



# Showtimes

Please share with committee members, chief stewards and your volunteers

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## Celebrating the Volunteers Behind NSW Agricultural Shows

Across NSW, 189 Agricultural Shows are supported by thousands of dedicated volunteers who help keep local communities connected and traditions alive.

During National Volunteer Week, AgShows NSW proudly celebrated and thanked the incredible volunteers who give their time, energy and passion to Agricultural Shows across the State. From setting up before sunrise to packing up long after the crowds leave, your contribution makes Shows possible.

Thank you for everything you do to support your Show and your community.

## Celebrating Ag Shows 2026 Goes Online! 🖥️ 🎉

AgShows NSW is excited to bring Celebrating Ag Shows 2026 (CAS26) to members across the State in a fresh and accessible online format making it easier than ever for volunteers, committees, exhibitors and Show leaders to connect, learn and celebrate together.

This year's program promises an engaging afternoon of ideas, inspiration and practical discussion, featuring keynote presentations, governance and industry updates, a lively "High-Tech or Heritage?" debate, Awards presentations and opportunities for members to participate from anywhere in NSW.

Featuring a diverse lineup of speakers, presenters and industry voices, CAS26 will deliver practical ideas, fresh perspectives and conversations relevant to the future of Agricultural Shows and regional communities.

Convening the day will be well-known broadcaster and communicator Patrice Douglas, who will guide the conference discussions, speaker sessions and live Q&A throughout the afternoon.

Importantly, members will also hear directly about the significant work currently underway at AgShows NSW — including governance initiatives, advocacy, competitions, education programs, compliance support and projects designed to strengthen Agricultural Shows and regional communities across the State.

The free online format allows AgShows NSW to continue delivering valuable governance, volunteer, education and industry content statewide while significantly reducing travel, accommodation and participation costs for Show Societies and volunteers.

## Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June

- 8.30am – AgShows NSW AGM
- 11.00am – AgShows NSW School Auctioneers Competition.

The State Final will be held in person at the Ganmain Sports Club on Saturday 20 June and livestreamed on Facebook from 11.00am.

- 12.30pm – 4.00pm – CAS26 Online Conference, Debate & Awards

## CAS26 Online Conference Program

| Time    | Session                                                                                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12.30pm | Welcome & What's Happening at AgShows NSW?<br><i>Jill Chapman &amp; Nicky Seeto</i>                        |
|         | Leading the Board: Governance for the Future of Agricultural Shows<br><i>Steve Langton – Chairs Global</i> |
|         | AgShows NSW Outstanding Teacher Award                                                                      |
|         | Safe Shows, Strong Shows – Compliance & Risk Management<br><i>Phil Lemieux – Marillion Insurance</i>       |
|         | AgShows NSW Living Legend Award                                                                            |

| Time   | Session                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        | Debate: High-Tech or Heritage – Which Defines the Future Show?<br><i>High-Tech: Terry Wilcher &amp; Dom Wyse</i><br><i>Heritage: Kelso Looker &amp; Laura McKillop</i> |
|        | Break                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2.30pm | AgShows NSW Community Resilience & Recovery Award                                                                                                                      |
|        | From Surf to Showground: Building Strong Volunteer Communities<br><i>Louise Cooke – Surf Life Saving NSW</i>                                                           |
|        | AgShows NSW Rising Star Award                                                                                                                                          |
|        | Schools Curriculum in Action at the Showground<br><i>Ben Newsome (Fizzics Education) &amp; Luciano Mesiti (PIEFA)</i>                                                  |
|        | AgShows NSW Innovation Award – Future-Focused Initiatives                                                                                                              |
|        | CAS26 Review & Reflect<br><i>Patrice Douglas &amp; Jill Chapman</i>                                                                                                    |
| 4.00pm | Conference Close                                                                                                                                                       |

Members are encouraged to tune in individually from home or take part through local “Watch Parties” with neighbouring Shows, volunteers and committee members — creating a shared experience while celebrating the strength and future of the Agricultural Show movement.

With practical ideas, expert speakers, live interaction and statewide connection, CAS26 is shaping up to be one of the most accessible and engaging conferences yet.

A special thank you goes to our valued sponsors and supporters — 123Tix, Marillion Insurance and Writers Who — for their continued support of AgShows NSW and the Agricultural Show movement across NSW.

- ✓ Registrations are now open — with more than 100 people already registered!

[https://loghicconnect-au.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_K-WYFio\\_S6KMs9au3NRerQ](https://loghicconnect-au.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K-WYFio_S6KMs9au3NRerQ)

Make sure you secure your place and be part of the conversation as we celebrate, support and strengthen Agricultural Shows across NSW.

## President's Message

The Sydney Royal Easter Show brings the Young Judges programs to a conclusion. For many participants, this event represented their first visit to the SRES and provided a valuable experience. Congratulations are extended to those who advanced to the state finals in Sydney as well as to the individuals progressing to the national final to be held at the EKKA in Brisbane this August.

While the Acciona Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Program is highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter, I would like to formally acknowledge and congratulate the finalists who attended in Sydney; their local shows can take great pride in their achievements. This program continues to offer young women statewide an opportunity for both personal and professional growth while sharing their unique show experiences. During my visits across the state, I have been particularly impressed by the significant number of young women actively participating in the running of their show.

Our local show committees continue to face challenges such as inconsistent rainfall, ranging from dry times to excessive rain, combined with increased living and fuel costs. For shows working with the Showmen's Guild, the rising fuel costs have increasingly been absorbed, though concerns remain regarding the sustainability of this practice. Nonetheless, the resilience within our communities stands out, and the ongoing support through sponsorships, donations, and other forms of assistance is especially evident in smaller communities.

From Wentworth in the west, Candelo in the south, to Kyogle in the north, it has been a privilege to witness firsthand the dedication behind each 'local show.' I would like to commend all committees and volunteers whose efforts ensure the success of these annual events.

The aging demographic of volunteers remains a persistent concern; however, positive examples, such as the youthful committee in Cobar and the dynamic secretaries leading Taralga and Nyngan, demonstrate that change is underway. It is collectively our responsibility to ensure that our shows are sustainable and relevant in the future.

This year, the Celebrating Ag Shows 2026 conference will be held online, providing statewide access to a program featuring topics of broad relevance. The response so far has been very strong, and there is content to engage and educate everyone. CAS2026 also serves as an occasion to recognise outstanding individuals and shows through our Awards program. I would like to think that on June 20 we could see at least one person from all our member societies online to share this valuable experience.

As this is my final report as the President of AgShows NSW I would like to thank the Staff, Directors and the many shows that have supported me during my three-year tenure. It has been an honour and a privilege to work with such dedicated people who value the importance of an agricultural show.

## 2026 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 online at 8:30am AEST on Saturday 20 June 2026.

We encourage all member societies to attend the AGM and be part of the future direction of AgShows NSW.

[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 by 8:00am AEST on Thursday 18 June 2026.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/.../019d8e5d243874c0af676085b0..>

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

## 2026 Membership Invoices Now Issued

Membership invoices for 2026 have now been issued to Agricultural Shows scheduled between January and June.

If your Show was held between January and June and you have not yet received your membership invoice, this is likely because we are still awaiting your 2025 Show statistics and return information.

For Shows held later in the year, please keep an eye on your inbox, with invoices to be progressively distributed in the coming months.

Thank you to all member Societies for your ongoing support.

## Office Contact Information

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

1800 025 387 or T: 02 9879 6777

E: [hello@agshowsnsw.org.au](mailto:hello@agshowsnsw.org.au)

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



## Group Insurance Program Update

AgShows NSW has formally transitioned from PSC Insurance Brokers to Marillion Insurance Brokers as part of the Group Insurance Program.

Importantly, this is largely an administrative change only, with Phil Lemieux remaining as the dedicated broker and primary contact for member societies. Policies, coverage and the overall program structure remain unchanged, with the same team and insurer relationships continuing to support members.

## 2026-2027 Group Insurance Renewal

AgShows NSW is pleased to confirm the 2026–2027 Group Insurance Program, brokered by Marillion Insurance, has now been approved by the Board and will commence from 31 May 2026.

The renewal reflects the ongoing strength of the Group Insurance Program and the collective support of member Show Societies across NSW. AgShows NSW appreciates the extensive work

undertaken by Marillion Insurance Brokers to negotiate competitive premiums, strong coverage

and positive policy outcomes on behalf of members.

Invoices for member societies will begin to be issued from early June 2026. We also thank all member societies for their continued support of the Group Insurance Program, which remains one of the largest and most comprehensive insurance arrangements supporting Agricultural Shows.

### Activity List

[Activity List 2026-2027](#) – lists all activities carried out by Show Societies which are covered by public liability insurance under the program.

### Risk Management

Celebrating AgShows 2026 - Don't miss guest Speaker Phil Lemieux from Marillion providing an informative session on Risk Management.

[Click here](#) to Register for the online Conference.

## Insurance Clarification: Volunteers, Waivers and What's Required

We often receive questions from members about whether unpaid volunteers such as Stewards and Judges need to sign waiver forms. This is an important area to clarify.

### Volunteers are Covered – No Waiver Required

Unpaid volunteers, including Stewards and Judges, are covered under the AgShows NSW Voluntary Workers Insurance while they are carrying out duties on behalf of your Show.

This means:

- They are insured for personal injury while volunteering
- There is no requirement for them to sign a waiver form
- Cover applies when they are working under the direction of the Show

Unlike public liability insurance, this cover does not require negligence to be proven—it simply applies when the person is undertaking approved volunteer duties.

## What Volunteers MUST Do

While a waiver is not required, there are essential administrative steps that should be followed from a proper risk management perspective:

- Volunteers must register as a volunteer
- Volunteers must sign on and sign off each time they attend
- Volunteers should be inducted in their roles and always work under the direction of the Show

These processes are critical, as they clearly establish when a person is acting as a volunteer.

## Understanding the Difference: Waivers vs Volunteer Insurance

### Public Liability & Waivers

Public Liability insurance protects the Show Society if it is found to be negligent and someone is injured or property is damaged.

- Waivers are used for participants in higher-risk activities (e.g. animal events, competitions)
- They help demonstrate that participants understand and accept the risks involved
- Waivers are an important risk management tool, but they do not replace insurance

### Voluntary Workers Insurance

Voluntary Workers Insurance protects individual volunteers.

- Covers injury to volunteers while performing duties
- Negligence does not need to be proven. If an injury takes place while volunteering, cover applies.
- Ensure volunteers are properly registered and signed on and off.

## Working with Children Checks (WWCC) at Agricultural Shows

AgShows NSW has received questions about when a Working with Children Check (WWCC) may be required at Agricultural Shows.

In most cases, a WWCC is only required where a role involves direct and regular contact with children as part of the work.

For many common Show roles, a WWCC will generally **not** be required where:

- work occurs in a public environment
- contact with children is incidental
- children are not supervised one-on-one
- other adults are present.

This would typically include:

- gate attendants
- ring stewards
- marshals
- announcers
- pavilion volunteers
- general event volunteers.

Similarly, ride operators and sideshow personnel working in public amusement environments would generally not require a WWCC simply because children are present.

A WWCC may be required where a person is:

- directly supervising children
- running children's activities
- caring for lost children
- working in children-only areas
- involved in unsupervised contact with children.

AgShows NSW encourages Member Societies to take a practical, risk-based approach:

- WWCCs are generally required for direct work with children in one-on-one or closed environments.
- WWCCs are generally not required in open public environments where contact with children is incidental.

Member Societies may also choose to apply their own internal WWCC policies beyond the minimum legal requirements if they wish.

## Advocacy in Action

### Supporting Agricultural Shows Across NSW

Behind the scenes, AgShows NSW continues to actively represent and support Agricultural Shows

across NSW through advocacy, government engagement and industry collaboration.

Over recent months, AgShows NSW has met with Crown Lands, DPIRD, SafeWork NSW and key industry stakeholders on matters directly impacting Show Societies, volunteers and regional communities.

This work has focused on practical issues affecting Shows across the State, including showground operations, compliance requirements, risk management, biosecurity and reducing administrative burden on volunteers.

AgShows NSW has worked closely with DPIRD and members to improve livestock compliance outcomes across NSW Shows, with strong progress achieved through education, support resources and direct engagement with Show Societies.

Meetings with SafeWork NSW have focused on practical risk management approaches for volunteer-run events, while discussions with Crown Lands have addressed governance and operational challenges impacting several Showgrounds across the State.

AgShows NSW also continues to represent Agricultural Shows in discussions with Government and industry stakeholders regarding safety, compliance and the long-term sustainability of regional events.

Advocacy remains a core part of AgShows NSW's role, ensuring Agricultural Shows, volunteers and regional communities continue to be supported, represented and strengthened into the future.

## 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](mailto:sarah.mcgregor@agshowsnsw.org.au)  
Thank you!

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

AgShows NSW reminds member societies employing staff — including part-time or casual employees — that new “Payday Super” requirements will commence from 1 July 2026.

Under the new ATO rules, superannuation will need to be paid at the same time as wages rather than quarterly. The changes may also affect some contractor arrangements where individuals are engaged mainly for their labour or services.

The reforms are also expected to see the ATO Super Clearing House phased out, with increased penalties applying for unpaid superannuation.

Member societies with employees or paid contractors are encouraged to review payroll systems, bookkeeping processes and contractor arrangements ahead of the changes. Further information is available from the ATO.



## Make Time to Celebrate

### Recognising Our Ag Show Champions

Congratulations to our Award Nominees

#### Living Legend Award

**Recognising outstanding long-term contribution and dedication to the Agricultural Show movement.**

- Sue Serone (Casino)
- Peter Naylor (Orange)
- Ruth Chittick (Bowral)
- Lyn Reid (Wallamba)
- David Williams OAM (Singleton)
- Elaine Grace (Wentworth)
- Peter Painter (Kyogle)
- Robert McAuliffe (Yass)
- Kevin Graham (Woodstock)
- John & Mary Tout (Young)
- Jackie Millward (Wagga Wagga)
- Robert and Lyn Miller (Sofala)
- Ross Matheson (Hawkesbury)
- Phillip Close (Hawkesbury)
- Peter Rosten (Kempsey)
- Margaret Enright (Maitland)
- Adrian Eisenhauer (Junee)
- June Roots (Luddenham)
- Robert Lindley (Bob) (Gundagai)
- Diane Redman (West Wyalong)
- Kevin Townsend (Eugowra)

- Jenny Sheaffe (Hay)
- Lorette Walmsley (Grenfell)

### **Community Resilience & Recovery Award**

**Recognising Show Societies that have shown resilience, leadership and commitment during challenging times.**

- Yeoval Show Society
- Manning River Agricultural & Horticultural Society Taree Inc
- Sofala & District Agricultural & Horticultural Show Society Inc
- Morisset Lake Macquarie Show
- Cessnock Show
- Kempsey Show
- Bombala Exhibition Society Inc

### **Rising Star Award**

**Recognising emerging leaders helping shape the future of Agricultural Shows.**

- Emelia Stokehill – Boorowa
- Imogen Clarke – Nowra
- Arabela Whitby – Leeton
- Kate Stinson – Picton
- Emma Adams – Cessnock
- Charlie Coddington – Bribbaree
- Katy Armson-Graham – Castle Hill
- Robert Hain – Cooma
- Katherine Wong – Luddenham
- Heather Walker – Grenfell

### **Innovation Award – Future Focused Initiatives**

**Recognising creative projects and initiatives strengthening Agricultural Shows across NSW.**

- Canowindra PA & H Association – *Canowindra Show Digital Engagement & Promotion Strategy*
- Yeoval Show Society – *Revitalising the Yeoval Show: A Community-Led Approach*
- Picton Show Society – *Scarecrow Steve*
- Kyogle PA & H Society – *Stewards Workshop Day*
- Nowra Show Society – *Sashes and Saddles*
- Cessnock Show – *Inclusive Schools and Disability Day*
- Grenfell PAH&I – *Grenfell PAH&I Junior Stewards*
- Nimbin A&I Society – *Powering Local Futures*

### **Outstanding Teacher Award**

**Recognising teachers making an outstanding contribution to agricultural education and youth development.**

- Anthony Pearson – Booral Primary School

- Carolyn Baker – The Henry Lawson High School
- Lauren Amor – Yanco Agricultural High School
- Katherine Silcock – Wingham High School
- Christina Hatchman – Strathfield South High School
- Sarah Eyb – Orange Anglican Grammar School
- Trevor William Dawson – The Riverina Anglican College
- Mark Fisher – Armidale Secondary College

### **2026 AgShows NSW Award Finalists Announced**

AgShows NSW is proud to announce the finalists for the 2026 AgShows NSW Awards, celebrating the volunteers, leaders, educators and Show Societies helping strengthen Agricultural Shows across New South Wales.

This year's finalists reflect the passion, innovation, resilience and community spirit that continues to drive the Show movement forward across regional and rural communities.

Congratulations to all finalists on this well-deserved recognition. Winners will be announced during Celebrating AgShows 2026 (CAS26) Online on Saturday 20 June 2026.



### **Living Legend**

- John & Mary Tout, Young
- June Roots, Luddenham
- David Williams OAM, Singleton
- Jackie Millward, Wagga Wagga

### **Rising Star**

- Kate Stinson, Picton
- Charlie Coddington, Bribbaree
- Robert Hain, Cooma
- Imogen Clark, Nowra
- 

### **Innovation Award – Future-Focused**

- Nowra
- Yeoval
- Nimbin
- Cessnock

### **Community Resilience & Recovery**

- Sofala
- Taree
- Kempsey

- Bombala
- Outstanding Teacher**
- Carolyn Baker
  - Sarah Eyb
  - Lauren Amor
  - Trevor Dawson

## Member Advisory – Height Certificates for Horse Classes

Following concerns raised at a recent Agricultural Show regarding height eligibility in horse classes, AgShows NSW wishes to remind member societies of the provisions within the Model Horse Regulations.

Agricultural shows generally do not conduct official measuring and therefore rely on height certificates issued by recognised measuring authorities.

Please note the following key points:

- Horses, Galloways and ponies entered in height-restricted classes must be eligible for the height division in which they are competing.
- Shows rely on official height certificates issued by recognised measuring authorities.
- If the height of a horse or pony is questioned, the Ringmaster or Chief Steward may request the exhibitor produce a current height certificate.
- Member societies are entitled to sight this certificate before allowing the exhibit to compete in a height-restricted class.
- If an exhibitor cannot produce a valid height certificate when requested, the exhibit may be refused entry to the class or division.
- Where eligibility concerns arise after judging, the show society may amend placings, remove awards or disqualify an exhibit if deemed appropriate.
- These provisions exist to protect the fairness and integrity of height-restricted classes and to support stewards in making decisions where eligibility is questioned.

AgShows NSW encourages societies to ensure that Ringmasters, Chief Stewards and horse section stewards are aware of these provisions within the Model Horse Regulations.

If your society requires clarification or support in managing height eligibility matters, please contact the AgShows NSW office.

## Compliance and Horse Health Declaration

With Horse competitions taking place at Shows across NSW, AgShows NSW is encouraging Member Show Societies to continue focusing on strong compliance, governance and biosecurity practices within their Horse Sections. Ongoing reviews and insurer requirements continue to highlight the importance of consistently applying approved procedures, risk management measures and participant documentation across all Horse events.

To assist Members, AgShows NSW has released an updated [Horse Competitions Top 10 Compliance Must-Do's Flowchart](#), designed to provide a simple and practical checklist for Show committees, stewards and volunteers. The flowchart highlights key requirements including schedule wording, exhibitor declarations, judge declarations, volunteer management, waivers, wristbands, arena access control and complaints processes.

Member Societies are also encouraged to review the updated [Horse Health Biosecurity Declaration](#) and accompanying [FAQs](#). The declaration template supports horse traceability, biosecurity management and veterinary response processes should a disease outbreak occur. It also clarifies exhibitor responsibilities relating to horse health, quarantine and associated costs.

AgShows NSW reminds Members that compliance is not simply an administrative process — it is critical to protecting competitors, volunteers, officials, spectators and the long-term sustainability of Horse competitions at Agricultural Shows across the State. Failure to follow approved rules and governance processes may impact insurance coverage and increase operational risk.

# FOR AGSHOWS NSW MEMBER SOCIETIES HORSE COMPETITIONS TOP 10 COMPLIANCE MUST-DO's

*Simple. Clear. Non-negotiable.*



## 1 Follow the Rules – Always

### Comply with:

- Model Horse Regulations
- General Regulations
- Codes of Conduct
- Conditions of Entry



## 2 Get Your Schedule Right

### Schedules & Entry Forms MUST:

- Reference all governing documents
- Include exhibitor declaration:  
*"I have read and agree to abide by all rules and conditions"*



## 3 Judges Declaration – Every Time

- All Judges must sign the Judge Agreement & Declaration Form
- Judges must be provided with and read the Code of Conduct and sign Declaration
- You must actively check for conflicts of interest, including Judging within 100km radius and judging the same section within the last 6 months
- If there's a conflict (or perceived conflict) → don't appoint them



## 4 Volunteers: Know Who's a Volunteer

Unpaid Judges are Volunteers. Volunteers must register with the Member Society and comply with Volunteer Processes. Volunteers are not required to sign a waiver.

### Unpaid = Volunteer

- Must complete a Volunteer Registration
- Must be inducted
- Must sign on/off



## 5 Paid People Need Their Own Insurance

(Public Liability / Professional Indemnity)

Paid Judges, Course Builders, Photographers, contractors etc.



## 6 Who Signs a Waiver in the Main Arena?

### No waiver = no entry

#### Includes:

- Competitors
- Handlers
- Parents
- Anyone in the Main Arena (except Volunteers)



## 7 No Wristband = No Access

Wristbands confirm waiver completion

**No wristband = stay out**



## 8 Control the Gate

### Stewards must:

- Check waivers
- Issue wristbands
- Manage entry



## 9 Keep the Arena Safe & Controlled

- Limit access
- Induct officials
- Remove unnecessary people



## 10 Use the Complaints Process

- Complaints Policy & Form available
- Follow the process – don't handle informally
- Escalate where required

## THE REALITY CHECK



If something goes wrong, can you prove:

- ✓ Rules were followed?
- ✓ Declarations signed?
- ✓ Waivers completed?
- ✓ Volunteers, Stewards and Judges inducted and follow Volunteer procedures?

## FINAL REMINDER



- ✓ Waivers help protect you – but don't replace duty of care
- ✓ If you don't follow the rules → insurance may not respond



*Compliance protects our people, our events and our future.  
Do it right. Every time.*

## Livestock Traceability in Action at Orange Show

As part of the Show and Livestock Event Project, Kristy Garard recently joined the Orange Show Committee to strengthen industry engagement and gain firsthand insight into how livestock traceability measures are implemented at agricultural events.

In her role with the DPIRD Biosecurity Traceability Team and as project lead for AgShows, the experience provided a valuable opportunity to better understand the practical realities of running a successful show and the important role traceability plays in supporting compliance and biosecurity outcomes.

Kristy thanked the Orange Show Committee for their warm welcome, particularly Show Secretary Tash, who provided the opportunity to gain a behind-the-scenes understanding of the work involved in delivering a successful agricultural show.

During the event, Kristy also assisted with scanning and verifying sheep and cattle exhibits. Encouragingly, compliance levels were high, with exhibitors demonstrating strong adoption of NLIS requirements and the new sheep and goat eID standards.

The experience highlighted the ongoing education, collaboration and commitment across the agricultural show sector to strengthening livestock traceability outcomes and supporting best-practice biosecurity measures.

For further information about livestock traceability or NLIS requirements, Kristy Garard can be contacted on 0497 108 983 or via [kristy.garard@dpiird.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kristy.garard@dpiird.nsw.gov.au).

## Could Your Next Project Be Grant Funded?

Across NSW, many Agricultural Show Societies are continuing to improve and modernise their Showgrounds while balancing the ongoing demands of running successful annual events. From maintaining ageing infrastructure to creating more accessible and community-focused spaces, funding assistance can play an important role in helping projects move forward.

A range of grants are available to support regional organisations and volunteer groups, with opportunities covering infrastructure improvements, equipment, youth initiatives, volunteer development and community programs. Many Show Societies have successfully accessed funding for projects that may otherwise have taken years to achieve.

While grant applications can sometimes feel time consuming, planning and identifying future priorities can place committees in a strong position when opportunities arise. Keeping simple project ideas, quotes or wish lists on hand can often make the application process easier when funding rounds open.

Some funding programs worth exploring include:

- [Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal \(FRRR\)](#)
- [Community Building Partnership Program](#)
- [Stronger Country Communities Fund](#)
- [Crown Reserves Improvement Fund \(CRIF\)](#)
- [Regional Arts NSW Grants](#)

## Cape Town Calls: RASC 2026 Gains Momentum



RASC 2026 is building momentum as the 31st Commonwealth Agriculture Conference prepares to head to Cape Town, South Africa from 1–5 November 2026. Hosted by Agri-Expo in partnership with the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth, the conference will explore the theme “*Opportunities of Change in a Connected World: From South Africa to the World.*”

New speakers announced include John Bennett, who will join discussions on the future of Agricultural Shows and rural communities,

alongside leading South African agriculture voices Christo van der Rhee and Shannon Robertson.

The conference is open to all with an interest in agriculture, food systems, rural communities and innovation — not only RASC members. Delegates can also take part in a unique pre-conference tour through the Western Cape, featuring farm visits, agricultural schools and agri-business experiences across Stellenbosch, the Swartland and West Coast.

More information, registration and updates are available at [RASC 2026 Conference Website](#)



## AgShows NSW Youth Bursary Program

AgShows NSW was humbled by the quality and calibre of applications received for the 2026 Youth Bursary Program supporting attendance at the Royals of the Commonwealth Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

The standard of applications highlighted the passion, leadership and commitment of young volunteers involved in Agricultural Shows across

NSW, with every applicant highly deserving of recognition.

### **Congratulations to the successful recipients:**

- **Mikayla Keith – Taralga Show**
- **Tom Heffernan – Luddenham Show**

AgShows NSW sincerely thanks everyone who applied and acknowledges the outstanding contribution young people continue to make to the future of the Show movement.

## RAS of NSW to Host International Agricultural Conference

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW has successfully secured the opportunity to host the 32nd Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Agricultural Conference in Sydney in April 2028.

The international conference will run in conjunction with the Sydney Royal Easter Show and will welcome delegates from agricultural societies across Commonwealth nations to share ideas, innovation and industry knowledge.

## Fundraising Law Changes for Charities in NSW

Important fundraising law reforms came into effect in NSW from 1 April 2026, aimed at reducing red tape and simplifying compliance for charities and not-for-profit organisations.

Under the new arrangements, charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) can now use their ACNC registration to automatically fundraise in NSW without needing a separate NSW fundraising authority.

The reforms also streamline reporting and record-keeping requirements by aligning NSW obligations with national ACNC reporting processes.

All fundraising authority holders in NSW must continue to comply with the National Fundraising Principles and fundraising standards.

Member societies involved in charitable fundraising are encouraged to review the changes and seek advice where required.

## State Young Judges & Paraders Continue to Grow in 2026

AgShows NSW proudly continues to support the State Young Judges & Paraders Competitions at the Sydney Royal, helping develop the next generation of agricultural show leaders across NSW.

These competitions provide valuable opportunities for young people to build confidence, strengthen public speaking and judging skills, and develop practical industry knowledge while reinforcing animal welfare and ring etiquette.

This year an impressive 286 competitors participated across the State Finals, highlighting the ongoing strength and popularity of the program. Beef Cattle Paraders again attracted the largest field, with 125 competitors taking part.

### 2026 State Final Winners

Congratulations to the following State Champions:

- Beef Cattle Paraders – Isabella Pearce (Group 10)
- Beef Cattle Young Judges – Matilda Cronin (Group 10)
- Dairy Cattle Paraders – Alexis Allen
- Dairy Cattle Young Judges – Molly Klasen (Group 14)
- Grain Young Judges – Zachary Charlton (Group 8)
- Meat Breeds Sheep Young Judges – Brendan Mitchell (Group 11)
- Merino Fleece Young Judges – Jocelyn Cafe (Group 12)
- Merino Sheep Young Judges – Angus Knox (Stud Merino Breeds Association)
- Poultry Young Judges – Bryson Lee (Exhibition Poultry Association)

As part of AgShows NSW's commitment to supporting young agricultural leaders, finalists will come together in Dubbo on 13–14 June for the NSW National Finalist Development Weekend. The weekend will focus on refining judging and public speaking skills, mentoring opportunities, mock judging exercises and team building ahead of the National Finals.

### 2026 National Championships – EKKA, Brisbane

We wish all NSW finalists every success as they prepare to represent NSW at the National Championships at the Ekka in Brisbane this August:

- Friday 7 August – Beef Cattle Young Judges & Beef Cattle Paraders
- Saturday 8 August – Merino Sheep, Merino Fleece & Meat Breeds Sheep Young Judges
- Sunday 9 August – Poultry Young Judges & Australian Young Farmers Challenge
- Monday 10 August – Grain Young Judges, Dairy Cattle Young Judges & Paraders
- Tuesday 11 August – ASA Board & Members Meeting, RA Interviews & RA Gala Dinner

### 2026 ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman State Finalists

The ACCIONA Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman 2026 is Louise Gilmour, and the Runner Up is Madison Luke.

| Show Society | Group | Name           |
|--------------|-------|----------------|
| Lismore      | 1     | Kate Hepburn   |
|              |       | Charlotte      |
| Blacktown    | 4     | Moriarty       |
| Hawkesbury   | 4     | Madison Luke   |
| Crookwell    | 7     | Emily Greer    |
| Quirindi     | 13    | Faith Green    |
| Warialda     | 14    | Louisa Gilmour |
| Cessnock     | 3     | Taylee Short   |
| Stroud       | 3     | Bianca Evans   |
| Wellington   | 11    | Clair Stiff    |
| Blayney      | 11    | Eva Price      |
| Forbes       | 10    | Libby Coles    |
| Ganmain      | 8     | Daneka Hatty   |
| Cootamundra  | 9     | Paige Sedwick  |
| Deniliquin   | 9     | Georgia Moody  |

## ASA Webinar Series Supporting Agricultural Shows Nationally

AgShows NSW is pleased to support the ongoing webinar series being delivered by Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA), providing practical learning opportunities and valuable industry insights for Agricultural Show volunteers, committees and organisers across the country.

The recent free ASA webinar, *Entertainment on a Budget*, presented by Tony Laffan, Head of Entertainment at the RNA (Ekka), received an outstanding response nationally.

The webinar also generated strong discussion around future topics including volunteer retention, risk assessments and ticketing solutions for Shows.

These webinars align strongly with the ASA Strategic Plan objective of *Creating Value for Members* through shared learning, collaboration and practical support for Agricultural Shows across Australia.

### Upcoming ASA Webinar

Psychosocial Hazard Awareness  
Presented by Jane Kikeros, Chief People and Strategy Officer – RASWA

 24 July

 12.00pm – 1.00pm

The session will explore:

- Understanding psychosocial hazards and their impact on volunteers and committee members
- Legal obligations relating to psychosocial hazards
- Practical strategies to eliminate or minimise psychosocial risks within Show environments

To watch ASA webinar recordings and access future webinars, visit:

<https://agshowsaustralia.org.au/webinars/>

Register for the upcoming webinar here:

<https://form.jotform.com/261239481804863>

## Key Dates 2026

|           |                                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 28 May    | AgShows NSW Awards Finalists Announced        |
| 31 May    | AgShows NSW Insurance Year Starts             |
| 6 Jun     | Last two NSW Ag Shows before the Winter Break |
| Mon 8 Jun | King's Birthday                               |
| 14 Jun    | ASC of Next Gen AGM                           |

|            |                                                            |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20 Jun     | AgShows NSW AGM 8.30am online                              |
| 20 Jun     | 2025 ASC Journal                                           |
| 20 Jun     | CAS 2026 Conference Day and Awards Presentation            |
| 24 Jun     | AgShows NSW 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of Directors After AGM |
| Jul 2026   | New Date Book Out (Print Edition)                          |
| 6–12 Aug   | National Finals EKKA                                       |
| 7 Aug      | Mungindi Show                                              |
| 14–15 Aug  | Wee Waa Show + Tullamore Show                              |
| 16 Aug     | Weethalle Show                                             |
| 18 Aug     | Trundle Show                                               |
| 20 Aug     | AgShows NSW Board Meeting                                  |
| 22 Aug     | Ganmain Show + Bedgerabong Show                            |
| 25 Aug     | Peak Hill Show                                             |
| 27–29 Aug  | Condobolin Show                                            |
| 29 Aug     | Barellan Show                                              |
| 29–30 Aug  | Penrith Show + Wentworth Show                              |
| 31 Aug     | Parkes Show                                                |
| 4–5 Sept   | Tamworth Show, Narromine Show + Grenfell Show              |
| 5 Sept     | Lake Cargelligo Show + Molong Show                         |
| 6 Sept     | Finley Show + Woodstock Show                               |
| 8–9 Sept   | West Wyalong Show                                          |
| 11–12 Sept | Wagga Show + Hay Show                                      |
| 11–13 Sept | Quirindi Show                                              |
| 12–13 Sept | Forbes Show                                                |
| 13 Sept    | Cudal Show + Arianah Park Show                             |
| 17–19 Sept | Silver City Show                                           |
| 18–19 Sept | Merriwa Show + Eugowra Show                                |
| 19 Sept    | Ardlethan Show                                             |
| 19–20 Sept | Nimbin Show                                                |
| 20 Sept    | Menangle Park Show, Young Show, Jerrawa Show               |
| 25–26 Sept | Kyogle Show + Canowindra Show                              |
| 25–27 Sept | Singleton Show + Hillston Show                             |
| 26 Sept    | Dapto Show + Temora Show                                   |
| 27 Sept    | Lockhart Show                                              |
| 3 Oct      | Tooraweenah Show, Culcairn Show + Bribbaree Show           |
| 4 Oct      | Berrigan Show + Griffith Show                              |
| Mon 5 Oct  | Labor Day Long Weekend                                     |
|            | Morongla Show + Walbundrie Show                            |
| 9–10 Oct   | Leeton Show + Casino Show                                  |
| 10 Oct     | Illabo Show, Trunk Creek Show + Taree Show                 |
| 11 Oct     | Corowa Show                                                |
| 15–17 Oct  | Lismore Show                                               |
| 16–17 Oct  | Cowra Show, Cootamundra Show                               |
|            | Barham Koondrook Show                                      |
| 17–18 Oct  | Morisett Lake Macquarie Show                               |
| 17 Oct     | The Rock Show                                              |
| 23–24 Oct  | Alstonville Show                                           |
| 24–25 Oct  | Camden Haven Show + Picton Show                            |

|           |                                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 24 Oct    | June Show                                     |
| 25 Oct    | Bungendore Show                               |
| 30-31 Oct | Albury Show +<br>Murwillumbah Show            |
| 31 Oct    | Carcoar Show                                  |
| 1-5 Nov   | RASC Conference                               |
| 7-8 Nov   | Mullumbimby Show +<br>Queanbeyan Show         |
| 13-14 Nov | Bangalow Show, Dungog Show                    |
| 14 Nov    | Neville Show +<br>Murrumburrah<br>Harden Show |
| 20-21 Nov | Bulahdelah Show                               |
| 22 Nov    | Minto Show                                    |
| 27-28 Nov | Dorrigo Show                                  |
| 24 Dec    | Christmas Eve                                 |
| 25 Dec    | Christmas Day                                 |

*These details are accurate at time of print  
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circumstances.*



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