

# AROUND THE STATE

## NSW Farmers supports cattle team



By Michael Burt - North Coast

The Nambucca River Branch of NSW Farmers has provided a helping hand to the Macksville High School's (MHS) cattle team.

Members of the Branch decided to provide \$1000 towards the team's travelling costs to compete at this month's Brisbane EKKA.

MHS agriculture teacher Terry Argent said the support of NSW Farmers was greatly appreciated.

"It's great to see that the NSW Farmers and local members recognise that our students are the future of agriculture in Australia," Mr Argent said.

Agriculture is prominent at MHS with almost of quarter of the School's 650 students involved in studying agriculture and primary industries.

The MHS cattle team has won numerous accolades in recent years, including prizes at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and the Armidale show.

In addition to beef cattle, the school conducts poultry feed trials and students take on tractor driving, fencing and pasture management as part of their studies.

Local executive councillor and former student John Ainsworth said he was impressed with the facilities now available to teach agriculture at the school.

"It certainly is different to my days at the school, but its great see that agricul-



RSM Michael Burt with NSW Farmers members John Ainsworth, Bob Young, Macksville High School Teacher Terry Argent and Principal Paul Holding.

ture is still an important part of local high school's education program," Mr Ainsworth said.

"Our local NSW Farmers' Branch is

proud to support the school's cattle program. After all, it's about supporting the students who could become the face of agriculture in the future."



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## drumMUSTER on roll in NSW

More people in NSW are taking part in the *drumMUSTER* program. Community groups in particular are embracing the service, which collects and recycles empty, pre-cleaned ag vet chemical containers at a range of shire council sites around the country.

These recycled containers are then transformed into items such as park fences, road signs and wheelie bins.

Regional Consultants Vernon Keighley and Phil Tucker both attended the recent NSW Farmers Annual Conference in Sydney and were impressed by both the turn-out and the positive reaction to the service.

"I was very happy with how the Conference went, I was particularly encouraged by the willingness of the NSW Farmers Regional Services Managers to liaise with us, and they will be an important avenue of communication directly to farmers in my area of Southern NSW," Mr. Keighley said.

"It's important that we realise farmers there are dealing with a few issues at the moment, mining and carbon tax being top of the agenda, but we are letting them know we have collection sites all over the state and plenty of regular collections as well."

More farmers have also said the *drumMUSTER* program has come in handy. This service is available for stockpiles of containers that exceed 500.

This has been a helping hand for res-

idents in Northern areas of the state, a region Phil covers broadly.

"Helping boost return numbers in the north has occurred through the processing of farm container stockpiles; in a number of cases these have accumulated for up to eight years on the property," he said.

"Landholders have appreciated the opportunity to clean up their storage areas and utilise the benefits of the program."

*drumMUSTER* is available throughout the year. Most council collection sites now provide a far greater level of service than in previous years.

While in some cases the *drumMUSTER* collection sites are open for deliveries whenever the council transfer station or tip is open, other sites may be open one day per month.

The best way to find out about collections in your area is to contact your local council or visit the *drumMUSTER* website to check on what is now happening in your region.

The historic five million container milestone is fast approaching in NSW and it is further evidence of the improving traction *drumMUSTER* is getting.

For further information on the program, call Phil Tucker (Northern areas) on 0427 925 274 or those in the Southern regions can contact Vernon on 0406 745 030.

To find your nearest site, simply log on to [www.drummuster.com.au](http://www.drummuster.com.au)

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