

# NEWS IN BRIEF

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# Donated fodder reaches coast

**More than 260 large bales of lucerne and cereal hay have been donated to flood affected dairy and beef producers on the mid north coast.**

The hay has travelled from as far as Forbes and Narromine and landed on 25 farms in the Lower Macleay Valley and in flood ravaged parts of the Manning Valley.

Kempsey-based members Mike Jeffery and Howard Lee have worked closely with the DPI to coordinate distribution of the hay.

"The farmers that have received the hay have been extremely grateful and most have personally contacted the farmers in Forbes and Narromine that donated the hay," Mr Lee said.

NSW Farmers President Fiona Simson, who has spoken with farmers in the region, said the delivery of donated fod-

der was timely due to financial constraints caused by the flood and has been vital for maintaining livestock health.

"I am always amazed at the generosity of people in rural areas and their willingness to assist fellow farmers in times of need," Ms Simson said.

"It is a true reflection of the depth of character of people in rural NSW and is greatly appreciated."

Meanwhile, NSW Farmers has welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement that flood recovery grants of up to \$15,000 will be available for eligible primary producers on the Mid North Coast.

This assistance is available in the eight local government areas of Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Bellingen, Nambucca, Kempsey, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Greater Taree and Gloucester.



Macleay Valley Branch Members Howard Lee and Mike Jeffery have worked with the DPI to distribute donated hay from Forbes and Narromine.



By Lorraine Wilson -  
 NSW Farmers' Association  
 Executive Councillor

## Minister opens week conference

**It is well known by farmers and others who value the environment, that weeds have an enormous impact on both agriculture and the environment.**

The weed issue continues to be a challenging issue, and one not fully recognised by government or the general public.

When the Minister for Agriculture, Katrina Hodgkinson, agreed to open the bi annual Weeds Conference held in Coffs Harbour in July, the Weeds Officers, Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee members, DPI staff and others charged with weed control in NSW were heartened that, by her obvious interest, the issue of weeds was on the Minister's to take seriously list.

Much was achieved and shared over the three day conference. It remains to be seen whether the issues raised are able to be progressed and enabled, especially by Local Government action on the ground.

Noxious weed control and containment needs to be taken seriously by all levels of government and the momentum of the Weeds Action Plan for NSW delivered last year, is maintained and enhanced by appropriate funding by all areas of responsibility.

At a recent NWAC meeting, the National Identification Livestock System (NLIS) was identified as an important tool in the tracking of a noxious weed during the Tropical Soda Apple exercise on the Mid North Coast.

NWAC now recognises the value of NLIS as an additional, cost effective way for cattle farmers to work in weed eradication exercises.

Farmers know, and smaller landholders should be aware, that transferring cattle held for a period can dramatically minimise the impact of weed transference.

## Tertiary Scholarship winners

**A Bachelor of Medicine student who aims to return to the bush after completing her studies has been awarded a scholarship renamed in memory of a late farming champion.**

Heidi Goldsmith has been awarded the inaugural Graham Blatch Memorial Goobang Scholarship and aims to make a contribution to rural and regional health-care when she finishes her studies at the University of Wollongong.

Selection Panel Chair Sarah Thompson says Heidi is one of seven students who stood out for their passion for learning, and their commitment to rural communities.

Receiving the NSW Farmers E.L O'Brien Scholarship is Megan Davies from Coonabarabran, receiving the NSW

Farmers John White Memorial Scholarship is Sarah Groat from Rankins Springs, and receiving NSW Farmers' Scholarships are Samantha Johnson from Yeoval and Virginia Tapp from Narrabri.

Goobang Vocational Scholarships have been awarded to Michael Clarke from Central Mangrove and Timothy Wilkin from Coonabarabran.

"It's extremely encouraging to see young students pursuing a wide range of careers that are so important to rural and remote areas of NSW," Ms Thompson said.

Each scholarship recipient receives \$5,000 which can be used toward their tertiary studies.



Back row (l-r): Timothy Wilkin, Heidi Goldsmith, Virginia Tapp, Michael Clarke  
 Front row (l-r): Samantha, Sarah Groat, Megan Davies.

## The Farm Post

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