

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

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 11 in the Kimberley - May 2004



**Sylvia Admans**  
Bendigo VIC  
Sponsor: News Limited, Rural Women's Scholarship  
Sylvia is the CEO for the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), a unique philanthropic organisation whose focus is benefiting rural and regional communities through partnerships with business, governments and philanthropy.  
Sylvia holds a Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Diploma of Librarianship and Graduate Diploma of Executive Business Administration. Sylvia is a member of the Federal Regional Women's Advisory Council and a council member of the Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE.



**Jennifer Alexander**  
Bendigo VIC  
Sponsor: DAFF, Natural Resource Management Scholarship  
Jenny is Catchment Manager at the North Central Catchment Management Authority, a natural resource management organisation that reflects the expectations and priorities of the community. She has a passion for the Australian environment and is committed to working with industry groups, government agencies and communities to increase sustainability.  
Jenny holds a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours in Ecology.



**Giles Butler**  
Tarnworth, NSW  
Sponsor: NSW Department of Agriculture, Departmental Scholarship  
Giles is a Research Agronomist with NSW Department of Primary Industries based in Tarnworth. His research is focused on identifying farming system solutions that improve the profitability and sustainability of agriculture in Central and Northern NSW. Giles contributes to a range of farming system, barley and research advisory committees.  
Giles has a Bachelor of Rural Science and a Post Graduate Diploma in Financial Management.



**David Capel**  
Longreach QLD  
Sponsor: Telstra Country Wide / National Farmers Federation, NFF Farm Organisations Leader Scholarship  
David manages and jointly owns a sheep and cattle producing enterprise in Western Queensland. He is involved in agri-politics and is a State Councillor of AgForce and is Vice President of the AgForce Sheep and Wool Board. David has been AgForce's representative to NFF's Environment Committee. David is a Board member of the Longreach Pastoral College. He has a Bachelor of Financial Administration and a Masters of Business Administration (Agribusiness).



**Tim Collins**  
Carmel WA  
Sponsor: Cooperative Bulk Handling, Cooperative Bulk Handling  
Tim has worked in agriculture for close to ten years having acted as General Manager Logistics for the Ricegrowers Cooperative from 1996-2000 and more recently performing senior management for CBH Ltd in WA. He is presently the General Manager of Bulkwest Logistics, a wholly owned subsidiary of CBH Ltd. Tim is a graduate of the Royal Military College (Duntroon) in Canberra, has a Bachelor of Business in Transport Economics and Logistics from RMIT and a Master of Business Administration from Southern Cross University.



**Tom Collins**  
Fortitude Valley QLD  
Sponsor: DAFF, Indigenous Leader Scholarship  
Tom runs new business development for The Harvest Company, a leading fresh fruit and vegetable marketer specialising in value chain management and the commercialisation of new products that have significant point-of-difference with a consumer benefit.  
Tom graduated from Bond University with a Bachelor of Economics in 1992.



**Steve Craig**  
Katherine NT  
Sponsor: DAFF, Indigenous Leader Scholarship  
Steve is the Station Manager of Mistake Creek Station in the Northern Territory. He is a Board Member of the Northern Territory Pastoral Lands Board, Katherine Pastoral Industry Advisory Committee.  
Steve is also an Executive Committee Member of the Victoria River District Conservation Association and Committee member of the Kununurra Bushman's Rodeo Association.



**Jim Donaldson**  
Canberra ACT  
Sponsor: DAFF, Departmental Scholarship  
Jim is a policy adviser and analyst in the field of natural resource management, agriculture, forestry and the environment. He is currently the manager of the Science, Information and Vegetation Section of the Natural Resource Management Business Unit of Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry.  
Jim has a Masters in Public Policy, is a past Chair of Campbell Primary School Board and is a member of the Executive of the ACT Division of the Institute of Foresters of Australia.



**Neil Ferguson**  
Perth WA  
Sponsor: Australian Pork Limited, Pork Leader Scholarship  
Neil is the General Manager of WESTPORK, the largest commercial pig enterprise in Western Australia. The operation encompasses intensive, semi-intensive and free range production facilities.  
Neil is delegate to Australia Pork Limited, a member of Pork Training - WA, West Australian Pork Producers Association and The Agricultural Produce Commission. He holds a Bachelor of Business (Agriculture).



**Christine Franklin**  
Mount Isa QLD  
Sponsor: Department of Health and Ageing, Rural Health Scholarship  
Christine is a Psychologist with the North & Western Queensland Primary Health Care Association, as well as providing outreach clinical services to people in Western Queensland. Christine is currently managing a project aimed at building the health service capacity of remote communities through education and employment of local health practitioners. Christine holds a Bachelor of Behavioural Science, a Bachelor of Psychology (Hons), a Diploma of Teaching and recently completed a Graduate Certificate in Remote Health.



**David Freudenberger**  
Canberra ACT  
Sponsor: CSIRO, Senior Scientist Scholarship  
David is a research scientist and group leader in the Agricultural Landscapes Program of CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems. David has a PhD in animal nutrition from the University of New England, Armidale, NSW. His research is aimed at reducing the environmental impact of agriculture. David works closely with Landcare groups and Greening Australia.  
David is a co-project leader within the CSIRO Water for Healthy Country Flagship Program.



**Helen Geard**  
Tea Tree TAS  
Sponsor: Australian Wool Innovation, Wool Innovation Scholarship  
Helen is a Landcare Facilitator with the Southern Midlands Landcare Office. She works with wool growers and property managers on natural resource management issues.  
Helen is President of the Tasmanian Landcare Association, a board member of Greening Australia (Tasmania), a member of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council. Helen holds a Bachelor of Arts (IT and Public Administration) and a Graduate Diploma of Environmental Studies.



**Mark Gooley**  
North Geelong VIC  
Sponsor: Fishing R & D Corporation, Fishing Leaders Scholarship  
Mark is General Manager of Austrim Seafood's based out of Geelong, Victoria. Prior to joining Austrim in 1989 Mark spent 12 months of intensive training living and working within the seafood industry in Japan.  
Mark is also a director of G-Force Recruitment in Geelong, established to provide pathways for the youth of the region to gain access to traineeships and apprenticeships. Mark has represented his industry on various boards through the past 15 years such as Seafood Industry Victoria, Seafood Export Consultative Committee, Geelong Seafood Industry Taskforce and PrimeSafe.



**Alan Goodwin**  
Bendigo VIC  
Sponsor: Dept of Sustainability and Environment - Vic, Departmental Scholarship  
Alan Goodwin is the Emergency Response Manager for the North West Region of Victoria with the Department of Sustainability and Environment. He has occupied the position for the last 12 months after 5 years in Tasmania in the forest industry. Alan has a Diploma in Engineering. Alan is a member of the State Government Fire Team and associate member of the State Fire Advisory Board.



**Louise House**  
Watheroo WA  
Sponsor: Grains R & D Corporation, Grains Leader Scholarship  
Louise is a partner in a family farm, primarily wheat, canola and sheep production. Louise has been involved in many local organisations largely in education and cultural pursuits with a strong emphasis on communication development.  
An Occupational Therapist by profession, she is passionate about communicating the realities of rural issues and enhancing opportunities to excel. Louise has a special interest in the wheat industry and is a member of the Managing Director's Roundtable of Growers.



**Graem Kelly**  
Robinvale VIC  
Sponsor: Rural Industries R & D Corporation, Community Leader Scholarship  
Graem is the CEO/Director of Nursing at Robinvale District Health Services and is currently on the Board of Lower Murray Water. He is a member of Australian College of Health Service Executives, Australian Institute of Management, Australian Institute of Certified Directors, Robinvale/Euston Rotary Club and Robinvale Euston Action Community Team.  
Graem actively engages in community building activities.  
He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science and Graduate Diploma of Rural Health.



**Ben Marini**  
Waterford WA  
Sponsor: Westpac Banking Corporation, Westpac Banking Scholarship  
Ben is a Regional Manager for Westpac Regional Banking Division, based in Perth.  
He has spent 25 years with Westpac and now manages a network of both Business and Agribusiness Relationship Managers located throughout Regional WA.  
He has recently completed the Leadership Consortium Certificate at The Australian Institute of Management and has undertaken numerous courses related to agriculture.



**Tim McAuliffe**  
Bairnsdale VIC  
Sponsor: Horticulture Australia / Vegco, Horticulture Leaders Scholarship  
Tim is National Procurement Manager for Harvest FreshCuts/Vegco. Tim's role is to develop the supply chain to deliver new experiences to today's consumer. This role involves facilitating change within the company supply base through leadership and cooperation.  
Tim is involved with the East Gippsland Institute of Horticulture and the Monash University School of Rural Health.  
Tim holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Horticulture).



**Mike Nolan**  
Dripstone NSW  
Sponsor: CSIRO, Indigenous NRM Leader Scholarship  
Mike is a Director of Gundabooka Consultancy. He has based his personal and professional life around his obligations and responsibilities to his family, 'country' and his culture. Mike is a proud man who strongly identifies with his Mothers (Barkindji) and Fathers (Wiradjuri) nations. Those that know Mike have witnessed his commitment and passion to increase respect for his communities and for the natural and cultural heritage values on which we all depend.



**Paul O'Brien**  
Warrnambool VIC  
Paul is a member of the Victoria Police Force and has been for the past 20 years. He currently holds the rank of Inspector and manages approximately 100 personnel at Warrnambool on the South-West coast of Victoria.  
Paul holds a Degree in Business Management, a Diploma in Training and Assessment Systems and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Management. Paul is an active member on a number of local committees and is currently a Board member of Community Connections.



**Adrian Peake**  
Milton, Brisbane QLD  
Sponsor: Dairy Australia, Dairy Leaders Scholarship  
Adrian is currently the CEO of the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation Ltd which is part of the State and National Farmer's Federation network.  
Over the last decade Adrian has worked as an Agricultural Consultant, Ministerial Advisor, as well as maintaining a direct involvement in an agricultural enterprise.  
Adrian holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics with post graduate studies in accountancy and risk management. Adrian also holds an AICD Diploma and is a certified HACCP Practitioner.



**Emma Robinson**  
Charters Towers QLD  
Sponsor: DPI QLD, Departmental Scholarship  
Emma and her husband run a beef property south of Charters Towers and also works as a freelance consultant specialising in the areas of environmental scanning, long-term thinking, facilitation and strategy. She holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Rural Management), a Masters of Science (Strategic Foresight) and Graduate Certificates in Rural Extension and Technology Management. Emma is a Director of Agforce Cattle and recently completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors course.



**Peter Scott**  
Larakeyah NT  
Sponsor: Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Commonwealth Bank of Australia Scholarship  
Peter is the Commonwealth Bank's Executive Manager Business Banking for the Northern Territory and East Kimberley Region, WA.  
He has over 20 years banking experience with much of this time spent with Commercial and Rural Lending.  
Peter is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Banking and Finance and holds professional status with the National Institute of Accountants.



**Jason Shearer-Smith**  
Preston QLD  
Sponsor: Australian Lot Feeders' Association, Industry Leader Scholarship  
Jason is the Managing Director of Smithfield Feedlot Pty Ltd, his family's feedlot, grazing and cropping enterprise. He is also a director of the Australian Lot Feeders Association.  
Jason has been involved in the industry for 17 years and is involved in many advisory committees relating to the feedlot industry and water rights. Jason won the Young Lot Feeders Achievers Award in 1998 and has completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in Rural Technology.





**Jason Strong**  
 Albion QLD  
 Sponsor: Meat and Livestock Australia, Meat Industry Leaders Scholarship  
 Jason is Sales and Marketing Manager for Genetic Solutions based at Albion in QLD. Genetic Solutions specialises in the development and commercialisation of DNA based products and services.  
 Prior to joining Genetic Solutions Jason was Manager, MSA Grading Services from July 1995.  
 Jason's other industry experience includes officer bearer positions with the Cattlemen's Unions, youth education including the Intercollegiate Meats Judging Association and as a director of the Australian Beef Industry Foundation.



**Brett Warren**  
 Mangrove Mountain NSW  
 Sponsor: Grains R & D Corporation, Grains Industry Leaders Scholarship  
 Brett is the Principal of AdvAntage Ag advising a diverse range of agricultural enterprises on the implementation of biological principles to achieve "Best Practice" agriculture. He is also a Director and Co-Founder of IQ Ag, a biological fertiliser production and marketing company. Brett holds a degree in Veterinary Science and has studied biological farming here and in the USA.  
 Brett's community involvement includes rugby coaching, refereeing and officiating at equestrian events.



**Peter White**  
 Scone NSW  
 Sponsor: Rural Press Limited, Rural Press Scholarship  
 Peter is the Managing Director of Finance and Planning for the Belltrees Group of Companies. He has also developed property management programs for the companies' rural property sales portfolio and operates a commercial tourism, accommodation and tour enterprise.  
 Peter has a Diploma of Farm Management and has a background of Accounts Management in Advertising.  
 Peter is responsible for ensuring the longevity and viability of the historic Belltrees property.



**Leith Whittaker**  
 Port Lincoln SA  
 Sponsor: Fishing R & D Corporation, Fishing Leaders Scholarship  
 Leith is a fisherman and Tuna Farm Manager for Tony's Tuna International Pty Ltd. He has 12 years experience in the industry. Leith is a member of The Australian Tuna Boat Association as well as a member of the South Australian Pilchard Fishermans Working Group.



**Samantha Williams**  
 Albany WA  
 Sponsor: Rural Industries R & D Corporation, Women in Agriculture Scholarship  
 Samantha is employed as a regional officer with the Department of Indigenous Affairs. She sits on the Board of the Albany Aboriginal Corporation and Waiitj Aboriginal Corporation.  
 Samantha is passionate about social justice reforms for Indigenous peoples and is strongly supportive of self governance and self determination with the Indigenous community. Samantha is an accredited trainer and intends developing youth leadership and other capacity building programs.



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



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**AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION**  
 LEADING THE NATION

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 Director - Programs and Development




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