



THESE LEADERS ARE COMMITTED TO SHAPING THE FUTURE OF RURAL, REMOTE AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA.



AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTORY COURSE 21 ♦ 2014-15

THIS IS THE PARTICIPANT DIRECTORY FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST INTAKE OF THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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

The Program focuses on professional and personal leadership development, examination of key national and international issues that impact on rural Australia, and interaction with leaders in government, industry and the community.

This Directory lists each participant's sponsor beneath their home town



Australian Energy and Water Authority



Department of Environment and Primary Industries Victoria

Let's talk RURAL FINANCE



Australian Government International Agricultural Research



GRDC Grains Research & Development Corporation

WILLIAM BUCKLAND POLYADATION

Australian Government Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

HEALTHY AUSTRALIA

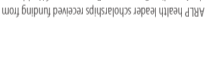


meat & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

Australian Government Rural Research and Development Corporation

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY

ARLP health leader scholarships received funding from the Australian Government Department of Health



Australian Government Department of Agriculture

Australian Government Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

Australian Government TSRA

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INVESTORS IN RURAL AUSTRALIA THROUGH COURSE 21:



AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTORY COURSE 21 ♦ 2014-15

**MATT BARWICK**

Nelson Bay, NSW
Fisheries Research & Development Corporation

Matt is passionate about fishing, and has been involved with Australia's fishing community for over 15 years in research, management, project management and communication roles. Matt is Program Coordinator for Recfishing Research and manages a range of projects for the Northern Prawn Fishery. Matt's cross-sectoral involvement provides him with a valuable appreciation of the breadth, diversity and shared challenges within Australia's fishing community. He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science with Honours.

**LIZ BRENNAN**

Wongan Hills, WA
Fairfax Agricultural Media

Liz has facilitated community and agricultural development programs across Australia and abroad as an Australian volunteer in Papua New Guinea. Living and working from the family farm in Wongan Hills, she coordinates various projects for Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt and is President of Australian Women in Agriculture. Liz holds a Bachelor of Business (Marketing and Visual Arts) and is completing a Master of Sustainable Systems (Food Security and Agrifood).

**LACHLAN BULL**

Deniliquin, NSW
Ricegrowers' Association of Australia

Lachlan has been actively involved in the rice industry for the past six years through his family farming business as well as being on the Central Executive Committee of the Ricegrowers' Association. Prior to that, he had nine years of experience in the construction and agricultural industries. Lachlan has encountered inspiring leaders in both industries who encouraged him to continually seek self-development opportunities for himself and his community.

**TOBIN CHERRY**

Dalby, Qld
Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Tobin works for Ag Pro Services, primarily engaging with the cotton industry as Grower Services Manager. He is involved in the accumulation of cotton for ginning and exporting in the Darling Downs area of Queensland. Tobin is part of the Cotton Australia Value Chain Committee and helps farmers and the industry work together to improve productivity, efficiencies and supply chain processes. Tobin holds a dual degree in Agribusiness and Applied Science.

**BRONWYN CHRISTENSEN**

Theodore, Qld
Cotton Australia Limited and Cotton Research & Development Corporation

Bronwyn is a grazier from Theodore in Central Queensland and is employed as a Regional Manager for Cotton Australia. Bronwyn is committed to the sustainability of rural communities and the equitable provision of health services to the rural sector. She is a board member supporting Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service and has held many executive positions with local and state-wide community organisations. She holds a Bachelor of Business degree.

**KARINA COOMBES**

Melville Island, NT
Department of Agriculture

Karina works as an Employment Advisor in training with Remote Jobs and Community Programs for Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board. She is a Director of Munupi Pty Ltd, the corporate structure for her Land Owning Group. Karina is passionate about improving the social and economic outlook for the Tiwi Islands and sees training and employment as crucial aspects of this. Karina holds a Certificate III in Business and a Certificate III in Community Services.

**CHRIS DOUGLAS**

Werrimull, Vic
Grains Research and Development Corporation

Chris runs a dry land cereal property in far northwest Victoria. He worked in Melbourne and travelled extensively before returning to the family farm, becoming involved with the Mallee Catchment Management Authority and a board member of Mallee Sustainable Farming (Grower Group), serving two years as Deputy Chair. Chris is an executive member of six local committees including Victorian Farmers' Federation Branch President. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Graphic Design) degree.

**SHARON DOWNES**

Narrabri, NSW
Auscott Ltd and Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Sharon is a scientist with CSIRO based at the Australian Cotton Research Institute, where she leads a team that researches resistance in key insect pests to insecticidal genetically modified cotton. She contributes to a technical panel convened by Cotton Australia that advises industry on pre-emptive management strategies. Sharon holds a PhD in Biological Sciences and is an active volunteer for not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations in her community.

**PETER FORBES**

Bendigo, Vic
Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria

Peter is the Manager of Regional Strategy for northwest Victoria. He manages a team that engages with community and all levels of government to plan and promote activities that improve the wellbeing of the region's population. Prior to taking on this role, Peter had worked in natural resource management in rural Victoria for two decades. He holds a Master of Environmental Policy and a Bachelor of Agricultural Science.

**TODD FOTHERINGHAME**

Karlgarin, WA
Australian Lot Feeders' Association

After studying Fine Art specialising in furniture design and construction, Todd returned to his true passion, agriculture. He is a young innovator heavily involved in the feedlot industry with the construction of a new feedlot on the family property creating additional employment to the region. He is the Vice President of WA Lot Feeders' Association. Todd is driven to succeed as he recognises strong leadership creates success within the community.

**ASHLEY FRASER**

Rutherglen, Vic
Grains Research and Development Corporation

Ashley is General Manager of Baker Seed Co., a business that produces, processes and distributes seeds for cropping, pasture and feed across Australia. He is also Chair for the southeastern region of the Australian Seed Federation and Chair of the Seed Processors Group of ASF. He holds a Diploma of Logistics and Business Management and an Advanced Diploma of Agriculture and was awarded a Nuffield Scholar in 2012.

**JANINE GERTZ**

Townsville, Qld
James Cook University

Janine works at James Cook University in Equity and Student Engagement, working on projects to promote higher education participation and partnerships within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community groups. She holds various board positions in community organisations working to improve opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in North Queensland. Janine also works with her own traditional owner group, Gugu Badhun Limited, to facilitate partnership opportunities resulting from Indigenous land use agreements.

**SUSAN GORTON**

Townsville, Qld
Department of Health

Sue is based in Townsville, but lived and worked in remote Australia for half her life. She is a senior lecturer at the James Cook University School of Medicine and Dentistry, which places a special emphasis on rural, remote and tropical medicine and the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. She holds a Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, MBBS, PhD and BA.

**SCOTT HOGAN**

Coleambally, NSW
Ricegrowers' Association of Australia

Scott and his wife operate an irrigation farming business growing rice, cotton, seed canola and cereals. He is Junior Vice President of Ricegrowers' Association of Australia and President of his local Ricegrowers' Association. He is part owner of Southern Cotton Gin and is building a small ethanol plant. He holds an Advanced Certificate in Irrigated Agriculture, Advanced Diploma of Agriculture and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

**CAMERON HUTCHISON**

Canberra, ACT
Department of Agriculture

Cameron is a director in the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, with experience in trade, industry, drought and farm business policy, parliamentary business and program delivery. Cameron's appreciation of rural Australia is rooted in the nine years he has spent working in the Department, along with a personal affinity with the landscape and its communities. Cameron holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University.

**BETH JONES**

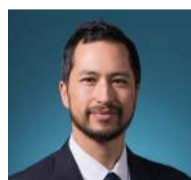
Ballarat, Vic
Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria

Beth is an Operations Director within the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries. She has over 15 years of experience working in agriculture and natural resource management in policy, operational, and project management roles. Beth has always lived and worked in regional Victoria and is passionate about improving life in rural and regional communities. Beth holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Management with Honours.

**GREG KUCHEL**

Swan Hill, Vic
Rural Finance

Greg is Regional General Manager overseeing the commercial lending and banking operations for the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria in the northwest and north-central regions of the state. Greg has had a strong agricultural background through his career, and values his significant involvement and exposure to the diverse farming industries in Victoria. Greg holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Business and a Master of Agricultural Business.

**JULIAN LEE**

Sydney, NSW
Department of Agriculture

Julian is passionate about social justice, entrepreneurship and agriculture. As a business owner, advocate and farmer, Julian has worked on rebuilding the social contract between farmers and consumers by re-establishing trust, building relationships and telling farmers' stories. Julian runs a small orchard in the Hunter Valley, works for the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre and is building an online education business to bring the latest study techniques to rural high school students.

**TANYA LEHMANN**

Berri, SA
Department of Health

Tanya is passionate about rural and remote health. A dietician by background, she has worked in community, public health, policy and project roles and holds postgraduate qualifications in eBusiness and Communication, and Clinical Education. Tanya is the Principal Allied Health Advisor for Country Health SA Local Health Network, the President of Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health, and a member of the Council of the National Rural Health Alliance.

**NATHAN MAXWELL-MCGINN**

Perth, WA
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

Nathan is a marketing manager and exploring opportunities at the Craig Mostyn Group, exporting Australian seafood into Asian markets. He is a firm advocate for collaboration within the seafood industry and exploring opportunities for cross-sector partnerships. Nathan is Chair of the Seafood Trade Advisory Group (STAG) and regularly briefs government ministers on market access issues related to seafood trade in Asia. He holds a Graduate Diploma of International Business and a Master of Business Administration.

**TRACEY MORRIS**

Leeton, NSW
Australian Grape & Wine Authority

Tracey is an Accountant for De Bortoli Wines Pty Ltd. She is a Councillor on Leeton Shire Council and operates a family irrigated farming business comprising citrus and wine grapes. Tracey holds a Bachelor of Business (Accountancy/Tourism Management), is a CPA Accountant, and has a Certificate III in Carbon Management. Tracey is completing an Executive Certificate in NSW Local Government and is passionate in assisting rural Australia to a sustainable and prosperous future.

**CECILIA MYERS**

Dunkeld, Vic
William Buckland Foundation

Cecilia is a director in her family business, Dunkeld Pastoral Company, where she chairs its Conservation and Environment Committee. Dunkeld Pastoral Company has properties in western Victoria, the north Kimberley and the Northern Territory. Cecilia holds a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and a Master of Arts. She is involved with the Panyyabar Landcare Group, the North Kimberley LCD, the Grampians National Park Advisory Group and Kimberley Foundation Australia's Science Advisory Council.

**BRIANNA PEAKE**

Perth, WA
CBH Group

Brianna works for the co-operative bulk handling business, CBH Group, in the area of Government and Industry Relations, managing relationships with external stakeholders and fostering advocacy for the co-operative's strategic operations and activities. Brianna is passionate about ensuring Australian grain growers remain internationally competitive and have access to efficient and effective pathways to the global marketplace. Brianna holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management.

**RUFINA PETER**

Port Moresby, PNG
ACIAR

Rufina is Project Manager for the Rural Service Delivery and Local Governance Project (RSDLGP); a pilot of the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs to improve access to and quality of basic services in rural communities. Rufina has worked as a senior researcher with the PNG Institute of National Affairs and an economist with the Cocoa Board of PNG. She holds a Master of Economics (Agricultural Economics), Bachelor of Science and Graduate Diploma of Business Studies. *Rufina commenced with Course 20 but will complete the ARLP with Course 21

**BEN ROBERTS**

Thorneside, Qld
Australian Meat Processor Corporation

Ben works in the red meat processing industry for Teys Australia Pty Ltd. He has assisted with the operational measurement and reporting systems for the recent joint venture between Teys Brothers and Cargill Australia. He strives to identify solutions that address the challenges of the supplier, operation and the customer, driving efficiency across the supply chain. Ben was inspired to pursue a career in rural Australia through his upbringing in Dubbo, NSW.

**JULIE RYNSKI**

Melbourne, Vic
Westpac Banking Corporation

Julie is a motivated member of the financial services community who wants to make a difference through her passion for small business and regional Australia. She was born and raised in country WA, and in her working life has experienced varied and diverse roles in the finance industry. Julie's current role is General Manager Small Business for Westpac after spending the previous 12 months as General Manager Regional Commercial and Agribusiness.

**KAYE SMITH**

Mount Isa, Qld
Mt Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health (James Cook University)

Kaye passionately advocates for rural community development and is committed to their long-term sustainability. She is a Research Project Officer for Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health and runs an Indigenous consultancy business. She was the recipient of the Mount Isa Australia Day Cultural Award 2013 in recognition of her commitment to the liveable sustainability of northwest Queensland communities. Kaye holds a Graduate Diploma of Indigenous Health Promotion.

**MARIANNE STEWART**

Deans Marsh, Vic
Department of Agriculture

Marianne is General Manager of the Australian Agroforestry Foundation: committed to providing education and extension to farmers. She has specialised in communication and publishing for rural communities with a keen focus on sustainable agriculture and resilient rural landscapes. Marianne is on the boards of the Otway Agroforestry Network and ANFIL. She is a key participant in many local community organisations. She holds a Diploma of Applied Science (Agriculture).

**CHE' STOW**

Badu Island, Torres Strait, Qld
Torres Strait Regional Authority

Over the past 15 years Che' has forged a career as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker by engaging and supporting Indigenous Australians who live in urban, rural and remote settings to navigate health systems in order to address their needs. Che's heart-centred approach stems from her love of all people and culture and wanting to decrease needless suffering that can occur when there are barriers to accessing services.

**TAMARA STRETCH**

Narrogin, WA
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Tamara is a Senior Economist at the Department of Agriculture and Food WA. She is responsible for providing analysis and advice to government and industry on changes affecting farm business performance, agricultural industries and supply chains. Tamara has a strong business analysis background, previously working as an equities analyst and in institutional banking. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Western Australia.

**JENNIFER WAINWRIGHT**

Rockhampton, Qld
Tim Fairfax Family Foundation

Founder and Managing Director of Aux Venture, Jennifer provides finance and investment solutions to rural Australia. She engages with banks, foreign investors, the funds management industry, agricultural businesses and industry stakeholders to progress projects that benefit rural communities. Jennifer is passionate about development opportunities in northern Australia, having lived and worked in the Top End. She has been a long-term participant of the performance horse industry and has bred quarter horses for over 20 years.

**JACK WALKER**

Theodore, Qld
Meat and Livestock Australia

Jack operates a beef cattle enterprise in the Dawson Valley of Central Queensland. Jack and his family produce pasture-fed cattle for the European Union market and seed stock for cattle producers across northern Australia. Holding a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, completing the Red Meat Industry Professional Development Graduate Program and spending ten years working in the corporate pastoral beef sector mean Jack is passionate about the sustainable business future of agriculture in rural Australia.

**JIM WILSON**

Scottsdale, Tas
Thyne Reid Foundation

Jim is based in Tasmania and has spent the past 15 years contributing to the integration of plantation forestry into the agricultural landscape. Jim currently works as a senior manager within a leading industrial forestry company. Jim contributes to rural Australia through a wide lens, applying his skills in forestry within a traditional agricultural policy setting. Jim is currently Chair of the Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group.



**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
31 JULY FOR THE
FOLLOWING YEAR'S
PROGRAM**

APPLY TODAY AT

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