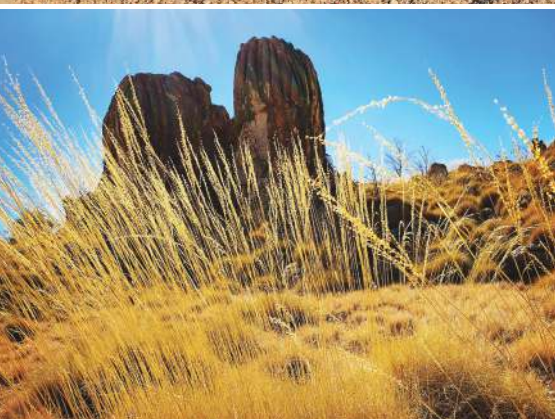




Australian
Rural Leadership
Foundation

AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

COURSE 26 2019-20



RURAL-LEADERS.ORG.AU

COURSE 26 2019-20

This is the participant directory for the 26th intake of the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP). The participants profiled in this directory will undertake the unique fifteen-month leadership program over five sessions, across Australia and Asia.

The ARLF believes that leadership is a process of social influence, underpinned by personal ethics, character and behaviour. Our approach to leadership aims to transform participants' self-awareness, responsiveness to different contexts and authenticity.

Our approach is based on these four main principles:

DISRUPT

Multiple experiential challenges (physical, emotional, mental, social and intellectual) in changing real-world situations.

DISCOVER

Opportunities for critical self-reflection and a deeper understanding of others' perspectives.

DEVELOP

Behavioural intelligence, the ability to trust and support others and the confidence to lead in different contexts.

DELIVER

Tangible, positive change in your organisation, sector or community through new conversations and connections.

This year, thirty-five leaders from across rural, regional and remote Australia will participate to extend their capability, broaden their reach and deepen their impact.





CHELSEA ANIBA
SAIBAI ISLAND, QLD Torres Strait Regional Authority

Originally born and raised on Thursday Island, Chelsea now lives and works on Saibai Island in the Torres Strait. She is a proud Dhoeybaw woman and has strong cultural and spiritual values. Chelsea has worked in politics for the last seven years with the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) as an elected member by the community of Saibai Island since 2012. Chelsea is committed to empowering local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in remote communities by finding solutions to service delivery challenges and adopting strength based approaches.



ADAM ARNDELL
TAMWORTH, NSW Telstra Corporation Limited

Adam is the Co-Founder and Director of C7EVEN Communications – a specialist agri-marketing and communications agency. Adam grew up on the family farm in New England, NSW and has since forged a 20-year career in marketing, working for global organisations in agriculture telecommunication and finance. He also has a Master of Business Administration (International Marketing), a Bachelor of Business (Marketing/Business Management) and is a member of the Australian Institute of Management. Adam is passionate about helping regional, rural and remote communities improve their communication effectiveness.



DONNA BENNETT
BRISBANE, QLD Australian Government Department of Agriculture

Donna works as the Principal Veterinary Officer for the Department of Agriculture in Brisbane. Her connection with rural and regional Australia began whilst completing her degree in Veterinary Science. Donna and her partner operate a beef cattle farm west of Canberra and know first-hand the pressures that farmers face when it comes to drought, bush fires and floods. Donna believes that sustainable agriculture has a bright future in Australia and would like to play a more prominent role in leading progression. Donna also has a personal interest in mentoring other women who choose careers in Australian agricultural industries.



CATHERINE BLYTH
CANOWINDRA, NSW NSW Local Land Services

Catherine grew up in rural NSW on large scale cropping and livestock properties. She later moved to Canberra and has worked for over 25 years in Federal Government, Defence and law enforcement. She is an outcome focused professional with experience in business transformation, commercial negotiation and project management. Catherine has now returned to rural life and is a Senior Executive with Local Land Services. She is an advocate for rural communities, with a particular focus on mental health, Aboriginal culture and issues impacting rural families.



LACHY BROWN
NANANGO, QLD Australian Lot Feeders' Association

Lachy was raised in Kingaroy on the family property "Pakaderinga". After finishing high school, he completed a carpentry apprenticeship before moving back to the family property to assist in their feedlot expansion. What was intended to be a short-lived experience turned into six years of being involved in the day to day operations. Lachy is looking forward to making new connections and believes that each industry within the agricultural sector has something to learn from one another, whether that be technological advances, process efficiencies or policy making.



ANNABELLE BUSHELL
PERTH, WA Grains Research and Development Corporation

Annabelle has worked with pastoralists, land managers, researchers and farmers across the science, agriculture and community industry sectors. Over the last couple of years, Annabelle established the Grower Group Alliance Inc. – a hosted arrangement with the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia. With a Master's Degree in Food, Culture and Communications, Annabelle is committed to providing more networking, training and research opportunities for farmers in the Western Australian grain community. She believes that collaboration is key for sustaining farming communities and wants to further explore her leadership.



CHANTAL CORISH
GOONDIWINDI, QLD Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Auscott Limited, Cotton Australia, Prime Super

Chantal is a cotton farmer and runs a coaching business that focuses on the wellness of employees and community groups in rural Australia. With a prior career in politics, Chantal wants to use her PR skills to communicate the positive story of rural Australia to a broader audience. Chantal received a local Australia Day Citizenship Award in 2018 for her Mental Health Week Community Art Exhibition. With funding from Cotton Australia, Chantal also initiated the Cotton Women's Picnic Event in Goondiwindi. The event provided an opportunity for women to come together during the busy cotton picking season for respite and friendship.



JUSTIN CROSBY
CANBERRA, ACT Grains Research and Development Corporation

Justin grew up on a family farm in Moree, NSW and has always had a passion for the agricultural industry. He has worked in a range of research and policy roles for the University of Sydney and NSW Farmers Association and is now the Head of Industry and Government Relations for Grains Research and Development Corporation. Justin is passionate about fostering effective and productive relationships between Government agencies and key industry stakeholders. Justin chose to apply for the ARLP to enhance his ability to contribute to developing and delivering broad outcomes for Australian agriculture.



STUART CROSTHWAITE
KERGUNYAH SOUTH, VIC Gardiner Dairy Foundation

Stuart works on his fifth-generation family dairy farm. Prior to that, Stuart worked in different advisory roles within the dairy industry. Whilst farming, Stuart has been significantly involved in the North-East Victorian Dairy Industry development. He was the Chair of the Alpine Valleys Dairy Inc. for ten years and most recently formed Australia's newest dairy co-operative, the Mountain Milk Co-operative. Stuart has also been involved in many innovations and initiatives to grow the local dairy industry and would like to develop his leadership capabilities around strategy, teamwork and negotiations.



LEANNE CURETON
PERTH, WA Cooperative Bulk Handling Group

Leanne was raised on a sheep and cropping farm in Western Victoria. She completed a degree in engineering before commencing her career in the resources sector in North Queensland. After spending 18 years working regionally and remotely in technical and senior management roles, Leanne joined the grain logistics and supply chain co-operative CBH Group, where she is the Manager of the Metro Grain Centre. Leanne's passion is in creating high performing operations through improving organisational culture and developing innovative technologies in operating processes. She is also a strong advocate and mentor for emerging women in STEM industries.



ANITA DENNIS
BLACKALL, QLD Goat Industry Council of Australia

Anita, along with her husband Joe, run a holistic, diversified livestock enterprise Taylor Dennis Pastoral & Seaford Goats in Blackall, western Queensland. Anita is always looking for more effective ways to grow her livestock business whilst being mindful of the environment. Anita gives back to her wider community by actively volunteering with a variety of organisations. She is very excited to be facing new challenges, meeting new people and developing capabilities to be more effective in her community.



MARK DIXON
VITE VITE NORTH, VIC Goat Industry Council of Australia

Mark is a dairy goat farmer based in south western Victoria and runs over 200 commercial and stud breeding does. Prior to farming, Mark worked in a variety of roles, including hydrogeologist, environmental consultant, campaigner, educator and facilitator. He is passionate about the continued development of the dairy goat and meat goat industries in Australia. He believes that regenerative agriculture and positive male role models in farming communities are important factors for the goat industry to prosper. Mark is a Farmers for Climate Action Fellow and a lieutenant with the Country Fire Authority.



KYLIE DUNSTAN

CANBERRA, ACT Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

Kylie is Head of Corporate Affairs for the Grains Research and Development Corporation. She is also Director of Paulsen Fisheries Pty Ltd, a fishing company with a prawn trawler based out of Bundaberg, Qld. Kylie wants to play an increased role in building community trust and having authentic conversations about environmental and social issues within communities. Kylie believes that strong industry leaders are needed to help forge partnerships with community members and make tangible impact when addressing issues affecting the agriculture and fisheries industries.



ROBYN DUPUIS

CAIRNS, QLD James Cook University

Robyn was born in Hull, Canada and spent most of her formative years in regional areas across Canada. She then spent several years teaching English as a Second Language in various countries before moving to Australia. After six years in Perth, the opportunity to move to Cairns was seized. Robyn now works for the JCU College of Medicine and Dentistry and believes she has one of the best jobs in the world - working with like-minded people to help improve health care for communities in regional, rural and remote Australia.



KIM FILMER

ORANGE, NSW NSW Department of Primary Industries

Kim is the Chief Animal Welfare Officer at the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Kim has worked in veterinary clinics in various outback towns including Broken Hill, Cobar, Narromine and Dubbo. Kim is passionate about the need for regenerative practices and improving animal welfare practices to ensure future sustainability for the agricultural industry. Kim's interest in leadership has evolved throughout her career. She firmly believes in the importance of setting goals, developing teams and treating others with respect to motivate employees and produce results.



DOUGAL GORDON

ORANGE, NSW NSW Department of Primary Industries

Dougal originates from a sheep and cattle property near Armidale, NSW. Predominantly working in the private sector throughout his career, Dougal is now the Group Director of Livestock Systems at the NSW Department of Primary Industries. In 2018, Dougal won the Department of Primary Industries' Active Stakeholder and Research Excellence Awards. Dougal is passionate about driving positive change in the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the agriculture sector. Currently managing a large team and budget, Dougal is keen to further develop his leadership capability to motivate the people around him and achieve meaningful outcomes.



ROD GORDON

GOONDIWINDI, QLD Cotton Research & Development Corporation, Auscott Limited, Cotton Australia

Rod supports the operational arm of Hancock's Farmland Services Australia's (HFSA) irrigated cotton and broadacre investments. Rod is a passionate and driven agribusiness professional with over fifteen years' experience as a cotton and broadacre specialist. He is a strong research professional who holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Crops and Rangelands; a Masters of Business Administration and Marketing, is a qualified USDA cotton classifier and a graduate of the ACSA International Cotton School. Rod is passionate about developing effective and lasting relationships between farm managers and key stakeholders throughout production process.



ERIN GORTER

PERTH, WA Australian Government Department of Agriculture

Erin has over 28 years' experience as a sheep and grains farmer in the south west of Western Australia. She spent many of these years as a producer representative and advocate for livestock and pasture systems across Australia. This led to her role as Rural Industry Consultant for the Ag Vivo Group – of which she is also a Director. Erin is also a current Director of Meat and Livestock Australia. Her business experience stretches across the red meat industry, grower groups, food and fibre education, pastures and WA Rangelands issues. Erin is keen to share her passion and enthusiasm for the agricultural industry with all whom she meets.



ROB HORSTMAN

GERALDTON, WA Prime Super

Rob is originally from Bristol, UK, however, he now calls regional Western Australia home. His role as an Executive Account Manager with Janssen has enabled Rob to pursue his passion for providing mental health education to rural and remote communities around Australia, working in partnership with regionally based Not-For-Profit organisations. Rob lives with his family on a sheep and wheat property east of Northampton where he has been an active volunteer in the community. Rob is keen to further his capacity to be a strong advocate for mental health initiatives throughout regional Australia.



TROY JOHNSON

MAGNETIC ISLAND, QLD National Indigenous Australians' Agency

Troy is a proud Wulgurukaba and Gugu-Badhun man who works as a Ranger for the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Troy is responsible for enhancing good-working relationships with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Authority (GBRMPA) and Traditional Land Owners in his area. Troy wants to be a strong role model for his family and improve peoples' access to education and training opportunities in rural, coastal and Indigenous Australia. Troy also facilitates mentoring groups for disadvantaged children and makes time for the Reef Guardian Program (GBRMPA), an initiative by GBRMPA to protect the Great Barrier Reef.



STUART JOHNSTON

ORANGE, NSW Macquarie Pastoral Fund/Paraway Pastoral Company

Stuart is the General Manager for the Central East Region at Paraway Pastoral Company. He is responsible for the operational performance of seven Paraway properties located in NSW. The Central East portfolio, which runs predominately angus cattle, as well as sheep and mixed cropping, has a total value in excess of \$300m and a full-time team of 30 on farm staff plus contractors. Stuart believes that great leadership is essential to successful and sustainable business and communities. Stuart is looking to improve his leadership capability to continue his growth as a leader in and for the industry.



SALLY LEIGO

DARWIN, NT Agrifutures Australia

Sally is originally from a property in far-western NSW and moved to the Northern Territory in 2004. In her current role, Sally oversees research projects being undertaken by the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia and works with project teams in developing new research. Having grown up in remote Australia, Sally is motivated to see remote communities grow and have a strong future in an increasingly urbanised world. Sally is looking forward to developing her leadership capabilities, as a confident, capable and proactive leader for remote Australia.



GRAHAM LYON

DUBBO, NSW Australian Meat Processor Corporation

Graham is passionate about agriculture and credits his father as a cattle farmer for his commitment to the agricultural industry. Hailing from Hawks Nest, NSW. Graham is now the Market Manager for Fletcher International Exports. Graham is committed to understanding how different consumer markets operate and positioning Australia as a prominent player on the global scale for first class lamb and sheep meat. Graham believes that the key to success is innovation and leadership. Graham is committed to building better teams and his networks for the benefit of the industry.



BRUCE MARTIN

CANBERRA, ACT Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation

Bruce is a Wik Ngathan man from the community of Aurukun on western Cape York, QLD. He has many years of experience in the community-development sector. Bruce has worked for the Cape York Land Council, the Wuchoopperen Aboriginal Medical Service, the Queensland Department of Families in Cairns and the Aurukun Shire Council. Bruce is President of the Cape York Peninsula Live Export Group and a Director for the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation. He has been instrumental in the establishment of APN (Our Ancestral Country), a community-owned organisation focusing on the development of productive livelihoods on traditional Wik country.



TIM MCKINNON
BRISBANE, QLD CBRE Group

Tim is originally from western Victoria where he grew up on his family's dairy farm. He moved to Brisbane from Geelong four years ago to establish the CBRE Agribusiness team in Brisbane. Tim currently manages the agribusiness valuations team nationally which takes him to all areas of Australia. He is also involved in a wagyu and angus beef business in northern Victoria. Tim is passionate about agriculture and is keen to develop his leadership skills as well as meet like-minded people to help better the agricultural and property valuation industry.



CLAIRE MCLAREN
BARMEDMAN, NSW Grains Research and Development Corporation

Having grown up on a farm near Wagga Wagga, NSW, Claire is a rural girl at heart. Claire studied Economics at Sydney and now runs a very successful merino sheep, wheat and canola farming enterprise with her husband. Claire is a member of the local council and is passionate about representing farmers on issues that are important to them. Claire is committed to developing her skills and confidence to influence the important issues of rural and regional communities to the decision makers.



JOEL ORCHARD
LISMORE, NSW Thyne Reid Foundation

Joel is a farmer and sustainable food systems activist based in Lismore, NSW. He is an advocate for young farmers, local food economies and ecological agriculture. Joel has been instrumental in establishing 'Future Leaders', a young farmers hub that facilitates peer support and small-scale farming networks through the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Network Australia and New Zealand. Joel also recently launched the Young Farmers Connect Network. He is passionate about food justice, circular economies, urban farming and community food initiatives. Joel is board member of the Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network.



JACQUI PAYNE
SYDNEY, NSW Woolworths Australia

Jacqui is originally from Orange, NSW and is now based in Sydney as the National Program Manager - Agriculture for Foodbank Australia. Her strong passion for agriculture, supporting regional communities and understanding international markets has been the foundation of her career since her time as a Jillaroo in the NT. Jacqui is currently working to bring together stakeholders from across the supply chain to ensure basic protein, grain-based products and fresh produce are available for families in need all over Australia. Jacqui is excited about the opportunity to further develop her strategic focus and play a more prominent role in regional communities.



THAARRAMALI PEARSON
CANBERRA, ACT National Indigenous Australians' Agency

Thaarramali is a Bagamuguwarra Bama from Cape York and is now based in Canberra, where he works as a Policy Analyst in the Australian Public Service. Thaarramali is passionate about Indigenous Affairs, particularly issues around welfare dependency and community-led economic development in remote communities. For Reconciliation Week 2018, he proposed, developed and delivered a series of engagement activities between Commonwealth, State and Local Government with Indigenous organisations across Far North Queensland. Thaarramali is looking to broaden his skills and networks to enable him to work more effectively within his community.



SALLY STRELITZ
ARMIDALE, NSW Meat and Livestock Australia

Sally works as the Outreach and Engagement Manager for the faculty of Agriculture at the University of New England. Sally and her partner Peter own the premier lamb brand, Milly Hill Lamb, and supply quality lamb meat to high-end restaurants in Sydney, Brisbane and regional NSW. They have won the NSW President's Medal and championships at the Sydney Royal Food and Wine Show. Sally is passionate about bridging the city-country divide and encouraging the next generation into Agriculture. Sally is keen to develop her strategic, business and leadership capabilities to help drive her community involvement.



RENEE TEYS
BRISBANE, QLD Australian Meat Processor Corporation

Renee lives in Brisbane and works at Teys Australia as the Organisational Development Manager. In her current role, Renee is responsible for overseeing a range of innovation projects across the entire supply chain. Renee hopes that adopting new technologies into an ever-lagging agriculture industry will help the business grow and reach its potential. Renee is a graduate of the ARLF Agribusiness program and is keen to further develop and challenge herself to support the industry and communities in which Teys operates.



KIRSTY WALL
BUKKULLA, NSW Australian Wool Innovation

Kirsty is a registered nurse and midwife and has worked throughout Australia, the United Kingdom and Botswana. Kirsty is co-principal of a merino stud on her family's farm, holds a professional wool classer's stencil and is a strong advocate for 'all things wool'. Kirsty is passionate about improving rural communities' access to quality health care and gaining a greater understanding about the complexities surrounding rural health. Kirsty relishes the opportunity to meet new people, broaden her skill-set and foster change in her community.



MENA WALLER
ALYANGULA, NT National Indigenous Australians' Agency

Born and raised in Rockhampton, Mena's cultural heritage belongs to the Walman Clan - Yawuru Nation in Western Kimberley. Mena has a degree in Business and Communication and started her professional career working in the Aboriginal health sector. She has followed in the footsteps of her father with a passion for community development and community-led solutions. As a young enthusiastic leader, Mena aspires to affect change and address the multiple social justice issues across communities in Australia. As Regional Coordinator for Save the Children on Groote Eylandt, Mena wants to build a strong cultural identity and improve cultural competencies in Early Childhood and Family Support Services.



SHARYN WILLIAMS
WALMER, VIC Agriculture Victoria

Sharyn lives in Central Victoria and has a state-wide role as Director for the Biosecurity Regulatory and Emergency Response program for Agriculture Victoria. Sharyn also runs a small property with her family and uses her farming experiences to help her effectively address broader biosecurity issues with industry and community groups. Sharyn has a passion for building resilience within the community and introducing new, adaptive technologies to help the community prosper and grow. Sharyn values the experiences of others and is keen to connect with other leaders to further develop her skills to be a better community and public sector leader.



ANDREW ZERNER
MURGON, QLD Meat and Livestock Australia

Andrew lives on the family property and runs his own beef trading enterprise. Andrew is following his passion for regenerative agriculture by increasing soil carbon with grazing cattle. Previously, Andrew worked as a business development coach for people starting or operating their own grazing and farming operations. This first-hand industry experience has proved very valuable for his own beef trading business. Andrew is keen to be challenged and learn new skills to better lead and enhance the vibrancy of farms and rural communities.

As a not-for-profit organisation, we rely on the generosity of our sponsors who are committed to investing in people in rural, regional and remote Australia. Our sponsors for Course 26 are:



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