



Showtimes

Please share with committee members, chief stewards and your volunteers

THIS ISSUE

- [Appointment of EO](#)
- [Anzac Day Trading Exemptions](#)
- [Volunteer Story Showcase](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [Membership Fees 2026](#)
- [Board and Director Matters](#)
- [AgShows NSW Team](#)
- [Office Holiday Closure and Contact Information](#)
- [AgShows NSW Supports 2025 RASF Rural Scholar – Samantha Taylor](#)
- [AgShows NSW Patron and Vice Patron](#)
- [Safety Update – Walcha Incident and Demo Derby requirements](#)
- [AgShows NSW Cattle Competitions and Insurance](#)
- [Operating ATVs, Quads & Golf Carts on Showgrounds – Insurance vs Safety](#)
- [Update: Liability Cover for Unregistered Vehicles at Showgrounds](#)
- [Get Ready for Celebrating Ag Shows 2026 – Canberra, 19-21 June](#)
- [Animal Nursery Movement Records](#)
- [Cattle Tick Biosecurity Update – New DPI Resource](#)
- [Invitation: NLIS & Sheep/Goat eID Briefings for Group Meetings](#)
- [Free Legal Advice for NSW Community Organisations Returns](#)
- [ASA 2027 National Conference Heads to Canberra](#)
- [2025 Statistical Information – Due](#)
- [2026 RASC Conference](#)
- [RAS Big Bush BBQ 2026](#)
- [Member Q&As](#)
- [January 2026 Shows](#)
- [Young Woman Zone Finals 2026](#)
- [Think Tank](#)
- [Dryland Field Wheat Competition](#)
- [2025 National Finals](#)
- [RASF Christmas Distribution](#)



Appointment of Executive Officer

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Nicky Seeto as the Executive Officer of AgShows NSW.

Nicky has been a valued member of our organisation since 2016 and has most recently served as Acting CEO. With a strong background in education, community services and member engagement, she brings both deep experience and a genuine passion for supporting Agricultural Show Societies across NSW.

Over nearly a decade, Nicky has become a trusted first point of contact for our Members—strengthening communications, enhancing our social media presence, supporting Member Societies, and building engagement in key programs such as the Young Woman competition.

Her extensive organisational knowledge and strong relationships across the sector place her in an excellent position to continue leading operational delivery and member support as our new Executive Officer.

ANZAC Day Trading Exemptions Confirmed for NSW Agricultural Shows

AgShows NSW Advocacy Delivers Positive Outcome

AgShows NSW is pleased to announce a successful outcome from our ongoing advocacy regarding ANZAC Day trading arrangements for agricultural shows.

Following direct correspondence with the Premier and the Minister for Industrial Relations and Work Health and Safety, the Hon. Sophie Cotsis MP—as well as a Question on Notice (No. 4579) lodged by Scott Barrett MLC—the NSW Government has now formally confirmed that:

Agricultural shows conducted by not-for-profit entities for charitable or public fundraising purposes are exempt from ANZAC Day trading restrictions under the Retail Trading Act 2008. Where a show is exempt, all shops associated with the show are also considered exempt.

This clarification is significant, as the term “shop” in the Act is interpreted broadly to cover all forms of retail business activity—not just traditional storefronts—meaning itinerant traders and stallholders operating at shows are also covered.

What This Means for Show Societies

- ✓ Shows run by incorporated associations, charities, or other not-for-profit entities are exempt
- ✓ Associated retail activities (traders, vendors, stalls, pop-ups) are also exempt
- ✓ Shows may operate on ANZAC Day without additional trading approvals
- ✓ Reduced compliance risk and greater certainty for volunteer committees

This outcome ensures long-standing show traditions can continue while reducing administrative burden and potential liability for Member Organisations.

Record-Keeping Recommendation

We recommend Show Societies keep a copy of the official Parliamentary record with your compliance documentation and operational planning files.

Access the official publication here:

[NSW Parliament Questions & Answers Paper No. 608 – 24 October 2025](#)

AgShows NSW Selected for 2026 Volunteer Story Showcase

We're pleased to share that AgShows NSW has been selected for the 2026 Volunteer Story Showcase, recognising organisations whose volunteers contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.

Our submission highlighted the strength of our 189 Agricultural Show Societies and the 16,000 volunteers across NSW who deliver shows for 1.2 million visitors each year, preserve rural traditions, and generate significant economic and social benefits for regional communities. We also emphasised the vital role they play in maintaining showgrounds as year-round community assets, and the way our youth programs—Young Judges, Paraders, Young Farmers Challenge and Young Woman—support future leaders.

The Department of Communities and Justice will share selected stories in 2026 across social media, online platforms and publications. This is a great opportunity to showcase the incredible dedication of our volunteers.

Learn more about the SDGs:



<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

President's Message

I would like to begin by extending my sincere gratitude to Nicky Seeto, who has admirably

served as Acting CEO since mid-April. Following a comprehensive review of our staffing structure, Nicky has now accepted the position of Executive Officer, a decision recently communicated to our Members.

Nicky has been an integral part of AgShows NSW since 2016 and brings a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our Member Societies. The Board is confident that her experience, knowledge, and dedication will continue to strengthen our organisation and provide strong leadership for our Members and stakeholders.

I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding

commitment of our entire staff team—Katie, Sarah, Lyndy and Nicky—for their unwavering service to our Member Societies. In addition to their day-to-day responsibilities, they have been working diligently on our new website, scheduled to launch in 2026.

I am very pleased to share that Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, has accepted the role of Patron, with John Bennett OAM, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, and The Hon. Tara Moriarty accepting the roles of Vice-Patrons. We are honoured to have their support.

My sincere appreciation also goes to the many Member Societies that have welcomed me to their shows throughout the year. It has been a privilege to meet committees, volunteers, and community members, and to witness firsthand the unique character and passion each show brings to its region. Thank you for all you contribute to your shows and your communities.

This December newsletter contains a great deal of important information for Member Societies, and I strongly encourage you to share it widely with your committees and volunteers. I would particularly like to highlight that AgShows NSW has been selected for the 2026 Volunteer Story Showcase, providing a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers.

As Chair of the Board of the Agricultural Societies Council of NSW, I extend my sincere thanks to our Board Directors for their commitment over the past twelve months. At our recent meeting we acknowledged Directors who have served for ten

years or more: Helen Kirton (Group 4), David Peters (Group 12), Bob Robertson (Group 7), Tim Capp (Group 3), Sue Sharpe (Group 5), Brett Kenworthy & Sue Hood (Group 11), and Judy Michell (Group 14). We also recognised the final meetings of Sue Sharpe (Group 5) and Jackie Thompson (Group 6), and welcomed Matthew Painter (Group 1) to his first Board meeting.

As the year draws to a close, I wish everyone a **safe, happy and peaceful Christmas**. I look forward to 2026 being a successful and rewarding year for all our shows.



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.

Board & Director Matters

New Directors Welcome

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

Emily Scrivener (Group 15/Next Gen) and Matthew Painter (Group 1) were welcomed last month and earlier in the year, in June, we were delighted to welcome Kate Lockhart (Group 14), who has already been contributing actively to Board discussions and strategic work.

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

2026 Budget Approved

We're pleased to confirm that the 2026 Budget has now been formally approved by the Board. This provides a strong foundation for the year ahead, ensuring we can continue delivering value, support, and high-quality services to our member shows.

The Board focused on long-term financial sustainability during its most recent meeting, reviewing strategies to manage costs, maintaining our best-practice insurance program, supporting core competitions, and upholding our personalised member services. These priorities ensure we continue to meet the needs of our members while planning responsibly for the future.

To write to the AgShows NSW Board email
asc.admin@ascfnsw.org.au

AgShows NSW Team

Nicky Seeto (EO)

nicky.seeto@ascfnsw.org.au

Katie Stanley (Member Services Officer)

katie.stanley@ascfnsw.org.au

Lyndy Cornwell (Member Services Officer)

asc.admin@ascfnsw.org.au

Sarah McGregor (Accounts Manager)

sarah.mcgregor@ascfnsw.org.au

Office Holiday Closure 🎄

The AgShows NSW office will close for the holidays from Thursday 25 December 2025 and will reopen on Monday 5 January 2026.

If you need assistance urgently while we are closed, please reach out to Nicky Seeto.

Office Hours (during operating periods)

Monday – Friday 9:00AM – 3:00PM

Contact Details

Free call: 1800 025 387

Phone: 02 9879 6777

E: asc.admin@ascofnsw.org.au

AgShows NSW Supports 2025 RAS Foundation Rural Scholar – Samantha Taylor

AgShows NSW is proud to have sponsored Samantha Taylor from Griffith, NSW, as one of the 2025 RAS Foundation Rural Scholars. Samantha is in her second year of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University and has shared her sincere gratitude for the support.

This year, Samantha undertook a demanding study load, completing both second- and third-year

subjects while beginning her major in Agronomy. The scholarship eased financial pressure and allowed her to stay focused as she strengthened her skills in crop production, sustainability and land management.

Samantha also faced personal challenges during the semester but remained committed to her studies and worked hard to stay on track.

AgShows NSW congratulates Samantha on her resilience, dedication and passion for agriculture.

AgShows NSW is proud to have contributed to Samantha's scholarship journey and congratulates her on her resilience, dedication and passion for agriculture.

AgShows NSW Patron and Vice Patrons

AgShows NSW is delighted to confirm that Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW, accepted our invitation in June 2025 to serve as Patron through to June 2026.

We are equally pleased that John Bennett OAM, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and The Hon. Tara Moriarty MP, NSW Minister for Agriculture, Tara Moriarty accepted roles as Vice Patrons for the same period.

Our Patrons play an important role in championing Agricultural Shows and supporting the work of Show Societies across the state. We are grateful for their commitment and look forward to their continued support.

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW



John Bennett OAM, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



The Hon. Tara Moriarty MP, NSW Minister for Agriculture



Safety Update – Walcha Incident and Demolition Derby Requirements

AgShows NSW acknowledges the concern following the tragic incident at the Walcha Motorcycle Rally on 15 November 2025, where a derby vehicle left the arena and injured several spectators. Our thoughts are with those affected and with the Walcha community.

We emphasise that this was not an AgShows NSW member-run event and was not conducted under the AgShows NSW Demolition Derby Competition Rules or Operational Guidelines.

While investigations are underway, we encourage members to remain calm and avoid speculation.

This incident serves as an important reminder of the need for strict compliance with the AgShows NSW Demolition Derby Rules, Operational Guidelines, and the broader Demolition Derby Toolbox Suite. These requirements exist to ensure the safety of competitors, volunteers, officials and spectators, and to ensure that the activity remains insurable.

It is essential that all Demolition Derby organisers strictly follow the Toolbox Suite as published on the AgShows NSW website.

Failure to comply means the event will be deemed non-compliant and therefore will not be covered under the AgShows NSW insurance program.

As a direct result of the Walcha incident, the Demolition Derby Toolbox Suite is currently under review. Any updates or changes arising from this review will be communicated to all Member Shows upon completion.

Member societies are reminded to:

- Use only the latest AgShows NSW Demolition Derby Rules
- Follow all required safety, risk and planning controls
- Ensure driver briefings, barriers and arena management meet AgShows NSW standards

We have notified our insurance broker and will update members if any sector-wide learnings or further requirements arise from the investigation.

For questions or support, please contact the AgShows NSW Office.

Demolition Derby Competition Toolbox

Where the Show Society is conducting the Competition, these documents are designed to assist in planning and running your Demolition Derby:

[Official Version Demolition Derby Competitor Rules - Updated 1 July 2025](#)

[Official Version Demolition Derby Operating Guidelines - Updated 1 July 2025](#)

[AgShows NSW Demolition Derby Toolbox Talk - updated 1 July 2025](#)

[Demolition Derby Risk Management Plan Template - Nov 24](#)

[Demolition Derby Arena Layout - Nov24](#)

[Demolition Derby Entry Form Sample Template Word Document - Nov24](#)



Demolition Derby at the Nowra Show | Photo Credit: Howard Mitchell Photography | Instagram@Howiie44

AgShows NSW Cattle Competitions and Insurance

It appears there has been some confusion regarding Cattle Competition entries and insurance requirements.

As outlined in the AgShows NSW / PSC Insurance Activities List (as below), Cattle Competitions are classified as a Category A – Accepted Activity. This means they are automatically covered when conducted by the Show Society or by another party at no charge.

For these activities, Animal Handling and Judging – Large Animals (Cattle / Horses), competitor waivers are required.

Importantly, there is no requirement for cattle competitors to hold or provide their own insurance.

They are already covered under your Group Insurance Program.

If your current entry form asks cattle competitors to supply their own \$20 million Certificate of Currency, we recommend removing this requirement from your schedule and your entry form to avoid further confusion.

[Activity List 2025-2026](#) - lists all activities carried out by Show Societies which are covered by public liability insurance under the program.

Operating ATVs, Quads & Golf Carts on Showgrounds – Insurance vs Safety Requirements

AgShows NSW recently received an enquiry regarding the rules and regulations for operating ATVs, quad bikes, golf buggies and other small vehicles on showgrounds, particularly around the use of helmets and seatbelts.

Following discussion with PSC Insurance, there are no express insurance requirements mandating helmets or seatbelts for these vehicles when used at a show. PSC has confirmed that they prefer to avoid additional prescriptive conditions where possible, recognising the operational pressures already faced by Show Societies.

This means helmets and seatbelts are *not required* from an insurance perspective.

However, risk management obligations still apply, and Show Societies should take reasonable steps to ensure safe operation on showgrounds.

Recommended measures may include:

- **Setting speed limits appropriate to the environment**
- **Ensuring drivers are experienced and competent**
- **Providing inductions for golf carts, side-by-sides and ATVs**
- **Using flashing lights or visibility aids in high-traffic areas**
- **Limiting operation during peak pedestrian movement**

It's also important to note that insurance requirements are separate from road or workplace safety laws, and compliance with relevant NSW legislation remains the responsibility of the operator and Show Society.

AgShows NSW will continue to monitor member queries on this topic and provide further updates if regulatory conditions change.

For further information or clarification, please contact the AgShows NSW Office.

Update: Liability Cover for Unregistered Vehicles at Showgrounds

AgShows NSW and PSC have secured a positive outcome from our Liability insurer regarding the use of unregistered vehicles at Showgrounds. This update outlines the change, how it differs from the previous position, and practical examples for Member Organisations.

The Good News

If an injury occurs at a Show involving an unregistered vehicle, your Liability policy will now respond and provide cover.

This is possible because the insurer has agreed to treat these vehicles as “tools of trade” under the liability wording.

New Position (Current)

1. Liability policy responds in an unregistered vehicle is involved in an injury at the Show.
2. Insurer accepts unregistered vehicles as “tools of trade”, reducing the need for conditional rego in most cases.

Old Position (Previous)

1. Liability policy did not cover injuries caused by an unregistered vehicle if it should have been registered (full or conditional).
2. Shows were required to obtain conditional rego in many grey areas (car parks, parade routes, etc.)

Examples Covered Under the New Rule

- A vintage tractor brought in on a truck and driven into the grounds for display
- A vintage tractor or similar vehicle taking part in the grand parade
- A borrowed gator, side-by-side, or golf cart used for moving equipment around the grounds
- A borrowed vehicle with conditional rego where the declared use doesn't perfectly align

Important Exceptions

This concession does not apply to Show-owned vehicles that are routinely driven on public roads or road-related areas.

Those vehicles must still hold full or conditional registration.

The change is designed to ease the burden on volunteers managing borrowed, display, and incidental vehicles, not to replace registration obligations for vehicles in regular use.

Why This Matters

- Reduced red tape and admin for Shows
- Greater clarity and confidence for committees and volunteers
- Peace of mind knowing the Liability policy will respond if something goes wrong.

Celebrating Ag Shows 2026 – Canberra, 19-21 June

Mark your calendars! From Friday 19 to Sunday 21 June 2026, the Ag Show community will come together at the Canberra Rex Hotel for the biggest and most dynamic Celebrating Ag Shows (CAS26) yet.

This year, we're elevating the program with brand-new Friday breakout sessions, alongside all your favourite CAS highlights — inspiring speakers, practical learning, valuable networking, and a celebration of excellence in our movement.

Why Attend CAS26?

New Friday Breakout Sessions

For the first time, CAS will feature **topic-focused breakout sessions** on Friday afternoon at the Canberra Rex Hotel, offering deeper learning and real solutions. Expect sessions on:

- Modern Show Governance
- Volunteer Recruitment & Retention
- Risk, Safety & Insurance Essentials
- Digital Tools for Small Shows
- Sponsorship & Community Partnerships
- ... and more to be announced.

Inspiring Content

Panels, workshops, debates and yarn circles designed to tackle real challenges and spark fresh ideas for Show Societies of all sizes.

Enhanced Networking

Build meaningful connections with Show Society leaders, volunteers, partners and industry influencers from across Australia.

Speaker Line-Up Coming Soon

We are finalising a strong roster of keynote speakers and specialists covering governance, community engagement, digital innovation and rural leadership. Updates coming soon!

NextGen Drinks – Friday Night

Kick off CAS26 with a relaxed networking evening for emerging leaders and new faces—right at the Canberra Rex Hotel.

Excellence Awards Gala – Saturday Night

Join us for our signature Gala event, celebrating dedication, innovation and excellence across the Ag Show movement.

Prime Location: Canberra Rex Hotel

Located on Northbourne Avenue, the Canberra Rex Hotel offers convenience, comfort and style—perfect for a winter conference in Australia's capital. Everything you need is under one roof.

Make a Weekend of It!

Extend your stay and explore everything Canberra has to offer—National institutions, galleries, the bustling NewActon precinct, the Old Bus Depot Markets, and winter scenery that makes the city shine.

Group 7 and its Member Organisations are working towards a Sunday Brunch and maybe some other exciting news still to be confirmed.

Travel & Accommodation

Getting to Canberra is easy, with frequent flights, reliable coach services, and simple road access.

With CAS26 hosted onsite at the Canberra Rex Hotel, accommodation is just an elevator ride away. Additional nearby hotels and apartments are available via Visit Canberra, Booking.com, Airbnb, and Stayz. Group stays are a popular option for Shows wishing to travel together.

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.

Stay tuned for program details and ticket information – but for now, lock in the dates!

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

Thank you! 123TIX

Animal Nursery Movement Records

Please note: If your show includes activities such as working dog trials involving sheep, or a petting zoo that is *not* operated by a registered business, then any cattle, sheep, or goats present must still be tagged and recorded as livestock movements for the show. These requirements apply regardless of whether the animals belong to committee members, volunteers, or external participants.

To clarify:

1. Animals sourced from committee members or private individuals
 - These animals must be appropriately tagged and included in the movement records for the show.
2. Animals supplied by a registered business (e.g., a commercial animal nursery)
 - The registered business is responsible for its own animals under the *Exhibited Animals Act*, including lodging movement records and reporting requirements.
 - In these cases, the Show does not need to record those movements separately.

Shows are encouraged to confirm arrangements early to ensure correct compliance and accurate livestock reporting.

Cattle Tick Biosecurity Update – New DPI Resource

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has released a dedicated information hub on **Cattle tick requirements for movements in and out of NSW**.

This resource outlines:

- Cattle tick status and regulations in NSW
- Movement requirements for livestock entering or leaving NSW
- Self-certification eligibility and processes
- Updated factsheets and guidance materials for producers, exhibitors and event organisers

This is particularly relevant for shows receiving cattle from interstate or sending exhibitors to other jurisdictions.

👉 **Access the DPI Cattle Tick information page:**
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/biosecurity/animal-biosecurity/cattle-tick-in-nsw>

More factsheets and updates will continue to be added by DPI, so check back regularly and share the link with exhibitors.

Invitation: NLIS & Sheep/Goat eID Briefings for Group Meetings

Attention Group Secretaries — Kristy Garrad from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is seeking the opportunity to attend upcoming Group meetings to speak directly with Show Committee Secretaries and members about their NLIS responsibilities, as well as the upcoming sheep and goat eID implementation changes.

This session would provide valuable guidance, help ensure compliance, and offer a chance to ask questions or raise any challenges individual shows may be experiencing.

Kristy is happy to work around existing meeting schedules. If your Group would like to host a session, please let us know so arrangements can be made. If you have not already taken up this opportunity, we strongly encourage you to do so.

DPI Request for Livestock & Event Details

The NSW DPI would like to hear from Shows about the livestock you expect on your grounds and any livestock events you're running, such as campdrafts or rodeos. Please send this information to Kristy Garard at your earliest convenience – Kristy.garard@dpird.nsw.gov.au

Free Legal Advice for NSW Community Organisations Returns

Great news – Not-for-profit Law provides free legal advice service for eligible NSW-based community organisations.

Short-term funding allows their lawyers to provide support on governance, employment, workplace safety, privacy, cyber risk and more – at no cost – until June 2026.

You can:

 [Check if your organisation is eligible](#)

 [Access free online resources](#)

 [Join upcoming webinars](#)

 [Book customised training sessions](#)

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!

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 McGregor at sarah.mcgregor@ascofnsw.org.au. Thank you!

2026 RASC Conference

Early-bird registration is now open for the 2026 RASC Conference, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 1–5 November 2026 at the Century City Conference Centre.

The conference theme — *“Opportunities of Change in a Connected World – From South Africa to the World”* — will explore leadership, innovation and collaboration across the Commonwealth's agricultural societies.

Highlights include:

- Keynote presentations from leading agricultural and show industry figures
- Dedicated breakout sessions for CEOs and Next Generation delegates
- A three-day pre-conference tour (29–31 October) through Stellenbosch, Swartland and the Winelands, showcasing South Africa's diverse agricultural landscape
- Networking and engagement opportunities with peers from across the Commonwealth

 Early-Bird Registration:

Secure your place early and take advantage of discounted rates:

 [Register Your Attendance Here](#)

Apply Now: Bring Your Show's Flavour to the Big Bush BBQ at Sydney Royal 2026!

The Big Bush BBQ is returning to the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2026, and local show societies across NSW are invited to apply!

This is more than just a chance to fire up the grill—it's an opportunity to showcase your region's stories, raise funds, and celebrate the spirit of rural NSW on one of Australia's biggest stages.

With generous support from the RAS Foundation, there's no cost to your show society to participate.

Being part of the Big Bush BBQ allows your volunteers to connect with urban audiences, promote your show, and share the flavours and produce that make your region unique. It's a brilliant platform to highlight local agriculture, community pride, and the people who bring rural events to life.

 Apply now to represent your region and take part in this exciting opportunity

<https://www.rasnsw.com.au/>

Let's put NSW's best on the big city stage—one unforgettable barbecue at a time!

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: Do I need to qualify at a local show to enter a Group Final?

A: Yes — you may compete in multiple Group Finals while attempting to qualify. However, once you have qualified for the State Final, any further Group Finals you attend are for practice only. You must inform the organisers before competing, and you will not be eligible for placings in those additional Group Finals.

Q: Can I compete in more than one Group Final?

A: Once you qualify for a specific competition at a Group Final, you may only represent that group in that competition for the same year. However, you may compete in another Group Final to try to qualify in a *different* competition category, and if successful, you may represent that group for that separate competition.

Q: If I win or place in a Group Final, can I represent more than one group at the State Final?

A: No — once qualified through a Group Final, you may only represent that group in the same year.

Q: What age or residency restrictions apply to compete?

A: Competitors must be aged 15 to under 25 years on 1 May of the State Final year, and must reside, work, or study full-time in NSW or the ACT.

Q: What happens after I qualify at a Group Final?

A: Once you qualify, AgShows NSW will email you instructions on how to enter the State Final at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Q: Is there a limit to how many times I can win or compete?

A: Competitors who win two State Finals in the same class are not eligible to compete in that class again, and national winners cannot re-enter that class.

What's Coming Up

AgShows NSW Wheat Dinner - 9 Jan

Bowral Show - 10-11 Jan

Pambula Show - 10 Jan

Think Tank, Yatala QLD - 12 Jan

Albion Park Show - 17-18 Jan

Candelo Show - 18 Jan

Eurobodalla Show - 23-25 Jan

Kiama Show - 23-24 Jan

Berry Show - 30-31 Jan

Bundarra Show and Rodeo - 30-1 Feb

Tenterfield Show – 6-7 Feb

Nowra Show – 6-7 Feb

Crookwell Show – 7-8 Feb

Rydal Show - 7 Feb

Uralla Show – 7 Feb

Nimmitabel Show - 7 Feb

Gundagai Show – 13-15 Feb

Glen Innes Show – 13 –15 Feb

Cobargo Show – 13-15 Feb

Kangaroo Valley Show – 13-14 Feb

Maitland Show – 13-15 Feb

Henty Show – 14 Feb

Dunedoo Show – 14 Feb

Oberon Show – 14 Feb

Gunning Show - 15th

ASC Board Meeting - 19 Feb

Canberra Royal Show - 20th to 22nd

Cessnock Show – 20-21 Feb

Guyra Show – 20-21Feb

Ashford Show – 21-22 Feb

Gulgong Show - 21 Feb

Sofala Show - 22 Feb

Bega Show – 27 Feb-1 March

Inverell Show – 27-28 Feb

Newcastle Show – 27 Feb-1 March

Binnaway Show - 28 Feb

Comboyne Show - 28 Feb-1 March
Luddenham Show – 28 Feb-1 March
Rylstone-Kandos Show - 28 Feb

2026 Young Woman Zone Finals

Zone 1 (Kyogle)	14 Feb
Zone 2 (Albion Park)	21 Feb
Zone 3 (Gunning)	28 Feb
Zone 4 (Warialda)	7 Feb
Zone 5 (Mudgee)	24 Jan
Zone 6 (Eugowra)	28 Feb
Zone 7 (Ganmain)	31 Jan

[2026 Competition Guidelines and Forms.](#)

Each year PSC Insurance supports the Young Woman finalists by gifting them a beautiful pearl necklace. We thank them for their generosity!



📌 48th Annual Think Tank – 2026

The Showmen's Guild is pleased to announce the 48th Annual Think Tank, to be held on Monday, 12 January 2026 at the Showmen's Guild Office, 4 Turner Avenue, Yatala.

This annual forum provides a valuable opportunity for meaningful discussion on key issues, innovations, and priorities in the lead-up to the 2026 Show season. All members and stakeholders are encouraged to attend and contribute to shaping a successful year ahead.

📅 **RSVP by Wednesday, 31 December 2025**

✉️ Email confirmations to admin@showmensguild.com.au for catering purposes.

2025 AgShows NSW/Suncorp Bank Dryland Field Wheat Competition – Season Wrap-Up

The 2025 Dryland Field Wheat Competition has drawn to a close following a strong season of

judging across all four regions, Northern, Central, Western and Southern finishing last week.

Across the state, 355 crops were judged, with only 20 wheat crops and 4 durum crops progressing to the Regional Finals—an outstanding achievement for those growers.

A very special thank you goes to Frank McRae, who once again served as our judge across all regions, and to Dave Herbert, who attended our Competition Coordinator. Their expertise and commitment underpin the integrity and success of this competition each year.

New Wheat Sample Competition and Nutrient Testing Support

In 2025, AgShows NSW introduced a new Wheat Sample Competition, open to all growers who reach the Regional Finals. To further support growers' agronomic insights, AgShows NSW has also elected to cover the cost of additional nutrient testing undertaken by Incitec Pivot for all grain samples returned to Farmlink.

Each report will provide:

- Moisture percentage
- Nutrient concentrations (mg/kg or %)
- Key nutrient ratios
- 1000-grain weight (wheat only)
- Seed zinc (Zn) and phosphorus (P) contents (wheat only)
- Nutrient removal scaled to 1 t/ha yield

These results will help growers quantify nutrient removal by multiplying nutrient-per-tonne values by their own crop yield—an invaluable tool for planning next season's nutrient budget. Moisture percentage and 1000-grain weight will also assist growers in calculating accurate seeding rates.

Thank You to Our Valued Sponsors

This competition could not thrive without the support of our long-standing partners. Suncorp Bank, now in its 15th year as a major supporter, once again provided drivers for each regional judging—support that is truly appreciated.

We also acknowledge our other generous sponsors whose contributions make this statewide competition possible: Syngenta, Market Check, Flexi-Coil, Lowes Petroleum, The Land, and Dual Chelate.

Presentation Dinner

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of all competitors at the 2025 Dryland Field Wheat Competition Presentation Dinner, to be held in Dubbo on Friday, 9 January 2026.

2025 National Finals: Young Ag Leaders Shine

The 2025 National Finals brought together outstanding young agricultural talent from across Australia, showcasing impressive skill, dedication and professionalism.

Competitors demonstrated their abilities across livestock judging, handling, presenting and more. We are pleased to share the results from this year's event below:

Beef Cattle Young Judges

- **Winner:** Candina Crowden TAS
- **Runner-Up:** Matilda Sullivan VIC
- **Third Place:** Alexandra Olive QLD

Poultry Young Judges

- **Winner:** Josh Hancock VIC
- **Runner-Up:** Thomas Spencer WA
- **Third Place:** Bryson Lee NSW

Beef Cattle Young Paraders

- **Winner:** Olivia Baker SA
- **Runner-Up:** Charlton Skirving TAS
- **Third Place:** Kaitlyn Barber QLD

Merino Sheep Young Judges

- **Winner:** Tiffany Maestrone VIC
- **Runner-Up:** Jock Johnstone TAS
- **Third Place:** Emi Hughes SA

Merino Fleece Young Judges

- **Winner:** Olivia Baker TAS
- **Runner-Up:** Miranda McGuifficke NSW
- **Third Place:** Libby Hardingham WA

Meat Breeds Sheep Young Judges

- **Winner:** Miranda McGuifficke NSW
- **Runner-Up:** Jacob Scales SA
- **Third Place:** Emma Haupt QLD

Dairy Cattle Young Paraders

- **Winner:** Sienna Ross VIC
- **Runner-Up:** William Philpott SA

- **Third Place:** Patrick English QLD

Dairy Cattle Young Judges

- **Winner:** Luke Gardiner VIC
- **Runner-Up:** William Dudfield TAS
- **Third Place:** Chris Thompson SA
- **Finalists:**

Grain Young Judges

- **Winner:** Caitlyn Grieve VIC
- **Runner-Up:** Heather Walker NSW
- **Third Place:** Victoria Clarke SA



National ASA Rural Ambassadors

- **Winner:** Grace Collins NSW
- **Runner-Up:** Thea Walker WA

Australian Young Farmer Challenge

- **Winner:** South Australia
- **Second Place:** Queensland
- **Third Place:** Victoria



This year's finalists and winners have showcased not only their talent but also their passion for agriculture, serving as role models for the next generation.

Patrick Keast Shield Winner - Victoria

Supporting Regional Communities This Christmas

In October, AgShows NSW joined the RAS Foundation and Good360 Australia to help prepare festive deliveries for regional families in need. Staff and volunteers came together at Good360 to pack pallets filled with toys, books, skincare, and pet products as part of the RAS Foundation's annual Christmas Distribution.

We're delighted to share that these pallets have now been received by 28 Show Societies across the Riverina Murray, Southeast Tablelands and the ACT. These Christmas packs are already helping spread joy to local families and bringing a little extra magic to communities in the lead-up to the festive season.

The initiative is delivered in partnership with Good360 Australia, with all items generously funded through RAS Foundation fundraising events at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

AgShows NSW is grateful to contribute to this meaningful effort and to lend a hand in bringing Christmas cheer to regional communities.



Coming Soon: Our New Website & Member Portal

We're excited to announce that a brand-new AgShows NSW website is on its way! Designed with Show Societies in mind, the updated site will make it easier than ever to access the information, tools, and support you need.

Simplified Navigation

Easily explore dedicated menus for **Competitions** and **Members**, with resources clearly grouped under:

- Society Information
- Running a Show
- Insurance

Enhanced Member Portal

Keep an eye on your inbox! We'll soon send a welcome email with instructions on how to log in and make the most of your new personalised dashboard.

More Resources on the Way

The website will continue to evolve post-launch, with new features and content added regularly.

We Want Your Feedback

Your input will help us ensure the site is easy to use, accessible, and tailored to your needs. After launch, we'd love to hear what's working well—and what we could improve.



Have Your Say: Help Shape the Future of the ATO's NFP newsletter

The Australian Taxation Office is reviewing its **Not-for-profit (NFP) Newsletter** to make sure it continues to meet the needs of the sector — and they're inviting feedback from organisations like ours.

The survey is open to anyone involved in the NFP space, including volunteers, committee members, staff, and advisors. It only takes **2–3 minutes** to complete and is a great opportunity to influence the types of topics, guidance and updates the ATO provides.

Your input will help shape future editions, including the content, format and timing of the newsletter. All responses are anonymous and handled in accordance with the ATO's privacy policy.

 [Have your say here](#)

We encourage all shows and associations to take part and share your thoughts to help improve support for the NFP community.

merry
christmas



Winning crops don't just happen.

syngenta

They take planning, skill, sound advice,
and sometimes a little good luck.

We're proud to sponsor the AgShows NSW,
Suncorp Bank Dryland Field Wheat Competition.

We wish the judges luck, because when it
comes to growing cereals, NSW growers are
second to none. May the best farmer and
their team win.

To find out more about our
range of broadacre cropping
solutions visit syngenta.com.au



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.