

97th Annual State Conference
Monday, 6 May to Friday, 10 May 2019
Albury Entertainment Centre

Conference Program & Motions

Sunday 5 May

5.00 pm **Ecumenical Service – Albury Entertainment Centre**

Monday 6 May

9.30 am **Official Opening – Albury Entertainment Centre (AEC)**
Welcome to Country by Aunty Nancy Rooke OAM, Wiradjuri Elder,
Wiradjuri Nation
National Anthem, CWA Anthem & Motto
Welcome by State President, Apologies & Announcements
Welcome by Cr Kevin Mack, Mayor, Albury City Council
Official Opening – The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor-
Designate of NSW accompanied by Mr Dennis Wilson. (Governor-
Designate will be sworn-in as Governor of NSW on 2 May 2019).
St Patrick’s Parish School Band
Keynote Speaker - TBC

11.00 am **State President’s Address**

11.30 am **Lunch**

1.00 pm **Business Session – AEC**
Confirmation of Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting

1.15 pm **First Special General Meeting**
General Business
Medical Research Presentations
Medical Research Fund Cheque presentation
Office Bearer Introductions
Agenda

Tuesday 7 May

9.00 am **Business Session – AEC**
State Honorary Secretary’s Report
State Honorary Treasurer’s Report
Agenda

12.30 pm **Lunch**

12.30 – 1.45 pm **State Committee Displays open**

2.00 pm **Business Session – AEC**
*Guest Speaker: Mr Tom Bull, Lambpro (The Weekly Times Coles 2018
Farmer of the Year).*
Agenda

4.30 pm **Country of Study Information Session and International Awards**
(Poland)

Wednesday 8 May

- 9.00 am Business Session – AEC**
State Office Bearers and Medical Research for 2019-2020 announced
State Agricultural & Environmental Officer's Report
State International Officer's Report
Agenda
- 12.30 pm Lunch**
- 12.30 – 1.45 pm State Committee Displays open**
- 2.00 pm Business Session – AEC**
Agenda
Votes of Thanks
Introduction of current Group Presidents, new Group Representatives and State Office Bearers.
- 5.00 pm Close of Business Sessions**
- 6.30 pm Gala Event – Gala Dinner, Albury SS&A Club**

Thursday 9 May

- 9.00 am Further Special General Meeting**
- 9.30 am State Committee Reports and Award Ceremony**
Agricultural and Environmental Committee Awards
Land Cookery Committee Report and Awards
Handicraft Committee Report and Awards
Hospital Support Committee Report
Show Catering Committee Report and Donation
Social Issues Committee Report
Cultural Committee Report and Awards
Honorary Editor's Report (including Garry Prize)
Wagga Daily Advertiser Award
Past State President's Award
Australian Event Services Award
- 9.00 am – 5.00 pm State Committee Displays**
- 1.00 pm Lunch**
- 1.30 – 5.00 pm Local Tours and Workshops**

Friday 10 May

- 9.00 am – 12.00 pm State Committee Displays and Workshops –AEC**

Agenda Motions 2019

First Special General Meeting

1. State Executive

"That Regulation XXIII (i) be deleted".

XXIII (i) An appointed Solicitor/s shall act as Solicitor for the Association and advise on all matters of law relating to the Association that may be referred to them by an Officer of the Association. The Solicitor/s shall have the custody of all title deeds of Association property.

2. Bowral Branch, Wollondilly Group and Oura Branch, Riverina Group

"That Rule XXIV of the Association's constitution be amended by the words 'two Vice-Presidents' where appearing in that Rule being deleted and being replaced by the words 'three Vice-Presidents', such that the number of State Vice-Presidents who are State Office Bearers shall be increased from two to three".

3. Dubbo Evening Branch, Macquarie Group

"That the Association's constitution be amended by:

- (a) the words "Group Representatives to Executive Committee" being deleted from Regulation 48 and being replaced by the words "Election to State Executive Committee";
- (b) the words "Group Representative to Executive Committee" being deleted from Regulations 57 (d), 66 and 67 and being replaced by the words "State Executive Committee member";
- (c) the words "Group Representative" being deleted from Regulation 82 and being replaced with the words "the Group's State Executive Committee member";
- (d) the words "Group Representatives" being deleted from Rule XXIV and being replaced with the words "State Executive Committee members elected by Group Conferences";
- (e) the words "nomination of the Group Representative" being deleted from rule XXVIII and being replaced by the words "election to the State Executive Committee of members elected by Group Conferences"; and,
- (f) the words "Group Representative" being deleted from Rule XXX and being replaced by the words "State Executive Committee member elected by a Group Conference".

Association Activities

1a) Barwon, Far South Coast, Gwydir, Mid North Coast, Namoi, Nepean, Northumberland, Phillip, Sturt, Wanthella and Wollondilly Groups:

"That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2019-2020 be Endometriosis".

1 b) Far Western and Oxley Groups:

"That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2019-2020 be Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (a form of children's brain cancer)".

1c) Far North Coast Group:

"That the specific Health Research Fund Annual Project for 2019-2020 be Motor Neurone Disease".

2. Broken Hill Branch, Darling River Group

"That *Acknowledgement of Country* be conducted at the beginning of each CWA Branch and Group meeting and *Welcome to Country* be conducted at each State Conference".

Agricultural & Environmental

3. Eurongilly Branch, Hume Group

Preamble: Theft of stock, fuel, machinery, tools etc is an expensive and major problem to farmers and Police in NSW and is getting worse every day. It is not just the theft, but the

ramifications and expense involved with malicious damage to property. Laws must change to deal with rural crime offenders in a more severe way by maximising sentencing laws. Penalties must be harsher to deter criminals from re-offending.

“That the policy of the CWA of NSW be that Magistrates impose maximum penalties when sentencing Rural Crime offenders and further investigations into proceeds of criminal offenders also be taken into account”.

4. Eurongilly Branch, Hume Group and Hornsby & District Branch, Northumberland Group

Preamble: Use of drones has become a major problem in rural and remote areas. Drones are being used to study farms with unlawful intent. CASA plans to review recreational drone regulations by the end of this decade. The laws need tightening. Tighter drone regulations would be a welcome development for the Australian Association for Unmanned Systems who released a report in May 2015 calling for a ban on the use of drones to record private activity or activity that happens when people wouldn't expect to be watched or recorded.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate that legislation be introduced to improve the protection of the privacy and property of individuals against remotely piloted aircraft (drones)”.

5. Manilla Branch, Namoi Group

Preamble: Australia is an export-orientated country and a reliable supplier for world markets of products such as cattle, sheep, wool, grain, cotton, sugar and milk. Farmers deserve recognition, and targeted Federal Government assistance to provide a competitive edge in lowering costs and increasing their returns. While the Federal Government offers some assistance, such as subsidies on farm fuel use, tax averaged over five years and delayed payment of tax when farm funds are put into Farm Management Deposits, greater financial flexibility could be achieved through other means. An effective means of enabling farmers to be financially viable would be to pay them for sequestered carbon and natural resource management. This would result in better landscapes on damaged areas. Stewardship payments to farmers for management of land, would result in improved national outcomes environmentally. The regular and close monitoring of mining companies in their rehabilitation of land needs to be improved greatly.

“That the policy of CWA of NSW be to advocate to the Federal Government to set up permanent assistance for the agricultural industry in the form of incentive packages to encourage viable agriculture in Australia”.

6. Maules Creek Branch, Namoi Group

Preamble: Travelling stock routes are parcels of crown land used to move cattle and sheep. Drivers and graziers pay to use the stock routes, but say many are falling into disrepair. Australia's network of publicly owned urban and crown lands are vital to the mental and ecological health of our state and must be recognised for the role it plays in connecting our communities and allowing communities to connect with nature. Stock routes have played a key role in Australia and the development of communities. In 2018 there were changes to the prescribed activities on crown lands that have seen a tightening of the laws and broaden the NSW Government's power to prohibit gathering or meeting on Crown land including camping and lighting fires.

“That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to advocate for travelling stock routes and crown lands to remain in public ownership and be managed to ensure the ongoing valuable ecological and life-fulfilling roles they play for city and country people now and in the future”.

7. Merriwa Branch, Hunter River Group

Preamble: Meat is a premium quality animal product of unique high intensity nutritional value which is a fundamental pillar of Australian rural and regional economies and communities. Red meat is one of the most absorbable sources of iron. The recommended daily intake for plant-based sources is almost double that for meat sources. Inaccurate

labelling of a non-meat product as meat, may have health consequences (eg iron-deficiency anaemia) if consumers purchase such products based on false nutritional assumptions. This misrepresentation also threatens the livelihoods of farmers and their local communities. This in no way should affect the sale or availability of plant-based products. Federal and State Authorities are asked to enforce the legislation, already in place, to stop such products from using product labelling terms covered by the 'meat and meat products' standard.

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to advocate for the enforcement of the Food Safety Standards of Australia and New Zealand for the use of the terms covered by the definitions of 'meat' and 'meat products' as outlined in Standard 2.2.1".

8. Morpeth Branch, Hunter River Group

Preamble: The traditional definition of 'milk' by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand is a liquid drink derived from 'the mammary secretions of milking animals'. Fresh milk is a premium quality, short shelf-life food of immense nutritional value that has for generations been a fundamental pillar of the Australian rural and regional economies and communities. Dairy Connect, the Dairy Industry Advocate Group believes that there is confusion among the consumers, some of whom equate the nutritional benefits of cows' milk with that of the plant-based drink alternatives. This motion in no-way affects the sale or availability of plant-based drinks; it is requesting that the Federal and State Authorities enforce the legislation, already in place, to stop plant-based drinks from using the term 'milk' in the labelling of their product. There is a need for us to take a stand for a product our dairy farmers work so hard to produce.

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to advocate for the enforcement of the Food Safety Standards of Australia and New Zealand for the use of the term 'milk', being the mammary secretion of milking animals".

9. Camden Branch, Illawarra Group

Preamble: The African Olive is an aggressive, invasive and persistent woody weed with devastating ecological impact. It was likely introduced to Australia in the Macarthur region and is now a key threat to biodiversity, especially in south-west Sydney and the Adelaide Hills region. Each plant can live for hundreds of years, producing 25,000 seeds per annum that form a mat over the soil and suffocate all other plants. The seed is easily spread by birds and infestation occurs at an alarming rate. Targeted management by individuals is inadequate and a combination of State and Local Government's effort is required to recognise the extent of the weed and develop, implement and fund action plans to eradicate this noxious species. African Olive negatively changes the diversity and structure of bushland and also affects human health.

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate

- (i) for the African Olive (*Olea Europaea*, subspecies *Cuspidata*) to be classified as a Category 4 Noxious Plant, state-wide, for its adverse ecological impact, and
- (ii) that all levels of Government implement, manage and fund action plans for its immediate eradication".

10. Campbelltown Branch, Illawarra Group

Preamble: The Macarthur region is a sanctuary for koalas. They are the only colony in Sydney which are chlamydia free. Koalas are at risk from climate change, fire, cars and dogs. There is now a new threat with Lend Lease wanting to develop housing on the western side of Appin Road. If housing goes ahead, koalas will be trapped by proposed fencing along Appin Road. A wildlife crossing will help the koalas survive.

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to request the NSW Government to erect a wildlife overpass on the Appin Road."

11. Hillston Branch, Murrumbidgee-Lachlan Group

Preamble: The dairy industry is currently in a crisis. Fresh milk supplies are in jeopardy as supermarkets are forcing the price of milk to \$1 a litre or below and forcing farmers to

consider looking at the more lucrative export market. For nearly a decade, dairy farmers have been affected by discounted products. Milk shouldn't be cheaper than water.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW be to lobby for an urgent investigation into the dairy industry; especially the current fresh milk crisis".

12. State Executive

Preamble: It is an offence to abandon a vehicle under the Impounding Act 1993. If the Impounding Officer cannot locate the registered operator, or the operator does not comply with the instructions of the Impounding Officer, the local council has powers to impound or destroy the vehicle. The major concerns that surround these vehicles are the potential to cause a bushfire and the debris from vandalism can cause an accident.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW be that the removal of all abandoned vehicles from rural roadsides be expedited as they constitute a serious environmental hazard".

Health & Social Security

13. Wagga Wagga Branch, Riverina Group

Preamble: Patients within a wide radius of the Wagga/Albury areas have no public cancer clinics available. Albury has a new private cancer clinic, however costs are out of range for many public patients. Wagga has a new, large regional hospital with a number of specialists and radiology practices within the city limits. However, these practices treating out-patients are all private and do not bulk-bill. Payment for treatments is required upfront, before any treatment can be accessed. Not only is the disease traumatic, medication is expensive and further treatment costs are beyond the means of public patients. Public patients are delaying some tests and treatments because they cannot afford the costs, thus putting themselves or family members at greater risk. Cancer is treatable in many cases in the early stages, it affects a huge percentage of the population. The lack of affordable care for those most in need is unacceptable.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for public cancer clinics in regional, rural and remote areas to ensure public patients have affordable, accessible on-going treatment for all cancer related illnesses within an easily accessible area".

14. Galore Branch, Riverina Group

Preamble: Naegleria Fowleri, although rare, is often fatal. It cannot survive in clean, cool and adequately chlorinated water. Infection can occur when people swim in warm fresh water containing Naegleria and it goes up the nose, but even then the chance of contracting infection is extremely small. Infections have also occurred following domestic bathing or when playing under sprinklers or hoses.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to encourage NSW Health Department to promote the dangers of Naegleria Fowleri (a microorganism typically found in warm freshwater and soil which can cause a lethal infection of the brain if inhaled up the nose) in the media and especially covering rural and remote areas of NSW".

15. Table Top Branch, Murray Group

Preamble: There are long delays for regional and rural people when a post mortem needs to be done. Autopsies were previously done at a local hospital, but now most people whose deaths have been referred to a coroner are sent to Newcastle, which is responsible for most post-mortem examinations in regional NSW. The change has delayed funerals by weeks in already tragic circumstances.

"That the CWA of NSW lobby the NSW Government to change the unreasonable monopoly of post mortems undertaken in metropolitan areas to regional and rural centres where there are PET and CT scanners available for such procedures".

16. Batemans Bay Branch, Far South Coast Group

Preamble: Projected nursing shortages must be taken seriously. We are asked to heed the warnings of a nursing and midwifery shortage predicted to impact the state by 2030 and seriously address current nurse-to-patient ratio shortfalls. NSW Ministry of Health figures predict a shortage of up to 8,000 registered nurses and midwives across NSW in the next decade. The modelling figures cover the public and private sectors, as well as the aged care sector. We must urgently improve and expand nurse-to-patient ratios to address the current shortfalls we already have in the delivery of safe patient care across the state's public hospital system.

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to urge the NSW Government to employ more registered nurses and enrolled nurses in rural and remote areas of NSW as current levels are deemed by the community to be inadequate for the operation of safe nursing care".

17. Balgownie-Bulli Branch, Illawarra Group

Preamble: Aged care services and hospital staff either attend TAFE or University to do a course to further their training. Attendees are also given a work placement at different aged care facilities or hospitals, where they do not receive a wage or living expenses. Attendees also incur a loss of income during work placements as they are not able to work.

"That the CWA requests the State Government to pay the trainee nursing staff in aged care services, a wage to allow them to cover expenses whilst in training".

18. Walcha Branch, Wanthella Group

Preamble: Affordable and accessible health care is fundamental for a strong and stable society. This motion calls for an investigation into prices charged by health professionals, measured against the service provided and the ability of the average worker to afford the out-of-pocket expense. We are fortunate that we do have a public health care system, but if individuals and families cannot afford to be proactive with their health, it not only results in poorer health outcomes, but also becomes a very expensive option for the public system and the broader community.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to call for an inquiry into the disparity of prices charged by health professionals".

19. Walgett Branch, Barwon Group

Preamble: Rural businesses are as affected by drought as farmers. It is not uncommon for these businesses to act generously as 'bank proxies' and finance farmers to some extent during droughts. To date, State and Federal Governments do not offer the small business sector relevant and accessible drought support. Rural businesses need to be consulted by Government policy makers and a 'tailor made' drought support program developed. Farming businesses depend on local town businesses, and vice versa. This is especially important when agriculture is the primary wealth creating industry in a regional area. Healthy, resilient and financially robust town businesses are vital to every rural town and community. If they go out of business during a drought, it makes it harder for the whole community, including farmers to recover and subsequently prepare for the next drought.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for all rural businesses who are not primary producers to be eligible for drought relief funding."

20. Hillston Branch, Murrumbidgee Lachlan Group

Preamble: Scoliosis is an abnormal sideways curve of the spine that develops in late childhood, usually prior to adolescence and during growth spurts. Girls are more commonly affected. Scoliosis can be mild, moderate or severe, with symptoms and signs which include one shoulder tilted down towards a raised hip; prominent ribs; protruding shoulder blade; tilted waist. Progressive scoliosis is a curve that worsens as the years go by. Without treatment, progressive scoliosis can cause such things as constant back pain, breathing difficulties as the ribcage is compressed, increased risk of bone loss and susceptibility to chest infections such as pneumonia. We would like to see the following happen: an Awareness campaign; mandatory testing of all students by the age of 12-13 years; financial

assistance for option of bracing; make bracing an option covered by Medicare as it is less invasive than surgery and can be a great alternative option.

"That CWA of NSW advocate for awareness of and screening for scoliosis at an appropriate age and the inclusion of bracing on Medicare as a non-invasive treatment option".

21. Nundle Branch, Wanthella Group

Preamble: Many people walk past the AED symbol unaware of its significance. Many symbols are part of our daily lives, while this symbol can be a matter of life or death. It is not widely advertised outside the medical fraternity, even though the AED is designed to be used outside the medical fraternity. There should be a media and TV campaign to make this symbol instantly recognisable which could potentially save lives.

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW be to lobby Federal Government for the promotion of the registered symbol indicating the presence of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator), and to ask Government to hold a campaign to make that symbol instantly recognisable".

Transport & Telecommunications

22. Exeter Branch, Wollondilly Group

Preamble: Under NSW Road Rules 2014, a horse is considered a vehicle and is permitted to be ridden on the road (Rule 15). The Road User's Handbook provides guidelines for drivers passing horses, as it also does for cyclists and other users. Yet whilst guidelines for passing cyclists are reflected in law (Rule 144-1) and are now well known, guidelines for passing horses is not. Most drivers are not aware of the unpredictability of horses, and do not slow down or give space to horses when passing. Even horses that are quiet and accustomed to traffic can spook and jump unpredictably. Horses typically weigh 500 kg, with the bulk of weight at windscreen height. Collisions are typically catastrophic for horse, rider and car occupants.

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate for the NSW Government to:

- i) amend the *NSW Road Rules 2014* to reflect the *NSW Road Users Handbook* with respect to safety around horse traffic, and
- ii) fund and run a TV/media campaign (similar to that run for cyclists and motorbikes) to increase driver awareness of horse riders. The campaign should run in metropolitan areas as well as regional areas to increase awareness of city drivers on country roads".

23. Bonny Hills Branch, Mid North Coast Group

Preamble: The Australian Trucking Association highlights the mis-match between Federal Government spending and the fatigue laws requiring truck drivers to take regular breaks. Too often rest areas are filled with caravans and the facilities are inadequate, or they are just not in appropriate areas. There is a fear that insufficient action will take place until a coronial inquiry results from a horrific accident, all because the truck driver could not pull into a rest area to sleep. At the same time, the rules are being tightened and new technology is being developed to monitor the truck driver's fatigue level.

"That the policy of CWA of NSW shall be that the RMS identify a greater number of truck specific rest areas on all major transport routes in NSW. Fines should be applicable to other vehicles which use these areas".

Miscellaneous

24. Canimbla Branch, South West Group

Preamble: Instant cash loan machines, look like ATMs and only require identification and bank details before users are approved for cash loans almost immediately. The machines are strategically positioned in lower socio-economic areas and deliberately target vulnerable people who live from day to day, many of whom have not learnt budgeting skills. Concerns are disadvantaged communities across NSW are being targeted with low income families then potentially caught in a debt trap.

"That the policy of the CWA of NSW shall be to advocate appropriate State and Federal Governments, to ban all fast/instant cash loan machines".