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Annual Conference starts on Monday

Issues associated with cropping, meat and livestock as well as conservation and resource management, to name but a few, are all on the agenda for debate at this year's NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference – *30 Years as One Voice* - to be held in Sydney from 29-31 July.

Over 400 delegates from around NSW will head to Sydney to represent fellow farmers at the Conference that will celebrate the Association's 30 Year Anniversary.

To read more click [here](#) and to see the 2008 Annual Conference Agenda click [here](#).

Young Farmers' Forum

The 2008 Young Farmers' Forum will be held next week 30-31 July 2008 at the Royal Agricultural Society Showground, Sydney Olympic Park.

This year the focus will be on how as a group the Young Farmers' can have a stronger voice and effectively use their knowledge and experience to play a bigger part in the formation of policy related to young farmers.

For an information kit click [here](#) and to see the Young Farmers' Forum Agenda click [here](#).

Members encouraged to have their say

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:

- Bourke Friday 25 July 9am – 12pm Bourke Bowling Club
- 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](#).

Horticulture dinner this weekend

The NSW Farmers' Association is inviting all interested producers to come along to the 2008 NSW Horticulture Industries Dinner this weekend.

The NSW Horticulture Industries 2008 Dinner will be held on Saturday 26 July, 2008. The Association is expecting over 400 guests to come along to Dockside at Darling Harbour to celebrate the Horticulture industry.

For bookings and enquiries contact NSW Farmers' Association Regional Service Manager Frances Vella, 0428 228 818. The ticket price also includes return bus trips from Theresa Park, Leppington, Wilberforce, and Windsor.

To read more click [here](#).

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Media coverage of rural NSW

Judges have selected the 12 finalists for the NSW Farmers' Association 2008 Mackellar Media Awards, and say the entries this year reflected the bigger picture for agriculture and rural communities in NSW.

Recognising journalistic excellence in the reporting of rural issues, the awards are named in honour of Dorothea Mackellar, author of 'My Country', who helped define our national identity and was a leading communicator of her age.

The Awards are sponsored by Wesfarmers Federation Insurance. The finalists are:

Category	Name	Organisation
City media – Print	Asa Wahlquist	The Australian
	Claire Scobie	The Bulletin
City media – Broadcast	Sean Murphy	ABC TV Landline
	Chris Clarke	ABC TV Landline
Country media – Print	Kim Honan	ABC Online
	Julie Hartigan	Town and Country Leader
Country media – TV Broadcast	Reena Ganga	Prime News
	John Ryan	Win Television
Country media- Radio Broadcast	Emily Doak	ABC Radio
	Olivia Suzanski	2UE Radio
Photography	Amy Lawson	The Land
	Michael Petey	The Land

Training

Course	Location	Date
Chemical Card- Initial & Refresher Accreditation	Deepwater	01/08/2008
	Glenorie	12/08/2008
	Narromine – funded	14/08/2008
	Young	18/08/2008
Chemical Card Refresher	Ag Quip, Gunnedah Online	20/08/2008 15/09/2008
Wheat marketing information sessions	Moree	01/08/2008
	Quirindi	04/08/2008
	Boggabri	05/08/2008
	Walgett	06/08/2008
	Dunedoo	08/08/2008
First Aid	Grenfell	24/07/2008

For bookings: please contact Robyn or Kathy on 02 6884 8822, or at 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

23 July 10.30am – 12.30pm @ Post Office Hotel, Moree: Regional Electeds Meeting (TBC). Contact Alicia Wilson 0427 437 103. Cost: Small contribution towards lunch

24 July 2pm – 5pm @ RSM Club, Inverell: Public Forum, Drought Policy Review Social Expert Panel. Contact Alicia Wilson (see below).

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

Region 2 – New England

25 July Friday 10.00 am – 1.00pm @ The New England Club Glen Innes: A Women's Gathering. There is no cost but it is asked that you RSVP for catering purposes by phoning Jenny Croft on 0429 446 417 Genevieve Marchiori 02 67852914 or Mary Hollingworth on 67345254

For more information, contact Region 2 Service Manager Gennie Gittoes on 0429180560

Region 3 – Central and North West

24 July Thursday 5-8pm @ Tooraweenah Tennis Club: "Looking Forward".

Contact Robyn 6884 8822. Cost: \$5.00

31 July Thursday 5-8pm @ Gulargambone 2828 Blding: "Looking Forward".

Contact Robyn 6884 8822. Cost: \$5.00

2 Aug Saturday @ Nyngan Showground: Ag Expo

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

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

Region 6 – Central West Tablelands

26 July 7.00pm @ Darling Harbour: Horticultural Dinner. Contact Frances Vella.

28 July 10am @ Homebush: Horticulture Conference. Contact Claire Hull 1300794000

29 July @ Homebush: Annual Conference. Contact Graham Blatch 0427411220

30 July 9.00am @ Homebush: Egg Conference. Contact Sarah Kelly 1300794000

1 August 6.30 pm @ Wellington: "Keep it Sane Stupid" Rob Anderson, Murrly Horton, Dr Ian Spencer. Contact Maryan Gavel 63696272

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. Hannah Williams 0488009060

For more information, contact Region 6 Service Manager Graham Blatch on 0427 411 220.

Region 7 – Sydney Basin

22 July Tuesday 10am @ Bull'n Bush Hotel, Port Stephens: Oyster AGM. Contact Richard Widows on 82511 808. Lunch and snacks at attendees cost.

26 July Saturday 6.30pm – midnight @ Dockside, Darling Harbour: 2008 Horticultural Industries Dinner. Enquiries to Regional Service Manager Frances Vella on 0428 228 818. Cost: \$75 inclusive.

For more information on Region 7 events contact Regional Services Manager Frances Vella on 0428 228 818

Region 9 – Southern Murrumbidgee

25 July @ Barellan: James Blundell Bush Concert FFG

26 July @ Jerilderie: James Blundell Bush Concert FFG

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

Region 10 – Southern Central

24 July 7.30pm @ Junee Ex Services Club: Junee DC meeting. Contact Ralph Billing

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

Region 11 – Southern Tablelands, Monaro & South Coast

2 August Saturday @ South Coast: Property Management Planning Course
DPI - Maryke Archbold-Hession Ph 0246 406333, Mob 0408 492 039 or email:
maryke.hession@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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

25 July 9:00am – 12pm @ Bourke Bowling Club: Drought Policy Review Expert Social Panel. Dougall Roberts 0428411221.

30 - 31 July 9:00am @ Homebush Olympic Park: Young Farmers Forum. Contact Dougall Roberts 0428411221

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

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