

**2006
Conference**

**10th – 14th
October 2006**

**Charles Sturt
University**

Wagga Wagga

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“FROM THE DESK”

1. EDITORIAL:

.....*JANS THOUGHTS*

2. PRESIDENT:

.....*TONYS THOUGHTS*

People aged 15 &
under are the least
likely to litter.

Editorial....

Jan's Thoughts

Welcome:

To this issue of the BAAT. Another season unfolds and areas across NSW are experiencing vastly different conditions. Let's hope yours are favourable.

You may be itching to send us in some information to add to the next issue of BAAT. We are constantly asking for any contributions to make this magazine your magazine.

We have agreed to stick to a format that may give you some ideas

Sections:

- *From the desk*
- *Correspondence*
- *2006 conference matters*
- *What's Hap'ning in my paddock! – your Ag plot report*
- *What' the go – Activities that have been happening at different locations*
- *Special feature*
- *Agriculture and PI Resources*
- *Professional Development in Ag*
- *Agriculture and PI in the Riverina*
- *Membership section*

Where to send information for BAAT:

Your information can be sent through:

Email to: jantekooti@yahoo.com.au

or by post to: Jan Young
Murrumburrah High School
Smith St
Harden NSW 2587.

Items could be faxed to (02) 63 863 048 attention Jan Young.

Conference:

Our conference planning 2006 is well under way with an exciting schedule set. The theme for this conference is "Environmental Sustainability" with the windmill as our logo. We have been fortunate to acquire **Visy Pulp and Paper** as our **GOLD sponsors**.

Please find more information in this BAAT as well as more in subsequent BAAT's about the conference.

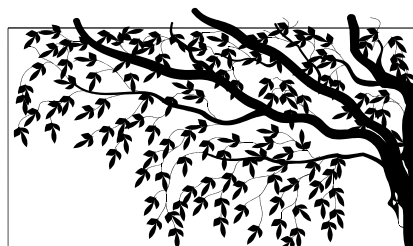
Feel free to contact us at any stage with your ideas or thoughts regarding BAAT.

Cheers Jan.

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Presidents

Point of View.....



Welcome to the Riverina:

I would like to welcome, on behalf of all the Aggies & PI teachers in the south of the state; the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers to the Riverina.

It has been some 14 years since the Association was last in this region. I have attended many Ag. Conferences over the years & thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie, the great yarns, the social aspects & the variety of venues & locations. By attending these conferences it showed to delegates the variety & importance of the value that agricultural industries have to offer our students & the economy. With all these experiences I found wanting to fly the flag at the Armidale conference in May for the Riverina region. It was time for the Association to come back down south & for the Riverina to showcase what this fabulous region has to offer for our students.

This was only possible, due to the great support & assistance from people right across the Riverina including; Allan Mc Millan, Steve Trickett, Rod Francis, Jan Young, Alison Dalhenburg, Judy Lawson, Ian Baird, Ilka Klepper, Dave Gillard, Richard Said, Bryan Adamson, Robyn O'Leary & Greg Fulljames in establishing an executive for the Association.

Extended Thanks:

On behalf of all members of the Association I wish to extend a huge thank you to Graeme Harris, Lisa O'Brien & Stuart Hemmings for their commitment & dedication to the professional Agriculture Teachers Association for the last 2 years.

We are about to find out over the next two year what energy it takes to continue to take this great Association forward while addressing issues that members have in their deliverance of this fabulous subject. What other subject would we teach?

Appreciation is extended to the organising committee of the May Conference at Armidale for the many hours of planning & ensuring every delegate was made feel welcome. To John Lee, Tony Barnett, Rowan Chandler, Michael Ball, Peter Coley, Karlene Bailey, Jill Wagner, Rebecca Smith, Alan Thomas, Graham Pagden & Phil Jones we are grateful for a job well done.

The Echidna Gully Experience certainly lived up to its name with fantastic views & the charm of the woolshed & surrounds. This was conducive for a top conference with many a long yarn being told at the bar into the early hours.

Congratulations to Tony Barnett:

Tony is a committed person who pulls no punches when dealing with bureaucrats & is fair dinkum in what he does for his students and the Association. Tony is a well deserved recipient of the J.A. Sutherland Award & has worked hard for Agriculture students. We have all benefited by this. Tony played an integral part in the organisation of the 2004 Ag conference at Armidale. Well done Tony & keep up the great work for your students.

Chemical Course in Schools:

By now you would most likely know that the Department is no longer the RTO for chemical courses in schools. The implications of this are very simple; you can no longer deliver & assess students using the SMARTtrain chemical course at your school. This decision is at the detriment to most rural students who have ambitions to return to their family farm, where they are involved in all decisions in the use of chemicals on farm. This course provided these students with a vehicle to learn about all aspects of chemical usage.

The course provided students with a qualified trainer, a familiar setting with peers of similar age and most importantly a course that was useful to them & at a reasonable cost. As we all know this course provided students with national competencies that were transportable skills to assist them in future career opportunities in the rural arena. Isn't that what our job is? The course provided students with that advantage over others seeking employment. I know from experience that these opportunities are very minimal in small country towns & any edge that students have is a benefit in securing employment. Students applying for part time work in orchards, vineyards and any rural industry are looked on favorably by having in their possession a national ticket that is credible for five years. We've all seen rural ads in local newspapers that require employees trained in a recognized chemical course.

I am not surprised by the pattern of events over the last 4 years when we were directed by our employer to relinquish our ChemCert credentials and be retrained as SMARTtrain instructor. We all remember the turmoil & lack of resources that were offered to us at that time. However with one chemical unit of competence in the PI syllabus it appears that our university course will be adequate for the delivery of this unit. Does it? With the Department remaining silent on this issue over the last year, the executive wrote a letter to Glen Bennett Principal Officer, VET in Schools, Vocational Education in Schools Directorate. The letter & her response are in the bulletin for you to make up your own opinion on the matter.

In September this year 17 PI teachers from across the Riverina completed a ChemCert trainer course to be re-credentialed as ChemCert instructors. This in the interim is a method for us to have some industry qualification to not only teach & deliver chemical instruction in schools but also be frequently updated in chemical legal & industry issues. I would like to thank those people who could see the advantages of retraining under ChemCert because we are now meeting the educational & training needs of our students which is what education is all about.

Other Issues:

New Syllabus:

1. Primary Industries Syllabus:

This year has seen the implementation of the new Primary Industries syllabus in schools delivering this course to students. We are all sinking our teeth into the writing of our programs & the delivery of this course while modifying our approach to the new syllabus as we know how to. The new syllabus requires us to deliver 1 core chemical unit as opposed to the previous syllabus that required delivery & assessment of 8 core chemical units. You can read the letter sent to DET & their response to this issue.

2. Agricultural Technology Year 7-10 Syllabus (Stage 4 & 5)

Next year will see the implementation of this syllabus into year 7 & 9 with implementation into year 8 & 10 in 2006. Most likely you have attended a workshop sometime in 2004 to assist you unpack the Agricultural Technology syllabus & obtain assistance in the implementation of this syllabus. A big thanks to Sally Bannermans tutelage & for conducting these workshops state wide, while making the day worthwhile amongst colleagues; thus ensuring our task on this potentially a little easier. You will find resources & support material about the stage 4 & 5 syllabus on the web site of Curriculum K-12 Directorate at: <http://www.curriculumsupport.nsw.edu.au/technology/> Follow the 7-10 syllabus link.