



Showtimes

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Your Voice Helps Guide Priorities

At the Celebrating Ag Shows Conference in 2024, we asked members what they value most about AgShows NSW and what they'd like to see us do more of. Your feedback is crucial as it helps guide our priorities and ensures we remain focused on delivering value to you. Here's what you said:

What You Liked:

- **Insurance Program & Support:** Members appreciate the comprehensive insurance and support, ensuring safe and secure events.
- **Communication & Resources:** Regular updates and resources keep members informed and prepared, helping them navigate the complexities of organising successful shows.

- **Team Expertise:** The Directors and team are trusted for their deep industry knowledge, always available to provide guidance and support.

- **Advocacy:** Members value our efforts in representing their interests, whether in securing funding or advocating for industry needs at the highest levels.

What You Want More Of:

- **Volunteer Support:** More resources and training to assist in managing the crucial volunteer workforce.

- **Funding Assistance:** Increased help with navigating grant applications and securing additional financial support for shows.

- **Youth Engagement:** More initiatives to attract and educate the next generation, ensuring the future of agricultural shows.

- **Event & Show Management:** Enhanced support and advice for organising successful and memorable events.

- **Judges & Stewards Education:** Expanded training opportunities and resources for judges and stewards to maintain high standards in competitions.

Here's How You Can Help Us Serve You Better: We are continuously evolving to meet your needs, but we can't do it alone. Your feedback plays a critical role in shaping the direction of AgShows NSW. We want to hear from you. Take a moment to complete our survey and share your thoughts on what we're doing well and where we can improve. We might even have a few prizes on hand for those who provide their feedback!

[Click this link](#) or scan the QR code to share your feedback and help shape the future of AgShows NSW.



President's Update

Royals of the Commonwealth Conference – Edinburgh & August Board Meeting

I had the privilege of attending the Royals of the Commonwealth Conference with the support of AgShows NSW. The event provided a valuable opportunity to learn from international counterparts and explore critical issues facing agricultural societies.

The first day focused on the CEO component, where discussions covered topics such as exposition centre design, risk management, and the role of boards. We also examined global differences in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.

The remaining days brought together all attendees, including Next Generation representatives, to discuss key themes: relevance, adaptability, sustainability, and connection. These sessions underscored the vital role that agricultural societies play in linking rural economies, food production, and community development, while highlighting the need to adapt to evolving environmental and financial challenges.

The next RASC Conference will be held in South Africa from 1-6 November 2026, and I encourage those interested to start planning.

The August Board Meeting held at Agricultural House in Sydney was very fruitful. Key discussions included financial sustainability, the ongoing work of the Constitution Committee, along with brand and website development. The Board also debriefed on the recent Celebrating Ag Shows event and brainstormed ideas for 2025. A range of governance matters were also addressed, with a focus on strengthening compliance and supporting the future of agricultural shows.

The conference and Board meeting both highlighted the importance of collaboration and adaptability to ensure the future of the show movement.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Showtimes and encourage all members to complete the member survey. All the best to those holding their Shows in the coming months.

Jill Chapman
President



Board & Director Matters

Office Bearers

At the Board Meeting following the AGM on Sunday 2 June 2024, the Board re-elected the following Office Bearers - Jill Chapman (President), Jody Nelson-Gleeson (Vice President), Kelso Looker (Vice President), David Peters (Hon. Secretary) and Brett Kenworthy (Hon. Treasurer).

New Governance Committee

The Constitutional changes agreed to at the AGM saw the creation of a new Governance Committee (replacing the Executive Committee and the Advisory Committee). The Governance committee of nine includes the Office Bearers and Directors plus - Stephen Hatty, Catriona McAuliffe, Andrew Hall and Bob Robertson – elected by the Board onto the committee.

Welcomes & Farewells

We welcomed four new Directors onto the Board - Justin Rumore (Group 3), Heather Bush (Group 9), Mitch Scott (Group 10) and Kim Rhodes OAM (Group 13).

Former President, Peter Gooch completed his time on the Board in June – a notable tenure of 11 years. Director Isabel Hawken has resigned from the Board. We thank them 🙏 both for their participation and contribution over many years.

Celebrating Milestones

We are proud to celebrate two remarkable milestones at AgShows NSW. Congratulations to Katie Stanley for 10 years of dedicated service as a valued team member, and Helen Kirton for an incredible 25 years of leadership as a director. We look forward to many more years of their contributions at AgShows NSW!

Office Contact Information

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

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

Get Ready! Celebrating Ag Shows 2025 in Armidale

We are excited to announce that the next Celebrating Ag Shows event and Awards is scheduled to take place in Armidale on **Friday 20 & Saturday 21 June 2025**. Building on the success of our 2024 event, which was energetic and informative, we are excited to make 2025 even better!

Reflecting on 2024: A Resounding Success

Our 2024 event in Dubbo saw 145 attendees at the Gala Dinner & Awards and 140 participants in the Saturday conference, representing 58 shows across NSW. The positive feedback was overwhelming... *“The entire conference was excellent. If I had to choose 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!”*

The Excellence Awards Dinner sponsored by **123 Tix** was a highlight, where we celebrated the excellence and dedication of those who contribute so much to the show movement (see page 15).

Why You Should Attend in 2025

We’re taking your feedback to heart and making improvements to the 2025 Conference in Armidale. Expect more interactive sessions, deeper engagement opportunities, and an enhanced overall experience. Here’s why you can’t miss it:

- **Inspiring Content:** We’re curating a lineup of presentations and workshops that will address key topics to help members market shows, to assist in show operations, to tackle volunteers and committees.
- **Enhanced Networking:** Including more opportunities for interaction to help build connections that will support your show’s success.
- **A Central Location:** Armidale offers a central and accessible location for our members. Plus, we’ve been promised by Director Kelso Looker, the weather will be perfect 🌞.
- **Celebrating Excellence:** The Excellence Awards Gala will once again be the crown jewel of our event, recognising and honouring the outstanding contributions of individuals and shows across the state.

Continuous Improvement: We’re taking your feedback to heart, introducing more interactive sessions, and considering extending the conference to allow for deeper engagement



If you've come across an inspiring speaker or have a great idea for a relevant session topic, we'd love to hear from you! Please send in your suggestions.

Mark Your Diary!

Save the date: 20-21 June 2025, in Armidale – book some accommodation today. Whether you’re a returning participant or joining us for the first time, this event promises to be a wonderful experience. Stay tuned for more details on registration and the exciting program we have planned

Welcome back sponsor:



[Photos from CAS 2024](#)

You can view, download, and share the wonderful photo highlights from CAS 2024 by [clicking this link](#). Thanks to Emily Josephine Photography for capturing the event and allowing all to share these images.

CAS 2025 Keynote: Julia Spicer OAM

We are thrilled to announce that Julia Spicer OAM will be delivering a keynote address at CAS 2025. Julia is a leading voice in sustainability and regional development, bringing a wealth of experience in helping rural communities thrive.

As founder of two impactful organisations, [Engage & Create Consulting](#) and [The Goondiwindi Business Hub](#), Julia has been instrumental in supporting regional businesses and fostering innovation across Australia.



It’s a session we’re looking forward to!

New NFP Reporting Requirements - Update

We've been working behind the scenes, engaging with the ATO, ACNC, and other experts to fully understand the impact of the changes to Not-for-Profit (NFP) reporting requirements on our members. An email will be sent to you shortly, providing an update on the changes and key information to help you ensure your Show Society remains compliant and maintains its tax-exempt status.

While the ATO has offered an extension until 31 March 2025 for lodging the 2023-24 return, it's beneficial to begin preparations now.

To support you through this transition, we are setting up a dedicated page on our website. This page will feature comprehensive resources, including FAQs, step-by-step guides, quick links to webinars, and other essential tools. These resources are designed to help you navigate these changes with confidence.

If your committee has access to professional advice or if your Show Society engages tax, accounting, or other financial services, we also recommend talking to them as well.

If you have any urgent questions or concerns in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We're here to support you every step of the way. Keep an eye on your inbox for the email and stay tuned for further updates.

If you want to understand more about why the reporting requirement has changed you could listen to this [20 minute 'With Interest' podcast from CPA](#) or watch this [40 minute webinar from ACNC](#).

Smoking & Vaping on Showgrounds Guidelines

AgShows NSW has written some guidelines to help members manage smoking & vaping on Showgrounds and ensure compliance with current laws. These guidelines provide instructions on designated smoking areas and enforcement strategies. [Click here to view or download](#) the guidelines and ensure your Show and events meets all legal requirements for smoking & vaping control.



Vaping Reforms: What You Need to Know

The Australian Government's national vaping reforms, effective from 1 July 2024, introduce important changes that impact what the public can and cannot do. These reforms aim to control the sale and use of nicotine vaping products and ensure public health is protected. As an event organiser, it's essential to ensure that both attendees and vendors comply with these new rules.

For attendees' nicotine vaping products can only be purchased with a prescription, and non-nicotine vaping products must meet strict packaging, labelling, and flavour restrictions. Additionally, smoking and vaping is only permitted in designated smoking areas, aligning with existing smoking laws. Make sure to communicate these rules to your attendees by placing clear signage at the event.

For any vendors at your Show, it's crucial that they comply with the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) standards. Vendors must ensure that nicotine vaping products are only sold with a valid prescription, and that all vaping products meet the required packaging and labelling guidelines.

Here's what you should keep an eye out for:

Vendor Compliance: Ensure any vendors selling vaping products are following the new laws, checking IDs, and requiring prescriptions for nicotine products.

Designated Areas: Clearly mark smoking/vaping areas and ensure that attendees follow these rules.

Product Safety: If vaping products are sold at your event, comply with the new safety and packaging standards.

Clear Conditions of Entry: Include vaping and smoking restrictions in your conditions of entry through ticketing, gate signage, and your website, ensuring attendees are aware of the rules before entering the event.

For more information on how these reforms affect your Show, [visit the Therapeutic Goods Association website](#).

Holding Poultry Shows Amidst Avian Flu Outbreak

We have received numerous enquiries from Shows regarding the decision to proceed with Poultry Shows amid the current Avian flu outbreak. We understand your concerns and the importance of making well-informed decisions.

We have been in communication with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) NSW regarding this issue. Although they have not issued a specific directive to cancel Poultry Shows, they have provided essential resources to guide your decision-making process.

Our advice is as follows:

- Carefully review the DPI resources available on our website here then
- Assess the risks associated with holding a Poultry Show at your Showground
- If you determine that your Show can fully comply with the recommended biosecurity measures and guidelines, you may decide to proceed
- However, if compliance is not feasible, we advise erring on the side of caution and refraining from hosting a Poultry Show.



Your commitment to biosecurity is paramount. We appreciate your diligence and cooperation in this matter. Should you have any further questions or require additional guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will continue to stay in close communication with DPI NSW and will promptly update you with any new information.

A NSW DPI booklet regarding holding poultry shows was posted out with the July 2024 Show Date Book. Contact the office if you'd like an additional copy.

For more information look at the [Resource > Biosecurity section](#) on our website or the animals and livestock section on the NSW DPI website or at outbreak.gov.au.

Don't Delay... Send Your Data Today!

Thank you to the Show Societies who have already submitted their National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) forms, Horse Competition Results, and Statistical Information for 2024.

If you have held your Show and haven't done so yet, please email your data to Nicky Seeto nicky.seeto@ascofnsw.org.au as soon as possible. We appreciate your cooperation!

NLIS forms can be found in the [Resource > Biosecurity section](#) on our website.



Geoff Mayo Shield Winner



Congratulations to Group 5 for once again being awarded the prestigious Geoff Mayo Shield for the most outstanding AgShows NSW Group!

AgShows NSW Suncorp Bank Championship Dryland Field Wheat Competition

The AgShows NSW Suncorp Bank Championship Dryland Field Wheat Competition is an annual event recognising excellence in wheat farming across New South Wales. The competition is judged across four regions (Northern, Central, Southern, and Western), with the top crops from each region advancing to the state final. This competition not only highlights the skill and innovation of local farmers but also serves as a platform for industry networking and knowledge sharing.

[Click here for information and recording sheets](#) or contact the AgShows NSW office for information.

Cut off dates for judging:

- Northern Region | 9 October 2024
- Western Region | 23 October 2024
- Central Region | 30 October 2024
- Southern Region | 20 November 2024

Sponsorship is vital to ensuring the ongoing success of this competition – thank you to Suncorp, Flexicoil, Dual Chelate, Lowes Petroleum & The Land.

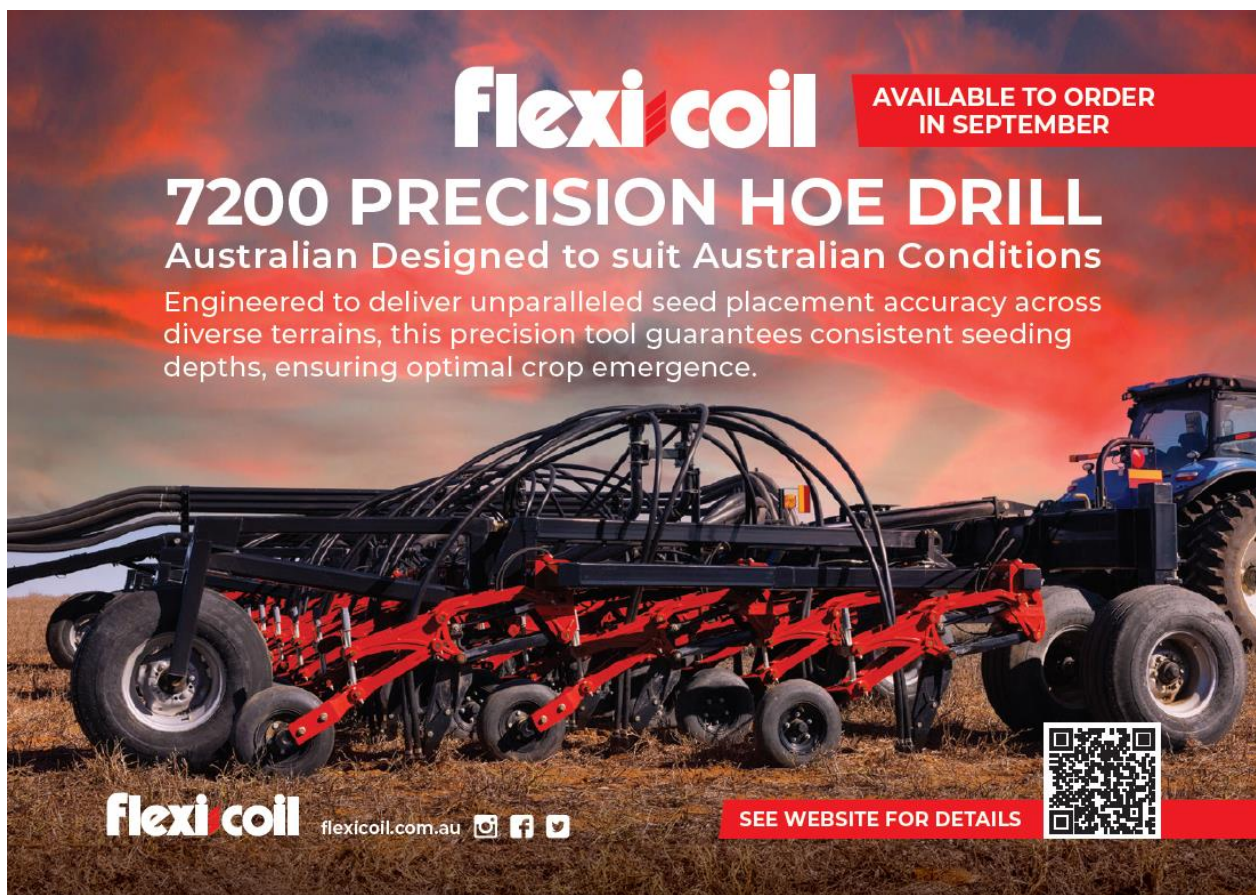
Crown Lands Review

AgShows NSW is advocating for vital improvements to the Crown Land Management Act 2016, with key issues expected to be addressed in NSW Parliament by the end of the year. We encourage members to share our stance with local MPs:

Key recommendations include:

- Cultural Importance – Recognise and prioritise the heritage value of agricultural shows in land decisions.
- Showground Definition – A clear legal definition will simplify decision-making for show societies and land managers.
- Longer Tenure – Secure five-year leases to allow for better planning and investment.
- Simplified Licensing – Easier agreements will encourage infrastructure investment.
- Volunteer Support – Streamlined processes to keep volunteers engaged.
- Infrastructure – Maintain showground facilities for both show and community use.
- Mediation – A formal process to resolve conflicts between land managers and show societies.

For a two-page summary of our submission, [click here](#). Let's ensure our voices are heard!







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Young Judges & Paraders Gear Up for National Finals

On the weekend of 3–4 August, the 2024 NSW National Finalist team for Young Judges & Paraders gathered in Dubbo for a development weekend hosted by AgShows NSW.

Led by former director Geoff Bush, the team focused on key skills like microphone use and justifying their placings. Competitors also received one-on-one mentoring in their specific competition categories. The team will compete at the Melbourne Royal Show from 28 September – 2 October 2024. The Poultry competition took place at the Adelaide Royal Show on 1 September, due to Avian Influenza restrictions. Well done to Kollah Cannon on 2nd place.

This prestigious competition has been a resounding success in upskilling young agricultural leaders, boosting their confidence, and preparing them for the industry. Through hands-on experience and mentoring, participants refine their judging abilities and build critical thinking skills, equipping them with the knowledge to meet industry standards with confidence and competence

Team members: Beef Young Judge – Mitchell Taylor
★ Beef Parader – Miley O'Brien ★ Dairy Young Judge – Macs Rubain ★ Dairy Parader – Alexis Allen
★ Merino Sheep Young Judge – Bateson Pittman
★ Merino Fleece Young Judge – Zara Kesby ★ Meat Breeds Sheep Young Judge – Christine Sutton
★ Poultry Young Judge – Kollah Cannon



The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman – In the Zone!

We're excited to announce the dates and locations for the 2025 and 2026 The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman program Zone Finals! This prestigious program highlights the leadership, confidence, and community involvement of young women across NSW

2025

Zone 1 – Kempsey: 1 March

Zone 2 – Kiama: 15 February

Zone 3 – Nimmitabel: 15 March

Zone 4 – Barraba: 8 February

Zone 5 – Upper Hunter: 15 February

Zone 6 – Dubbo: 8 March

Zone 7 – Griffith: 22 February

2026

Zone 1 – Kyogle: 14 February

Zone 2 – Albion Park: 21 February

Zone 3 – TBC

Zone 4 – Warialda: 7 February

Zone 5 – Mudgee: 24 January

Zone 6 – Eugowra: 28 February

Zone 7 – Ganmain: 31 January

A big thank you to all the Show Societies that have stepped up to host the Zone Finals for the 2025 The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman program! We truly appreciate your efforts and dedication in making these events possible.

Show community mark your diary and look out for when tickets go on sale—don't miss out on supporting your local finalists!

2025 Zone Final Forms

If you have a Young Woman who will be attending Zone in 2025 and you have not sent Forms A, B, C and a photo of your Young Woman to Nicky Seeto nicky.seeto@ascfnsw.org.au please do so ASAP!

Young Women Development Days: Get Ready for Zones!

We are pleased to announce upcoming Young Woman Development Programs, designed to help entrants prepare for the Young Woman competition at the Zone Level. These programs offer invaluable experiences, sessions to help participants excel in the competition, wonderful networking opportunities, and sometimes friends for life.

Show Societies can send along young women who are either considering entering the competition, or those preparing for their local competitions and 2025 Zone Finals. These sessions focus on a variety of key topics, such as public speaking, presentation and personal branding, social engagement, and navigating professional conversations.

They are also an excellent opportunity for any young woman looking to boost their career prospects and build self-confidence in a supportive environment.

Upcoming Events:

Nowra Young Woman Development Day

- Sunday, 3 November 2024

For more information, click [\[here\]](#) or contact Jessica Apperley at showgirl@nowrashow.org.au.

Dubbo Young Woman Development Weekends

- 23 and 24 November 2024
- 4 and 5 January 2025

For more details, contact Sue Hood at secretary@dubboshow.org.



The Inaugural Pearl Picnic Condobolin 24 August 2024

The inaugural Pearl Picnic was held at the Condobolin Show on Saturday, 24 August 2024, to recognise and celebrate the alumni of the Showgirl/Young Woman movement.

With the sun shining brightly, over 30 women from all over NSW travelled to Condobolin, uniting in a spirit of camaraderie and shared experiences. The event was more than just a reunion; it was a celebration of the incredible bond shared among the participants, many of whom have become lifelong friends. The day felt like a large family gathering. Even Channel 7 News was there to capture the event (check out our Facebook page to see the news bulletin)

The Pearl Picnic was a true celebration, with each lady bringing a plate to share, creating a wonderful feast that embodied the spirit of community. There were bubbles flowing from Mumm champagne, and the Condobolin bar was as lively as ever, adding to the festive atmosphere. It was a perfect blend of friendship, laughter, and reflection on the journey these women have shared.

A heartfelt thank you from all the women went out to Lyndsey Douglas and Florance McGufficke for their exceptional efforts in organising the event, and to the Condobolin Show Society for hosting such a memorable occasion. A special thanks also goes to Carol-Ann, Condobolin Show Secretary for going above and beyond to fit this event into an already packed schedule.

Since its inception in 1962 as the Miss Showgirl Competition, the Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition has been a cornerstone of the agricultural show movement in NSW. While the name and scope have evolved, the core mission remains as vital as ever—to empower young women to step outside their comfort zones and make a meaningful impact in their communities.

During the day, AgShows NSW filmed and interviewed 10 remarkable former entrants, now leaders in agriculture, community development, and beyond. Their stories highlight how truly impactful this competition is—fostering personal growth, confidence, and a deep sense of community.

As we continue to support the next generation of women in rural, regional, and remote areas, it's inspiring to see how this competition lays the foundation for bright futures. Thanks to these incredible women, the future of our communities is in strong hands!

Keep your eye on our Facebook page! The interviews from the event will be used to craft an inspiring promotional video aimed at encouraging more women to enter the Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition. The stories and experiences shared by past participants will showcase the personal growth and opportunities this program offers. Additionally, a highlights reel from the Pearl Picnic will be released soon, capturing the joyful moments and strong connections from the day.

An inspiring group of alumni from the Showgirl/Young Woman Program



Queensland Country Life Showgirl Awards

This year, Jody Nelson-Gleeson, Competitions Committee Chair & Nicky Seeto, Young Woman Coordinator – AgShows NSW, and Domonique Wyse, The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman 2024 had the privilege of attending the Showgirl Awards in Brisbane as part of an exchange program between New South Wales and Queensland.

Congratulations to the Queensland Showgirl Committee—Ellie, Paige, Brittany, Karen, Breanna, and Cheney—for their dedication and hard work in organising such a wonderful and inspiring program. A special congratulations to the 2024 Queensland Country Life Showgirl, Sarah Perkins, Capella Show Society; runner-up Ella Bischoff, Beaudesert Show Society; and Queensland Country Life Showgirl's Choice, Simone Silcock, Wandoan Show Society.

Well done to all the State Finalists. It was a pleasure to get to know Madison Rawlison, Sarah Perkins, Holly Harington, Jasmine Thornes, Monique Dingle, Delaney Hoyes, Michayla Cowley, Emily Wickham, Ella Bischoff, Simone Silcock, and Alannah Guiffrida.

Some highlights of the program included:

- ★ Watching the Showgirl State Finalists receive their finalist sashes from Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young AC PSM, followed by a special morning tea and private tour of Queensland Government House.

- ★ A tour of Parliament House, with lunch hosted by the Honourable Curtis Pitt MP, Speaker and State Member for Mulgrave.

- ★ A dinner and Q&A session with Deb Frecklington MP and Senator Susan McDonald, both strong supporters of the Showgirl Awards.

- ★ Lunch at the RNA with Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC.

- ★ A day at the EKKA.

- ★ Personal development sessions with Zariffe from the Australian School of Etiquette.

We look forward to welcoming Queensland in April for their exchange visit to NSW!



RASF Rural Scholarships

AgShows NSW is proud to sponsor two scholars each year through the Royal Agricultural Society Foundation (RASF) Rural Scholarships program. This initiative supports passionate students who are dedicated to making a difference in rural communities, ensuring that future leaders in agriculture have the resources to succeed.

The RASF Rural Scholarships provide financial assistance to rural students, helping them pursue their educational goals without the burden of financial stress. The scholarships are designed for students who demonstrate a commitment to rural communities and industries.

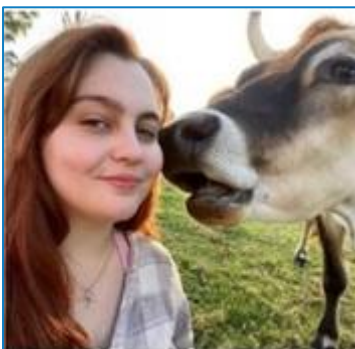
This year, the scholarships were awarded to William Gordon, a Bachelor of Agricultural/Business student from Forbes, and Chelsea Zaini, a Veterinary Science student at Charles Sturt University.

William has shown strong leadership and academic achievement, fast-tracking his degree while maintaining a GPA above distinction. Grateful for the support, William noted,



“Receiving the RASF Rural Scholarship has directly allowed me to purchase a new laptop which is crucial to complete my degree.”

Chelsea, from Bowraville, is passionate about providing veterinary care to rural areas and helping farmers and families access vital services. She expressed her gratitude, saying,



“I feel so very grateful to be the receiver of your generosity and am so thankful I can continue my studies without financial stress.”

Community Futures Grants

In addition to their scholarship programs, the RASF also supports rural communities through their Community Futures Grants. These grants offer up to \$25,000 in funding for innovative, community-driven projects, empowering individuals and organisations to make a meaningful impact in their local areas.

This year, the Foundation awarded a total of \$152,000 across nine recipients, including the Walcha Show Society, Lithgow Show Society, and Adelong Show Society, helping to drive growth and development in these rural communities.



Berry @Big Bush BBQ | Image Sydney Morning Herald

The Big Bush BBQ

The Big Bush BBQ at the Sydney Royal Easter Show is a much-loved event where every dollar raised supports regional NSW communities. Each day, a different NSW Show Society takes over the BBQ to fundraise for their local area, contributing to vital community projects.

In 2024, the RASF matched the first \$1,500 raised by each Show Society, adding a total of \$18,000 to rural and regional communities (in addition to what Shows earned on the day). Participating Show Societies included Morisset Lake Macquarie, Gresford, Stroud, Robertson, Eurobodalla, Bulahdelah, Singleton, Cootamundra, Dungog, Milton, and Nowra. This matching initiative boosted local fundraising efforts, giving these communities extra resources for critical projects.

Reimagining and Icon

ASA Conference 13-16 Feb 2025

The 2025 Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA) Conference will be held from 13-16 February on the Gold Coast. This event brings together leaders from the agricultural industry every two years to explore the future of agricultural shows and their role in supporting rural communities.

The 2025 theme, "Reimagining an Icon," focuses on revitalising agricultural shows, honouring their traditions while addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities.

The conference will feature keynote speeches, workshops, and networking sessions, designed to promote innovation and collaboration.

The event includes a Welcome Function on Thursday, two full days of conference sessions on Friday and Saturday, a Gala Dinner on Saturday night, and concludes with a Networking Breakfast on Sunday. This will provide an ideal platform for attendees to build connections and exchange ideas

Mark your diary! Start planning. Registrations of interest for a limited number of early bird places are open [click here for more information](#).



Think Tank – Yatala

The Showmen's Guild of Australasia will host its 2025 Think Tank event on 13 January 2025. This annual networking event for Showmen's Guild members, agricultural show societies, and stakeholders will focus on open discussions, idea sharing, and preparations for the upcoming show season. It offers an excellent opportunity to catch up with guild members before the start of the season. More details to be released shortly.

Special Items for your Show

AgShows NSW offers a range of items to help your show. Here's a look at what's available:

Life | Honorary Life Member & Patron Badges

Recognise the special individuals who have made significant contributions to your show with our custom badges. We provide Life Member, Honorary Life Member, and Patron Badges, and can arrange engraving to add a personal touch. [Click here](#) to order online.

Wristbands

Our branded and unbranded wristbands in multiple colours are perfect for many uses--managing gate and entry control, ensuring competitors have signed waivers or even controlling access to bar areas. With a variety of options in stock, you can order wristbands online to suit your needs. Order easily online - [Click here](#)



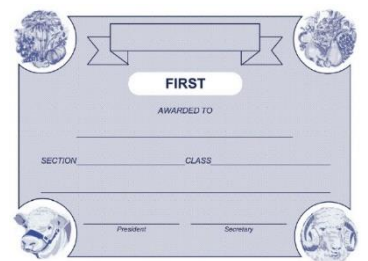
Banner Range

We have partnered with an Australian banner company to offer a range of show banners. Take advantage of these special rates to add vibrant and professional visuals to your show.

For more information get in touch with our office.

Place Cards

We offer a variety of stock options including 1st, 2nd, 3rd, highly commended, and blank cards.



Email nicky.seeto@ascfnsw.org.au or call 1800 025 387 to order.

A few remaining: We have a few vinyl 'Conditions of Entry' banners in the Sydney office. If you'd like one, please email asc.admin@ascfnsw.org.au

Quick Compliance with NSW Revenue's Duties Exemption

You may have recently received a letter from the NSW Government titled "Request for Information - Duties Exemption Review." This letter is important because it offers your Show Society the opportunity to benefit from a duties exemption under the Duties Act 1997. This exemption can save your Society from paying unnecessary duty on property transactions and leases.

Here's how you can take advantage of this exemption:

- **Gather Your Information:** Collect all relevant details about your property transactions and leases.
- **Visit the NSW Revenue Website:** Access the website to find the duties exemption form.
- **Complete the Form:** Fill out the form with your gathered details.
- **Submit Electronically:** Submit the completed form through the NSW Revenue website.

The entire process takes just five minutes and can result in significant financial savings for your Show Society. Don't miss out on this opportunity to reduce your costs!



Protect Your Show with the Rain Fund

With the recent increase in extreme weather events across Australia, it's more important than ever to protect your show from the impact of rain. The Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Rain Fund provides coverage to help offset losses in gate takings and membership caused by rain-affected events.

As weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable, this fund offers support to ensure your show can continue, even in adverse conditions.

Visit agshowsnsw.org.au or contact the office for more information and a [copy of the Product Disclosure Statement](#).

Know a Young Leader?

Encourage Them to Apply for the 2025 RAS Rural Achiever Award!

Do you know a young leader in your community who is making waves in Australian agriculture, their local area, or at shows? Now is the perfect time to encourage them to apply for the 2025 RAS Rural Achiever Award!

Applications are open until **Friday, 20 September 2024**.

This state-wide leadership program is designed for individuals aged 20-29 who are dedicated to making a significant impact in their field. The award offers:

- **Exclusive Networking Opportunities:** An all-expenses-paid, week-long experience at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, where participants can connect with key figures in the agricultural industry.
- **Leadership Development:** A unique platform to enhance leadership skills and showcase their contributions to their local community and agricultural sector.
- **Lifelong Connections:** The chance to forge lasting friendships and access numerous opportunities from the RAS of NSW and the broader network created throughout the program.

If you know someone who fits this description and is passionate about agriculture and their community, encourage them to apply today! It's a fantastic opportunity for them to grow their skills and make valuable connections.

For more details and to apply [click here](#). Your encouragement could be the key to unlocking a life-changing opportunity for a deserving young leader!





New Award Categories to Celebrate Our Stars!

We're excited to announce new award categories for this year's AgShows NSW honours! It's time to start thinking about the many wonderful individuals and projects worthy of nomination.

The 2025 categories are: AgShows NSW **Living Legend**; AgShows NSW **Rising Star**; AgShows NSW **Resilience Award**; AgShows NSW **Innovation – Event/Project Award**; AgShows NSW **Innovation – Technology Award**.

Stay tuned for more details in the December edition of Showtimes. In the meantime, check out the article on this year's winners later in this issue!

New Life Membership

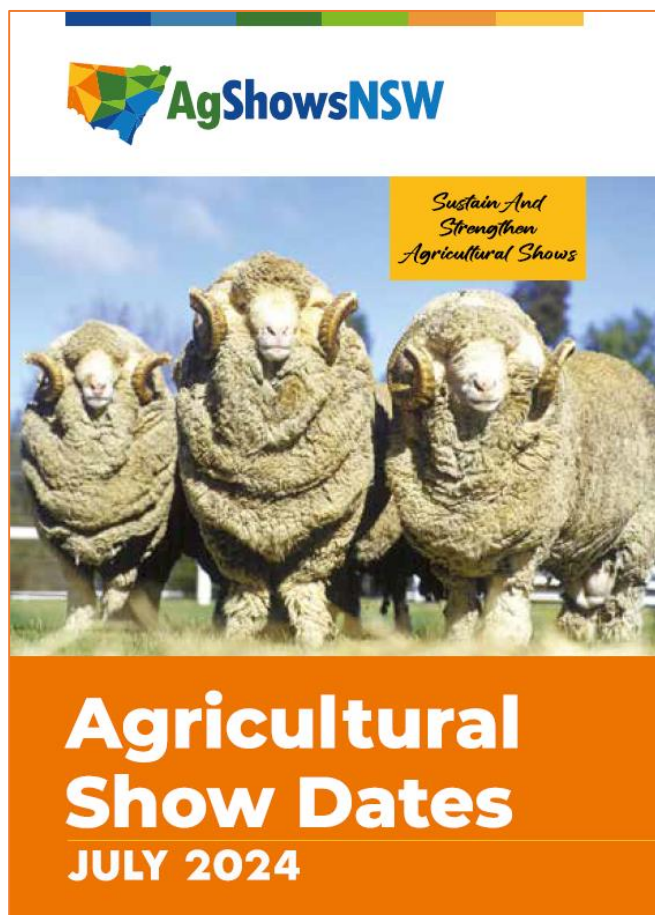
Since 2006, Bob Robertson has been a dedicated Director for Group 7, with a deep commitment to the Southern Highlands group, where he also served as Group President for many years. He's a valued judge at Showgirl/Young Woman Zone finals, offering thoughtful feedback and enthusiasm to both participants and organising committees. Bob's extensive knowledge in financial reporting made him a valuable member of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Disciplinary Panel. His well-prepared contributions to debates are highly regarded. In recognition of his outstanding service, Bob has been awarded a Life Membership of AgShows NSW. Congratulations!



Date List Book

The popular and much-loved Show Date List book for July 2024 has been posted to all members and subscribers.

If you have any updates to dates or details, please let our office know as soon as possible to ensure your information is accurate on our website and in the next printed edition



Congratulations

Congratulations to Andrew Norris on his appointment as National Agricultural News Editor at The Land, Samantha Townsend the Land's 17th Editor and former markets editor Karen Bailey who will lead The Land's print production. Andrew, Samantha and Karen are great supporters of the show movement and The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Zone Finals. We wish them all the best in their new roles.

THE LAND

2024 AgShows NSW Excellence Awards

This year's AgShows NSW awards celebrated the remarkable dedication, resilience, and innovation that Agricultural Shows and their volunteers bring to communities across the State. Congratulations to all the award recipients!

2024 Dedication Award – Owen Nicholson, Dungog A&H Association

Owen Nicholson stands as a pillar of the Dungog Show, having devoted over 24 years as Show Secretary and countless more as a general committee member. His unwavering commitment to the Show and Showground Trust Committee has been instrumental in preserving the heritage of the showground. Even in his 80s, Owen remains a hands-on hero, tirelessly working on maintenance and preparation for each Show. Owen is a walking encyclopedia of knowledge about the Dungog Show Society and is a shining example of dedication.



Innovation Award – Cobargo Agricultural, Pastoral & Horticultural Society

Cobargo Show, celebrating its 125th anniversary, exemplified forward-thinking innovation. Faced with growth challenges and the need to attract



younger volunteers, the society implemented a successful recruitment strategy. They formed a sub-committee focused on

recruitment and created an engaging online presence with a volunteer webpage, Facebook calls to action, and a video campaign. A volunteer BBQ and new incentives, like free gate entry, lunch vouchers, and t-shirts, boosted participation and fostered community spirit. This approach increased volunteer numbers and positively impacted sponsorship and long-term sustainability.

Resilience Award – Eugowra Show Society

The Eugowra Show Society demonstrated immense resilience in the wake of the November 2022 floods. Their showground became an essential lifeline, serving as an evacuation centre and providing shelter and support to those affected. Despite the challenges, the Eugowra Show Society continued to serve the community, hosting their 108th Show with free entry for all residents, bringing joy and unity after a difficult year. Their ability to adapt, rebuild, and prioritise the well-being of their community is a testament to the power of resilience.



2024 President's Award – Jody Nelson-Gleeson and Nicky Seeto

This year, the President's Award recognised the outstanding contributions of AgShows NSW Vice President, Jody Nelson-Gleeson and team member, Nicky Seeto, who have gone above and beyond in supporting members.



Certificates of Currency

The AgShows NSW membership fee and insurance premium invoices are currently being mailed to members.

Insurance Certificates of Currency for 24/25 insurance year are also being emailed to members.

If you need your Certificate of Currency sooner or have queries about your fees or invoices, please contact sarah.mcgregor@ascofnsw.org.au.

Keep Volunteer Forms Secure

Volunteer Registration and Sign-on/Off sheets must be retained for three years if the volunteer is an adult and until age 21 if a minor. This is essential for insurance purposes, including waiver forms. Under Australian law, volunteers can file claims for up to three years after an incident, like Public Liability claims. Ensuring proper record-keeping protects your society and its volunteers, providing peace of mind for any future claims.

Essential Insurance Docs.

To help with your insurance needs, we recommend keeping these essential documents on hand, all available in the members section our website:

- **Insurance Manual 2024:** Outlines the coverage provided by our insurance policies and recommended claim procedures.
- **Insurance Essentials 2024:** A handy reference for frequently asked insurance questions and tips for mitigating risk.
- **Activity List 2024-2025:** Details all activities covered by public liability insurance under the program.

No Question is a Bad Question—Ask Away!

When it comes to insurance, no question is too small or too silly! We love hearing from you, and we get plenty of great questions in the office every day. So don't hesitate—reach out and make sure you're fully covered and protected. We're here to help!



Member Q&As

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

Q: Does our society have to have Code of Conduct in place?

A: While not legally required under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW), it's recommended. Committee members must follow key duties, such as acting in good faith, exercising care, avoiding conflicts of interest, and not misusing their position. Adopting a code of conduct helps clarify these responsibilities and supports good governance.

Q: The schedule listed a \$2 cash prize for a class, but on competition day, the prize given was \$2 worth of the sponsors product. Is this allowed?

It was allowed. The show society's schedule specified that the prize money could be provided as a product from the sponsor, equivalent to the cash value.

Q: Can I stop someone from writing untrue things about our show on their personal Facebook page and tagging us?

You can't stop them directly, but you can remove the tag, you can request they remove it or report the post to Facebook if it violates their standards. Keep an eye on your social media channels and address any mentions of the negative post professionally. If the criticism is misleading or inaccurate, you may consider addressing the matter on your own page.

Q: There was a rumour at our Show that SafeWork NSW was on site checking one of the competitions. Can they do this unannounced?

A: SafeWork Inspectors can arrive unannounced, but they are required to notify the PCBU (Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking) as soon as practicable. While some visits are scheduled, others are spontaneous. Based on this, it's likely the rumour is hearsay if no notification was made.

Q: Do volunteers need to sign a waiver?

A: Not unless they are participating in events.

Q: Who is insured under your policy?

A: Only the entity named on your policy. Your neighbour's home is not insured under your policy as they are not named in any manner on the document.

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.

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