

NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers



SUMMER 2018



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello members,

It's the end of 2018 and the year has been very busy for all of us. This is especially so with curriculum changes and a bigger expectation on all of us in our school environments. Our jobs as educators continue to be challenging and the higher expectations that we face in managing our complex farming environments is becoming more difficult in the mix of our individual schools. The passion and dedication of all Ag teachers is extraordinary and it is humbling to read about what you are all doing in your schools. It is obvious that agriculture is strong in our schools and will continue to be so with your beyond the call of duty efforts.

We continue to put agricultural education on the agenda and with the immense support of our industry education stakeholders, we continue to be an important part of the education landscape in NSW schools. Thanks to Department of Education, NESAs, NSW DPI, NSW Royal Agricultural Society, PIEFA, Cotton Australia and various other organisations for their continued support of agriculture in schools. With over 50,000 students studying Ag based courses in high schools and over 350 trained agriculture teachers in NSW, we are certainly a force to be reckoned with. With teachers working with the association, we can continue to improve our education in schools and increase the numbers of students taking up Ag as a career.

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The implementation of the new Technology Mandatory course in 2019 will see agricultural education entering a new phase where all students are exposed to agriculture in some form. I hope this change brings further improvement in the promotion of the importance of agricultural education.

There are several areas of achievements during the past year:

1. New NSWAAAT website

The new website has been a major improvement to the communication with members. I was instrumental in the initial design and development of the website and transferring the old website data over to the new. I also introduced online payments to the site, which has revolutionised the payment system we now have for members. We now have a much better system of communication and payment to streamline how members can engage with the association. I look forward to seeing the website improve over the next few years

2. Communication with stakeholders and promotion of agricultural education

I have been actively communicating with our main stakeholders, such as NAAE, NESA, NSW DPI Department of Education, NSW Royal Agricultural Society and PIEFA to consult on the delivery of resources and professional development workshops that target the needs of all members.

3. Curriculum review and consultation

The last two years has seen the greatest curriculum changes we have seen in twenty years. Technology Mandatory and Stage 5 agriculture syllabuses have been updated and I have consulted with NESA to reflect the feedback from members about these changes. Also, the promotion of courses and training for members has been a high priority and many more courses are now available into 2019. I am especially grateful to the Department of Education TAS advisor for their continued support of professional learning for our teachers.

4. Sydney Branch coordination

During the last four years I have coordinated the Sydney Branch of the association. We have held term meetings with on average 30 teachers in attendance across both school and other education venues across Sydney. The support and involvement of teachers in Sydney has been overwhelming and the depth of professional learning has been impressive. Personally I would like to thank David Randall for his support of my role in the Sydney branch and his continued support of Ag teachers in Sydney.

Various thanks

New Careers Harvest website is now live on www.careerharvest.com.au. Many thanks to PIEFA for all their work at updating this valuable resource.

I would like to thank the conference organisation team,

lead by Georgie Price. We are all looking forward to Forbes and the exciting tours and sessions planned. Thanks also to the sponsors and all the organisations supporting the conference activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the executive for all their hard work this year. Especially to Graham, Angela and Scott for all their dedication to their roles. I would also like to mention Scott and Brianna for the hard work they have put into producing a new video about Ag teaching, which will be premiered very soon.

This is my last presidents message to you. I am taking leave next year, but I will be involved in supporting Ag education in NSW and continue to be an advocate of the importance of teaching agriculture in schools. I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and new years break. Look forward to seeing you at the conference.

All the best,

Luciano Mesiti

4/12/18

NSWAAT AGM 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers Inc. will be held on **Tuesday 8th January, 8.30am** at The Plainsman Hotel, 22 Sherriff St, Forbes, NSW 2871.

If you are unable to attend in person, you can join in via your computer or telephone. See instructions below.

Please join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android: Zoom - Please use a headset and mute your microphone when not speaking. Gallery view is useful. ZOOM address <https://zoom.us/j/5874540797>

Topic: NSWAAT AGM

Time: 8th January, 8.30am 2019 Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/5874540797>

Meeting ID: **587 454 0797**

Please login 5 mins before so as the zoom software can be installed. Or better still install this sometime before the meeting to avoid issues. ZOOM can be downloaded from Go to <https://zoom.us/>



AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Confirmation and acceptance of Minutes from previous AGM held Colo High School on Friday 2nd February 2018, 4.00pm at Colo High School.
3. Reports from the NSWAAAT Executive Committee, and Members on the activities of the Association during the last financial year to June 30 2018.
4. Receive and consider the Association's statement of accounts and the reports required by section 73 (1) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991.
5. Confirm appointment of auditor for 2019.
6. Election of an Executive Committee 2019 - 2020.
7. Other business.

Proxy and nomination forms should be returned to NSWAAAT Secretary

Angela Colliver via email angela@colliver.com.au no later than one week prior to AGM i.e. 30 December 2018.



NSW DPI SCHOOL PROGRAM

Tocal Virtual Farm

The Tocal Virtual Farm is a set of resources that together provide an insight into the Tocal property and farms including how they are managed and used for education as well as production. Each resource is described below and can be found at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/tocal-virtual-farm>

1. **Virtual reality 360 videos:** <https://bit.ly/2P6I1W6>
2. Looking for exciting new ways to teach agriculture? Explore the NSW DPI Schools Program's set of new engaging, immersive Virtual Reality 360° videos. The set of videos allows students to virtually explore the Tocal farms landscape, dairy, beef and sheep enterprises, shearing, horse breeding, and bee programs. For optimal viewing download the YouTube app and select between 360° or headset mode for an immersive experience. While it is not necessary, students with access to a VR headset will have a more immersive experience while viewing many of the

videos of the Tocal farms.

3. **Property and farm production and management data:** available in PDF and iBook this document includes overviews and detail for each of the farm enterprises as well as climate data and information about soils, water and vegetation on Tocal.
4. **Story Maps:** interactive spatial data is presented online via the ESRI Story Map platform and include property layout, soils, topographic landscapes, water, and land capability as well as cultural heritage. Each map is accompanied by an overview of management practices.
5. **Teacher guides and workbooks:** link to a range of fully writable pdf documents mapped to various K-12 NSW syllabus outcomes and KLA areas including 7 Stage 6 Farm Case Study workbooks.

New Stage 4 Technology Mandatory teaching resources

Tocal Virtual Farm Technology Mandatory unit

This document will guide students in an investigation of the Tocal Virtual Farm and is designed to meet the outcomes of the agriculture technologies component of the 2017 Technology Mandatory syllabus for years 7 & 8. It will be of particular interest to teachers with limited experience or opportunity to deliver the agricultural technologies outcomes. Completion of this unit can be used to position students to go on to work towards either the food technologies outcomes or digital technologies (or both).

The Australian Hamburgers unit

In this unit of work, students investigate the main Australian agricultural industries (wheat, beef, dairy, sheep, pork, poultry and horticulture) from paddock to plate. The unit is designed to cover all outcomes from the NSW Technology Mandatory Stage 4 Syllabus Agricultural technologies and Food technologies contexts and consists of three resources: a workbook, an answer guide, and a design folio.



It includes guides for practical activities, in-class extension investigations, mini design projects and an answer guide which will challenge student understanding and prepare them to complete the major project - to design and prepare a nutritious food product: a hamburger using an ingredient from each of the seven Australian agricultural industries investigated.

Suggested additional activities in this involve students developing a vegetable or herb garden to grow ingredients for their burger and also learning food preparation and cooking techniques.

The Yabby unit

This unit of work provides students with the opportunity to investigate the importance of aquaculture production to our society through focusing on Australian freshwater crayfish production. The Yabby unit is designed to cover outcomes from the NSW Technology Mandatory Stage 4 Syllabus Agricultural technologies, Engineered systems and Digital technologies contexts and consists of four resources including a workbook, answer guide, and choice of two major design folios.

The unit includes guides for practical activities, in-class extension investigations, mini design projects which will challenge student understanding and prepare them to complete one of two major projects for the unit - to design and build an aquaponics system or automate it using control technologies.

The Yabby Unit- Technology Mandatory



Suggested additional activities involve students growing, managing and making observations on aquaponic plants and freshwater crayfish.

Food and Fibre Production - an Aboriginal Perspective

This resource investigates historical Australian Aboriginal food and fibre production and specifically addresses NSW Stage 4 Technology Mandatory, Food and fibre and Engineered systems outcomes. It includes a study guide and answer booklet. A Stage 6 version is also available.



Industry News

NSW primary industries performance data insights

Looking for the latest industry market analysis and figures on NSW primary industry production? The DPI Performance, Data and Insights 2018 provides a simple and clear analysis of the performance of key NSW primary industries cropping, livestock, horticulture, wine grapes, fisheries, forestry and water. <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/publications/pdi/2018>

Inactivating genes can boost crop genetic diversity

Researchers recently showed that inactivating a gene, RECQ4, leads to a three-fold increase in recombination in crops such as rice, pea and tomato. The discovery could speed up plant breeding and development of varieties better suited to specific environmental conditions. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/12/181204131102.htm>

Peck tech: Start-up wants to revolutionise poultry industry

Entrepreneurs Sarah Last and Eleanor Toulmin have created a device that mimics a mother hen, in a plan to improve profits and productivity in the poultry industry. <https://www.smh.com.au/business/small-business/peck-tech-start-up-wants-to-revolutionise-poultry-industry-20180705-p4zpqj.html>



How Can We Help?



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) develops youth and education programs to support agricultural development, encourage agricultural careers, foster new leaders, and educate people about food, fibre and farming. With a wide range of incursions, excursions and Teacher Professional Development experiences, the RAS is perfectly placed to assist schools with agricultural journeys beyond the classroom and into the new Agriculture and Food Technologies focus in the Technology Mandatory syllabus.

2019 Events



Teacher Professional Development

Knowing & Growing: Agriculture and Food

This new professional development is designed to provide support to Stage 4 and 5 Agriculture and Technology Mandatory teachers through training and provision of resources developed for the new Technology Syllabus. This NESA accredited event will be run in multiple locations across NSW to provide opportunities for Sydney and regional teachers to attend.

4 June 2019 Sydney Showground (regional dates TBC)

Transforming Milk into Camembert

This workshop focuses on the process of transforming primary produce into value-added consumer products with an understanding of the chemical and biological changes that take place during the cheese making process. NESA accredited 6 hours for Stage 4-6 teachers.

6 August 2019 Sydney Showground

AgVision

AgVision is NSW's leading Agricultural and Agribusiness hands-on careers expo. Students will participate in hands-on experiences showcasing a wide range of workshops and network with industry professionals. Attending teachers will be eligible for NESA Accreditation (5 Hours)

7 August 2019 Sydney Showground



Student Workshops

School Day at The Sydney Royal Easter Show

Sample activities that schools can get involved in include Cheese Workshop, Race Around the Show and Farm of the Future.

12 April 2019 Sydney Showground (Tickets on sale 6 Feb 2019)

Dairy Incursion: We bring a cow to your school

Stage 4-5 students are invited to hand milk a cow and learn about mechanical milking. This incursion includes a demonstration on milk separation, soft cheese production, nutrition and animal husbandry. Duration 1 ½ hours

Term 2-Term 4 2019 Sydney Metropolitan Area



Other Learning Opportunities

Showcasing Student Textiles through the Natural Fibre Fashion Show

Expressions of interest are sought for student made textile garments to be displayed through the daily catwalk in the Natural Fibre Fashion Show at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Contact us to be involved. Products must be made of any natural fibre – mohair, silk, wool, cotton.

12-23 April 2019 Sydney Showground

For further information and assistance contact the RAS Education team

W: www.rasnsw.com.au E: education@rasnsw.com.au P: 02 9704 1147



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

BOWRA PADDOCK TO PLATE PERFECTION

On Friday the 24th November, Bowraville Central School hosted its Inaugural Paddock to Plate event at the School farm. The event had been marketed to guests as a surprise menu only revealing that Pork and Lamb would be served for the main course. The year 12 Hospitality students styled the event as well as served and waitressed for the evening.

Guests were ferried to the Farm aboard the school bus. When they arrived they were met with a welcome table filled with sunrise mocktails and mini quiches that had been made using farm produce and a mixture of School farm & Yamstick Organic eggs. Off in the distance were two beautifully decorated long tables in the paddock adorned with fresh flowers that the students had collected from the school gardens.



encouraged to ask questions and the students proudly talked about their enterprise projects and how their enterprise had contributed to the meal that was going to be served later that night. When guests arrived at the chook pen, they were served a duo of devilled eggs, some being coloured purple using beetroot that the students had dehydrated and turned into powder to colour the eggs. It was then time for guests to be seated at the tables where they were met with the third appetizer; spinach, herb & garlic dip served with herb twists. The hospitality

students did a wonderful job of ensuring the guests had topped up mocktails and spritzers. The guests were encouraged to take a scarecrow selfie with our National Agriculture Day Scarecrows.

Next it was time for the main course, pulled pork or marinated lamb served with chipotle mayo or tzatziki, a rainbow salad and fresh potato salad made using potatoes grown as an enterprise project.

Guests wandered around looking at photo walls, buying from the produce stall and admiring the gardens before the students took them on a farm tour. The guests were

The pigs and Lamb were all born on the farm and butchered by a local mobile butcher. Students spent a term studying pigs and enjoyed the ear tagging and vaccinating program.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE COMPETITION

The Young Judges competitions give you the opportunity to network with industry leaders, develop your public speaking skills, improve your ability to present reasons for your decisions and receive valuable feedback on your performance. Young Judges from 15 to 25 years of age can compete in horticulture, merino fleece, grain, goat, pig, poultry, beef cattle, ponies and more.

Visit www.rasnsw.com.au/youngjudges for more details.



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

The tea lights were lit and the full moon was rising when guests were treated to dessert. A wafer filled cannelloni with citrus curd cheesecake or an orange & poppy seed cake served with honey ice-cream which had been harvested from a recent beekeeping course that some of our students attended. The citrus used in the curd and cake had been collected, juiced and zested on-site by the students before being frozen to use specifically for the event.



It was then time for speeches and the Year 10 Agriculture students who were also guests on the night, after all their hard work in planning, organising and cooking for the event, got up to surprise everyone with a beautiful heartfelt speech of appreciation and thanks.



Special guests included Mayor Rhonda Hobin and MP Melinda Pavey who commented that it was “a perfect night of fine food sourced from the School’s Ag plot.” While Mayor Hobin offered congratulations to the students and BCS staff Lori Wilson and Eve Riches, for creating a wonderful event to showcase the Bowraville Central School’s facilities. Agriculture teacher Lori Wilson said it was a fantastic team event and wonderful to be celebrating the achievements of the Ag students and showcasing the beautiful School farm.



Throughout the year the students engaged in the following enterprise projects, potatoes, broiler and layer chickens, Dorper sheep, pigs, vegetable production and Goats milk soap. Overall, it was the students and their enterprise projects that were able to shine on the night.



HURLSTONE WINS ARCHIBULL PRIZE



The 2018 Archibull Prize has been run and won with Hurlstone Agricultural High School taking out the prestigious title of Grand Champion Archibull with an ornately decorated, sacred-cow themed Archie representing horticulture.



32 primary and secondary schools across New South Wales and Queensland took part in the ninth instalment of The Archibull Prize. Participants included public, independent and catholic schools, selective schools, alternate schools and performing and creative arts schools from rural and urban communities.

The students were joined by Young Farming Champions as they researched their nominated agricultural industry and presented their findings in blogs, infographics and multi-media, and by adorning their Archie – a life-sized fibreglass cow.

Thanks to support from the Aussie Farmers Foundation schools were able to study horticulture, for the first time and Hurlstone Agricultural High School created Brahman: The Sacred Cow as their Archie. “Brahman: The Sacred Cow is a visual investigation of the issues of sustainability and food security in the horticulture industry,” the school said. “Our artwork aligns the nourishment of the body with the nourishment of the soul... and utilises the visual conventions of religion to celebrate horticulture, specifically, its capacity to sustain our world’s population.”



Reserve Grand Champion Archibull was awarded to Calvary Christian College – Carbrook Senior College, from Queensland who researched the egg and poultry industry to create Le-EGG-O, an Archie with elaborate

LEGO figurines. “We went with this idea because LEGO, much like chickens and eggs, speaks a universal language,” the school said. “LEGO is internationally recognised and children from multiple nationalities will demonstrate recognition, be able to read booklets, construct, play, plan and dream. Likewise, poultry & eggs are an internationally recognised food source, with many countries having their own unique take on dishes cooked with chicken or eggs.”



The awards were presented at a ceremony held at Sydney Olympic Park on Tuesday 20th November, attended by dignitaries including CEO of Foodbank Brianna Casey and Youth Off The Streets founder Father Chris Riley.



Watch the winners animation here <https://youtu.be/FGvKAr2urIs>

You can find a list of all award winners in our Hall of Fame here <http://archibullprize.com.au/halloffame/index.html>

Check out the award event in photos here <https://www.flickr.com/photos/art4agriculture/albums/72157703912237014>



EOI 2019 ARCHBULLS

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.

Agriculture can be used to teach science, geography and maths in context. Did you know it can also be used to teach art and multimedia? In fact the opportunities are endless.

The Archibull Prize is a world renowned program with curriculum-linked teaching resources which explore the role agriculture plays in the health, wealth and happiness of Australians and many other people around the world.

Your students can not only win cash prizes for their creativity, they can put their town on the map by participating in The Archibull Prize!

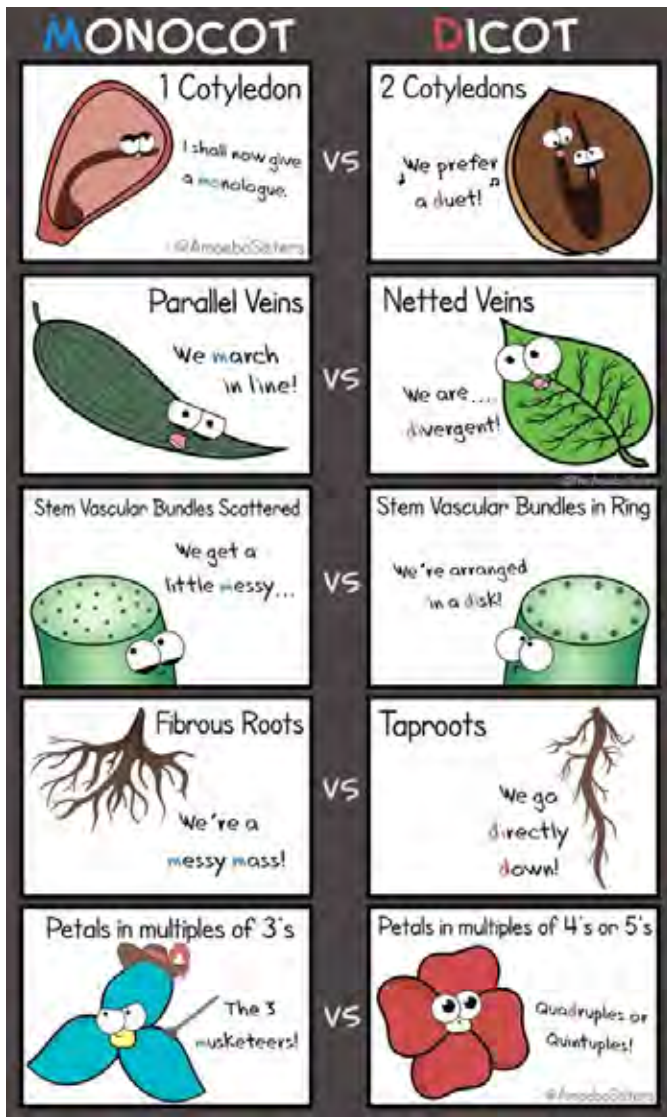
It's simple... the more students enjoy learning, the more they want to be at school and achieve.

Over the past five years The Archibull Prize program has consistently shown that the students involved were deeply engaged in the range of learning experiences the program provided.

Teachers saw the impacts first-hand of a successful combination of arts and multimedia activities, along with project-based processes across multiple key learning areas.

Put simply, The Archibull Prize is a successful addition to the learning program for students, teachers love it because it meets the needs of the curriculum and enhances classroom engagement, and communities are able to engage with the program and schools in a meaningful way.

A banner for the Archibull Prize 2019. On the left, there is a white cow standing in a field with a blue jacket hanging on a post. The background is a mix of blue, pink, and black. The text on the banner reads: **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE ARCHIBULL PRIZE 2019!** Below this, it says: **Click to email lynnestrong@art4agriculture.com.au and apply.**



CASUAL TEACHER POSITIONS

Casual teacher - Canowindra High School

29/01/2019 - 20/12/2019 – years 7 - 12 (full time)
Approval to teach agriculture/agriculture technology and/or willingness to teach primary industries - general agriculture (years 7 - 12)

Email neryle smurthwaite (neryle.smurthwaite@det.nsw.edu.au) or phone 02 6244 1305

Casual teacher - Yass High School

29/01/2019 - 20/12/2019 - years 7 - 10 (full time).
Approval to teach agriculture/agriculture technology and/or willingness to teach primary industries - general agriculture (years 7 - 10)

Email linda langton (linda.langton@det.nsw.edu.au) or phone 02 6226 1711

Casual teacher - Wilcannia Central School

01/02/2019 - 05/07/2019 - years 9 - 12 (full time). 8 (cc) points
Approval to teach construction and/or willingness to teach primary industries - general agriculture, retail services – operations and business services (years 9 - 12). 90% rental subsidy applies.

Contact Noel Maddern Phone 0428 887 626

Casual teacher - Moree Secondary College

04/02/2019 - 19/12/2019 - years 7 - 12 (full time). 4 (cc) points
Approval to teach agriculture/agriculture technology (years 7 - 12). 50% rental subsidy applies. Applicants for this position are requested to submit an expression of interest (<https://nsw.us3.list-manage.com/track/click...>).

Email Paula Barton (paula.barton@det.nsw.edu.au) or phone 0407 287 708

<https://www.facebook.com/AmoebaSisters/>



2019 FOOD, FIBRE & AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

13-17 January, Brisbane

Early Bird Extended
Must close 5pm Friday 14th December 2018

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE

Your executive is always looking to get feedback and suggestions from our members.

If you would like to reach-out to us please use the following contact details to share your ideas and feedback.

NSWAAT EXECUTIVE CONTACTS

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FROM THE EDITOR

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and I look forward to what 2019 will bring.

All Best

Greg

