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# AFAM ITAB

**Agriculture, Food  
& Animal Management**

**May 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

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## Engagement Activities

This month AFAM participated in the Central West Careers Advisers Association's annual Facts About Careers & Tertiary Studies (FACTS) Day at Charles Stuart University in Bathurst.

It was fantastic to see a strong presence of Vocational Education Training (VET) and tertiary providers and stakeholders within AFAM's coverage, including Central West Farming Systems, Harness Racing NSW, Racing NSW, TAFE NSW, Tocal College, and Apprenticeship Network Providers. Over 700 senior students and career advisers from the region's schools attended the day-long event.

While in the region, AFAM also had the opportunity to meet with the Training Services NSW team, where we discussed skills and training needs and the workforce challenges of AFAM's industry sectors. This meeting was a key outcome of Training Services NSW's ongoing efforts to connect schools with industry.

AFAM thanks the Central West Careers Advisers Association for helping us to connect with local career advisers and school students, connections we value greatly.

For more information, visit the [Regional Industry Education Partnerships](#) programs webpage.



Over 700 students and career advisers attending the the Central West Careers Advisers Association's annual Facts About Careers & Tertiary Studies (FACTS) Day!



**Image left** L-R - Jess Cleary, AFAM ITAB, Lisa Giammarco, Executive Officer, NSW Public Sector ITAB, Max Wilson, Executive Director, ACEIS ITAB, Susan Sewcraft, Executive Director, CSU ITAB

**Image right** - L-R , Lakin Agnew, Student Welfare Support, Tocal College, Jess Cleary, AFAM ITAB, Diana Fear, CEO, Central West Farming Systems



## Women in Agriculture Initiatives

### 2024 AgriFutures Rural Women's Awards - Finalists

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award celebrates women's inclusive and courageous leadership in Australia's rural and emerging industries, businesses, and communities, now and in the future.

AFAM is proud to congratulate [this year's finalists!](#) In addition to the prestigious title, each state and territory winner will be awarded a \$15,000 Westpac grant. This grant is a significant financial resource that can support a project, business, or program benefiting rural industries, companies, and communities.

The National Winner will receive an extra \$20,000 Westpac grant, and the National runner-up will receive an extra \$15,000.

The National winner and runner-up will be announced at the 2024 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award Gala Dinner on 20 August 2024.

For more information about the awards and attending the gala event, visit [Agrifutures Rural Women's Awards](#).





2023 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award winner, entrepreneur and co-founder of Grown Not Flown, Nikki Davey. (Image courtesy of Agrifutures)

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## Empowering Women in Farming Businesses

NSW Farmers has launched a new series of events across rural and regional NSW. The events aim to provide women in farming businesses with the necessary tools and networks to enhance and develop their business and decision-making skills and expand their relevant networks, which can give more support.

NSW Farmers are delivering 12 events across NSW in 2024 on the following dates and locations.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dubbo, Thu, 30 May</li><li>• Griffith, Thu, 6 June</li><li>• Moree, Thu, 20 June</li><li>• Tamworth, Wed, 3 July</li><li>• Coonamble, Tue, 30 July</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Merriwa, Thu, 8 September</li><li>• Grafton, Wed, 25 September</li><li>• Goulburn, Thu, 17 October</li><li>• Harden, Wed, 30 October</li><li>• Broken Hill, location &amp; date TBA</li></ul>
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For more information, please visit the [NSW Farmers website](#).



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## Scholarships closing soon

### Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships

Applications are open for the Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships. The scholarships offer financial assistance to first year apprentices in NSW who are experiencing hardship. The scholarships are designed to support eligible apprentices, including school-based apprentices, who have shown aptitude for their trade training and demonstrate a positive attitude both in the workplace and in their formal training.

A maximum of 150 scholarships are available, each worth \$5,000 per year for up to three years.

For further information, including eligibility criteria, please visit the [Bert Evans Scholarship program](#) webpage. **Applications close 11.59pm Friday, 31 May 2024.**





## Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia (VNCA) launches Wellness Hub

The Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia (VNCA) supports veterinary nurses' and technologists' health and well-being. VNCA has relaunched its new and improved Wellness Hub, a dedicated space designed to enhance the total health and well-being of every VNCA member.

This comprehensive hub will feature updated resources, insightful content, and, most importantly, access to a broad-ranging Member Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP includes resources to manage both mental and physical health and well-being.

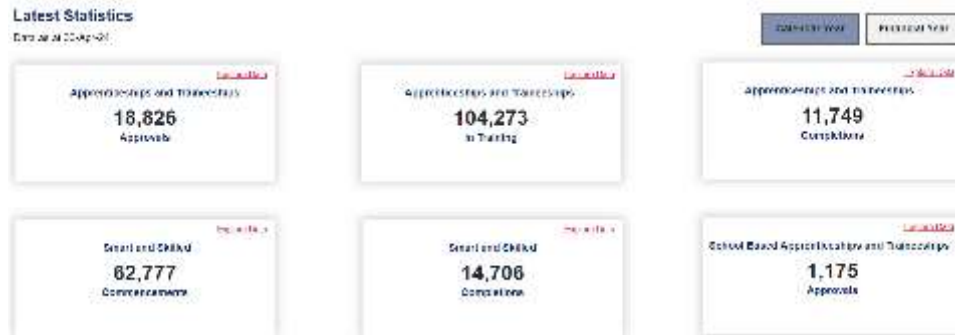
For more information visit the [VNCA Wellness Hub](#).



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# New VET Statistics Dashboard

[Training Services NSW](#) provides the latest data on NSW vocational education and training, and apprenticeships and traineeships. The new VET statistics dashboard is presented in an interactive format and allows users to filter, sort and download information. [Visit the dashboard](#).



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## 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 both training package and research projects underway in various stages. To learn more and provide input please follow the links below.

### Planning Stage:

[Exploring Training Demand and Supply Challenges](#)

### Development Stage:

[Worker Safety Induction Pilot](#)  
[Training Support Materials for Meat Safety Project](#)  
[Rural Operations Project](#)

### Broad Consultation Underway:

[Essential Meat Processing Skills Project](#)  
[Livestock Operations Project](#)  
[Shearing and Wool Classing Pilot](#)

### Reports in Development:

[Connecting RTOs & Employers Project](#)  
[Wood Machining Research Project](#)

### Submitted to Assurance Body / Department:

[Ag Trade Apprenticeship Project](#)

### Endorsed and published on the National Training Register:

[AHC Improvements Project](#)  
[Tree Felling Project](#)

### Other Projects Underway:



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## 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.**

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

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.

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

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