



Australian
Rural Leadership
Foundation

AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM COURSE 25 2018-19



RURAL-LEADERS.ORG.AU

COURSE 25 2018-19

This is the participant directory for the 25th intake of the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP). The participants profiled in this directory will undertake the unique 15-month leadership program over five sessions, across Australia and Asia.

Over approximately 50 days face to face, the participants will be provided with:

- experiential learning - challenging situations in a range of contexts
- the time and space for reflection
- opportunities to develop as intuitive leaders who can work in complexity
- the ability to influence and make an impact.



We convene 30 leaders from diverse industries, communities and backgrounds from across rural, regional and remote Australia.

The participants have opportunities to engage with different levels of government, industries, communities and various regional areas.

These leaders broaden their perspectives and connect with our extensive and supportive alumni network.

Together they will make an impact by working for the greater good of regional Australia.



ARLP COURSE 25 BIOS



FLEUR ANDERSON

THEODORE, QLD Cotton Research & Development Corporation, Auscott Limited, Cotton Australia

Fleur is a farmer, entrepreneur and communications consultant based in Theodore, central QLD. She lives on an irrigated cotton farm with her family and is from a farming family in Dalby. Fleur is a Director of Cotton Australia, Chair of the 2018 Cotton Conference and Chair of the Australian Cotton Industry Forum. She is dedicated to her start-up, the Rural Business Collective, and is involved in local community organisations. Fleur is excited to be participating in this program and hopes it will help her decide where best to channel her energy in the future to make an impactful contribution.



PIETER BADENHORST

MACARTHUR, VIC Victorian Government Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Pieter is originally from South Africa, but now calls rural Victoria home. He is a Senior Research Scientist in Agriculture Victoria Research and specialises in the development of new technologies in agriculture. Pieter also owns and operates a boutique winery and brewery with his wife. He holds an annual not-for-profit music festival to promote their small regional town. Pieter is keen to further develop his communication skills to become an effective regional leader.



YOLA BAKKER

TOM PRICE, WA ARLF Alumni Scholarship

Yola currently lives in Tom Price, WA, working for Nintirri as a Resource Development Manager. She is also co-founder of LANAHA, a profit-for-purpose social enterprise with key target areas of affordable housing, financial literacy and cultural cultivation. In 2017, she developed and trialled Take2 4You—a program that explores money-minded matters. Stemming from Yola's work in Indonesia around the performing arts, cultural cultivation is an area close to her heart. She believes that participating in the program will give many of her projects the legs needed to actively and effectively build traction and move forward.



BEC BIGNELL

CLOVELLY, NSW Telstra

Bec is a filmmaker, writer and actress raised on a sheep and wheat property in Kojonup, WA. She has worked in the media for over 10 years, most recently at the ABC in Sydney. She founded the digital creative hub, Rural Room, to share unique 'stories from the sticks' and in 2018 Rural Room is producing the first multi-platform regional web series, Rain Dance, to leverage regional people into creative roles across all facets of film production. Bec hopes to release the latent talent and stories within regional Australia to generate a sustainable storytelling legacy in regional communities.



SARAH BRITTON

ORANGE, NSW NSW Government Department of Primary Industries

Sarah is from Orange and is the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer and Group Director of Animal Biosecurity for the NSW Department of Primary Industries. She grew up on a sheep and cattle property near Orange. Sarah has worked as a veterinarian in private practice and government. Sarah's passion is promoting biosecurity to protect livestock industries and producers, and enhancing the livelihood of rural communities. She is a keen supporter of rural life and encourages others to seize the opportunities it provides. Sarah is keen to further develop her leadership skills so she has greater self-awareness and is an effective and inspiring leader.



DAN BROWN

BELMONT, NSW NSW Local Land Services

Dan grew up in Newcastle and is currently the Soil Conservation Service Hunter Area Manager. He has worked throughout NSW and southern QLD, initially as a farmhand, then as an agronomist and then as a consultant in fluvial geomorphology. Dan is motivated by the environment, family, people and enabling practical solutions. He believes leadership involves building people's self-confidence by providing pathways or experiences to develop skills to a point at which a person starts to identify their own path. Dan strongly supports mentoring as well as building teams around complimentary personalities.



CORINNE BUTLER
WARWICK, QLD Prime Super

Corinne has both strategic and operational management experience, having worked in public and private sector roles and owning her own businesses. Currently, she's a partner in a human resources consultancy firm. Corinne knows what's required to take a business to the next level of growth and success. She is accomplished at steering organisations through significant growth and development periods, as well as coaching other business owners and executives. Having sat on several boards in president and member positions, she demonstrates the ability to influence strategic direction and enjoys using her strengths to support not-for-profit organisations and regional communities.



WAYNE CHAMPION
BERRI, SA Australian Government Department of Health

Wayne relocated to Australia from New Zealand in 2011 and works as a Regional Director for Country Health, SA. He initially joined the health system as a finance specialist before diversifying to corporate services management, then operational management, always with a focus on rural health. Wayne is also experienced in managing the health response to major emergencies such as bushfires or earthquakes. He is passionate about the need to innovate and strives to provide sustainable access to safe, effective, high-quality health services for people in rural communities.



TIANI COOK
ALICE SPRINGS, NT Anonymous Sponsor

Tiani lives and works on her family's cattle station 'Suplejack Downs' in the Tanami region, NT. From her isolated cattle station, Tiani founded the not-for-profit organisation 'Horses for Courses' – Ride for Bush Kids. She is the NT State President of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association Council, Chairperson of the NT School of Distance Education and NT representative of the National Rural Women's Coalition. She is an enthusiastic advocate for rural and remote families, having firsthand experience in raising and educating a family alongside business, study and community engagements. Tiani is a passionate country woman who loves living and working in outback Australia.



WADE DABINETT
PARILLA, SA Grains Research and Development Corporation

Wade is from Parilla, SA and is the financial controller in a part-owned family farming business in the Southern Mallee, producing potatoes, grains, sheep and cattle. He is currently Chair of Grain Producers SA and an independent director of Duxton Broadacre Farms Ltd. Wade is currently serving a second two-year term on the ABC Advisory Council, reporting on programming and content. He is passionate about maintaining critical services to rural and remote communities, and the need to see agriculture and rural regions fairly represented within the national broadcaster.



KAREN DEMMERY
CANBERRA, ACT Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Karen is a Wiradjuri woman born in Dubbo, NSW and has strong ties to the Canberra region. She runs her own business and has over 17 years' experience in the health, education and training sectors. She holds a Masters Degree in Indigenous Health along with various other Indigenous health and education qualifications, and is currently completing her PhD. Karen wants to help people to succeed and believes that can only be done if she continues to grow and expand her capacity as a leader. One of her passions is strengthening communities at the grass roots level.



MARIE DENNIS
MACKAY, QLD Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Marie is a BirriGubba woman raised in small town of Ayr and presently calls Mackay home. She is currently working as a Therapeutic Case Worker and Program Officer for the Integrated Family and Youth Service. Marie loves working with the community and is Chairperson of the Murri Sisters Association. Her passion is working with youth, as they are our future. Marie's drive is her son—he is the reason she works toward providing people with the support they need to strive towards their goals. She believes together we can create a brighter future.



DEBORAH DOWDEN
MOUNT MAGNET, WA Woolworths Limited

Debbie owns and operates a 200 000-hectare cattle station and horse stud with her husband. Continued adversity in the Southern Rangelands region of WA has called for innovative production to remain viable and the Dowdens are recognised as industry leaders. Debbie works part-time as a teacher coach, and holds a Board position on the Rural, Regional, Remote Women's Network of WA and the Morgan Horse Association of Australia. She is involved with a number of community organisations and hopes to strengthen her leadership skills to help her community prosper.



JOHN DURHAM
COLEAMBALLY, NSW Cotton Research & Development Corporation, Auscott Limited, Cotton Australia

John is from Coleambally, NSW and currently manages an irrigated cropping business. He has always had a passion for agriculture and completed his studies at Marcus Oldham College. John is the Chair of the Southern Valleys Cotton Growers Association and is a grower representative at the Cotton Australia and Cotton Research and Development Corporation general meetings. He wants to continually grow, both personally and professionally. John aims to make a larger contribution to the local community and regional Australia.



AMY FAY
ECHUCA, VIC Thyne Reid Foundation

Amy is originally from western Victoria and is now based in Echuca. She manages her own agricultural project management company, Propagate Projects, and is also a Strategic Project Manager with Murray Dairy, working on all things feedbase, water and change management. Amy is passionate about developing innovative and agile agricultural businesses that thrive in a changing and volatile operating environment. Her special interests are managing risk, optimising decision making and solving complex problems. Amy is keen to challenge herself and develop her skills to be a resilient, empowering and positive leader.



LAUREN FINGER
YANNATHAN, VIC Gardiner Foundation

Lauren is a dairy farmer from Yannathan in West Gippsland. In partnership with her husband and a team of employees, she farms around 900 cows on two properties, running a business that prides itself on being innovative and adaptable. Lauren holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Science and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is currently Deputy Chair of GippsDairy as well as serving on the local school council. Lauren is looking forward to learning new skills to help her become more effective in leadership and in life.



FIONA GASKE
ST GEORGE, QLD Anonymous Sponsor

Fiona is Deputy Mayor for Balonne Shire Council, an active member of her community and a highly-experienced Speech Pathologist. She is a member of the South West Hospital and Health Board, where she displays her passion and advocates for public health services in rural and remote communities. As a graduate of the QLD Conservatorium of Music, Fiona also founded a ballet school in her shire which has grown to almost 100 students. Fiona is keen to grow her understanding of what it means to be a leader in rural communities, particularly as they confront and embrace the challenges of 'disruption'.



AARON IRVING
FREMANTLE, WA Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

Aaron is the Chief Executive of the Pearl Producers Association and the current Executive Chair of the National Aquaculture Council. Prior to this, he worked as a Senior Policy Advisor for the Deepwater Group in Wellington, New Zealand. Aaron holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of International Relations, and has extensive experience in fisheries, legal policy and analysis. Aaron is enthusiastic and excited about the program and meeting rural professionals and mentors, undertaking activities that test him, and learning about being a leader for the benefit of the Australian seafood industry.



EMMA JACKSON

COEN, QLD Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Emma came to Australia in 2002 from the UK and lives in central Cape York, QLD, where she and her family run the cattle property 'Wolverton Pastoral Company'. Emma studied psychology and became a teacher whilst raising her children. Outside of the home-schooling classroom, she is passionate about developing agricultural opportunities in the north, whilst working alongside natural resource management. Emma is the founder and key leader of Conquer the Corrugations, a walk for mental health awareness. She is excited about new and fresh challenges to build on her own capacity to lead the north.



ELVERINA JOHNSON

YARRABAH, QLD Australia Council for the Arts

Elverina is a Kunganji Gurugulu and Ildinji Gimuy woman from Yarrabah, QLD. With over 25 years' experience in the arts, she is a visual and performing artist, and manager of various community projects. She was awarded the Rona Tranby Trust Award, the Smart Women Smart State Award, the National Naidoc Artist of the Year and the Yarrabah International Women's Day Woman of the Year. She was also a finalist in the Cairns Business Women's Award for Indigenous Business Woman of the Year. Elverina is a strong advocate for her community and for the rights of Indigenous people.



JACK KEPA

YAM ISLAND, TORRES STRAIT, QLD Torres Strait Regional Authority

Jack is a proud Kulkagal Nation man from the Central Torres Strait, QLD. He works for My Pathway as a Senior Engagement Officer on Yam Island. He also works voluntarily for the Social Justice Inter Agencies Group as a 'Community Champion', working closely with QLD Police to put a stop to domestic and family violence. Jack's goal is to demonstrate strong leadership by having a voice to advocate for people or group issues. He wants to have a big influence within his community and to have the ability to personally affect others' actions, decisions, opinions or thinking.



TROY MAUGER

JERILDERIE, NSW Ricegrowers Association of Australia

Troy is the Rice Extension Officer in southern NSW, having commenced this role four years ago. Prior to this he worked in extension and project management in the dairy industry. Troy believes the best part of working in extension is the interaction with farmers and seeing the adoption of new practices that increase the productivity and profitability of their business. He also operates a mixed irrigation farm at Jerilderie with his family. Troy is looking forward to expanding his network and developing his leadership skills to serve his community and industry at a higher level.



LAUREN MCNALLY

TOOWOOMBA, QLD Australian Lot Feeders Association

Lauren is originally from Rylstone, NSW and is now based in Toowoomba, where she is a Human Resources and Workplace Health & Safety Manager for Mort & Co. She is passionate about empowering rural workforces to be self-sufficient and holistic in their approach to management. Lauren has worked in rural areas throughout her career and is excited to learn from and connect with people on a broad industry platform to enable her to further develop her skill set and knowledge base.



ANDREW O'SULLIVAN

QUEANBEYAN, NSW Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Andrew is originally from Sydney but now lives in Queanbeyan, NSW, where he is active in the Rural Fire Service. He is the Director of Crops and Infrastructure Policy at the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in Canberra. Andrew is focussed on making Australian agricultural industries stronger and more resilient, particularly through research and development and trade policy. He is looking forward to the ARLP giving him the opportunity to assess and improve his approach to leadership.



JUSTIN ROACH
WARRAL, NSW Agrifutures Australia

Justin is a poultry meat and beef farmer from Tamworth, NSW. After completing university and working for years in the poultry meat and equipment supply industries, Justin built his own poultry farm. Currently, he is Chair of NSW Farmers Contract Poultry Group and a director of the Australian Chicken Growers Council. Justin hopes to further develop his skills as a leader in the poultry meat industry so he can assist in tackling the challenges faced by the industry both now and into the future.



DANE ROBERTSON
FREMANTLE, WA Cooperative Bulk Handling Ltd

Dane grew up in the foothills of Perth but has always had a connection to agriculture through his family. He worked in various agricultural roles, including four years working in the UK, and is now currently working for Cooperative Bulk Handling as a Trading Manager in the Marketing and Trading Division. Dane is interested in learning what motivates different people and helping them achieve their best, as well as developing best practice and applying continuous improvement principles. He is keen to learn new skills as a leader, having just finished a three-month secondment acting as Head of Trading.



EMMA THOMAS
FORBES, NSW Grains Research and Development Corporation

Emma is a grain and livestock producer in central NSW. She also provides consultancy services to farm businesses and takes pride in working at an industry level to represent grower issues with national organisations. Emma is the Chair of the regional peak body for Landcare, as well as participating on the Regional Development Authority Central West. She has a Masters in Environmental Business Management and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Emma is passionate about regional Australia and building a sustainable farming community, with an interest in highlighting agricultural opportunities for Australian farmers.



JOCK WARRINER
BRISBANE, QLD Meat and Livestock Australia

Growing up in the Northern Territory on a large beef production enterprise, Jock has roots in the northern beef industry and stays close to it today. Rising through the ranks to General Manager of Consolidated Pastoral Company until 2017, he now enjoys a variety of roles as an agribusiness consultant, ranging from acquisition modelling and contract management to advisory services. Jock has a passion for the beef industry and, as a graduate of the Agribusiness Leadership Program, feels that being part of Course 25 is a privilege and another opportunity to develop leadership skills, and find ways to give back to the industry.



SARAH-JANE WILSON
TOWNSVILLE, QLD James Cook University

Sarah-Jane is originally from Mitchell in south west QLD, with a background in beef and sheep production. She now works at James Cook University as a Senior Lecturer in the Veterinary School. Sarah-Jane has interests in farm biosecurity, 'One Health'—the human, animal and environmental interface—and working with animal industries to improve productivity. Sarah-Jane hopes to use her new skills to build community capacity and professional networks, slow urban drift, and maintain rural professional and trades services.



DAVID YOUNG
BOOKHAM, NSW Australian Wool Innovation

David grew up on a family farm near Coolamon, NSW. He has had a mixed career of 20 years, managing and working with a number of rural businesses and agribusinesses. He currently manages the family farm in Bookham, NSW. He is an active community member and Brigade Captain for Bookham with the NSW Rural Fire Service. David is also a graduate of the Sheep Industry Leadership Program and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. David's main aim is to play a stronger role in leadership, both professionally and at the local and state level, in the future.

The ARLP has been developing stronger leadership within the communities and industries of rural, regional and remote Australia for over 26 years.

To learn more about the ARLP and the Foundation, visit rural-leaders.org.au

As a not for profit organisation, we rely on the generosity of our sponsors who are committed to investing in people for rural, regional and remote Australia. Our sponsors for Course 25 are:



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