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## SQNNSW Innovation Hub Newsletter #14

### Agmentation finds solutions for communities

Whilst agricultural production is vulnerable, so too are our small rural towns with devastating consequences for health, trade, sport, investment, education - it impacts every part of our lives. The 2022 Agmentation - supported by the SQNNSW Innovation Hub - brought together 10 teams and more than 80 people to prepare and pitch solutions to one of three problems: how to identify tools that add value to farm businesses to increase resilience, how to design communities to prepare for climate variability, and how to protect biodiversity.



### What goes on tour, doesn't stay on tour

A group of Maranoa farmers and graziers will travel to Narrabri in August, to explore improved crop varieties, how to increase carrying capacity through pasture improvement, and real life examples of successful farm business diversification. This tour is a special collaboration between the Roma and Narrabri Nodes.

Places on the bus are strictly limited, so book early! Email [sqnnswhub@usq.edu.au](mailto:sqnnswhub@usq.edu.au) or call Roma Node Manager Sherrill Stivano on 0427 143 687.



More information & registration

Inspiration and hope

Regional Soil Coordinator Cameron Leckie & Lismore Node Manager Amanda Scott came away from this month's RCS Australia Convergence with a renewed sense of hope and inspiration. The two-day conference was held in Brisbane on July 16-17, and attracted more than 600 national and international attendees and speakers. [Read more.](#)



Coming up



TAFE's Roma consultation

4 August

TAFE Queensland is working with the Roma Node to learn more about local skilling needs and opportunities. There are three sessions: general, youth and First Nations.

[Find out more >>](#)

Soil community forum

17 August, online

This online forum is the first of a series organised by our Regional Soil Coordinator, to help producers and advisors improve soil health, producer productivity and environmental outcomes.

[Find out more >>](#)

Farmers on Tour

Roma to Narrabri, 23-25 August

Explore improved crop varieties, how to increase carrying capacity through pasture improvement, and farm diversification. Cost is \$225/person (plus GST). Places strictly limited.

[Find out more >>](#)



Farming Family ReBoot

Armidale, September 27-29

Take some time out from the daily work of the farm, to think, plan, review your goals and build some new skills that will help in managing future climate challenges in your business.



Keep up-to-date

You can check out the event listings at the end of this newsletter, visit our [Hub website](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Eventbrite](#) for more about our current news and events.

[Find out more >>](#)

## Quick bites from your Hub stakeholders

### **Do you have a farm biosecurity plan?**

The best defence against pests and diseases is to implement sound biosecurity practices on your farm. Quick and simple measures built into everyday practice will help protect your farm and your future. Find the [Farm Biosecurity Action Planner here](#). In NSW, expert staff from Local Land Services (LLS) will connect with farmers through a series of targeted workshops, webinars, and visits to saleyards and field days to help farmers identify and report the early signs of both FMD and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). [Read more](#).

### **New variable rainfall maps**

Long Paddock's rainfall poster maps have been updated. The maps show data from April 2021 to March 2022 in comparison to each year as far back as 1890. [Check out the new posters](#) for rainfall, tropical cyclone, pasture growth, and wet and dry periods. These resources are delivered by the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.

### **Value of agriculture increases**

The value of Australian agriculture is increasing, despite the challenges of COVID-19, droughts, floods and labour issues, the latest Agricultural Census has shown. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the gross value of production increased 17% in 2020/21. [Read more](#).

### **Varroa compensation for beekeepers**

An \$18 million compensation package has been developed for registered beekeepers affected by the varroa mite outbreak, under an agreement reached by governments and industry. Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt said the agreement meant registered commercial beekeepers would be reimbursed for all equipment, hives and bees destroyed in the eradication process, as well as the costs of honey. [Read more](#). And Hort Innovation is funding work into a world-first hormone-based [varroa-targeting pesticide](#).

### **Sustainability investment ramps up solar PV adoption**

AMPC's free service to help members with initial assessment and design of new solar PV systems or to check their existing systems performance has proven to be successful with new solar PV projects equalling 40% of installed capacity across the industry. [Read more](#).

### **National soil award finalists announced**

Three leading experts in soil health have today been announced as finalists for the 2022 General Jeffery Soil Health Award. The 2022 Award will be presented during the National Landcare Conference in Sydney on Wednesday 24 August 2022. [Read more](#).

### **Aboriginal Rangers ready to work on-country**

Eighteen new trainees and support staff have been recruited to commence work on Country, under the NSW Government's Aboriginal Ranger Program. [Read more](#).

### **Queensland: low emissions survey**

Queensland agribusinesses are invited to provide feedback on the state's draft Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap 2022-2032. To make agribusiness a world-leader in low carbon production

and supply chains, the Queensland Government has partnered with industry to develop a draft roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas and increase carbon sinks. [Read the roadmap](#) and provide your feedback. Feedback closes 10 August 2022.

## Opportunities for you

### Board opportunities

#### *NSW Local Land Services*

Individuals with a passion for enhancing the future of agriculture and the environment across NSW are being encouraged to apply for new board member positions at Local Land Services. [Read more.](#)

### Community grants

#### *Seeds of Renewal*

ANZ Seeds of Renewal is a small grants program from FRRR designed to help build vibrant and sustainable rural communities, to ensure the ongoing prosperity of regional Australia. Applications close on August 3, for grants of up to \$15,000. [Click here.](#)

### Mentoring

#### *CSIRO: Grow Advanced Manufacturing program*

Small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) looking to build their research and development (R&D) capabilities in advanced manufacturing can apply to join an upcoming 10 week virtual learning program, Innovate to Grow: Advanced Manufacturing, coordinated by CSIRO. [Details here.](#)

#### *NSW: farm business resilience coaching*

Applications for the NSW Farm Business Resilience Program's 2022-2023 Business Coaching are now open. This program is designed for enterprises large or small and is ideal for farmers, farm managers, and their employees, who are looking to upskill, learn how to adapt to a changing climate, and improve the economic, environmental, and social resilience of their business. [Read more.](#)

### Youth opportunities

#### *NFF agricultural youth program*

Delivered by the National Farmers' Federation and GrainGrowers, the Australia-China Agricultural Youth Program is designed to give students a five-day paddock-to-port tour of the Australian agricultural industry. Students will experience the entire supply chain from the farm to transport, to processing, value-adding facilities and ports. The first tour will be on October 3-7, 2022, including Melbourne and south-west Victoria. [More information.](#)

## Events calendar

### August

- 2 – [Community wellbeing dinner](#), Moonan NSW
- 2 – [Cloud solutions for farm offices](#), Glen Innes NSW
- 3 – [Tip & tricks for an efficient office](#), Glen Innes NSW

- 3-5 – [Queensland Agworkforce Summit](#), Goondiwindi QLD
- 4 – [TAFE stakeholder conversations](#), Roma QLD
- 4 – [2022 Environmental Biosecurity Webinar Series](#) (theme: respond), DAWE webinar
- 8 – [Livestock records essentials](#), Glen Innes NSW
- 10 – [LLS vertebrate pest training](#), Moree NSW
- 10 – [Farm family dynamics](#), Glen Innes NSW
- 17 – [Soil Community: aggregating knowledge & capacity](#), online Hub forum
- 23 – [Landcare Australia Youth Online Forum](#)
- 23-25 – [Farmers on Tour](#), Roma Q to Narrabri NSW
- 23-25 – [National Landcare Conference](#), Sydney NSW

### September

- 14-15 – [Farmsafe Conference 2022](#), Canberra ACT
- 15 – [2022 Environmental Biosecurity Webinar Series](#) (theme: protect), DAWE webinar
- 19-21 – [Murray Darling Association Conference](#), Albury NSW
- 27-29 – [Farming Family ReBoot](#), Armidale NSW

### October

- 5 – [LLS vertebrate pest training](#), Gunnedah NSW
- 11-13 – [AMPC Innovation Showcase](#), Melbourne VIC
- 27 – [2022 Environmental Biosecurity Webinar Series](#) (theme: protect), DAWE webinar

Check out our [events calendar](#) anytime!

# SQNNNSW Innovation Hub

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*The SQNNNSW Innovation Hub receives funding from the  
Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.*

