

# AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## DIRECTORY COURSE 15 » 2008-09

THIS IS A DIRECTORY OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIFTEENTH INTAKE OF THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



**AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION**  
LEADING THE NATION

A unique opportunity for selected rural and regional leaders to undertake a program of personal growth and develop the skills, knowledge and networks needed to be effective in regional, state, national and international arenas.

Comprising professional and personal leadership skills development, examination of key national and international issues and interaction with leaders in government, industry and the community.

Cover photograph: Course 15 in the Kimberley – May 2008



**Peter ANDERSON**  
Kingsley WA

Cooperative Bulk Handling: Cooperative Bulk Handling Scholarship

Peter is the principal engineer with Bulkwest Engineering, a wholly owned subsidiary of the CBH Group, which is a large investor in rural-based infrastructure. Peter is currently responsible for the group's infrastructure assets throughout WA; managing the impact of these investments while remaining environmentally conscious of the surrounding communities is something he views as his challenge for the future. Peter holds a degree in Electrical Engineering and chartered status with the Institute of Engineers.



**Leecia ANGUS**  
Narrabundah ACT

Grains Research and Development Corporation: Grains Leader Scholarship

Leecia is the manager of wheat and barley breeding for the GRDC. She has a farming background and worked for many years in medical research, switching sectors in 2002 to combine her scientific and investment analysis skills with her rural industry interests. Leecia has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from the University of Melbourne, a Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and Investment from the Securities Institute of Australia and a Diploma from the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**David BASHAM**  
Mount Compass SA

Dairy Australia: Dairy Leaders Scholarship

David is President of the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association and a board member of Australian Dairy Farmers Limited. Until recently, he has been acting Chairman of the South Australian Dairy Industry Development Board and just lately has joined the board of Fleurieu Regional Development. David is a partner in a 400-cow dairy enterprise on the Fleurieu Peninsula and is committed to assisting the dairy industry to achieve the best possible outcomes.



**Jacqueline BRAMWELL**  
Bruthen VIC

Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria: Departmental Scholarship

Jacqui manages the Tourism and Partnerships Unit within the Forest Stewardship business function across Gippsland for the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment. She has had a long association with the development of nature-based tourism in East Gippsland, both as a land manager and as a teacher with East Gippsland TAFE, where she taught recreation and heritage management and tour operator training. Jacqui holds a BSc, Dip Ed and Graduate Diploma in Outdoor Education.



**Lindsay BRIDGE**  
Mariners Cove WA

Department of Local Government and Regional Development, WA: Departmental Scholarship

Lindsay is the Senior Project Officer – Indigenous Communities within the department. His role is to provide governance support to all Indigenous local government councillors in Western Australia by educating and encouraging Indigenous people to be active participants in local government through voting and representation. Lindsay is from the Gija people in East Kimberley, WA.



**Eleanor COOK**  
Coolah NSW

Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation

Ele is a partner in a 627-hectare organic beef farm at Coolah, North West NSW. She is a member of the Coolah District Development Group, working closely with community groups to achieve projects, and has a keen interest in establishing a community foundation. She was the winner of the RIRDC NSW Rural Women of the Year Award for 2007, holds a Certificate in Public Relations and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**Michael DAW**  
Esperance WA

Cooperative Bulk Handling: Cooperative Bulk Handling Scholarship

Mick is the CBH Group's zone manager for the Esperance region, with responsibilities that include managing a grain receipt network and port facility handling between 1.3 and 2 million tonnes of grain a year. Mick has worked in the grain industry for over 20 years and enjoys living and working in rural areas. He holds a Diploma in Business Management and a Certificate in Grain Management.



**Michelle DESHONG**  
Kirwan QLD

Tim Fairfax Family Foundation

Michelle has had many years experience in the public and community sector and is currently the Business Manager of the Indigenous Servicing Branch of Centrelink. She is also the director of the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre Ltd, an organisation with a keen interest in developing leadership potential across Indigenous Australia. In 2001, she was awarded the ACT NAIDOC Aboriginal Person of the Year. She is completing her BA Honours in Political Science and International Relations at James Cook University.



**Leeanne ENOCH**  
Woodridge QLD

Department of Health and Ageing: Rural Health Scholarship

Leeanne is a proud Nunukul/Nughi woman from North Stradbroke Island. With many years experience in Indigenous affairs, she is currently the Indigenous Partnerships Manager for The Red Cross in QLD. Her job involves establishing partnerships across governments, private industry and philanthropic associations to broker solutions for Indigenous Queenslanders. Leeanne is a registered teacher and taught for 11 years in Queensland and overseas high schools, where she established her community development skills.



**Laura FELL**  
Blewitt Springs SA

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation: Community Leader Scholarship

Laura is a partner in an intensive turkey-rearing enterprise in McLaren Vale, SA. An international trade consultant specialising in rural business, a director of Animal Health Australia and an executive director of Environmental Energy Australia Pty Ltd, Laura previously chaired the Agriculture Advancing Australia—FarmBis State Planning Group SA. She holds a Master of Business Administration and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**Justin FOLEY**  
Kaleen ACT

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry: Departmental Scholarship

Justin is a director of Industry NRM Partnerships within the Landcare and Sustainable Industry Branch of DAFF where he has worked on a range of policy and program issues, including environmental management systems, Murray-Darling Basin water policy, landcare policy and the Great Barrier Reef. Justin has an Honours Degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Canberra.



**Justin GATHERCOLE**  
Mordialloc VIC

Australian Meat Processor Corporation Ltd: Industry Leader Scholarship

Justin is a chartered accountant who began his career at KPMG working in the areas of audit and management consulting. He is now involved in the management of his family's three meat processing facilities in Victoria, with responsibility for product development, strategic planning, human resources and training, and financial and project management. He is a member of the Australian Meat Processor Corporation's Technical Committee and holds a Bachelor of Economics degree.



**Barb GREY**  
Mungindi NSW

Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Auscott Limited, Cotton Australia: Cotton Leader Scholarship

Barbara is a cotton farmer from Mungindi, NSW. Her passion is human resource management and labour issues challenging the bush. She is developing a recruitment business specialising in staff for rural/regional enterprises. Barb holds a Certificate in Business and is studying externally for a Bachelor of Business. She is a member of the Australian Human Resource Institute and Chair of WinCott. Interests include development of regional women's networks and her local community.



**Edward HATTY**  
Tucumwal NSW

Grains Research and Development Corporation: Grains Leader Scholarship

Ted lives at Tucumwal where he is the owner/operator of a 1700-acre farm growing mainly wheat, barley and canola within the Murray irrigation system. He is currently the Chairman of Southern Riverina Irrigators and a board member of the NSW Irrigators' Council. Ted is also the local representative on the Catchment Management Authority and Land and Water Management Plan. Ted has an Associate Diploma in Farm Management.



**Felicity HORN**  
Wembley Downs WA

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation: Fisheries Scholarship

Felicity is the Assistant Executive Officer at the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council Inc, the representative body for WA's commercial fisheries. She is responsible for monitoring, researching and providing advice on all aspects of resource access, resource sharing, environmental and fisheries management and property rights. She seeks a fishing industry that is widely valued by the community. Felicity has a Bachelor of Science degree in Aquatic Resources and Fisheries Management.



**Jennifer JEFFREY**  
Tamworth NSW

Centrelink: Departmental Scholarship

Jennifer has worked for Centrelink (previously the Department of Social Security) for 26 years and is currently the manager at the Tamworth office in North Western NSW. Her roles within Centrelink have included responsibility for drought and flood relief. She has a long history of working in rural and regional communities and with Indigenous organisations, youth and parent groups and the farming community. Jennifer has completed her Diploma of Business (Front Line Management).



**Steven KEATING**  
Dimbulah QLD

Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation

Steve owns and operates a diversified agricultural enterprise and is a director of recreational horse export company, Wedgetail Exports. He is also a senior Land Protection Officer with Biosecurity Queensland within the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, QLD. He is responsible for pest management planning throughout Cape York and the Torres Strait. Steve holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Community and International Development) and an Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Horticulture), both from the University of Queensland.



**Tim KINGMA**  
Gunbower VIC

Woolworths Limited

Tim is manager and part owner of Gunpork Joint Venture, a 1200-sow piggy in North Central Victoria where he has generated an improvement in productivity, genetics, health and the implementation of technology. Tim is passionate about securing a future for rural industries, communities and families and is heavily involved in his local sporting bodies, business groups and the pork industry. He holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from the University of Melbourne.



**Rohan MACAULEY**  
Hamilton VIC

Elders Limited: Elders' Scholarship

Rohan is State Commercial Manager in South Australia and the Northern Territory. His responsibilities include maintaining the financial performance and ensuring a sustainable business platform, which will allow Elders to continue its support of rural and regional clients. He is a board member of the Avoca District Co-Op Ltd, which operates the Avoca Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank. Rohan holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Ballarat.



**Jodi MANION**  
Torquay VIC

Telstra Country Wide: Telstra Scholarship

Jodi is the general manager for Telstra Country Wide, Geelong and the Surf Coast. She is responsible for all Telstra activities within the region, including customer service, commercial activities, stakeholder management, allocation of resources and business processes. She places a high value on making a positive contribution to the local business community. Currently studying for a Master of Business Administration at Deakin University, she is also a director of the Committee for Geelong and St. Laurence Community Services.



**Susan MCLENNAN**  
Charters Towers QLD

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government: Rural Women's Scholarship

Su is the Community Development Officer with the Charters Towers Regional Council. Her professional commitments include regional tourism and arts boards and she is an elected member of the Darymple Community Cultural Centre Trust and the Museum of Tropical Queensland Advisory Board. Her community interests include education, arts, women's organisations and Golden Oldies Rugby. She holds tertiary qualifications in the fields of education, creative arts, museum management and community development.



**Christopher MIRAMS**  
Woomargama NSW

Australian Wool Innovation: Wool Leader Scholarship

Chris is the manager of Woomargama Station, a grazing property in southern NSW, which carries a flock of fine-wool Merino sheep and a herd of Hereford cattle. He has a keen interest in farming systems that concurrently strive to achieve demanding production targets and natural resource management targets. He has been active in Landcare and Evergraze. Chris has an Associate Diploma of Farm Management and a Diploma in Financial Markets.



**Mary RAYNES**  
Horsham VIC

Department of Primary Industries, Victoria: Departmental Scholarship

Mary is the Barley Industry Development Officer for the DPI, Victoria. Her responsibilities include barley value chain management for the Wimmera Sports Assembly, spokesperson for the Wimmera Young Professionals and advisory board member, Longerenong College. She holds a Degree of Applied Science (Agriculture) and a Diploma of Agricultural Services.



**Mary RETALLACK**  
Marryatville SA

Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation: Industry Leader Scholarship

Mary is employed as a Senior Consultant/Viticulturist at Scholefield Robinson Horticultural Services and consults to clients throughout Australia. Prior to this, Mary was employed as Vineyard Manager for Mountadam Vineyards, Project Leader for CRC for Viticulture and Program Coordinator/Lecturer in TAFESA's viticulture program. Mary holds a B App Sc (Conservation and Park Management), P Grad Dip (Natural Resource Management), B Ed G Dip (Viticulture), CPAg accreditation and is a member of AIAST and ASVO.



**Stephen REYNOLDS**  
Charlton VIC

Australian Lot Feeders Association: Industry Leader Scholarship

Stephen is the manager of Charlton Feedlot Pty Ltd, a 20 000-head beef cattle feedlot in North West Victoria and a subsidiary of Elders Ltd. He has been an elected member of the Australian Lot Feeders Association Board for four years and chairs the Association's Environment Committee. Since completing a Bachelor of Rural Science degree at the University of New England, Stephen has spent over 13 years in the feedlot industry.



**Fiona ROSSITER**  
Orange NSW

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government: Industry Leader Scholarship

Fiona is employed as a registered theatre nurse at Orange Base Hospital where she is involved in the delivery of emergency trauma surgery and a range of elective surgery. She is a Councillor with the Orange City Council, joint business owner of Back 2 Family Basics and founder of Australian Family Matters. Her other commitments include membership of several boards. Fiona has a Bachelor of Science (Nursing), a Graduate Certificate in Peri-operative Nursing and a Certificate IV in Business Management.



**John SAID**  
Werribee VIC  
Horticulture Australia Limited/AUSVEG  
John is the Managing Director of Fresh Select (Aust.) Pty Ltd, a production/marketing company based in Victoria and QLD. He is Chairman of the Consumer Advisory Group and IAC member for Victoria on the National Vegetable Levy investment decision committees managed by AUSVEG Ltd and Horticulture Australia. He is also an executive member of the Vegetable Growers Association of Victoria. John's vision for the vegetable industry is to create a sustainable future for farmers and better value for Australian consumers.



**Samuel SAVAGE**  
Townsville QLD  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry: Indigenous Scholarship  
Sam is the Aboriginal Land Management Facilitator with The Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management regional body in North QLD. He works with 16 recognised traditional owner groups in 'caring for country' initiatives and projects focusing on cultural resource management. Previously, Sam worked in the Indigenous and government child-welfare system with responsibility for child protection, juvenile justice and youth shelters. He has both an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family background.



**Darren SHELLEN**  
Hamilton VIC  
Forest & Wood Products Australia Ltd: Industry Scholarship  
Darren is the Senior Manager, Treefarm Operations at Timbercorp Forestry Ltd. He manages a 97 000-hectare Australia-wide tree farm estate with responsibility for the strategic direction of the company's silvicultural research division and the implementation and review of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. Darren is a board member of the Timber Training Centre at Creswick. He holds a Bachelor of Forest Science degree from the University of Melbourne.



**Greg SHELTON**  
Rockhampton QLD  
Westpac Banking Corporation: Westpac Banking Scholarship  
Greg is Westpac's Regional Manager for Central QLD and has worked with the bank for over 27 years in various roles, mostly in regional QLD. He is responsible for a portfolio of Westpac's premier agribusiness clients and is considered an industry expert on beef. Greg has a passion for and a long family history in the beef industry. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration.



**Adam SMITH**  
Townsville QLD  
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation: Fisheries Leader Scholarship  
Adam is the Manager (Environmental Impact Management) with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, based in Townsville, QLD. He manages a diverse, high performance team protecting the marine environment. He contributes to three boards: ReefFish Australia, Australia Underwater Federation and the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand. Adam holds a BSc (Hons), PhD, MBA and FAICD. His passion is leadership, motivation, excellent decisions and strong partnerships to make a difference.



**Anna STRATON**  
Winnellie NT  
CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems: Departmental Scholarship  
Anna is an ecological/environmental economist with CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems with research interests in sustainable regional development. She has worked on a range of research projects in partnership with communities, industries and governments to increase understanding of issues around the sustainable use of natural resources, particularly water in Northern Australia. Anna has a Bachelor of Economics degree and a PhD from the University of QLD.



**Peter STYLES**  
Rapid Creek NT  
Rural Press Ltd: Rural Press Scholarship  
Peter is currently Officer in Charge of School Based Policing for the Northern Territory Police Force. He has served in the public sector, with both the WA and NT police forces and in the private sector where he operated a multi-purpose fishing mother ship, which doubled as an offshore oil-industry-service vessel. Peter has achieved a Diploma in Communication and Media, a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Studies and a Master of Business Administration.



**Debra TSILFIDIS**  
Creswick VIC  
Chief Executive Women Inc  
During a career spanning corporate sales, grocery buying, environmental and health services, Debra built a property investment portfolio in inner Melbourne, which now helps fund her real passion growing Abbacchio milk-fed lamb at her small farm at Creswick, Victoria. With a Masters in Marketing, Debra sits on the board of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Victorian Farmers Federation Young Agribusiness Professionals Committee and Ballarat Health Service Consumer Advisory Committee.



THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE COMMITTED TO SHARING A VISION FOR, AND SHAPING THE FUTURE OF, RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

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