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## SQNNSW Innovation Hub Newsletter #15

### Local training vital

The need for collaboration to promote the benefits of youth and residents staying local for work and careers is just one of the solutions identified in a series of Roma Q community meetings held on Thursday, 4 August. Students, training providers, council representatives, employers and industry representatives met in a series of sessions hosted by the SQNNSW Innovation Hub, Southern Queensland Landscapes and TAFE Queensland, focussed on the general community, young people and First Nations representatives of the Maranoa-Balonne. [Read more.](#)



### New Knowledge Broker – First Nations Engagement

Dr Raelene Ward has joined the SQNNSW Innovation Hub as the Knowledge Broker – First Nations Engagement. Dr Ward is a proud Kunja Traditional Owner. She has a PhD in Aboriginal suicides and continues to undertake independently funded and commissioned research, and is also the newly appointed First Nations Director of the One Basin CRC. “I will be an advocate for First Nations People and Traditional Owner groups and right holders ensuring their perspectives, knowledge and participation are integrated by leading knowledge sharing around drought responses, resistance/adaptation to drought and the impact of drought on the



social and emotional wellbeing of First Nations people and Traditional Owner groups,” Dr Ward says.

## Amanda Scott now Hub Knowledge Broker

Lismore Node Manager Amanda Scott starts a new role tomorrow, as the Hub’s Knowledge Broker. Saleena Ham, who has been acting as the Knowledge Broker for the last six months also finished up this week, but will stay as a member of the Hub community. “Saleena has done a tremendous job focussed on relationship building on behalf of the Hub,” Director John McVeigh says. Professor McVeigh says given Amanda’s relevant experience working with thousands of farmers across Australia, she will “hit the ground running”. Amanda says her aim is to help the Hub continue to strategically make the right connections, strengthen relationships, link up opportunities and think and work in new and different ways.



## Agmentation: next gen innovation

At Agmentation 2022 in Armidale individuals worked in teams and devised solutions to three problems that matter to agricultural producers and rural communities. The SQNNSW Innovation Hub was well represented at the event, with the Hub Manager, Regional Soil Coordinator and the Longreach and Stanthorpe Node managers participating. Each team brought together a unique blend of diverse talents, skills, insight and experience - and included high school and university students, researchers, producers, and other community members. [Read more](#) about the great concepts generated during the ideas sprint.



## Drought about more than rainfall

For a long time, Australia’s standard measure of drought has been rainfall. But while rainfall indicators are easy to produce and interpret, they can be a poor measure of a farm’s prospects, ABARES Senior Economist Neal Hughes writes in *The Conversation*. He says the impact of the drought also depends on the timing of rain and temperatures, and other factors such as input costs. ABARES has developed a new drought indicator, based on predictions of farm financial outcomes. Read more in [The Conversation](#).



## Farming Family Reboot – over-subscribed!

The Hub’s first Farming Family Reboot, offered by the Armidale Node with the support of Rural Aid and UNE, has been fully subscribed well. The free, three-day event is designed to give farming families the chance to improve their critical decision making and teamwork skills.

Armidale Node Manager Lu Hogan says given the interest, similar events will be planned in future. Watch our socials and keep an eye on [the calendar](#).



## Collaboration in Western Queensland

Longreach Node Manager Ally Murray joined peers from regional service providers in Longreach on 24 August. The group was setting out an exciting calendar of events for Queensland's Central West, working to avoid date clashes so producers don't have to pick and choose between conflicting events. "We all want to collaborate and combine efforts to achieve the goals of our organisation," Ms Murray says. "One part of that is potentially sharing events where possible, to capitalise on topics and presenters." Ally was one of the speakers at the recent GroWQ Expo in Longreach. [More on that here](#).



## Coming up



**Dam Covers workshop**  
*Stanthorpe, 6 September*  
 Granite Belt farmers & graziers: learn more about evaporation mitigation, and the cost of water to you. Includes site walk.

[Find out more >>](#)



**Ag360 introduction**  
*Manilla, Bingara & Moree*  
 Armidale Node Manager Lu Hogan will present on Ag360 at three Northern Slopes Landcare maintaining productivity in a variable climate workshops on 13-15 September.

[Find out more >>](#)



**Soil & Landscapes Program**  
*Various, through to June 2024*  
 Change your landscape, business and life for the better, with access to education, support and business tools to manage for future droughts, with this opportunity from RCS.

[Find out more >>](#)



# Soil Community

## aggregating knowledge & capacity

Webinar 1: An overview of the region's National Landcare Program Smart Farm Small Grant Soil Extension Activities. Seven projects totalling \$3.6 million worth of investment for extension activities across SQNNSW.



August 2022

### What's happening with soil in the SQNNSW?

Did you miss the first *Soil Community: aggregating knowledge and capacity* webinar on August 17? Do you want to hear more about the exciting soil projects underway across the SQNNSW Innovation Hub region, funded by the National Landcare Program's Smart Farm Small Grants program? Watch it on our [YouTube channel!](#)

**Psssst!** Don't miss the next webinar on October 26. [Register here!](#)

## Quick bites from your Hub stakeholders

### Find an MLA demo site near you

A new online search tool allowing users to search all active and completed Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) projects is now live on the MLA website. [Read more.](#)

### How to digitise horticulture

Join Hub Network partner Beanstalk for a free webinar to discuss what it takes to digitise a complex multi-property agriculture operation, and hear from four industry leaders with real-world battle scars to prove it! 11am on September 8, [register here.](#)

### NSW: Orchard resilience on show after torrential North Coast rain

Integrated Orchard Management (IOM) is proving the key to disaster resilience in the macadamia industry in an increasingly erratic climate. Despite intense rainfall at the McLean Ridges orchard in February, run-off water stayed clean due to the 100% living groundcover on the orchard floor that protected the underlying soil. [Read more.](#) And the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Macadamia Plant Protection Guide has been released, [more here.](#)

### Enhanced water-sensitive decision making

The [Australian Water Outlook](#) is a new Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) service that delivers

historical information, seasonal outlooks, and future projections for water in Australia. It enables improved water management and planning for potential hazards such as floods, drought, and fire. BoM has also updated how it communicates [rainfall probability on its app](#).

## Opportunities for you

### Women in ag

#### *AgriFutures Rural Women's Acceleration Grant*

Seven Australian women per annum will be granted with a learning and development bursary (not cash) of up to \$7,000 for professional development to enable them to bring their idea, cause or vision to life. Criteria and [more information here](#). Applications open September 7, and close 19 October.

### Health

#### *Digital Health webinar series*

The Good Things Foundation is running free webinars through to October, aimed at older Australians in rural communities, on topics such as My Health Record, and how to find reliable health information online. [Read more](#).

### Export support

#### *Small business export support extended*

The Australian Government's Export Finance Australia can now provide finance to Australian businesses that need support with #export market developments costs. [Find out more](#).

### Community

#### *Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought*

Grants & leadership development support is available for community organisations to help 35 target regions get ready for drought. [Click here](#) for more on the community impact grants being delivered by FRRR and the leadership activities being delivered by the ARLF. Want more? Register for the [evening webinar](#) on August 31, or the [lunchtime webinar](#) on September 2.

### Awards

#### *2023 Science and Innovation Awards*

If you're 18-35 and you want to make a difference in agriculture, here's a chance to apply for a \$22,000 grant to fund your project! Open to: young innovators, scientists, researchers, extension officers, industry advisers and others. [Applications close September 23](#).

#### *Queensland AgAwards*

These awards will recognise the contribution of two individuals to the agriculture, fisheries or forestry sector through the Peter Kenny Medal and the Minister's Emerging Leader Award. [Applications close September 9](#).

## Events calendar

*This calendar includes events from the Hub, its Members and Partners and Supporters, and events supported by the Australian Government. Please contact organisers for more information. Events in **bold** are organised or supported by the SQNNSW Innovation Hub, or include a Hub speaker.*

## September

### **1-2 – Spring into Optimism, UNE SRI, Armidale NSW**

1 – Summer cropping workshop, NSW LLS, Coonamble NSW

1 – Farm biosecurity and NLIS, NSW LLS, Nyngan NSW

1 – Feral pigs field day, NSW LLS, Enmore NSW

1 – Goat nutrition field day, Bollon Q

1 – Grains industry update, AgForce SIQ, Meandarra Q

2 – Grains industry update, AgForce SIQ, Roma Q

2 – Mulga nutrition & forage assessment field day, St George Q

2 – FMD & lumpy skin info day, NSW LLS, Scone NSW

2 – Wentworth to Trentham Cliffs driving field day, NSW LLS

2 – Farm biosecurity and NLIS, NSW LLS, Dunedoo NSW

### **2-4 – Pulse of the Earth Festival, Bingara NSW**

5 – RCS field day, Cobar NSW

5-6 – MLA BeefUp Forum, Blackall Q

### **6 – Dam cover workshop, Hub, Stanthorpe Q**

7 – Bet on your books workshop, St George Q

7 – Condobolin Ag Research & Advisory Station field day, NSW DPI

7 – AgTech demo day, FAN, Moreton Bay Q

8 – How to digitise horticulture, Beanstalk webinar

8 – Box Gum Grassy Woodlands walk, NSW LLS, Merriwa NSW

9 – Grains industry update, AgForce SEQ, Murgon Q

9 – MLA BeefUp Forum, Winton Q

11 – Our Bushland Festival, NSW LLS, Kitchener NSW

12 – Climate change and organic cropping, Australian Organic, webinar

13 – RCS field day, St George Q

13-14 – Business EDGE, MLA, Wagga Wagga NSW

### **13 – Maintaining productivity in a variable climate, Manilla NSW**

### **14 – Maintaining productivity in a variable climate, Bingara NSW**

14-15 – Farmsafe Conference 2022, Canberra ACT

14 – Biosecurity and cybersecurity workshops, St George Q

### **15 – Maintaining productivity in a variable climate, Moree NSW**

15 – Biosecurity and cybersecurity workshops, Roma Q

15 – 2022 Environmental Biosecurity Webinar Series (theme: protect), DAFF webinar

19-21 – Murray Darling Association Conference, Albury NSW

20 – Financial best practice workshop, AgForce SIQ, Roma Q

21 – Financial best practice workshop, AgForce SWQ, Morven Q

22 – Feral pig awareness day, NSW LLS, Collie NSW

22 – Workforce planning connect business webinar, QFF, online

22 – MLA MeatUp Forum, Casino NSW

### **27-29 – Farming Family Reboot, Hub, Armidale NSW**

28 – Pasture update, NSW LLS, Purllewaugh NSW

**October**

5 – [Vertebrate pest training](#), NSW LLS, Gunnedah NSW

6 – [AgTech demo day](#), FAN, Noosa Q

11-13 – [AMPC Innovation Showcase](#), Melbourne VIC

20-21 – [Country Spark Innovation Conference](#), Goondiwindi Q

**26 – [Soil Community webinar](#), online Hub forum**

27 – [2022 Environmental Biosecurity Webinar Series](#) (theme: protect), DAFF webinar

29 – MLA [BeefUp Forum](#), Clermont Q

31-Nov 2 – [TropAg Conference](#), Brisbane Q

**November**

2 – [Vertebrate pesticide training](#), NSW LLS, Walgett

25 – [Australian Organic Industry Awards 2022](#), Hunter Valley NSW

**December**

5 – [Business EDGE Young Guns](#), MLA, Toowoomba Q

Check out our [events calendar](#) anytime, for Hub events.

# SQNNSW Innovation Hub

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