

## Contact us

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### Yeoval sheep producer takes out State's top farmer award

Nigel Kerin's commitment to improving the environmental health of his mixed merino sheep, cattle and cropping operation at Yeoval tonight earned him the title 2008 NSW Farmer of the Year. Nigel, who farms a series of properties with wife Kate in the State's central west, has applied holistic management tools such as cell grazing, pasture cropping and small paddock structure to significantly boost productivity - in spite of tough ongoing drought conditions.

Whilst Young Farmer of the Year Tally Matthews was recognised for his efforts to develop wide ranging enterprises. As a turf and vegetable producer at Ebenezer in the Sydney basin, Tally also works as an agronomist and was recognised as an outstanding young leader, demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting others in his industry and young farmers across NSW.

To read more click [here](#).

### Mackellar Media Awards winners announced

Carbon trading, equine influenza and flood recovery in the face of drought are just some of the issues covered by this year's Mackellar Media Award winners, announced in front of hundreds of the State's most senior farming representatives at a ceremony in Sydney. The awards, sponsored by Wesfarmers Federation Insurance, recognise journalistic excellence in the coverage of rural issues by both city and country media, and have been developed to raise the prestige of agricultural reporting.

The winners are from The Australian, ABC TV, the Town and Country Leader, Prime News, The Land and ABC Radio for stories published or broadcast over the last 18 months.

To find out more about the winners click [here](#).

### Wheat growers need adjustment help

At annual conference last week, farmers from around NSW agree that the Federal Government must set up and fund a comprehensive re-adjustment package for the wheat industry as it deals with deregulation.

The Wheat Export Marketing Act has seen changes to the marketing arrangements for the export of wheat which are likely to create significant financial and social disadvantages for wheat growers and the Association is urging the Federal Government to establish a comprehensive readjustment package to assist with possible loss of a single national pool.

To read more click [here](#).

### Working dog welfare

The NSW RSPCA has asked the Association to remind Members of the laws on controlling working dogs when not working. The NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act requires farmers to exercise working dogs once in 24 hours, not to use a short, heavy chain as a tether and to tie them or confine them on the back of a ute when on a public road.

Police officers, NSW RSPCA inspectors and Animal Welfare League inspectors can issue on the spot fines for any of these offences. The Association asks all Members to assess what conditions they provide for their dogs and to do what they can to avoid fines or a prosecution.

For more details click [here](#).

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#### ISDN Broadband must be maintained

The Association has insisted the Federal Government must ensure Telstra maintain ISDN broadband services until there is an appropriate replacement service available that does not represent a step backwards in service. The Association has contributed to a number of telecommunications inquiries in recent months where this issue has been outlined, including the NSW Standing Committee on Broadband in Rural and Regional Communities, the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee and the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, regarding Broadband Solutions for Remote Areas.

To read more click [here](#).

#### Forums in August

NSW farmers and rural and regional community members are being asked to help shape Australia's drought policy, at forums being held around the state from this week looking at the social impacts of drought. The expert panel is aiming to determine the types of social support people value in times of drought, irrespective of whether they are eligible for Exceptional Circumstances assistance.

The Association encourages Members to get along to these meetings and to have their say.

Meetings will commence next week:

Gilgandra Monday 18 August 1pm – 4pm Gilgandra Services Club

Forbes Tuesday 19 August 10am – 1pm Forbes Services Memorial Club

Griffith Thursday 21 August 9am – 12pm (Venue TBA)

Goulburn Friday 22 August 9am – 12pm Goulburn Workers Club

For more information click [here](#).

#### Training

Course	Location	Date
<b>Chemical Card- Initial &amp; Refresher Accreditation</b>	Glenorie	12/08/2008
	Narromine – funded	14/08/2008
	Nyngan – funded	28/08/2008
	Maitland	29/08/2008
<b>Chemical Card Refresher</b>	Ag Quip, Gunnedah	20/08/2008
	Online – 9am to 12	15/09/2008
<b>Wheat marketing information sessions</b>	Moree	01/08/2008
	Walgett	06/08/2008
	Dunedoo	08/08/2008
	Trangie	18/08/2008
	Parkes	19/08/2008
	Lake Cargelligo	20/08/2008
	West Wyalong	21/08/2008
	Cowra	22/08/2008
	Griffith	25/08/2008
	Finley	26/08/2008
	Lockhart	27/08/2008
	Cootamundra	28/08/2008

For bookings: please contact Robyn or Kathy on 02 6884 8822, or at [training@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto:training@nswfarmers.org.au)

Note: Please book at least 7 days in advance for Chemical Card and First Aid training to allow time for delivery of the home study materials.

#### Region 1 – North West

6 August 8.30am – 4.30pm @ Walgett: Wheat Marketing Info Session. Contact Robyn Diamond 6884 8822.

26 August 8.30am – 3.45pm @ Bellata Memorial Hall: GRDC Grains Research Update for Growers and Advisers. Contact John Cameron (02) 9482 4930 or Tracey Farrell (02) 6799 1548/ Cost \$45 per person and \$40 for 2<sup>nd</sup> person per farm

27 August 8.30am – 3.10pm @ Royal Hotel, Goondiwindi: GRDC Business Management Grains Update for Growers. Contact John Cameron or Erica McKay (02) 9482 4930. Cost \$45 per person and \$40 for 2<sup>nd</sup> person per farm.

For more information, contact Region 1 Service Manager Alicia Wilson on 0427 437 103

### **Region 3 – Central and North West**

7 Aug Thursday 8.30-4.30pm @ Coonamble: Wheat Marketing Information session. Contact Robyn 6884 8822. No cost.

7 Aug Thursday 5-8pm @ Trangie Bowling Club: "Looking Forward". Contact Robyn 6884 8822. Cost: \$5.00

8 Aug Friday @ Dunedoo: Wheat Marketing Information session. Contact Robyn 6884 8822. No cost.

18 Aug Monday @ Trangie: Wheat Marketing Information session. Contact Robyn 6884 8822. No cost.

6 Sept Saturday @ Dubbo: Trucks Out West Expo & Dinner. Contact Trish 6882 2666. Cost \$5 adult, \$10 family, \$77 dinner.

For more information, contact Region 3 Service Manager Rick Bremner on 0427 773 495

### **Region 5 – Central West**

6 August Wednesday @ Parkes: AWB grower meetings. Enquiries: AWB website <http://www.awb.com.au/growers/>

19 August Tuesday 1pm @ Forbes Services Memorial Club: Public forum – Drought Policy Review. Expert Panel looking at Social impacts of Drought. Enquiries: Hannah Williams (see below)

19 August Tuesday 8:30am – 4:30pm @ Parkes: Wheat marketing information sessions. Enquiries: Robyn on 02 6884 8822

20 August Wednesday 8:30am – 4:30pm @ Lake Cargelligo: Wheat marketing information sessions. Enquiries: Robyn on 02 6884 8822.

21 August Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm @ West Wyalong: Wheat marketing information sessions. Enquiries: Robyn on 02 6884 8822

For more information on events in Region 5, contact Regional Service Manager Hannah Williams on 0488 009 060

### **Region 6 – Central West Tablelands**

6 August @ Parkes: AWB Mtg. Contact AWB

14 August 9.30am to 3.30 pm @ Cowra Golf Club: Sheep & Lamb to Asia. Contact Christine 6360 8413.

19 August 10am - 1pm @ Forbes Services club: Drought Policy Review Expert Social Panel. Hannah Williams 0488009060

For more information, contact Region 6 Service Manager Graham Blatch on 0411 220.

### **Region 9 – Southern Murrumbidgee**

13 Aug 6.30pm @ Corowa - Bracklesby DC Annual Dinner. Contact John Heagney. Cost \$25

21 Aug 9-12am @ Griffith Yoogali Catholic Club: DAFF Drought Policy Social Impacts Review Meeting. Contact DAFF.

For more information on Region 9 events contact Regional Services Manager Ben Poynter on 0427773584

### **Region 10 – Southern Central**

28 Aug 7.30pm @ Wagga RSL club: Wagga DC meeting. Contact Bill Baker.

For more information on Region 10 events contact Regional Services Manager Debra Charlton on 0427773496

### **Region 11 – Southern Tablelands, Monaro & South Coast**

13 August Wednesday @ Goulburn: DPI Womens Day. Contact Liz Young (see below)

14 August Thursday @ Cooma: Wild Dog Meeting. Contact Liz Young (see below)

22 August Friday @ Goulburn: Social Impact of Drought Mtg. Contact Liz Young (see below)

For information on any events in Region 11 contact Regional Service Manager Liz Young 0428 411 218

### **Region 12 – Western Division**

9 August Saturday 11:00am @ Louth: Louth Races

6 – 7 August 8:00am @ White Cliffs: White Cliffs Landcare Forum. Contact Pip Stalley 02 6872 2144

20 August 2pm @ Balranald District Ex Servicemen's Memorial Club: Balranald Branch Meeting "Meet the Candidates". All residents of Balranald Shire are invited to attend a community forum to meet hear from and ask questions of candidates

30 & 31 August arrive 12pm @ "Kia-Ora" Station Via Cobar: "Rotating Farm Tour". Contact Rikki Allen 0268373954. BYO Food, Swag and Alcohol.

For information on any events in Region 13 contact Dougall Roberts on 0428411221

### **Region 13 – North Coast**

5 August Tuesday, 7.30pm @ Macksville Ex-Serviceman's Club: Nambucca River branch meeting. Contact Geoff Gough 65693182.

7 August Thursday 7.30pm @ Bonalbo Bowling Club: Tabulam branch meeting. Contact Marilyn Grundy 66653290.

9 August Saturday, 11.00am @ Bellingen showground, Bellingen: North Coast Avocado branch meeting. Contact Alison Tolson 65690872

28 August Thursday, 7.00pm @ Exchange Hotel, Kyogle: Kyogle branch meeting, guest speaker on Private Native Forestry. Contact Russell Bonney 66366100

For information on any events in Region 13, contact Michael Burt on 0428 228 988