



Showtimes

Please share with committee members, chief stewards and your volunteers

THIS ISSUE

- [Celebrating Ag Shows](#)
- [Master Your Announcing Skills](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [AgShows NSW Team](#)
- [2026 Membership](#)
- [Board and Director Matters](#)
- [Insurance Renewal](#)
- [2025 Stats](#)
- [New Domain. New Website](#)
- [Superannuation Changes](#)
- [Wheat Comp 2025](#)
- [Fresh Resources to Support your Show](#)
- [eiD Equipment Rebate](#)
- [NLIS Requirements](#)
- [AgShows NSW Awards](#)
- [Share Your Show on Australian Rural and Regional News](#)
- [Acciona Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman State Finalists](#)
- [2026 RASC Conference](#)
- [ASA Conference](#)
- [Demolition Derbies](#)
- [Supplementary Events Policy](#)
- [RAS Big Bush BBQ](#)
- [2026 State Final locations of the Young Judges Competitions](#)
- [Key Dates 2026](#)

The logo for "AgShows NSW Celebrating Ag Shows" in Canberra, featuring the text "AgShows NSW" in blue and green, "CELEBRATING AG SHOWS" in large orange letters, and "CANBERRA • 19-20 JUNE 2026" in blue. A yellow ribbon graphic is on the right.

AgShowsNSW CELEBRATING AG SHOWS CANBERRA • 19-20 JUNE 2026

Tickets on Sale Early March

Celebrating Ag Shows 2026 is AgShows NSW's annual flagship conference bringing together volunteer leaders, Show executives, Next Generation changemakers and community partners from across NSW (and beyond) for a powerful weekend of connection, learning and celebration.

Held in Canberra from 19–21 June 2026, this highly anticipated event provides a national platform to showcase the vital role agricultural shows play in regional communities, while exploring practical ways to strengthen their future.

This is where people who care deeply about community, agriculture and volunteering come together to share what's working, tackle real challenges, explore smarter technology, and spark fresh thinking for the next generation of Shows.

Participants leave inspired, better connected, and equipped with real-world strategies they can take straight back to their showgrounds.

What makes Celebrating Ag Shows 2026 special?

The 2026 program has been designed to maximise interaction, learning and connection, featuring:

- More interactive sessions and facilitated group discussions
- NEW Friday networking and Group Chats
- Powerful Yarn Circles (now a core feature)
- Practical technology demonstrations for smarter show management
- A strong focus on volunteers, community impact and future pathways
- Lively conversations, hands-on learning and those informal “hallway moments” that often lead to the best ideas

- Contribute to future-focused conversations about agriculture, volunteering and regional resilience
- Be part of a movement strengthening one of Australia’s most enduring community institutions

Rather than a traditional conference format, Celebrating Ag Shows focuses on practical takeaways, peer learning and meaningful relationships — ensuring every attendee gain value, regardless of their role or experience.

Supporting communities and future leaders

AgShows NSW remains deeply committed to nurturing future leaders through programs including the Next Generation Program, Young Woman, Rural Achiever and Young Judges competitions. These initiatives empower young people aged 18–35 and help ensure the long-term sustainability of agricultural shows and the volunteer movement that supports them.

Agricultural shows are far more than events. Across NSW, nearly 190 country and suburban Shows welcome over one million patrons each year — strengthening regional economies, celebrating local produce and talent, and building community pride. Some Shows have been running for more than 175 years, highlighting both their heritage and their enduring relevance.

Celebrating Ag Shows 2026 recognises this legacy while actively shaping what comes next.

Why your involvement matters

This conference is more than a gathering — it’s a catalyst for collaboration, innovation and positive change across regional NSW. It offers partners, speakers and VIP guests a unique opportunity to:

- Engage directly with grassroots community leaders and volunteers
- Share expertise and insights with a highly engaged audience
- Support capacity-building across regional communities

Whether attending as a speaker, supporter or partner, your involvement helps empower volunteers, uplift communities and ensure agricultural shows continue to thrive.

About AgShows NSW

AgShows NSW (formerly the Agricultural Societies Council of NSW) has supported agricultural shows since 1929 and represents almost 190 Show Societies across New South Wales. As the peak membership body, AgShows NSW provides advocacy, governance support, training, competitions, youth programs and operational guidance — helping Shows remain strong, sustainable and community-focused.

From small regional events to large-scale showcases attracting tens of thousands of visitors, AgShows NSW works alongside volunteers and stakeholders to promote agricultural excellence and strengthen the social fabric of rural and regional NSW.

Sponsorship Opportunities

CAS26 offers Principal Sponsorships, Award Sponsorships, and tailored partnership opportunities.

If you know an organisation interested in aligning with a nationally recognised and highly engaged movement, please contact our office for a sponsorship package or to make an introduction.

We’re thrilled to announce that 123 Tix is once again on board as a major sponsor, helping us bring together the Ag Shows community for two days of connection, learning, and celebration.



123 Tix has been a proud supporter of Celebrating Ag Shows since its inception.

Master Your Show Announcing Skills

Aspiring to be an announcer at rural events in 2026? This one's for you.

The Show Announcers Academy workshop is coming to Canberra this June.

It's for show ring announcers, commentators, and public speakers at agricultural, equine or rural events. Over two hours we'll cover show preparation, calling a race, marketing yourself, starting the day well, and tips and tricks to make every event you call a success.

There will be time to answer your burning questions and plenty of opportunity to practice your skills.

This event conveniently coincides with the AgShows NSW annual conference - Celebrating AgShows - where you can meet agricultural show volunteers and leaders from around NSW.

[Click here](#) for tickets and more information.

President's Message

The year has commenced with significant activity, beginning with the Dubbo Young Woman Development Day on the first weekend of January.

Fifty young women from across New South Wales attended this event. It is pleasing to see more development days being held across the state — but it all began more than 20 years ago with Sue Hood and Sue Tink from the Dubbo Show Society. I extend my appreciation to Sue Hood for her exceptional administrative and catering skills, and acknowledge Tessa Parry, Sophie Cargill, Cassie Bush, Nino Birchall, and Claire Liversidge for their commitment in facilitating the program this year.

The AgShows NSW Wheat Presentation Dinner was held a week later, marking another highly successful competition with 375 crops judged statewide. The unwavering efforts of the judges and sponsors have firmly established this event as the premier competition within our organisation.

Vice President Jody Nelson-Gleeson represented AgShows NSW at Think Tank, the annual seminar convened by the Showmen's Guild of Australasia

and Queensland AgShows. It was encouraging to see representation from several NSW shows, with Jody delivering a presentation titled *Governance without the Gavel*.

The summer show season commenced under varied weather conditions, and I would like to thank all the shows who have made me feel so welcome.

Whilst the core of every show is similar, it is the local vibe that makes each one special.

The Young Woman Zone Finals have made this period particularly busy. We thank the hosting show societies — Mudgee, Ganmain, Warialda, Kyogle, Albion Park, Eugowra, and Gunning — well done. Our congratulations go to all entrants who have made their families and show very proud. The finalists will now advance to the Acciona Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Program, hosted by the RAS of NSW at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

I would also like to formally acknowledge *The Land Newspaper*, which has played an integral role in the Young Woman Program for 50 years — providing judges for each zone final and sharing the stories of these inspiring young women and their communities. Our thanks also go to PSC Insurance Brokers for their ongoing sponsorship of a set of pearls for each finalist.

Since 2003, AgShows NSW has facilitated the Zone Finals in partnership with the RAS of NSW. This year, we welcome Acciona as the major sponsor of the program.

The group finals of the Young Judges Competition have concluded, and we now look forward to the state finals at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Sincere thanks to the Directors who assist at the state finals and work collaboratively with the RAS Councillors to deliver these competitions. State winners will proceed to the National Finals at the EKKA in Queensland in August.

Directors and staff continue to engage with stakeholders including the Showmen's Guild, Crown Lands, DPI, and SafeWork NSW. Efforts are currently focused on insurance renewal, and I kindly ask that shows submit their required information promptly to assist both staff and our brokers.

Nominations for the CAS2026 Awards are now open, with entries closing on 1 May. There are opportunities to nominate individuals or recognise show societies. I would like to draw attention to the new award recognising outstanding teachers who demonstrate a strong commitment to agricultural education, youth development, and meaningful engagement with agricultural shows.

The CAS2026 program is currently being finalised, and we anticipate a warm reception in Canberra for the fourth Celebrating Ag Shows Conference.

As always, I extend my gratitude to the staff and Directors devoted to supporting the shows of NSW. Our collective achievements reflect the strength of our team, and I am pleased to work alongside such dedicated individuals.



Jill Chapman

President, AgShows NSW

Office Contact Information

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00AM – 3:00PM

1800 025 387 or T: 02 9879 6777

E: hello@agshowsnsw.org.au

- Nicky Seeto | EO
- Katie Stanley | Member Services
- Sarah McGregor | Member Services – Accounts
- Lyndy Cornwell | Member Services – Insurance

Membership Fees 2026

Membership fees for 2026 will be updated to reflect an annual adjustment in line with CPI, ensuring they keep pace with rising costs while remaining fair and manageable for all members. For Shows held January to June keep an eye out for your invoice.

Board & Director Matters

New Directors Welcome

We are pleased to welcome three new Directors to the AgShows NSW Board.

Hugh Southwell (Group 5), Lauren Elkins (Group 4) and Danielle Mackay (Group 6).

We look forward to the energy, experience, and regional perspective each of these Directors brings to the organisation.

Insurance Renewals Due

Stay Covered! 2026/2027 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 2026 to 31 May 2027. 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, sector-specific coverage 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 13 March 2026**. 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.

If you need assistance, please contact lyndy.cornwell@agshowsnsw.org.au.

Have You Submitted Your 2025 Show Statistics?

If your Show Society hasn't yet submitted the statistical information from your 2025 Show, we'd really appreciate your help. Please email the details to Sarah at sarah.mcgregor@agshowsnsw.org.au. Thank you!

New Domain. New Website. Big Improvements

We've made two important updates to improve how we support our members.

New Email Addresses

All AgShows NSW email addresses now end in:
@agshowsnsw.org.au

Please update your contact lists and ensure your committee is using our new domain. Rest assured our old email addresses will still reach us.

Our main contact is:

hello@agshowsnsw.org.au

 1800 025 387 | 02 9879 6777

New Website Launching Soon

A brand-new AgShows NSW website and member portal is on the way.

What to expect:

 Personalised member dashboards

 Easier access to resources and templates

 Improved menus and navigation

 Mobile-friendly design

This upgrade is designed to save you time, reduce admin, and make it easier to find what you need — when you need it.

More details are coming soon. We can't wait to share it with you.

Important for Shows with Employees – Superannuation Changes from July 1, 2026

AgShows NSW would like to alert member societies that employ staff (even part-time or casual) to important superannuation changes coming into effect from **1 July 2026**.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is introducing what is known as **“Payday Super.”**

What is changing?

From **1 July 2026**, employers will be required to pay superannuation contributions **at the same time as wages are paid**, instead of quarterly.

Currently, many employers pay super quarterly. Under the new rules:

- Super must be paid on or shortly after each payday
- The quarterly super payment system will no longer apply
- Payroll and cash flow planning may need adjustment

Why this matters for Show Societies

Even if your Society only employs:

- A secretary or administrator
- Casual grounds staff
- Event staff

You will need to ensure your payroll system and payment processes can handle more frequent super payments.

This change may impact:

- Cash flow planning
- Bookkeeping processes
- Payroll software settings
- Clearing house arrangements

What you should do now

While the changes do not start until July 2026, we recommend that societies with employees:

- ✓ Review how you currently process payroll and super

- ✓ Speak with your bookkeeper or accountant
- ✓ Check that your payroll software will support Payday Super
- ✓ Begin planning for more regular super payments

The ATO has released guidance and a preparation checklist for employers on its website.

A Toast to the Best in Wheat

Champions Crowned at 2025 Wheat Dinner

The 2025 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 80 attendees gathering to recognise an outstanding season, the evening highlighted the remarkable efforts of growers across the state and featured an insightful guest presentation from Nick Poole, Field Applied Research, who shared valuable industry perspectives.

Taking out top honours:

-  **Northern Region Winner** - Glen & Rachel Fernance,
-  **Western Region Winner** - Josh Male
-  **Central Region Winner** - Patrick Hennessy
-  **Southern Region Winner** - John Ingold & Co
-  **State Dryland Field Wheat Champion** – Glenn & Rachel Fernance - Bellata
-  **State Durum Field Wheat Champion** – Merrilong Pastoral, Spring Ridge
-  **TJ Dwyer Farming Excellence Award** – Windella Ag Co. - John Stump
-  **State Grain Sample Winner** - John Ingold & Co.

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 Bank, Syngenta, Flexicoil, Market Check, Lowes Petroleum, Dual Chelate, and The Land**, whose generous support made this event possible.

Fresh Resources Are Live: Updated Policies to Support Your Show

We've just released a suite of updated policy and guidance documents to help Member Organisations run safe, professional and well-governed events.

All resources are now available via the AgShows NSW Resources Hub and are provided in both Word and PDF formats.

 The Word versions allow you to easily add your own organisation name and logo, and can be uploaded to your website, Facebook page, or linked in schedules and online entries where relevant.

Please note: These documents are advisory — not mandatory.

Newly Updated – March 2026

- [AgShows NSW Master Definitions and Glossary](#)
- [AgShows NSW Rules for Discipline](#) (revised and updated)
- [Member information for Complaints Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Policy](#)
- [Complaint Form](#)

Previously Updated – August 2025

[Structure, Content and Purpose](#) refreshed for:

1. [Code of Conduct for Member Organisations](#)
2. [General Regulations for Member Organisations](#)
3. [Conditions of Entry to Showgrounds](#)

These tools are designed to support consistency across NSW Shows, strengthen governance practices, and help protect your volunteers, participants and communities.

 We encourage all Member Organisations to download the latest versions and integrate them into your local processes where appropriate.

If you'd like help applying any of these documents to your Show, just reach out — we're here to support you.

For Producers in Our Show Communities – eID Equipment Rebate Now Open

While this program is not for Show Societies to apply, many of your members may be eligible as individual producers.

The NSW Government is offering a Sheep & Goat eID Equipment Rebate, providing 50% back on eligible handheld eID readers (up to \$1,500) to help producers prepare for mandatory electronic identification.

If your society has sheep or goat producers among its members, please share this opportunity with them.

👉 Please find below the link to the sheep and goat eID rebate for producers and agents

[NSW Sheep and Goat eID Equipment Rebate Program for Producers and Livestock Agents | NSW Government](#)

Your NLIS Requirements for the Upcoming Show

To support livestock traceability and ensure your Show remains compliant, all Member Organisations must meet their responsibilities under the **National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)**.

Please take a moment to review the key steps and recent changes below.

✅ Steps to Ensure Compliance

1. Property Identification Code (PIC)

Ensure your Showground has a valid and active PIC.

2. NLIS Sporting Event Account

Your Show must have an NLIS Sporting Event account to record livestock movements.

If you don't already have one, you can apply online via nlis.com.au or contact us for assistance.

3. Committee Awareness

Make sure organisers, stewards and volunteers understand their NLIS responsibilities — including record-keeping and uploading livestock movements.

4. Record Livestock Movements

All livestock movements to and from your Show

must be uploaded to NLIS **within two days of the event finishing**.

📅 Key Changes Effective 1 January 2025

All sheep and goats born on or after this date must be fitted with an **NLIS-approved electronic tag** before leaving their property of birth.

Electronically tagged sheep and goats attending a Show for less than three days must be recorded individually in NLIS using the **“Sighted Livestock”** method.

Sheep and goats without electronic tags may still be recorded as a mob movement **until 1 January 2027**.

📅 Transition to Individual Recording by 1 January 2027

From this date, mob-based movements will no longer be accepted for any livestock species (except pigs).

All animals must be recorded **individually** in NLIS using approved identifiers.

📱 Using a Scanner or Wand

Scanners or wands can greatly speed up livestock recording — you may be able to borrow one from a local stock agent or producer.

If scanning isn't possible, ensure all NLIS tag or RFID numbers are **manually recorded** on livestock record sheets.

📄 Uploading Your Data

All livestock movements must be uploaded to the NLIS database.

If you need help, please contact:

NSW DPI Livestock Traceability

📧 livestock.traceability@dpi.nsw.gov.au

AgShows NSW

📧 lyndy.cornwell@agshowsnsw.org.au

🐕 Petting Zoos & Animal Nurseries

Please note the following:

If your Show hires a registered petting zoo or animal nursery business, livestock movements fall under the Exhibited Animals framework and are **the provider's responsibility**.

If your Show supplies the animals, they **must be NLIS tagged and recorded**, just like any other livestock attending your event.

New E-Learning Module Available

We've also developed a dedicated online training module for Shows and events:

[Agricultural Shows & Livestock Events](#) — designed to help committees and volunteers understand their traceability obligations.



Make Time to Celebrate

Recognising Our Ag Show Champions

We are pleased to advise that nominations are now open — providing an opportunity to recognise the outstanding volunteers, leaders, initiatives, educators and show societies that make agricultural shows across NSW so special.

These awards celebrate the people and projects driving our movement forward — from long-serving legends and emerging leaders to innovative programs, dedicated teachers and resilient communities.

Award Categories

Living Legend Award

Honours long-standing volunteers who have made an exceptional and sustained contribution over many years, recognising individuals whose dedication and leadership have created a legacy within their show or across the broader AgShows NSW network.

Rising Star Award (18–45 years)

Recognises emerging and mid-career leaders making a meaningful contribution to the agricultural show movement through initiative, leadership and a commitment to strengthening the future of shows.

Innovation Award – Future-Focused Initiatives

Celebrates forward-thinking initiatives, events or practical innovations that enhance sustainability, efficiency, relevance or visitor experience, supporting the long-term success and evolution of agricultural shows.

Community Resilience & Recovery Award

Acknowledges show societies that have demonstrated outstanding resilience, leadership and adaptability in the face of significant challenge, recognising practical recovery efforts and strong community leadership.

Outstanding Teacher Award (Professional Development Grant)

Recognises an outstanding teacher who demonstrates a strong commitment to agricultural education, youth development and meaningful engagement with agricultural shows. The Professional Development Grant supports continued learning and leadership development.

Each category features four finalists, cash prizes for finalists, and overall winners — but most importantly, these awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge the incredible contribution of volunteers, educators, innovators and show societies across NSW.

- **Winners announced:** AgShows NSW Awards Evening, Saturday, 20 June 2026 (Canberra)

We encourage all Member Societies to consider nominating deserving individuals or initiatives from your community and to share this opportunity widely within your networks.

Thank you for helping us celebrate excellence across the agricultural show movement.

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

Key Dates

- **Nominations close:** Close of business Friday, 1 May 2026
- **Finalists announced:** Friday, 22 May 2026



Share Your Show on Australian Rural and Regional News

Did you know your Show can be featured on **Australian Rural & Regional News (ARR.News)** dedicated Shows hub here: <https://arr.news/lifestyle/shows/> free of charge.

Australian Rural & Regional News (ARR.News) has a dedicated Shows page showcasing agricultural shows from across the country, and we'd love to see more NSW Shows featured.

Whether it's:

- Action shots from the ring
- A short video of a feature event
- A recorded interview
- A community story worth celebrating

Send your words, images or videos through and help bring the page to life - TheEditor@ARR.News

Even better, if someone on your team is tech-savvy (or keen to learn), they can become your Show's ARR.News correspondent and upload stories directly into draft.

Let's showcase the energy, people and spirit of your Show to a national audience.

It's a great way to showcase your Show, celebrate your volunteers, and share your local stories with rural and regional Australia.

To contribute content or learn more, get in touch with Fiona and the ARR.News team. Her email is: TheEditor@ARR.News



The Search for the 2026 Young Woman is Well Underway!

The journey to find the next **Acciona Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman** is officially in full swing, with five Zone Finals already completed and an outstanding calibre of entrants emerging from right across the state.

Each Zone Final has been impeccably hosted by dedicated Show Societies, and judges faced the rewarding challenge of selecting finalists who will go on to proudly represent their Zone and local Show at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

We're delighted to introduce the **2026 State Finalists** — a truly inspiring group of young women showcasing leadership, academic achievement and strong community connection:

Zone 1

- Kate Hepburn (Lismore)

Zone 2

- Charlotte Moriarty (Blacktown)
- Maddison Luke (Hawkesbury)

Zone 3

- Emily Greer (Crookwell)

Zone 4

- Faith Green (Quirindi)
- Louisa Gilmour (Warialda)

Zone 5

- Taylee Short (Cessnock)
- Bianca Evans (Stroud)

Zone 6

- Clair Stiff (Wellington)
- Libby Coles (Forbes)

- Eva Price (Blayney)

Zone 7

- Paige Sedgwick (Cootamundra)
- Georgia Moody (Deniliquin)
- Daneka Hatty (Ganmain)

We look forward to celebrating this remarkable cohort when they come together for the State Final at Sydney Royal.

Stay tuned for updates, and congratulations to all finalists!

What's Next?

- 31 March – AgShows NSW State Finalist Dinner
- 5 April – Young Woman announcement at the Sydney Royal Show

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 2026 competition has been outstanding, and we can't wait to see who will take the title in just a few weeks!



2026 RASC Conference

AgShows NSW Youth Bursary Program – Apply Now

AgShows NSW is offering **two Youth Bursaries (up to \$3,500 each)** to support young people in the show movement to attend the **Royals of the Commonwealth Conference** in Cape Town, South Africa from **1–5 November 2026**.

The program aims to build leadership skills, share international best practice, and strengthen the future of agricultural shows.

Who can apply?

Applicants must be:

- Under 40 as at 1 November 2026
- Actively involved in a financial AgShows NSW Member Society
- Able to attend the full conference
- Supported by their Agricultural Society

What the bursary covers

Conference registration, airfares, accommodation and reasonable travel expenses.

Selection

Applications are assessed by a panel appointed by AgShows NSW. Successful recipients must share learnings after the conference.

Key dates

- **Close:** 15 March 2026
- **Recipients announced:** by 31 March 2026

If you're a young volunteer keen to grow your leadership skills — or know someone who is — we encourage you to apply.

ASA 2027 National Conference Coming to Canberra

Agricultural Shows Australia has announced that the 2027 National Conference will be hosted in Canberra from **17–19 February 2027**, coinciding with the **100-year celebration of the Royal Canberra Show**.

Delegates will also be invited to attend the centenary Show on **Saturday 20 February**, creating a special opportunity to combine professional development with a landmark celebration of Australia's show movement.

With networking, learning, and festivities all on the agenda — and the event set to be bigger and better than ever — this is one conference you won't want to miss.

👉 **Watch this space — AgShows NSW will be offering bursaries to support members to attend.**

Demolition Derby FAQs

Q: Why are we being advised of safety barriers?

A: Following recent attendance by SafeWork NSW at a member show, a Prohibition Order was issued relating to Demolition Derby safety barriers. We are sharing this so that all shows are aware of the position and can make informed decisions.

Q: Will SafeWork attend every show?

A: Not necessarily. SafeWork NSW may attend some shows and not others. However, if SafeWork NSW attends your event and determines the barrier system does not meet their required safety standard for this high-risk activity, they have the authority to prevent the Demolition Derby from proceeding.

Q: What did SafeWork require in this case?

A: The member show was advised that the Demolition Derby could only proceed if:

- Water-filled, vehicle-rated barriers were installed
- The barriers fully enclosed a minimum 60-metre arena
- The system was designed to prevent penetration by an out-of-control vehicle

Q: Are Toolbox barrier options no longer allowed?

A: Barrier systems currently referenced in the AgShows NSW Toolbox (telegraph poles, hay bales, tyres, concrete blocks or combinations) may still be acceptable.

However, SafeWork NSW has indicated that such systems would now need to be supported by appropriate engineering specifications and testing to demonstrate adequate spectator protection. This represents an additional requirement beyond current AgShows NSW rules.

Q: What should our Show consider?

A: If planning a Demolition Derby, you should:

- Assess whether compliant, vehicle-rated barriers can be sourced
- Consider the cost and logistics of installation
- Weigh up whether the event can proceed if SafeWork NSW were to attend

This is about managing risk — operational, financial and reputational.

Q: What is AgShows NSW doing?

A: AgShows NSW is arranging discussions with SafeWork NSW to seek clarity, advocate for practical solutions, and provide further guidance to members as soon as possible.

Q: Rules state a kill switch must be installed for all cars. Is a battery isolator with EFI vehicles acceptable?

A: Under the AgShows NSW Demolition Derby rules, an effective kill switch is required so that the vehicle can be shut down quickly by officials in an emergency. For EFI vehicles, a battery isolator is acceptable, provided it completely shuts down the engine and all electrical systems when operated. The key requirement is that the switch:

- Stops the engine immediately
- Cuts all electrical power
- Is clearly marked "KILL SWITCH"
- Is mounted in the centre cowl panel and easily accessible to officials

If a battery isolator does not fully shut down an EFI vehicle (due to alternator back-feed), then it would not meet the intent of the rule, and an alternative solution would be required.

Q: Can I please clarify the fuel tank requirement? If a vehicle's original fuel tank is in front of the rear axle, is it permitted to remain in place, or must it still be removed and replaced with a secured boat fuel tank or jerry can?

A: To clarify, under the current Competitors Rules, the use of a vehicle's original fuel tank is not permitted, regardless of whether the tank is positioned in front of the rear axle.

Rule 6.4.1 requires that:

- An approved boat fuel tank or jerry can with a breather must be used, and
- It must be securely fastened in the centre rear of the vehicle in a cradle, where the back seat was. In addition, Rule 6.4.4 requires the original petrol tank to be removed or punctured with a minimum 12mm hole, and Rule 6.4.5 limits fuel to a maximum of five (5) litres. The intent of these requirements is consistency, safety, and ease of inspection.

Centrally mounted, approved portable tanks:

- Have a reduced span and are less susceptible to impact damage
- Are clearly visible and accessible for scrutineering
- Allow officials to quickly confirm fuel quantity, secure mounting, and compliance
- Remove uncertainty around the condition, internal baffling, and age of original vehicle tanks.

While we understand that replacing tanks may involve additional work for competitors, the rule is designed to minimise risk across all vehicle types and layouts and to provide a uniform standard that can be consistently enforced at inspection.

Accordingly, drivers must not leave the original fuel tank in place, even if it is forward of the rear axle.

Compliance with Rule 6.4.1, 6.4.4 and 6.4.5 is required for eligibility to compete.

Q: Are there restrictions on when I can use reverse gear during the event?

A: Yes. Drivers are required to use reverse gear as the primary method of movement. Use of first gear is only permitted to dislodge your vehicle and must not exceed two (2) car lengths. This rule is in place to reduce high-impact collisions and improve safety in the arena.

Q: What happens if my vehicle stops moving during the event?

A: If your vehicle is stationary for more than two (2) minutes, you will be eliminated from the event. Officials will monitor stationary vehicles and decide based on safety and competition flow.

Q: When am I required to use the surrender flag?

A: If your vehicle becomes ineffective and is no longer able to compete safely or move under its own power, you must snap off your surrender flag immediately. This signals withdrawal from the event and allows officials to manage the arena safely.

Q: Do drivers have responsibilities after the event has finished?

A: Once directed by officials, drivers are required to conduct a full sweep of the arena area associated with their vehicle and remove any vehicle parts or debris resulting from the competition.

Q: Can drivers remain in the arena after the event concludes?

A: No. After the event has finished, all drivers must leave the arena when directed by officials. This is required to allow for post-event activities, including fireworks, and to maintain safety for all participants and spectators.

Supplementary Events Policy 1 January 2026

The policy provides a consistent framework for approving and overseeing supplementary events held outside your Annual Show.

Key point for Show Horse Events (Royal Agricultural Society of NSW performance)

From 1 January 2026, Member Societies may conduct **one (1) Supplementary Show Horse Event per calendar year** for RAS performance purposes, in addition to their Annual Show.

Other equestrian activities (pony club, gymkhanas, showjumping, dressage, campdraft, clinics, etc.) are **not affected** by this limit.

2026 transition arrangements

- Events approved before 1 January 2026 may proceed as planned
- Exemptions may be considered during 2026 where there are compelling circumstances
- Full compliance applies from 1 January 2027

What shows should do

- Review the policy
- Consider how it applies to your events
- Submit approvals or exemption requests early
- Ensure insurance declarations cover **all** Supplementary Events

Who's Working the BBQ in 2026

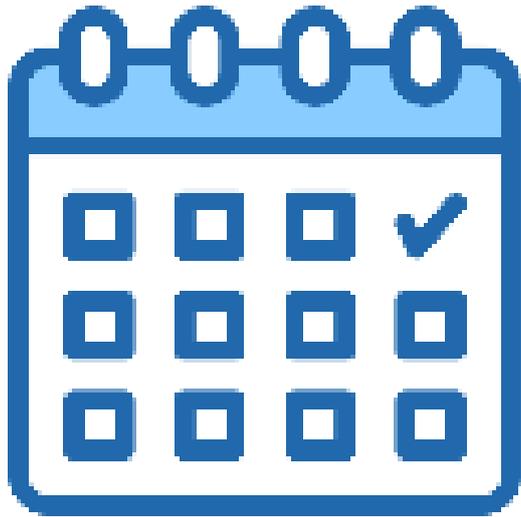


The grill is fired up, and the roster is locked in for the Sydney Royal Big Bush BBQ! Across the event, Show Societies will take their turn behind the hot plate — serving up sizzling sausages, golden onions, fresh bread and all the sauce you could want.

Best of all, **every dollar raised goes straight back to the participating Show Society.** So pop past, grab a feed, spread the word, and help support the amazing volunteers who keep our Shows thriving.

Come hungry — leave happy — and feel good knowing you've backed your local Show. 🍌🔥

- 📅 Thurs 02 April – Stroud Show
- 📅 Fri 03 April – Dungog Show
- 📅 Sat 04 April – Yeoval Show
- 📅 Sun 05 April – Kempsey Show
- 📅 Mon 06 April – Kangaroo Valley Show
- 📅 Tues 07 April – Murrumburrah Harden Show
- 📅 Wed 08 April – Morisset-Lake Macquarie Show
- 📅 Thurs 09 April – Upper Hunter Show
- 📅 Fri 10 April – Neville Show
- 📅 Sat 11 April – Blayney Show
- 📅 Sun 12 April – Parkes Show
- 📅 Mon 13 April – Tumut Show



2026 State Finals of the Young Judges Competitions

Wool Garment – Monday 30 March 2026

F002 Paraders – Thursday 2 April 2026

Beef Cattle State Final – Sunday 5 April 2026 @ 9:00am

Meat Breeds Sheep Final – Sunday 5 April 2026 @ 2.30pm

Grain State Final – Tuesday 7 April 2026 @ 9:00am

Fruit & Veg State Final – Tuesday 7 April 2026 @ 11:00am

Fleece State Final – Friday 10 April 2026 @ 1:00pm

Merino Sheep State Final – Friday 10 April 2026 @ 4:00pm

Dairy Paraders – Saturday 11 April 2026 @ 10:00am

Dairy Cattle State Final – Saturday 11 April 2026 @ 1:00pm

Key Dates 2026

Fri 13 Mar	2026/27 Insurance Declarations Due
Sun 15 Mar	RASC Bursary nominations close
Mon 30 Mar	Wool Article Garment Judging
Tues 31 Mar	Young Woman – Finalist Dinner, Strathfield Golf Club
Tues 31 Mar	RASC Bursaries announced
Thurs 02 Apr	Sydney Royal Easter Show Opens
Fri 03 Apr	Good Friday
02 – 13 Apr	Young Judges Competitions at the Sydney Royal Easter Show
Sun 05 Apr	Young Woman announcement at the Sydney Royal Easter Show
Sun 05 Apr	Country Shows Reception
Wed 08 Apr	RASF Brunch
Mon 06 Apr	Easter Mon
Mon 13 Apr	Sydney Royal Easter Show closes
Sat 25 Apr	ANZAC Day
Fri 01 May	AgShows NSW Awards - Entries Close
Fri 22 May	AgShows NSW Awards Finalists Announced
Sun 31 May	AgShows NSW Insurance Year Starts
Mon 8 Jun	King's Birthday
Fri 19 Jun	Celebrating Ag Shows Opens Next Gen Welcome Drinks
Sat 20 Jun	AgShows NSW AGM
Sat 20 Jun	2025 ASC Journal
Sat 20 Jun	CAS 2026 Conference Day
Sat 20 Jun	AgShows NSW Awards Gala Dinner & Presentation
Sun 21 Jun	CAS 2026 Big Brekkie
Sun 21 Jun	AgShows NSW Board Meeting After AGM
Jul 2026	New Date Book Out (Print Edition)

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



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