

**AUSTRALIAN  
RURAL  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM**

**DIRECTORY  
COURSE 4 1997-98**



*This is a Directory of the  
participants in the fourth  
intake of the Australian Rural  
Leadership Program.*

Through the Program, they are developing their leadership skills, analysing key national and international issues, interacting with leaders in government, industry and the community, and developing a network of peers who share a purpose.

They are doing this through an intensive course of some 60 days duration in 8 sessions at various locations in Australia and overseas, followed by on-going involvement in The Australian Rural Leadership Network (the graduates association).

These men and women are committed to sharing a vision for and shaping the future of rural and regional Australia.



**John AUER**  
Age 34, Tubbut, Vic  
John is a beef and wool producer and Managing Director of Snowy River Seeds Co-operative Ltd. He is a Member of the Seed Industry Association of Australia and Founding Member of the Local Government Delegation to China and the Victorian Eastern Development Association. John has a Diploma of Applied Science (Horticulture).



**Susan BENEDYKA**  
Age 39, Dubbo, NSW  
Susan is Chief Executive Officer of Dubbo City Development Corporation. She is on the Executive of the Orana Area Consultative Committee, Member of the Orana Regional Development Board, inaugural Chairman of Charles Sturt University Dubbo, on the Board of Governors of Charles Sturt University, Deputy Chairman of National Trust Macquarie Regional Committee, Member of the National Women's Advisory Group and Convenor and Founder of Women Out West. Sue has a Graduate Diploma of Business and a Certificate of Financial Management



**Simon BERRY**  
Age 31, Menindee, NSW  
Simon is Horticulture Manager of Tandou Ltd. He is Vice President of Menindee Landcare Group, Member of Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Committee, Murray Lower Darling River Management Board, and Menindee Lakes Advisory Committee. Simon has a Bachelor of Horticultural Science and a Masters of Horticultural Science (Hons).



**Rasa BENNETT**  
Age 49, Yinnar, Vic  
Rasa is a dairy farmer. She is Local President and Conference Delegate for the Victorian Farmers' Federation and the United Dairy Farmers' of Victoria. Rasa is Chair of the eastern region of the Bonlac Foods supplier representative scheme. Rasa is Vice Chair of Gippsdairy Dairy Research & Development Board and Latrobe Health Fund. She has a Certificate of Teaching.



**Garry COOK**  
Age 39, Bungendore, NSW  
Garry is Manager of Rural Investments for Commonwealth Funds Management. He is former Chief Executive Officer of Australian Federation of Performance Sheep Breeders, Member of Cattle Care Working Group and Group Leader for the Grazing for Profit schools. Garry is Deputy Chairman of the Riverina Natural Grasslands Management Committee. He has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) (Wool and Pastoral Science).



**Ian BLANDEN**  
Age 31, Boat Harbour Beach, Tas  
Ian is Tree Farm Manager for North Forests Burnie. He is a Member of Institute of Foresters Australia, a Board Member of Greening Australia (Tasmania) and a Member of the Forest Protection Society. Ian is Promotions Officer for the local Landcare Group. He has a Bachelor of Science (Forestry).



**Margaret CARROLL**  
Age 47, Molong, NSW  
Margaret is State Coordinator of the Rural Women's Network (NSW Agriculture) and a partner in a family farm producing lambs, wool, crops and cattle. She initiated and chaired the local Landcare Group and helped found the Central West Rural Financial Counselling Service. In 1995 Margaret received a NSW Agriculture Staff Achievement Award. Margaret has a Bachelor of Arts, Masters in Town and Country Planning and a Graduate Diploma of Social Ecology.



**Nicholas CHAMBERS**  
Age 32, Bullarto, Vic  
Nicholas is a producer of organic vegetables. He is Chairman of the Interim Organic Industry Council, General Councillor of Victorian Farmers' Federation and Member of VFF Landuse Committee. Nicholas is Vice President of Goat Meat Victoria and Area Co-ordinator of VFF Open Farm Scheme. He has a Diploma of Applied Science (Horticulture).

**Max CRAIGIE**

Age 40, Brisbane, Qld  
Max is Deputy General Manager of Australian Sugar Milling Council which represents owners of all Australian sugar mills. He is also a part-time producer of nursery plants and a Member of Qld Nursery Industry Association and Nursery Industry Association of Australia. Max has a Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Laws, a Masters of Business Administration, and is an Associate of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants.

**David CORNISH**

Age 33, Melbourne, Vic  
David is Manager - Rural Business with the National Australia Bank. He is a Member of Australian Farm Management Society, Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Grassland Society. David has a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics and a Bachelor of Financial Management (Accounting).

**Mike HINDLE**

Age 36, Brisbane, Qld  
Mike is General Manager for Suncorp-Metway Bank. He is responsible for all rural funding for the Bank as well as the Branch Network in Rural & Regional Queensland.

**Ellen HOWARD**

Age 38, Tamworth, NSW  
Ellen is Regional Director of Agriculture (Barwon) with NSW Agriculture and is a beef and wool producer. She was the initiator of the local Landcare Group and is a former advisor to the NSW Minister for Agriculture. Ellen has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and a Diploma of Enterprise Management.

**Peter DRAPER**

Age 40, Leeton, NSW  
Peter is a producer of rice, cereals, canola, pop corn and wool. He is a delegate to the Ricegrowers Association Central Executive, Secretary of Ricegrowers Yanco Branch, Deputy Chairman of Rice Research & Development Committee, Director of Rice Research Australia Pty Ltd and Member of the Leeton Development Corporation. Peter has a Diploma of Applied Science (Agriculture).

**Kathy ELLIOTT**

Age 43, Ramco, SA  
Kathy is a Horticulturist, producing citrus, avocados, capsicums and mangoes. As Chair & Co-ordinator of the Riverland West Action Team, she networks with Business and Community Groups and Waikerie Beyond 2000 Committee. Kathy is Promotions and Marketing Advisor to the Waikerie Tourism Association. She is a delegate on the Riverlander's for Regional Development Group. Kathy is undertaking a Diploma in Professional Counselling.

**Nic KENTISH**

Age 32, Mt Gambier, SA  
Nic is a beef, lamb and wool producer and he markets potatoes. He is Branch and Regional President of the South Australian Farmers' Federation and Board Member of SE Employment Resource Development Enterprise. Nic has a Diploma in Farm Business Management.

**Duncan LEADBITTER**

Age 36, Newtown, NSW  
Duncan is Executive Director of Ocean Watch. He is Chairman of the Australian Seafood Industry Council - Environmental Committee, Member of the Biodiversity Advisory Council, National Wetlands Advisory Committee, and Marine & Coastal Community Network - National Reference Group. Duncan is Editor of Wetlands (Australia) and is a 1996 Churchill Fellow. He has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) and a Masters of Environmental Planning.

**Ailsa FOX**

Age 52, Merton, Vic  
Ailsa is a beef, lamb and wool producer. She is Vice-President of the Victorian Farmers' Federation Pastoral Group, Member of the VFF Cattle Committee and alternate delegate to Cattle Council. Ailsa is a Member of the Goulburn Broken Land Protection Board and a Director of the Outdoor Education Group. She is a Member of the Committee of Management of the Upper Goulburn Rural Financial Counselling Service and Vice-President of the Merton Landcare Group.

**Lindsay GODFREY**

Age 43, Cunnamulla, Qld  
Lindsay is a wool, sheepmeat and cattle producer. He is Chairman of The SW Strategy Natural Resources Group, President of the United Graziers' Association SW Division, and delegate to the QLD Sheep and Wool Council. He has a Bachelor of Business.

**David LOCH**

Age 36, Longreach, Qld  
David is Business Development Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Central Western QLD Remote Area Planning and Development Board. He is a Committee Member of Outback QLD Tourism Authority, Project Manager of the Central West QLD Tourism Strategy and is on the Central West Education Advisory Council. David is undertaking a Diploma of Business (Regional Economic Development).

**Celie MOAR**

Age 37, Swan Hill, Vic  
Celie is a cereal and pulse producer. She is an agent for the Harvest Grain Australia Company, Committee Member of the Regional Farmsmart Steering Committee for the Mallee region, and Chairman of the VFF Women in Grains Reference Group. Celie was the 1995 ABC Victorian Rural Woman of the Year. She has a Diploma of Teaching.

**Terry MORICH**

Age 31, Paraburdoo, WA  
Terry is Staff Operator with Hamersley Iron. He was chosen by CRA to undertake the Kokoda Track Leadership Program in 1996. Terry is a member of various community organisations. He is currently studying for a Diploma of Management.

**Cheryl PHILLIPS**

Age 43, Mooroopna, Vic  
Cheryl is a Community Development Consultant, Trainer and Lecturer. She is a Ministerial Appointee to the Department of Primary Industries Rural Access Advisory Committee and Principal Rural Policy Co-ordinator to the Australian Council of Social Services. Cheryl has Masters of Community Development.

**Lindsay SHORT**

Age 46, Echuca, Vict  
Lindsay is a restaurant owner. He is Chairman of Echuca-Moama Tourism, Committee Member of Echuca-Moama Restaurant and Hospitality Association and the Campaspe Regional Development Corporation. Lindsay is on the Executive Committee for Mid Murray Regional Development and on the Board of Northern Industries Education.

**Mark PANITZ**

Age 37, Newmarket, Qld  
Mark is Assistant General Manager, Grower Services, with Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers. He is responsible for R & D funding, strategic planning and environmental initiatives. Mark has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Horticulture Technology) and a Graduate Diploma of Business Technology.

**Bruce PYKE**

Age 42, Narrabri, NSW  
Bruce is Technology Transfer Co-ordinator with Cotton Research & Development Corporation. He chairs or convenes several cotton industry committees and working groups, in particular those dealing with pest management and extension issues. Bruce has a Bachelor and Masters of Science.

**Andrew SINGLE**

Age 34, Narrabri, NSW  
Andy is Farms Commodities Manager (Seed & Fertiliser) for NSW Graincorp. He is Graincorp Delegate to the Australian Mung Bean Association and Seed Industry of Australia. He is a Member of University of Sydney Plant Breeding Institute Committee of Advice. Andy has a Bachelor of Business and Associate Diploma of Farm Management.

**Martin SMALLRIDGE**

Age 32, Nairne, SA  
Martin is Manager of the Rock Lobster Fisheries in South Australia with South Australian Department of Primary Industries. He is on the Rock Lobster Management Committees for the Northern & Southern Zone Fisheries. He is

Member of the International Association of Astacology and the Rock Lobster Growers' Association Research Management Committee. Martin has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) and a Graduate Diploma of Business Administration.

**Ian THOMPSON**

Age 40, Curtin, ACT  
Ian is Manager, Strategic Development, in the Structural Adjustment Branch of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy and he is Secretary of the Rural Adjustment Scheme Advisory

Council. He is currently on secondment to the Wik taskforce. Ian was a member of the Rural Adjustment Scheme Review Team. He has a Bachelor of Natural Resources (Hons).

**Allan WILLIAMS**

Age 33, Narrabri, NSW  
Allan is Executive Officer of the Australian Cotton Growers' Research Association. He is a producer of cotton, beef and olives. Allan is a committee member of the Lower Namoi Cotton Growers Association, a member of the Myall

Vale Underground Water Users Association and the Lower Namoi Valley Water Users Association. He has a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Laws (Hons), and is admitted to practise in the Supreme Court of NSW and the High Court of Australia.

**Philip SZEPE**

Age 31, Kinglake West, Vic  
Philip is an Egg Producer. He is Egg President in the Victorian Farmers' Federation, Board Member of the Egg Industry Research and Development Committee, Member of the Egg Industry Co-operative Specialty Egg

Committee and Delegate to the Australian Egg Industry Association. Philip has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and Diploma of Business Management.

**Sally TONKIN**

Age 41, Cowell, SA  
Sally is an oyster farmer and Director of Oyster Traders Pty Ltd. She is a Member of SA Fishing and Seafood Industry Training Council Curriculum Advisory Group for Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in Aquaculture and Eyre Regional

Development Board Fishing and Aquaculture Target Team. Sally has a Certificate of Animal Care and is currently completing a Certificate in Small Business Management.

Cover photo: *Course 4 in the Kimberley with The Hon John Anderson MP, Minister for Primary Industries & Energy, May 1997.*



**Mike BECKINGHAM**  
Executive Director



**John QUANTRILL**  
Program Director



**Liz YOUNG**  
Administration Manager



**Marcella FEALY**  
Administration Assistant



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