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AFAM ITAB

**Agriculture, Food
& Animal Management**

April 2024

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If you have any questions relating to skills and training in NSW, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,
Jess
Executive Officer

Engagement Activities

AFAM's Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs) for Horticulture, Landscape, Conservation and Land Management (AHLCLM) and Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical (FBP) committees met this month.

NSW FBP Committee members had the opportunity to provide information on the skills and training needs of their industry sectors directly to the Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance (MISA) Jobs and Skills Council (JSC) and the AHLCLM committee to both Skills Insight JSC and Training Services NSW.

AFAM would like to thank Nursery and Gardens Industry NSW & ACT for its warm hospitality in hosting the AHLCLM hybrid committee meeting at their offices in Kenthurst and organising a tour for the committee members by nursery manager, Marc Patterson at Kenthurst Nursery.



L-R: Anita Campbell NGINA NSW-ACT, Frank Gasparre AABR, Jodie Dean Landscape Association NSW-ACT, Michelle Ingley-Smith Skills Insight, David Priem TAFE NSW, Jess AFAM, Jenny Zadrow Turf NSW & Sports Turf Association NSW, Simon James PLA NSW.





Marc Patterson, Nursery Manager, during the committee tour of Kenthurst Nursery.

NSW VET Review Interim Report

At the end of last month, the NSW Government released the NSW VET Review Interim Report into the state's vocational education and training sector. A key election commitment of the NSW Labor Government, the Interim Report makes seven recommendations for rebuilding TAFE NSW and strengthening the wider vocational training sector. The panel, selected by the NSW Department of Education, conducted an extensive consultation process over four months seeking input from registered training organisations, teachers, students, government agencies, peak bodies, industry representatives, local businesses, councils, and universities.

The Interim Report contains recommendations which the government will seek to immediately implement, including the development of a TAFE NSW Charter which will set clear expectations as part of the process of TAFE reform. Chair of the NSW VET Review, Dr Michele Bruniges AM said, 'As we move forward, our focus remains on delivering a final report that provides a roadmap for a robust and responsive VET sector.' The panel is expected to submit its final report to the government by the middle of 2024 when the NSW Government will consider all recommendations in full.

Learn more about the review process, [download the interim report](#) or read the [media release](#).



Strategic Review of the Australian Apprenticeship Incentive System

The Australian Government is undertaking a review of the Australian Apprenticeship Incentive System (Incentive System) to investigate the support available to help more people start and complete apprenticeships and traineeships.

The Incentive System provides financial support to apprentices, trainees and employers working in priority industries. It is intended to encourage people to start an apprenticeship or traineeship and see it through to completion. This is to ensure Australia has workers with the trade and technical skills needed by industry, providing secure, well-paid work and career advancement.

The review is looking into how support can best be placed to increase the completion rate and will be informed by targeted research and underpinned by broad consultation with stakeholders.

Written submissions on matters raised in the Terms of Reference are **due before Wednesday 15 May 2024**. Additional input will be invited throughout the review process via the [Department of Employment and Workplace Relations' Consultation Hub](#) and a range of virtual and in-person consultation methods.

For more information about the Strategic Review and to subscribe to receive updates on the Australian Apprenticeship Incentive System, [visit the Department website](#).

Scholarships Closing Soon

AgriFutures Thoroughbred Horses Program 2024 Les Young Scholarship

Applications are now open for the AgriFutures Thoroughbred Horses Program 2024 Les Young Scholarship established in honour of a renowned industry all-rounder and his lifetime commitment to the thoroughbred industry. For young people aged between 18 and 25 years who are looking to develop their skills in the thoroughbred industry, applicants must have at least two years industry experience as well as passion to remain part of the thoroughbred industry as their career progresses.

The scholarship will provide funding and support to the successful applicant via a combination of theory coursework and a paid placement with an international horse stud in the United Kingdom where they will develop further understanding around foaling and breeding, bloodstock husbandry and stable and equine management. Travel, study visas and accommodation will be covered by the scholarship. Applications close 5pm on Wednesday, 1 May 2024.

For more information, visit the [AgriFutures website](#)



NSW Farmers' Association Tertiary Scholarships

Five scholarships for bright young minds from rural communities, each worth \$4000 annually are now open for applications. The scholarships are open to members of NSW farmers' association, their partners or children to support their university or vocational qualification in a field relevant to regional and rural Australia.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic performance, commitment to agriculture and rural communities, and all-round ability including leadership qualities and communication skills.

Applications for the scholarship **close on Sunday 5 May 2024**.

For more information visit the [NSW Farmers' Association website](#)

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Cultivating the Next Generation – new resources available

The Cultivating the Next Generation project, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, has released new resources that will help teachers and advisors encourage young people to consider a career in Australia's constantly evolving and modern agriculture industry.

Each resource was trialled through a national outreach program designed to enhance Year 9-12 students' and educators' knowledge and perceptions of the numerous agricultural career opportunities across Australia.

Learn more about the project and access resources for industry, schools and students at the [AgriFutures website](#).



Upcoming Events

Total Field Days will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the event known as 'The premier agricultural event in the Hunter, Newcastle and Central Coast Regions' on **3, 4, 5 of May**. 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.

Some of the attractions this year include Dairy NSW milking demonstration, NSW Farriers Association hot shoeing horses, Big Farmer Andy and Zoe Carter on the main stage talking about farming, rural mental health and women in ag, live music, and a very special Total beer brewed by Bread & Brewery!

Learn more about [Total Field Days](#) and [book your tickets online](#).



Jobs and Skills Councils (JSC) Project Updates:

The [Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance \(MISA\) JSC](#) is currently drafting their 2024 Workforce Plan.

[Skills Insight JSC](#) currently have their [2024 Workforce Plan](#) available for public consultation and projects underway in various stages. To learn more and provide input please follow the links below.

Research Projects

[AgTrade Apprenticeship](#): Skills Insight feasibility report submitted to the Agricultural Workforce Working Group, Minister and DEWR.

[Connecting RTOs & Employers Research Project](#): Report being drafted based on roundtables and other consultations.

[Exploring Training Demand and Supply Challenges](#): Preparation for focus groups, survey, interviews and site visits.

[Meat Safety Induction Pilot](#): Collation of existing resources, initial research and consultation.

[Training and Support Materials for Meat Safety Qualifications](#): Subject matter experts

[Training and Support Materials for Meat Safety Qualifications](#): Subject matter experts identified, and drafts being developed.

Training Package Projects

[AHC Improvements](#) : Submitted to the Skills Minister for endorsement.

[Essential Meat Processing Skills](#): Technical committee established and drafts in development.

[Livestock Operations](#): Technical committee established, and site visits undertaken.

[Rural Operations](#): The Certificate II in Rural Operations is being reviewed to see if it accurately reflects the evolving skills needs of industry and learners.

[Shearing and Wool Classing](#): Site visits undertaken and drafts being developed. Drafts will be available for feedback in May.

[Tree Felling Project](#): Submitted to the Skills Minister for endorsement.



NSW Grants, Opportunities and Scholarships

The following grants, opportunities and scholarships are available 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.

[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.

[OCHRE Opportunity Hubs](#): aim to provide First Nations young people with the confidence and knowledge to follow a supported pathway between school and further education and/or employment through partnerships with schools, coordination of local opportunities, mentoring, support and more.

[On Farm Connectivity Program](#): to enable primary producers in agriculture, forestry and/or fisheries to take advantage of digital agribusiness solutions to boost productivity and improve safety. **Applications close 30 June 2024 or when funding is exhausted, whichever occurs first.**

[Premier's Vocational Education in Schools Scholarship](#): for a study to research current issues in vocational education that impact students in schools. The scholarship is open to teachers in NSW secondary schools, specifically Vocational Education and Training accredited teachers, or teachers undertaking a VET co-ordination role at their school. **Applications close 11.59pm (AEST), Friday, 3 May 2024.**

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

Other Grants and opportunities:

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.

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AFAM NSW ITAB
jcleary@skillsinsight.com.au
PO Box 329
Edgecliff, NSW 2027
Australia

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