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Dedication to rural NSW – our farmers honoured

Among the philanthropists, community leaders and volunteers recognised this month with Queen's Birthday Honours Awards, a number of farmers and rural people from the NSW Farmers' Association were honoured for their contributions to Australian farming and the rural sector.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says that 7 individuals were publicly recognised for their dedication in a vast array of valuable community projects.

"We're proud that Members of the Association have received Australia's pre-eminent national honours award for everything from dedication to livestock industries and public service to volunteer work under Rural Fire Brigades and the Royal Flying Doctor Service," Mr Laurie said.

Barry Walker of Yass was recognised for his contribution to the wool industry and Donald Ward of Tocumwal was honoured for his dedication to the dairy industry and his work in providing financial counselling for drought-affected farmers.

"A number of public servants were honoured including Ian Armstrong of Cowra for his many years of service to the NSW Parliament and his contribution to the agricultural sector.

"At a council level, Robert Lockhart of Forbes was recognised for service to local government and Nigel Judd of Aria Park for his contribution to Temora Shire Council.

"The tireless work of two community volunteers was highlighted with James Varley of Tocumwal recognised for his work on the local Rural Fire Brigade and Beatrice Davies of Narromine honoured for her involvement in the communities of Wilcannia and Broken Hill as well as her passion for rural health issues."

"Anyone living in rural NSW knows that these people form the backbone of our communities. They ensure services are run and issues are addressed and their work deserves this recognition.

"Their local communities, much like the NSW Farmers' Association, are proud of their dedication to the rural sector and the subsequent honour that has been bestowed upon them," Mr Laurie concluded.

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