



## *Welcome to the 2026 Field Day event calendar*

Our 2026 field day calendar began with a mixture of highs and challenges across the network.

Unfortunately, the Wimmera Field Days (Vic) were forced to cancel their first day of trading due to torrential rain resulting in unsafe conditions for exhibitors and patrons.

Farm World (Vic) held recently, also experienced wet weather in the early mornings, combined with the broader impacts of the current fuel environment and ongoing economic uncertainty.

As we all know, patronage through the gates not only impacts the financial outcomes for organisers, but also directly affects exhibitor engagement, enquiry and the overall energy and atmosphere of each event.

These conditions are being experienced across multiple regions and reinforce the reality that field days, like the industries they support, operate within an evolving and often challenging environment.

We move forward with a clear understanding that while many factors are outside our control, the role we play in supporting agriculture, regional business and community connection remains critical.

We hope members who have already held their events achieved strong outcomes and were not significantly impacted by these conditions?

As the calendar progresses, we remain optimistic that conditions will stabilise and that upcoming events will continue to deliver for their regions.

Our thoughts are with all members navigating these challenges, and we acknowledge the commitment and effort required to continue delivering high quality events in the current environment.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Please ensure you copy the AAFDA in on any correspondence you have via [contact@fielddaysanz.com](mailto:contact@fielddaysanz.com) to and/or from your State and Federal government members to ensure we can reference in our advocacy.

Our AAFDA chair continues to actively engage with government representatives, both at a state level and in Canberra, advocating for the recognition of agricultural field days as essential regional infrastructure.

A roundtable meeting was held recently at Parliament House with Bruce Wright, Belinda Anderson (Henty Machinery Field Days) and Tom White (Murrumbateman Field Days) alongside several Members of Parliament, including Nationals Leader, Darren Chester and Federal Member for Monash (Vic) Mary Aldred.

These discussions focused on presenting AAFDA's national position, and reinforcing the critical role field days play in supporting regional economies, industry engagement and community outcomes.

Engagement at this level remains a priority as we continue to seek meaningful recognition and support for field days across Australia.

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The Chair recently attended a meeting in Bundaberg (Qld) on behalf of AAFDA regarding the ongoing viability of the Agrotrend Field Days. A letter of support has since been provided to assist with a government grant funding application for the organisation.

This reflects AAFDA's commitment to supporting its members, not only through advocacy at a national level, but also through practical support where required.

AAFDA is more than willing to assist any member field day with similar letters of support where it may strengthen funding applications or stakeholder engagement.

## CHAIR'S STATEMENT – Bruce Wright

Across Australia, rising fuel costs, fertiliser prices, supply chain pressures and broader cost-of-living challenges are impacting every part of the agricultural sector. These conditions are not unique to field days — they are the same challenges being faced daily by farmers, producers and regional businesses. However, it is in these exact conditions that the role of field days becomes most important.

### **“Field days are where solutions are found”**

They bring together the full range of agricultural machinery, technology, inputs, services and expertise directly to regional communities — enabling farmers to compare, assess and adopt the tools they need to improve efficiency, manage costs and maintain productivity.

From precision agriculture and agtech, to machinery innovation, transport solutions and input efficiencies, field days provide a practical, hands-on environment where real decisions are made and outcomes are delivered.

Importantly, field days are not just about products — they are about connection. They provide a trusted platform for farmers, suppliers and industry to come together, share knowledge, build relationships and support one another through both strong and challenging seasons. At a time when pressures are increasing, this connection is more valuable than ever. The message is clear:

### **“Farmers need field days and field days need the support of industry”**

These events continue to bring innovation to the farm gate, ensuring that producers have access to the latest thinking, technologies and solutions required to keep Australia's food and fibre production strong.

### **“Field days are not slowing down, they are stepping up”**

At a time when support for regional Australia has reduced, field days continue to deliver outcomes on the ground — connecting industry, innovation and communities where it matters most.

**Supporting field days is supporting farmers and  
supporting farmers is supporting Australia.**

## YOUR FIELD DAY – YOUR INFORMATION

As there are opportunities for field day events to be circulated to a wider agricultural based audience, we ask you to check the AAFDA website <https://www.fielddaysanz.com/> and the details on the back page for your own field day information.

If the information is incorrect you can contact either:

Kate Burns at Tocal Field Days : [exhibitorsupport@tocalfielddays.com](mailto:exhibitorsupport@tocalfielddays.com)

OR Pam Ryan : [pam@lardnerpark.com.au](mailto:pam@lardnerpark.com.au)

## AGRICULTURAL SHOWS OF AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE



The 2027 ASA National Conference will be held in Canberra from 17th –19th February, culminating in a special visit to the Royal Canberra Show on 20th February to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Jayne West from the Australian National Field Days is AAFDA's representative on the conference co-ordination committee and as an affiliate member of the ASA, we would encourage our AAFDA members to attend next year's conference. More details to follow as planning progresses.

## FIELD DAYS REPORTS, PHOTOS & STORIES

*A reminder to all field days to submit your 2026 field day reports following your event. These reports are an important and valuable tool across the AAFDA network, enabling members to:*

- Compare performance and trends
- Share insights and learnings
- Better understand conditions across regions
- Strengthen collective knowledge and planning

We encourage all members to submit their reports promptly after their event so they can be shared across the network. The more we share, the stronger we become as a collective.

## AAFDA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AAFDA 2026 Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 12:00pm (AEST)** in accordance with our Constitution. A calendar invitation will be forwarded and we hope to see as many of our members attend as possible both the AGM and the General Meeting which follows.

## Board Recruitment Workshop

**Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 12:00pm (AEST)**

We'd like to invite any of our field day members to consider joining the AAFDA board for the period 2026-2027 and beyond. We will be holding an informal online discussion on Wednesday 29th April at 12:00pm (AEST) to discuss with any member who may be interested in joining the AAFDA board after the Annual General Meeting on 27th May.

We'd like to continue the work undertaken by our current board and executive team over the past few years to ensure that a succession plan comprising of an adequate number of members are represented on the AAFDA board and the build on the viability of our association moving forward.

Our Constitution allows for eight Directors comprising :

- Six Directors elected by the Members (Elected Directors); and
- Up to two Directors appointed by the Board in accordance with clause 23 (Appointed Directors).

Currently our Executive Team is comprised of:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

## WHY JOIN THE AAFDA BOARD / EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Establish  
Mission, Vision &  
Policy; Review &  
Impact**

**Exercise  
Fiduciary  
Oversight &  
Secure  
Resources**

**Act as an  
Ambassador to  
the community  
and members**

## AAFDA BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Attend online board meetings**

*Informal meetings are held online for approximately 1 hour (every 3-4 months or as required) throughout the year at a day/time to suit most members.*

*We understand that members are busy with their own field day and business enterprises and we are mindful of these responsibilities when setting meeting schedules.*

- **Tasks**

*Board members are required to attend meetings to enable the executive team to update on happenings since the previous meeting or decisions pertaining to AAFDA or other field day industry matters for consideration.*

### **Executive Team**

*Chair*

*Bruce Wright - position held since 2021*

*Secretary*

*Pam Ryan - position held since 2021*

*Treasurer / Bookkeeper*

*Carol Cairney - position held since 2021 (retiring post 2026 AGM)*

*We'd like to encourage any member who has the capacity to become more involved in AAFDA to reach out and have a chat with the Chair (Bruce Wright - 0411 740 374) before nomination forms are distributed.*

*Handy links :*

*AAFDA Constitution : <https://www.fielddaysanz.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/AAFDA-Constitution-AAFDA-Ltd-2024.pdf>*

*ASIC Information on Board Obligations : <https://www.asic.gov.au/for-business-and-companies/companies/company-officerholder-rules-and-changes/obligations-of-company-officerholders/>*

We are proud to represent our field day member's and we would encourage you to display the logo below for placement on your website, emails and communications.

