



21st Century
Careers in
Agriculture



THE
AG SHED



North Central LLEN

Dates

September

23rd Galngga Festival Begins

October

3-6th Elmore Field Days

7th - 8th St Arnaud Ag Show

13th - 14th Donald Ag Show

14th Boort Ag Show

15th Ag Gap Year Applications Close

21st Charlton Ag Show

22nd Galngga Festival Concludes

November

17th National Agriculture Day.



Opportunity

Cultivating Futures: funded by Agrifutures

Ideally, group sizes of around 25-35 students but can work with other numbers. Students in Year 9-12 are our recommended year levels.

Availability to run this day on either **Friday 13th October** or **Wednesday 18th October**.

The excursion will be fully organized and paid for, including buses, and facilitated by the project team for a Year 9-12 class to participate. Ideal for groups of 25-35 students to experience local agricultural businesses and farms.

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|--|---|
| Timings will be changed to suit school times | Introduction & Greeting Reflection Activity <i>Agriculture Definition:</i> Any activity connected with the growing of food and fibre. Introduction to Activities |
| 9:00 am – 9:20 am | |
| 9:20 am – 9:30 am | <i>Move to Rotation - Settle, etc</i> |
| 9:30 am – 10:20 am | Lesson on an agricultural career aligned to curriculum Teacher can choose curriculum options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital Technology - Food Technology - Agriculture - Science - Business |
| 10:20 am – 11:00 am | Recess |
| 11:00 am – 11:30 am | Travel to Excursion location |
| 11:30 am – 1:15pm | <i>Farm Visit/Agricultural workplace :</i> |
| 1:15pm - 1:45pm | Return to School |
| 1:45pm - 2:45pm | Reflection Activity |

BCG Field Day



Birchip Cropping Group Main Field Day

A huge thank you to the staff and students that committed to the Birchip Cropping Group's Main Field Day set amongst the rolling mallee crops at Kinnabulla West. Over 130 students attended the field day and many of these enthusiastic agriculture students will now see BCG as a part of their future journey in agriculture, whether that be through employment or as an essential resource in their own farming careers.

The day featured some hotly contested competitions. Winners of the Treasure Hunt were Isabelle and Hollee (East Loddon), Frederick, Alby, Jack and Josephine (Boort) Kelly and Tessa (Wycheproof).

The student who most closely guessed the weight (43.28t.) of the lentils on Sait's B-Double was Ebony (East Loddon). And the closest guess to the number of sheep (621) on Fitzpatrick's truck was Hollee (East Loddon).

The students also found time to research the vast variety of careers on display. The winner of the competition that found five different agriculture careers was Glenn (Donald)



Can staff please let me know if you have any suggestions going forward for this event. The feedback sheets helped a lot, but I was also wondering about specific requirements or key knowledge from the VET or VCE study designs that we could focus on in the program for 2024.

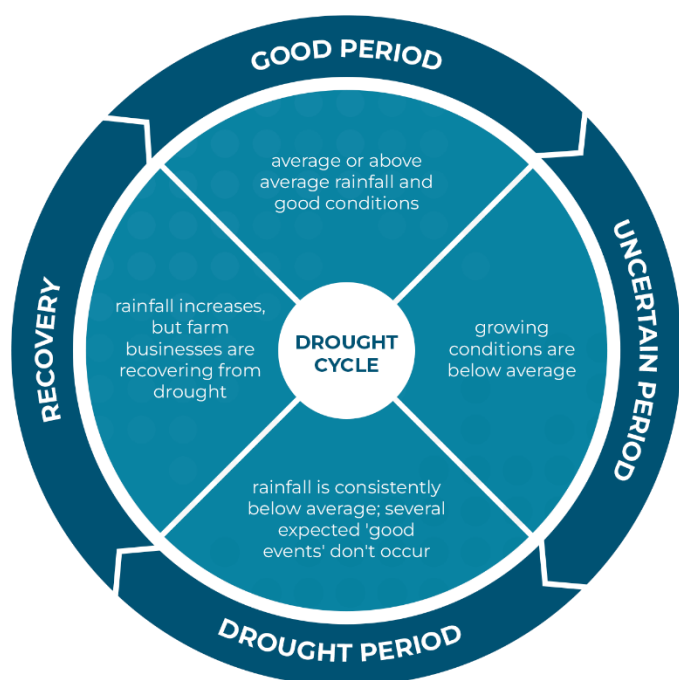


El Nino

BOM have finally declared an El Nino for Australia. For our region, this indicates that there is a greater than 80% chance of hotter than average temperatures and also a greater than 80% chance of lower than average rainfall for the next three months. Additionally, there will be a higher risk of frost and bushfires.

Although most major Australian droughts have been associated with El Niño, analysis of past El Niño events shows that widespread drought does not occur with every event. However, for those of us with painful and relatively fresh memories of the Millennial drought, an El Nino declaration raises anxiety.

Fortunately, our government has listened to the adage that the best time to think about drought is during good seasons. The Australian Government has established a Future Drought Fund with the Victorian hub known as The Victorian Drought Resilience and Innovation Hub. In our region, BCG are leading the project which aims to enhance economic, environmental and social resilience to drought.



The Drought Hub uses the graphic (left) to explain the drought cycle. Teachers could use this graphic as an overlay to investigate the seasonal variance of stock feed requirements, stock numbers, water prices, budgeting, mental health, etc.

The Drought Hub also has some fascinating research and events, designed to investigate the multifaceted impacts of drought. My personal favourite is this project (see below) from Birchip Cropping Group. This research would be fabulous in the classroom.

<https://vicdroughthub.org.au/projects/over-the-fence-a-drought-resilience-lens>

OVER THE FENCE, A DROUGHT RESILIENCE LENS

BCG is collating a series of short interviews with farmers and members of the farming industry, covering a broad range of topics relevant within the north west broadacre farming area in an effort to inspire the sharing of information and innovation 'over the fence'. Each interview will be accompanied by professional photography to showcase the landscapes, lifestyles and on-farm proactiveness within the industry to challenge stereotypes set by the media in previous drought events and as a result, boost mental health.

<https://vicdroughthub.org.au/>

<https://www.bcg.org.au/research-results/drought-hub/>

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/updates/articles/a008-el-nino-and-australia.shtml>

BCG Contacts: Fiona Best and Grace Hosking

Interesting ...

From Cibo Labs and Raynor Ag

The seven most expensive words in agriculture (and maybe any business!)

WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE IT LIKE THIS



In the Garden

Matthew Evans (Gourmet Gardener) describes this period of spring as the 'hungry patch', everything is furiously growing but there is almost nothing to harvest yet. It is a good time to use up last summer's preserves, hence the apple cake recipe below.

My tomatoes are now out of the black pots and in the ground. Gardening Australia tell me that "When you start off tomato plants in a pot, give them just enough food and water to survive. Stress them, so they flower earlier. When they flower, stick them straight into the ground and give them everything they need."

'Treat them mean, to get them to fruit early; and treat them kind, to make sure they fruit well!'

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/tomato-treatment/101611980>

To treat my tomatoes kindly, I'm a great lover of using seaweed solution and I follow the mantra "weakly weekly" for my summer vegetables. A number of years ago I invested in a Haw's watering can which is a beautiful product and brings me great pleasure every time I searol the veggies.

My zucchinis are also up and going, Hopefully I am disciplined enough to choose the strongest two plants and pull out the others. We have all endured the experience of having too many zucchinis, or worse, being given some woody over-large zucchinis by our neighbours!

There are a lot of chemical sprays in the air around my place at the moment, so I am trying to provide a haven for bees. In the veggie garden, I have planted flowers at the end of each bed to encourage pollination.



Apple Upside Down Cake

Ingredients

- 200 grams butter
- 100 grams castor sugar
- 50 grams brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 200 grams ground almonds (I like to grind my own almonds in food processor)
- 2 Tablespoons SR Flour
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla Essence
- Stewed apple or thinly sliced apple/pear/stonefruit

Method

- Preheat oven 180 degrees
- Line base of a spring form (20cm) tin with baking paper
- Sprinkle with sugar and slivered almonds and then cover with a thin layer of fruit
- Cream butter and sugar and vanilla
- Beat in egg, one at a time
- Blend in almond meal and flour and spoon over fruit
- Bake 30-40 minutes until golden and nearly firm
- Let cool for 20 minutes before turning out

Variation of a recipe from mamashanti



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