

Dear Members

I was fortunate to meet with a lot of people at the Australian National Field Days this week, even though numbers did appear to be down. While I can understand why, I still believe it's very important for people to try and get to these events. While not a lot of us are able to spend up big at the moment, the social aspect of the field days has its importance too. Those who came to the NSW Farmers' Association site enjoyed the chance to discuss some of the big issues, particularly the CPRS and this week's decision to reverse the blanket ban on beef imports from countries which have been affected by BSE. Look out for my discussion of both these issues in next week's the Farm Post, found in your copy of the Land.

Understandably people have a lot of questions about CPRS – it's a very complex topic, and given the uncertainty surrounding our industries inclusion it's no wonder people are sometimes confused! I would point everyone to our website (click [here](#)) where we have quite a lot of information to help. I think we all have the responsibility to get our heads around this issue so we can talk about it, pushing our agenda onto the main stage at all levels. Indeed, the Association is working on a grass roots campaign which will help in this aim. In the meantime you can write to politicians, meet your local member, ring talkback radio, learn more and become a local champion. I will be able to give you more details about this soon!

In case you haven't made any of the field days this year, you might have missed our Membership drive, but it's not too late! Up until 13 November of this year, all Association Members who refer a new Member will receive an extra three months added to their Membership when they renew at no extra cost, meaning Members will receive 15 months of Membership for the cost of 12.

This offer also applies to new Members who sign up during the Membership drive period, which expires on the same date.

I'm sure I don't have to tell you how important it is that we have strong Membership numbers. As we're fond of saying, together we're a voice to be reckoned with. I know that the drought and associated financial pressures are making it hard for everyone. I will say however, membership saves you money in the long run. Indeed at the ANFD in Orange, one Member probably saved himself a whole year's subscription after visiting our site and receiving some clarification on an industrial issue. Click [here](#) to see other examples of those wins we've had for you.

Lastly, we have developed a new YouTube video for you to view, which will be the first in a series. Click [here](#) to see it (as well as other YouTube videos).

Until next fortnight,
Charles Armstrong

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