



Australian
Rural Leadership
Foundation

AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

COURSE 24 2017-18

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THIS IS THE PARTICIPANT DIRECTORY FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH INTAKE OF THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (ARLP).

The ARLP is a unique 15-month program which runs as five sessions across Australia and Asia for approximately 30 leaders from across rural, regional and remote Australia. It provides a series of challenging experiences to develop leadership capabilities.

The leaders come from a diverse range of backgrounds, industries and communities. The ARLP provides experiences to develop the application of understanding self and others, ethics, values and social responsibility and opportunities to engage with industry, community and region.

The ARLP leaders broaden their perspectives and connect with an extensive, supportive alumni network. Together they will make an impact by working for the greater good of regional, rural and remote Australia.



Nathan Adams

Augusta, WA
Fisheries Research and
Development Corporation

Nathan lives in the small coastal town of Augusta in the Margaret River region, WA. He is currently the Managing Director of Five Star Abalone Pty/Ltd, Vice Chairman of the West Australian Fishing Industry Council, and a director on the Abalone Council of Australia. Nathan has a Diploma of Applied Science in Aquaculture from the University of Tasmania. He believes leadership is important for the succession and growth of rural areas. Nathan is keen to meet people in other industries and locations to broaden his network and enhance what he can give back to his local community.



Cameron Bell

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

Cameron lives in Bendigo in central VIC, and has 20 years' experience delivering government veterinary services in Australia and overseas. He is the Manager - Veterinary Science with Agriculture Victoria, and a deputy to Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer. Cameron hopes to make an effective contribution to public policy and decision making on animal health and welfare issues, to support the livestock industry, protect public health and improve food security.



Owen Brinson

Silvan, VIC
The William Buckland
Foundation

Owen is the current manager of a family run cut flower farm in the Yarra Valley, VIC. He has held elected roles as President of Flowers Victoria, President of the Victorian Farmers Federation Horticulture group and board member of the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, as well as a board member of the Victorian Farmers Federation. Owen wants to grow his leadership learning to continue to serve the horticulture industry and to reconnect young city adults to their farming counterparts.



Andrew Bulmer

Calulu, VIC
Australian Government
Department of Agriculture and
Water Resources

Andrew lives in the small town of Lindenow, VIC and is the Managing Director of Bulmer Farms, one of Australia's largest producers of baby leaf and salad. He is a director of Green Acres Australia and co-owner of Graze and Harvest. Andrew is also a board member of Agribusiness Gippsland, a director of East Gippsland Vegetable Innovation Days, and a committee member of the Glenaladale cricket club. Andrew's vision for rural, regional and remote Australia is that it gains the recognition it deserves to ensure its own future.



Timothy Chaffey

Quirindi, NSW
Cotton Research and
Development Corporation,
Auscott Limited and Cotton
Australia

Timothy grew up on a mixed family farm near Tamworth, NSW. His passion has always been agriculture and rural Australia, he has a Bachelor of Business (Farm Management) from Marcus Oldham College. Currently he is a farm manager in Liverpool Plains in North West NSW. His focus is the sustainable redevelopment of agricultural assets. He is currently involved in the AMPS research committee which focuses on farming development and research. The vision he holds for rural Australia, is to support and empower others and prevent the skill drain out of rural industry.



Belinda Chambers

Rutherglen, VIC
Wine Australia

Belinda is from Rutherglen, VIC and is the company director of Lake Moodemere Estate. The business produces wine grapes, wine, and lamb, and operates a cellar door, cafe and accommodation. She is the Chairperson of the Winemakers of Rutherglen and has a Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Agribusiness from the University of Melbourne. Belinda is passionate about her local environment and hopes to assist in the furthering of sustainable practices for future generations.



Dale Chapman

Pomona, QLD
Department of the Prime
Minister and Cabinet,
Australian Government

Dale is director and co-owner of First Food Co, bush food business. She was born in Dirranbandi, QLD, is of Aboriginal ancestry and a qualified chef. She is passionate about everything bush tucker from preparation, cultivation, wild harvesting, medicinal research, culinary, and new research in the industry. Dale is a leader in the bush food industry and wants to develop new relationships and strong partnerships to build her business and community. Her vision is to connect regional and remote to city.



Alexander Dunn

*Weipa, QLD
Prime Super*

Alex is the Western Director of Medical Services in the Torres and Cape Health and Hospital Service, based in Weipa, QLD. He works in a remote community, in an area of health inequity. He has a Bachelor of Science, a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, a Diploma of Anaesthetics and a Diploma of Child Health. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practice and a Fellow of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. Alex wants to develop his capacity to advocate for his communities.



Tim Ferraro

*Dubbo, NSW
NSW Local Land Services*

Tim lives in Dubbo, NSW and works as General Manager of a fully-commercial entity of the NSW Government, the Soil Conservation Service. Most of his working life has been in natural resource management and agriculture. Tim has also volunteered on various boards and committees with large and small organisations. He wants to make a greater contribution to regional Australia, and to grow and achieve more personally and professionally.



Luke Gaynor

*Wagga Wagga, NSW
NSW Department of Primary Industries*

Luke is originally from Temora, NSW and is now based in Wagga Wagga, where he is the Research Leader for NSW Department of Primary Industries. Luke's passion is all things agriculture, building resilience, developing efficiencies and adopting new technologies. He is involved in a family farm and values this as it enables him to look at broader industry issues from a range of different perspectives. Luke is keen to learn new skills to become a stronger, more strategic and overall better leader.



Stacey Giles

*Rockhampton, QLD
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet,
Australian Government*

Stacey is a Kamilari woman from St George, QLD, who lives in Rockhampton. For 12 years, she worked for the Queensland Government and recently commenced with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Indigenous Affairs Group. Stacey works in child protection programs and policy development. She is currently studying a Masters in Public Administration. Stacey wants to increase Aboriginal representation in policy making and break down barriers between community and government.



Kate Gunn

*Curlewis, NSW
Grains Research and
Development Corporation*

Kate, with her family, runs a farming business on the Liverpool Plains, south of Gunnedah, NSW. She has a Bachelor of Science/Commerce from Sydney University and a Master of Economics from the University of New England. Kate is involved in the Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce and the Caroon Coal Action Group, which has been striving to ensure mining developments do not compromise prime agriculture. Kate wants to make a positive contribution in the agricultural industry and her community.



Ronnie Hibma

*Sale, VIC
Gardiner Foundation*

Ronnie has been involved in dairy all his life, having grown up on a dairy farm and owning a dairy service providing business for the past 12 years. Ronnie believes he has matured as a leader over the last three years, since completing the Rabobank Executive Development Program and the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. He hopes to further develop his leadership skills to be able to make a positive difference in agriculture.



Barb Howard

*Alexander Heights, WA
Australia Council for the Arts*

Barb is originally from Aotearoa New Zealand. She relocated to Australia in 1998 and lived in Kalgoorlie-Boulder for 10 years before moving to Perth. Barb was recently appointed Network Director for Country Arts, WA. She holds two undergraduate degrees gained from Murdoch University and her honours thesis focuses on the politics of sustainable development of the Great Western Woodlands in the Goldfields-Esperance region. Barb is committed to the empowerment of First Nations peoples and to the protection of our unique biodiversity using arts and culture as the communication tool.



Amanda Johnston

*Cloverdale, WA
CBH Group*

Amanda grew up 45km from a small town called Gnowangerup, in the Great Southern area of WA. She currently manages the products and services area of Marketing & Trading within Co-operative Bulk Handling. Essentially, this means she makes sure that their contracts with growers are legal and they get paid on time and accurately. Amanda understands the strain of financial pressures on her growers, and is proud to do her part in ensuring that growers get the right amount of money, on time.



Paula Johnston

*Townsville, QLD
James Cook University*

Paula is the Director of Financial and Business Services at James Cook University in Townsville, QLD. Prior to this role, she worked in audit and advisory services and lived in Canberra, Sydney, Newcastle and Edinburgh. Paula also leads a working group lobbying to obtain funding for a Performing Arts Centre in her local community in Townsville. She is passionate about rural, regional and remote Australia, and her vision is to see greater connectivity and collaboration to solve big problems, and to identify working and lifestyle opportunities to attract talent and social diversity.



Simone Jolliffe

*Euberta, NSW
Dairy Australia*

Simone is a dairy farmer in partnership with her family in Euberta, NSW. Away from her own business, she holds several industry directorships in both the research development and extension space, as well as advocacy and policy. She has been involved at a national and state level in various not for profit roles for over seven years, and prior to this was an active member in her region within industry, community and educational groups. Simone has a Bachelor of Rural Science and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Rachel Kelly

*Moama, NSW
Ricegrower's Association of
Australia*

Rachel is a Policy Manager with the Ricegrowers' Association of Australia. She is an active member within her local communities in Moama and Bunnaloo, NSW, and was actively involved in the successful 'Women in Water' events. Previously, Rachel worked as an agribusiness solicitor and in project management, and has a Bachelor of Commerce/Laws from the University of Canberra. She believes that educating and developing stakeholders is critical to the future success of any rural community.



David Kimmorley

*Flinders View, QLD
Goat Industry Council of
Australia*

David has worked in rural Australia all of his life, living most of the time in QLD. He has an Associate Diploma in Agriculture from Gatton Ag College and has worked in many facets of agriculture, including prawns, scallops, sugar cane, wheat, lavender, hops and shearing sheds. He owns two properties at Hannaford, QLD on which he runs angus, dorpers and goats. David has a passion for the goat industry and believes strongly in its future. He wants to become a better leader to take the Australian goat industry to the world stage.



Stacey Lugsdin

*Hay, NSW
Australian Wool Innovation*

Stacey and her family run businesses in Hay, NSW, a self-replacing merino enterprise and a motor vehicle dealership. Originally from a non-farming background, she has been managing a grazing property since 2000 and teaches wool classing part-time. Stacey is involved in the Peppin-Shaw Riverina Ewe Flock Forum and the Hay Merino Sheep Show. For 17 years, she has been the secretary of the Wah Wah Stock and Domestic Pipeline scheme. Stacey's vision for rural, regional and remote Australia is a workplace where gender inequity is eliminated.



Richard Malone

*Griffith, NSW
Cotton Research and
Development Corporation,
Auscott Limited and Cotton
Australia*

Richard is an agronomist from Griffith NSW and works for Customised Farm Management. He grew up in Finley, NSW and has a Bachelor of Rural Science from the University of New England. Richard is the Southern Valley Crop Consultants of Australia representative for the Transgenic and Insect Management Strategies Committee and is the Southern Valley Cotton Growers' Association representative for Cotton Research and Development Corporation and Cotton Australia meetings.



Johani Mamid

*Broome, WA
Department of the Prime
Minister and Cabinet,
Australian Government*

Johani is a Yawuru man who was born in Broome, and raised in and around the West Kimberley region, WA. He is currently employed by Nyamba Buru Yawuru as a Trainee Country Manager Coordinator. In addition, he is also a Yawuru Proscribed Body Corporate Director and assists in the implementation of the Yawuru corporation's strategic plan. As an active community member and advocate for youths, he also sits on the Kimberley Aboriginal Young Leaders Committee which is responsible for the Kimberley Aboriginal Young Leaders Program.



Will McCrohon

*Leeton, NSW
Australian Lot Feeders'
Association*

Will grew up in Grafton on the North Coast of NSW, working in his family's business where he developed his interest in beef production. Will completed a Bachelor of Agriculture at the University of New England and entered the feedlot industry in 2004. He is currently the Feedlot Manager for JBS Australia's Riverina Beef Feedlot located in the Riverina, NSW. Will is passionate about intensive beef production and working with his team to produce high quality beef. Will hopes to continue self-development and is looking forward to the challenges ahead.



Trish McKenzie

*Cunnamulla, QLD
Goat Industry Council of
Australia*

Trish runs a grazing enterprise with her family, producing rangeland goats, merinos and cattle. In addition, she works from home part-time for the Royal Flying Doctor Service as a Community Engagement Coordinator in the Paroo Shire, in south west QLD. Trish is also Chair of the Paroo Education Group, Cunnamulla Isolated Children's Parents' Association and the Cunnamulla Community Advisory Network for Health. Her aim is to see rural communities thrive, and family grazing and farming enterprises strengthened to be sustainable into the future.



Grant Melrose

*Warwick, QLD
Australian Meat Processor
Corporation*

Grant is a third generation meat industry stakeholder, originating in domestic meat wholesale and now working in the lot feeding and meat processing sectors at John Dee in Warwick QLD. His overall role covers the entire supply chain and he also manages the sales of John Dee by-products. Quality assurance, biosecurity, environment, animal welfare and industry stakeholder collaboration are key areas that Grant feels requires strong leadership. He has completed numerous industry specific courses and programs, and is currently completing his Master of Agribusiness at Marcus Oldham College.



Rebecca Milliken

*Wagga Wagga, NSW
Agrifutures Australia*

Rebecca grew up on a sheep and cattle property on the Hay Plains in NSW and is currently the Group HR Manager for Delta Agribusiness, based in Wagga Wagga. She studied at the Australian National University in Canberra, completing a Bachelor in Commerce/Asian Studies. Rebecca is passionate about people, building strategic partnerships and creating environments for growth. Through this program, Rebecca hopes to be able to help to build a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration throughout the agricultural sector.



Freda Nicholls

*Gundagai, NSW
Woolworths*

Freda is a writer and author who helps run a grazing and cropping property with her family in Gundagai, NSW. She has been involved in community leadership in a variety of forums for many years, and is passionate about overall community health and the arts, and believes that it is people and their actions that will create more opportunity and growth in these areas. She hopes that by doing this course, she can mentor others to help people find their voice.



Lynda O'Brien

*Charters Towers, QLD
Meat and Livestock Australia*

Lynda owns and operates a beef cattle grazing enterprise in Northern QLD with her family. After several years as a commercial solicitor, she became interested in the relationship between agriculture, sustainable grazing practices, environmental and human health. Lynda is Vice-President of the Charters Towers Isolated Children's Parents' Association, and is proud to be involved in projects such as the 'Fit for Rural Futures'. Lynda aims to grow her relationships and capabilities to contribute to a thriving, sustainable future for Australian agricultural communities.



Jason Phieler

*Aireys Inlet, VIC
Australian Government
Department of Health*

Jason has lived and worked in rural and remote Australia for the last 16 years. He is dedicated and passionate about better health outcomes for these communities. Jason wants to extend his leadership knowledge and experience, to become a better leader. He wants to facilitate in the capacity building of remote and rural Australia, leading to improved outcomes for these communities.



Aaron Scheid

*Mount Rascal, QLD
Australian Pork Limited*

Aaron is a pork producer living on the Darling Downs, QLD. He is a Director of Merivale Farms, which is a family owned and run operation. Currently, he is representing other farmers and their interests as a Delegate of Australian Pork Limited. Aaron is keen to improve his leadership skills so he can better represent his community and the pork industry.



Lilian Jane Shibasaki

*Thursday Island, Torres Strait
Torres Strait Regional Authority*

Lilian Jane lives on Thursday Island, Torres Strait and works as a teacher in the Tagai Tech Program. She wants to gain further knowledge, understanding and training to become an advocate in her field of work in non-government organisations within her community. Lilian Jane has an interest in developing and improving her skills to become a competent facilitator in her work with domestic and family violence, and child safety.



Kirrilee Warr

*Yuna, WA
Grains Research and
Development Corporation*

Kirrilee lives in Yuna, WA where she owns and operates a farm with her family. She is a Ministerial appointed member to the Mid West Development Commission Board, a Board Director at Racing and Wagering Western Australia, and a Shire of Chapman Valley Councillor. She has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Western Australia, and is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Kirrilee has a strong community involvement in sport, women's interests, and regional and industry development.



Katherine Waterhouse

*Canberra, ACT
Australian Government
Department of Agriculture and
Water Resources*

Katherine has worked in policy for 13 years with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, and currently advises on drought and rural assistance policy. Katherine grew up on the mid-north coast of NSW and now lives in Canberra, ACT. She has a Diploma in Education and Master of Environmental Law and Policy but her career has been within the agriculture, fisheries and forestry portfolio, and it's here that she feels she can make the most difference.

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