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Saturday, 21 June – A Day of Insight & Inspiration

The main event begins with the AgShows NSW AGM, followed by an engaging program of debates, keynotes, and interactive sessions:

- **The Great Debate:** "The primary purpose of today's Agricultural Shows is advancing Agriculture...or is it?"
- **Teamwork, Tension & Turning It Around:** Strengthening collaborative committees.
- **Innovating Tradition:** Future-proofing agricultural shows through innovation.
- **Survive & Thrive:** Success stories from thriving shows.
- **Can AI Supercharge the Show Secretary?** Exploring digital solutions for show management.
- **Dollars & Sense:** Strategies for securing grants, sponsorships, and revenue streams.
- **Yarn Circles:** Open discussions for sharing experiences and brainstorming ideas.
- **Final Round-Up:** A reflective session to wrap up the event.

The day ends with Sundowners, followed by the Gala Dinner & Awards Night, an evening of recognition, camaraderie, and celebration.

Sunday, 22 June – The Big Brekkie

Ease into the final day with a relaxed Big Brekkie, hosted by the Armidale Show Society – a perfect opportunity to connect before heading home.

Why You Can't Miss It

From thought-provoking discussions to practical takeaways, networking, and fun, this weekend has it all. Whether you're a seasoned show veteran, new to a Show Society or an emerging leader.

Book Now & Save!

Tickets are now available at early bird prices – 10% off until the end of March (**only \$117** for the welcome, conference & dinner!)



Celebrating Ag Shows 2025

A Weekend of Connection & Celebration

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Get ready for an unforgettable weekend in Armidale as AgShows NSW hosts Celebrating Ag Shows 2025. With an unmissable lineup of speakers, panel discussions, and networking opportunities!

What's on the Program?

Friday, 20 June – Explore & Connect

Kickstart the weekend with an Armidale Heritage & Highlights Bus Tour, offering a unique glimpse into the region's rich history. As the day winds down, Nex Gen will Raise the Bar: at the Welcome Event – the perfect chance to network.

President's Message

Can you believe it's March already! I hope everyone has had a great start to the year with the Show season in full swing!

I attended the Wheat Competition Dinner in January with Vice President Jody Nelson-Gleeson, which was well-attended and strongly supported by sponsors. This competition consistently showcases top talent, with strong entry numbers reinforcing its well-regarded reputation.

I've been on the road attending Young Woman Zone Finals hosted by Barraba, Griffith, and Kempsey. While travelling, I visited showgrounds along the way and recently stopped at Glen Innes as they prepared for their show. I also attended the Tenterfield Show (very impressed with their Young Farmers Challenge) and attended the Coffs Harbour 2026 planning meeting. Living in Hay, it's always great to head north! Next, I'm off to Dubbo and Nimmitabel for the final two Zone Finals.

Congratulations to the Young Woman Zone Finals organisers—your hard work has delivered outstanding events. A big thank you to The Land for their support, judging, and coverage and to PSC Insurance Group which generously gifts elegant pearl necklaces to the finalists

A special mention to Dominique Wyse, the 2024 The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman, who has been clocking up kilometres attending Zone Finals and shows. She's been well-supported by the 2024 cohort, all of whom have been fantastic ambassadors for the show movement.

To the 2025 entrants—I've loved meeting you and hearing your stories. Best of luck to those heading to Sydney for a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

AgShows NSW remains committed to collaborating with others, sharing successes, and tackling challenges together. We meet monthly with our interstate affiliates, and, in January, Brett Kenworthy (Hon. Treasurer and Chair Commercial) and I met with the Showmen's Guild at Yatala.

In February, I attended the two-day ASA Conference—an excellent chance to learn, network, and exchange ideas. It was great to catch up with our ASA Bursary Recipients: Wayne Willmington (Luddenham), Jeanie Briggs-Seers (Dungog), Kaye Hamilton (Coffs Harbour),

Bronte Talbot (Wyong), and Denise Whitney (Nimbin), all making the most of the event. I also enjoyed seeing familiar faces, including Belinda Grace from Murwillumbah, Heather Lattimore from Wauchope and the Bellingen team.

I'm excited to highlight Celebrating Ag Shows 2025, our annual conference in Armidale. Vice President, Kelso Looker assures us of a warm Armidale welcome. Those who have attended the past two years know the value of coming together for workshops during the day and a celebratory dinner in the evening, where we'll honour award winners in five categories plus the President's Award. Nominations are now open—I encourage all members to take this opportunity to recognise an individual or share a success story.

Many of you will be heading to Sydney for the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Many AgShows NSW directors and I will be there, supporting the Young Judges competitions, cheering on our Young Woman finalists, and stopping by the Big Bush BBQ. If you'd like to catch up, please reach out via the office—I always enjoy hearing what's happening across NSW!

Members are also welcome to attend our meeting with the Showmen's Guild representatives at the Show more details & RSVP link on page 11.

A big thank you to our dedicated team for their ongoing support of members. Wishing Lyndy a speedy recovery after an unfortunate clash with a cyclist and congratulating Brooke on her first year.

There's plenty happening in the office as we follow our six-month roadmap to continually improve and provide greater value to members. Insurance declarations are out, Board meeting and CAS 2025 preparations are underway, and work has begun on our new website. Sarah is managing the annual audit, rolling out a new accounting system, and coordinating date books and journals. Katie continues to expertly run competitions and juggle events, while Nicky wrangles member queries and is keeping our socials lively, supporting the Young Woman program, and attending all zone finals to date. It's a busy time for the team!

The show season is well and truly underway with many groups holding meetings as well. Thank you all for what you do to keep the show movement alive and relevant.



Jill Chapman
President,
AgShows NSW

A Toast to the Best in Wheat

Champions Crowned at 2024 Wheat Dinner

The 2024 Wheat Dinner was a night to celebrate the best of NSW's wheat industry, honouring excellence, innovation, and dedication in dryland and durum wheat farming. With 55 attendees gathering to recognise an outstanding season, the evening highlighted the remarkable efforts of growers across the state. Taking out top honours:

🏆 **State Dryland Field Wheat Champion** – Rob Cropper, Greenhills Pastoral (*top pic*)

🏆 **State Durum Field Wheat Champion** – James Vince, Lambrook Pastoral (*bottom pic*)

🏆 **TJ Dwyer Farming Excellence Award** – Derrick Farming Co. (*middle pic*)

These winners exemplify the skill, perseverance, and commitment that define the heart of Australia's grain-growing industry. Their achievements stand as a testament to the strength of regional agriculture.

A huge thank you to **Suncorp, Flexicoil, Lowes Petroleum, Dual Chelate, and The Land**, whose generous support made this event possible.

🔗 [Click here](#) to read our winners' stories.



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Insurance Renewals Due

Stay Covered! 2025/2026 Insurance Period

Last week, we emailed all Show Society Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries with the Annual Insurance Declaration for the upcoming coverage period from 31 May 2025 to 31 May 2026. This is a critical step in ensuring your Show Society remains protected under the AgShows NSW Insurance Program.

Why is This Important?

The AgShows NSW insurance program, in partnership with PSC Insurance Group, is designed to provide comprehensive coverage tailored to protect Show Societies, volunteers, events, and assets. Key coverages include:

- **Public & Products Liability Insurance** – Protects against claims arising from incidents at your Show or events.
- **Association Liability Insurance** – Covers office bearers, Directors, and committee members against claims related to wrongful acts.
- **Voluntary Workers** – Ensures volunteers are covered for personal accidents while participating in authorised activities.
- **Industrial Special Risks (ISR) Insurance** – Protects owned assets including buildings, equipment, and other valuable property.
- **Goods in Transit Insurance** – Covers damage or loss of materials/equipment/ livestock during transportation.
- **Business Interruption Insurance (Optional)** – Provides financial support in case of unforeseen disruption (this is separate to the Rain Fund).

Submit the online Insurance Declaration by **5:00pm, Friday, 14 March 2025**. Each Show Society must submit **one** declaration to ensure smooth processing and timely coverage.

Submitting your declaration early allows PSC Insurance to leverage collective data to secure optimal underwriting terms, ensuring comprehensive coverage at the best value.

For assistance, contact
asc.admin@ascofnsw.org.au

Report, Record, Resolve

Strengthening Your Incident Response

Accidents can happen, and when they do, it's crucial to report all incidents—no matter how minor—by completing an Incident Form. Thorough and timely reporting can significantly improve claim outcomes and protect your Show Society.

Key Steps in Incident Management

- **Report all incidents** immediately, regardless of severity.
- **Document the Scene:**
 - Take clear photos and videos of the location, damages, and any injuries.
 - Capture the weather conditions at the time of the incident (e.g., rain, wind visibility).
 - Note any hazards present, such as uneven ground, broken equipment, or obstructed pathways.
- **Gather Witness Statements:** Collect names and contact details of witnesses and obtain their written or recorded statements which have detailed descriptions of what they saw before, during, and after the incident.
- **Complete an Incident Form** with all relevant details and submit it to **asc.admin@ascofnsw.org.au**. If needed, AgShows NSW will forward it to PSC Insurance Group for review before assessment.
- **Early notification** can lead to better claim outcomes if the incident escalates.
- **Leave claims handling to the insurer** – they have the expertise to manage legal proceedings and protect your Show Society's interests.
- If contacted by insurers regarding a claim, **be transparent and cooperative**—their goal is to manage the case effectively.

By staying proactive in submitting declarations and thoroughly documenting incidents, your Show Society contributes to securing comprehensive and cost-effective coverage for the entire AgShows NSW community.

Incident Forms and detailed guidance on incident procedures are available in the [Members' section of the AgShows NSW website](#) or by contacting the office.



ATO Self-Review Deadline

Due 31 March 2025

A friendly reminder for Show Societies that self-assess as income tax-exempt and are not registered with the ACNC—the deadline to lodge your ATO self-review return is fast approaching.

31 March 2025 is the cut-off date!

Do You Need to Lodge?

If your Show Society has an active ABN but is not registered with the ACNC, you must submit a self-review return to the ATO to maintain your income tax exemption.

How to Lodge Your Return

- ✓ **Online** via [ATO Online Services](#) – Follow the ATO Self-Review Return Guide.
- ✓ **By Phone** via the ATO's self-help service at **13 72 26** – Many Show Societies find this option quicker and easier!

Useful Links:

- [ATO - Reporting Requirements for NFPs](#)
- [ATO - Eligible Types of Income Tax-Exempt Organisations](#)

Thinking About ACNC Registration?

Many members have reached out to the office regarding their plans to apply for ACNC registration. If your Show Society's constitution is based on the NSW Fair Trading Model Constitution, it will require amendments to meet ACNC eligibility criteria.

To proceed, you'll need to:

- ✓ Update your constitution with the necessary changes.
- ✓ Present the amendments at your AGM or call a Special General Meeting for approval.
- ✓ Submit your application to the ACNC once the changes are formally adopted.

If you need guidance, AgShows NSW is here to help! Contact our office for assistance or reach out to the ACNC for further support.

Helpful Resources:

- [ACNC Registration Checklist & Guide](#)
- [Justice Connect – Charity Registration Tips](#)
- [ACNC Online Learning Hub](#)

Advocacy Update – Senate Inquiry into NFP Tax Changes

AgShows NSW, in collaboration with Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA) and our state affiliates, continues to advocate for fair taxation policies for NFP organisations.

The Senate Economics References Committee is reviewing potential changes, but no immediate legislative action has been introduced. The government has up to three months (or longer) to respond.

We'll keep you informed as we learn more.


Seeking Volunteers?

Volunteers are the backbone of every agricultural show, ensuring events run smoothly and communities come together. However, many Show Societies face increasing challenges in recruiting and retaining volunteers each year.

Did you know that SEEK, Australia's largest online recruitment platform, also has a dedicated volunteer portal? SEEK Volunteer is a free platform that connects individuals looking to give back with organisations in need of support.

Why Use SEEK Volunteer?

- ✓ Australia-wide platform including regional NSW
- ✓ Tap into a vast network of potential volunteers.
- ✓ Set up your Show Society's profile quickly.
- ✓ Connect with people passionate about community events.

 [Click here](#) for more information or to register.





Make Time to Celebrate

Recognising Our Ag Show Champions

Agricultural shows wouldn't be possible without the dedication, resilience, and ingenuity of countless volunteers. Yet, too often, the people who make these events happen are so busy doing that they don't take time to reflect and celebrate their achievements.

Did you know? A well-balanced approach to event management suggests spending around 25% of your time planning, 50% doing, and 25% reviewing. However, for many hardworking volunteers, the reality is quite different—most time is spent on doing, with little left for reflection and recognition.

This is where the AgShows NSW Awards come in! These awards provide an opportunity to pause, reflect, and honour the individuals and societies that go above and beyond. Whether it's a Living Legend who has dedicated decades to agricultural shows, a Rising Star making waves in their community, or a Show Society that has demonstrated incredible resilience—these awards are designed to acknowledge the efforts that often go unnoticed.

Why Nominate?

- ✓ **Your work matters** – Celebrate the dedication that keeps shows thriving.
- ✓ **Inspire others** – Highlighting success stories encourages the next generation.
- ✓ **Strengthen your Show Society** – Recognition can boost community support and volunteer engagement.

Award Categories

★ **Living Legend Award** | For Individuals
For people with long-standing contributions.
Prizes: \$200 per finalist (4), \$500 to the winner.

★ **Rising Star Award** | For Individuals
Recognising exceptional leadership in volunteers aged 18-45.
Prize: \$1,000 to the winner.



★ **Resilience Award** | For Show Societies
For Show Societies that have overcome challenges.
Prize: \$2,000 to the winner.

★ **Event/Project Innovation Award** | For Show Societies
Celebrating creative new initiatives.
Prize: \$1,000 to the winner.

★ **Technology Innovation Award** | Show Societies
Recognising the use of technology to enhance agricultural shows & societies.
Prize: \$1,000 to the winner.




Don't Miss Out!

Entries close **Friday, 2 May 2025**. The nomination process is quick and easy—just answer a few simple questions online.

Winners will be announced at the Celebrating Ag Shows Gala Dinner in Armidale on Saturday, 21 June 2025—a night dedicated to recognising excellence in our industry.

Make Time to Reflect & Enter Today!

Take a moment to nominate yourself, your Show Society, or someone whose contributions deserve recognition. Let's ensure that the hardworking individuals and groups who make agricultural shows possible receive the celebration they deserve!

 [Click here to submit a nomination or visit our website for more information!](#)

Celebrating 150 Years!



On 8 March 2025, Cooma will proudly celebrate 150 years since its first agricultural show, marking a milestone in the region's rich farming and community heritage. The Cooma Pastoral and Agricultural Association, originally established in the 1860s, has played a significant role in supporting agriculture and rural traditions in the Monaro district.

The first official show took place in 1875 at the Police Paddock, where visitors enjoyed entertainment from a brass band that, as reported in the newspapers, "wooed them with sweet harmonies." Over the years, the event has evolved, reflecting changes in agriculture and community life. In 1883, the Cooma Ploughing Association merged with the P&A group to form what is now known as the Cooma Pastoral and Agricultural Association.

[Wishing you a wonderful 150th Show!](#)

Young Woman Zone Finals

The journey to find the next The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman is well underway, with five Zone Finals already concluded and the competition showcasing an outstanding calibre of entrants from across the state.

With each event impeccably organised by dedicated Show Societies, the judges faced the tough task of selecting finalists from each zone to represent their zone & Show at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Meet the 2025 State Finalists (So Far!)

Zone 1 – (Kempsey) Summer Chaseling, a content creator at Wright Social representing Bangalow & Phoebe Southwell, an early childhood teacher from Temagog representing Kempsey. *(Top Pic)*

Zone 2 – (Berry) Ellie Eather (Dapto), a dockmaster assistant & Bonnie Cox (Berry), a livestock sales representative. A special milestone for Dapto, which will have a representative at the State Final for the first time in 20 years! Bowral Show Society also made history by being represented at a Zone Final for the first time. *(Second Pic)*

Zone 4 – (Barraba) Claudia Williams, an assistant in nursing from Narrabri & Chennelle Winsor, a feedlot pen rider from Gunnedah. *(Third Pic)*

Zone 5 – (Mudgee) Nino Birchall, a veterinary student from Mudgee & Eloise Haigh, a sustainable agriculture advisor from Upper Hunter.

Zone 7 – (Griffith) Brianna Pilon, a primary school teacher from Weethalle & Cassandra Bush, an associate lawyer from Cootamundra. *(Bottom Pic)*

What's Next?

Two more Zone Finals remain before the full line-up of 2025 State Finalists is complete:

- 8 March Zone 6 - Dubbo
- 15 March - Zone 3 – Nimmitabel
- 9 April – State Finalist Dinner, Sydney
- 13 April – Announcement at Sydney Royal

Congratulations to all entrants for their dedication and passion, and a heartfelt thank you to the Show Societies for their hard work in delivering such memorable events. The 2025 competition has been outstanding, and we can't wait to see who will take the title in just a few weeks!

Follow AgShows NSW On [Facebook](#) for updates.



Exhibited Animal Displays

Know the Rules

Over the past months we've noticed an increase in new operators promoting animal farms and reptile displays directly to NSW shows. This is a great opportunity to introduce fresh and engaging exhibits, but it's crucial to ensure they comply with NSW regulations.

Understanding the Rules

The Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986 governs the exhibition of animals in NSW, ensuring they receive appropriate care while maintaining public safety and high presentation standards. Under this legislation, the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) must issue an authority (permit, licence, or approval) before animals can be exhibited. The licensing scheme outlines the necessary steps exhibitors must follow to house and care for their animals responsibly.

What's Covered?

The Act applies to commercial displays, including mobile animal farms, reptile exhibits, raptor demonstrations, and similar attractions. However, animals exhibited as part of show competitions (e.g., livestock competitions, equestrian events) are exempt from these requirements, as are local animal nurseries or farm displays run by schools or community groups.

Your Responsibility as a Show Society

Before engaging an exhibitor for your show, ensure they have a current certificate of authority to exhibit animals in NSW. This will include their Authority Number, which confirms their compliance with DPI regulations.

If you're unsure about an exhibitor's credentials or whether they need a permit, check out the DPI's website at: [NSW DPI Exhibited Animals](#) or contact their helpful team directly.




Stay in Control on Socials

Handling Negative Comments with Ease

Social media is a great way to promote your Show and connect with the community, but sometimes, negative comments appear. Whether it's a complaint, misinformation, or someone being difficult, how you handle it can make all the difference. Here's how to manage these situations professionally and effectively:

- ✓ **Stay Calm & Professional** – Avoid reacting emotionally. Respond politely and factually to keep the conversation constructive.
- ✓ **Acknowledge & Take It Offline** – If someone has a genuine concern, acknowledge their comment and invite them to contact your office directly. A simple response like, "We'd love to resolve this for you. Please call our office on [number] or send us a direct message so we can assist." This moves the discussion away from the public forum.
- ✓ **Ignore or Mute Unproductive Comments** – If someone is just being negative without a valid concern, you don't have to engage. Muting or ignoring their comment stops it from gaining traction.
- ✓ **Set Boundaries** – Your page, your rules. If a comment is offensive, misleading, or inappropriate, delete it. Block repeat offenders and use comment filters to prevent certain words from appearing.
- ✓ **Encourage Positive Engagement** – Focus on constructive conversations. Respond to supportive comments, share community success stories, and highlight the great work of volunteers and exhibitors.
- ✓ **Know When to Report** – If comments become abusive, threatening, or violate platform rules, report them. If necessary, involve the authorities.

Your Show's social media should be a space for connection and celebration, not negativity. By handling concerns calmly, taking discussions offline when needed, and maintaining clear boundaries, you can keep your page positive and welcoming for your community.

Need more guidance? Justice Connect has a great online fact sheet outlining key social media issues for community organisations, plus strategies to reduce risk.  [Read it here.](#)

Peddling for a Purpose

South Australia's Nic Tremaine Rides for Dementia Awareness

In an inspiring display of dedication and community spirit, Nic Tremaine, a committed member of the South Australian Country Shows Association and a native of Parndana on Kangaroo Island, has embarked on an extraordinary journey. Nic is cycling unassisted around Australia to raise funds and awareness for dementia, a cause deeply personal to him.

Nic's mission, known as Distance 4 Dementia, aims to traverse the vast landscapes of Australia, visiting as many country shows as possible along the way. This endeavor not only highlights the significance of rural events but also fosters a sense of unity and support across communities.

As Nic pedals through New South Wales, we encourage our show families to extend their hospitality. Whether it's offering a warm meal, a place to rest, or simply sharing his story, your support can make a significant difference.

To follow Nic's journey and offer support, connect with him on Facebook and Instagram at **@Distance4Dementia**.

Got a great story to share in our next newsletter? Please email us, we'd love to publish it!



Who's on the Tongs in 2025?

The Sydney Royal Big Bush Barbeque Schedule

The hot plate is ready, and the schedule is set! Get ready for another mouth-watering round of the Sydney Royal Big Bush BBQ, where Show Societies take turns manning the tongs, flipping sausages, slicing onions, buttering bread, and ensuring there's plenty of sauce to go around.

Every dollar raised on the day goes directly back to the participating Show Society—so make sure to swing by, grab a bite, tell your friends and support our incredible Shows.



2025 Big Bush BBQ Schedule

-  Fri 11 April – Blayney Show
-  Sat 12 April – Mudgee Show
-  Sun 13 April – Upper Hunter Show
-  Mon 14 April – Eurobodalla Agricultural Show
-  Tue 15 April – Armidale & New England Show
-  Wed 16 April – Robertson Show
-  Thu 17 April – Mendooran Show
-  Fri 18 April – Kangaroo Valley Show
-  Sat 19 April – Dungog Show
-  Sun 20 April – The Rock Show
-  Mon 21 April – Albion Park Show
-  Tue 22 April – Milton Show

Whether you're a fan of a classic sausage sizzle or just keen to support a fellow Show Society, this is a must-visit event at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. See you at the Big Bush BBQ!

Time to Lift NLIS Compliance

Since their inception in Australia, Agricultural Shows played a vital role in shaping the livestock industry. Over time, the industry itself has grown into a multi-billion-dollar powerhouse, contributing significantly to the national economy. With this scale comes responsibility—compliance isn't optional, it's essential.

Biosecurity is more than just a regulation—it underpins Australia's clean, green, and globally respected livestock industry. Maintaining our strong biosecurity standards preserves market access, ensures industry sustainability, and protects livelihoods.

Compliance with the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is not just a legal requirement; it's a key safeguard enabling rapid response to disease outbreaks and preventing widespread economic and environmental damage.

Commitment to Compliance

AgShows NSW has been meeting monthly with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) as part of a working project to lift compliance and improve reporting. The project includes:

- ✓ On-the-ground visits to Shows
- ✓ New communications resources, check lists and toolkits to simplify compliance (to be released shortly)
- ✓ Dedicated support and guidance at the Celebrating Ag Shows event.

However, compliance is still inconsistent at many Shows.

NSW Police, Local Land Services (LLS), and DPIRD are ramping up enforcement under the Biosecurity Act 2015 and NLIS Regulation 2017.



Penalties of up to \$1,000 per offence apply, and authorities will act where needed.

NLIS Livestock and Traceability Support:

1300 720 405 or visit nlis.com.au

Simple Solutions: Partner with Local Agents

Many Shows have found the easiest path to compliance is partnering with local sale yards, stock agents, or processors who already have livestock scanners. If your Show is struggling to meet requirements, consider reaching out to these businesses for support.

Every Show Needs a Sporting Event NLIS Account

If your Show doesn't have an active Sporting Event NLIS account, register immediately at nlis.com.au. This is now a mandatory requirement.

An active NLIS account is part of your NLIS requirements.

Essential Steps for Compliance

- 1. Register for an NLIS Account:** It's easy! Simply provide a valid Show Society email address or have the Show Secretary send a quick email confirming membership - nlis.com.au.
- 2. Before the Show:** Organise stewards, confirm scanning equipment, and partner with a local agent if needed.
- 3. Show Day/s:** Collect the NVD/TSS movement document required for livestock transport to the Show. Ensure it's completed correctly along with necessary [health declaration forms](#).
- 4. Record Movements at the Show:** Scan livestock or complete the following excel spreadsheets:
 - ✓ [NLIS form Cattle movements to and from show](#)
 - ✓ [NLIS form Sheep & Goats & Pigs MB movements to and from show](#)
- 5. Submit Records Promptly:** Upload all data within two days (scanners are automatic).

NLIS eID for Sheep & Goats

The transition to electronic identification (eID) for sheep and goats is underway.

- From 1 Jan 2025 – All sheep and managed goats born in NSW must have an NLIS-accredited eID tag before leaving their birth property.
- By 1 Jan 2027 – All sheep and farmed goats moving off properties in NSW must have an eID tag.

[Watch the 'Where's Woolly?' video](#) to understand why the shift to individual eID is crucial.


Showmen's Guild Meeting

@ The Sydney Royal Easter Show

AgShows NSW members are invited to attend the annual meeting with the Showmen's Guild of Australasia.

- **Date:** Sunday, 13 April 2025
- **Time:** 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
- **Location:** Pearson Room, Level 1 The Dome, Sydney Showground (entry from the Dome Foyer after entering the Showground)

This meeting is an important opportunity for Show Societies to engage directly with the Showmen's Guild, ensuring strong collaboration and planning for the year ahead.

Please confirm attendance  [RSVP Here](#). The meeting is in person only. No online option.

Master Your Show Announcing Skills

Are you involved in announcing or commentating at agricultural, equine, or rural events? The Show Announcers Academy is hosting a workshop in Armidale designed to elevate your skills and confidence in the show ring.

Workshop Details:

- **3:00 – 5:00PM Friday 20 June 2025**
(before the Celebrating AgShows welcome)
- **Armidale** Showground, 5 Dumaresq Street
- **Cost:** \$90 per person

This two-hour interactive session will cover:

- ✓ Preparation for a Show: Effective strategies to ensure you're ready for any event.
- ✓ Calling a Race: Techniques to engage and inform your audience during live races.
- ✓ Marketing Yourself: Tips on promoting your unique skills to secure more opportunities.
- ✓ Starting the Day Well: Best practices to kick off events smoothly and professionally.
- ✓ Tips and Tricks: Insider advice to make every event you announce a success.

The workshop also includes Q&A sessions and interactive opportunities to practice your announcing skills.

 [Reserve Your Place Here](#)

Country Show Cookbook

Fifth Edition – soon to be released!

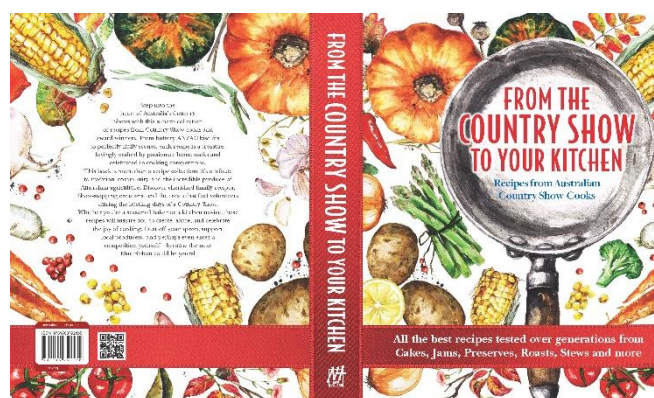
The Country Show Cookbook is back with a repackaged 5th edition, featuring 198 treasured recipes from past editions. This collection brings together the best recipes and images from the last three titles, celebrating the rich tradition of Country Show baking competitions and cooking.

Back in 2009, AgShows NSW partnered with New Holland Publishers to create the very first edition of the Country Show Cookbook. We reached out to Show Societies, encouraging their cookery and baking competition entrants and members to submit their favourite recipes. The result was a cookbook filled with authentic, award-winning recipes, capturing the heart and soul of generations of Country Show cooks.

From perfect scones to classic ANZAC biscuits, this book is more than just a collection of recipes—it's a celebration of tradition, community, and the incredible talents found in kitchens around the State.



Expected Release: April/May 2025



Discounts for Fundraising

AgShows NSW is gauging interest from Show Societies to place a bulk order. By ordering together, we can maximise the discount, ensuring Show Societies get the best returns from sales at a Show.

The books will retail for \$35. The discount will be between 40% & 50% dependent on number of books ordered/Shows requesting books.

 [Register Your Interest in Ordering Cook Books](#)

Member Q&As

We receive a variety of interesting and important questions from our members, so we thought we'd share some queries over the past months.

Q: I've seen the ongoing news about avian flu — what do we need to do?

A: Avian flu outbreaks can impact poultry shows and competitions, so it's crucial to stay informed and follow biosecurity measures. AgShows NSW has a [biosecurity information available on our website](#) to help Show Societies assess risk and implement the necessary precautions. You can find the latest updates and guidance from NSW DPI and the Australian Government at: [NSW DPI Avian Influenza Info](#). If you're hosting a poultry section, review your biosecurity plans and be prepared for any restrictions that may arise.

You may also like to implement AgShows NSW [Poultry Health Declaration template](#).

Q: Do all Show volunteers need a Working with Children Check (WWCC)?

A: No. A WWCC is not legally required for all Show volunteers, only for those working in specific roles with children or youth. However, a Show Society can choose to implement a policy requiring all volunteers and staff to have a WWCC as a condition of participation. If you're considering this, check out the [NSW Office of the Children's Guardian](#) for a Child safe policy template pack.

Q: I'm a member of my Show Society but not on the committee. I asked to see the financial statements but was denied. Is this allowed?

A: If your Show Society is a Tier 2 incorporated association under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW), you are entitled to access financial statements. The Society must prepare and present financial reports, including income, expenses, assets, and liabilities, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Under Section 51 of the Act, members have the right to inspect the association's financial records upon request, and the committee must provide reasonable access to this information.

Q: Should our Show Society have a Code of Conduct?

A: A Code of Conduct helps establish clear expectations for behaviour among committee members, volunteers, competitors, and attendees.

It promotes respect, integrity, and accountability, ensuring a positive and inclusive environment at your Show and in all Society activities. A well-drafted Code of Conduct can also help resolve disputes and uphold the reputation of your Show Society. Templates of Codes of Conduct can be found online such as the [Institute of Community Directors](#) or [Volunteering Australia](#).

Q: Is it important to have Terms and Conditions of Entry on my ticket sales or gate entry signs?

A: Yes! Clearly displaying Terms and Conditions of Entry on both ticket sales platforms and gate signage helps protect your Show Society by setting expectations for attendees. This can cover safety requirements, prohibited items, refund policies, and disclaimers for photography, animal interactions, and extreme weather. Ensuring visibility at all entry points and online ticketing helps prevent disputes and ensures compliance with insurance requirements.

We have a few spare vinyl [gate entry signs](#) (1.5m x 1.5m) in the office, or if you're thinking about producing new signs the updated T&C wording [can be downloaded here](#).

Q: Do you have a list of cookery judges?

A: Yes! Each year, we receive an updated list of qualified Land Cookery Judges from the CWA NSW Land Cookery Committee. This list includes judges who are available and often willing to travel. It's recommended to change judges every two years to maintain fairness and fresh perspectives. You can find the 2025 Public List in the Members Area of our website: [Cookery Judges List](#).





Key Dates 2025

Sat 8 Mar	Cooma Show 150 years
Sat 8 Mar	Young Woman Zone 6 Final @Dubbo
Thu 13 Mar	AgShows NSW Board Meeting
Fri 14 Mar	2025/26 Insurance Declarations Due
Sat 15 Mar	Young Woman Zone 3 Final @Nimmitabel
Mon 31 Mar	CAS 2025 Early Bird Discounts End
Mon 7 Apr	Wool Article Garment Judging
Wed 9 Apr	Young Woman – Finalist Dinner, The Connection, Sydney
Fri 11 Apr	Sydney Royal Easter Show Opens
Fri 18 Apr	Good Friday
10 – 19 Apr	Young Judges Competitions at the Sydney Royal Easter Show
Sun 13 Apr	Young Woman announcement at the Sydney Royal Easter Show
Mon 21 Apr	Easter Mon
Tue 22 Apr	Sydney Royal Easter Show closes
Fri 25 Apr	ANZAC Day
Thur 1 May	New edition of the Country Show Cookbook out
Fri 2 May	AgShows NSW Awards - Entries Close
Thur 15 May	AgShows NSW Board Meeting
Sat 31 May	AgShows NSW Insurance Year Starts
Mon 9 Jun	King's Birthday
Fri 20 Jun	Celebrating Ag Shows Opens Next Gen Welcome Drinks
Sat 21 Jun	AgShows NSW AGM
Sat 21 Jun	CAS 2025 Conference Day
Sat 21 Jun	AgShows NSW Awards Gala Dinner & Presentation
Sun 22 Jun	CAS 2025 Big Brekkie Armidale Show Society
Sun 22 Jun	AgShows NSW Board Meeting After AGM
Jul 2025	New Date Book Out (Print Edition)

These details are accurate at time of print however may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Secure Your Show's Dates

The RAS of NSW has confirmed the Sydney Royal Easter Show dates until 2030 as the NSW Department of Education set school holidays up to that point.

Sydney Royal Easter Show Dates to 2030:

- **2025:** Fri 11 – Tue 22 April
- **2026:** Fri 27 March – Tue 7 April
- **2027:** Fri 19 – Tue 30 March
- **2028:** Fri 7 – Tue 18 April
- **2029:** Fri 23 April – Tue 3 May
- **2030:** Fri 12 – Tue 23 April

With these dates locked in, we encourage members to work with your Groups and consider your own long-term planning of dates.

And once done, we encourage Show Societies operating on non-owned showgrounds/Crown Land to seek to secure longer term license agreements with your land manager to ensure your dates are locked in well in advance.

The RAS of NSW has also recently written to the Minister for Education and Early Learning to request NSW School Holiday dates beyond 2030.



Did you guess? The image above and the ones on pages 5 & 12 were created by AI using the free platform - [DALL-E AI](#). For this pic, we asked AI to illustrate an agricultural show planning meeting, capturing the energy of the event organisers planning event dates up to 2030.

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