

# AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



COURSE **22** 2015-16 DIRECTORY



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

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.



**Sam Archer**

*Gundagai, NSW  
Meat and Livestock Australia*

Sam is a grazer from Gundagai. He is Chair of the Riverina Local Land Services and has held board, advisory and leadership roles in the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, the Australian Farm Institute, NSW Farmers Association, Murrumbidgee Landcare and the National Farmers' Federation. Previously he delivered socio-economic programs to communities in the Gibson Desert and East Kimberley and in 2008 was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship, researching global environmental stewardship schemes.



**Darren Arney**

*Nairne, SA  
Grains Research and Development Corporation*

Darren was born into a farming family in the Mallee region of South Australia. He built on his agricultural background through study at Roseworthy Agricultural College, before spending over a decade as an agronomist. Darren has held a variety of positions in finance, banking and grain marketing consulting, and currently works in grower advocacy. Darren also has a small vineyard in the Adelaide Hills. He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture).



**Tammy Atkins**

*Milawa, Vic  
William Buckland Foundation*

Tammy has a career interest in regional policy along with economic and community development. Her governance experience ranges from small community groups to government boards. She is actively involved in a number of local organisations, chairs Relay for Life Wangaratta and is a Rotarian. She was previously a Rural City of Wangaratta Councillor. Tammy has a personal interest in politics and is a founding member of grassroots movement Voices for Indi.



**Joanna Baker**

*Sydney, NSW  
Thyne Reid Foundation*

A qualified nutritionist, Joanna is driven to redefine what it means to make a 'healthy' food choice. Originating from urban Sydney, she is a Founding Director of the Youth Food Movement Australia, a national organisation that aims to build the skills, knowledge and experience that young people have around Australian food and agriculture. She is the Membership Manager at Dairy Connect, a NSW dairy industry advocacy organisation.



**Sean Boland**

*Moree, NSW  
Cotton Australia Ltd/Cotton Research and Development Corporation*

Sean is General Manager of Auscott Ltd's Gwydir Valley operations, where significant cropping activities are undertaken. This involves a strong focus on irrigated cotton production, along with the operation of a large cotton ginning facility. Sean is chair of the Gwydir Valley Cotton Growers Association and is on the Committee of the Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association. Sean holds a Bachelor of Rural Science, a Master of Agriculture and a Master of Business Administration.



**Rhys Collins**

*Brisbane, Qld  
Australian Pork Ltd*

Rhys is General Manager of Sales for Sunpork Fresh Foods, the largest Australian-owned pork supply chain. Rhys' passion for innovation has seen Sunpork Fresh Foods deliver some firsts for pork into Australia's largest supermarket chain. He has worked in the Australian pork industry for more than 12 years and recognises the need to inject more young rural Australians into the ageing industry. Rhys holds a Diploma of Applied Science (Wilderness Reserves & Wildlife Management).



**Scott Davis**

*Cairns, Qld  
James Cook University*

Scott has over 20 years' experience in the health and social services sector. He is currently director of the Greater Northern Australia Regional Training Network (GNARTN). This is a network of universities, industry and government across northern Australia addressing complex tropical health, and health professional workforce & training issues. Scott has a PhD and Masters in public health and community development, and was recently appointed to the RDA Committee for FNQ and Torres Strait.





**Sandra Glaister**

*Brisbane, Qld  
Prime Super*

Sandra is a dedicated health care senior manager and educator. She is a registered nurse with a Masters in Business Administration and Dispute Resolution, a Bachelor of Education (Nursing) and certificates in education and dog behavioural training. Sandra is also an Eden Associate, and the Chief Operating Officer with Freedom Aged Care, a pioneering model of care and service delivery in retirement villages. She also holds director positions in the aged care sector.



**Jamie Iker**

*Emerald, Qld  
Auscott Ltd/Cotton Research  
and Development Corporation*

Jamie is an agricultural consultant and the Director of Spackman Iker Ag Consulting. He has been working as an agronomist since 2008, and has been Director of the Crop Consultants Australia board and member since 2010. He is involved in local sporting group boards and committees in his hometown of Emerald. Jamie holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Agronomy) and is currently studying a Master of Science (Agriculture).



**Mikaela Jade**

*Darwin, NT  
Department of Agriculture and  
Water Resources*

Mikaela is an environmental biologist and digital cultural technologist. She unites Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander cultures, tourism and sustainable landscape management through her app, Digital Rangers. Her other focus is sustainable agriculture in collaboration with Indigenous peoples. Mikaela is a United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues delegate, advising on the ethical digitisation of Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, languages, art forms, and the corporatisation of data.



**Jacinta Kelly**

*Perth, WA  
CBH Group*

Originally from a grain farm in Wongan Hills, Jacinta is now the Financial Products Manager with the marketing and trading division of Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH) in Western Australia. The co-operative is the largest exporter of grain in Australia and Jacinta works to develop finance and risk management solutions for growers and international customers. Jacinta previously worked in both agribusiness banking and agronomy. Jacinta holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Honours).



**Gary Larkins**

*Canberra, ACT  
Department of Health*

Gary commenced his rural career in 1983 when he moved from Perth to Katherine in the Northern Territory. Since that time, he has predominantly lived and worked in rural locations, and moved to Canberra in 2009. His expertise in rural matters includes employment, education, justice and health with a specialisation in Indigenous affairs. He currently works for the Department of Health, dealing with rural primary health workforce.



**Tim Lester**

*Dalton, NSW  
Fisheries Research and  
Development Corporation*

Tim is committed to innovation for rural industries and communities. As Operations Manager for the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations, Tim is working with the rural RDCs to enhance Australia's unique rural research and development model, which brings together government and industry as partner investors. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and during his career has worked in rural media, public affairs, policy development and program management.



**James Lord**

*Cradoc, Tas  
Australian Meat Processor  
Corporation*

James is the Owner/Director of Huon Valley Meat Co, which operates a small red meat processing facility in southern Tasmania, predominantly processing high-quality beef for interstate markets. James grew up on a farm in Tasmania before studying chemistry and project management in Melbourne. He returned to Tasmania in 2011 to build a business designed to reduce exposure to commodity price swings and strengthen long term social, economic and environmental sustainability for the region.



**Zoe Malone**

*Darwin, NT  
NT Department of Primary  
Industries, Fisheries and  
Mines*

Zoe has spent the past 15 years working in professional communications in education, essential services, health, law, energy and primary industries. She is the Director of Communications in the NT Government Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and the Department of Mines and Energy. Zoe holds a Bachelor of Arts (Public Relations) and a Master of Business Administration along with qualifications in community engagement. She is also a board member for the Darwin Festival.



**Peter McCrabb**

*Booroorban, NSW  
Australian Wool Innovation  
Corporation*

Peter owns and manages North Bundy Pastoral Company in partnership with his wife, Lisa in the Western Riverina of NSW. The company also leases country at Tibooorra, NSW. Peter has a passion for wool growing and encouraging youth into agriculture. He has been Councillor on Conargo Shire Council since 2001 and through this commitment is highly involved in the community. Peter has been integral in the development of the Long Paddock Touring Route.



**Krysteen McElroy**

*Padthaway, SA  
Department of Agriculture and  
Water Resources*

Krysteen is a partner in a mixed farm at Padthaway in south-eastern SA, with her main responsibilities being administration and finance. She is the CEO for the MacKillop Farm Management Group, delivering research, development and extension for the agricultural industry. Her professional memberships include APEN, alumni of SA Rural Women Award and community organisations. Krysteen has completed the AICD, and sits on the Ag Excellence Alliance committee.



**Denise McLellan**

*Horsham, Vic  
Grains Research and  
Development Corporation*

Denise is a Managing Director of Bengalee; a family business comprising grain production, commercial freight, contract harvesting and contract spraying enterprises in the Wimmera region of Victoria. She has also worked extensively in south-eastern Australia in various communications roles within the grains industry. Denise is passionate about the social issues affecting farming families and their local communities. She holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Agricultural Science.



**Jeremy Morton**

*Moulamein, NSW  
Ricegrowers' Association of  
Australia*

Jeremy is a farmer from Moulamein in the NSW Riverina where, with his wife Renee, he runs a mixed irrigated and dryland enterprise. Jeremy and his family grow rice, cereal and oilseed crops as well as beef cattle and merino sheep. He values the role of mentoring to support leadership for the rice industry. Jeremy is the Senior Vice President of the Ricegrowers' Association of Australia and is their delegate to the National Irrigators Council.



**Dwane O'Brien**

*Geelong, Vic  
State Government of Victoria*

Dwane is the Animal Health and Welfare Program Coordinator for the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Victoria. As a veterinarian, Dwane is passionate about the importance of the livestock industries to rural communities. He has been involved in leading departmental relief and recovery efforts after natural disasters in Victoria. He believes that building resilience in rural communities is critical in addressing the increased incidence of these events.



**Travis Power**

*Canberra, ACT  
Department of Agriculture and  
Water Resources*

Travis has a long history in agriculture and food, working as a senior officer within the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for more than a decade. He is currently the Assistant Secretary for People Capability. Travis was the Australian Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, working on issues of food security. He has undertaken trade negotiations and contributed to a broad range of agricultural and natural resource policy issues.



**Lowri Pryce**

*Helensburgh, NSW  
Fisheries Research and  
Development Corporation*

Originally from Wales, Lowri is a fluent Welsh speaker. With a Performing Arts background, she's committed to developing creative pathways to integrating the marine sector into NRM. Working nationally with the Australian seafood industry since 2006, Lowri is dedicated to growing the sector's social and environmental credentials, and believes marine users have a pivotal stewardship role to play in the marine century ahead. Lowri holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and Master of Social Science.



**Michael Rosier**

*Melbourne, Vic  
State Government of Victoria*

Mike is a Principal Policy Officer with the Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. He has over 14 years of experience in agriculture and natural resource management, engaged in policy and operational roles. Mike is passionate about fostering increased and meaningful collaboration between state agencies and rural and regional stakeholders. Mike holds a Bachelor of Science with Honours and a Master of Business Administration.



**Regina Turner**

*Hammond Island,  
Torres Strait,  
Qld  
Torres Strait Regional Authority*

Regina was recently appointed a Cultural Development Officer with the Torres Strait Regional Authority. For 12 months prior she worked in aged care, providing home care packages. Regina has 25 years' experience working at TAFE Queensland, in administration management, teaching and business development. Regina is President of Mura Kosker Sorority Inc., the Torres Strait Islands' peak women's organisation. She is also Secretary/Treasurer of Kiriri Dorge Mudh Indigenous Corporation, maintaining Torres Strait cultural traditional practices.



**Jordan Villaruz**

*Tully, Qld  
Department of Agriculture and  
Water Resources*

Jordan has been the Senior Extension Officer for Tully Cane Productivity Services since 2012. He advises canegrowers and reports to the industry and community, after working in the area and industry for a decade. He is President of Tully Kindergarten, Treasurer of Tully Basketball Association and was Chair of Philippine Emergency Relief Fund 2013. Jordan holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business and is studying a Master of Business Administration.



**Giovanna Webb**

*Darwin, NT  
Rural Industries Research and  
Development Corporation*

Giovanna has a Bachelor degree in Zootechnics. She is one of Colombia's top 100 international achievers. She migrated to Darwin in 1997 where she owns and operates a tourism and crocodile business. She was RIFDC 2013 Rural Woman of the Year. Giovanna is on the Council on Australia Latin America Relations, appointed by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop. Other memberships include NT Business Advisory Council; Tourism Top End; Women's Network NT; and President Latino NT Association.



**Jane Worner**

*Young, NSW  
Woolworths Ltd*

Jane is a member of a family farming business which operates mixed livestock and grain enterprises in NSW. Prior to this she spent nearly a decade working on governance and public policy projects across Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. She holds volunteer positions in community organisations in the Young district and has a Masters in Policy Studies (International) with distinction and a Bachelor of Science with honours.



**Jennifer Wressell**

*East Geelong, Vic  
Department of Health*

Jennifer has dual roles as a Station Leader in Antarctica and as a health services manager. In the latter role, she has worked across remote and rural Australia as well as internationally in Saudi Arabia. In January 2016 Jenny will lead a small team to Mawson Station for the winter. Jenny has a Masters in Health Administration with a dissertation on the effects of gender and culture on leadership.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION'S PROGRAMS, VISIT  
**rural-leaders.com.au**

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