



Showtimes

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Celebrating Success & Showcasing the Best

The AgShows NSW Awards celebrate the extraordinary individuals, Show Societies, and innovations that drive the success of agricultural shows across our state. Whether it's you, your Show, someone you know, or another Show that's made an impact, this is your opportunity to highlight their achievements and contributions.

Award Categories in 2025

★ Living Legend Awards | For Individuals

Honouring individuals who've made significant, sustained contributions to AgShows, particularly volunteers with years of dedicated service. Prizes: \$200 per finalist (4), \$500 to the winner.

★ Rising Star Award | For Individuals

Recognising outstanding leadership among those aged 18-45 within the AgShows community. Prizes: \$1,000 to the winner.



★ Resilience Award | For Show Societies

For Show Societies who've shown exceptional perseverance and adaptability in overcoming challenges. Prizes: \$2,000 to the winner.

★ Event/Project Innovation | For Show Societies

Celebrating creative new events or projects that benefit an Agricultural Society. Prizes: \$1,000 to the winner.

★ Technology Innovation | Show Societies

Recognising advancements in technology that improve efficiency, sustainability, or visitor experience. Prizes: \$1,000 to the winner.



Why Nominate?

These awards are a chance to celebrate the dedication, creativity, and resilience that define our AgShows community. Whether you're nominating yourself, a peer, or a Show Society, your nomination helps honour the people, initiatives and ideas that make a difference.

How to Enter

Submit your nominations before Friday 2 May 2025. Entering is simple and straightforward—just answer a few questions online. It's quick, easy, and doesn't require a lot of effort to nominate yourself, your Show Society, or someone deserving!

→ [Click Here to Get Started](#) ←

Awards Presentation

The Awards will be presented at a Gala Dinner during the Celebrating Ag Shows event in Armidale on Saturday, 21 June 2025—a night of fun and celebration!

President's Update

IAFE Conference USA & November Board Meeting

Just back from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, I am inspired by the energy and ideas shared by over 3,200 participants from the USA, Canada, Australia, and the UK. Sessions covered topics like creative storytelling for agriculture, leveraging artificial intelligence in fair management, and recruiting volunteers across generations. While fairs in the US are much larger, the concepts are very adaptable to our Australian context.

It was a privilege to speak on recruitment strategies at the State & Provincial Panel, where our unique challenges resonated with global counterparts. Key issues like volunteer retention, succession planning, and sponsorship were common themes, highlighting the value of collaboration and shared solutions.

I encourage members to attend the [2025 IAFE Conference in Denver, Colorado](#), for inspiration and to bring back valuable insights – particularly larger Shows.

At AgShows NSW this year, we've focused on making changes and decisions aimed at enhancing support for our members, delivering more personalised services, and fostering discussions about the future. These efforts reflect the unwavering dedication of our Directors, Committees, Board and team, who work tirelessly to provide meaningful value to our members and advocate for our member Show Societies.

The first quarter of 2025 promises to be a busy and exciting time, with the Wheat Competition winners announced, the Young Woman Zone Finals & Finalist event, and Young Judges in full swing at the Sydney Royal Easter Show—not to mention a few woollen garments and rich fruit cakes added to the mix! These hallmark competitions are at the core of what we do at AgShows NSW, showcasing the talents, dedication, and traditions that make our agricultural shows such a vital part of our communities.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Showtimes and wish everyone a wonderful festive season and a bright start to the new year!



Jill Chapman
President,
AgShows NSW

Board & Director Matters

New Director Welcome

We welcomed a new Director - Domonique Wyse (Group 15/Next Gen) – onto the Board in November.

2025 Budget

The Board approved the 2025 budget at its most recent meeting and examined strategies for long-term financial sustainability. Annual budget planning focused on identifying cost savings, continuation of our best-practice insurance program, sustaining core competitions and keeping same standards of personalised member services.

Disciplinary Review

The Board has formed a working group to conduct a comprehensive review of the disciplinary rules and drug testing guidelines. This review ensures our policies align with current best practices, reflecting our commitment to fairness, transparency, and compliance.

To support this process, the Board has temporarily suspended reimbursements for drug testing and associated fees until the updated guidelines are approved. Disciplinary hearings will continue as requested by members, provided they meet the eligibility criteria set by the Disciplinary Committee.

New Website & Database

The Board is delighted to share some exciting news—AgShows NSW is developing a brand-new website and database! This upgrade will make it easier than ever to find the information you need and ensure your experience is smooth, simple, and enjoyable. Launching in July 2025, the new website will include:

- Content tailored to your needs—everything you're looking for in one place.
- Useful resources and tools to support you and your show.
- Personalised member dashboards for easy updates and sharing of information.

This is more than just a new website—it's a step forward to better support our members with a modern, user-friendly platform and a wealth of useful information to support your Show Society and Show.

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

Office Holiday Closure 🎄 & Contact Information

The office will close for the holidays on 24 December 2024 and the team will be back on Monday 6 January 2025.

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

1800 025 387 or T: 02 9879 6777

E: asc.admin@ascofnsw.org.au

- Brooke Beales | CEO
- Nicky Seeto | Member Engagement Manager
- Katie Stanley | Member Services
- Sarah McGregor | Member Services – Accounts
- Lyndy Cornwell | Member Services – Insurance

Membership Fees 2025

Membership fees for 2025 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. The minimum membership fee will now be set at \$110.

Historically, membership fees have been calculated as a percentage of the average gate takings over three years. During the pandemic, this was temporarily adjusted to a five-year average to account for disruptions. With operations now returning to normal, we are reverting to the standard three-year average calculation based on gate takings from 2024, 2023, and 2022.

This approach restores balance and consistency and aligns with our long-standing tradition. To ensure accuracy in the calculations, please make sure gate takings are submitted via the Statistical Information form in a timely manner.

These adjustments are essential to maintaining the quality of services and support provided to Show Societies, allowing us to continue delivering programs and advocacy efforts that benefit our members. We have taken feedback on board about past fee changes and are committed to providing transparency and fairness in how fees are calculated.

If you have any questions about membership fees or any finance matters, please call the team – we're here to help.

AgShows NSW Patrons

Each year, AgShows NSW welcomes Patrons who support and celebrate Agricultural Shows and Show Societies. Their expertise and passion help champion our values, and we look forward to their involvement in 2025.

**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**



Successful Advocacy

Addressing ATO Reporting Challenges for Agricultural Shows

At AgShows NSW, we take pride in being a dependable and approachable voice for our members. In collaboration with Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA) and other state bodies, we have been actively advocating for fairer ATO reporting requirements for not-for-profit entities. A significant step forward was achieved at the Senate public hearing on 22 October 2024, where we brought the challenges faced by agricultural shows to the attention of the Senate Committee.

Our delegation included AgShows NSW CEO Brooke Beales & ASA Chair Jacqueline Wilson-Smith (pictured), ASA Executive Officer Katie Stanley, Trevor Beckingham, GM of Queensland Ag Shows, and Jessica Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer of Baradine Pastoral Agricultural and Horticultural Association. Together, we presented real-life examples that highlighted the disproportionate burden these requirements place on members.

We emphasised that the new ATO reporting requirements have created an undue compliance burden on not-for-profit organisations, including agricultural shows, which are vital to the fabric of rural and regional communities. These requirements threaten the sustainability of smaller and medium-sized shows, which depend heavily on the dedication of volunteers.

[Our submission to the inquiry](#) was clear and actionable, focusing on simplifying processes and empowering agricultural shows to thrive. Key recommendations included:

- **Introducing Exemption Thresholds:** Reducing compliance obligations for smaller organisations.
- **Extending Reporting Deadlines:** Allowing more time for shows to adapt.
- **Evaluating Administrative Oversight:** Assessing the feasibility of transferring reporting responsibilities to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

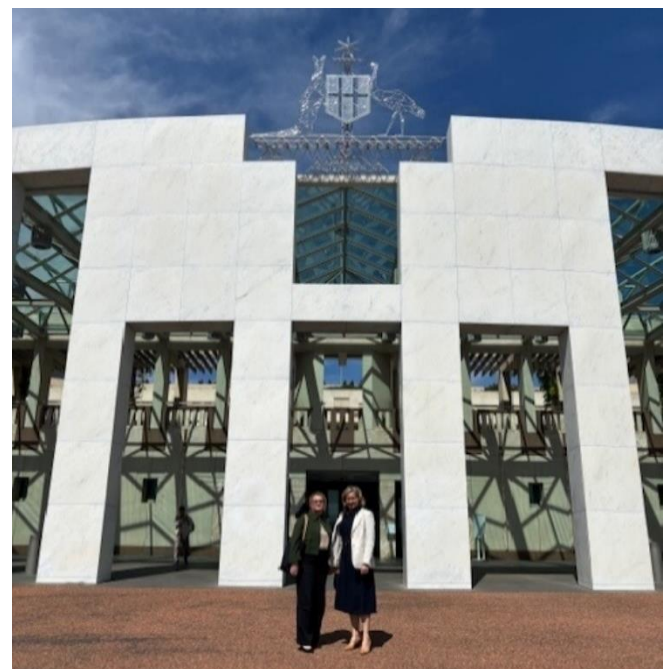
These measures aim to alleviate administrative burdens on small shows with limited resources, enabling them to focus on their community-centered missions.

Our advocacy also underscored the immense contributions of agricultural shows, which inject over \$1 billion annually into the national economy and are powered by 50,000 dedicated volunteers.

This collaborative effort has already led to key recommendations that closely align with our submission, reaffirming the value of working together to create meaningful change. We remain committed to respectfully engaging policymakers to secure practical outcomes that support the long-term sustainability of agricultural shows.

Senate Report Recommendations

- **Introduce Exemption Thresholds:** Exclude smaller, low-risk NFP entities from self-review assessments based on turnover.
- **Extend Deadlines:** Push compliance deadlines beyond 31 March 2025 for more flexibility.
- **Streamline Oversight:** Explore shifting self-review management from ATO to ACNC.
- **Harmonise Guidance:** Align ATO and ACNC materials to simplify tax obligations.
- **Improve Support:** Boost ATO consultation with NFPs and provide better resources for volunteers.
- [Click here](#) to [view the final report](#) from the Senate Committee.



Brooke Beales, AgShows NSW CEO & Jacqueline Wilson-Smith, ASA Chair in Canberra for the Senate hearing.

Demo Derby Resources

Demolition Derby is a popular and thrilling event at many Shows, but without an existing Peak Body set of rules and regulations, ensuring safety and insurance compliance is vital for insurance requirements and safety of all involved.

AgShows NSW has developed some more resources to guide members so you can safely host these high-energy events, meeting insurer-approved standards and protecting your Show Society and visitors. The following information is available on the AgShows NSW website.

- [Current Demolition Derby Rules– updated September 2022](#)
- [Demolition Derby Risk Management Plan Template](#)
- [Demolition Derby Arena Layout Sample](#)
- [Demolition Derby Entry Form Template](#)

Demolition Derby Rule Review

AgShows NSW is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the Demolition Derby Rules to ensure they remain relevant, safe, and compliant with the AgShows NSW insurance program. This review involves extensive consultation with Shows and the Demolition Derby community to ensure the rules are current, practical, and meet safety standards.

[Click here for more information.](#)



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



DID YOU KNOW? Demolition derbies originated in the USA. The first official event is often credited to Don Basile at Carrell Speedway in California in 1947.

New Chainsaw Racing Toolkit

Chainsaw racing combines skill, precision, and is a crowd-pleasing, high-energy competition. For insurance and compliance, running woodchop & chainsaw racing events at Shows need to be conducted under the [Australian Axemen's Association \(AAA\) Competition Rules](#) (which has limited types of competitions) or under the [NSW Chainsaw Racing Rules and Competition Regulations](#) (by Agshows NSW). It's crucial for Shows hosting these events to be clear on which rules you are operating under and who you are working with to ensure safety and compliance, and you are covered by the AgShows NSW insurance program.



The AgShows NSW Rules Regulations covers the following Chainsaw competition types.

- Speed Events
- Fence Post Cutting
- Team Post Rups & Jack and Jill Events
- Vertical Disc Stacking
- Production Classes
- Hot Saw Classes

These events have specific rules and safety requirements, such as accreditation for participants, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and compliance with chainsaw specifications.

To support members, AgShows NSW has developed a Chainsaw Racing Toolkit, [now available on our website](#), for members holding events under the AgShows NSW rules. This resource includes the Chainsaw Racing Rules and Regulations (effective 1 July 2024), FAQs, a Risk Management Plan, sample entry forms and a sample arena layout. These rules are specifically tailored for events not run by AAA.

No matter what event your rules fall under, it's essential to follow the correct rules to host these competitions responsibly.

DPI NSW Traceability Update

2024 has been a significant year for the Traceability Team at DPIRD as we collaborated with AgShows NSW on the Shows Project to enhance livestock movement recording at agricultural shows.

We were fortunate to connect with many dedicated committee members and volunteers during the CAS24 event in Dubbo. Throughout the year, we have been trialing updated checklists and livestock movement record sheets and developing new procedures to streamline these processes.

We sincerely thank everyone who has supported this initiative, especially those who took time out of their busy schedules to trial the new resources. Your feedback and efforts have been invaluable to this project.

Behind the scenes, our team has been working diligently to improve internal processes. We have implemented a new approval process designed to simplify the setup of Sporting Event NLIS accounts for show societies. If you don't have an active Sporting Event account, you can apply online at nlis.com.au or contact us directly via email for assistance.

As we look forward to 2025, we are committed to continuing the development of innovative tools and strengthening our relationships with agricultural shows and their teams.

We kindly ask all shows to confirm whether livestock will be present at their events by contacting us at livestock.traceability@dpi.nsw.gov.au. Additionally, please continue to record the movements of livestock participating in activities such as working dog trials and rodeos.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and dedication to improving livestock traceability in NSW. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead!

Kristy Garard
Kristy.garard@dpi.nsw.gov.au

NLIS Livestock & Traceability Support



☎ 1300 720 405 ✉ livestock.traceability@dpi.nsw.gov.au

PROTECT OUR PRODUCTION

Sheep Tagging

Sheep tagging in New South Wales (NSW) is governed by the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS):

Tagging requirements

All sheep and goats born on or after 1 January 2025 must be tagged with an NLIS accredited electronic identification (eID) tag before leaving their birth property. Sheep and goats that stay on the same property their entire lives do not need to be tagged.

Movement requirements

All sheep and goats moved between properties must have an NLIS movement document, such as a National Vendor Declaration (NVD) or Transported Stock Statement (TSS).

Property Identification Code (PIC)

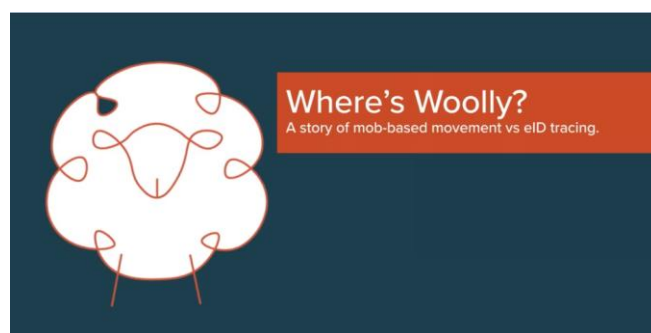
All sheep and goats must have a tag printed with the PIC of the property they are moving from. If the sheep or goat was not born on the property, it must be tagged with a pink post-breeder tag with the current property's PIC.

Database recording

All movements of sheep and goats between properties with different PICs must be recorded in the NLIS database.

Discount program

Sheep and goat producers in NSW may be eligible for a discount on eID tags if they purchase eligible devices between 1 November 2024 and 31 October 2025.



[Click here to watch](#) the informative Where's Woolly video to learn more about the transition to eIDs in Australia.

Good360 Distribution

The RAS Foundation Christmas Distribution initiative, launched in 2018, was created to spread Christmas cheer and give back to the communities that support rural and regional showgrounds. By providing toys and books, we aim to help Show Societies bring joy to those in need, either through their own Christmas events or in partnership with local organizations such as schools, Rotary, or Lions Clubs.

Now in its seventh year, the initiative has brought festive goodwill to 180 rural and regional showgrounds and community halls across NSW.

In 2024, RAS Foundation, Good360 and AgShows NSW proudly distributed Christmas toys and bolts of fabric to 33 Agricultural Shows—18 at the Griffith Collection Point and 15 at Muswellbrook. This distribution effort wouldn't have been possible without the invaluable assistance of **Veronica Cudmore** and **Hayley Parkinson**—a heartfelt thank you to both!

The retail value of the donated goods was approximately \$150,000, ensuring a meaningful contribution to the communities served by these 33 Show Societies just in time for Christmas.

We're already looking forward to continuing this tradition in 2025. Our gratitude goes to **RAS Foundation** and **Good360** for making this initiative a success year after year.

AgShows NSW Team & Good360 Volunteers Pictured below.



150 Years of History Digitised

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) and Ancestry have digitised 150 years of Sydney Royal Easter Show records, now accessible online. This extensive collection, spanning 1869 to 2022, includes names of competitors, prize winners, judges, offering a unique glimpse into Australia's agricultural heritage.

Individuals can now trace their ancestors' involvement in the Easter Show, whether they exhibited prized livestock, showcased crafts, or participated in iconic competitions. This project, made possible by an Ancestry Digitisation Grant, involved capturing 130,000 images over 20 months to preserve and share these valuable records.

The digitised records are available through [Ancestry's platform](#), you can also explore the collection at the [RAS Heritage Centre](#) or through [the RAS Virtual Museum online](#). For further information, contact ndalby@rasnsw.com.au.

2025 Big Bush BBQ

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are open to NSW Show Societies who are ready to fire up the grill and take charge of the BBQ at the Sydney Royal Easter Show for a day. All funds raised going straight back to your Show and community. EOIs are due by **Monday 13 January 2025**. [Download the EOI form](#).

ASA Conference 2025 Reimagining an Icon

Gold Coast 13-16 February 2025

It's not too late to book your tickets to the ASA National Conference - a few early bird tickets are still available at \$299 which include access to the Welcome Reception, two days of conference sessions, and a ticket to the Gala Dinner.

The conference will feature keynote addresses from industry leaders, including Ray Allison from the Indiana State Fair and Paul Grosmann, CEO of R.M. Williams. There will be discussions on balancing tradition with innovation, the impact of artificial intelligence, effective storytelling, financial sustainability, and enhancing show experiences.

Interactive sessions, educational activations, and workshops for emerging leaders are designed to provide practical insights and foster leadership skills.

AgShows NSW President Jill Chapman, Vice President Kelso Looker and CEO, Brooke Beales will be attending the event, and we hope to see some members there.

Brooke will join the debate titled "Poor volunteer retention in Agricultural Shows is caused by generational attitudes toward community involvement, not just 'differences'" as part of the Negative team. Teaming up with Reece Jerrett, the 2023 National Rural Ambassador, Brooke will go head-to-head against David Wilson, President of QLD Ag Shows, and Lachlan Johnson, the 2024 National Rural Ambassador. This debate promises to tackle a critical issue for agricultural shows while injecting some humor and friendly rivalry.

AgShows NSW offered five bursaries to the ASA Conference in 2025. Thank you to everyone who applied. The bursary recipients are:

- Wayne Willmington, Luddenham (Group 4)
- Jeanie Briggs-Seers, Dungog (Group 3)
- Kaye Hamilton, Coffs Harbour (Group 2)
- Carmen Bennett, Barraba (Group 13)
- Denise Whitney, Nimbin (Group 1)

[Click here](#) to find out more about the conference and book tickets.



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Great Ready for Celebrating Ag Shows | Armidale Awaits!

Mark your calendars! Friday 20 & Saturday 21 June 2025 will be unforgettable as Celebrating Ag Shows 2025 (CAS25) promises to bring energy, inspiration, and community spirit to Armidale!

Why Attend?

- ✓ Inspiring Content – Dive into sessions, debates, yarn circles, and panels tailored to tackle challenges, inspire innovation, and supercharge success.
- ✓ Enhanced Networking – Forge connections that matter and collaborate with Show Society movers and shakers.
- ✓ Super Speakers – Keynote speaker [Julia Spicer](#) is locked in and we have experts in Committee Dynamics, Community Engagement, Digital & Technology to announce next year.
- ✓ Pre-Event Celebration – the NextGen Drinks on Friday night is the perfect opportunity to connect, mingle, settle in and get to know everyone.
- ✓ A Night to Remember – Our Excellence Awards Gala is the ultimate celebration of dedication and brilliance in the Ag Show movement.
- ✓ Prime Location – Armidale’s central charm and crisp winter atmosphere make it the perfect regional town to bring everyone together. Rug up!

Make a Weekend of It!

Turn your trip to the conference into a memorable weekend getaway in beautiful Armidale. Known for its rich heritage, stunning scenery, and warm hospitality. We're working to organise a special **heritage tour on Friday afternoon**, where you can explore the town’s iconic historical sites and learn



about its fascinating past. Director Kelso Looker is also excited to host CAS25 his town and show off his Showground and sights.

Getting to Armidale

Getting to Armidale is easy, with regular flights and train services available, or enjoy a scenic road trip through the picturesque New England region.

Where to Stay?

Armidale offers a range of accommodation options to suit every budget and preference. Check out [Visit Armidale](#) tourism site for recommendations, or use platforms like **Booking.com**, which often offer the flexibility of free cancellation up to the date of arrival. Some Groups and Shows booked share houses on **Airbnb** or **Stayz**, making it a fun way to stay together and carpool to the event.

Sponsorship Opportunities

We are excited to welcome back [123 Tix](#) as a sponsor for 2025!

There are still opportunities available to become a Principal Sponsor or Award Sponsor, offering a fantastic chance to align your brand with our celebrated event.

If you know of an organisation interested in supporting us, please contact our office for a sponsorship package or to make an introduction.



Tickets are on Sale early February 2025: Keep an eye on our socials and in your inbox.

2025 Testimonials

“The entire conference was excellent. If I had to choose my favourite parts, I would say the presentations...the ability to catch up with friends... and the networking opportunities were also very valuable. Overall, a stellar effort!”

“Congratulations on a great event. It was well attended and very informative”

“Thank you 🙌 It was an amazing weekend of networking, learning, strengthening and celebrating our Ag Shows!”

“Fantastic event! Thank you to everyone can’t wait for 2025!”

2024 National Finals: Young Ag Leaders Shine

The 2024 National Finals brought together Australia's brightest young agricultural talent to compete in a showcase of skill, dedication, and expertise. From livestock judging to handling and presenting, participants demonstrated their capabilities across multiple categories. Here are the results from this year's event:

Beef Cattle Young Judges

- **Winner:** Mitchell Taylor (NSW)
- **Runner-Up:** Indy Smith (WA)
- **Third Place:** Candina Crowden (TAS)
- **Finalists:** Daniel Ford (QLD), James Barton (VIC), Dakota Gough (NT), Chelsea Causer (SA)

Poultry Young Judges

- **Winner:** Shikira Stebhens (QLD)
- **Runner-Up:** Kollah Cannon (NSW)
- **Third Place:** Eddie Lock (SA)
- **Finalists:** Chelsea Hughes (WA), Josh Hancock (VIC)

Beef Cattle Young Paraders

- **Winner:** Olivia Delaforce (QLD)
- **Runner-Up:** Zoe Skinner (WA)
- **Third Place:** Jack Febey (TAS)
- **Finalists:** James Barton (VIC), Zarah Miller-Thompson (NT), Miley O'Brien (NSW), Lucy Newman (SA)

Merino Sheep Young Judges

- **Winner:** Bateson Pittman (NSW)
- **Runner-Up:** Ashley Meaburn (TAS)
- **Third Place:** Kasey Shields (VIC)
- **Finalists:** Flynn Bolt (WA), Beau Maddern (SA), Grace Hillier (QLD)

Merino Fleece Young Judges

- **Winner:** Brendan Lamont (WA)
- **Runner-Up:** Grace Hillier (QLD)
- **Third Place:** Cally Spangler (TAS)
- **Finalists:** Alison West (SA), Tiffany Maestrale (VIC), Zara Kesby (NSW)

Meat Breeds Sheep Young Judges

- **Winner:** Christine Sutton (NSW)
- **Runner-Up:** Hannah Haupt (QLD)
- **Third Place:** Elsie Johnson (SA)
- **Finalists:** Lexie Heinrich (VIC), Zarah Squires (WA)

Dairy Cattle Young Paraders

- **Winner:** Lucy Newman (SA)
- **Runner-Up:** Sienna Ross (VIC)
- **Third Place:** Alexis Allen (NSW)
- **Finalists:** Rachel English (QLD), Murray Finlay (WA), Edward Dudfield (TAS)

Dairy Cattle Young Judges

- **Winner:** Patrick English (QLD)
- **Runner-Up:** Angus Fraser (VIC)
- **Third Place:** Bridget Liebelt (SA)
- **Finalists:** William Dudfield (TAS), Zoe Morris (WA), Macs Rubain (NSW)

Grain Young Judges

- **Winner:** Emily Taylor (NSW)
- **Runner-Up:** Olivia Delaforce (QLD)
- **Third Place:** Emily Chambers (SA)
- **Finalists:** Zoe Skinner (WA), Ruby Gow (VIC), Matilda Scott (TAS)



Lindsay Brown, Zara Kesby & Jill Chapman

National ASA Rural Ambassadors

- **Winner:** Lachlan Johnson (SA)
- **Runner-Up:** Caitlin Radford (TAS)
- **Finalists:** Lauren Patane (WA), Harrison Lehman (QLD), Louise Hobbs (VIC)

Australian Young Farmer Challenge

- **Winner:** WA Team - Cameron Bruon, Laura Bryant, Shelby Nicholson, Abby Nicholson
- **Second Place:** NSW Team - Claire Liversidge, Katie Beresford, Cooper Mooney, Chloe Sawell
- **Third Place:** QLD Team - Harry Hunter, Fraser McLardy, Becci Roellgen, Ella Christie
- **Finalists:** VIC and SA teams

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.



Mitchell Taylor, Emily Taylor & Miley O'Brien



Bateson Pittman, Jill Chapman & Christine Sutton

\$50 Million Grants Boost

The NSW Government has announced a significant \$50 million investment to support regional communities, aiming to boost local economies and enhance infrastructure. This funding supports upgrades to community facilities, job creation, and projects that meet local needs. If your Show Society has a project idea that could benefit from this investment, now is the time to explore the possibilities.

- **Community Infrastructure Upgrades:** Funding available for improving local facilities and spaces that benefit regional communities.
- **Economic Growth Support:** Initiatives designed to create jobs and stimulate local economies.
- **Community-Led Projects:** Focus on funding projects that address the unique needs of regional communities.

For more details and updates on the program, and eligibility criteria, visit the [NSW Government website](#).

Discover Grants

Finding the right funding can make a world of difference. Here are some great resources to explore grants in NSW, federally, and for not-for-profits:

NSW Grants: Check out [NSW Government Grants and Funding](#) for community and regional funding. The [Crown Reserves Improvement Fund \(CRIF\)](#) offers funding for repairs, maintenance, and upgrades to Crown reserves, including showgrounds

Federal Grants: Visit [GrantConnect](#) for opportunities across all sectors.

Not-for-Profit Resources: Platforms like [Our Community's Funding Centre](#) and [FRRR](#) offer tailored grant support.

Sector Specific: [RAS Foundation Grants](#)

By regularly visiting these platforms, subscribing to newsletters, and setting up alerts, you can stay updated on funding opportunities.

The websites listed above offer free resources tips, templates, and guidance on grant writing. Also visit [Institute of Community Directors](#) and [nonprofitready.org](#) for more assistance.

Farewell to the French's Forest Agricultural and Horticultural Society

A Legacy That Spanned 92 Years

On 13 December 2024, the French's Forest Agricultural and Horticultural Society officially closed its doors following its deregistration by NSW Fair Trading.

Founded in 1932, the Society transformed Crown land on Blackbutts Road into a thriving hub for agricultural and equestrian events. The first competition at the Showground was held in 1947, after years of effort by trustees and volunteers to clear the land. Early fundraising events were hosted at Birch's Oval, with proceeds supporting community causes such as Manly Hospital and the Red Cross.

Over the years, the Showground grew into a community centerpiece. A pavilion built in 1982 hosted a variety of events, and the grounds served as an emergency refuge during the 1994 bushfires, sheltering 100 horses. Despite challenges such as arson in 2003, the committee's resilience preserved much of the Showground's history.

However, urbanisation brought mounting difficulties. Development and parking shortages squeezed the space, and the demolition of the pavilion for a playground in 2018 hindered operations. Annual Shows were paused for several years and resumed briefly in 2022 before the 85th and final show in February 2023.

At the 2023 Annual General Meeting, with the blessing of a 93-year-old patron, the committee voted to wind up the Society. Resources were thoughtfully distributed, with ring equipment donated to the Northern Suburbs (St Ives) A & H Society, ribbons to Riding for the Disabled, and display boards to Luddenham A.H. & I. Society. Remaining funds will support the local RDA.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in the French's Forest Show over the years. Your, tireless dedication and efforts enriched the community and created enduring memories. Though the Society has closed, its legacy will live on in the connections it fostered and the hearts of its patrons, competitors and volunteers.

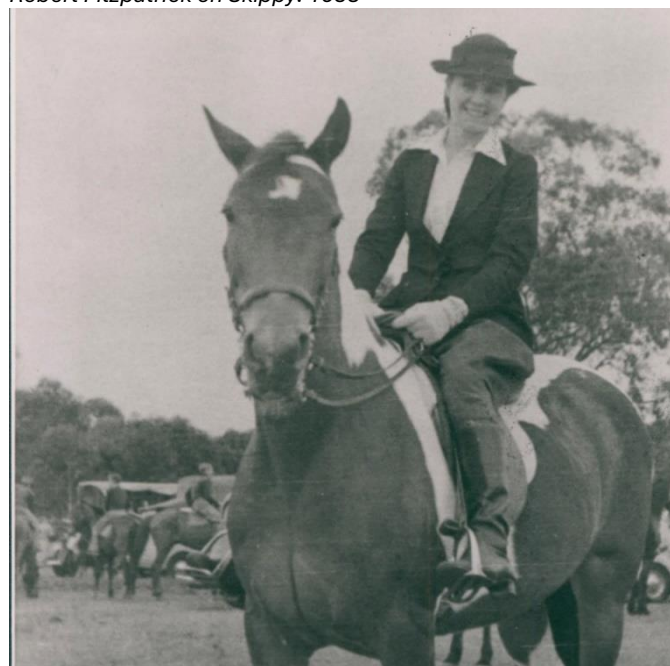
Thank you, French's Forest Agricultural and Horticultural Society, for 92 remarkable years.



French's Forest Showground Pavilion c. 1988



Robert Fitzpatrick on Skippy. 1953



Mrs E. Vaughan at the French's Forest Show. C. 1930

Important Insurance Updates

Waiver Reminder for Online Entry Platforms

If your Show is using an online platform for competition entries, it's essential to include the [AgShows NSW Individual Electronic Waiver Form](#) when setting up with your provider. Do not rely on the general waiver forms offered by the platform, as these may not meet our insurance program requirements. For more details and information on **Electronic Waivers and Online Entries**, [click here](#).

Showmen's Guild Insurance Update

The Board has been working closely with PSC Insurance to address concerns about Showmen's Guild of Australasia (SGA) members using non-APRA approved insurers (UFIs) to reduce premium costs. Recognising the commercial importance of the SGA to member Societies, the Board has adopted a policy to accept SGA's insurers while emphasising the need for careful oversight.



Members are reminded to ensure all ride operators provide current Certificates of Currency before your Show and verify their validity.

Planning New Events or Competitions?

If your Show plans to run events or competitions not listed in the Activity List, you must email us your request so we can seek insurer approval. Adding new activities is typically straightforward. We're here to assist and ensure your event is fully covered.

Insurance Premium Update 2025

Preliminary indications suggest a 5% increase in premiums for the upcoming 2025/26 insurance year (31 May 2025 – 31 May 2026), subject to declared values. Insurance declarations will be sent out in February 2025, so please review and submit your information promptly. An administration fee will also apply as in 24/25.

Insurance Queries? Contact Us Directly

A friendly reminder to direct all insurance-related questions to our office. Our program is designed for all members, and we ensure that any relevant information or queries are promptly relayed. Your question could help others, and we have a dedicated staff member ready to assist you. Reaching out to us directly helps streamline communication and ensures accurate and timely communication with PSC Insurance.

Key Insurance Documents

Keep our handy insurance guides on hand they contain a plethora of information on insurance.

- [Insurance Manual 2024](#)
- [Insurance Essentials 2024](#)
- [Activity List 2024-2025](#)



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

Show Date Book is Digital!

The popular Show Date List will now be published as a digital edition on 6 January 2025 and as a printed edition in July. This balanced approach helps save costs, reduce our environmental impact, and provide flexible access for all members. A small number of printed copies of the January edition will be available at our office — [click here to request yours](#).

To keep your details accurate on our website at all times, send updates to our office ASAP!

Sustain And Strengthen Agricultural Shows

Agricultural Show Dates

JULY 2024

Dryland Field Wheat Competition

The AgShows NSW Dryland Field Wheat Competition has been running throughout the state from October through to the end of November. The judges have seen some outstanding crops during this season and look forward to announcing the winners in Dubbo at the presentation evening on Friday, 10 January 2025. Visit our Facebook page to see some great images of our judges in the field.

Thank you to our valued sponsors: Suncorp Bank; The Land: Dual Chelate Fertilizer; Flexicoil and Lowes BP.

Showmen's Guild Think Tank – Back to Basics

13 January 2024, Yatala

It's not too late to attend the Showmen's Guild annual Think Tank at Yatala, Queensland on Monday 13 January 2025. President, Jill Chapman and Hon. Treasurer & Chair of Commercial, Brett Kenworthy will be attending, speaking and representing AgShows NSW and its members.

Sessions include Foundations for Success: Practical Strategies for Running a Local Show; Show Sustainability: Running Your Show as a Business Revenue Diversification & Engaging Local Communities and Schools; Workplace Health and Safety Best Practices for Showgrounds; Navigating Communication with the Showmen's Guild; Managing Show Finances and a panel discussing challenges and opportunities for Shows.

To Secure Your Seat

- Phone: (07) 3807 0011
- Email: admin@showmensguild.com.au
- Please [click here](#) for the program.



Hold It Down! Keep Gazebos and Umbrellas Show Safe

We've all been there—those blustery days on the Showground when the wind is howling, flags are snapping, dust swirls through the air, hats are sailing off heads, and kids are in tears as their helium balloons drift toward the clouds. The stakes couldn't be higher (yes, pun fully intended).



Unsecured gazebos and umbrellas can easily be lifted by gusts of wind, especially in open areas. A flying gazebo or umbrella can cause injuries, damage vehicles, or disrupt the event. Prioritising safety not only prevents accidents but also ensures a positive experience for all.

Make sure you do the following and/or communicate safety measures to your exhibitors in information packs.

Weights Count: Use sandbags, water weights, or purpose-built weights to anchor legs. 15-20kg securely attached not just resting. **Tip:** Your local gym might have some old weights handy!

Pegs Matter: Invest in 30cm heavy-duty pegs instead of relying on the lightweight ones often supplied with gazebos. Hammer them in at an angle, splayed outward (∖ / or X) for maximum stability. **Tip:** Have a rubber mallet handy!

Straps & Braces: Secure your structure to nearby fixed points using durable straps. Don't tie it to other equipment. **Tip:** Additional poles or braces can increase stability, particularly for larger gazebos.

Use sites like [Willy Weather](#) to monitor wind speeds and advise stallholders accordingly.

Member Q&As

We get a lot of interesting calls to the office, so we thought we'd share a few with you...

Q: Do I need a license to play music on my main arena during my event?

A: Yes, a license is required to play music on your main arena or any public space during your event. This is considered a public performance, which is legally different from private use. A licence ensures compliance with copyright laws and supports the artists and creators of the music. You can obtain a licence through OneMusic Australia - 1300 162 162.

Q: Is a volunteer/unpaid Showjumping course designer covered under the Show Society's insurance?

A: Volunteer workers' premiums are part of the AgShows NSW insurance program, ensuring protection for individuals performing roles on behalf of the Show. Course designers need to be Equestrian Australia accredited paid or not.

Q: We have a new event at the Showground with about 2,000 attendees anticipated, which was not included in our insurance declaration in March. What do I do?

Your public liability insurance is designed to protect your Show Society against claims for injury or property damage during events, but it's crucial that the policy reflects accurate information. The number of people on the grounds directly affects the level of risk covered.

Since this event wasn't included in your March declaration, you'll need to contact the AgShows NSW office to update your information. This ensures that the new event and expected crowd are properly covered. For events held regularly, it's important to review and update attendance numbers in your annual insurance declaration to maintain adequate protection.

Photography at Shows

Q: Can we include a clause specifying that photos taken at the Show are the property of the Show and can be used for social media, advertising, and promotions, and are there any potential issues with this?

A: It's essential to manage photography responsibly, respecting both copyright laws and attendee privacy. Here's what you need to know:

Waivers: Photography waivers should not be expanded to cover all Show patrons. Waivers are designed for event competitors and must remain clear and specific to maintain their legal enforceability.

Ownership: Ownership of photographs depends on the photographer's role. Independent photographers retain copyright unless hired under a contract specifying otherwise. It's best for Shows to ensure contracts explicitly state that the Show retains ownership or a perpetual license to use the images.

Notifying Visitors: To ensure transparency, you could implement these practices:

- **Signage:** Place notices at entry points informing patrons about photography and how to opt out.
- **Announcements:** Use verbal reminders throughout the event.
- **Program Notices:** Include photography information in schedules and ticket terms.
- **Opt-Out Options:** Provide wristbands or badges for patrons who don't want to be photographed.

Preventing Commercial Misuse

- **Terms of Entry:** Clearly state that photos taken at the Show are for personal use only, with commercial use requiring written permission.
- **Monitoring:** Train volunteers or staff to identify and address unauthorised commercial photography.

Consent for Minors: Always obtain parental or guardian consent before using photos of minors for promotional purposes. Written consent is recommended, especially for publicly distributed materials.

AgShows NSW Signage: AgShows NSW gate entry signage, distributed in 2016, outlines photography restrictions. These signs remain valid and address amateur photography permissions, ensuring patrons are not inconvenienced and consent is obtained. If your Show doesn't have these signs, contact the AgShows NSW office for replacements.

By adhering to these guidelines, you can ensure that photography at your Show is both legally compliant and respectful of your patrons' rights. For further assistance, contact the AgShows NSW office.

Member Survey Insights

Thank you to everyone who participated in the **2024 Member Survey**—we appreciate your thoughtful feedback! The response was good, and the results were presented to the Board in November to guide future priorities.

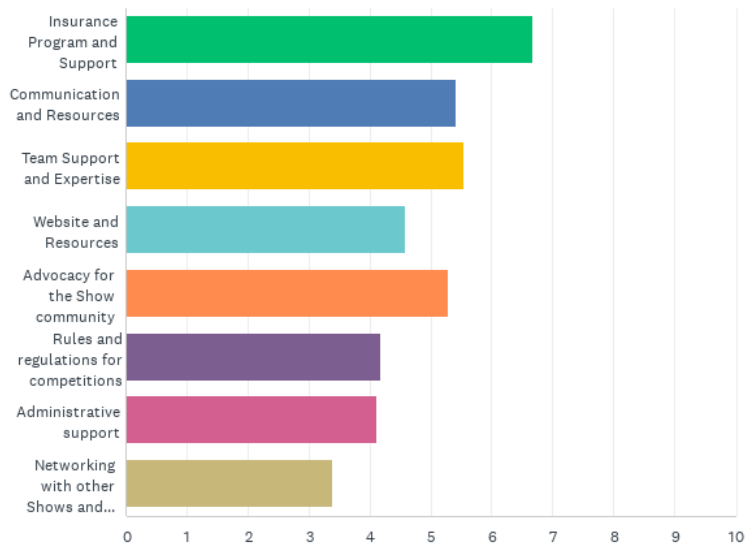
The 2024 Member Survey revealed several key trends that reflect the needs and priorities of AgShows NSW members:

- Strong Valuation of Core Services:** Members highly value essential services like the Insurance Program and Support, Communication and Resources, and Team Support and Expertise. These areas consistently ranked as the most important aspects of AgShows NSW’s support.
- Focus on Volunteer Support:** A significant trend was the need for better Volunteer Induction and Support, highlighting the ongoing challenge of recruiting and retaining volunteers for shows.
- Increased Demand for Grants:** Members identified Grants and Funding Assistance as a critical area where more support is needed.
- Judges and Steward Education** to enhance event quality and professionalism.
- Youth and Community Engagement:** There’s a growing focus on Youth Engagement and Education, with members expressing interest in initiatives to attract younger generations and strengthen ties within the community.
- Operational Improvements:** Requests for help in Event and Show Management and Marketing and Promotion indicate a desire for resources to improve event planning and attendance.

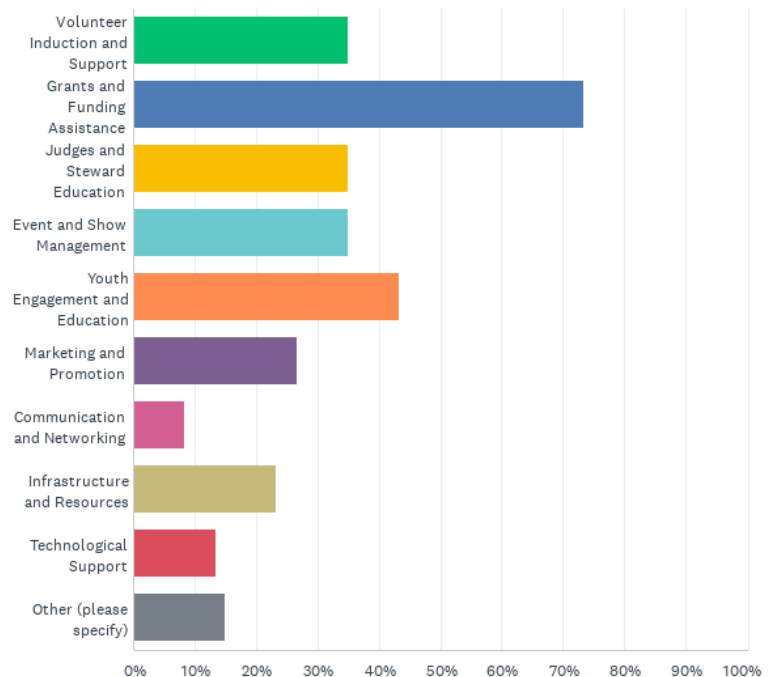
We’re committed to addressing your suggestions and ensuring we continue to support your Show Society effectively.

We offered a few prizes for those who completed the survey – winners are Dave Murray (Sofala), Felicity Nolan (Forbes) and Stacey Perry (Wentworth).

What are the top three things you value most about AgShow NSW?



What are the top three things AgShows NSW could do better/more of to help?



Avian Flu Update

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has confirmed that unless a Show is located within current emergency zones ([see here](#)), no specific biosecurity requirements apply. However, common-sense biosecurity protocols should always be followed.

Show Societies are encouraged to refer to the [National Biosecurity Manual for Exhibition Poultry](#) for guidance to ensure best practices are in place.



Key Dates 2025

Mon 6 Jan	AgShows NSW Office Open
Mon 6 Jan	Digital Date Book available
Fri 10 Jan	AgShows Wheat Dinner
Mon 13 Jan	Showmen's Guild Think Tank – Yatala, Qld
Sun 26 Jan	Australia Day
Wed 5 Feb	CAS 2025 Tickets on Sale
Sat 8 Feb	Young Woman Zone 4 Final @Barraba
Sat 8 Feb	Young Woman Zone 5 Final @Muswellbrook
Wed 12 Feb	2025/26 Insurance Declarations Issued
13 – 16 Feb	ASA Conference, Gold Coast
Sat 15 Feb	Young Woman Zone 2 Final @Kiama
Sat 22 Feb	Young Woman Zone 7 Final @Griffith
Sat 1 Mar	Young Woman Zone 1 Final @Kempsey

Sat 8 Mar	Young Woman Zone 6 Final @Dubbo
Fri 14 Mar	2025/26 Insurance Declarations Due
Sat 15 Mar	Young Woman Zone 3 Final @Nimmitabel
Mon 7 Apr	Wool Article Garment Judging
Wed 9 Apr	Young Woman – Finalist Dinner, Sydney
Fri 18 Apr	Good Friday
Mon 21 Apr	Easter Monday
Fri 11 Apr	Sydney Royal Easter Show opens
10 – 19 Apr	Young Judges Competitions at the Sydney Royal Easter Show
Sun 13 Apr	Young Woman announcement at the Sydney Royal Easter Show
Tue 22 Apr	Sydney Royal Easter Show closes
Fri 25 Apr	ANZAC Day
1 May	New edition of the Country Show Cookbook out
2 May	AgShows NSW Awards Entries Close

New South Wales is gearing up for a vibrant season of agricultural shows. Between January and March 2025, a total of 65 shows are scheduled across the state. The first Shows of the year are: Bowral Show – 11 & 12 January and Pambula Show on 11 January 2025.

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

Did You Know? Australia's First Agricultural Society Was Born on New Year's Day 1822.

The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania was established in Hobart Town on 1 January 1822. The Van Diemen's Land Agricultural Society, now.



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.

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