

australian rural  
leadership program

DIRECTORY COURSE 10 > 2003-04



AUSTRALIAN  
RURAL  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM  
1996-2004

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 10 in the Kimberley - May 2003



**Trevor Adli**  
Mareeba, QLD  
Sponsor: Sugar R & D Corporation  
Trevor manages a diversified irrigation cropping enterprise in Far North Queensland. He holds an Honours degree in Civil and Systems Engineering and is a Corporate Member of the Institution of Engineers Australia. Trevor is also President of the Mareeba Wetlands Foundation, a not-for-profit conservation organisation responsible for the development of a tourism-based enterprise on previously degraded and abandoned land at the base of the Hann Tableland in Far North Queensland.



**Nick Austin**  
Orange, NSW  
Sponsor: NSW Agriculture  
Nick is an Executive Policy Analyst for NSW Agriculture, based in Orange. He is committed to achieving practical solutions to natural resource management challenges in agriculture. Nick is a member of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission's Landscapes and Industries Program Knowledge Committee and was Manager of the NSW Node of the Cooperative Research Centre for Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity. Nick is a Certified Irrigation Designer, holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Agriculture (Hons), and a PhD in sustainable agriculture.



**Jack Barclay**  
Colac, VIC  
Sponsor: Australian Meat Processors Corporation Ltd  
Jack is Chief Executive and Managing Director of CRF (Colac Otway), located at Colac in Western Victoria. CRF processes lamb and veal for the domestic and export markets. Jack is also a Director of a family property producing prime lamb, wool and cropping. He has worked for many years in regional economic development and maintains a strong commitment to improving the performance of regional economies. He has a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics and an MBA.



**Martin Breen**  
Brisbane, QLD  
Sponsor: Fisheries R & D Corporation  
Martin is Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Prawn Farmers Association. He has an Honours Degree in Environmental Studies from James Cook University with a double major in geography. Martin has eight years of involvement in natural resource management and agri-politics, having worked for Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation, Queensland Fisheries Service and now the aquaculture industry. He is a member of the National Aquaculture Council, and various state and federal government advisory committees and industry associations.



**Stephen Brown**  
Maryborough, QLD  
Sponsor: Education Queensland  
Stephen is currently employed by Education Queensland as Executive Director Schools for the Fraser Coast District. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Management and the Australian Council for Educational Leaders. Stephen actively participates in community events and a variety of sports such as tennis and golf. He holds a Masters degree from the University of London and is currently studying for his Doctorate in Education.



**Jeff Burgess**  
Gulnare, SA  
Sponsor: Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services  
Jeff manages his family's farming enterprise in the Mid North of South Australia. He is a member of SA State Government Regional Community Consultative Committee, Local Government Association State Executive and R & D Scheme, Chairman SA Regional Organisations of Councils, Central LG Region Executive Committee (Chair 1999-2002) and Chairman Northern Areas Council. He has undertaken numerous courses related to agriculture and local government.



**Brianna Casey**  
Brisbane, QLD  
Sponsor: Telstra  
Brianna is Executive Director of Queensland Farmers' Federation, representing more than 18,000 primary producers across the state. Brianna started with QFF as Environment Officer before being appointed Executive Director in mid-2001. She has a background in environmental science and natural resource management. Her current areas of interest include drought management, industry development, natural resource management and the promotion of rural industries through educational programs for children. Brianna has a Bachelor of Science in Australian Environmental Studies.



**Steve Cresswell**  
Wagga Wagga, NSW  
Sponsor: Westpac Banking Corporation  
Steve is a Senior Agribusiness Manager for Westpac's Regional Banking Division, based at Wagga Wagga. He was born and raised in Hay, NSW and has spent 20 years with Westpac, mostly in the Riverina region. Steve holds an Advanced Diploma in Agribusiness from the University of Sydney, and has specialised in rural business for the last 10 years. He is also a board member of the Murrumbidgee Turf Club.



**James Houlihan**  
Moree, NSW  
Sponsor: Cotton R & D Corporation  
James is Deputy Director of the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety. He leads the strategic planning of the national farm injury prevention program and provides OHS consultancy to rural industry and government. He has a strong interest in rural innovation and supporting regional development. James is an OHS and environmental auditor, a Churchill Fellow and has a Masters in Science and Technology (UNSW), and Graduate Certificate in Management.



**Linda Hygate**  
Melbourne, VIC  
Sponsor: Environment Wool Innovation Ltd  
Linda is a consultant with The Mackinnon Project, University of Melbourne, working to improve the profitability of wool production. She is involved in numerous industry and scientific organisations, associated with genetic improvement in the wool industry. Her focus is to improve communication and links between scientists and wool producers, to improve cooperation and hence profitability. Linda has an honours degree in Agricultural Science and a Graduate Diploma of Agricultural Economics.



**Deranie Jackson**  
Orange, NSW  
Sponsor: Environment Australia  
Deranie runs "Growing Rural Communities", consulting in rural leadership training, community facilitation and natural resource management. She is involved in Landcare and the family beef/sheep property "Coronga". Deranie has Bachelor's degrees in Economics and Earth Sciences and is completing a Masters of Applied Science (Social Ecology). Her vision is for a rural Australia that seeks and embraces change and diversity and has a passionate belief in its future.



**Craig Jones**  
Brisbane, QLD  
Sponsor: Department of Primary Industries Queensland  
Craig has worked with Aboriginal peoples, governments and the mining and pastoral industries in the development of agreements since 1990. He has recently been appointed an Associate Professor at James Cook University in Cairns and is the Director of the Native Title Studies Centre. Craig has an Honours degree in environmental studies (Griffith University) and is an accredited mediator (LEADR). He is also a doctoral student at the University of Queensland where his research is focused on cross-cultural mediation theory and practice.



**Sabina Knight**  
Alice Springs, NT  
Sponsor: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing  
Sabina is a remote area nurse, health advocate and senior lecturer at the Centre for Remote Health in Alice Springs. Sabina is a past chair of the National Rural Health Alliance and president of the Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia, where she is currently a board member. Sabina is convener of the Central Australian Rural Practitioners Association and holds a Masters of Tropical Health from the University of Queensland.



**Toshie Kris**  
Moa Island, Torres Strait  
Sponsor: Ports Corporation Queensland  
Toshie is chairperson of St Paul's Council, a role similar to that of Mayor in Australian Local Government. He has a Certificate in Environmental Health Services, ATSI Primary Health Care, an Associate Diploma in Environmental Health Studies, an Advanced Diploma in Environment Studies and is a qualified Workplace Assessor / Trainer. Toshie is passionate about his community. He is committed to ensuring that his community continues to improve education, health and employment opportunities for its members.



**Helen Lamont**  
Cleve, SA  
Sponsor: Primary Industries and Resources South Australia  
Helen is a Principal Consultant within Rural Solutions SA, a Government owned rural consulting business. Helen supports business management and leads a team of consultants based across South Australia. She is a Government representative on the Eyre Peninsula Integrated Natural Resource Management Committee. Helen holds a Diploma in Applied Science (Natural Resource Management), a Graduate Diploma in Education, a Post Graduate Diploma in Agriculture and Farming Systems and a Professional Certificate in Business Management.



**Simon Lott**  
Armidale, NSW  
Sponsor: Rural Industries R & D Corporation  
Dr Simon Lott is CEO of E.A. Systems, an Australian company involved in primary industries, the environment, and research and development. He is a partner in a farming enterprise on the Darling Downs. Simon lectures in environment management and is an environmental and agricultural engineer, agricultural and soil scientist and an environmental auditor. He is a Director of the Condamine Alliance and the Agforce member on the Condamine Catchment Management Association.



**Pete Mailler**  
Surat, QLD  
Sponsor: Grains R & D Corporation  
Pete is an Agricultural Consultant providing on farm agronomic solutions for producers and also undertakes industry projects and policy development for the grain industry. Pete is a Director of Agforce Grains, Conservation Farmers Inc and is the Executive Officer of the Australian Durum Industry Association. Pete and his wife Clare own and run "Warrina", a small farm near Surat, approximately five hours west of Brisbane.



**Tim Mirabella**  
Hastings, VIC  
Sponsor: Fisheries R & D Corporation  
Tim is a fifth generation commercial fisherman, operating in Port Phillip and Western Port Bays. He is the inaugural chairperson of the Victoria Bays and Inlets Fisherman's Association, and is a Board Member of Victoria's Fishing Industry Peak Body, Seafood Industry Victoria. Tim is the industry representative of the Fishing Licence Appeals Tribunal. He has a Diploma of Applied Science in Fisheries Technology from The Australian Maritime College.



**Jane Mouritz**  
Hyden, WA  
Sponsor: News Limited  
Jane is a Director of "Hydillowah", her family's cattle breeding, cropping and feedlot enterprise. She is also keenly involved in the Hyden community and is Deputy President of the Shire of Kondinin. Jane serves on national committees, including Family and Community Services Stronger Families and Communities Partnership, National Advisory Council on Ageing, and Internet Assistance Advisory Panel. Jane won WA's 2000 Rural Achiever and the ARLN 2001 Outstanding Rural Leader Award.



**Ron Paynter**  
Ellinbank, VIC  
Sponsor: Dairy Australia  
Ron is managing partner operating a family dairy enterprise at Ellinbank, Victoria. He chairs the regional dairy development program, GippsDairy, and sits on the executive council of National Dairy Alliance, the regional "Target 10" committee and various research advisory groups. Ron is also involved in apprentice training with Melbourne University and an active CFA volunteer. Ron holds a degree in Agricultural Science (La Trobe) and Graduate Diploma in Education.



**Felicity Robson**  
Teneriffe, QLD  
Sponsor: Horticulture Australia / Harvest FreshCuts  
Felicity is the National Marketing and Sales Manager for The Harvest Company, a leading fresh fruit and vegetable marketer, specialising in supply chain management and the commercialisation of products that have a significant point-of-difference in the marketplace. Felicity is responsible for the development and management of category plans for all customers. Felicity graduated from Bond University with a Bachelor of Commerce and holds a Master of Arts (Public Relations).



**Sam Robson**  
Sydney, NSW  
Sponsor: Horticulture Australia / Harvest FreshCuts  
Sam is the National Sales and Marketing Manager for Harvest FreshCuts. Harvest FreshCuts is an innovative chilled foods manufacturer producing a wide range of value-added, prepacked salads and vegetable products for today's convenience driven consumer. In April 2003, the business was recognised as the International Freshcut Processors Association's "International processor of the year" - the first time a company outside the USA has won the award. Sam is responsible for category growth, customer management and product and service innovation.



**Robyn Sefton**  
Deniliquin, NSW  
Sponsor: Rice R & D Committee/CWA NSW  
Robyn is a partner with her husband in their mixed irrigation and rice farm and is also employed as the Community Development Officer for the Deniliquin Council for Social Development Inc, providing many community services within the region. Robyn, an advocate for rural communities, is currently the Riverina delegate for the NSW Local Community Services Association, and has served on many local and regional committees. Robyn has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Community Social Welfare.



**Gerry Smith**  
Canberra, ACT  
Sponsor: Commonwealth Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry - Australia  
Gerry is a General Manager with Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia. He is a Senior Executive leading the delivery of the Australian Government's two major environmental and sustainability programs. Throughout his career, Gerry has worked in six different government organisations and has particular expertise in managing change. He holds an AGSM post-graduate diploma in Management from the University of NSW.

