



21st Century
Careers in
Agriculture

THE AG SHED

North Central LLEN

Dates

July

- 14th-16th Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show
- 27th Prime Super Agribusiness Scholarship closes
- 30th Marcus Oldham Open Day

August

- 2nd – 3rd Speed Field Days
- 6th Longerenong Agricultural College Open Day
- 6th Charles Sturt University Open Day Wagga Wagga - Agriculture
- 6th La Trobe University Open Day Melbourne - Agriculture
- 13th La Trobe University Open Day Albury Wodonga – Agriculture (transfer to Melbourne after first year)
- 14th Ag Gap Year Student Applications open
- 20th University of Melbourne, Open Day - Agriculture
- 27th La Trobe University Open Day Bendigo – Agribusiness

September

- 3-6th Elmore Field Days
- 11th Dookie Open Day
- 13th Birchip Cropping Group Main Field Day including a student stream

October

- 7th- 8th St Arnaud Ag Show
- 13th – 14th Donald Ag Show
- 14th Boort Ag Show
- 21st Charlton Ag Show

November

- 17th National Agriculture Day.



Scholarships

Encouraging young Australians to choose a career in agribusiness ...

Each year, Agribusiness Australia awards a scholarship to encourage young Australians to undertake tertiary education in agriculture.

The 2023 Agribusiness Australia Scholarship is now open for applications from eligible **secondary school students** across Australia.

Application Submission Deadline: 5pm Thursday 27 July 2023

Students who are studying to enter university in 2024 to study an ag degree or a degree or full-time tertiary education where they intend to establish a career in ag, are welcome to apply. [Download the \(writable\) PDF Application Form](#)

This \$3,000 scholarship is part of Agribusiness Australia's key priority of encouraging students into the sector to ensure that agribusiness continues to be a major contributor to the Australian economy.

Drones

On Point Drones

I was fortunate to be at a Wedderburn VFF meeting in Feb when Dean and Kate Bull were giving a drone presentation. I chased them down for a chat and they were very interested in our Agriculture Project and keen to link with local schools.

Last month, I travelled to Castlemaine to meet them. Dean described his varied career path up until now. Which has included the following.

- Completing VCE at Castlemaine SC including high level mathematics subjects
- Qualifying as a stone mason
- Operating an excavator building the Harcourt Calder Hwy by-pass
- Two years as an interstate truck driver
- Farm Worker
- Nightshift forklift driver KR Don.
- Helicopter pilot
 - Checking powerlines through outback Queensland
 - Tourism
 - Flood monitoring and rescue 2016
 - Supporting Aboriginal communities in outback NT
 - Fire fighting and controlled burning



After Dean returned to Castlemaine in 2020, he was getting many phone calls from farmers wanting a helicopter to spray, fertilise and seed inaccessible areas. Drones seemed like a perfect option to fill this need. He knew that drones could do the identical work of helicopters but were more suited to smaller spaces of Central Victoria.

Some of his current drone work includes.

- Spraying for farmers and forestry
- Seeding and fertilising
- Mouse baiting
- Blue-green algae treatments
- Crop health monitoring
- Crop insurance claim monitoring

Links with School

- Dean can bring his drones for a presentation at schools. I did suggest that School would reimburse his fuel costs, as he is a fledgling family business.
- Dean has had an interesting and varied work life which is an interesting story for students to hear – his key messages
 - Take every opportunity to get micro credentials, tickets and licences – white cards, fork lift, truck, explosives, excavator etc.
 - If you want a job or an opportunity, go to the business face-to-face. Shows you are keen and gives you a chance to showcase your personality. It's harder for them to say no in person than it is in an email.
 - Don't quit a job in anger. Work extra hard in your last few weeks in a job. It means the business will value you and you can return to work there again, if you need to. And you get a good reference!

Contact <https://onpointdrones.com.au/>

Drone Resources



Girls in STEM

<https://www.thegist.edu.au/>



Resources and competitions for students

<https://shemaps.com/>



Australian Government

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Civil Aviation Authority

<https://www.casa.gov.au/knowyourdrone/classroom-resources>

Drone Photography

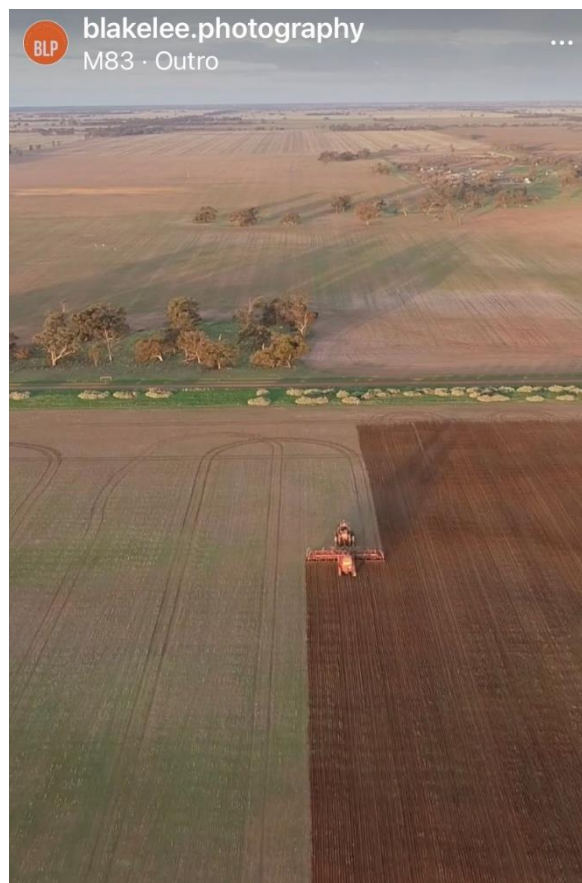
Photography has become a key part of the agriculture industry. Using social media to tell your story or promote your business has become increasingly important. A number of young people in our region have developed a specialty business in drone photography. This sort of entrepreneurship from young people is one of the very exciting opportunities in agriculture.

Drone photography can assist in

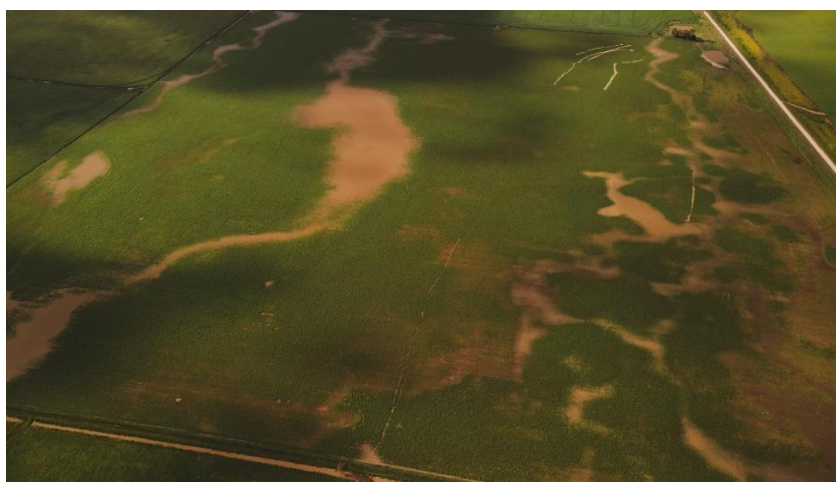
- Identifying weed infestations
- Identifying pests and diseases
- Promoting farm businesses and celebrating agriculture
- Selling property
- Identifying flood damage (photos were required for 2023 flood recovery grants)
- Selling livestock
- Identifying remnant vegetation

Blake Lee from Birchip is a 2023 Heywire winner and is passionate about photography.

<https://www.abc.net.au/heywire/heywire-winner-2023-blake-vic-birchup-photography/101681220>



Blake Slatter (blakeslatter.com) from Boort was busy in 2022 taking flood photos.



In the Garden



My veggie garden, photographed by a drone!

The winter solstice has always been a highly symbolic event. It can be a planting marker for agriculture and the garden. Although the days will now start to get longer, the coldest weather is still to come.

The capsicums will certainly be done after today's frost but I am grateful that we have had six months of eating capsicums. I reckon capsicums are a big winner up here. Our hot summers can cause other veggies to flag, but capsicums love the heat. However, last year, I had trouble with the walls of the capsicum rotting. This year, in an attempt to boost the calcium, I fed the soils with egg shells (dried on the wood heater) and have had a much more prolific and sturdy harvest. Despite the nutritious value of capsicums, I must admit to some relief that that I can move on to eating broccoli.



Capsicums succumbing to the frost



First head of broccoli



Egg shells ready for spreading on the garden to boost minerals.



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