

Click [here](#) to view this email in your browser.



AFAM ITAB

Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management

April 2023

In this newsletter:

- [Mid-North Coast Local Industry and Schools Forum](#): 9 - 11 May
- [Congratulations Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia](#)
- [AgriFutures Report](#): Community Perceptions and Workers Experiences
- [Smart and Skilled Update](#)
- [Industry Events](#) - Total Field Days 5,6,7 May
- [NSW Grants, Opportunities and Scholarships](#)

If you have any questions relating to skills and training in NSW please [contact me](#).

Best wishes,
Jess

Mid-North Coast Local Industry and Schools Forum: 9 – 11 May

Please join us for these Industry Training Advisory Body (ITAB) facilitated forums aimed at supporting employers experiencing labour and skills shortages and looking at innovative ways to source local talent.

The aim of the forums is to bring together employers, school principals, head teachers and career advisors to share information on local industry labour shortages, skills gaps for new entrants and the benefits of alternative student-based pathway programs.

The forum program will include:

- A panel of local employers with experience utilising local programs to tackle attraction and recruitment challenges.
- Roundtable discussions where employers and schools can share ideas
- Networking opportunities with other local employers and local school leaders
- Information on the funding available to support pathway programs

Time: 10am – 12.30pm (9.30am for 10am start with light lunch provided)

Please register via the links to your preferred location/date:

[Coffs Harbour](#) – Tuesday 9 May 2023 – CEX Club (Blue Room), 2-6 Vernon Street, Coffs Harbour

[Kempsey](#) – Wednesday 10 May 2023 – Slim Dusty Centre, 490 Macleay Valley Way, South Kempsey

[Taree](#) – Thursday 11 May 2023 – Venue to be confirmed.

If you are an employer and are interested in attending this program, please contact Jess Cleary at jcleary@skillsimpact.com.au or 0402 128 312.

Congratulations Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA)

PIEFA hosted a very successful two-day, hands-on field trip for agriculture secondary school teachers and career advisers. The field trip was through areas of the mid-north and north coast of NSW, regions chosen for their experience of recent storms and floods.

'Many of the regions of NSW that were devastated by floods over recent years are still in recovery mode. In order for our professional development participants to fully appreciate the diversity of career opportunities in agriculture in these regions, it was felt a hands-on, in-person tour that explored various industries would be the most impactful option,' said Ben Holmes, Program Manager for the PIEFA Storm and Flood Recovery Program.

The event showcased careers from a variety of agricultural sectors. Participants reported that their understanding of agriculture careers had increased significantly, and they were well-equipped and motivated to promote agriculture career pathways to their students.

As part of the event, participants went to a cattle farm in the Macleay Valley region, where they were given the opportunity to learn and practice some skills required in the livestock industry. Beef cattle farmer and educator, Gavin Saul, and Macleay Vocational College Principal, Ryan Martin, talked about the value of practical skills training and alternate education pathways.

Participants also visited other local employers and producers and heard from a range of people from industry including the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Ricardoes Tomatoes & Strawberries, Norco, The Other Chef, Wicked Elf Beer, Dorrigo Mushrooms, Dairy NSW and more. Ben said of industry participants, 'We were spoilt with some outstanding speakers, all passionate about their respective specialties'.

[Read the full story in the Coffs Coast News](#)

PIEFA have an upcoming conference May 1 and 2: [Growing the NextGen of Food and Fibre Education](#)

Primary industry education resources are available on the [PIEFA website](#).





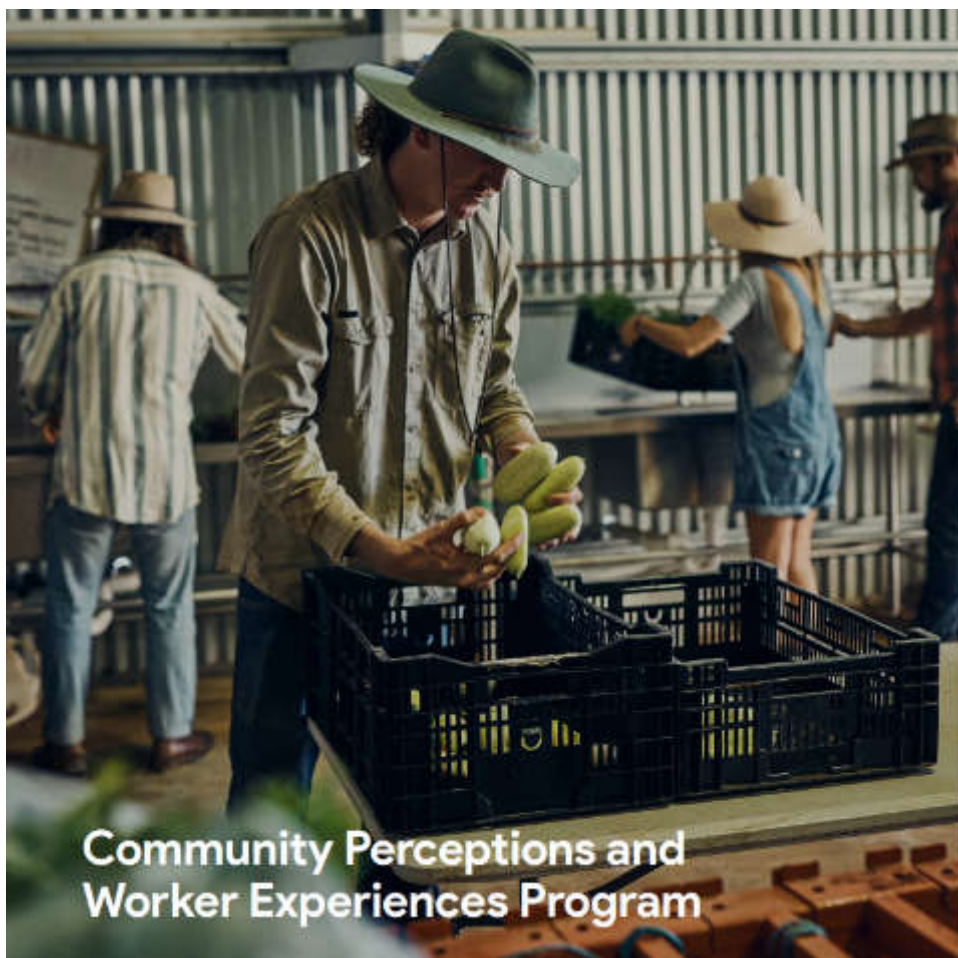
Image source: Coffs Coast News

AgriFutures Report: Community Perceptions and Worker Experiences Program – agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.

AgriFutures Australia's Community Perceptions and Worker Experiences Program report provides qualitative research results on the challenges and opportunities facing the Australian agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. Specifically, the focus of the work into the report was to deliver key insights into community and worker perceptions of working in these sectors and investigate the impact these perceptions and experiences have on workforce attraction and retention.

The report revealed that worker experiences in the sectors are overwhelmingly positive for both those in on and off-farm roles with many workers valuing the mentorship and training they have received in their careers.

[Read the Community Perceptions and Worker Experiences report.](#)



Smart and Skilled Update

AgSkilled 2.0 program reminder: Fee free training is now available for the livestock

sector. Agricultural livestock includes the raising/husbandry of beef cattle, dairy, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, honey-bees, other livestock, animal management services used for commercial agricultural (food and fibre) production and/or pest/disease management for these livestock animals.

Read more in the [Smart and Skilled update](#).

Industry Events: Tocal Field Days – 5, 6, 7 May 2023

Tocal Field Days, one of the major agricultural events in NSW, will be held on the first weekend in May, as it has been since 1984. This three-day agricultural field day showcases a vast array of products and services with over 300 exhibitors bringing all the latest in farming techniques and technologies, machinery, remote devices, solar energy and award-winning livestock.

Learn more about [Tocal Field Days](#).



NSW Grants, Opportunities and Scholarships

Training Services NSW is offering the following grants, opportunities and scholarships to employers and vocational learners. Follow the links for more information.

[Aboriginal Business Advisory Initiative](#): support for existing Aboriginal owned and operated businesses to grow and diversify their business.

[Barranggirra](#): to provide end to end support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners through culturally appropriate mentoring to ensure successful retention and completion of training and improved post-training employment outcomes.

[Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Grant](#): the grant adopts a number of strategies to develop and support Aboriginal people through the creation of training and employment opportunities. **Submissions close at 5.00PM 30 June 2023 (AEST).**

[Farms of The Future AgTech Grant Program](#): aims to facilitate tech enabled production and monitoring through improved connectivity and installation of sensor equipment which support increased productivity, competitiveness, job creation and sustainable use of resources in the selected agricultural sectors: Cotton, Livestock (sheep and beef), Grains and Horticultural (tree crops and vines). **Application closes 31 August 2023, 5.00pm.**

[Resources to Assist in Supervising Your Apprentice or Trainee](#): a series of videos and resources are available.

[Free Training for Veterans](#): to broaden their career opportunities and help transition to civilian life after service, veterans and their partners will have access to free training.

Other Grants and opportunities:

[Free Support to Help Create Mentally Healthy Workplaces](#): SafeWork NSW has a range of programs, tools and resources available to help on the journey to create mentally healthy workplaces.

Please feel welcome share this newsletter with anyone you think might be interested.

If you have been forwarded this email and would like to stay up to date with news from NSW AFAM ITAB, you are welcome to subscribe to our mailing list.

[Subscribe here](#)
