



## AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

COURSE **23** 2016-17

THIS IS THE PARTICIPANT DIRECTORY FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD INTAKE OF THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (ARLP).

The ARLP is a unique opportunity for established leaders to undertake a values-based, people focused leadership development program for rural, regional and remote Australia. The program offers immersive interaction with leaders in government, industry and the community. It broadens perspectives and capabilities, and connects leaders with an invaluable alumni network.



**Suzanne Andrews**

*Yarrabah QLD  
Department of Health*

Suzanne is currently the Chief Executive of Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Yarrabah. She is a proud Aboriginal woman with family connections from Western Australia's Kimberley region, as well as North Queensland. Suzanne grew up around Broome and Yarrabah, and holds several executive board positions in aged care and community housing. She is a firm believer in her people having a greater say and responsibility over the management of their health.



**Matthew Bradd**

*Coogee NSW  
Cotton Research and  
Development Corporation,  
Auscott Limited, Cotton  
Australia*

Matthew is the Managing Director at ECOM Commodities Australia. He has more than 10 years' experience in commodities trading and marketing, specialising in cotton and grains risk management. Matthew is Senior Vice Chair at the Australian Cotton Shippers Association, having served on the executive of the Board since 2013 and as a Director since 2010.



**Duncan Bremner**

*Yass NSW  
Rural Industries Research and  
Development Corporation*

Duncan was raised in the Central West, NSW. After initially pursuing a career in the northern cattle industry, Duncan pursued a career in communications. First as a rural journalist, then as a media adviser to a former Deputy Prime Minister, then a series of roles in agribusiness and agri-politics. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Animal Medicines Australia, the peak industry body for the animal pharmaceutical sector.



**Kathy Burns**

*Tennant Creek NT  
Australia Council for the Arts*

Kathy is a respected art professional who works across multi-art forms and is the Artistic Director of Barkly Regional Arts. Her key signature is developing innovative community engagement opportunities. Kathy's major annual platform is in her role as the Desert Harmony Festival Manager, Tennant Creek, showcasing artists from the Barkly. She is also a member of the Northern Territory's Women's Consultative Council, and brings the voice of rural and remote women in the Barkly to help advise policy.



**Angela Doering**

*Crooble NSW  
Grains Research and  
Development Corporation*

Angela and her husband, farm a mixed property 'Strathdarr' in northern NSW and are currently transitioning to the South Burnett region, QLD to expand their cattle enterprise. She was a Councillor with Gwydir Shire Council (eight years), board member of Arts North West, a council delegate to the Murray Darling Association, Border Regional Organisation of Councils and Australian Rural Road Group. Angela is Chair of the local Country Education Fund, local progress association and member of the Country Women's Association.



**Catrina Felton-Busch**

*Mount Isa, QLD  
James Cook University*

Catrina is a Yangkaal woman from Mornington Island with family ties to the Ganggalidda People of the Gulf of Carpentaria. She has over 15 years of experience in Indigenous health, education, research and workforce development. Catrina is the Associate Professor of Remote Indigenous Health and Head of Education at the Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health, James Cook University. Her research interests are aligned with her own personal commitment to improving the lives of her own people.



**Alysha Herrmann**

*Riverland and Onkaparinga SA  
Australia Council for the Arts*

Alysha is a regional artist and advocate working across disciplines in the arts, education, community development, social justice and social enterprise. She is a writer, theatre-maker, cultural organiser and is currently employed as Creative Producer with Carclew and the City of Onkaparinga. Alysha has won numerous awards for her work using the arts to interrogate and explore community concerns and aspirations, including most recently the 2015 Kirk Robson Award, and was named by SA Life as one of South Australia's fastest rising stars under 30 in 2014.



**Kristian Holz**

*Sydney NSW  
NSW Government Department of Primary Industries*

Kristian is currently working for the Department of Primary Industries, NSW and is leading the development of a new regional land management framework as part of NSW Biodiversity reforms. Working in policy and legislation roles in NSW and QLD, his experience includes: regulatory reform, commodity market reform, structural adjustment, industry development, resource management, framework design, and governance review. Kristian believes that good public policy comes from proactive, collaborative engagement with stakeholders.



**Carol Huggins**

*Hay NSW  
Australian Wool Innovation*

Carol is co-principal of Woodpark Poll Merino stud, Hay. She came to Hay from a childhood in WA's wheatbelt via a career in rural communication, facilitation and agribusiness. Carol is a founding board member of the grower driven sheep research and extension organisation, MerinoLink. She also serves on several industry boards and committees, including the Eat Care Connect project, an across agriculture initiative to better link Australian agriculture with broader society. Carol is a passionate advocate for agriculture with a focus on contributing to a productive and profitable future for the industry and its members.



**Helen Jenkins**

*Morayfield QLD  
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation*

Helen has spent the majority of her life working in small regional towns and has spent the last 27 years working in the seafood industry. She is currently the Executive Officer of the Australian Prawn Farmers Association and has been a business manager for a Japanese owned seafood company. Helen provides leadership for the development of aquaculture in Australia, primarily prawn farming, and has extensive knowledge of industry issues, policies and regulatory challenges.



**Murray Korff**

*Cairns QLD  
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources*

Murray is a Director with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, based in Far North QLD. His work responsibilities include leading plant health surveillance and related biosecurity and community engagement operations across northern Australia. Murray grew up in a farming community in the Hunter Valley NSW, where he developed particular interests in sustainable agriculture and other sectors impacting rural Australia. His community involvements include membership in the Permaculture Cairns organisation and coaches junior soccer in the Cairns region.



**Meagan Laidlaw**

*Brisbane QLD  
Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Auscott Limited, Cotton Australia*

Meagan is originally from Ararat in regional Victoria where she grew up on a family farm. The majority of her career has been spent working within Olam International's Australian cotton business. Throughout these years she has experienced record breaking Australian cotton crops, extreme trading and market volatility, and challenging demand conditions, all while enjoying being part of an innovative and progressive agricultural industry.



**Rebecca Lomman**

*St George QLD  
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources*

Rebecca has called South West, QLD home since 2012. Prior to living and working in St George, Rebecca worked in the finance industry for 10 years, latterly as Vice President at a global investment bank, in both London and Sydney. Rebecca now splits her time between regional economic development projects and developing local high-value horticulture supply chains, from working on her husband's family horticulture farm, through to running her own premium produce business.



**Andrew Lui**

*Thursday Island QLD  
Torres Strait Regional Authority*

Andrew is a Kukulgal man from Yam Island in the Torres Strait. He works for the Torres Strait Regional Authority as a Senior Project Officer and assists Indigenous people living in the Torres Strait to access home and business loans, and business support. He is the Chairperson of the Tagai College School Council and President of the Junior Rugby League on Thursday Island, and also holds the Position of Secretary of the Kerkar Bau Men's Support Group.



**Stephen Martin**

*Jondaryan QLD  
Australian Lot Feeders Association*

Stephen grew up in Gloucester, NSW and is currently the General Manager at Kerwee Lot Feeders Pty Ltd on Queensland's Darling Downs. He found a love for the cattle industry through high school agricultural programs. After university, he worked for Elders Killara feedlot as a new graduate and progressed over eight years to become the Livestock and Farm Manager. In 2013, Steve was awarded the Australian Young Lot Feeder Achievement Award.



**Bert Matthews**

*Hay NSW  
Australian Wool Innovation*

Bert and his family, own and manage the grazing property 'Bedarbridgal' in Hay. He has a keen interest in Holistic Resource Management and Natural Sequence Farming, and believes these two processes provide the map to making agriculture a truly sustainable and regenerative pursuit. He is the Captain of the local Bushfire Brigade and is on committees for the Hay Merino Sheep Show, Hay Merino Breeders, and Peppin-Shaw Riverina Ewe Flock Forum. Bert was President of the Hay Golf Club and the Hay Maggies Rugby League Club.



**Rachaele May**

*Ballarat, VIC  
Victorian Government  
Department Environment, Land, Water and Planning*

Rachaele is an Assistant Chief Fire Officer in Forest Fire Management Victoria. She has over 14 years' experience in public land and bushfire management, with policy and operational experience. Living in regional Victoria, Rachaele is passionate about the linkages between communities and their natural environments, and the many services public land provides. She has helped establish a school kitchen garden program and is keen to encourage children to experience their natural environments.



**Sally Mitchell**

*Torrumbarry VIC  
Gardiner Dairy Foundation*

Sally is a dairy farmer, on the family farm of 'Wattle Creek' which adjoins the Gunbower Island National Park in Torrumbarry in Northern Victoria. The farm is irrigated from the Murray River. She has been involved in many industry and community groups over the years. Sally has been involved in a number of equestrian organisations to improve quality, and availability of competitions and venues for rural equestrians. She is actively involved in current dairy reforms in representation and pricing models.



**Todd Newton**

*Inverell NSW  
Australian Meat Processor Corporation*

Todd is the Plant Technical Manager for Bindaree Beef Group which is an integrated beef feed lotting, processing, sales and trade business. He has spent the past 12 years working in the meat processing sector in various sites across NSW and QLD. Todd recently completed the General Management program at Mt Eliza, an executive program offered by Melbourne Business School. He actively participates in community events and is an active member of a number of sporting clubs in Inverell.



**Alex Ogg**

*Fremantle WA  
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation*

Alex is the Operations Manager for the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council. He is the WA delegate for the National Seafood Industry Alliance, and a member of Fisheries Research and Development Corporation's WA Research Advisory Committee. Alex is a former Vice Chair of the Pearl Producers Association and Minister appointee of the Pearling Industry Advisory Committee. He is active in the community, serving on his local school board, and is a patrolling member of Cottesloe Surf Lifesaving Club.



**Ben Paxton**

*McLaren Vale SA  
Wine Australia*

Ben works in a management role in his family wine business, Paxton Vineyards in McLaren Vale. He has been involved in the wine business since 1998, which involves managing wine grape vineyards owned by the Paxton family, as well as vineyards for others, and providing a viticulture consultancy and advisory service. Ben has participated in a number of regional and industry specific projects and committees.



**Steven Pocock**

*Adelaide River NT  
Fairfax Agricultural Media*

Steven is an agricultural professional with varied experience in beef cattle production systems and supply pathways. Currently based at Australian Agricultural Company's Livingstone Beef facility south of Darwin, Steven's current role as Northern Supply Manager oversees the northern cattle supply chain to Livingstone, purchasing, as well as on-station operations around Darwin. He is a current member of Future Directions Committee of the Brisbane Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland, as well as other community groups.



**Edwina Sharrock**

*Tamworth NSW  
Prime Super*

Edwina lives in Tamworth and is a Registered Nurse and Midwife who works for Hunter New England Health Local Health District. Her roles are shared between Disaster Management and as an Aged Care Clinical Nurse Consultant in the Emergency Department. Edwina is passionate about creating and sustaining healthy communities with fair and accessible health care in rural and regional Australia.



**Alistair Sherwin**

*Broome WA  
Department Prime Minister and Cabinet*

Alistair is currently the Kimberley Regional Manager for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. He is on his second stint in the Kimberley, having lived in Kununurra in 2004-2006 managing the East Kimberley Indigenous Coordination Centre. Between Kimberley placements Alistair was an Assistant Director General with AusAID in charge of development programs for Indonesia, Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan; and an Assistant Secretary with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade working on international development financing, risk and integrity issues.



**Fiona Shilton**

*Murray Bridge SA  
Woolworths Limited*

Fiona is the Business Manager at Swanport Harvest, an intensive horticultural business located near Murray Bridge. Previously, she worked as a lawyer for a busy company based firm and the Legal Services Commission, SA. Fiona uses her legal knowledge and leadership skills to contribute to her local community. She is a longstanding board member of the Murraylands Retirement Village.



**Annabel Sides**

*Inverell NSW  
NSW Local Land Services*

Annabel is the Manager Business and Finance at Northern Tablelands Local Land Services, and has overseen the delivery of more than \$100m to the region by way of natural resource management and sustainable agricultural projects, employment and training. She and her family also operate a cattle grazing property east of Inverell. Annabel is dedicated to the local community and holds voluntary positions on local committees. Previously, she was a Board Director for New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority.



**Michelle Smallman**

*Perth WA  
Cooperative Bulking Handling Ltd*

Michelle works for the CBH Group, WA managing relationships with CBH's customers as part of the Operations Logistics Division. She is passionate about creating innovative and sustainable product solutions to CBH's export and domestic customers to ensure that the co-operative, owned by more than 4,000 Western Australian grain growers, remains internationally competitive and provides the most efficient pathway from paddock to international end user.



**Neale Sutton**

*Moorabbin VIC  
Grains Research and Development Corporation*

Neale is General Manager of Australian Crop Accreditation System Limited and the National Variety Trials research program. He has a broad-acre cropping and sheep farming background and hails from Birchip in Victoria's Mallee region. He has over 10 years' experience in the agricultural research sector and is a member of the Australian Cereal Rust Control Program's Consultative Committee. Neale has completed Melbourne Business School's Intensive Management Program and is a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**May Taylor**

Alice Springs NT  
NT Government Department  
of Transport

May moved from country NSW to the Northern Territory in 1983 to work in Indigenous Education. She is currently the Director Regions Transport Services, NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, and is committed to promoting transport infrastructure investment and services to support economic growth in regional and remote Australia. With 18 years' experience in the public service, May has previously held management positions within various departments of the NT government.



**William Wilson**

Callopie QLD  
Meat and Livestock Australia

William is a fourth generation cattle producer living on 'Callopie Station' and has had extensive experience managing, breeding and finishing beef cattle. William is also the creator of iHerd. His vision was to create a mobile-based solution where he could store cattle numbers, and trace cattle in real time. iHerd will record, store and share multiple property cattle movements, cattle purchases and sales, monitor treatment inventory and application.



**Rose Wright**

Murwillumbah NSW  
Thyne Reid Foundation

Rose was raised on a banana farm in the Tweed Valley. Her career has evolved from tourism to regional economic development and research. She is a passionate advocate for the development of multifunctional farming and farm to plate value chains, as a mechanism for regional economic renewal. Rose is Principal of her consulting company Knowledge Transfer Services and a highly skilled facilitator, business and industry strategist. She works throughout rural and regional Australia with the food, agribusiness and tourism sectors.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION'S PROGRAMS, VISIT [rural-leaders.com.au](http://rural-leaders.com.au)

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INVESTORS IN RURAL AUSTRALIA THROUGH COURSE 23:



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

