



21st Century  
Careers in  
Agriculture



THE   
AG SHED



  
North Central LLEN

## EXCURSION

### Longerenong

Students in Years 9,10 and 11 from Pyramid Hill College and Boort District School had a highly valuable visit to Longerenong Agricultural College last week. Accompanied by Pyramid College Principal, Fiona Moon and NCLLEN staff, Susan Gould and Barb Bear, students were treated to an authentic and hands-on experience. Students were given a tour of the campus including the accommodation, data farm, wool classing room, lecture theatres and the cropping machinery. They also had a delicious lunch in the student canteen. The Longy staff generously gave up their time to conduct workshops focused on grain identification, soil testing and lambing ewes. The trip was supported by the NCLLEN 21<sup>st</sup> Century Agricultural Careers Project

The range of courses available and the chance to form a network of likeminded peers, makes Longy a very impressive option for our students.

#### From the students -

*'The part of Longy I liked best was the auditorium because I could imagine myself sitting there and listening to the lessons. I learned how sheep are born and the difference between abnormal and normal birth presentations of the lambs'*

*I didn't know that opportunities like Longy existed in rural areas. '*

*'I learned that you could do your farm apprenticeship work in blocks and you could stay there for about three weeks. '*

*"The food was good, homemade and plenty of it! I also learned a lot about all the different seeds for cropping "*

*"I didn't know that Longerenong College existed."*

*"It was a great set up with workshops, shearing shed and machinery."*

*"I liked the feel of the place."*

*"Staff were really friendly and food was great."*

*"Longy is a real working farm."*

*"I didn't know so many girls went to Longy."*

*"I found the wool classing interesting."*



# Ag Tech

## AgriWebb

### 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.

You will learn how to access and navigate **AgriWebb** and share how to bring it into the classroom with your students. The module is divided into two parts, suitable for years 7-10 and 11-12 VCE curriculum.

The Agriwebb system aims to streamline farm record-keeping and enable farmers to boost productivity. Its features include visual farm mapping, livestock data management, pasture management, inventory tracking and treatments.

<https://bit.ly/AgritechcheckteacherPD>

AGRI-TECH  
CHECK



Thursday 23 May 2024

Bendigo, Victoria  
9.00 am - 3.00 pm

Catering provided  
Please bring your  
own laptop



AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

AGRI-TECH  
EDUCATION



Agriwebb is free for schools and is a user friendly platform. It fits well with Unit 3 VCE Ag and Hort. It also is relevant to VET Ag and Hort as a recording method for animal or crop production and as a communication device. Please let me know if you need support to attend this PD.

# Why You Should Give a F\*ck about Farming

WHY YOU  
SHOULD



GABRIELLE CHAN

"Everything a potential game-changing book should be." - CIVILIS MAGIS

I recommend this book to those who like to ponder the big ideas around agriculture and feeding the world.

Gabrielle Chan is a renowned journalist with The Guardian and has consulted a wide range of experts in her quest to unpick the state of modern farming.

### Some observations.....

- I like the interesting Alfred Henry Lewis quote, "There are **only nine meals** between mankind and **anarchy**."
- Just because Australia exports over 50% of our farm produce, it doesn't necessarily mean we have food security. We are heavily reliant on imports to actually grow that food. For example 90% of our fuel is

imported and China provides a fifth of our inputs for agri-food exports'

- She questions the corporate model that glorifies ever increasing profit and production with limited consideration of food quality, or the cost to natural capital.
- The world currently wastes one-third of all food grown, while two billion adults are overweight. Another 690 million people are hungry.
- Since European settlement, Australians have never really been starving (apart from the first year of the convict settlement). This contrasts with European nations who had extreme food shortages when farming was disrupted during the World Wars. Many Australians, therefore, take for granted their food and the work that farmers do because they haven't experienced such a food crisis.



## Dates

**1<sup>st</sup> May** Charles Sturt Advantage (early Offers) Applications open (close Saturday 31 August)

**28th May**, Agriculture and Environmental Science Information Night Tuesday 6:00pm – 7:30pm To register visit: <https://study.csu.edu.au/why-charles-sturt/events>

**11<sup>th</sup> September** Birchip Cropping Group Main Field Day, Nullawil

## In the Garden

Sometimes, all seems lost! Fruit fly have decimated much of my fruit and the bleak future for growing some fruits in this region, has led me to cut down some of my beloved fruit trees. Also, the white butterflies and caterpillars are wreaking havoc with my brassicas and despite two planting attempts, my peas haven't come up. To make matters worse, my ever-reliable chooks haven't laid an egg in six weeks.

Fortunately, we are not starving! Friends have shared their abundance of eggs, and the simplicity of a basil pesto can save the day! Also, the olive trees are heaving with fruit and I am loving the extended process of preserving the olives in brine.



Fruit Fly and Codling Moth in Quince



Home made pesto



Olives ready to be rinsed

A good use of olives is Puttanesca Spaghetti which is one of my family's favourite recipes. This puttanesca from RecipeTinEats is a classic. <https://www.recipetineats.com/spaghetti-alla-puttanesca/> Apparently Puttanesca translates to the 'style of the whore' and there are stories it was cooked in big pots outside southern Italian brothels to attract customers!

I love that Ceres Environmental Park in East Brunswick are offering their local gardeners the opportunity to drop off their own olives and have them pressed into oil. With the price of olive oil set to skyrocket, what a wonderful opportunity for city gardeners. <https://ceres.org.au/olives-to-oil/>

Local olive oil harvest will be starting now. Consider an excursion to an olive plantation in the next month.