

11 December 2007

Member Service Centre 1300 794 000

online@nswfarmers.org.au

Centrelink access for Members

NSW Farmers' Association Members now have easier access to Centrelink with a Rural Service Officer now working at the Association.

Centrelink's Chris Styles can answer questions relating to a wide range of assistance programs, including Exceptional Circumstances (EC), the new Irrigation Management Grant, Farmhelp, Youth Allowance and the Federal Government's Exit Program.

To contact Chris phone the Association's Member Service Centre on 1300 794 000. [Click here](#) for more.

Association joins forces with Salvos

The NSW Farmers' Association and Salvation Army have joined forces to help ease the burden for drought stricken families around West Wyalong.

President Jock Laurie has announced that the Association will contribute financially to the appointment of a Rural Chaplain. Les Barrass will be appointed to the position on 17 December for a six month period.

The Salvation Army can be contacted on 13 72 58. [Click here](#) for more.

Educational site to promote agriculture to students

The NSW Farmers' Association, the NSW DPI and the Royal Agricultural Society are developing an educational internet portal called Landlearn to promote agriculture to students.

Landlearn, which will be launched at the 2008 Sydney Royal Easter Show, will counter the anti-farmer and confused agricultural messages on the internet with factual and readily available information for teachers and students.

For more information visit www.nswfarmers.org.au/ag_update/rural_affairs/education

Free immigration labour and skills shortage advice on hand

Members are encouraged to access free advice on using immigration labour on farm by contacting the NSW Farmers' Association.

Fiona Clarke, from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, is based in the Association's Head Office and can provide expert support for farmer employers facing skill and labour shortages.

Contact Fiona on 1300 794 000 or 0401 713 536. Speak to your Regional Service Manager if you would like Fiona to visit you on-farm or speak at a local farming event.

Tertiary scholarships program

The NSW Farmers' Association is encouraging tertiary students to make time these holidays to apply for the 2008 Tertiary Education Scholarships Program.

Eight scholarships worth \$5000 each are on offer, including a new vocational scholarship for Tocal College students.

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

ABARE Australian Commodities report

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) has released their quarterly publication Australian Commodities for the December quarter.

The publication is available at
www.abare.gov.au/publications_html/acs/acs_07/acs_07.pdf.

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

11 Dec - Boggabri - Boggabri DC Christmas BBQ from 6pm at the Golf Club. Please RSVP for catering purposes to Tom Fearby on ph. (02) 6742 6733.
10-12 Dec - Walgett – Pasture to Pocket Grazing Management Workshop. For further information and to register, please contact ph. (02) 6828 0110 (booking fee \$200 per business, but the fee is fully refundable following attendance at workshop thanks to Namoi & Western CMA funding).

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

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

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

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

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
