

CAREERS: ACTION4AGRICULTURE

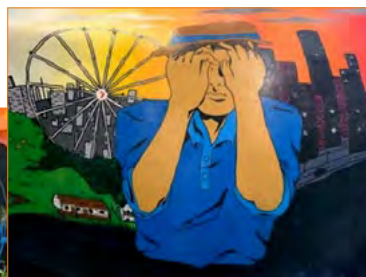


GEOGRAPHY, AGRICULTURE and CAREERS

Lorraine Chaffer, Geography Education Consultant & Lynne Strong, National Program Director, Action4Agriculture

In 2019 I had the pleasure to attend the award ceremony for the 2019 Archibull Prize, an innovative hands-on program in which students researched an agricultural industry and related sustainability issues. Students expressed their findings through artwork on a life-sized fibreglass cow. Examples of the wonderful student artworks can be seen in the photographs taken at the awards ceremony and this [video clip](#).

The program is now in its 14th year, reached over 300,000 students and has continued to evolve with a focus on investigating global sustainability through the UN SDG's, promoting student agency, and providing an ecosystem of support (Young Farming Champions). Connecting students to real world issues, real world people and things young people value have remained core principles of Action4Agriculture. The program design challenges students to be part of the solution to tackle the challenges facing agriculture and food security they identify. Some of these challenges are shown in the cows on display in 2019.



The Archibull Prize Grand Champion 2019.
Photos by L.Chaffer

the ARCHIBULL PRIZE

'Hope'

BEAUDESERT STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Hope sits beneath a starry, starry sky within a drought baked land and poses the important question - R U OK?

All is not good for dairy farmers, who find themselves caught between drought and rising prices, but life on the farm must continue. Hidden stories, signs and pain are found throughout, but an underlying sense of hope prevails. The question is asked of us all - how much do we value the Australian Dairy industry? The quiet and sophisticated Braille message reinforces this - "from grass to glass- 5 minutes is all it takes!"

In the quiet, stillness of dawn, beneath the glittering Milky Way a new day begins, and Hope is in the air.

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The theme for 2022 is Connect, Collaborate and Communicate to reflect the research by Corteva Agriscience “The Future of Food and Farming” that shows young producers and young consumers share many common concerns and hopes for the food system they are inheriting, and a strong desire to be involved in securing its future.

Equally important to Action4Agriculture programs is the opportunity to open the eyes of students to employment opportunities in agriculture. This is achieved through the engagement of young people who work in agriculture in each school. These Young Farming Champions (YFC) supports students and open their eyes to the diversity of careers available in agriculture. They are a component of the ecosystem of support provided by A4A to schools.

The Archibull Prize program engages school students in agricultural and sustainability awareness, understanding and action through art, design, creativity, teamwork, and project development.

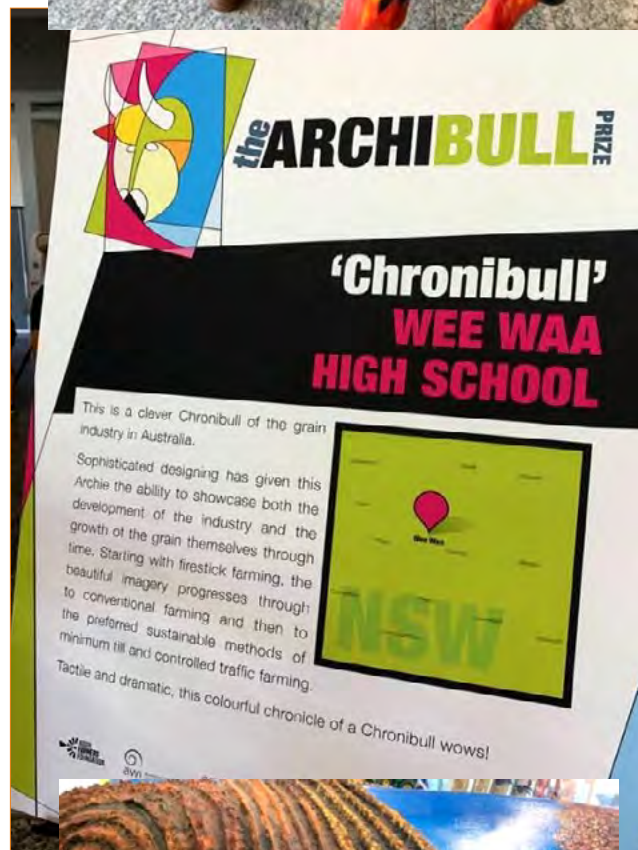
The program is aligned to the learning areas, general capabilities, all three cross curriculum priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Using critical and creative thinking students investigate and reflect on global sustainability issues through the lens of agriculture and act at a local level. The program provides students with opportunities to meet young farmers and to gain knowledge and skills about the production of the food they eat, fibres they use and the environment they live in.

Teachers, students, and their communities are inspired to have courageous conversations and become changemakers.

The artwork the students design and create becomes a legacy, reminding the community about the importance of looking after our planet and each other.

Watch founder Lynne Strong and students from St Catherine’s College share The Archibull Prize journey on Channel 7 [HERE](#) or on [YouTube](#)



RIGHT: Finalist in the 2019 Archibull Prize Photos by L. Chaffer
BELOW: Survey feedback



Pre and post program surveys of students and teachers reveals large increases in knowledge about agriculture are careers in agriculture.

Learn more about Action for Agriculture, the Archibull Prize and Kreative Koalas [HERE](#)

Teachers will also find the EOI brochures and links to the application form on those pages.



ARCHIBULL PRIZE CASE STUDIES

EMBEDDING AGRICULTURE IN THE GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM

The Action4Agriculture school programs, The Archibull Prize and Creative Koalas, are cross curricular / STEM based programs linked to all key learning areas in the Australian curriculum, the general capabilities (employability skills) and cross-curriculum priorities.

In several schools, Geography has been an integral component of the Archibull Prize Program. The following Archibull Prize Case Study summaries from the Action 4Agriculture website arose from interviews highlighting the link between Geography, agriculture, and careers in agriculture and how the Archibull Prize has been delivered.

Meet Lorraine Chaffer, Vice President of the Geography Teachers Association (NSW & ACT) who shares her passion for promoting geography as a subject that integrates issues related to agriculture and the underlying science that sustainable agriculture and food security depend on.

- Lorraine's realisation that there is a lack of understanding about agriculture, its opportunities and challenges inspired her to increase her knowledge by attending conventions, which prompted connections to Young Farming Champion, Dr Anika Molesworth and then Lynne Strong of Action4Agriculture.
- Fuelled by these connections, Lorraine is now a champion of The Archibull Prize program and its integration for Geography, "It's all about STEM [or STEAM] now, and our argument is that Geography is the perfect STEM subject because we tie it all together. With geography, you can link science to what's going on at a place. Geography marries science and agriculture – it makes the learning authentic and linked to the real world through 'place.'" Read the full case study [HERE](#)

Meet Amy Gill, a teacher with youth off the streets and a passionate advocate for the role agriculture plays in teaching disadvantaged kids.

- Action4Agriculture first met Amy Gill in 2018 through the newly opened Youth Off the Streets (YOTS) school, The Lakes College (TLC), whose disadvantaged students participated in The Archibull Prize and were positively impacted by the Ecosystem of Expertise that Amy tapped into during their program participation.
- With Young Farming Champion Tim Eyes at his 'The Food Farm', the students learned about the Australian Beef Industry, had honest conversations about red meat, and discussed the importance of feeding people in poverty.
- Amy also formed the beginnings of an "amazing partnership" with the School and Grace Springs Farm in NSW, where the students initially went to discuss ecosystems and the environment and ended up inspiring a whole learning unit called Bee the Cure; centred around the remediation of the declining bee populations.
- All the project-based learning experiences supported by Archibull program connections through an Ecosystem of Expertise have inspired the students from the school to see the link between geography and science and even consider careers in agriculture. Read the full case study [HERE](#)

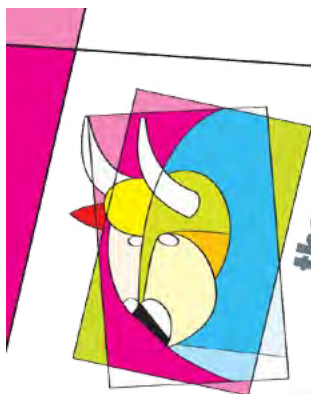


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Meet Ray Howells, geography teacher at Pymble Ladies' College, who has integrated 'ecosystem of expertise' into the stage 5 geography program.

- Pymble Ladies' College Geography teacher Ray Howells began his own local Ecosystem of Expertise by sending an email call-out to the wider Pymble community to foster student interest in agriculture through local support with The Archibull Prize, which has prompted a flourishing relationship with Blantyre Farms in Young, southwest NSW, and family business Montrose Dairy in southern VIC.
- Blantyre Farms is a mixed farming operation including sheep, cattle, cropping and pigs run by Edwina Beveridge, a Pymble Alumna, who is eager to show students examples of cutting-edge technology in the name of "challenging the student's perceptions of sustainability and agriculture".
- Montrose Dairy's Gillian Hayman (also an ex-PLC Alumna) responded to Ray's email to help students see through project-based learning that, "There are so many exciting career opportunities across all aspects of agriculture. [...] Even if people do not choose a career in ag, it's so important to understand food production and land management as a consumer." Read the full case study [HERE](#)

Source: Lynne Strong, National Program Director, Action4Agriculture <https://www.action4agriculture.com.au/about-us/our-impact/#casestudies>



the ARCHIBULL PRIZE

How it Works

Each participating school will:

- Identify a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (Global Goal) to investigate through the lens of agriculture on which to focus your project.
- Be assigned a Young Farming Champion. The Young Farming Champion will come to your school and provide personal insights into their agriculture sector experiences.
- Work with their Young Farming Champion and local experts to design and deliver a Global Goal Community Action Project students will report on.
- Be provided with a life size fibreglass cow on which the students create an artwork about their investigations and reflections on the Global Goal they have selected and the 2022 theme.
- Be provided with a detailed e-program, web links and paint materials.



The Archibull Prize in a nutshell. Source: Action4Agriculture 2022 brochure

