two awards. Your nomination should include contact details of the person, and a one page citation to accompany the nomination.

Nominations are to be sent to secretary.nswaat1@gmail.com and should be received no later than **4pm, Monday 7 November 2016**.

Attention all Department of Education Ag / PI Teachers

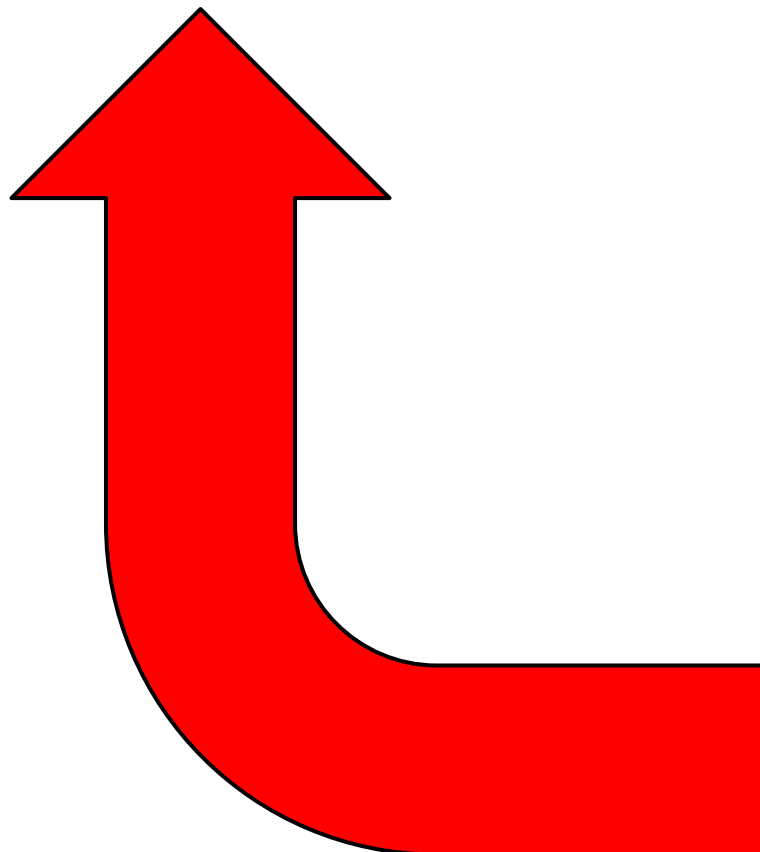
School Finance is again funding Agriculture in Schools in 2017, and it will be based on the same model that has existed in previous years.

This means that the **Agriculture Survey** will go live in **School Biz in Wk 1 Term 4** and the deadline for forwarding your completed survey to School Finance will be **Friday Week 2 Term 4 - 21st October 2016**.

Due to the compressed time line for the State Agriculture Advisory Group to compile the survey data and recommend to School Finance the level of funding in each school we will appreciate schools meeting this deadline.

Regards

Cliff Ralph
Richmond High School
Principal representative of State Agricultural Advisory Group



Early Career Agriculture Teacher Workshop

Secondary Education Curriculum officers, in conjunction with the seven Agricultural Lighthouse Schools, have developed workshops to provide advice and professional learning for early career, inexperienced or isolated agriculture teachers. The workshops will focus on practical skills, compliance and management of the school farm.

The workshops will be targeted at agriculture teachers who are:

- Early career
- Inexperienced
- Untrained
- Geographically isolated.

If you teach Agriculture / Primary Industries and you match any of these criteria, you are invited to nominate to attend one of these workshops.

These workshops will be held at:

- Mount View High School – 27-28 October
- Tumut High School – 8-9 December.

All travel, accommodation, meals and teacher relief will be covered.

If you would like to participate in this opportunity please email sally.bannerman@det.nsw.edu.au

In your reply please provide;

- your name
- your contact details
- which criteria you satisfy (early career, inexperienced, untrained, geographically isolated)
- which workshop you wish to attend (Mount View HS or Tumut HS).

I look forward to your response.

Lila (Liliana) Mularczyk JP
Director, Secondary Education
NSW Department of Education
Level 3, 1 Oxford St
Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Work 02 9266 8916
Mobile 0417 284 227



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

RAS SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS

Poultry

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW invites schools with facilities for keeping poultry to take part in our Schools Poultry Competitions at the 2017 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Steggles School Meat Bird Pairs

Students are presented with one dozen meat bird chicks which they will rear over the course of six weeks. This competition provides a glimpse into the Poultry industry and works to dispel the myth that hormones are used in the production of chicken meat. Final judging will take place at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Hy-Line School Egg Laying Competition

Do you have the best laid plans to produce the best laid eggs? Students must raise six pullets and select their best three to compete at Sydney Royal Easter Show. Eggs from the exhibits will be collected across the first ten days of the Show and judged against commercial Egg Laying Industry Standards. Quality over quantity is the key to winning this competition.

Competition Downloads

[School Egg laying Competition Guidelines 2017](#)

[2017 Poultry STEGGLES School Meat Bird Pairs Application For Entry](#)

[2017 Poultry HY LINE School Egg Laying Application For Entry](#)

Goats

Angora Goat Wether Competition

Schools wishing to participate in this competition will receive assistance in obtaining wethers donated from registered breeders. Schools will be judged on their ability to produce quality mohair and meat. Upon entry at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, goats will be weighed and fleece samples taken. The wethers then move to the final stage where their fleece and meat value is assessed.

Email: piggoat@rasnsw.com.au for more information.

If you wish to receive the RAS Education Newsletter, click [here](#) to subscribe.

Sydney Royal Schools Pig Competition

Does your school have an interest in raising pigs?

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW is taking expressions of interest from secondary schools to take part in a new competition to be rolled out at the 2017 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Schools wishing to participate in this competition will receive assistance in contacting a breeder to obtain a trio of piglets, there are limited places available.

Your students will prepare stock to be weighed and judged on the hoof and on the hook.

Australian Pork Limited (APL) are keen supporters and they have a number of resources online: <http://australianpork.com.au/library-resources/education-toolkit>

Click [here](#) to submit an expression of interest:

Leanne Higgins
Coordinator, Small Livestock
Competitions & Events

Please note that I am part-time and normally in the Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Ag Vision

AgVision is a leading Agricultural and Agribusiness careers expo in NSW dedicated to supporting and informing Years 9-11 students and their educators of the range of careers available in agriculture, science, technologies and agribusiness. Students will be inspired and motivated by the hands on experiences and mentoring from industry professionals. In 2017 AgVision returns to Sydney Showground, hosted by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

AgVision 2016 goals:

- Encourage young minds to become the future of agriculture in Australia Showcase a diverse range of agri-based career pathways
- Allow students to experience agricultural trades, agri-business and services in a practical learning environment
- Promote an awareness of appropriate study patterns required to negotiate agri-career pathways and School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- Build networks between youth, industry, educators and the wider agricultural community

Stay tuned for further information regarding workshops and registration details.

To express your school's interest in attending please email education@rasnsw.com.au

Be a part of the ‘Cotton Gap’ program: calling on students to submit an EOI

Do you know of a school leaver interested in a gap year in rural Australia?



Photo by Josie Perrett

The “Cotton Gap” program is a unique opportunity for school leavers to experience, first-hand life in one of agriculture’s most innovative and forward thinking industries. Whether you know of a student interested in a career in agriculture, gaining genuine hands on experience, or simply looking to do something different, we encourage you to let them know of this opportunity for a gap year on a Cotton Farm.

Cotton Australia is looking to facilitate the connection between school leavers and cotton farmers and wants to hear from students who would be interested in a gap year. If they have a license, a sense of adventure and “have a go attitude”, encourage them to get in contact. This opportunity will potentially offer training, the possibility of qualifying for youth allowance when they move onto university, the chance to be placed with friends and memories to last a lifetime. Employees will be supported to ensure they are they have initial and ongoing training on a progressive cotton operation.

For more information visit Cotton Gap <http://cottonaustralia.com.au/work-in-cotton/cotton-gap>

or contact Claudia Vicary, Graduate Policy Officer on 02 9669 5222 or claudiav@cotton.org.au

Trekking in VET

Setting the course

DRAFT

National Providers Network Conference

6-8 September 2016

Tocal College, Paterson NSW

Tocal
COLLEGE

Agenda

National
Providers
Network
Conference **2016**

National Providers Network Conference 2016

day 1

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Welcome/housekeeping Steve Honeywood
- 9:50 Welcome, Principal Darren Bayley – Tocal College
- 10:15 Welcome, Tim Biggs Chair National Trainers Providers
- 10:30 Morning Tea
- 11:00 ASQA ?
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:00 Field activity
 - Horticulture – Hunter Valley Vineyards
 - Conservation & Land Management – Shortland Wetlands
 - Agriculture – Tocal College
- 5:00 Day wraps up
- 5:30 Refreshments – Tocal Homestead
- 6:30 BBQ Dinner – Tocal Homestead
- 8:00

day 2

- 9:00 Guest speaker
- 10:00 Morning tea
- 10:30 Skills impact
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:30 Drone demonstration
- 2:00 Guest speaker – Safety
- 3:00 Case study – industry, RTO's, partnership
- 4:00 Tour Tocal Homestead
- 5:00 Close
- 6:45 Conference dinner – Newcastle harbour cruise

day 3

- 9:00 Summary of conference, professional body talk
- 9:30 Group break out – Validation
- 11:30 Conclusion
- 12:00 Optional light lunch

Stay

National
Providers
Network
Conference **2016**

Accommodation list

Maitland

Quest Maitland
Hotel Mercure Maitland Monte Pio
Molly Morgan Motor Inn
Old Maitland Inn
Best Western Endeavour Motel

Accommodation list

Newcastle

Please note that Newcastle is a
50 min drive from Tocal College

Quality Hotel NOAH's on the beach
Chifley Apartments Newcastle
Crowne Plaza Newcastle
Novotel Newcastle Beach

Transport

Maitland Taxi Service: 02 4933 7333

A shuttle bus will be available for collection and drop to airport.

Weather:

Spring is particularly picturesque time in the area.
Spring brings warm days, but the nights remain cool.
Light clothing is recommended during the day and some
warmer clothing for the evenings.

	Temp (°C)		Rainfall Mean Monthly mm
	Max	Min	
January	30.0	17.6	89.6
February	29.4	17.6	100.9
March	27.6	16.6	87.9
April	24.6	11.6	64.9
May	21.0	8.8	64.6
June	17.9	6.9	68.1
July	17.6	4.6	32.1
August	19.6	4.8	37.7
► September	22.3	7.7	41.5
October	26.1	10.9	68.1
November	27.1	13.6	69.7
December	29.3	16.0	67.8

Useful links

www.tocal.com

www.visitnsw.com/destinations/hunter/hunter-valley/paterson

Tocal
COLLEGE

Register

National
Providers
Network
Conference **2016**

Agriculture, horticulture,
conservation and land
management

Organisation

Contact name.....

Phone

Postal address.....

Number of people expected to attend

Resources

GreenPrecision powered by CSBP and NGIS

CSBP Fertilisers in partnership with NGIS Australia have created [GreenPrecision](#), an innovative website utilising leading edge technology to deliver vegetation analysis across the entire world in an accessible and user friendly tool.

Green Precision is easy to use, simply:

1. Zoom to any point in the world and select the year and month from the timeline at the bottom of the map to see an image of NDVI variability for that month.
2. Adjust the settings to get a better view of variability if none is immediately obvious.
3. Click anywhere on the map to see a chart of NDVI across the previous few years and compare how a crop or pasture has grown in each year and the current year.

You can view a video about the program at [https://youtu.be/ Zc4opsLK6I](https://youtu.be/Zc4opsLK6I)

GRDC Education Resources for Teachers

The GRDC has invested in the development of a suite of user-friendly grain education resources and initiatives for students, teachers and families. These resources have been developed with teacher and researcher input and have been designed following a comprehensive survey of more than 340 teachers throughout Australia.

Each curriculum linked resources incorporates a range of lesson plans which explore the latest science, technology, engineering, mathematics, nutrition, research and innovation in the Australian agricultural industry. You can use these resources as a unit or select components to complement your teaching plan.

Using an investigation and inquiry based approach students will touch, try, taste and even smell the science of the Australian grains industry. It provides an ideal and relevant teaching context to engage students in the food and fibre components of the national curriculum.



[The Science of Living Soils](#)



[The Cost of Frost](#)



[The Science of Crossing and Crops](#)



[The Science of Stems, Stomata and Sustainability](#)



[The Smart Technology behind Smart Grain](#)



[The Importance of Soil for Growing Great Grain](#)



[Good Grains for Good Gut Health](#)



[Grains, Gluten and Carbohydrates](#)



[The Science behind Dough Quality](#)



[Teaching Resources – Careers](#)

Carl's HSC Agriculture Summary Sheet for Parents

Success in the HSC Agriculture examination, as in all subjects, depends on:

- knowledge and understanding of the course content
- accurate interpretation of the intent of the questions
- understanding what examiners are looking for in your answers.

The examination questions are drawn directly from the outcomes and content of the HSC course of the Stage 6 Agriculture syllabus. You can access the syllabus from the Board of Studies NSW web site at: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/

To interpret questions correctly you must understand the meanings of the key words used in them. The Board of Studies has published a list of these key words and their meanings.

http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/glossary_keywords.html

Preparation for the Examination

Use your performance in the trial examination as a guide to your final preparations for the HSC examination. After your paper is marked and returned to you, review your interpretation of the questions, your allocation of time and your understanding of the course content. Work at improving any weaknesses that became apparent in your trial HSC examination and approach your teacher for assistance in improving your responses.

Completing past examination papers is an excellent form of revision. These papers, the examiners' notes on each question and the marking guidelines for them can be viewed via the website of the Board of Studies. Access them at http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/hsc_exams/

Practice answering these questions and try to assess your responses after consulting the examiners notes and marking guidelines. Collaborating with a friend or group of friends to do this can be a valuable learning experience.

Note that the parts of questions with the highest marks allocated to them are those that require higher order thinking skills such as answers which incorporate explanations, judgments, analysis and interpretations. These more challenging parts usually occur towards the end of each question.

The Examination Paper

There is one paper – multiple choice, short answer and elective extended responses.

Section 1 – Multiple Choice (*Allow 30 minutes*) (*20 Marks on Offer*)

Consists of 20 one mark Multiple Choice questions with a range of topics including: farm/product study; practical work; plants, animals, experimental design and analysis; and ecological and sustainability issues. The questions are compulsory and are answered on the attached multiple choice answer page.

Section 1 – Short Answer *(Allow 105 minutes) (60 Marks on Offer)*

Short answer questions varying from 1-8 marks. Questions will be formulated from the following topics: farm/product study; practical work; plants, animals, experimental design and analysis; and ecological and sustainability issues.

The question on your product study (**Corn**) will assess your knowledge of:

- markets and marketing strategies for a particular product
- technology and innovation involved in production and marketing
- the farm as a business
- decision making processes and management strategies.

You will need to understand the principles of valid experimental design and be able to interpret and analyse experimental data and the design of agricultural experiments. You should also be able to calculate an arithmetic mean, interpret a standard deviation and construct graphs.

Section 2 – Elective Extended Response *(Allow 45 minutes) (20 Marks on Offer)*

The elective your child has studied is: **‘Farming for the 21st Century’**. The technologies your child has studied include:

- Irrigation Flume Gates
- GPS
- Yield Mapping
- Biotechnology Plants
- Automatic Drafting Gates
- Laser Leveling
- Agricultural Apps
- Drones
- Others

The research study your child has studied is:

- **The Geo-Electric Cable**

The questions will require an extended structured response. The first part of the question typically requires a description or outline. The latter part of the question often requires an explanation or evaluation. These questions allow you to demonstrate your ability to draw together information from various parts of the syllabus. Try to offer relevant examples in your answers.

I am able to assist your child prior to the examination via:

- **Email:** carl.chirgwin1@det.nsw.edu.au
- **Phone:** 0427 455 389

Best of Luck...



New DPI resources

1. New resource hones in on Farming for the 21st Century

In the 2015 survey undertaken by NSW DPI, NSWAAAT members identified a need for additional resources and support for each of the HSC electives. In response to this, NSW DPI Schools Program has developed a [Farming for the 21st Century](#) Supporting Document. This document guides teachers and students through each component of the elective with numerous links to research and resources, as well as a series of learning activities. Farming for the 21st Century has been developed in consultation with current and former Agriculture teachers to become your go to guide for this elective.

2. Careers in Primary industries [case studies](#)

DPI has showcased the career pathways of ten staff members, in a diverse range of roles, to demonstrate that careers in our primary industries don't all involve driving a tractor or shearing a sheep. Our industries need to attract students with high level science, maths and technology skills and the case studies illustrate that there are endless employment opportunities in our primary industries regardless of your qualifications and experience.

3. On the Pulse resource kits

In the International Year of the Pulse, NSW DPI has partnered with [Little Brick Pastoral](#) to provide 200 resource kits to NSW primary schools free of charge. The kits contain NSW syllabus linked activities that showcase the production and nutrition of pulses grown in Australia and also a range of careers in the industry, using Lego figurines. The learning activities have students working towards outcomes from Science and Technology, Geography, English and Mathematics syllabuses for K-6 classes. Kits contain seeds and growing pots, Lego figurines and information sheets. The full cost of the On the Pulse kit and postage is covered for the first 200 NSW primary schools that [register their interest](#) online. Please note that only one kit per NSW school is available.

BOSTES endorsed teacher professional development from NSW DPI

1. [Climate Challenge for NSW teachers](#)

This online course has also been developed in response to the NSW DPI survey of NSWAAAT members last year and specifically, the Stage 6 Agriculture elective The Climate Challenge. However it will also assist teachers of Agriculture and Primary Industries subjects to deliver up to date information related to weather and climate change. The course provides general information in relation to the main drivers of weather patterns in Australia, impacts of climate change to our agricultural systems and risk management techniques. The cost for the course is \$150.



Completing The Climate Challenge for NSW teachers will contribute 5 hours of QTC Registered PD addressing 6.2.2 and 6.4.2 from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW.

2. [AgPatch - Garden Connections](#)



This online course consists of five modules and guides teachers through planning for the integration of a school garden into classroom practice and connecting it to local primary industries. This is a free course.



AgPatch – Garden Connections will contribute 5 hours of QTC Registered PD addressing 2.1.2, 3.4.2 and 3.7.2 from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW.

Innovation news

1. John Deere Adds AI, IoT to Farm Equipment

Now that the driverless car has gone mainstream, it's time to think about the driverless tractor and other autonomous farm equipment.

<http://www.eweek.com/innovation/john-deere-adds-ai-iot-to-farm-equipment.html>

2. Cellular agriculture: a way to feed tomorrow's Smart City?

Cellular agriculture enables production of animal protein without the need to raise and manage livestock. This is an alternative which could help meet the challenges facing the agricultural sector, given the need to produce more food because of demographic changes and growing urbanisation.

<http://www.atelier.net/en/trends/articles/cellular-agriculture-way-feed-tomorrow-smart-city-443098>

3. StartupAUS CEO Alex McCauley on Australia's next \$100 billion industry and how startups can take advantage of it

Stereotypes of startups are easy enough to find - young people in trendy urban settings splitting their limited time and attention between their unpronounceable coffee order and their indecipherable business idea. Agriculture, on the other hand, has its own mythology. Cattle stations and open skies, hard labour and harsh sun. Neither is completely true, of course. But it explains why, at first glance, agriculture doesn't seem like the most natural fit for disruptive innovation. It might seem like the two are operating in different worlds.

<http://www.startupsmart.com.au/advice/business-planning/startupaus-ceo-alex-mccauley-on-australias-next-100-billion-industry-and-how-startups-can-take-advantage-of-it/>

Upcoming Agricultural Events

Agricultural Shows

Oct – 16

[Bribbaree Show - 1st](#)
[Culcairn Show - 1st](#)
[Berrigan Show - 2nd](#)
[Griffith Show - 2nd](#)
[Young Show - 2nd](#)
[Morongla Show - 3rd](#)
[Walbundrie Show - 3rd](#)
[Kyogle Show - 7th to 8th](#)
[Leeton Show - 7th to 8th](#)
[Taree Show - 7th to 9th](#)
[Illabo Show - 8th](#)
[Picton Show - 8th to 9th](#)
[Trunkey Creek Show - 8th](#)
[Corowa Show - 9th](#)
[Norfolk Island Royal Show - 10th](#)
[Barham Koondrook Show - 14th to 15th](#)
[Casino Show - 14th to 15th](#)
[Cootamundra Show - 14th to 15th](#)
[Camden Haven Show - 15th to 16th](#)

[The Rock Show - 15th](#)
[Tooraweenah Show - 15th](#)
[Lismore Show - 20th to 22nd](#)
[Junee Show - 22nd](#)
[Alstonville Show - 28th to 29th](#)
[Albury Show - 28th to 30th](#)
[Carcoar Show - 29th](#)
[Minto Show - 30th](#)

Nov – 16

[Murwillumbah Show - 4th to 5th](#)
[Frenchs Forest Show - 5th to 6th](#)
[Holbrook Show - 5th](#)
[Dungog Show - 11th to 12th](#)
[Mullumbimby Show - 12th to 13th](#)
[Neville Show - 12th](#)
[Queanbeyan Show - 12th to 13th](#)
[Bangalow Show - 18th to 19th](#)
[Bulahdelah Show - 18th to 19th](#)
[Dorrigo Show - 26th to 27th](#)

Field Days

[Murrumbateman Field Days](#)
[Australian National Field Days](#)

15 – 16 October
20 - 22 October

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

embracing life with confidence,
compassion and creativity



NEGS

ATTENTION ALL SCHOOL AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS

Seeking your expression of interest for a:

SUSTAINABLE PIG PRODUCTION DAY

WHEN: Friday, 2nd December, 2016

WHERE: NEGS LIVESTOCK PRECINCT
Uralla Rd
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

WHAT: A fun, hands on, interesting educational day for all with guest speakers from around the state!

Seminars will include:

- Free range production and housing
- General husbandry
- Breeding
- Pig selection, judging and showing
- Legal obligations
- Feeding, including utilisation of school food waste
- Marketing options

Please email Mark Fisher (NEGS Agriculture Teacher) mark.fisher@negs.nsw.edu.au or phone 0408 952 644 ASAP if you would be interested in attending such a day.



New England Girls' School & St John's Co-Educational Junior School
Uralla Road, Armidale NSW 2350 Australia
T +61 02 6774 8700 F +61 02 6772 7057 E reception@negs.nsw.edu.au
www.negs.nsw.edu.au

Registered Provider: NEGS Limited ABN: 31 122 393 702 CRICOS: 02945A

Schools in the News

Western Sydney University's Unischool's Steer Competition

Started in 2000, the Unischool's Steer Competition is organised, sponsored and run by Western Sydney University. An event which is agriculturally focussed the competition calls for schools to be responsible for the appropriate feeding and care of the animals, commencing with the Training Day and Opening Ceremony which was on the 13th of May.

91 days later, on the 30th of August, schools met for the Live Day part of the competition. On this day is a culmination of events which never fail to bring out the best in each and every student. Showing them both an understanding and an ability that many didn't even know they had. Students and steers compete in a variety of events including (but not limited to)

- Weight Gain
- Herdsman Competition
- Best Groomed and Prepared Steer
- Student Parading (Junior and Senior students are split into Novice and Experienced categories).
- Student Judging (Junior and Senior students are split into non-speaking and speaking categories).
- Beef Appraisal.

In the culmination of the event participating schools along with principals, teachers and parents gathered at the Hawkesbury Campus of the Western Sydney University for the Closing Ceremony and Bush Dance.

Individual class winners of the 2016 the UniSchools' Steer Challenge this year where:

<i>Champion Junior Judge:</i>	R Carpenter, Bede Polding College
<i>Champion Senior Judge:</i>	C Wardini, Oakhill College
<i>Junior Champion Parader:</i>	G Jensen, Macarthur Anglican College
<i>Senior Champion Parader:</i>	A Wade, Colo High School
<i>All Ages Judging Team:</i>	Hurlstone Agricultural High School
<i>Champion School – Best Presented Steer:</i>	Richmond TAFE
<i>Students Choice (Display):</i>	Bede Polding College
<i>Champion School – Led Steer:</i>	Xavier College Llandilo
<i>Champion School – Herdsman:</i>	Colo High School
<i>Champion School – Combined Beef Appraised Team:</i>	Elizabeth Macarthur High School
<i>Champion School – Steer Weight Gain:</i>	Richmond TAFE
<i>Champion Carcass School:</i>	Mount Annan Christian College
<i>Champion School of the 2016 WSU Unischools Steer Challenge:</i>	Macarthur Anglican School



A thank you from the students of the Western Sydney University Unischool's Steer Competition, to the participating teachers and thus to all agricultural teachers

"Good afternoon teachers and students. My name is Brooke and here beside me is Jarrod. Before we begin, we have to let all of you teachers know that we haven't been completely honest with you all.... We've got a little bit of a secret we've been carrying upon us for the last two weeks. As two students from each school comes down to the front, you may be wondering what is going on...

You Jarrod, myself and the peers before us stand here today, we are not representatives from our schools, not as representatives from different education sectors which we come from. We are actually here as representatives of all the students here today to thank some very important people. They are the teachers.

Now as we are delivering this speech, you will all agree that our TV's and overhead projectors are covered with different superheros. Now I'm not saying that these teachers wear their underwear on the outside of their clothes (well maybe not in public) nor do we see them flying around during the night (we think) but they do seem to have superhero powers...absolute patients and understanding.

Their ability to see just what us as students can do and achieve (even though might not know it ourselves). They sometimes push us, and on the odd occasion get a bit mad, but if it wasn't for the, events like this wouldn't happen. They give up their time to organise these great opportunities for us, they guide us and shape our understanding to great levels.

These teachers make our literacy applicable and the numeracy real, whether it being crafting a speech for judging to assist us on our evaluation for the required context and audience or working out how to calculate feed rations, average growth rates for the animals we may have. They guide us into reaching out to the community and working as a team. We the students might even go as far as expressing that they are our AG family. (I sometimes even wonder who the grandparents would be!)

We would now like to ask you all to stand and give a big applause and help in leading all these wonderful teachers 3 cheers, for all the supermen and wonder women of this events and as each representatives from the schools take to their teachers a little gift that tokens how appreciated we all are for what they all do, even if sometimes it goes unrecognised."

The participating students of the 2017 Western Sydney Unischools' Steer Competition



Penrith Show



Now in its 27th year, nearly 20 schools from across the Western Sydney region participated in the Penrith Show. Co-ordinated and organised by Caroline Chisolm College teacher Geoff Clerke, the event is held in high esteem by many students including one Nagle College student who declared that “You don’t fully understand Agriculture and what it can do until you do the Penrith Show.”

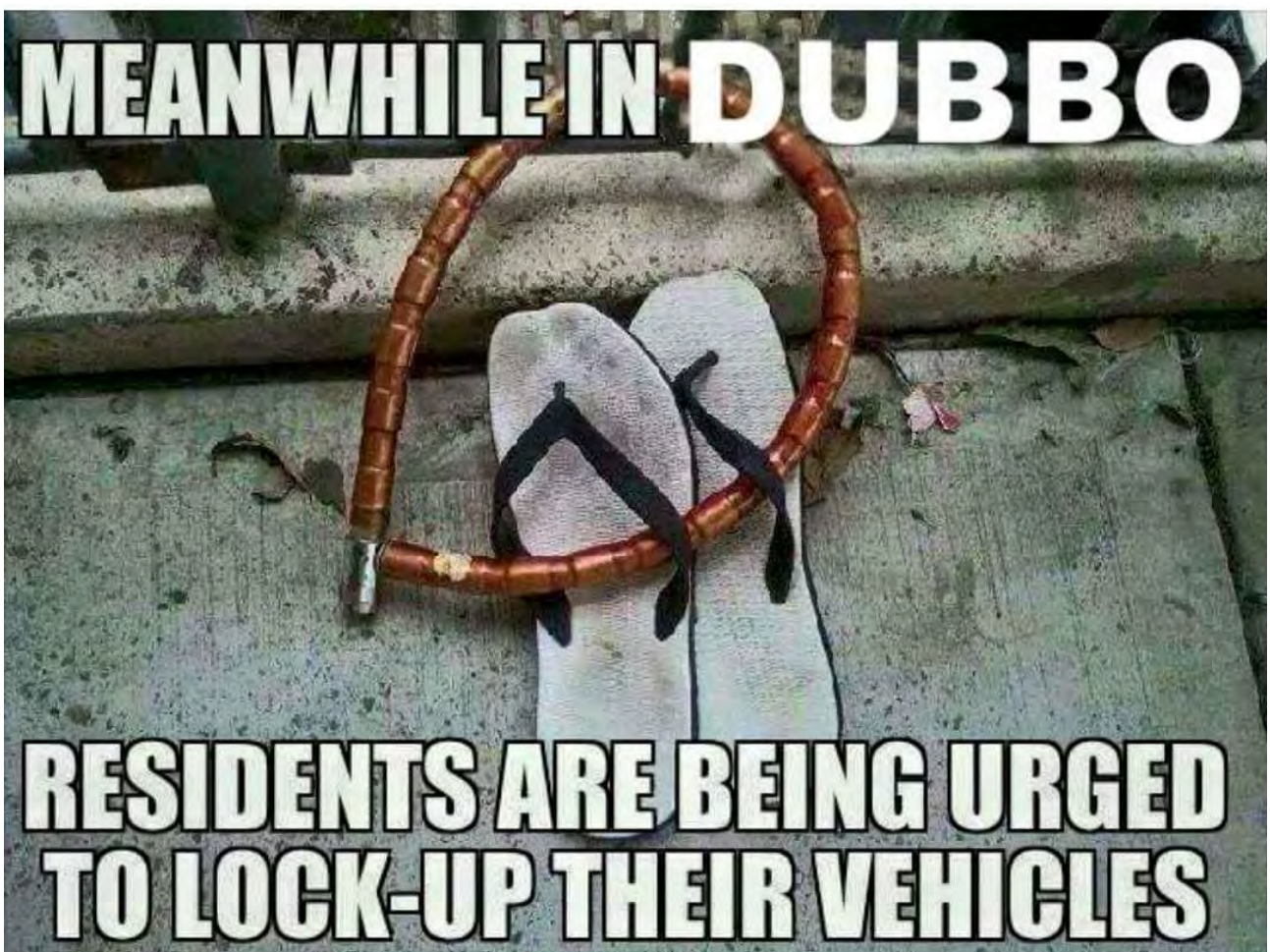
Geoff stated (to Penrith’s local paper) that the school’s section of the show has been crafted to allow for “an authentic learning situation... with opportunities you can’t always provide within a classroom.” And if judging it by the student engagement of students ranging from year 9 to 12 students are always engaged into the lead up to and during the duration of the show. When asking students which was their favourite event, students struggle to name just one. Whilst they may not agree some of the most common answers include the building and showcase a static display, showcasing their steer (which schools have raised since being gifted in February by the Emu Plains Correctional Centre), to the judging and parading competitions, and the rural Olympics competition, as well as a new addition to the competition this year- the Alpaca handling.

Major award winners across the two days include:

<i>WSU Livestock trophy:</i>	Bede Polding College
<i>WSU Produce trophy:</i>	Cranebrook High School
<i>Max Laughton Display Shield:</i>	Elderslie High School
<i>Gordon Moxon All Categories Shield:</i>	Chifley College - Bidwell Campus
<i>Emu Plains CSI Calf Raising Champion:</i>	Xavier College
<i>Emu Plains CSI Calf Raising Reserve Champion:</i>	Prairewood High
<i>Rural Olympics:</i>	Colo High School



From the Sydney Branch of the NSW Agriculture Teacher's Association



MARIAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Penrith Show 2016

The Marian College, Agriculture Show Team traveled to Penrith Showground to compete in the Penrith Show against 18 other schools on Friday 26, Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 of August, 2016.

On Friday, approximately 50 students from Years 9 to 12 elective agriculture helped to set up the agriculture display with the theme of "Quackaponics" including five, 2 week old Peking ducklings.

On the Saturday, the alpacas and cattle were shown to be judged on their confirmation and fleece. Both our dairy calves were shown both in the



Cattle Competition as well as the Parader's Competition. Students participated in judging other schools' agriculture displays, the grand parade in the main arena and speaking to the members of the public about Quackaponics and keeping our ducklings safe. The day concluded with the fantastic news that we had won the Students Choice Display Award. Our two junior judges from Year 7 spoke about their experience on the microphone in front of approximately 200 people at the presentation.





On Sunday, students participated in Poultry Junior Judging, the Alpaca Handling Competition and the Rural Olympics.

The Rural Olympics involved our team of four students competing against 16 schools. Each team had to erect a conventional fence, electric fence, calibrate a spray gun, suit up and spray, handle sheep, tell the age and breeds of a sheep, stack a trailer-load of hay and tie the load down using the appropriate knots. Students were judged on their team work, safety and competency to complete the tasks to a high standard. Our team were awarded silver medals for their amazing effort!

Results:

- 1st Students Choice Agriculture Display
- 4th Paraders Competition – Olivia Dolly (10Ag)
- 1st Alpaca – Leah Tallon (9AgA)
- 2nd Alpaca Fleece
- 2nd Marmalade – (9foodD)
- 2nd Overall ‘Other Category’
- 3rd Poultry Judging – Kim Hefron (9AgB and Brianna Giblett 10Ag)
- 2nd Silver Medals Rural Olympics – Ben Giblett (12Ag), Angus Feely (11Ag), Elizabeth Farrugia (12Ag) and Bailey Caruana (10Ag)

Overall, the experience from the show was an enjoyable, hands on, educational event. Everyone had a job and a responsibility, ranging from washing animals, leading animals, judging or assisting the agriculture stand. The atmosphere was fun and educational as there was always something going on, all of the students had something in common, an enjoyment of agriculture and everybody was cooperative and got along well. A big thank you to Miss Van den Berge for organising the event and providing the students with this opportunity.

— Kim, Rebecca, Jennifer, Sophia and Georgia (9AgB)

On the weekend a bunch of extremely lucky kids and I had the opportunity to participate in the 173rd annual Penrith Show as part of the school's Ag Team. Being my first year in high school I was extremely lucky to be chosen for such an amazing opportunity. Everybody turned up full of energy and smiles whilst we left worn out and ready to go to bed. On the first day we were so excited to be at the stand with the brand new baby ducklings with only arrived at our ag plot on Thursday! Other events like cow and alpaca judging was on and successfully Dora (our alpaca) came first! Later on in the day the other schools who competed against us voted our display FIRST! Overall we were very successful and I was so lucky to be part of an awesome team with such great team work.

— Sami, Alana Berry, Neana and Thomas (Year 7)



Sky Van den Berge
Agriculture Teacher

Lake Cargelligo Central School

On 23rd and 24th August, 11 Students (Tegan Richardson, Natasha Casey, Madison Morris, Jacinta Phillips, Meg Preston, Mandy Stenhouse, Lainie Johnson, Ebony Turner, Eliza Green, Natalie Glover and Joanna Lovgren) from Lake Cargelligo Central School travelled to Dubbo National Merino Show to compete in the School Merino Wether Challenge. The students prepared 9 wethers during Term 2 and 3 that were donated by Alan and Jennifer Ireland, Tullibigeal. On Tuesday, the students exhibited in the projection class. The judge was looking at the structure of the animals, and then their wool and carcass characteristics as if the wethers were to be kept and run commercially as woolgrowers for five years.



The Show Team before judging.

Sheep were split into two sections for judging, fine wool and medium/strong wool. LCCS teams were all placed in the top 12 visually by the judge, placing 2nd, 4th and 5th. Each sheep was awarded points based on these characteristics which would then be used to calculate the overall winner of the projection class.

On Tuesday afternoon and early Wednesday morning all the teams of wethers were shorn and then scanned for carcass characteristics. The wool from each sheep was individually collected, weighed and tested using wool testing equipment for fibre diameter, length, strength, yield and other important quality characteristics. The wool is then valued according to current market prices. Our wethers had extremely good fleece weights, with one wether producing 5.33kg with only 6 months wool. The sheep were then judged visually for carcass traits and awarded points to again go towards the overall point score.

The 11 students then each had complete a Sheep Quiz which included basic questions about Merino Sheep and Sheep in general. Throughout the competition, the schools will be judged on their presentation, their pen display and area cleanliness. Students also competed in Junior Judging in Merino Sheep and Fleece competitions. There were 200 competitors in total which was incredible to see. In total there were 50 teams of 3 wethers presented in the wether competition this year – a great achievement for all the schools and students involved. Out of these 50 teams our results included 1st and 3rd in the projection class (overall – both fine and medium/strong wool included), 1st and 3rd in the Highest Wool Value class and Champion Team overall (including presentation, display, area cleanliness, quiz results and wether results).



Natasha Casey, Tegan Richardson and Jacinta Phillips exhibiting in the projection class



Meg Preston, Ebony Turner, Joanna Lovgren in the projection class

Overall Lake Cargelligo Central School Show Team had a very successful first show and would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the generous sponsors that assisted us in getting to the show and for the donation of the wethers and feed from Alan and Jennifer Ireland. Our sponsors include Canada Street Fuels, Kevin Miller, Whitty, Lennon and Co., Richard Worner Transport, Bendigo Bank, St Mary Pharmacy, Lake Newsagency, Hutcheon and Pearce, Rabobank Forbes and Commonwealth Bank Lake Cargelligo. Without the support of the community it would be difficult for us to have attended the show. The students and staff are looking forward to the rest of our show season and we look forward to attending the Wether Challenge again next year.



**Angus Beveridge awarding Jacinta Phillips
the Overall Winner of the Wether Challenge**



**Miss Ireland, Lainie Johnson, Jacinta Phillips, Natasha Casey, Tegan Richardson, Meg Preston,
Mandy Stenhouse, Madison Morris, Eliza Green, Ebony Turner, Natalie Glover, Joanna Lovgren**

TULLAMORE CENTRAL SCHOOL

Agriculture in Action at Tullamore Central School—Small School, Big Ideas!

2016 has been a massive year for Agriculture at Tullamore Central School. This year we have basically begun with a clear paddock so to speak and have reinvigorated our school's agriculture program. Our students have worked exceptionally hard and have taken to our enterprises with gusto and commitment.



Putting together the cattle yards, chipping the burrs and fencing our paddocks

At the start of the year our Year 9/10 Agriculture class and Primary Industries class from the Western Access Program completed the fencing for our paddocks which were being prepared to receive our Pure bred Dexters. We only have 5 acres so a small, low maintenance and easy to handle, dual purpose breed was chosen as many of our students, although being from farming families had never handled cattle, let alone prepared them for show.

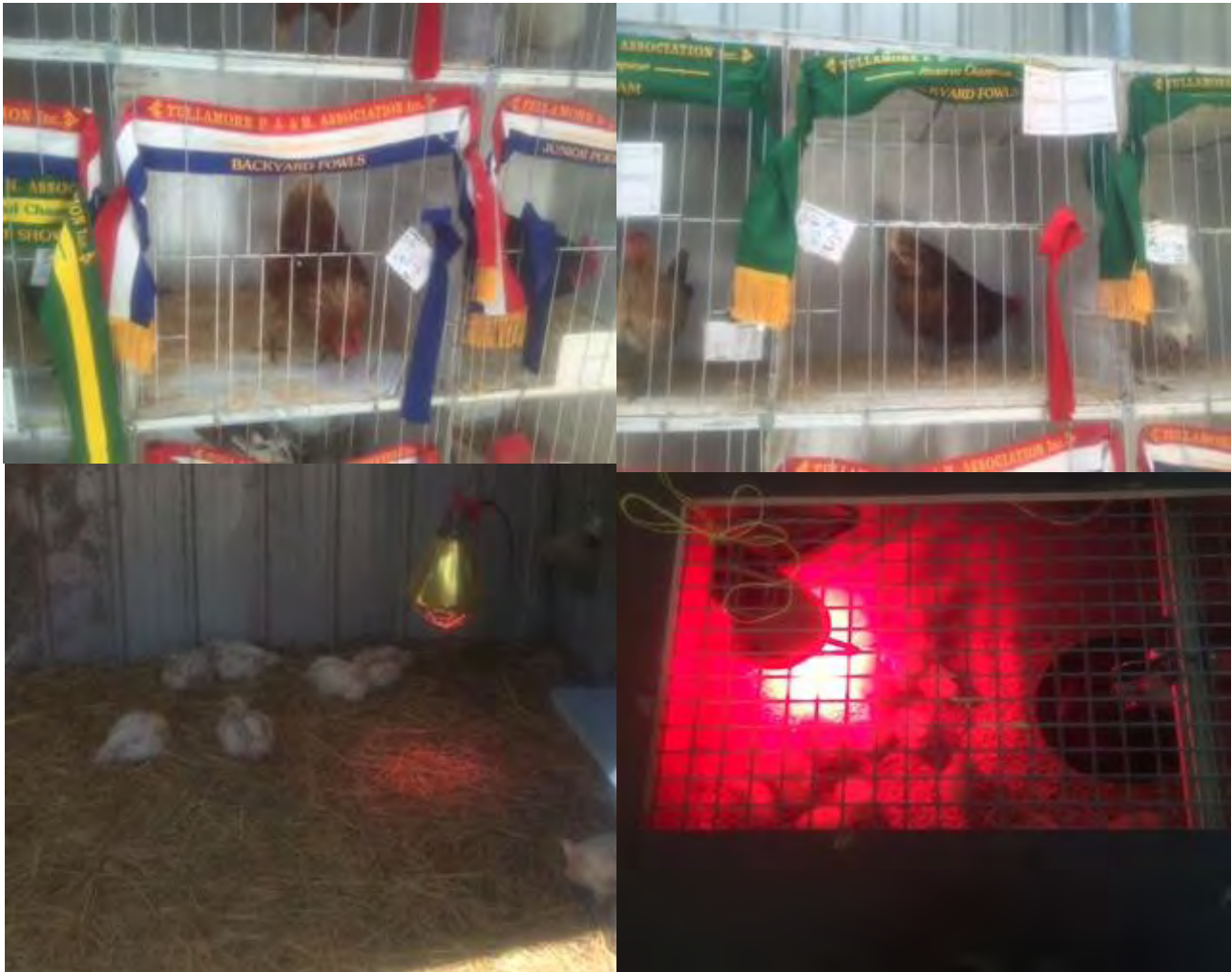
Tullamore Central School is proud to say we are now a registered Dexter Stud and is now in the process of producing stud stock for show and have made contact with a boutique butchery to purchase any steers produced. The butchery is one that specialises in supplying Dexter meat to restaurants and to families who want a side of beef that will actually fit in their family freezer! In the show ring we have had some success for our first year, gaining a first and second place at Bedgerebong Show in the other British Breeds section.



Our Dexters in action in the classroom and at the local areashows

We have also had a very successful year with our poultry enterprises. We have layers and our current batch of broilers are 3 weeks into their trial. The Broiler trial has been conducted as a joint unit with our Mathematics teacher who is currently teaching statistics and the data from weighing the broilers and the monitoring of their feed intake will be used as a practical application of mathematics. Our broilers are gaining weight and they are scheduled in for their trip to the abattoirs during term 4 where they will come back processed and cryovaced for sale at school fete

At our local show we took out Champion and Reserve Champion Backyard Fowl, which made all the hard work by Year 8 worthwhile.



Our students have also taken to judging competitions like ducks to water. They have not had much experience in this area but have shown a great eye for stock and assessing their qualities. They have taken on board the feedback from local experienced judges and breeders of sheep and cattle to improve their knowledge of what to look for in stud stock. Thanks to those who have given their time to help our students in this area and enable them to be successful at both a local and regional level.

Our Vegetable and Herb gardens are very productive, supplying our local shop with seasonal produce on a weekly basis. We also hold a farmers market every 3 weeks, where produce is sold after our Primary assemblies. Students have worked out their prices based on vegetable prices listed in "The Land" each week and have designed a logo for their egg cartons and labels for preserved produce.

Because we are a Central School, our agriculture program has expanded to include our youngest students. Our older students in Years 7—10 have created the Tullamore Central School Agriculture Club. Older students are responsible for an enterprise and they are the enterprise leader.



Tullamore Kids in action around the school farm and out at Judging competitions

They have been trained in the enterprise area in terms of safety and when to call in myself or Mr Davison our Farm Assistant for help. They also have been training their Pee-Wees - which are our K-6 students who have nominated for an enterprise.

These students rotate through each enterprise each term, gaining skills and confidence, whilst our enterprise leaders are gaining skills in leadership and decision making as well as care for our animals and produce.

There are also a group that are part of this club that are behind fundraising. So far they have run a successful drink stall at the local Tullamore Irish Festival, 100 clubs, made close to 1000 cuttings of various plants and potted them up for sale at the fete and they are currently arranging a trivia night, so each week I am getting a bag of something that they have managed to get donated for a prize from around our local district landing in my office.

All funds raised goes to the upkeep of our cattle, covering costs such as chook food and the acquisition of new items for new enterprises—they are currently aiming to raise enough funds to set up a Poly tunnel for all year round production of produce and aquaculture.

My students certainly dream big but also abide by our school motto of “Learn By Doing”! I have seen them grow in confidence and for many it is the first time they have felt successful in what they can do. They have done a massive amount of work in a very short time, and who knows where we will be this time in 2017.

I haven't been able to do this single handed. Many thanks go to the students but also to our tireless (and absolute legend!) Farm Assistant—Max Davison. He has been instrumental in helping us to get Agriculture back up and happening at Tullamore.

Also massive thanks to our parents and local community, who have assisted with transporting students to shows, supplying hay, donating plant pots, glass jars for fruit and vegetable preserving, raffle prizes or even a bag of chook food or potting mix. It has all helped to get us started and hopefully by the end of this year turning a small profit to make everything sustainable.

Natasha Shankelton
Tullamore Central School
Agriculture Teacher & Head Teacher Secondary Studies



Selected snippets from the July, August and September 2016 PIEFA Newsletters.

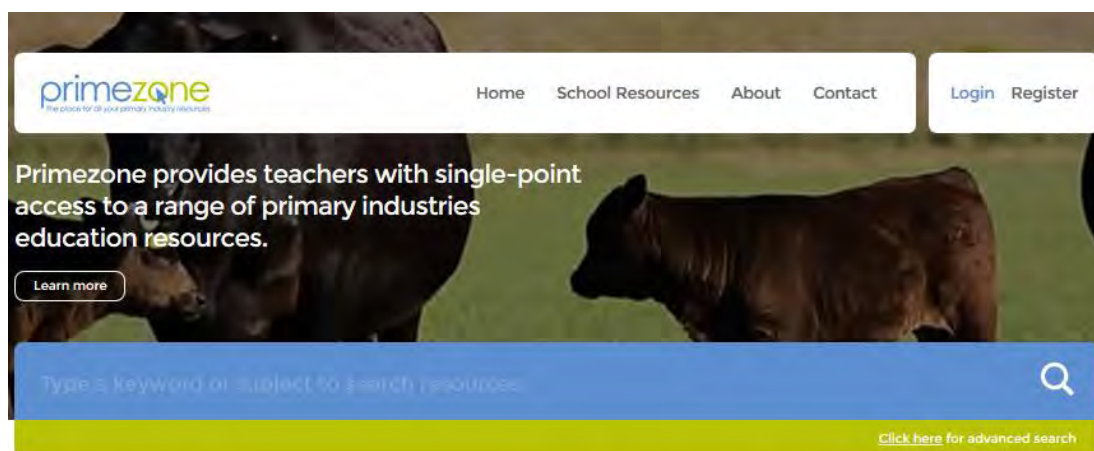
Foundation News

Primezone 2.0 is LIVE!

It's never been easier to find the food and fibre resource you need. PIEFA is proud to launch its updated and improved website for schools: www.primezone.edu.au

The same great resources are joined by many new ones but with a new look and vastly improved functionality. New features include;

- the ability to search by learning area, year level, resource type and Australian curriculum code.
- an improved keyword search functionality allowing users to search by single or multiple words, or a combination of the above
- a login facility allowing a superior experience including the ability to bookmark, take notes and save and share resources.



Trending Resources



Investigating technologies in agriculture

This unit consists of a pdf resource and two supporting videos. It has five inquiry teaching sequences about some of the...

[Learn more](#)

SUBJECT Technologies	
TYPE Multiple	YEAR 5-6



George the Farmer

George the Farmer is an App that teaches 0-8 year old children about farming practices and food and fibre production in a...

[Learn more](#)

SUBJECT Science	
TYPE Website	YEAR K-2

Featured PIEFA Resources




Investigating technologies in agriculture

This unit consists of a pdf resource and two supporting videos. It has five inquiry teaching sequences about some of the...

[Learn more](#)

SUBJECT Technologies	
TYPE Multiple	YEAR 5-6



Navigating primary industries in to the 21st Century

This is a unit developed with a learning sequence about the environmental, economic and technological factors that influence...

[Learn more](#)

SUBJECT Geography	
TYPE Multiple	YEAR 9

Resources on Primezone

NEW! Soil in food chains

Science

Years 7-8

A teacher guide to extend student understanding of food chains and the interconnectedness of the natural world. Based around two ideas: the first explores food chains and webs with soil as a focus. The second idea builds on the first by providing insights into soil as a non-renewable resource. The teacher guide includes questions, activities and links to online resources.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

NEW! Soil in the urban environment

Science

Years 10-11

A teacher guide to assist students explore the chemical reactions of pH, salinity, sodicity (dispersion) and corrosion in soil and apply these chemical reactions to a real world scenario. Students explore the difference between topsoil and subsoil and use laboratory tests to determine if the topsoil can be re-used in the landscaping of the property development project. Includes suggested questions and activities for students.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

NEW! Soil science careers

Science

Years 7-10

This teacher guide provides an activity about soil science careers, which can be discussed in conjunction with classes on hydrology, water movement, geology, the lithosphere, food production, forests, and forensics.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

NEW! PIEFA launches secondary school resources

Exposing students to cutting edge innovation and science is the aim of PIEFA's brand new resources that have been made available on Primezone this week. Using a unique user friendly HTML platform, with a low resolution print option, these resources are developed specifically for the secondary school curriculum. A combination of multi-lesson units and videos, supported by lessons, they have been independently assessed and trialled by the PIEFA network. The new resources include:

Robotic Farming

Year 7, Design and Technology

The lesson will provide students an opportunity to design a robot to improve production through either reducing a threat or creating a more productive environment. The use of robots and drones are becoming more commonplace to solving challenges faced in human society. This is particularly true for the primary industries sector. A farmer (land manager) responsible for a crop or livestock is always looking for ways to reduce the amount of physical labour, which can lead to increase in production.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

Water Sustainability

Year 7, Science

The lesson will provide students an opportunity to investigate water use in soils and plants. One of the main functions of soil is to store moisture and supply it to plants between rainfalls or irrigations. If the water content becomes too low, plants become stressed. The plant available moisture storage capacity of a soil provides a buffer, which determines a plant's capacity to withstand dry spells.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

Biotechnologies

Year 8/9, Science

This is a unit developed with a learning sequence to look at two connected streams of science. Firstly the development of practices in agriculture to improve yields and sustainability, and secondly to understand the connections of science through disciplines, including the role of reproductive technologies in the primary industries.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

NEW! Environmental, economic and technological factors that influence crop yield

Geography

Year 9

This is a short lesson designed to support students understand the factors that influence crop yield. Students can view a short 5 minute video and then complete a worksheet, which looks at what variables influence crop yield.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

NEW! Food Garden

Health and Physical Education, Science

Years K-6

This resource, available for purchase, consists of two series of books each with four parts, illustrated using photos. Gaye the Garden Girl book set describes the lifecycles of vegetables, beneficial insects or pests in the garden and concepts such as pollination. There is one book for each season - summer, autumn, winter, spring. The Garden Gang book set illustrates the life cycle of vegetables referring to popular stories such as The Hare and the Tortoise, Jack and the Beanstalk.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

NEW! Water contamination from run-off

Science

Year 7

This teaching guide allows students to explore different sources of water contamination and the link between soil quality and water quality. Students investigate physical contamination through soil erosion, chemical contamination, and the use of soil as a filter to clean water.

[VIEW RESOURCE](#)

Industry News

Free quad bike safety resources

Quad bikes are the biggest killer on Australian farms, claiming 230 lives in the last 15 years. The Queensland Government has launched the Ride ready campaign to raise awareness around quad bike rider safety. The Ride ready campaign includes free resources and encourages riders to wear helmets, not double, never let kids ride adult bikes and seek proper rider training.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

AgVision 2016 encouraging careers in agriculture (NSW)

June High School's AgVision is a leading careers expo dedicated to supporting and informing Years 9-11 students and their educators of the range of careers available in agriculture, science, technologies and agribusiness. Students will be inspired and motivated by the hands on experiences and mentoring from industry professionals.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

On the Pulse Resource kits (NSW)

In the International Year of the Pulse, NSW Department of Primary Industries has partnered with [Little Brick Pastoral](#) to provide 200 resource kits to NSW primary schools free of charge. The kits contain NSW syllabus linked activities that showcase the production and nutrition of pulses grown in Australia and also a range of careers in the industry, using Lego figurines. The learning activities have students working towards outcomes from Science and Technology, Geography, English and Mathematics syllabuses for K-6 classes. Kits contain seeds and growing pots, Lego figurines and information sheets. The full cost of the On the Pulse kit and postage is covered for the first 200 schools that register their interest at the link below. Please note that schools are only eligible to receive one kit.

For more information contact the DPI Schools team at schools.program@dpi.nsw.gov.au

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Wool a sporty winner

The combination of wool, fashion and sport has proven a winner with Australia's secondary school students with a record 12,000 registrations for the Wool4School competition this year. While participating students do not have to make their designs, students illustrate and carefully describe the textiles used in their work. State and year level winning students and teachers share in the \$10,000 worth of prizes and this year's winning entries can be viewed [HERE](#).

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



Conferences and Professional Development

Food Fibre and Agriculture Educators Conference

9-12 January 2017

Brisbane, Qld

This conference will upskill teachers on current agricultural practices and equip them with the knowledge of the wide range of career and training opportunities for students in plants, animal, science and rural industries; reinvigorate interest in primary industries and in particular agriculture by demonstrating that it is a valuable and high-tech industry operating at the cutting-edge of science and technology. Registrations are now open.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

AROUND THE TRAPS

Ag / PI Teachers: Have you been in the situation where subject selection has resulted in insufficient numbers to run a course. Those passionate students often have to resort to distance education. As an alternative, you could consider Aurora College. It is a Virtual Selective High School, providing students in rural and remote areas the chance to study specialist subjects using the latest technology.

You can look at their profile on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/AuroraCollegeAU/>
or their website: <http://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/>