

14 November 2007

Member Service Centre 1300 794 000

online@nswfarmers.org.au

Holiday break for drought-stricken farmers

NRMA Motoring & Services and the NSW Farmers' Association have announced a joint relief program to give away free holidays to farming families affected by the country's devastating drought.

President Jock Laurie and NRMA Director Graham Blight launched the Helping Farming Families Program in Sydney today, and said NSW and ACT farming families have the chance to escape from the daily grind with 1250 nights of free accommodation available at any one of NRMA's five Holiday Parks. [Click here](#) for more.

Call for Letters to the Editor

Members are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor of The Farm Post, with the next edition due out in The Land on 6 December.

The Farm Post has a large readership which includes politicians and government, and is an excellent forum to express your views or concerns regarding rural issues.

Please send your letters by next Monday 19 November to Amanda Barwick, PO BOX 22, Warialda 2402, email barwicka@nswfarmers.org.au or fax 67291 960.

Rural Wage Guide

The Industrial Association is receiving a number of queries from Members regarding the recent wage increases contained in the Rural Wage Guide 57.

These rates apply to unincorporated businesses such as sole traders and partnerships only, which the Association estimates is approximately 80-90% of members.

The rates for incorporated businesses are available separately at www.iressentials.com.au or by contacting the Industrial Association on 1300 794 000.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Rural Wage Guide rates.

Call for members to provide feedback on Constitution review

The NSW Farmers' Association's Constitutional Review Taskforce has undertaken a review of the Association's Constitution to bring it into the 21st Century by making it plain English and ensure it complies with relevant legislation and regulations.

The Taskforce is seeking feedback from Members, along with any further matters that would improve the operation of the Association before it reports to Executive Council in March 2008.

Please [click here](#) to review the Constitution, read the revised plain English version or give feedback and suggestions.

North Coast hail damage help

The NSW Farmers' Association is welcoming the NSW Government's announcement of Natural Disaster Relief Assistance for North Coast farmers affected by the recent hail storms in that region.

The assistance comes in the form of loans of up to \$130,000, at 2.85 per cent interest per annum with a two-year interest free and repayment free period. [Click here](#) for more.

Farmbis feedback needed

NSW Farmers' Association members are encouraged to have their say on the business training needs of the industry, with Farmbis now available again in NSW.

Farmbis Networker Gerard McEvelly is based in the NSW Farmers' Association's Sydney office and is keen for feedback from members about the types of training on offer. Email gerard.mcevelly@daff.gov.au.

To check on course availability head to the Farmbis website http://www.farmbis.com.au/approved_courses.asp or for advice regarding the administration and eligibility of training call 1800 195 543.

Association training courses

For information about training, dates and locations, please email training@nswfarmers.org.au. Please note that registration in Chemical Card or Senior First Aid is required 7 days prior to the workshop date to allow for delivery of home study materials.

Upcoming Region Specific Meetings & Events

Region 1 – North West

14 Nov - Pilliga - Centrelink Drought Bus, 9.30am - 4.30pm
17 Nov - Inverell - Goat Field Day, from 9am at the Inverell Showground
20 Nov - Inverell - Centrelink Drought Bus, 9.30am - 4.30pm
21 Nov - Ashford - Centrelink Drought Bus, 9.30am - 4.30pm

For more information contact Alicia Wilson on 6766 9946

Region 2 – New England

14 Nov – Legume - Weeds Identification Day. Legume Hall 10-3pm. In conjunction with DPI.
1 Dec – Wollomombi - Farm Family Gathering BBQ lunch and entertainment (FREE). Great chance to have a Community get together before Christmas.

For more information call Regional Service Manager Gennie Gittoes on 0429180560

Region 3 – Central and North West

16 Nov - Mudgee- Carbon Farming Expo & Conference- Australian Rural Education Centre. Contact Louisa 6374 0329
24 Nov - Coonamble- Farm Family Gathering. Contact Pip 6881 1266
4 Dec - Dubbo – Farm Succession Planning- 9 to 4.00pm. Contact Robyn 6884 8822

10 Dec - Dubbo- Chemical Card, Initial 8.30am & Refresher course 1.30pm. Contact Robyn 6884 8822

For more information contact Rick Bremner on 6845 3842

Region 4 – Lower New England and Liverpool Plains

22 Nov - Tamworth District Council's Christmas Gathering. City Bowling Club, Napier Street, Tamworth. \$18.50 per head for 2 course meal and entertainment. RSVP by 19 November to Laurie Chaffey 6769 7583.

For more information contact Darren Greentree on 0427 411 214

Region 6 – Central West Tablelands

9 Dec - Farm Family Day in Orange. All farmers in Central West and Lachlan invited.

For more information contact Graham Blatch on 6366 9104.

Region 7 – Sydney Basin

3 Dec – Cobbitty - Camden Horticulture Branch Meeting, 5.30 pm tour of Uni Sydney PBI followed by 7.30pm meeting. Contact Glenn Fahey 0408 426 061

3 Dec– Pokolbin - Farm succession planning, NSW Farmers' Association Training
PH: 6884 8822

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

Region 8 – Lower Central West and Slopes

For more information on any events in Region 8 contact RSM Geoff Knight on 6369 1701

Region 9 – Southern Murrumbidgee

22 Nov (Confirmed) - Griffith DC - Drought Assistance Meeting. Griffith Exies - Guest Rody O 'Grady from Centrelink Rural Team

For more information on any events in Region 9 contact Ben Poynter on 6962 9926

Region 10 - Southern Central

15 Nov – Junee – DPI women's pamper day, St Lukes Church, RSVP essential to Lorraine 6924 1825.

19 Nov – Wodonga - Latest Techniques to Manage Catchments forum, Three Monkey's Tavern, 8:30–4:00, RSVP Paula Charnock 6938 1923.

1 Dec – Coolamon – drought gathering, featuring Graham Connors, local Coolamon shire residents welcome.

For information on any events in Region 10 contact RSM Deb Charlton on 6922 9297.

Region 11 – Southern Tablelands, Monaro, South Coast

15 Nov - Nowra - "Shoalhaven Clean Water, Healthy Community Forum" 5.30pm
RSVP Lyn Desoto-Southwell Ph: 0405 339913

19 Nov- Bega - Free Workcover 'Managing for Safety' workshop, 9.30am-2.00pm

30 Nov- Queanbeyan - Free Workcover 'Managing For Safety', 9.30am-2.00pm

For more information visit the Region 11 Webpage or contact Liz Young on 6453 7111.

Region 12- Western Division

14 Nov – Bourke - Climate Change Forum. For more information call the Western CMA on 0268 722 144.

17 Nov - Hatfield Hall - Grease Lightning Ball. For ticket sale or inquires please contact Amber Croft on 03) 50206873.

30 Nov - Oxley/Booligal Branch Meeting/Farm Family Gathering at the Booligal Hall, 3:30pm. For more information call Helen Morphett on (02) 69 938 157. Farm Family Gathering at the Booligal Pub, with food provided by Danny Byrnes, Drought Support Worker. "Drinks on us" complements of NSWFA for part of the evening.

For more information contact Regional Service Manager Dougall Roberts on 0428 411 221.

Region 13 – North Coast

19 Nov – Casino - Free Financial Skills Workshops for young farmers, 8.30am start, Please contact Robyn at NSWFA training on 68848822

20 Nov – Grafton - Free Financial and Business Skills Training for young farmers, 8.30am start, Please contact Robyn at NSWFA training on 68848822

21 Nov – Wauchope - Free Financial Skills Workshops for young farmers, 8.30am start, Please contact Robyn at NSWFA training on 68848822

22 Nov – Kempsey Chemical Card

For information on any events in Region 13 contact RSM Michael Burt on 6564 2355
