



Australian  
**Rural Leadership**  
Foundation

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**ARLP**

# COURSE 28

PARTICIPANT DIRECTORY 2021-22



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of all the lands on which we meet, work and live and recognise that this land has always been and will always be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF) together with its partner organisations is proud to introduce the 28th intake of the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP).

The ARLF is Australia's pre-eminent provider of rural leadership training and has delivered transformational leadership programs for more than 29 years. The ARLP is a dynamic, experiential learning program focusing on building resilient, courageous and influential leaders committed to the prosperity and sustainability of rural, regional and remote Australia.

An ARLF Fellowship provides invaluable opportunities to connect and work with a professional network of peers across the country.

**29**

**LEADERS**

FROM ACROSS  
RURAL, REGIONAL  
AND REMOTE  
AUSTRALIA

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[rural-leaders.org.au/our-impact](https://rural-leaders.org.au/our-impact)

**COURSE 28**

# MEET THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM COURSE 28 COHORT

## Tracy Anderson HIVESVILLE, QLD

Scholarship funded by **Australian Pork** // [australianpork.com.au](http://australianpork.com.au)

Tracy is an owner operator of a family pork business located in South Burnett, Qld. Tracy has been Chair of Riverbend Pork Group, the third largest pork producer company on the eastern seaboard, for the past three years. She is an Australian Pork Limited delegate, a director with Pork Queensland and is active on the steering committee for the Australian Pork Young Leaders group. Tracy is passionate about her industry and is driven to inspire and carve leadership pathways for young producers and women. Tracy is focused on developing personal strengths, confidence and identifying areas for growth.



## Dan Bouchier LYNEHAM, ACT

Scholarship funded by **National Indigenous Australian Agency** // [niaa.gov.au](http://niaa.gov.au)

Dan is an award-winning, multi-platform journalist, anchor, and an experienced company director. He grew up in Tennant Creek, NT, where he was mentored by elders from around the region, while coming to understand his own Indigenous heritage through his mum's family in coastal and inland parts of Victoria.

Dan began a traineeship at the Tennant and District Times as a teenager. He has worked in radio, print and as a video journalist, foreign correspondent, political reporter, and social commentator. Dan is passionate about great stories, giving voice to the voiceless and holding those in power to account.



## Andrew Bryant GAYNDAH, QLD

Scholarship funded by **Tim Fairfax Family Foundation** // [tfff.org.au](http://tfff.org.au)

Andrew is a Gayndah local, returning from Brisbane and Toowoomba after completing his Bachelor degree. After spending 13 years in community services (delivering counselling for youth, children and flood-affected residents), Andrew now works as the Regional Resilience Coordinator in the Wide Bay Burnett region. Andrew is keen to play a part in developing authentic and powerful leadership in regional and rural areas. He's passionate about harnessing existing strength in communities, while equipping them to adapt and evolve in order to thrive into the future.



## Monique Bryant KAARIMBA, VIC

Scholarship funded by **Gardiner Dairy Foundation** // [gardinerfoundation.com.au](http://gardinerfoundation.com.au)

Monique and her husband Mark run a 1300-acre dairy farm on the Broken Creek between Nathalia and Numurkah in Victoria. Monique has an Agribusiness degree from Melbourne University and has worked at Rural Finance (now Rural Bank) and Tatura Milk Industries (Bega). She also holds a Diploma of Education and has worked as a teacher. She is active in her community, having coached netball and chaired the local primary school board. In 2015, Monique completed the Fairley Leadership course. She joined the Rabobank Client Council in 2018, was appointed chair of the Teacher Fx subcommittee in 2019, and in 2020 became chair of the Rabobank Client Council.



## Catherine Chicken SCONE, NSW

Scholarship funded by **AgriFutures Australia (Thoroughbred Horses Program)** // [agrifutures.com.au](http://agrifutures.com.au)

Catherine is an equine veterinarian who consults to the Scone Equine Hospital on pathology and infectious disease. Throughout her career, Catherine has held various roles supporting her profession through her involvement with the Australian Veterinary Association. Her special areas of veterinary interest include emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial stewardship and One Health. Catherine is an active member of her Upper Hunter community, passionate about seeing a sustainable, thriving future for rural and regional communities throughout Australia – one in which care for the environment and attention to the impact of human activity are paramount.



## Tamsyn Crowley ARMIDALE, NSW

Scholarship funded by **AgriFutures Australia (Chicken Meat Program)** // [agrifutures.com.au](http://agrifutures.com.au)

Tamsyn is the Director of Poultry Hub Australia, a not-for-profit that funds research focused on challenges identified in the Australian Poultry Industry. She also runs a research laboratory at Deakin University, Victoria. Her current role sees her liaise with all sectors of the industry, from farmers to poultry research scientists. Tamsyn is passionate about poultry, the environment, education and science, and values being able to combine these passions. She is keen to explore ways to become a more resilient, approachable and effective leader, for the benefit of her community and the poultry industry.



## Tony Eyres GORDON PARK, QLD

Scholarship funded by **John B. Foundation Innovation in Agriculture Scholarship**

Tony is the founder of Rounding Up, an organisation that supports business growth in agriculture. Tony grew up in Western Australia's central wheatbelt. He studied agricultural science and worked in Perth before 'heading east' with wife Ingrid, and currently lives in Brisbane. He services corporate advisory clients with his agricultural and food knowledge and connection to senior government, corporate and industry networks globally. A former CEO of Grain Growers Association, Tony has also held senior roles at Fonterra, UBS and Austrade. He received a Churchill Fellowship and has undertaken programs at Harvard University's Business School and Kennedy School of Government.



## Niki Ford WAVELL HEIGHTS, QLD

Scholarship funded by **Tim Fairfax Family Foundation** // [tfff.org.au](http://tfff.org.au)

Niki grew up in Toowoomba, Queensland, and today lives with her fiancé and daughter in Brisbane. Niki is the CEO of the organic industry peak body, Australian Organic Limited (AOL). During her time at AOL Niki has developed a passion for advocacy and policy-making, working with government and the diverse organic industry stakeholders over the past three years, helping to deliver positive change for the future. Niki is keen to hone her skills in leadership and develop a deeper understanding of regional and rural Australia.



## Simon Gabb BEAUFORT, VIC

Scholarship funded by **Grains Research and Development Corporation // [grdc.com.au](http://grdc.com.au)**

Simon holds a Bachelor of Agribusiness and has worked on both the east and west coasts of Australia exploring the differences in agricultural farming systems. This has involved working at the farm gate level, as well as advising in the field of precision agriculture. In 2018, Simon returned home to help manage the family farming business with his brother. He also sits on the GRDC Grower Network panel for the southern High Rainfall Zone. Simon has a strong passion for community, succession and farming systems/business planning in the grains industry. He hopes to develop skills that will positively impact his community and family business.



## Dr Kate Gunn UNLEY, SA

Scholarship funded by **Prime Super // [primesuper.com.au](http://primesuper.com.au)**

Kate grew up on a farm near Streaky Bay in South Australia and is a Clinical Psychologist and Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Rural Health at UniSA. She works with rural people to find new, culturally appropriate and evidence-based methods of improving their health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on farmers. In recent years Kate led the development of online resource, [ifarmwell.com.au](http://ifarmwell.com.au). Kate is keen to learn new skills to help her advocate for policy and practice changes that will reduce disparities and improve health and wellbeing in rural Australia.



## Fiona Hill-Stein WATSON, ACT

Scholarship funded by **Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment // [awe.gov.au](http://awe.gov.au)**

Fiona is the Director of Horticulture Policy for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. Originally from Wangaratta in Victoria, Fiona is now based in Canberra where she has spent her career advising on agricultural policy, drought and rural assistance and natural resource management. In this capacity she feels she can have the greatest impact. Fiona is keen to ensure policies and programs enhance the rural and regional communities that rely upon Australia's agriculture, unique environment and heritage, and water resources.



## Oli Le Lievre PADDINGTON, NSW

Scholarship funded by **ARLF Alumni Scholarship** // [rural-leaders.org.au](http://rural-leaders.org.au)

Oli is the Content Marketing Manager at Auctions Plus based in Sydney. He also runs his own social enterprise, Humans of Agriculture, with a mission to share 10,000 stories of people identifying with agriculture. Oli is determined to see innovation improve supply chains to create a better future. He sees empowered and capable people as pivotal to the success of the agriculture sector and rural communities. Oli is passionate about engaged consumer awareness and supporting the next generation to have an impact. He hopes to develop skills and strategies to enhance his contribution to Australian agriculture and the community.



## Bec Lynd BUSHY PARK, TAS

Scholarship funded by **Australian Meat Processor Corporation** // [ampc.com.au](http://ampc.com.au)

Bec is the Managing Director of Three Valley Foods, specialising in ethical meat production. Bec has held roles in the Emergency Services and in engineering in the Royal Australian Navy and mining industry. In 2010, Bec returned to her Derwent Valley roots and bought a 220 acre block. In 2015, Bec and her wife co-founded an award-winning boutique heritage beef brand while farming off-grid. Bec was named 2017 AgriFutures Tasmanian Rural Woman of the Year. She has completed Australian Institute of Company Directors and Rural Women's Coalition leadership courses. Bec is driven to make the meat industry more equitable and sustainable.



## Don Madden PROSTON, QLD

Scholarship funded by **Australian Lot Feeders' Association** // [feedlots.com.au](http://feedlots.com.au)

Don is the operations manager of Smithfield Feedlot – part of the larger Smithfield Cattle Company, which operates feedlotting, farming and logistics businesses across several locations in southern Queensland. A director of the company for over 20 years, Don has been involved in the strategic development of the business. With a vision in place for the sustainability of the family-run business for future generations, Don is focussed on providing leadership through a transition towards a more corporate model. He aims to position his organisation to deal with future opportunities and challenges and foster deeper connections with industry.





## Anthony Marshall BINJURA, NSW

Scholarship funded by **Local Land Services, NSW Government** // [lls.nsw.gov.au](https://lls.nsw.gov.au)

Anthony is based in Cooma, where he is General Manager of the South East Local Land Services. Originally from Wynnum in Queensland, he made the move to regional NSW 18 years ago. He holds strategic and operational experience across a range of industries. Anthony has experience managing finance, human resources, ICT, cultural transformation, operations, project-management and customer service. He is skilled in the strategic planning, delivery and implementation of systems and processes that improve efficiency, customer service and employee engagement.



## Melinda McCrohon HOLBROOK, NSW

Scholarship funded by **Telstra Corporation** // [telstra.com.au](https://telstra.com.au)

Melinda is based in Leeton, in the NSW Riverina. Currently, she splits her time between Yoogali and Narrandera where she is a Literacy Educational Leader in two diverse educational settings. As a lecturer and literacy specialist, Melinda has a passion for teacher education in rural Australia. Understanding issues that face rural families and students is central to her work. Melinda is keen to look more broadly at rural industries and apply insights to an educational setting. She and her family also run a beef cattle enterprise based in Holbrook. As a first-generation grazier, Melinda hopes to develop herself as a community leader.



## Justin McMillan NARRABRI, NSW

Scholarship funded by  
**Cotton Research & Development Corporation** // [crdc.com.au](https://crdc.com.au)  
**Auscott Limited** // [auscott.com.au](https://auscott.com.au)  
**Cotton Australia** // [cottonaustralia.com.au](https://cottonaustralia.com.au)

Justin is a Farm Manager who has worked largely in the Cotton Industry for the last 25 years. He was raised on a family farm near Nevertire in Central Western NSW and spent the first 16 years of his career around Warren on Cotton and Dryland Cereal farms. Over the last seven years, Justin and his family have lived in the Riverina near Hay managing an irrigation farm, followed by moves to Moree and Narrabri as Justin's career has progressed. He understands the complexity of life in the country, and relishes learning from others connected to rural Australia.



## Moses Nelliman TOWNSVILLE, QLD

Scholarship funded by **National Indigenous Australian Agency** // [niaa.gov.au](http://niaa.gov.au)

Moses is a proud Torres Strait Islander man who has spent most of his life in Townsville. He works for the Queensland government Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships as a project officer, helping Indigenous people find employment. Moses has served as a Queensland Police Officer across the state, including the Torres Strait. Moses has written comedy sketches for ABC's Black Comedy, and hopes to write about his experiences growing up as an Indigenous person in northern Queensland. Moses delivers cultural awareness training and believes that reconciliation is the key to Australians working together to be one people.



## Jo Newton BENTLEIGH EAST, VIC

Scholarship funded by **Agriculture Victoria** // [agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au)

Jo works as a research scientist in the dairy industry with Agriculture Victoria. Her work focuses on practical tools to illustrate the benefit of better herd-improvement decisions on-farm. It was while studying and working in the New England Tablelands of NSW that Jo identified two core passions: ensuring research delivers tangible outcomes for farmers; and advocating for and supporting young people – especially women. She has held numerous roles in community and not-for-profit organisations and sits on the board for Picture You in Agriculture. Jo welcomes the opportunity to become a more effective leader and contributor to agriculture.



## Sally Norton HORSHAM, VIC

Scholarship funded by **Agriculture Victoria** // [agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au)

Originally from Mornington in Victoria, Sally is based in Horsham where she is the National Leader of the Australian Grains Genebank. Sally's passion is food security, focusing on the collection, conservation and use of agricultural seeds for plant breeding, specialising in the indigenous cousins of cultivated crops. She is involved in capacity-building programs within Australia and overseas on seed banking, enabling her to learn from different experiences and agricultural systems. Sally is keen to become a stronger, more strategic leader in her industry and community.



## Emily Perkins LADYSMITH, NSW

Scholarship funded by **Australian Lot Feeders' Association** // [feedlots.com.au](https://feedlots.com.au)

Emily is originally from Texas, QLD, and is currently based in Wagga Wagga in the heart of the Riverina. She is the Feedlot Manager for Ladysmith Feedlot. Emily's passion is the agricultural supply chain. She is committed to building physical and human resource capabilities, developing efficiencies and empowering rural and regional communities. Emily is the President of an Early Childhood Education service and is also involved in her family's cattle business throughout NSW. These roles contribute to her unique perspectives on regional and remote industries. Emily is seeking new skills to enhance her contribution to regional and remote Australia.



## Rose Philipzen GOOLOOGONG, NSW

Scholarship funded by **Dairy Australia** // [dairyaustralia.com.au](https://dairyaustralia.com.au)

Rose is Head of Livestock and Genetics for Australian Fresh Milk Holdings, working alongside her family and corporate partners to continue to grow one of Australia's leading dairy farms. After graduating as a veterinarian at Sydney University, Rose returned to the family dairy farm where her passion for dairy cows and people grew. Rose is committed to supporting the development of young vibrant leaders in the dairy industry and beyond. She is looking forward to building strong networks, increasing her confidence and becoming the best version of herself.



## Brigid Price INJUNE, QLD

Scholarship funded by **Meat and Livestock Australia** // [mla.com.au](https://mla.com.au)

Brigid is a beef producer in Central Qld with city roots and an authentic understanding of what the transition to country life is like. A former Finance Manager with Queensland Health, she is now mother to some of Australia's future farmers, driven to create positive long-term change in the agricultural sector. Brigid's grassroots involvement in agriculture led her to create [ruralresources.com.au](https://ruralresources.com.au), a website supporting members of farming families by providing advocacy, sharing resources and the all-important stories of community and the spirit encapsulated by life on the land. Brigid looks forward to the challenge of being a change-leader.



## Andrew Rouse HAWTHORN EAST, VIC

Scholarship funded by **WWF-Australia** // [wwf.org.au](http://wwf.org.au)

Andrew is the Senior Manager, Food Security with WWF-Australia, based in Melbourne. Andrew heads WWF's natural resource management program that encompasses, advocacy, programs and partnerships across agriculture (beef and sugar) and seafood. Andrew has a passion for innovation in agriculture to identify and implement the next generation of technologies and practices for productivity, profitability and the environment. He is keen to broaden his understanding of drivers and impediments for change in agriculture and in particular, the views of producers. Whilst from a city background, Andrew is also connected to food production through family who farm in southern NSW.



## Andrew Sullivan MOUNT NELSON, TAS

Scholarship funded by **Fisheries Research and Development Corporation** // [frdc.com.au](http://frdc.com.au)

Andrew is the Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Fisheries Association and Owner/Director of Fish Focus Consulting. Andrew moved from Adelaide to study a Bachelor of Science (Fisheries) at the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania, which has led to a varied career in fisheries research, management and most recently industry representation. Andrew is still based in Tasmania, living with his wife and three children on Flinders Island. He aims to develop his leadership skills to assist the Australian seafood industry be valued and loved by the Australian community.



## Kristie Tonkin DAWESVILLE, WA

Scholarship funded by **Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, WA Government** // [wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-primary-industries-and-regional-development](http://wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-primary-industries-and-regional-development)

Kristie is based in Mandurah, WA, and has worked for the past six years in regional economic and social development. Originally from Albany, Kristie is passionate about building sustainable regional communities where all people have the opportunity to build and achieve their aspirations. She has a super-power for making connections and identifying where systems require change to better work for the people in the system. Kristie is excited to have an opportunity to be pushed out of her comfort zone, and grow her impact as a leader in her community.



## Jo Treasure COWRA, NSW

Scholarship funded by **Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment** // [awe.gov.au](http://awe.gov.au)

Jo spends most of her work life at her family farm in Cowra and is a shearer on the weekends. Jo is also a NSW Young Farmer Council member and a Director at the Cowra Services Club. Her advocacy efforts, community initiatives and overarching mission to drive positive change are underpinned by her passion for rural communities and the agricultural industry. Jo is excited to grab this opportunity 'by the wool' to become a more dynamic leader and hopefully, inspire others like her to do the same.



## Allan Walker MERREDIN, WA

Scholarship funded by **CBH Group** // [cbh.com.au](http://cbh.com.au)

Allan is the Zone General Manager for CBH Group, based in Merredin. He has worked in agriculture all his life, firstly with his dad in the shearing shed, and for the last 23 years, with Australia's largest co-operative, CBH. He is passionate about working with the growers of Western Australia to lower costs and improve productivity across the whole supply chain from paddock to plate. Allan manages a large, diverse workforce so is focused on developing new skills from the program and other participants to take back and implement for his people.



## Lincoln Whiteley SURFERS PARADISE, QLD

Scholarship funded by **National Indigenous Australians Agency** // [niaa.gov.au](http://niaa.gov.au)

Lincoln is originally from Geurie, NSW and is now based on the Gold Coast where he is the Pathways Coordinator for Yalari. Yalari is a not-for-profit organisation that supports Indigenous students from rural and remote communities to attend boarding schools. Lincoln is committed to the principals of social justice and equality, especially for Indigenous Australians. He is looking forward to working with his ARLP cohort to learn the skills to become a robust and strategic leader in his industry and community.



# THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

We would like to thank our generous partners for their commitment to and investment in building leadership capability for rural, regional and remote Australia.

## ARLP28 Scholarships



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