



21st Century
Careers in
Agriculture



THE
AG SHED



North Central LLEN

Dates

August

- 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
- 23rd MMLLEN Agriculture Horticulture Careers Expo, Swan Hill
- 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.

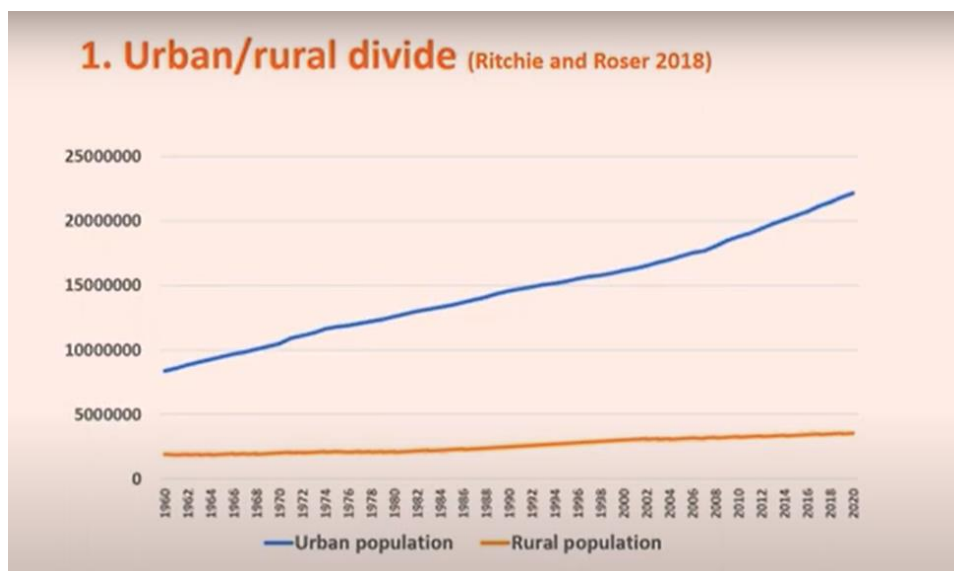


Birchip Cropping Group Field Day

Stay tuned for more information, but this promises to be a great day. BCG are leaders in innovation and research. Students will have an opportunity to learn about careers ranging from hands-on, to high level science and research. Activities will include a careers panel, engaging with farmers and researchers, and even a treasure hunt. Remember that lunch and bus costs will be supported by NCLLEN.

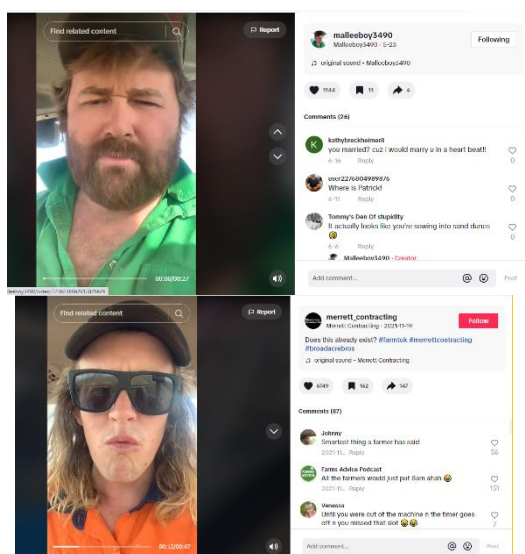
Telling the Agriculture Story

In my six months in this job, I have been to many agriculture events – and one of the most common discussion points is, the disconnect between farmers and the urban population. Fifty years ago, nearly everyone in the city had a family connection to farming. This is no longer the case, which has huge implications for the recruitment of an agricultural workforce from urban areas. Additionally, this disconnect has led to some misconceptions about the ethics of agriculture which has further alienated some young urban people.



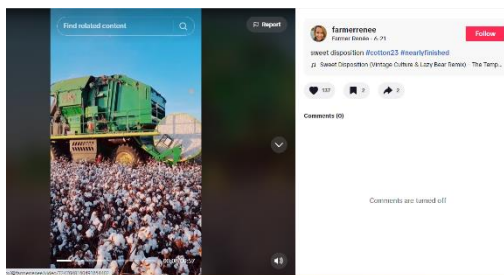
One of the opportunities to address this urban/rural divide, is to use social media to tell our stories. Social media platforms are an ever-changing trend. Research from 2022, suggested 95% of young people regularly access **YouTube**, with **TikTok** the next most-used platform. **Instagram** and **Snap Chat** are also still popular. My 21-year-old offsider, uses **BeReal** which is an opportunity to take an authentic snapshot of his day to day life.

Certainly, the power of these platforms is their huge audience reach. Below are some examples.



- **Peter Vallance** from Ouyen has nearly 800,000 followers
<https://www.tiktok.com/@malleeboy3490>

- **Mark Merrett** from Kaniva has over 6000 followers
https://www.tiktok.com/@merrett_contracting



Renee Anderson from Queensland celebrates Australian cotton (which sometimes gets a bad rap). She has over 3000 followers <https://www.tiktok.com/@farmerrenee>

Links for Schools

- These agricultural clips could be used as a hook at the beginning of a lesson, or as content within lessons
- Consider encouraging students to film their practical work
- Landline episode about agricultural influencers https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVNNr_tk8yE
- Consider promoting your students' short ag films on your school social media sites.
- Obviously, there are some issues around appropriate content and student privacy etc that should always be considered.

Young Lot Feeder Awards

Six finalists in the prestigious ALFA Young Lot Feeder of the Year Award have been announced. In exciting news for our region, two of the six finalists are from TEYs Charlton Feedlot.

To apply, all entrants were required to submit an essay outlining an industry problem (perceived or real), discussing its implications to the feedlot industry, and exploring a proposed solution. The title of the finalists' essays are included below.

- **James Keatley**, Teys Australia – Charlton VIC
 - *The concept of water footprint and its relation to grain-fed beef*
- **Tahljia Sheahan**, Teys Australia – Charlton VIC
 - *Sourcing and Retaining Quality Staff*

Finalists will attend second round judging in August to reveal Top Three Grand Finalists
Winner will be announced at ALFA's SmartBeef23 event in Tamworth, NSW on 11 October 2023

Teys Feedlot in Charlton are very generous with the time they give to our local schools. Tahljia's enthusiasm for her career was obvious when she presented at the VET Taster Day. Teys also contributed to the TIS Day and the Wimmera Careers Expo. Teys Charlton is a welcoming and educational destination for school agricultural excursions.

We wish Tahljia and James all the best for the pointy end of the competition.



Kerang Agricultural Careers Expo

Kerang Technical High School presented an amazing Agriculture Careers Expo last week. Several presenters shared their personal stories of their agricultural journey. Additionally, there were plenty of hands-on activities. Students could try their hands at shearing, combing a goat or programming the technical CASE tractors.

There was also the very hotly contested Ag Olympics, with teams of students rolling tyres, setting up swags and making little square hay stacks.

It was wonderful to see Pyramid Hill College and East Loddon at this event. I'm sure their students, like me, were blown away by the breadth and depth of agricultural-related careers in our region.

Well done to Krystal Grylls and her team. It was good to see Secondary School's Ag Fund in action.



Opportunities

RACE AGRI-TECH ROADSHOW

**IS COMING TO THE SWAN HILL REGION
21st – 24th AUGUST**

The CQUniversity Agri-tech Education & Extension team is looking for secondary schools to visit in the Swan Hill region!

We will come to your school and deliver fun and exciting sessions that link agricultural industries to the school curriculum. Using the latest agri-tech, hands-on activities will allow students to explore a range of careers and network with local people who produce food and fibre.

Follow the link to book now:

<https://calendly.com/ageducation2/agritech-roadshow-swan-hill>



Contact Agri-Tech if your school wants to be involved in this incursion.

Sounds great to me!



A free workshop to fine-tune your ag-tech teaching skills.

NCLLEN can offer **CRT support** to your school if staff would like to attend.

AGRI-TECH CHECK

Free Teacher PD

This workshop, run in partnership with the VAAHE, will teach you the skills and knowledge needed to incorporate the 'Agri-tech Check' learning modules into your teaching program across years 7–12.

You will learn how to access and navigate the three online platforms used in GPS Cows, AgriWebb, and Escavox modules, and share them with your students. We will also demonstrate one learning activity from each module.

Register now: bit.ly/Agri-Techcheck



Monday 30 October 2023

CQUniversity Campus,
120 Spring St Melbourne.
8.30am – 3pm

Catering provided
Please bring your own laptop



In the Garden

It's definitely time to give the fruit trees a bit of love. I am a bit late with the pruning but fortunately my pruning was ruthless in 2022 so only a light trim is needed this year. Still, it's a precarious job and as I perch up on the top rung of the ladder, I am reminded of Molly Meldrum's tragic fall! It's probably a job I need to consider outsourcing but to be honest, I love the opportunity for close observation of each tree. I have a little conversation with the tree about our arrangement where I promise to water them and they commit to producing fruit!

I am having a bit of a nut growing craze at the moment. Fruit fly has made a mess of my late peaches so I wonder whether nuts (almond, pistachio, macadamia) are a better option for hard work that goes into growing fruit. Pecans are particularly good performers for me. I planted them on the edge of the Waranga channel which I imagine might recreate the Mississippi River scenario (where they originate from). Pecans are time consuming to pick. I lay out a tarp under the tree and then shake the branches. They are also rather tedious to shell. But once they are done, I freeze them in snap lock bags and then roast them for muesli, snacks or pecan pie. Yum!



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