

NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers



WINTER 2018

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dear members,

With mid year fast approaching the year has certainly been busy for all of us.

It's inspiring to hear about all the hard work and passion you are all putting into your teaching roles. We have one of the hardest and challenging subjects to teach and it is becoming more challenging every year. Recently, the NSW Minister for Education, Hon. Rob Stokes visited my school and I shared with him about the issues we face as agriculture teachers in NSW. He was surprised when I mentioned issues such as lack of staffing and trained teachers and the range of challenges we face. I was invited to discuss this further with his department, which I am pursuing right now. It is vitally important we as an association keep promoting the importance of our discipline within and outside our schools. Each of you are amazing ambassadors who are making this happen.

The changes occurring to our curriculum areas is unprecedented. With a new Technology Mandatory course commencing next year, no doubt you are all busy compiling programs. I think it's important we keep the content authentic and of a high quality and demonstrates the sophistication of the subject of agriculture. I hope that many of you have attended the various workshops on offer from your education organisations. We need to keep the AG flag raised high in amongst the changes and it provides an opportunity to excel at what we do best.



The draft Stage 5 Agricultural Technology syllabus has also been presented to us and we are compiling a response to this document. Thanks to everyone who took the time to send feedback. Again, we live in a changing curriculum landscape and your feedback is important as these changes will be with us for many years to come.

The drought is impacting many of you and my thoughts go to you trying to manage the complexity of feeding animals, selling animals and finding the funds to keep going. This week the NSW government announced funding for drought relief and I am pursuing how the current Drought Package can be accessed by schools.

Many of you have asked about NESA accreditation of the NSWAAAT accredited courses and conferences and gaining your hours. The new eTAMS system is not working and you may find the hours and courses are not listed. Please be reassured, your hours have been allocated to you and if you have maintenance occurring soon and need assistance with proof of the hours accredited please let me know and I can contact the Professional Teachers Council to gain confirmation of your hours.

We have a new Logo! Thanks to Scott Graham for coordinating the new logo project. If you have any feedback about the website, please let Scott know as we are working on many improvements currently.

Don't forget our state conference is on next January 4 to 8, in Forbes.

All the best

Luciano
President NSWAAAT

New NSWAAAT Logo

After months of drafts, designs and re-designs, we have settled a new Logo. The old one had served well but it was time for an update to make us more recognisable and modern.

We wanted it to show:

- Plants
- Animals
- Technology
- Education

...to show what we about visually.

We have had multiple different versions made for black/white, poster, letterhead and embroidery applications for everything we might use it for.



AgVision 2018

AgVision 2018 is an Agri-Careers Expo which supports and informs Years 9 -12 students about the broad range of careers available in agriculture and agri-business. The Expo consists of a comprehensive range of hands-on activities and demonstrations presented by an array of industry experts.

Hiedi Gooden who is Delta Ag's Agronomist Consultant and a Junee AgVision presenter proudly states that "AgVision is a wonderful opportunity for students to experience a wide range of agricultural based careers all in one location. This unique innovation will be the first steps a student can take to open up a whole new world of possibilities. I know this Expo has inspired many students in the past and has been the catalyst to kick starting their careers after meeting so many like minded professionals in the rural industry".



The fourth AgVision Careers Expo will come alive at June High School on Friday 7 September 2018. This biennial event will attract over 550 students from more than 40 rural, regional and metropolitan schools from across NSW who will participate with over 110 industry experts in 60 elective workshops.

Workshops include animal and veterinary sciences, agricultural science and engineering, forestry, robotic technologies and agribusiness including finance, marketing, management and communication. Students participate in 6 timetable workshops each lasting 40 minutes.

AgVision connects school students with industry experts to provide a practical and unique solution to address the downturn in youth taking up careers in agriculture. The day informs students of relevant study patterns and provides career pathways advice including Stage 6 patterns of study, School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships, TAFE and tertiary studies information. All students receive a career guide booklet with a profile of each presenter's



job description and individual pathway they took to reach this employment in their career.

AgVision provides an opportunity for open dialogue between students and experts and highlights emerging growth careers in the Agricultural industry. Mr David Falepau, Acting Head of School, School of Agricultural and Wine Sciences Charles Sturt University states that “AgVision is a premier event on our calendar. No other event shows as many students as successfully as AgVision, the multitude of career opportunities available to them in Agriculture and the pathways through further studies into those careers. CSU has recently experienced a significant increase in enrolments across all its agricultural courses and this is definitely attributable in a large part to our involvement in AgVision at Junee High School”.



The following YouTube links will take you to promotional videos for AgVision.

The first link was created by the Junee Shire Council after AgVision 2014 <http://youtu.be/GgmZBLHMaJA>

The second link is promoting AgVision 2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mvPsVEun3s>

For further AgVision event enquiries email... sandra.heffernan@det.nsw.edu.au, paul.anderson47@det.nsw.edu.au, elaine.bunyan@det.nsw.edu.au or phone Junee High School on (02) 6924 1666



BENEFITS OF USING DUNG BEETLES

Sometimes referred to as ‘nature’s architects’, dung beetles are a desirable part of a healthy landscape and can significantly improve the overall health of your soil.

Check out this South Australian Resource <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/land/landholder-services/managing-soil-and-pastures/dung-beetle-benefits>

This first in a series of three videos explains the importance of dung beetles in pastures. Adelaide dung beetle expert and breeder Bernard Doube explains how animal dung impacts pastures by preventing grass growth, fouling pastures and watercourses, and spreading disease. We learn about which dung beetles species have established in Australia, their seasonal activity, and the benefits they bring to pasture by improving soil nutrient levels, water permeability and grass growth. https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=46&v=o7_jPa7mlzE

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The theme for the 2019 Food, Fibre and Agricultural Educators Conference is **Sustaining our Agri-Future: education for a sustainable future**. The conference will provide an opportunity for secondary agriculture, science, hospitality, technology and primary teachers to be immersed in the latest concepts, information and resources needed to teach Food, Fibre and Agricultural education in schools.

It will provide a forum to discuss the challenges and opportunities that exist today and into the future. Expressions of Interest are sought from individuals and teams to make a presentation or host a workshop at the conference. Conference sessions will be conducted in 30-minute time slots on Monday 14th January 2019. A limited number of 60-minute sessions for practical hands-on interactive workshops are also available on Thursday 17th January 2019.

Please note all applications must be submitted on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZXHLP89>

Important dates

- Closing date for all submissions: 31 July 2019
- Notification of acceptance or non-acceptance of the application: 10 August 2019

For further information, please contact:

Tanya Nagle
AgForce Queensland
P: 0428 154 803
E: naglet@agforceqld.org.au



CALLING SCHOOL LEAVERS AND TREE CHANGERS!

Looking for an experience of a lifetime?

Looking to gain new skills in an exciting and innovative industry?

Enjoy a fulfilling job, training, industry support and make some cash along the way...

CONSIDER

COTTON GAP

"I would definitely recommend a cotton gap year. It has influenced my decision to pave a career in agriculture, particularly in the cotton industry. This year means I will be able to apply my studies at uni to a practical scenario or example. Just give it a go, you might have some fun along the way"

Matt Clearwater 2016 Gappy



The "Cotton Gap" program is a unique opportunity for school leavers to experience firsthand life in one of agriculture's most innovative and forward thinking industries. Whether you are interested in a career in agriculture and want genuine hands on experience, or are simply looking to do something different, consider your gap year on a Cotton Farm.

Cotton Australia is looking to facilitate the connection between school leavers and cotton farmers and want to hear from students who would be interested in a gap year on a farm. IF you have a license, a sense of adventure and "have a go attitude", get in contact. Employees will be supported to ensure they have initial and ongoing training on a progressive cotton operation. You would be connected to relevant government subsidies for employment and training.

For more information or to express interest, Contact Program Co-Ordinator
Bec Fing on 0427107234 or via email cottongap@cotton.org.au



2019 Food, Fibre and Agricultural Educators Conference Brisbane

13th – 17th January 2019

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 ffschoolsprogram@outlook.com or call Laura Bignell, School Program Officer 0467 092 185 or Mel Chapman, School Program Officer 0408 816 550.



RYCAGS CAMP



Conducted by the members of the Rotary Club of Narromine Inc.

The ninth RYCAGS Camp will be held in October 2018 and schools are invited to nominate two year 9/10 agriculture students to attend the camp in Narromine from 21 October to 26 October, 2018. The cost is \$290 per student

The week long live-in camp will expose students to several crops on working farms, crops under trial at a research station, how a weather station works, grain used in a cattle feed lot, inspection of grain wholesalers operations, an irrigation scheme, machinery retailers, grain storage, transport and marketing.

Professionals will advise students on agronomy, crop finance and crop insurance, genetic modification etc. Students looking for a career in agriculture should attend this camp.

There are several activities arranged after hours to keep the students busy. Rotarians are in attendance 24/7 and all meals are prepared in the Rotary Food Van

To register for RYCAGS 2018 please contact the RYCAGS Co-ordinator, Geoff Smith Ph 6889 5447 . gsmi2709@bigpond.net.au



NATIONAL TREE DAY

National Tree Day is Australia's largest tree-planting and nature care event.

Tree Day is an opportunity for you to do something positive for your community and the environment by connecting with nature.

National Tree Day started in 1996 and since then more than 3.8 million people have planted 24 million trees and plants and it's still growing.

The dates for 2018 are:

Schools Tree Day Friday 27th July 2018
National Tree Day Sunday 29th July 2018

Check out <https://treeday.planetark.org/> for more information.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Citizen Science Programs and Contacts that may be of interest to NSW Schools might like.

FROG ID app Paul Flemons, Digital Collections & Citizen Science, Australian Museum www.australianmuseum.net.au/digivol

Hollows as Homes Dr. John Martin, Royal Botanic Gardens www.hollowsashomes.com

Powerful Owl Project Dr. Beth Mott, Birdlife Australia www.birdlife.org.au/projects/powerful-owl-project

Wild Pollinator Count Dr. Manu Saunders, University of New England, Armidale 10 minutes with nature www.wildpollinatorcount.com

Scoop a Poop Associate Prof. Michelle Power, Macquarie University Dr. Koa Webster, Macquarie University www.fb.me/scoopapoop.project

Dragons of Sydney Stephanie Clark, National Parks Association of NSW www.npansw.org/what-we-do/our-work/citizenscience/dragons-of-sydney/

Aussie Backyard Bird Count Dr. Holly Parsons, Birdlife Australia www.aussiebirdcount.org.au

Australian Cat Tracker Jillian Macintyre, Northern Beaches Council

www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/news/media-releases/northern-beaches-cats-take-partinternational-research-project-to-help

Bellingen Riverwatch Geetha Ortac, Office of Environment and Heritage www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-andpublications/your-research/citizen-science/threatenedspecies-projects/bellingen-riverwatch

Australian Citizen Science Association Paul Flemons Dr. John Martin Kylie Andrews www.citizenscience.org.au

UNE DISCOVERY VOYAGER

The UNE Discovery Voyager is the University of New England's (UNE) outreach, education and engagement program that brings curriculum-aligned, interactive activities in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, arts and Maths) to schools across northern NSW.



We are a team of passionate scientists and educators who travel to schools to facilitate play-based learning and exploratory discovery in ecology, physics, chemistry, Latin/biology, precision agriculture, sports science, palaeontology, and natural history. We value active learning, and encourage creativity, collaboration, curiosity and the confidence to have a go.



We facilitate these experiences for students from Kindergarten to year 10, and when we are not in schools (which is rare!), we develop and deliver outreach and engagement activities on the UNE campus in Armidale, and at various field days across NSW. Our visitors range in age from 3 years to over 80 years - we aim to inspire the scientists of the future, engage current thinkers, and encourage citizens to ask questions and think critically about their world.

You can follow us via our website (www.unediscoveryvoyager.org.au), Facebook and Instagram accounts (@unediscovery).

In addition to our schools program, we help facilitate a number of events in our region, many of which we encourage agriculture teachers to engage with:

UNE GRASS

UNE's GRASS program is a 2-day professional development program for secondary teachers held on campus at the University of New England on 29-30th November, 2018. Endorsed by the NSW Education Standards Authority, the program aims to support the secondary science syllabus, and provide teachers with the opportunity to develop ideas for teaching science through engagement with internationally recognised scientists and their research.

Registrations are now open until 20th October, 2018.

See <http://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-environmental-and-rural-science/ers-news-and-events/une-grass/teacher-professional-development> for more details.

UNE Discovery Voyager at Ag Quip

This year, UNE Discovery Voyager will be bringing interactive and exploratory activities in agricultural science to AgQuip! AgQuip is Australia's largest agricultural field day, taking place this year on 21st-23rd August in Gunnedah, NSW. This is a free event, so come along and get your hands dirty learning about soil science, or have a play with some high tech precision agricultural tools!



Science on the Road

The University of New England's Discovery Voyager is partnering with the Australian Museum in 2018 to bring Science on the Road to Tamworth! Scientists from UNE, the Australian Museum and their partners will come together for a full 3-days of interactive science workshops, science shows and an expo held at the Tamworth UNE Campus, Tamworth Town Hall and Bicentennial Park from 18th-20th October, 2018.

This is a great opportunity for students to come and meet scientists from the local area and beyond, and learn about how science impacts our lives every day!

Bookings will be open for schools and the community from late July via the Australian Museum website.



ConocoPhillips Science Experience at UNE

The ConocoPhillips Science Experience is a fantastic opportunity for students in years 9-10 to experience university life on campus!

Next year the University of New England will run the ConocoPhillips Science Experience from 15-17th January, 2019, and registrations are now open at <https://www.scienceexperience.com.au/>.

Students will immerse themselves in a world of science across disciplines in a program filled with hands-on activities including field collection and science experiments spanning biology, chemistry, physics and more.

A tour of UNE's new Natural History Museum will get students amongst paleontological, zoological and geological collections, and a visit to the UNE SMART Farm will showcase the latest advances in Precision Agriculture and farm management.

This program gives students the opportunity to engage with scientists from academia, industry, consulting and government through workshops and panel discussions, helping them identify their passions and interests in science, while also hearing stories of the myriad pathways into a scientific career!

CATTLE CLUB BONANZA

A fund raising idea from Lori Wilson, Agriculture Teacher Bowraville Central School.

The inaugural Cowboy Bingo night was held at Bowra Central on May 22 to raise funds for the school's rejuvenated Cattle Club.

Over 100 people filled the school hall, dressed in their finest Akubra hat, jeans and R.M. Williams boots to support the students in their learning and education.

The prize table was overflowing with generous donations from local businesses, the Hospitality class cooked up some treats and local farmer Matt Winslow donated fresh sweet corn.

The Bowraville Beginners Line Dancing Club put on a wonderful display which warmed the crowd up for the main event, the YeeHaa Cowboy Bingo.



Agriculture teacher, Ms Wilson, is planning a cattle clinic here on the Mid North Coast. The three day event will hopefully be a mixture of both beef and dairy and will teach students about judging, parading and show prepping.

The Mackay family are strong supporters of Bowraville Central School and a visit to their dairy is also on the cards.

Over \$1600 was raised from the night and Akubra donated a \$200 gift card because they were impressed with the literacy component of the cattle club program ... this saw students hand write the envelopes and address letters personally to businesses.

Source Nambucca Guardian News

ARCHIBULL PRIZE 2019

Expressions open for 2019

Here is your chance to join the movement of teachers and students working together with farmers to ensure everyone in this country has access to safe, affordable, healthy food and quality fibre every day and a brighter future for all.

The Archibull Prize is an innovative and fun program which provides student participants with opportunities to meet young farmers and engage in genuine farm experiences, gain knowledge and skills about the production of the food they eat, fibres they use and the environment they live in.

The theme celebrates the role Australian farmers' play in feeding Australian families and many other families around the world.

The Archibull Prize is an integrated program which will engage primary and secondary school students in agricultural and environmental awareness through art, design, creativity and teamwork by:

Providing a blank, life-sized fibreglass cow for students to create an artwork on or to use as the subject of an artwork which focuses on the allocated theme –

FEEDING, CLOTHING AND POWERING A HUNGRY NATION IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Giving each school their own primary (food or fibre) industry to explore and showcase e.g. Beef, Sheep, Dairy, Wool, Cotton, and Grains.

Pairing each school with a Young Farming Champion who will share their farming journey and work with the students throughout the duration of the project.

Supplying a resource kit with curricular connections.

Supplying Matisse paints.



Champion Emma Ayliffe shared her career journey with students and teachers at Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High School, Parramatta Public School and Kurring-gai High School. Emma had great success with her Name the Good Bugs/Bad Bugs game turning students with no previous experience into experts in 20 mins.

Check out Emmas session here https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=280&v=GMC3tFyBieY

Expressions of Interest are now open for The Archibull Prize in 2019.



This STEAM project-based learning challenge has now become a fixture on the curriculum in schools in the Eastern States.

Find out how you can participate in 2019 and have a visit from a Young Farming Champion by contacting Lynne Strong E: lynnestrong@art4agriculture.



SYDNEY FARM DAY

Farm Day at Sydney Showground for Stage 2-3 Primary and Stage 4 Secondary will be conducted in August.

Give your students a hands-on curriculum based excursion and incorporate agricultural learning into your classroom.

Book into one of Farm Days with round robin workshops that are FUN, EASY and INTERACTIVE and best of all they are aligned with Science, Technology, History, Geography and English curricula.

Students will explore the origin of food and fibre, work with farm animals, large and small, plus see how technology is used in agriculture.

Workshops are just \$15 per student, with dates available in August 2018. Our sessions are booked out each year so make sure you get in quick. <http://www.rasnsr.com.au/events/farm-day/>

2018 Show Results

2018 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

SYDNEY ROYAL SCHOOL ANGORA WETHER COMPETITION



Production Winner: West Wyalong High School
Project Winner: Molong High School

Herdsman Winner: Willow Glen Angoras – West Wyalong High School

Best Angora Goat in Show: West Wyalong High School, Willow Glen Rahmosteffanie, West Wyalong, NSW

SCHOOLS DISTRICT EXHIBITS DISPLAY COMPETITION

Overall Champion: Lake Illawarra High School

SYDNEY ROYAL SCHOOL COMMERCIAL PIG COMPETITION

On The Hoof: Yanco Agricultural High School; **Best Pig:** Yanco Agricultural High School



On The Hook: Brisbane Water Secondary College; Best Pig: Wollemi College

Project Winner: Orange Anglian Grammar School

Overall Champion School: Orange Anglican Grammar School and Yanco Agricultural High School

SYDNEY ROYAL HONEY COMPETITION – SCHOOL CLASSES

Champion School Exhibit: Great Lakes College – Forster Campus, Forster, NSW

SYDNEY ROYAL POULTRY SHOW

Champion School Poultry Exhibit: Vincentia High School

Overall Champion Steggles Sydney Royal School Meat Bird Pairs Competition: Elderslie High School



Overall Champion Sydney Royal School Commercial Egg Laying Competition: Hurlstone Agricultural High School; James Sheahan Catholic College; Orange Anglican Grammar School

Overall Champion Sydney Royal School Purebred Egg Laying Competition: Menai High School

Overall Champion Youth Poultry Showmanship: Jackson Boyd, Bellingen High School

SYDNEY ROYAL SCHOOL PRODUCE COMPETITION

Class 150: Produce from Metropolitan PRIMARY School grown in a Vertical Garden: Marsden Park Public School

Class 151: Produce from Metropolitan SECONDARY School grown in a Vertical Garden: Murifield High School

Class 152: Produce from Metropolitan PRIMARY School grown in ANY GARDEN TYPE: Marsden Park Public School

Class 153: Produce from Metropolitan SECONDARY School grown in ANY GARDEN TYPE: St Columbas

Catholic College

Class 154: Produce from Regional PRIMARY School grown in ANY GARDEN TYPE: Jilliby Public School

Class 155: Produce from Regional Secondary School grown in ANY GARDEN TYPE: St Mary MacKillop College Albury

SYDNEY ROYAL BEEF CATTLE COMPETITION

Grand Champion Steer & Champion School Steer: Wilmorril Murdoc, St John's College Dubbo, Dubbo East, NSW

Grand Champion Carcase & Champion School Carcase: Calrossy Jester Junction Harold, Calrossy Anglican School, Tamworth, NSW

Champion School Beef Cattle Parader: Tom Clare, The Kings School

YOUNG JUDGES COMPETITIONS

Grain Heather Earney, Bedgerabong, NSW

Fruit & Vegetable Brooklyn Davis, Urunga, NSW

Alpaca Tara Arduin, Menai, NSW

Angora Goat & Mohair Tareva-Chine Atkin-Zaldivar, Minto, NSW

Beef Cattle Cooper Carter, Tumut, NSW

Boer Goat Jessica Hawker, Hinchinbrook, NSW

Dairy Cattle Mitchell Atkins, Tamworth, NSW

Dairy Goat Mae Danen, Yanco, NSW

Horses Brad Daunt, Cubbata, NSW (State) & Darby Ryan, Irvingdale, QLD (National)



Shetland Ponies Bronte Talbot, Dooralong, NSW

Horticulture Christie Hayward, Picnic Point, NSW

Pig Eleanor Santolin, Georges Hall, NSW

Poultry Hannah Jenkins, Narellan, NSW

Sheep Jack Lawrence, Warren, NSW

SHEEP & WOOL FAIR

Fifteen students from Hay War Memorial High School travelled to Holbrook for the Holbrook Sheep & Wool Fair. The fair is attended by several schools from the Riverina with approximately 180 students competing.

Students firstly attended workshops on Merino sheep judging, sheep health, wool workshop & judging, short & long wool meat sheep judging, sheep judging etiquette, judging Poll Dorset sheep, handling & holding sheep & working dogs.

The first competition is the schools interbreed sheep competition. With the school winning five ribbons from first to third.



Thursday saw the open sheep judging competition between stud breeders. With the Dorpers we received five firsts, four seconds, Champion & Reserve Champion rams & Champion Ewe plus the Most Successful Dorper Exhibitor. Our White Dorper ewes received two firsts, two thirds & Champion Ewe.

The students also competed in individual judging competitions with brilliant results.

Junior Fleece judging - 1st & 3rd.

Senior Fleece judging - 2nd & 3rd.

Novice Merino judging - 1st & 2nd.

Novice Meat sheep judging - 2nd.

Group Final Meat sheep judging - 2nd.

Group Final Merino sheep judging - 1st.

Two students have qualified to compete at the 2019 Sydney Royal Easter show.

The students also won the Best Maintained Team for keeping their area tidy & displaying lots of information about the school, stud & sheep.



NSW DPI

Total Virtual Farm

(<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/tocal-virtual-farm>)

The NSW DPI Schools Program team are excited to have launched the Tocal Virtual Farm.

Tocal Virtual Farm provides a fantastic opportunity for primary and secondary schools to study Science, Agriculture and technology, Geography and History as well as outcomes from the English, Maths and PDHPE syllabuses online from your classroom.

Teaching guides, student workbooks, learning activities, immersive digital resources and on site visits for Kindergarten to Year 12 classes have been designed to ensure that depth of learning occurs.

One Year at Tocal

This video records visible changes from one view point on Tocal between June 2017 and May 2018. The images are taken at intervals of approximately one week and show the impact of the recent dry-spell on the pastures and dam levels, as well as a minor flood event in March.

While parts of the state are still in the grips of drought this video captures how the quick response to rain can be. The video can be viewed on our YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/M8a5d5sIvPE>

Coming soon - virtual reality videos

In Spring we are recording a series of videos in 360° VR. The videos will give your students the opportunity to experience a range of enterprises operating on Tocal including beef, dairy, honey, wool and horse breeding as well as an overview of the Tocal landscape. The videos will be available in September, with more being added regularly.

Primary Resources

To support teachers in using the Tocal Virtual Farm we have developed a set of activities aligned to outcomes from the Science and Technology, Geography and History syllabuses.

Secondary Resources

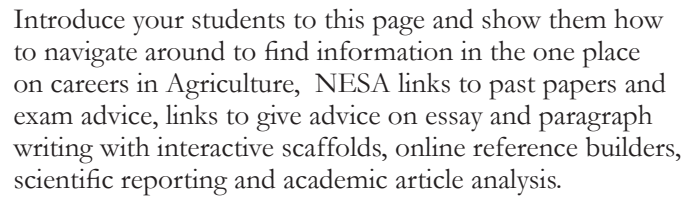
Utilise and navigate the Virtual Farm maps and digital resources to learn about production, management, sustainability and resource management at Tocal. A set of fully resourced, free Tocal Virtual Farm workbooks are available covering all aspects of the Stage 6 Preliminary Farm Case Study syllabus with mapped links to NSW HSC and Stage 5 Agriculture outcomes.

Workbooks include in depth answer guides and HSC style questions to engage and challenge student learning.

- Farm Case Study workbook
- Calendar of operations
- Soils Workbook and practical guides
- Systems agriculture
- Methods of agricultural record keeping
- Measuring finance and performance (covering development of gross margins, net equity, percentage return to capital, development budgets and other financial measures)
- Total field visit workbook- developed for face to face excursions which are always welcome at Total College Farm



These will assist you to help your students to practice and revise for the HSC Agriculture multiple choice section. Use these quizzes and be the game host in your classroom, or show your students how to access them for revision at home.



DPI Showcase Professional Development

The events are:

Monday 13 August 2018
Thursday 16 August 2018
Date to be confirmed

The events will provide you with the opportunity to gain currency in knowledge of new research and innovations, as well as providing you the opportunity to build networks with colleagues, industry professionals and universities.

- Animals
- Plants
- Soils
- Climate
- Sustainability
- Precision Agriculture and equipment (drones, tractors, GPS, autonomous equipment etc)

Email: schools.program@dpi.nsw.gov.au for inquiries.

SPECTACULAR AG EVENT

12

Ten schools participated in the two day event, with over 100 students involved. The main focus was the steer hoof and hook competition with schools preparing a steer to meet the carcass specifications for the local, commercial market.

Schools fed, trained and prepared their steers during Term 1 (60-90 days) and fed a ration of dried distillers' grain (DDG) provided by Manildra, and hay.

The steers were first shown on the hoof with prizes awarded in two classes for lightweight and medium weight with an overall Champion Led Steer award.

The cattle were transported to Milton District Meats where they were slaughtered and judged on the hook against commercially important carcass and meat characteristics.



Highest scoring carcasses were awarded Gold and Silver Medals in each of the two classes and an overall Champion Steer Carcass was awarded.

The abattoir was particularly impressed with the quality of the carcasses. Prizes were awarded on a point system allowing everyone who produced a quality carcass to be recognised, with several carcasses earning over 90 points.

The third section of the "Spectacular" was a Report Presentation by students from each school explaining the science, economics and practical details of running the project.

Grand Champion School was awarded to the school which scored the highest aggregate points across all three sections of the competition; Led Steer, Steer Carcass and Report Presentation.



During the two days of competition there were also a number of workshops run by industry professionals across range of topics including cuts of beef, cattle parading, grooming and judging guides and making rope

halters. There were also junior judging and junior parading competitions in which students competed for cash prizes. With prizes awarded for led animals, carcasses and project presentations, as well as junior judging and parading, there were many students and schools who shared in ribbons and prize money.

To promote the local beef industry the SCBPA sourced all the cattle from the local area, with many provided by their members. Members also provided mentoring support to schools in the preparation of their steers, especially those schools with minimal or no previous cattle showing experience.

For many of the students this was their first look at a cattle show and definitely their first attempt at parading or judging cattle. Those schools and students who did have some previous experience worked alongside the novice schools to create a fun, positive and productive event. One major difference in this competition compared to many others was its focus on producing to a local commercial specification, with points awarded for those characteristics that are actually required by meat buyers and butchers.

Also, for those Ag Teachers out there who are used to spending lots of money to get to a show whilst receiving average prize money, the Steer Spectacular provided very healthy prizes and also spread them across more than just a few blue ribbon winners.

Another big plus on the financial side of things was Manildra Stockfeeds generously donated the DDG pellets, which formed the basis of all feeding programs to all schools registered in the competition. A further attraction financially was that with the generosity of SCBPA members, schools were able to share in the proceeds from the sale of the carcasses without having to first outlay for the purchase of the steer. This made it possible for many of the schools to participate.



Overall it was a great event, blessed with some excellent weather, great facilities, good organisation, quality judges and enthusiastic participants. If your school is in the south eastern part of the state and you are interested in being involved (and you have not received any emails as yet), contact SCBPA executive officer, Rob Stafford ph. 0467 767 375 or execofficer@southcoastbeef.asn.au

Participating schools 2018; Nowra High, Bomaderry High, Shoalhaven High, Vincentia High, Oak Flats High, Dapto High, Yass High, Moruya High, Narooma High and Picton High.

Major Awards

Led Steers

Champion Medium-weight	Yass High School
Champion Lightweight:	Bomaderry High School
Grand Champion Led Steer:	Yass High School

Steer Carcasses

Gold Medal:
Lightweight:
Vincentia High School (94 points),
Medium-weight:
Moruya High School (94 points)

Silver Medal:
Lightweight:
Picton High School (90 points)
Bomaderry High School (89 points)
Medium-weight:
Picton High School (88 points)

Equal Champion Carcasses
Vincentia and Moruya High Schools

Report Presentation

Gold Medal:
Bomaderry High School (Seniors)

Silver Medal
Moruya High School

Grand Champion School:

Bomaderry High School.



Reserve Champion School:

Moruya High School

VEGAN LEATHER

Is 'vegan leather' a sustainable alternative to animal leather?

Many stores — particularly those that spruik their ethical standards — are now offering “vegan leather” products.

Vegan products are produced without animal products, but the term vegan often appears in the same spaces as other socially conscious claims, including environmental friendliness.

So when we see the term vegan leather, are those items just for those who want to avoid animal products? Or are they kinder on the environment as well?

Check Out ABC story at http://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2018-05-24/vegan-leather-is-it-a-sustainable-alternative/9774768?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=%5brn_sfmc_30_05_18_science_df_in1%5d%3a125&user

NSWAAT CONFERENCE 2019

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

Friday 4th January to Tuesday 8th January 2019

Members will receive information via email in coming weeks.



FUTUREGEN Education PD NSWAAAT EXECUTIVE CONTACTS

The next workshop will be in **Dubbo on 30 July 2018**

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: 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 problem-based 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.

Register at <https://www.colliver.com.au/training>

Registrations Close 20 July 2018

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