

4 December 2007

Member Service Centre 1300 794 000

[online@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto:online@nswfarmers.org.au)

**Key rural portfolios announced**

The NSW Farmers' Association welcomes Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's announcement of his new Federal Ministers which directly affect agriculture.

President Jock Laurie says the Association looks forward to working with Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister Tony Burke; Water and Climate Change Minister Senator Penny Wong; Environment Minister Peter Garrett; and Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Minister Anthony Albanese. [Click here](#) for more.

**Jock Laurie hosts key politicians**

President Jock Laurie is hosting key Ministers, ministerial advisors, industry stakeholders and media at the NSW Farmers' Association's annual Christmas Drinks tonight.

**Association welcomes new Nationals Leader**

The NSW Farmers' Association welcomes the election of Warren Truss as Leader of the Federal National Party.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says rural communities must be taken seriously, and applauds Mr Truss's commitment to be a champion for all issues affecting rural Australia. [Click here](#) for more.

**Tertiary scholarships applications now open!**

Applications are now open for the NSW Farmers' Association 2008 Tertiary Scholarships Program, with eight scholarships on offer worth \$5,000 each.

The program includes a new vocational scholarship for Tocal College students.

Applications close 31 January 2008. [Click here](#) for application forms and more information.

**Look out for The Farm Post**

Don't miss the December edition of The Farm Post, due out in The Land newspaper this Thursday 6 December.

**State Government drought support continues**

The NSW Farmers' Association is welcoming the State Government's decision to extend the drought transport subsidies and funding for drought support workers beyond their end of year deadlines.

The employment of drought support workers will be extended by 12 months and drought transport subsidies by three months. The Government will also defer the 2008 Pest Insect levy and waive the Wild Dog Destruction Board Rate in the Western Division for 2008. [Click here](#) for more.

**Association examines agriculture report**

The NSW Farmers' Association is welcoming the release of the final report from the inquiry into aspects of agriculture in NSW by the Standing Committee on State Development.

President Jock Laurie says the report's recommendations regarding greater proactive drought support measures and reducing red tape seem positive, but the Association will examine the report more closely.

The report can be found at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**Does your chemical accreditation expire on 31/12/2007?**

Farmers can now complete their chemical refresher training without leaving home thanks to the NSW Farmers' Training new Chemical Card Online course.

Participants will receive a link to a home study package to complete online prior to their chosen online workshop date. Workshops will include a trainer and other participants via computer.

To register fill in the [registration form](#) and fax it to 02 6884 8869. For more information phone Robyn Diamond on 6884 8822.

**Association training courses**

For information about training, dates and locations, please email [training@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto: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**

For more information contact Alicia Wilson on 6766 9946

### **Region 2 – New England**

For more information call Regional Service Manager Gennie Gittoes on 0429180560

### **Region 3 – Central and North West**

4 Dec - Dubbo – Farm Succession Planning. 9 to 4.00pm. Contact Robyn 6884 8822

5 Dec – Dubbo - More Beef from Pastures Expo - Dubbo Golf Club. 9-3.00pm. Cost is \$20. To register contact MLA 1800 675 717.

10 Dec – Dubbo - Chemical Card course, 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**

5 Dec – Gunnedah - First Aid Training, 9am - 4pm. For more info contact Robyn Diamond on 6884 8822. You must register a minimum of 7 days prior to the workshop to allow time for participants to receive and complete the home study material.

For more information contact Darren Greentree on 0427 411 214

### **Region 6 – Central West Tablelands**

5 Dec - Orange Christmas Dinner

7 Dec – Cudal - St “Stockwise” with DPI

9 Dec - Orange drought outing postponed till new year

10 Dec – Molong - St “Stockwise” with DPI

11 Dec - Yeoval - St “Stockwise” with DPI

12 Dec - Gulgong Dinner with Jock Laurie

For more information contact Graham Blatch on 6366 9104.

### **Region 7 – Sydney Basin**

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**

14 Feb - Coleambally Water and Food Forum TBC

Feb 2008 – Visit to Griffith DC by Jock Laurie TBC

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

### **Region 10 - Southern Central**

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

### **Region 11 – Southern Tablelands, Monaro, South Coast**

5 & 12 Dec – Bombala - “Bouncing Back – Coping Skills for Tough Times” – a FREE two day course about minimising the impact of worry and stress in our work and family life. Learn practical, take-home skills to get your mind working for you - not against you. Part 1: 5 December, Part 2: 12 December, 10am - 4pm. To RSVP please call the Monaro Regional Drought Recovery Service Network on 6124 9870 or Liz Young.

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

### **Region 12- Western Division**

10 Dec - Wentworth Branch Meeting - Wentworth Shire Community Hall, 1:30pm. For more information please contact Jim & Maureen Maynard 03 502 402 48.

12 Dec - Menindee Branch Meeting - Maidens Hotel Bistro 4:30pm. For more information contact Terry Smith on 08 8091 9498.

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

**Region 13 – North Coast**

5 Dec- Coffs Harbour branch meeting and Christmas Dinner, Coffs catholic Club, 7.00pm start.

6 Dec- Nambucca River branch Christmas Dinner, Macksville Chinese Restaurant, 7.00pm.

13 Dec- Grafton branch Christmas Dinner, Golden Dog Hotel, Glenreagh, 6.00pm for 6.30 start. Finger food available on arrival.

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

---