



Showtimes

IN THIS ISSUE

CAS 2025

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

President's Message

Leadership Update

AgShows NSW Team

ASC AGM

Future Dates

Insurance Renewal Reminder

Report, Record, Resolve

Planning a Show

Understanding Psychosocial Hazards in Show Societies

ATO Self Review Deadline

Hosting Group Finals

2025 State Young Judges/Paraders Results

Woollen Article Garment Competition

ASA National Conference 2027

Horse Update / Standardbred Classes

AgShows NSW Awards

Penrith Show – 180 years

Young Woman

2024 Kings Birthday Honours – Dr F Doughty OAM

Sponsored Scholarship Recipient – Samantha Taylor

Announcers Workshop – Lyndsey Douglas

2024/2025 Statistical Information

Poultry Health Declaration Form

Congratulations – Brendan Munn

NLIS

Q&As

Celebrating Ag Shows 2025

A Weekend of Connection & Celebration

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 3-5pm – Explore & Connect

Kickstart the weekend with an Armidale Heritage & Highlights Bus Tour, offering a unique glimpse into the region's rich history OR by attending [The Show Announcers Academy – Armidale workshop](#) with Lyndsey Douglas. As the day winds down, Next Gen will Raise the Bar: at the Welcome Event – the perfect chance to network.

Saturday, 21 June – A Day of Insight & Inspiration

The main event begins at 8am 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?"
- **Leadership Lessons for Committee Success** – Claire Hewat – Associations Forum
- **Innovative Ag Shows: Stronger, Smarter, Sustainable Innovating Traditions** – Julia Spicer – Engage and Create Consulting
- **Survive & Thrive:** Success stories from thriving shows. Including a Schools Auctioneers Competition.
- **Smart Tools for Smarter Events:** Exploring digital solutions for show management – Jim Stewart – Stewart Media.
- **Money Talks: Grants and Sponsorships:** Strategies for securing grants, sponsorships, and revenue streams – Nina Laitala - ICDA
- **Yarn Circles:** Open discussions

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

From 9am Sunday, 22 June – The Big Brekkie

For only \$10 ease into the final day with a relaxed Big Brekkie, hosted by the Armidale Show Society at Dumaresq Dam – 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.

[Register here For Celebrating Ag Shows 2025](#)

President's Message

As I begin to write this message, I am acutely aware of the challenges being faced by our members across the state. From the Mid North Coast where the tap will not turn off to our communities down south where there is nothing coming out of the tap and to everyone else that lie somewhere in between. We live in the hope that the balance will come right in the coming months.

In March I was saddened to receive the resignation of our CEO Brooke Beales. Brooke was with us for fifteen months and had been integral in modernising and updating many areas of our organisation and her energy and commitment will be missed. Brooke's last day was on Friday 11th of April with a small gathering coming together for afternoon tea and Brooke joined us at the RAS Foundation Brunch during the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The Board has appointed Nicky Seeto to the role of acting CEO. Nicky's contributions to AgShows NSW over the past nine years has been invaluable and Nicky has not only proven her leadership during this time but is well respected within the Show community. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Nicky for accepting this appointment.

The Sydney Royal Easter Show hosts the state final of our group competitions being the Young Judges and Paraders. I would like to congratulate all those heading to the National Final in Adelaide in September but also thank the AgShows NSW Directors who make themselves available to support the running of these finals. The results of

these competitions and programs can be found in this newsletter.

Congratulations to Cassandra Bush (Cootamundra) and Sophie Cargill (Dubbo) on being sashed The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman and runner-up respectively. Cassie, Sophie and the 2025 finalists are waiting to be asked to attend your show. Please engage with these women who are all keen to share their stories and support the Show movement.

Two programs to watch out for in the next twelve months are the School Auctioneering Program and a Soil Competition. Both were showcased in Sydney this year and it is hoped to raise the profile of these into a state competition.

The meeting with the Guild was well attended and Nicky, Tim Capp and I attended the Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA) strategy meeting and members meeting. Nicky and I also attended the announcement of the 2025 RM Williams Rural Achiever, James Stephens from Gresford. Staff and interested Directors attended the RAS Foundation brunch which this year was supporting Birds in the Bush, a volunteer-run not-for-profit addressing domestic and family violence in the Central West.

At the invitation of RAS Agriculture Chair, Hunter White, I attended a luncheon with the Hon. Tara Moriarty, MLC, Minister for Agriculture, representatives of the Landcare movement, NSW Farmers and Alison Stone, the NSW Agriculture Commissioner.

Since Sydney I have attended the Narrabri, Bourke and Yeoval Shows. All three shows enjoyed good weather and good crowds, and it is a great opportunity to meet the people on the ground. It is interesting to see how the show is a true reflection of the community it is held in and how important these events are to the locals. The Show movement is alive and well. That said we understand that there have been cancellations due to varied reasons, but we look forward to seeing these shows run again in 2026.

With only a few shows on the calendar before the winter break our attention turns to Celebrating AgShows 2025 being held in Armidale on Saturday 21 June 2025. The program and how to get your tickets can be found in this newsletter or on our website. I encourage you to share with your members and volunteers and come along to meet new friends, hear from inspiring speakers and celebrate the show community through the Excellence awards on Saturday evening. The

Annual General Meeting of the Agricultural Societies Council of NSW (ASC) will be held on Saturday morning.

I hope to see you in Armidale.



Jill Chapman
President, AgShows NSW

Leadership Update from AgShows NSW

After more than 12 months of dedicated service, Brooke Beales has announced her resignation as CEO of AgShows NSW. Brooke has shared the following message with members:

"It's been a privilege to work alongside so many dedicated volunteers and passionate champions of the Show movement. I want to acknowledge the Board and the small but fiercely committed team in the AgShows NSW office. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering commitment to supporting Show Societies is the driving force at AgShows NSW. While it's the right time for me to step aside, I remain a supporter of the Shows around NSW and leave proud of what's been achieved."

Brooke has played a key role in the growth and development of AgShows NSW. We thank her sincerely for her leadership, energy, and contribution to the organisation, and wish her all the best for the future.

AgShows NSW continues to be in a strong position, with a clear strategic direction and a committed team. To ensure a smooth transition, Nicky Seeto has been appointed Acting CEO. Nicky's steady leadership, along with the ongoing dedication of our staff, will ensure continuity and momentum as we move forward.

AgShows NSW Team

Nicky Seeto (Acting CEO)
nicky.seeto@ascofnsw.org.au
Katie Stanley (Member Services Officer)
katie.stanley@ascofnsw.org.au
Lyndy Cornwell (Member Services Officer)

asc.admin@ascofnsw.org.au

Sarah McGregor (Accounts Manager)
sarah.mcgregor@ascofnsw.org.au

2025 ASC AGM

The upcoming Annual General Meeting of the members of the Agricultural Societies Council of New South Wales Ltd (ASC of NSW) will be held at 8:00am AEST on Saturday 21 June 2025 Function Room 2, Armidale Servies Club, 137 Dumaresq St, Armidale NSW 2350.

[Click here](#) for the notice of the Annual General Meeting. It was emailed to members on Thursday 22 May 2025.

To help us plan accordingly, please RSVP 5:00pm AEST on Tuesday 17 June 2025.

• Online form: [2025 Annual General Meeting RSVP & Proxy Lodgement Form](#)

Any questions regarding the AGM please contact the office on 02 9879 6777. We hope you can attend.


Sydney Royal Easter Show Dates Confirmed to 2030- Time to Plan Ahead!

The RAS of NSW has confirmed the Sydney Royal Easter Show dates through to 2030, following the release of NSW school holiday dates by the Department of Education.

Sydney Royal Easter Show Dates:

- **2026:** Thurs 2 April – Mon 13 April
- **2027:** Fri 19 – Tue 30 March
- **2028:** Fri 7 – Tue 18 April
- **2029:** Fri 23 March – Tue 3 April
- **2030:** Fri 12 – Tue 23 April

We encourage all Show Societies to work with their Groups and consider long-term planning of your own Show dates accordingly.

 **Group Secretaries – please ensure you send future Show dates to AgShows NSW** so we can keep our statewide database up to date and support better planning and promotion across the network

Insurance Renewal Reminder

Stay Covered! 2025/2026 Insurance Period

The PSC Insurance Program for the 2025-2026 year (commencing 31 May 2025) has been ratified by the ASC Board. We appreciate PSC's hard work negotiating the best rates and coverage possible for our members. Invoicing will commence from June.

Activity List

[Activity List 2024-2025](#) – lists all activities carried out by Show Societies which are covered by public liability insurance under the program.

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@ascfnsw.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 insurance 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.



Planning your upcoming Ag Show

Make sure you're set up for success by reviewing this handy Event Planning Checklist from Not-for-profit Law. It covers everything from risk management and insurance to permits, safety, and volunteers—helping you stay on top of legal and practical responsibilities. Whether you're new to running events or just need a refresher, this resource is a great tool to keep your planning on track

[Click here to view the checklist](#)

Understanding Psychosocial Hazards in Show Societies

Looking After Mental Health and Wellbeing in Our Show Societies

Running an Ag Show takes dedication, passion, and countless volunteer hours. While the community connection and social gathering are the heartbeat of our shows, it's important to also be aware of the pressures and stresses that can come with the job — especially behind the scenes. These pressures can lead to **psychosocial hazards**, which may affect the mental health and wellbeing of committee members, volunteers, and participants.

What Are Psychosocial Hazards?

Psychosocial hazards are factors in the way work is designed, organised, or managed — and the social interactions involved — that can cause stress or psychological harm. They can lead to burnout, anxiety, or other mental health issues if not recognised and managed.

Common Examples in Show Societies

- **Unreasonable workloads** – taking on too many roles, especially close to show day
- **Poor communication** – confusion around responsibilities or expectations
- **Conflict or bullying** – disagreements between committee members or unfair treatment
- **Lack of recognition** – volunteers feeling undervalued or overlooked
- **Unclear roles** – people unsure of what is expected of them or stepping on each other's toes
- **Time pressure** – trying to meet tight deadlines while juggling other responsibilities
- **Emotional strain** – dealing with complaints, financial pressures, or unexpected issues

Why It Matters

Left unmanaged, these hazards can take a toll not just on individuals, but on the committee and the show itself. Stress and fatigue can lead to poor decision-making, breakdowns in teamwork, or even people stepping away altogether. Keeping our volunteers and members healthy — mentally as well as physically — is key to keeping our shows strong.

What Can Committees Do?

- **Talk openly** – make it okay to discuss workload and stress
- **Share the load** – delegate tasks and avoid relying too much on a few people
- **Set clear roles** – so everyone knows what they are doing
- **Be respectful** – listen to others' ideas and address conflicts early
- **Look out for each other** – check in on how people are coping, especially during busy times
- **Celebrate contributions** – a simple thank you goes a long way

Final Thoughts

Psychosocial hazards are not always easy to see — but being aware of them can make a big difference. A healthy, supported team is a strong team. By looking after one another and creating a culture of respect, balance, and recognition, we can help ensure our show societies continue to thrive for years to come.

Let's make our shows great — not just in what the public sees, but in how we support each other behind the scenes.

ATO Self-Review Deadline

Due 31 March 2025

The ATO has reminded non-charitable not-for-profits (NFPs) that if you missed lodging your 2023–24 NFP self-review return by the 31 March 2025 deadline, it's important to lodge as soon as possible.

- ◆ You do not need to request an extension.
- ◆ The ATO has suspended penalties for late lodgment during this transition period.
- ◆ From July 2025, firmer action — including reviews — will apply to NFPs that fail to comply.

If your organisation hasn't yet lodged, taking steps now can demonstrate your commitment to compliance, such as:

- ✓ Lodging online or via the ATO self-help phone service (13 72 26)
- ✓ Engaging a registered tax agent
- ✓ Setting up myID to access Online services for business
- ✓ Updating your ABN details if needed

If you're waiting for a Change of registration details form to be processed, you don't need to contact the ATO — they can see this on your records.

⌚ Don't delay. Late lodgment is still better than no lodgment — and will be recognised as a positive step.

Reminder for Agricultural Shows Hosting Group Finals

As we approach the upcoming group finals, we'd like to remind all show committees of an important regulation regarding the appointment of overjudges.

Overjudges must not have judged at any other group final within the same calendar year, and once appointed, must not judge at any further group finals that year.

This ensures fairness and consistency across all competitions. Please confirm the eligibility of your selected overjudge before finalising arrangements.

2025 State Young Judges/Paraders and Other Competition Results

Beef Parader Competition

Champion - Jack Smyth Group 10

Beef Young Judges Competition

1 st	Jack Taylor	Group 7
2 nd	Isaac Bennetts	Group 11
3 rd	Heather Walker	Group 8

Meat Breeds Sheep Young Judges Competition

1 st	Miranda McGufficke	Group 6
2 nd	Billy Corkhill	Group 5
3 rd	Thomas Barker	Group 10

Merino Sheep Young Judges Competition

1 st	Luke Meredith	SMBA Dubbo
2 nd	Paddy Lowe	SMBA Dubbo
3 rd	Seanna Duffield	Group 12

Merino Fleece Young Judges Competition

1 st	Miranda McGufficke	Group 6
2 nd	Amelia Brown	Group 3
3 rd	Millie Munro	Group 8

Fruit & Vegetable Young Judges Competition

1 st	Ben Kavanagh	Group 4
2 nd	Alice Mc Nee	Group 2
3 rd	Sienna Pearce	Group 10

Grain Young Judges Competition

1 st	Heather Walker	Group 11
2 nd	Zachary Charlton	Group 8
3 rd	Emily Barton	Group 14

Dairy Paraders Competition

Champion Lilly Eagles

Dairy Young Judges Competition

1 st	Rhylan Russell	Group 6
2 nd	Kate Bourke	Group 5
3 rd	Molly Klasen	Group 14

Rich Fruit Cake Competition

1 st	Jo-Anne Wright	Group 3
2 nd	Margaret Morton	Group 12
3 rd	Donna Clarke	Group 2

Wool & Article Garment Competition

1 st	Grafton Show Society	Group 1
2 nd	Robertson Show Society	Group 5
3 rd	Guyra Show Society	Group 13

Woollen Article Garment Competition

Woollen Article Garment Competition

The regulations have been [updated](#) to include a Judges Choice award at the State Level.

ASA 2027 National Conference Heads to Canberra

Agricultural Shows Australia is thrilled to announce that the 2027 National Conference will be held in Canberra, marking the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canberra Show. Scheduled for 17–19 February, the conference will wrap up with a special invitation to attend the centenary Show on Saturday 20 February. Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate one of Australia's most iconic regional events—now 33% bigger than last year!

Horse Update

The Horse Committee continues to work closely with AgShows NSW Members to uphold the highest standards of safety, fairness, and compliance in horse competitions. A strong focus remains on ensuring that your rules and regulations are readily available—either in the show schedule or online—and that every person involved understands their responsibilities.

Show organisers must ensure judges are provided with the [Judges Code of Conduct](#) and complete the [Judges Declaration](#) prior to officiating. Exhibitors, too, must declare they have read and agree to abide by the published rules as part of the entry process. The current [Waiver Form](#) and [Horse Health Declaration](#) must be completed before a competitor enters the ring.

These processes are not just administrative—they are fundamental to a show's duty of care and help maintain a consistent and safe competition environment. They also support compliance with industry standards and help ensure that insurance coverage remains valid in the event of an incident.

For those Member Societies holding or intending to introduce Standardbred Classes

Information update: Harness Racing Australia has phased out the freeze branding of Standardbred horses; registered Yearlings are now microchipped when having DNA taken and recorded. Currently, freeze branded Standardbred horses can be

shown, with or without membership and horse registration with one of the five state Standardbred Pleasure Associations.

Suggested Schedule wording for Standardbred classes: *Standardbred and part bred Standardbred exhibitors must hold current membership, and horses registered with the SPPHANSW (Standardbred Pleasure and Performance Horse Association of New South Wales Inc). Proof of current membership and horse registration must be provided if requested.*



Make Time to Celebrate

Recognising Our Ag Show Champions

Congratulations to all the incredible nominees for the 2025 AgShows NSW Awards! From our inspiring Living Legends and bright Rising Stars to the trailblazers driving Innovation in Events and Technology, and those demonstrating remarkable Resilience, your dedication and passion are what make the Show movement so strong. These nominations reflect the heart of our Show community—celebrating tradition, embracing change, and leading with purpose. Well done to all!

Living Legends

Member Show	Name of Nominee
Bulahdelah	Bernadette Newton
Castle Hill	Robert Cochrane
Temora	Jill Dunn
Albion Park	Shaun Owen McParland
Lithgow	Vanetta Renshaw
Guyra	Dorothy Lockyer
Luddenham	Wayne Willmington
Lake Cargelligo	Vivienne Townsend
Orange	Geoff Selwood
Morisset-Lake Macquarie	Robert and Marie Kildey
Narrabri	Wendy McNair
Camden	Daryl Sidman
Grenfell	Grace Eppelstun-Magner

Bathurst	Brian Seaman
Bathurst	Bruce Hickey
Bathurst	Sheena Rigby
Finley	Alex Brain
Finley	Joyce Brain
Nowra	Lindsay Parnell

Wauchope
Guyra Show
Morrisset-Lake Macquarie Show
Orange Show
Bathurst Show
Dubbo Show

Innovation – Technology

Member Show Name
Ariah Park
Dubbo

Resilience

Member Show Name
Gunning Show
Tullamore Show

Rising Star

Member Show	Name of Nominee
Cooma	Florance McGuffick
Young	Emma Godsell
Griffith	Samantha Taylor
Dungog	Miracle Urban
Guyra	Chad Willimson
Maclean	Ella Robinson
Morrisset-Lake Macquarie	Rebecca O'Brien
Blayney	Alicia Gersback
Orange	Tess Crossley
Camden	Kent Palmer
Walcha	Emily Scrivener
Bathurst	Jessica Fearnley
Bathurst	Kirby McPhee
Kiama	Grace McGlinchey
Armidale	Briony Looker

Stay Tuned!

Finalists will be announced the week commencing Monday 26 May 2025.

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.

[Register here For Celebrating Ag Shows 2025](#)

Celebrating 180 Years of Tradition and Community!

On 30 August 2025, the Penrith District Agricultural, Horticultural & Industrial Society will proudly celebrate 180 years since its first agricultural show.

Agricultural events have been part of the Nepean-Hawkesbury Valley since 1805. The Penrith Agricultural Association, formed in 1843, was one of Australia's earliest show societies. The first Penrith Show followed in 1846. After periods of fluctuating interest, the successful Luddenham Show in 1891 inspired the formation of the current Nepean District Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Society in 1892. The Society leased 32 acres from F.D. Woodriffe—now home to one of Australia's finest showgrounds. Today, it hosts the annual Penrith Show and regular harness racing events.

[Wishing you a wonderful 180th Show!](#)

Innovation – Event/Project

Member Show Name
Dapto
Coonamble
Mendooran



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

Young Woman State Finalists

The journey to find the 2025 The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman ended at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Cassandra Bush from Cootamundra – The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman 2025

Sophie Cargill from Dubbo – The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Runner Up 2025.

Emily Lucas from Cooma won the Show Announcers Academy scholarship as a finalist of the 2025 Young Woman program.

James Stephens the 2025 RAS Rural Achiever.



Cassandra & Sophie

Meet the 2025 State Finalists

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

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.

Zone 3 – (Cooma) Emily Lucas, a second year Bachelor of Animal Science Student & Claire Liversidge, a sales support officer in real estate from Goulburn.

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

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

Zone 6 – (Dubbo) Sophie Cargill, a physiotherapist, Tessa Parry a caseworker and Clinical Psychology student from Coonamble and Isabel Smith, a Silviculture Supervisor at Forestry Corporation NSW from Bathurst.

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

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

2027 Young Woman Zone Hosts

Zone 1: Wauchope - 30 January 2027

Zone 2: Hawkesbury - 13 February 2027

Zone 3: Cobargo - 23 January 2027

Zone 4: Glen Innes - 16 January 2027

Zone 5: Cessnock – 16 January 2027

Zone 6: Nyngan - 13 February 2027

Zone 7: Cootamundra - 6 February 2027



The ASC of Next Gen has been a proud supporter of Celebrating Ag Shows since its inception. Thank you!

Join us in Armidale for the Next Generation
Welcome Drinks at the Armidale Ex Services Club
from 6.30pm Friday 20 June 2025

For catering purposes do let us know if you will be joining
<https://www.123tix.com.au/events/47104/celebrating-ag-shows-2025>

Honouring a Lifetime of Service: Dr Frank Doughty OAM

Recognised in King's Birthday Honours 2024



Dr Francis Richard Doughty OAM BVSc PhD from Cherrybrook was awarded an OAM in the Kings Birthday Honours for services to veterinary science and the community.

Frank has been President of the Castle Hill and Hills District Agricultural Society since 2016 and Honorary Veterinary Surgeon since 2013.

His involvement with the Castle Hill Show spans more than 60 years, first as a member of the Epping Junior Farmers and later showing Jersey cattle.

He has been the Veterinary Representative for State Disaster Plan New South Wales Agricultural and Animal Services and is a life member of the Australian Veterinary Association.

Frank graduated from the University of Sydney in Veterinary Science (BVSc) in 1962 and gained his PhD in 1973 from the same University for his studies on cancer (neurofibroma) in cattle. He worked with the NSW Agricultural Department in the field and in its veterinary laboratories for over 40 years becoming Director Animal Quarantine Services in 1983. This appointment saw him travel to many parts of the world ensuring the safe import of thoroughbred horses and stud cattle from their home country and then through quarantine in Australia.

As President of the Castle Hill and Hills District Agricultural Society he has focused on giving students at Agricultural Schools in the area an opportunity to show and judge sheep, cattle and poultry at the Castle Hill Youth Expo run in March each year.

“We have about 300 young students attending... it's their last chance to qualify for the Royal Easter Show,” he said.

Frank has also been a tour coordinator with the Naval Historical Society of Australia since 2010, Life Member of Castle Hill Apex and a Justice of the Peace since 1962 providing a weekly JP service in Pennant Hills Library since 2008.

AgShows NSW Sponsored Scholarship Recipient

Samantha Taylor; Griffith – Bachelor of Agricultural Science.

Samantha Taylor grew up in Griffith, the heart of the Riverina and Australia's food bowl. Growing up in a strong agricultural region, she developed a deep passion for agriculture, sustainability, rural communities, and agricultural education. Now in her second year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, she is dedicated to research and innovation that supports sustainable farming. She aspires to contribute to the future of Australian agriculture through research and teaching, ensuring rural communities continue to thrive. Samantha hopes to use her knowledge to drive positive changes in the industry.



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](#)

National Volunteer Week | 19-25 May 2025

Celebrating the Heart of Our Shows: You!

This year's theme, 'Connecting Communities', couldn't be more fitting for our world of Agricultural Shows.

Right across NSW, volunteers are the beating heart of every Show — from setting up pavilions and welcoming exhibitors, to running competitions and preserving traditions that stretch back generations. These events don't just happen — they're built by people who care deeply about their community.

♥ To every volunteer who gives their time, energy and spirit: thank you. You make our Shows possible. You bring people together. And you keep the Show going, year after year.

Have You Submitted Your 2024/25 Show Statistics?

If your Show Society hasn't yet submitted the statistical information from your 2024 or 2025 Show, we'd really appreciate your help. Please email the details to Sarah McGregor at sarah.mcgregor@ascfnsw.org.au. Thank you!

Avian Influenza Alert & Health Declaration

Following confirmed Avian Influenza cases in the Greater Sydney Basin in June 2024, Show Societies are reminded to implement strong biosecurity measures. AI is highly contagious and can severely impact poultry and other bird species. AgShows NSW has released a [Poultry Health Declaration Template](#) (4 Feb 2025), which should be included in Show schedules. Stay informed via [NSW DPI](#) and refer to the [Exhibition Poultry Biosecurity Manual](#). Suspect symptoms? Call 1800 675 888.

<https://agshowsnsw.org.au/resources/animal-health-bio-security>

Congratulations Brendan Munn

AgShows NSW congratulates Director Brendan Munn on his well-deserved recognition in the first edition of *Good Oil* for 2025. Brendan's dedication to agricultural shows, his expertise in wheat farming, and his tireless volunteer work—alongside his family—are a testament to the values at the heart of our Show movement. We're proud to see his outstanding contribution to the Dryland Field Wheat Competition and the broader community acknowledged.



COMMUNITY CORNER 

Depot Manager of Moree & Narrabri and Dryland Field Wheat Competition President, Brendan Munn presents the winner with award

Lowes' wheat competition liaison outstanding in his field

When you spend your days running two depots, you know a thing or two about scheduling. But ask Depot Manager Brendan Munn about wheat, and you are unravelling a wealth of knowledge.

Together with his wife Karen, they are the backbone of the Moree Show Society – as president and secretary. But it's when he's wearing his Agricultural Show (NSW) wheat competition liaison hat that Brendan shines for Lowes.

Organised by AgShows NSW, the peak body representing 192 shows, this annual competition holds great significance in the industry, recognising excellence in wheat farming across four regions before culminating in a state final.

Wheat's a family affair. The couple's daughter, Katherine (an agronomist for Bayer and also the Albury Show president), was a judge this year, so father and daughter got to spend some quality time as Brendan ferried her to the different farms.

"Lowes has been sponsoring for over eight years," he said. "Over those years, we've seen some good crops come through, but a couple of years ago, we didn't even have a wheat competition; the drought was so bad."

"It breaks your heart to see it when it's back working for Lowes, the reality is if farmers make money, we make money. Farmers were returning, at best, two tonnes per hectare, whereas this year we were seeing six to eight tonnes per hectare."

"Despite low rainfall during the growing period, many entries showed remarkable yield potential, which varied across the state based on seasonal conditions."

Brendan has worked for Lowes for 23 years. He divides his time between the two depots of Moree and Narrabri, living in the middle at Gurley (30 km south of Moree), where he wears another community hat. Together with Karen, he runs and maintains the Gurley Recreation Reserve for campers and caravanners, as well as the Pony Club, who hold a number of events there each year. He has taken up clay shooting after Karen said he needed to do something for himself rather than just work and focus on all his community commitments.

"I have grown up around farming. I grew up in a small town called Pollimillidji (30 kilometres east of Moree)," he said. "My father worked for a farmer, and I used to grade wheat with my father after school. After I left school, I used to do that with him seasonally, and I worked on farms during the harvest. I worked at North Star for five years out there and am still friends with the family, so I have been involved with farming all my life."

"I have so much respect for all the hats they wear – they have to be an accountant, agronomist, HR, they have got to employ people, watch the weather, be a father, husband or wife – just to make a living."

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 continues to meet 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:

- ✓ Assistance to Shows
- ✓ New communications resources, check lists to simplify compliance

[Producer Checklist](#)

[Steward Checklist](#)

[Sighted Livestock Record Sheet](#)

[Show Committee Member Checklist](#)

- ✓ 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.

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: Can Show Society funds be used for Social Gatherings?

What Laws Apply?

- Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW) – your main legal framework.
- Your Constitution, which adopts not-for-profit principles.
- You’re not bound by ACNC Governance Standards, but similar principles still apply if you want to be compliant and transparent.

Can a non-charity, not-for-profit Show Society pay for meals at a purely social gathering?

Yes, if....

- The gathering supports the Society’s community or organisational purpose (like volunteer appreciation, promoting connection among members, or recruiting new volunteers).
- The cost is reasonable and proportionate (e.g. not a lavish dinner at an expensive restaurant).
- It’s not a personal perk—i.e. not just a small group benefiting with no link to the broader group’s purpose.

Avoid if...

- Using funds for purely social reasons that don’t relate to the Society’s objectives.
- Giving the appearance of private benefit or “rewarding” individuals just for being on the committee or a member.

Because you’re incorporated under NSW law as a not-for-profit, you must apply all income and property to the Society’s purposes (see clause 3 & 4

of your Constitution). So, while some social spending is fine, it should:

- Have a community or organisational purpose,
- Be open and inclusive, when possible (not a closed group),
- And be documented, e.g. in a treasurer’s note or committee update.

So, what does that mean in practice?

If your social gathering:

- Brings together volunteers or members to build community bonds,
- Recognises contributions (like a thank-you BBQ for volunteers),
- Encourages new participation in your events or objectives...

✅ Then yes, covering modest costs for food or beverages could be okay—but only:

- If it’s consistent with your charitable purpose (e.g., “strengthening community wellbeing” or “celebrating rural culture” from your Constitution).
- If the spending is reasonable, not extravagant.
- And if you document the reason for the gathering (e.g., “volunteer appreciation afternoon” or “member engagement event”).

❌ But if it’s:

- Just a casual catch-up at the pub with no link to Society goals,
- Not open to the broader membership or volunteer base,
- Or feels like a “perk” for a few individuals...
- Then it could be seen as private benefit, which is not allowed.

Practical Example:

- OK: "Volunteer BBQ to thank show helpers – \$150 in sausages and drinks for 20 people."
- Grey area: "Committee lunch at a pub – \$200, no official meeting, just a catch-up."
- Not OK: "President’s birthday dinner – \$300, private invitation list."

Best Practice:

- Call it what it is: e.g. “Volunteer Thank You Social” or “Community Welcome Event.”
- Include a short note in the next committee meeting or treasurer’s report explaining the purpose and cost.
- Keep it inclusive and not just for a select few unless there’s a clear reason (e.g. only committee or working group).

Q. What is the process for a Show Society to reschedule an approved date or seek approval for a supplementary event?

A: A Show Society must write formally to the Group Secretary, outlining the reason and proposed date(s). The Group Secretary then informs Group delegates and contacts neighbouring groups to check for potential clashes. All member shows within the Group are also consulted, with a set timeframe provided for feedback or concerns. After responses are received, the decision is either



tabled at the next Group meeting or, if urgent, considered by the Group Executive. Once a decision is made, the Group Secretary informs AgShows NSW

so records can be updated. This process ensures transparency, strong inter-group communication, and minimises date clashes.

Managing Risk with Third-Party Providers and UFIs at Agricultural Shows

Q. What are Unauthorised Foreign Insurers (UFIs), and why are they a concern?

A: UFIs are insurers that operate outside the Australian regulatory framework. Because they aren’t subject to local solvency requirements, there’s a higher risk they may not be able to pay claims. If a ride operator at a Show is insured by a UFI and an incident occurs, AgShows NSW and its Member Show Society could face significant financial and reputational risk.

Q. What steps should Shows take to protect themselves when engaging ride operators?

A: Show Societies should request and retain full compliance documentation from all ride operators. This includes:

- Current SafeWork certification
- Valid insurance (from authorised insurers)

- Council approvals
- Formal agreements that clearly outline responsibilities

Q. How is AgShows NSW helping with this issue?

A: PSC your insurance brokers has committed to supporting AgShows NSW by helping develop and improve risk management procedures specific to ride operators and third-party contractors.

Q. Are ride operators the only concern?

A: No, similar diligence should be applied to all third-party service providers. Strengthening documentation and compliance checks across the board is vital to limit liability and support safe, well-managed events.

Q. Why is this important?

A: Strong risk management and governance help ensure safety, sustainability, and public trust in Agricultural Shows throughout NSW.

Key Dates for the remainder of 2025

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
Jun	2024 AgShows NSW Journal
Sat 21 Jun	ASC 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)
Sat 09 Aug	Showgirl/Young Woman Exchange EKKA
Thur 14 Aug	ASC Board Meeting
Thur 27 Nov	ASC Board Meeting
Thur 25 Dec	Christmas Day
Fri 26 Dec	Boxing Day

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



YOUR GRAIN.

OUR EXPERTISE.

Market Check

marketcheck.com.au

(02) 9499 4199

QLD - NSW - VIC - SA

EFFICIENCY AND ACCURACY FOR PROFITABILITY.

Flexi-Coil 5500

- Highly productive machine delivers proven performance and durability
- Floating, flexible frame follows contours
- High frame clearance for exceptional trash flow
- Floating tyre package ensures a consistent seeding depth
- Floating gang packers provide even packing across the whole bar
- Rear fold Design - Ideal for road transport

60 Series Air Carts

- Simple, easy to use and highly efficient
- Flexi-Coil legacy as an Air Cart Innovator
- Patented FlexRate™ modular metering system
- Save on inputs with precision seed placement
- High volume air capacity for the largest drills and high rates
- Cameras and lighting packages included for operation during all hours
- Liquid tank, now as an option from factory **NEW**



**STOCK AND FINANCE AVAILABLE NOW!
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEALER TODAY**

flexicoil.com.au



flexi coil

We're committed to regional New South Wales.

Connecting with regional New South Wales is at the heart of what we do at Suncorp Bank. We make sure our experienced Agribusiness specialists are there for you, with superior industry knowledge, local leadership and the ability to make decisions on the ground.

Want to know what we can do for you?
Call Andrew, Jenny or Sheree to find out more.

Andrew Hannaford
District Manager
Southern NSW, VIC & SA
0428 541 362
Andrew.Hannaford@suncorpbank.com.au

Jenny Taylor
District Manager
Central NSW
0456 873 564
jenny.taylor@suncorpbank.com.au



Sheree Barbat
District Manager
Northern NSW
0404 266 336
Sheree.Barbat@suncorpbank.com.au

Suncorp Bank (Norfina Limited ABN 66 010 831 722). The SUNCORP brand and Sun Logo are used by Suncorp Bank (Norfina Limited) under licence and Suncorp Bank is not part of the Suncorp Group.