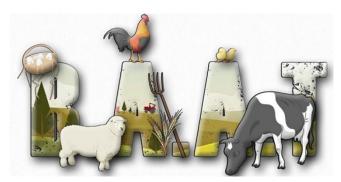
NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers



Autumn 2018 Newsletter

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Presidents Message

Dear members,

2018 has zoomed into term one with amazing speed. I hope everyone is travelling well and keeping the Ag education flag flying high and aiming for those blue ribbons!

This year is setting out to be the busiest in years in relation to changes in curriculum. The new Technology Mandatory syllabus would be in the forefront of all teachers and this is the biggest change in AG curriculum in nearly 20 years. NESA and DoE as planning to roll out a range of resources and workshops during the rest of the year. Your association is also planning a number of support workshops across the regions, so please watch out for information coming out soon.

Very soon you will be receiving a survey regarding the expertise of members. The purpose of this is to better assist all teachers by identifying the range of knowledge and skills that we have a collective group that we can share with each other through mentoring of new teachers in regional areas.

We have made a number of improvements to the website membership section and this has increased membership to the highest number of members in years. Thanks to you all for your support and if you have any suggestions for the website, please pass them onto the executive.

A number of other activities I have been engaged in this term includes, liaising with other TAS associations regarding co-membership, writing formal letters to ministers and industry organisations regarding the crisis of lack of Ag teachers, networking with many industry Ag education organisations on how they can support us better, working with NESA and DoE on supporting Ag teaching in the future. This and more continues to be my aim to ramp up the support we are given and to improve the professionalism of our teaching subjects.

Our state conference organisation of going very well and I want to thank Georgie Price and her team for all their hard work so far. The conference will be held in 4-8th January 2019 at Forbes. I will be at the PIEFA conference next term, and I hope to see some of you there. The conference is accredited for 12 hour professional learning by NESA.

I hope you all have a great holiday and look forward to working towards supporting you all the rest of this year.

Luciano



TO SUPPORT ALL TEACHERS AND ORGANISATIONS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED EDUCATION PURSUITS.

Meet the 2018 Executive



Luciano Mesiti

President of NSWAAT.

Ag teacher at Colo High School.

What first sparked your interest in agricultural education?

I grew up on a farm and always wanted to do something in agriculture. I spent over 15 years working as a University lecturer and retrained as a high school teacher 8 years ago.

Who are your agricultural heroes and why have you found them inspiring?

My parents were my first heroes because they worked so hard and were excellent farmers leaving a lasting legacy for me to carry on.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing agriculture education in NSW?

The lack of trained agriculture teachers in NSW is a real crisis. NSWAAT is tackling this currently. Also, promotion of AG teaching is lacking due to careers advisors and career promotion by universities.

Brianna Callum



Vice president of the NSWAAT!

Education Officer in the Honey Bee Unit at Tocal College

For the last four years I was living in Sydney and teaching at Barker College.

My husband and I moved to Paterson which is located in the lower hunter at the beginning of 2018 and I started a new role working as an Education Officer in the Honey Bee Unit at Tocal College in January. I am currently completing my Certificate III in Beekeeping and assisting the DPI in developing new units and training programs. I also assist in the management of their Apiary sites at Tocal. I'm also tinkering with developing Agricultural resources in my spare time.

What first sparked your interest in agricultural education?

I started Agriculture in year 8 and just never stopped. As a student I liked the diversity the subject had to offer. I finished my Animal Science degree at WSU Hawkesbury and started working in Marketing and Advertising. I quickly realised I couldn't work in an office environment 9 to 5 and wanted to work with young people. I started my Graduate Diploma of Education at UNE and never looked back!

Who are your agricultural heroes and why have you found them inspiring?

I have a few!

My high school Agriculture teachers - I was lucky that all of them were amazing! Each teacher I had taught me a different set of valuable skills. There are so many lessons and activities I did as a student that I use now as a teacher. Almost all of them are still teaching the subject which I believe says something! Each teacher nurtured and guided me in the right directions, so if they are reading this, I could never thank all you wonderful people enough for your dedication!

Temple Grandin - my past students would giggle at this statement. But do I really need to explain why? As an animal scientist, her work in the industry is beyond inspiring. She is and will forever be an icon in the livestock industry and has changed it for the better.

And last but definitely not least my family, especially my Grandpa Frank. They fostered my passion even before I started school and encouraged me to keep going when I doubted myself. They definitely helped fuel my interest in the area and have never stopped supporting me.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing agriculture education in NSW?

The growing demand for food and fibre - can we keep up in terms of education?

Our job as Agricultural Educators has never been more important than right now. We need to prepare the next generation for what lies ahead. And it's no small task! Agriculture I believe has been taken for granted in this country and we need LOTS of bright young minds to be ready for the challenges of the future. My hope is that it becomes a major focus and that our youth become invested in its protection and development.



Angela Colliver

Secretary of NSWAAT

Director - Angela Colliver Consulting Services

My role in NSWAAT is 'Secretary' and that involves communicating with the NSWATT Executive and Members.

What first sparked your interest in agricultural education?

My first interest was sparked way back on the 1980's when I began farming earthworms. I wrote an educational resource for schools called' Kids for Landcare - Wormwatch' and began breeding them. They are truly fascinating creatures. This led to a passion for agricultural education.

Who are your agricultural heroes and why have you found them inspiring?

In recent years the heroes I really am inspired by are the young farmers who are

realising their dreams and managing farms and stations and those who are starting new business ideas in the ag space. I recently was blown away meeting many of the Young Farming Champions at the RAS in Sydney and hearing their stories and aspirations.

Similarly, reading and learning more about the game changers who are in start-ups and collaborating on amazing ag-related ventures is awesome. A new 'accelerator network in Orange, NSW is leading the way. Their work and visions have inspired me to write a new educational resource for the new Technology Mandatory syllabus titled 'Discover the game changing ideas that are pioneering our food future' in which, students investigate a range of new ideas that are changing our food system. They then sell their pitch as part of a food and agriculture 'Pitch' competition.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing agriculture education in NSW?

Currently, I feel the implementation of the new NESA Syllabuses may be a challenge for teachers of agricultural education and that's why I recently became an accredited provider of NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Registered Professional Development and have developed a suite of new courses and educational resources specifically to engage teachers in the new syllabuses.



Graham Quintal

Treasurer of NSWAAT

Retired

I am kept busy with managing the burgeoning membership base of the Association. I also coadministrator our Facebook Group - NSWAAT. I have now been retired from teaching Agriculture for 7 years now, but I am actively involved in supporting teachers with resources and networks wherever I can.

What first sparked your interest in agricultural education?

Having been bought up on a mixed wheat/sheep farm in Central West NSW, I have always had a keen interest in Agriculture and when I was successful in gaining entry to Wagga Agricultural College, I knew it was a field I was destined to pursue. I was fortunate to receive a Teacher Education scholarship, and that sealed my career direction.

Who are your agricultural heroes and why have you found them inspiring?

I have always had a fascination with the tenacity of Arthur Clifford Howard. He developed his rotary hoe very near to where I grew up - Gilgandra.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing agriculture education in NSW?

It seems that many of our educational leaders seem to downplay the importance of agriculture in the curriculum. Also, there is little direction coming from the career advice being provided to our school leavers. As a consequence, there is a dire shortage of trained agricultural educators being processed through the tertiary institutions. This is a challenge that we, as an Association, need to address.



Scott Graham

Social & Digital Media for NSWAAT.

Head of Agriculture at Barker College, Sydney.

What first sparked your interest in agricultural education?

Initially, growing up in Sydney, I did Agriculture at school in Y7/Y8 as it was compulsory. I subsequently grew to love it and become passionate about it and continued it on through the HSC to complete BSciAgr (USYD).

Who are your agricultural heroes and why have you found them inspiring?

My high school Ag teachers such as Tony Turner and Karen Heap gave me a love and passion for the subject that I likely would not have had otherwise. This was very foundational and spurred me on to seek a path in the field. What do you see as the biggest challenge facing agriculture education in NSW?

The lack of teacher graduates coming through is by far and away the biggest problem. I think Agriculture is inherently interesting to all students, even those that live in the city. In my opinion it is very easy to get students interested in Agriculture and studying it at a high school level, but the harder issue across the board is getting the staff to teach those students.



Jennifer Caines

Member of the NSWAAT executive.

Ag teacher at Mt Annan Christian College.

What first sparked your interest in agricultural education?

I am the 5th generation Australian farmer, so I am passionate about the industry.

I was a wool classer and worked for the Australian Wool Testing Authority.

I worked in a large rural retail outlet specialising in animal health.

When I decided to become a teacher my love for ag, my love for student welfare and my love of lifelong learning the natural fit was teaching ag, geography, commerce and aboriginal studies.

Who are your agricultural heroes and why have you found them inspiring?

My dad and his love for breeding animals especially merinos.

My brother Mark who has been an advocate for Australian farmers and sustainable agriculture. He has also been a speaker for Beyond Blue and now works for the Rural Fire Service.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing agriculture education in NSW?

The lack of understanding of the importance of Australian agricultural industries by the public, the politicians and heads of school and educational facilities.



Greg Mills

BAAT Editor

Principal Consultant - GoAhead Business Solutions

What first sparked your interest in agricultural education?

I grew up on farms on the Western Downs in Queensland where my father worked as a farm labourer. From a young age I spent as much time as I could going to work with my father and I got my first paid job in a piggery at 12 years of age.

I now train Young Farming Champions who go into schools and talk about their experience in agriculture as part of the Archibull Prize. I provide technical & scientific input into the development of teaching resources and participate in the CSIRO Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Professionals in Schools program.

Who are your agricultural heroes and why have you found them inspiring?

I am inspired by the professionals who have built careers and business in agriculture who are not farmers. These people choose where they live, where they bring up their families and how they live their lives based around a dedication and passion for agriculture and the people involved in the industry.

What do you see as the biggest challenge facing agriculture education in NSW?

As agriculture career opportunities expand it will be a continual challenge to make teaching agriculture a career of choice for graduates.



AGRICULTURE TEACHERS GIVES YOU ACCESS TO A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION WHICH AIMS TO PROMOTE THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIA, AND SUPPORT THOSE TEACHERS WHO ARE TEACHING THE COURSES IN SCHOOLS IN NSW, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.

PIEFA Conference

12 hours NESA Professional Learning accreditation is available for attendance at the <u>PIEFA Conference</u>.

"Food & Fibre - the original STEM" is the theme of PIEFA's 2018 conference to be held at the Realm Hotel, Canberra from 29 April to 1 May 2018.



The conference will be STEM focused, crosscurricula, K-12.

The conference will provide the opportunity to learn and network with outstanding educators and industry leaders from around Australia and overseas. Workshops and presentations will assist all educators seeking to deepen the learning of their students through a relevant, real-life and rigorous context.

Cotton Tour

One for the diary if you a near Griffith.



OzHarvest's New Program

OzHarvest, Australia's leading food rescue organization, rescues surplus food that would otherwise go to waste from restaurants, food outlets and corporate kitchens, and delivers that good food at no cost to charitable agencies who feed vulnerable men, women and children in need.

With a vision to build a healthy world with zero waste and free of hunger, creating awareness and community education opportunities are central to achieving this. Through awareness and education OzHarvest is fighting food waste and influencing long-term community health behaviours on both a national and global scale. In 2018, OzHarvest will pilot their first school's program, FEAST - Food Educations and Sustainability Training.



After identifying a gap in the current Australian education program, FEAST was developed as a comprehensive schools resource covering the topics of sustainability, food waste and nutrition education. The FEAST Education Manager, Amelia Berner, believes this holistic approach will work towards repositioning the role which food plays within modern life.

"Educating on the topic of sustainability or nutrition alone is not enough. FEAST aims to connect students with the value of food by understanding its origins, purpose to nourish us individually, and the avoidable economic and environmental impacts that arise from food waste".

The program and its resource materials have been developed to ensure the latest teaching and learning approaches are used to support teachers in implementing a real-world curriculum wherein creative cooking is combined with nutrition knowledge, healthy eating and food waste prevention to protect the environment and help everyone lead a fully sustainable life.

The program offers;

- Curriculum package including unit of inquiry, lesson plans and student activities to support schools in implement the Stage 3 Australian Curriculum and NSW Syllabus in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Food Technologies related concepts, content and processes and Sustainability Cross-Curriculum Priority.
- Kitchen kits to ensure all recipes can be made in class and do not require a kitchen, making cooking and food education accessible to all children and the school community.
- An engaging online platform for students and teachers to access the FEAST resources and share information and ideas.
- Teacher professional development to deliver the FEAST unit of work.

FEAST extends beyond the classroom, as students develop the skills to become change makers in the community by embodying the OzHarvest vision to build a world with zero food waste and free of hunger. Like any good FEAST the program is designed to be fun, engaging and filled with delicious food!

In 2018, OzHarvest's FEAST Program will be launching FEAST in the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Area. OzHarvest will roll-out the program across NSW in 2019, and Nationally in 2020.

If your school is situated in the Canterbury Bankstown area and would like to take part in the 2018 launch or if you would like to register your schools interest in the program please contact the OzHarvest FEAST program manager <u>amelia.berner@ozharvest.org</u>



Social & Digital Media Policy

The NSWAAT executive has developed and implemented a new Social & Digital Media Policy.

Introduction

Social & Digital media represents a growing form of communication for Professional Associations, allowing them to engage their members and the wider public more easily than ever before.

However, there is also a need for policy support to ensure NSWAAT's has an effective and purposeful social & digital media presence, whilst protecting the public reputation of all NSWAAT members.

Purpose

NSWAAT may choose to engage in social and digital media such as:

- Social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, LinkedIn)
- Video and photo sharing sites (e.g. FaceBook, YouTube, Flickr, Instagram)
- Blogs
- Micro-blogging (e.g. Twitter)
- Forums, discussion boards and groups (e.g. Google groups, Whirlpool)
- Instant messaging (including SMS)
- Geo-spatial tagging (e.g. Foursquare)
- BAAT Publications

Whilst encouraging communication between members and the broader community, social media posts should reflect the purpose and professional approach that NSWAAT wishes to present to its members and the education community. Posts made through social media channels or other digital media should not damage the association's reputation in any way.

This policy needs to be reviewed at regular intervals to keep pace with the dynamic and evolving social media scene.

Guidelines for the development and use of NSWAAT social & digital media NSWAAT's social & digital media needs to reflect:

1. Integrity: NSWAAT will not knowingly post incorrect, defamatory or misleading information about its work, the work of other associations, or third party individuals.

In addition, it will post in accordance with copyright and privacy laws.

2. Professionalism: NSWAAT's social & digital media represents the association as a whole and should seek to maintain a professional tone.

Notes: Posts which are trivial in nature will be removed. The aim of the group is for the majority of people to find each post made on the group informative to their professional practice. We seek to avoid people 'turning off' notifications and not looking at the group due to regular posting of 'trivial'/non-professional content. Examples of trivial posts include meme's / photos / links etc which have no professional value outside their humour.

These should be posted elsewhere. As a general rule before posting, the question should be asked: 'Would most others in this group find this professionally relevant?'.

3. Information sharing : NSWAAT encourages the sharing and reposting of online information that is relevant, appropriate to its aims and of interest to its members.

4. Digital Citizenship: NSWAAT encourage the sharing / use of videos and photos however, where members post or use videos or photos of students engaged in activities, evidence of permission to publish must be provided. Apart from sharing this in our group, there is a risk that these may be shared outside of our closed group and thus permission needs to be provided.

Notes: Photos/videos of student activities in class and on excursion are helpful and can be professionally relevant. However, photos/videos of identifiable students will be deleted, as we do not have the legal right to publish them. The two circumstances under which it is acceptable to post photos/videos of students:

a. If the students are not identifiable (ie someone couldnt tell who they were from the photo/video).

b. If clear consent to publish is proven (In practice, the only way to do this is if your school, who has legal consent, publishes the photos/videos on their facebook/twitter account etc, and you repost it within the group).

Responsibilities

The Executive in liaison with a nominated NSWAAT Social Media Coordinator will oversee the use of

social $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{E}}$ digital media by NSWAAT members and will ensure:

- All posts / media are in keeping with NSWAAT's Social & Digital Media Policy.
- Appropriate and timely action is taken to correct or remove inappropriate posts and minimising the repeat of a repeat incident.
- Appropriate and timely action is taken in repairing relations with any persons or associations offended by an inappropriate post.

It is important to maintain the balance between encouraging discussion and information sharing, and maintaining a professional online presence.

Moderating Social Media

From time to time social media forums may be hijacked by trolls or spammers, or attract people who attack other posters or the association.

In order to maintain a professional environment, these posts need to be monitored by all NSWAAT members.

If such a post appears actions to be taken include:

- Removing or hiding the post as soon as possible
- If possible/appropriate, contact the poster privately to explain why the post has been removed and highlighting NSWAAT's posting guidelines.

If the poster continues to post inappropriate content, or if the post is considered spam:

- Remove or hide the post as soon as possible
- Ban or block the poster to prevent them from posting again.

To protect the reputation of NSWAAT it is important that action is taken swiftly.

The decision to ban or block a poster ultimately lies with the NSWAAT Executive

Investigate Bees in 2018

Registrations for the 2018 Investigate Science and Technology Competition are now open!

The Investigate Science and Technology Competition is an initiative of the NSW Department of Primary Industries School Program. By participating in the Investigate competition students will The Investigate Science and Technology Competition is an initiative of the NSW Department of Primary Industries School Program. By participating in the Investigate competition students will understand the role that science and biosecurity plays in their everyday lives. Real-world content guides the application of these skills in a meaningful learning context that delivers crosscurriculum outcomes.



The competition is open to all NSW Stage 3 students and teachers. Entry is free and all entries are recognised with a certificate of participation.

The top four projects will also receive a cash prize: 1stprize - \$1000, 2nd prize - \$750, 3rd prize - \$500 and Highly Commended \$250.

The 2018 Investigate competition focuses on bees. Students learn about the plight of bees and the important role that they play in our environment and in food production. This investigation encourages students to take their knowledge a bit deeper and to take action to support bees - both honey bees and Australian native bees. Students will investigate the insects visiting their local area and what we can do to help bees - so that they can help us!



REGISTER NOW! for the 2108 Investigate Bees competition.

Teachers' handbook and learning sequence coming soon!

Contact: schools.program@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Telling Your Story

Are you an agricultural teacher with an interesting career tale to tell?

If yes, then the Archibull Prize wants to hear from you.

We are looking to promote teaching agriculture as a career pathway as part of our career profiles on <u>The</u> <u>Archibull Prize</u> website and we are keen to know about your career journey.

Take a look at Beaudesert State High School's Laura Perkins (link) - doesn't she have an inspirational story?

These are some of the questions we'd love to ask you:

- Was it always your dream to be a teacher? Why?
- Did you study teaching directly after leaving high school?
- If not what was your career path?
- Why teach agriculture?
- What are the greatest rewards in being an agricultural teacher?

If you'd like to submit your story and/or be involved in The Archibull Prize 2018 please get in touch with Program Director



Lynne Strong lynnestrong@art4agriculture.com.au

Poultry Education Funding

Last month Poultry Hub Australia (PHA) was able to meet with the Australian Agricultural minister the Hon. David Littleproud. It was a great opportunity to discuss PHA's plans for the future and how we are implementing a training and education program for the poultry industry.

The minister was impressed when presented with the statistics of how much chicken meat and eggs are consumed in Australia and across the world and the projections for future increases.

PHA plan to have an onsite commercial educational poultry farm in conjunction with the University of New England's Smart Farm was of great interest.

There was a great deal of discussion around how PHA can work towards helping Australians understand where their food comes from and also how we can work towards better measures of animal welfare.



These initiatives will be strengthened through specialised education funding that PHA has been awarded recently.

This funding will be instrumental in employing an education officer that will continue to build the educational resources and programs begun by the Poultry CRC. Of particular importance will be the development of school-farm interactions and education programs aimed at year 9 and 10 students, with the overall aim to build future capacity for industry.

In addition, PHA have begun to scope out an industry training package. PHA will endeavour over time to provide a suite of training packages that can be accessed predominately online and will measure levels of competency in employees.

We will be holding workshops over the coming months to gauge industry training needs and how best to deliver training.

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions please get in touch at: poultryhub@une.edu.au.

Careers @ Beef Week



If you are heading to Beef Week in Rockhampton, AgForce SIPP, CQU and QATC invites secondary students to an informal barbeque dinner and conversation about career pathways with those already involved in the agriculture industry.

Young leaders from the Beef Industry will be in attendance as well as other representatives from across the agribusiness supply chain.

This event will provide students looking forward to a career in agriculture information on career pathways and a greater understanding of the diverse and exciting job opportunities in the industry.

Look out for the not so you BAAT Editor who will be one of the not so young representatives from across the agribusiness supply chain.

CAREER CONVERSATIONS @ BEEF AUSTRALIA 2018

Where: Rockhampton State High School, 1 Campbell Street, Rockhampton

Date: 8 May 2018

Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

RSVP: futureag@agforceqld.org.au



NSWAAT PROVIDES EDUCATORS THE FORUM FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE NSW REGIONS TO FACILITATE COLLABORATION AND SKILL SHARING. AN ACTIVE FACEBOOK SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE AND EDMODO GROUP PROVIDE A VERY SUPPORTIVE FORUM FOR ALL MEMBERS.



UNE HSC Booster Days

Monday 4 June and Tuesday 5 June.

Registrations Now Open.



During the <u>two days</u>, UNE and specialist lecturers present various sessions in the Maths, Science, Economics, Business and Legal Studies disciplines.

These sessions are jam packed with relevant information to assist Year 12 students reach their full potential and in many sessions students are able to undertake practicals that are not possible at school. The sessions are aligned with the HSC Curriculum and designed to enhance discipline knowledge, as well as inspire the students in their learning areas.

Morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch is provided to students and accompanying teachers. Accommodation and meals subsidies are also provided to those that are travelling over 100 km.

Monday 4 June

Business Studies Legal Studies Science Economics Maths

Tuesday 5 June

Maths

Science

If you have any questions or would like more information about <u>HSC Booster Days</u>, please contact:

Sally Strelitz sally.strelitz@une.edu.au Phone 02 6773 1249

RACI Titrations Competition

The 2018 RACI Titrations Competition will be run in conjunction with the UNE HSC Booster event.

Further details to be advised closer to the date.

NSWAAT Conference 2019

Planning is underway for the NSWAAT Central West NSW Conference 2019 that will be held in Forbes.

The draft agenda has been released, with the organising Committee finalising the availability of speakers and locations.

Friday 4th January 2019

3:00	Arrive at the Plainsman motel
5:00	Welcome
	Dinner locally at one of our venues

Saturday 5th January 2019

8:00	Leave Plainsman
8:30	Watermelon farm - tour and talk
0.50	
9:30-10:30	Pengillys shearing shed. AWI talk,
	Jemalong Wool, Biowaste
11:00 - 12:30	Gundamain feedlot
12:45 - 1:45	Lunch - Gooloogong pub
2:00 - 2:40	Eureka Roses - tour and talk
3:10 - 5:15	Moxeys Dairy - tour and talk
7:00pm	Tea - Forbes RSL

Sunday 6th January 2019

8:00	"	Glen Yara", Marsden Road for tour of
		Matt and John Duff Summer
		cropping operations
10:00		Lake Cowal for tour of mining
		operations and conservation centre
3:00		Jemalong Irrigation scheme -
		irrigation in the 21st century
5pm		Tea - Posty

Monday 7th January 2019

8:30-9:00	Saleyards - Central West Livestock
	Exchange
9:00-9:45	Auswest seeds - trial information
	and tour
10:00-10:45	Morning tea -Car museum
11:00-12:00	Super Bee
12:00-1:15	Lunch @ Forbes Golf Club
1:30- 4:30	At RBCC Rotation 30 mins each
	Low stock bandling domo Boy

 Low stock handling demo - Boyd Aveyard

- Little Big Dairy presentation samples
- Demo on Trimble GPS Central West GPS - Damian Price
- Drones, sensor probes Ben Watts
- Wool junior judging talk Steve Chester
- Automed David Edwards Woolerina
- 4:30-5:30 Woolerina Sponsor chat time - Displays in Quad
 6:30 till late Conference Dinner - Eat your greens Eugowra Dress - Semi Formal Speakers - TBA

Tuesday 8th January 2019

8:30am NSWAAT AGM @ RBCC Resource sharing

Farewells and Departures.

Please note the draft agenda is subject to change at the discretion the Committee and the availability of speakers and locations

Contribution by Georgie Price

April is Sugar Shake Month

The Amateur Beekeeping Association is joining forces with the DPI to help beekeepers learn how and why to perform this essential health check.

Sugar shaking is a simple test. It is quick, easy and does not harm the bees.

It will help detect varroa parasites when (not if) they arrive in Australia. So it's really important that beekeepers all learn how to do the check now.

Amateur beekeepers, because we can keep a close watch on all our hives, could be the first to spot a varroa incursion. That could mean the difference between Australia being able to act quickly and eliminate the deadly pests, or racing to try to contain them when they have already spread through the bee population.

Checkout the <u>Amateur Beekeeping Association</u> for more details.

Farm Workforce Survey

A national survey has revealed the extent of the challenges agriculture faces when it comes to attracting the people power needed to drive productivity.

The 2018 Farm Workforce Survey was carried out by the National Farmers' Federation (NFF). A key finding was the gravity of the sector's workforce shortage.

"Most farmers surveyed reported a significant shortfall of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers during both peak and non-peak seasons, and substantial financial and productivity losses as a result of these shortfalls," NFF Workplace Relations & Legal Affairs Manager Ben Rogers said.

"The results also showed that the workforce needs of farmers can surge by as much as 500% during peak periods."

Almost 90% of the respondents' said their workforce was made up of permanent Australian residents. A little over 10% of farm labour was reported to be provided by migrant workers, such as 'backpackers' and participants of the seasonal worker programs.



Source: 2018 Farm Workforce Survey, National Farmers' Federation

Mr Rogers said, "two thirds of farmers ranked labour concerns as amongst the top three challenges they expected to face in coming years".

"Most farmers reported the shortfall in labour supply, employment costs, and red tape were their most significant labour concerns.

"Perhaps in reflection of the difficulty in attracting suitable workers, almost 70 per cent of respondents reported paying above award wages," Mr Rogers said.

He said farm workforce problems were most often associated with horticulture but the survey demonstrated labour challenges were industry-wide. "Dairy farmers; pig, beef and sheep producers; and grain growers all confirmed that a shortfall in labour was one of the primary concerns for the year ahead."



NFF's Workforce Survey highlights what needs to be done to provide farmers with the 'people power' necessary to drive increases in productivity

Ben Rogers, National Farmers' Federation states Agriculture is a powerhouse of the Australian economy - contributing on average \$60 billion to the nation's bottom-line each year.

Agriculture is also a significant national employer. Australian Bureau of Statistics data indicates that the sector created 217,000 full time and 88,000 part time jobs in 2017.

Mr Rogers said the NFF was supported by the Federal Agriculture & Water Resources Minister Hon David Littleproud MP, in its vision for the sector to achieve \$100 billion in farm gate output by 2030.

"NFF's Workforce Survey highlights what needs to be done to provide farmers with the 'people power' necessary to drive increases in productivity and deliver on this 2030 vision.

"We will continue to analyse the results of this important survey and discuss the work that needs to be done to overcome the sector's workforce challenges."

Contribution by Charlie Colclough



Griffith Pigs on Show

The Griffith High School Pig Show Teams of Lachlan Cirillo, Angus Bartter, Mark Cunial & Aidan Knight recently showed their commercial Pigs as part of the Royal Agricultural Societies (RAS) Pig Showing Competition.

The Australian Pork Limited (APL) sponsored competition involved three main parts of creating a power-point presentation of their work prior to the show, feeding and parading the pigs (On the Hoof), and carcase testing (On the Hook).

All boys had worked very hard prior to the show in their own lunchtimes, after school, weekends and in class time with selecting pigs, creating feed rations, feeding, cleaning, washing, parading and weighing the pigs on a weekly basis.

When asked what the boys did at the show - they did not just pen their pigs and look after them daily. They took it upon themselves to help other schools and other vendors with cleaning pens, washing pigs, feeding and watering. They also helped with the 'Pat a Pig' concept of the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) with minimum fuss.

As the boys said to Mr Chirgwin (Class Teacher), 'It's not about winning ribbons Sir'. As even though the team did not win any; the respect and efforts that was applauded upon our school by all involved (other teachers, schools, students, vendors and the RAS) was beyond all the teacher's expectations when the concept first started in 2016.

Mr Chirgwin would like to thank the entire school community for their support with this program. The team would like to personally thank Tony Dixon (school's agricultural assistant) for all of his hard work in school, on weekends, driving too and from Sydney, assisting with organising feed, housing and the students at school and at the show.

The school plans to continue the show team into the future as the current team is looking to 'Pass on the Bacon' and will be calling for the next interested group at the start of May.



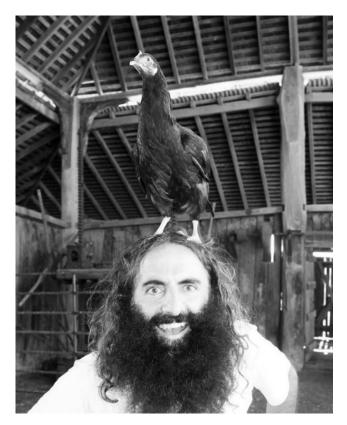
Aidan Knight, Angus Bartter & Mark Cunial at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, Lachlan Cirillo (absent)

Contribution by Carl Chirgwin



Biosecurity with Costa

Recently the team from DPI Biosecurity and the Peri Urban Group in conjunction with DART Connections produced a live broadcast on the importance of Biosecurity in Agriculture and Australia.



The broadcast spoke to a variety of industry experts and discussed potential issues for Biosecurity, explained how they are currently managed and also delved into careers within the biosecurity sector.

The broadcast is available to watch online:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBwYlmcY-Ec

Follow these links to gain access to the resources:

- <u>Biosecurity in Our Backyard Hosted by</u> <u>Costa - Primary School</u>-<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaYlyL</u> CyK-U
- <u>Biosecurity in Our Backyard Hosted by</u> <u>Costa - High School-</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBwYl</u> <u>mcY-Ec&t=1779s</u>

Contribution by Brianna Callum

Schools at Honeyland

It was great to see so many excellent honey entries from schools across New South Wales.



Great Lakes College took out the champion school exhibit for their liquid honey, standard light entry which gave some national entries a run for their money!

Special mentions also go to Cherrybrook Technology High School, Coffs Harbour Learning Centre and Bossley Park High School for their fabulous entries who placed in their classes as well.



Contribution by Brianna Callum

Suburban School on Farm

As a suburban school, a Farm Case Study and Farm Product Study can be a challenge to find in order to meet our senior syllabus requirements.

Thanks goodness for Brian Trench and the Camden Park Environmental Education Centre (in conjunction with the University of Sydney and Country Valley)!



Y11 agriculture studied two very different farms (including the University of Sydney Corstorphine dairy) looking at soils, pasture and state of the art Automated Milking Systems in and around Camden. Y12 also looked at the Country Valley Processing plant and were able to see the whole process of pasteurising, homogenising, bottling, labelling etc.

They were even able to taste the amazing milk and yoghurts that Country Valley produce! For those choosing to do the Farming for the 21st Century Elective, this is also a great opportunity to see AMS, heatmate collars, smart gates etc in action at the University of Sydney.



This really is a great facility which covers so many of the syllabus requirements! Brian is a HSC marker of Farm Product Studies and he really helps the students understand the requirements whilst still ensuring they have a great time. I can highly recommend this facility for any teachers wanting to do milk as a farm product study with their students

Contribution by Lara Griffin

Tocal Tractor Training

NSW DPI partnered with the NSW Department of Education to provide training in tractor operation specifically for teachers of agriculture during Term 1 at Tocal and Yanco campuses. During the two day course, participants worked toward developing knowledge and skills in safe operation of tractors in teaching and learning activities, strategies for teaching students and an understanding of the NSW Department of Education policies. Through participation in the course and successful completion of the assessment, teachers had the opportunity to achieve the competency AHCMOM202 Operate Tractors.



Darren Hawkins, Tocal College.

Contribution by Michelle Fifield

Semex Dairy Challenge

Legendairy 1 were the winners of the Semex Dairy Challenge at the Royal Easter Show 2018.

The Semex Challenge invites all young people in the Dairy shed under 25 years of age to make teams of mixed experience.



The Semex Challenge is one where these variety of teams made up of young students completes in a

variety of challenges. The team that completes these challenges to the highest quality become the winners. These set of challenges include; clipping and grooming, parading and the Judging of cattle. The winning team had representatives from St Greg's, Mt Annan Christian College, Camden High School.

DPI Teacher PD

Maintenance of teacher accreditation now affects all NSW teachers and the NSW DPI Schools Program team are designing professional development (PD) specifically for Agriculture teachers across our state. DPI focus is on developing and providing NESA accredited face to face and online PD opportunities to support quality teaching and the provision of the best educational opportunities to current and future students.

Currently available:

The Climate Challenge for NSW teachers- online training.

- 5 hours of NESA accredited PD addressing 6.2.2 and 6.4.2 from the Australian Professional Standards
- This online course specifically addresses the Stage 6 Agriculture elective The Climate Challenge but also 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 and resources for the classroom.

Agpatch - Garden connections- online training

- 5 hours of NESA accredited PD addressing 2.1.2, 3.4.2 and 3.7.2 from the Australian Professional Standards
- This online course consists of five modules that provide classroom resources and guides you through planning for the integration of a school garden into classroom practice and for connecting it to local primary industries.
- Self-enrol free course.

Coming up:

DPI Innovation showcase

- Designed for Agriculture, Science and Technology Mandatory teachers.
- As the name suggests we will showcase current and emerging research, development and technologies in food and fibre production
- This event will be run in multiple locations across the state to provide opportunities for regional teachers to attend.

Tech Mandatory - Getting ready for the new syllabus

- Designed for Agriculture and Technology Mandatory teachers.
- This event is designed to provide support through training and provision of resources developed for the new Technology Mandatory Syllabus being rolled out in 2019
- This event will be run in multiple locations across the state to provide opportunities for regional teachers to attend.

Experimental Design

• This course will be delivered online and is specifically designed for Agriculture and Science teachers as a refresher on experimental design and statistical analysis, essential to Stage 4-6 Agriculture and Science syllabus outcomes.

Contribution by Michelle Fifield



Free Farming Futures @UNE



The free Schools Program is aimed at students in Year 10 and above, who are interested in pursuing a career in the agricultural sector. The Program on 3rd **August 2018** showcases the agricultural related degrees on offer at UNE and some career options in agriculture through other institutions, such as Tocal Agricultural College and TAFE. This enables these students to discover study options and the varied agricultural career prospects that may arise from different forms of further education.

The 2018 Schools Program included a variety of short talks on topics ranging from technology in agriculture with Professor David Lamb, sheep fibre production and science with Dr Emma Doyle, personal accounts from current UNE students.

The program also allows students to view the universities state of the art facilities, including the SMART Farm and Agricultural Education Building. Students are given time to explore the Careers Fair and take advantage of the many agricultural companies and industry bodies on show.

To secure your school's involvement, please submit your expression of interest by 13th July, 2018 to <u>ffschoolsprogram@outlook.com</u> or call Laura Bignell, School Program Officer 0467 092 185 or Mel Chapman, School Program Officer 0408 816 550

First Entrants in GATE

The GLOBAL AG-TECH ECOSYSTEM (GATE) is a NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) initiative to fast-track the development of ag-tech to increase productivity. A collaborative research and technology site specifically designed to cultivate and develop ag-tech ideas hosted at the DPI Orange Agricultural Institute. The facility will provide access to DPI - the largest agricultural R&D provider in Australia, including the expertise of over 600 scientific and technical staff. The GATE offers access to the long term data sets held by DPI and facilitates on-farm validation of new technologies across 25 research stations and 13,000 ha of trial farms.

The GATE will be accessible to any individual, company and research organisation wishing to explore the viability of an agri-tech idea. Every year the GATE will host up to 20 GATE projects plus additional individuals for lean start up and mentoring.

The GATE offers five key services:

- Lean Start up and Mentoring services to expand capabilities of innovators;
- Incubator services and support to assist proof of concept stages;
- Accelerator services and support for prototype scale up and production reliability;
- Commercialisation and business support including advising on business structures and planning, Intellectual Property management, market appetite testing and commercialisation paths;
- Investor Showcases. The GATE will enable investment via partner and affiliate networks and host Investor Showcases for GATE projects.

Examples of current projects supported by the GATE include:

- **Digital scent measurement** of livestock to determine early stage pregnancy and other diagnostics potential.
- Agrinet have developed an innovative solution to deliver farm wide WiFi using solar powered 'on demand' networks.
- NonTox is looking to enhance its herbicide product and explore new applications and markets such as glyphosate resistant weeds and blue-green algae.

For more information on the GATE and detail on current projects, go to: http://www.thegate.org.au/

FutureGen Education PD

Angela Colliver Consulting Services is endorsed to provide NESA Registered Professional Development (PD) for teachers accredited at the Proficient Teacher level. Angela and Greg Mills from GoAhead Business Solutions have combined their talents to develop the FutureGen Education series of educational resources and teacher professional development activities.

Course title: Inspiring students through Project Based Learning (PBL) [1.5 hours]

Standards addressed: 6.2.2, 6.1.2

Target group for the course: K-6 teachers, Agriculture, Food Technology and Design Teachers

Professional learning objectives for

teachers: Teachers examine curriculum resources that enable students to pursue deep real-world investigations where they:

- Design real and complex projects for learning
- Think and create in digital and non-digital environments to develop unique and useful solutions by both adapting and improving on current designs as well as the innovation of new possibilities
- Think analytically and communicate using multi-media formats and engage in authentic assessment; and
- Present their learning via exhibitions.

Cost: \$130 and \$90 for Members of NSW Professional Associations

Course title: Help! How do I teach Technology Mandatory in Years 7-8 using Project Based Learning? [6 hours]

Standards addressed: 6.2.2, 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 2.3.2, 2.4.2, 6.1.2, 3.1.2, 3.2.2, 3.3.2 and 3.4.2

Target group for the course: Year 7-8 Agriculture Teachers and Agriculture Assistants, Food Technology, Industrial Arts and Design Teachers

Professional learning objectives for

teachers: A one day event designed especially for those who are new to teaching pedagogical approaches such as project and problem-based learning. Teachers will develop knowledge and understandings about project and problembased learning, and they will use and take away easy practical examples to use in the classroom aligned to the new NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum, Technology Mandatory Years 7-8.

Cost: \$260 and \$195 for Members of NSW Professional Associations

Course title: Discover, Create, Share - Project Based Learning in Science and Technologies K-6 [6 hours]

Standards addressed: 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 2.3.2, 6.2.2 and 6.1.2

Target group for the course: Primary Teachers (Early Stage 1 – Stage 3)

Professional learning objectives for

teachers: This professional learning day will look at the new NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum Science and Technologies K-6 and the 'Living World' strand which for the first time in NSW includes 'Food and Fibre Production' and "Food Technologies' Source: NESA Science and Technologies K-6 Syllabus, page 35.

It will also look at the how and why of quality PBL, using the successful framework and related strategies developed by the Global Digital Citizenship Project. This will be supplemented by detailed examples drawn from Early Stage I – Stage 3 contexts developed by the presenters for a range of publishers and organisations. See: https://www.colliver.com.au/resources

Participants will leave with examples and ideas to inspire their own teaching and learning programs, renew their curriculum, improve practice and the educational outcomes for students.

Cost: \$260 and \$195 for Members of NSW Professional Associations

Course title: New to Teaching Agriculture/Food and Fibre Production? [6 Hours]

Standards addressed: 6.2.2, 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 2.3.2, 2.4.2, 6.1.2, 3.1.2, 3.2.2, 3.3.2 and 3.4.2

Target group for the course: K-6 teachers and Year 7-8 Agriculture Teachers and Agriculture Assistants, Food Technology, Industrial Arts and Design Teachers

Professional standards objectives for

teachers: A one day event designed especially for those K-6 teachers who are new to food and fibre production education as described in the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum Science and Technology K-6 and Technology Mandatory Years 7-8.

Teachers will participate in learning to update knowledge and practice targeted to the implementation of the new Syllabuses (6.2.2). They will participate and apply knowledge of the content and teaching strategies of Science and Technology and Technology Mandatory to develop engaging teaching activities (2.1.2). They will explore and organise content into coherent, well-sequenced learning and teaching programs (2.2.2). They will use the resources shared to design and implement learning and teaching programs using knowledge of curriculum, assessment and reporting requirements (2.3.2) (3.1.2) (3.2.2) (3.3.2) (3.4.2).

Cost: \$260 and \$195 for Members of NSW Professional Associations

New Curriculum resources from the FutureGen Series will include:

- From Paddock to Plate. The Essential Ingredient.
- Pitch your food idea!
- Pork is on the menu
- From Grass to Glass
- Producing the pigs that produce the bacon
- Sourcing sustainable eggs
- Designing a more sustainable clothing culture

Contact Angela Colliver, angela@colliver.com.au



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School

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West Wyalong High School Macquarie Fields High School Macquarie Fields High School Tamworth High School St Matthews Catholic School, Mudgee Yass High School Evans River High School, Evans Head St Gregory's College, Campbelltown McCarthy Catholic College, Tamworth Crookwell High School Kincumber High School Moss Vale High School Yanco Agricultural High School St John's College, Lismore Colo High School St Ignatius College, Riverview GoAhead Business Solutions Oakhill College Kincumber High School Barham High School St John the Evangelist Catholic High School Chevalier College Frensham, Mittagong Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College - Berkeley Vale Campus Knox Grammar School Wauchope High School Northlakes High School Billabong High School Canowindra High School Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School Student - Western Sydney University Xavier College, Llandilo Jindabyne Central School Barker College Bega High School Forbes High School Hennessy Catholic College, Young Yanco Agricultural High School Life Member / Retired Retired Menai High School Hastings Secondary College - Westport Campus Saint Ignatius College, Riverview Windsor High School **Tullamore Central School** Bass High School Woodenbong Central School Camden Haven High School McCarthy Catholic College Warialda High School Western Australian College of Agriculture Muirfield High School HopeTown School Wagga Wagga Christian College Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School Oakhill College Trinity Catholic College

Name

Deb Snaith Emma Soall Frank Soreca Laura Southwell Carmen Stassen Carmen Stassen Edward Stefanski Tanya Sullivan Laura Tandy Kristina Temple Katrina Thomas Laura Tolley **Dianne Toynton Tony Turner** Sky Van Den Berge **Thomas Venables** Nikia Waters Peter Wearne Gary Webb Kim Weller Nicolet Westerhof Sarah Westerway Melissa Willcocks Simone Wilson Lori Wilson Maurice Woodman Jennifer Woodward Beth Worthy Jan Young Nathan Zinga

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School

Macintyre High School, Inverell James Fallon High School, Albury Wadalba Community School Canberra Grammar School Barraba Central School Barrabra Central School

Corrimal High School Red Bend Catholic College **Corrimal High School** Condobolin High School Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School Broken Hill High School The Kings School Marian College, Kenthurst Muirfield High School Hillston Central School The Kings School **Finley High School** Yanco Agricultural High School Elizabeth Macarthur High School, Narellan Ulladulla High School Inverell High School **Binnaway Central School** Bowraville Central School Murray High School Byron Bay High School Sapphire Coast Anglican College Murrumburrah High School Kinross Wolaroi School