

AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

DIRECTORY COURSE 13 » 2006-07

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



AUSTRALIAN
RURAL
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
LEADING THE NATION

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 13 in the Kimberley - June 2006



Stephen BAKER
Esperance WA
Cooperative Bulk Handling, Cooperative Bulk Handling Scholarship

Stephen is a grain marketer and trader with one of Australia's largest grain organisations, the Cooperative Bulk Handling Group. He also has extensive experience as a manager of country operations.

Stephen is a member of the Australian Grains Institute and has been an active member of numerous community and recreational organisations throughout country WA.

Stephen holds an Advanced Diploma in Leadership and Management from the AGSM/UWA and a Diploma in Management.



Alex BALL
Armidale NSW

Meat and Livestock Australia, Meat and Livestock Australia Scholarship

Alex is employed by MLA and is the Manager of Sheep Production and Genetic Delivery that includes the operation of SGA, a joint program with AWI, and the delivery of LAMBPLAN and MERINOSELECT information.

Alex is also a fine wool, sheep and beef producer in the New Valley district of Guyra, NSW.

Alex lives with his wife Melissa and three daughters in Armidale. Alex has completed a Bachelor of Rural Science (Hons) and a PhD from UNE.



Jane BENNETT
Canberra ACT

Australian Government Dept. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Departmental Scholarship

Jane is a Manager in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's International Technical Branch and works on World Trade Organisation disputes relating to animal health and food safety.

Jane is a member of the Wildlife Diseases Association and Australian Wildlife Health Network, as well as her local Steiner school community.

Jane has a Bachelor of Science (Veterinary) (Hons) in Zoology and a Bachelor of Veterinary Science.



Napcia BIN TAHAL
Horn Island QLD

Australian Government Dept. Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Indigenous Scholarship

Napcia currently works as a Project Officer for the Torres Strait Regional Authority. Her passion is to develop a sustainable economic base within the Torres Strait, specifically in the area of marine and fishing.

Napcia's short term goal is to be elected to the Torres Strait Regional Authority Board representing Horn Island and Prince of Wales Island with the intention of winning the portfolio of marine and fisheries.



Nick BRYANT
Sydney NSW

Telstra Country Wide/ National Farmers Federation, Industry Leader Scholarship

Nick is a Senior Policy Analyst at the NSW Farmers Association. His work focuses on enhancing grain transport and supply chain infrastructure networks and he also uses previous commercial experience in the grain industry to improve marketing and business systems for grain producers.

Nick was raised on his family's mixed farming business at Young in NSW and holds a Bachelor of Business (Ag Commerce) from the University of Sydney.



Geoff BUDD
Kingston ACT

Grains Research and Development Corporation, Grains Leader Scholarship

Geoff is the General Counsel and Board Secretary of the Grains Research and Development Corporation. He is responsible for GRDC's legal affairs, compliance and risk management. For the last 5 years, Geoff has also been GRDC's nominee on the board of Pulse Australia Ltd, the pulse industry's peak body.

Geoff holds a Master of Laws specialising in intellectual property and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Clancy BURN
Mt Shank SA

Dairy Australia, Dairy Leaders Scholarship

Clancy is a dairy farm manager and equity share partner in Pedra Branca Dairying Pty Ltd at Mt Shank, SA, milking 1000 cows. Clancy is passionate about the dairy industry and is keen to market the industry to young people as a career and to be involved in agricultural training programs.

Clancy holds an Advanced Diploma in Farm Business Management from Marcus Oldham College, and is currently completing a Bachelor of Business (Agricultural Management).



Anna BUTCHER
Brookton WA

Grains Research and Development Corporation, Grains Leader Scholarship

Anna is a partner in a mixed farming property producing grain, export hay and sheep for meat and wool. She has a background in secondary education in the fields of mathematics, science, agriculture and gifted education. Anna is a Justice of the Peace and a member of the Brookton Land Conservation District Committee.

Anna has a Diploma of Education and is a graduate of the AICD.



Miles COCKINGTON
Burra SA

Australian Wool Innovation, Wool Leader Scholarship

Miles is an owner/manager of a pastoral property and a mixed farming enterprise on the Yorke Peninsula. He is involved in the merino industry and is a "soft rolling skin" wool/sheep classer and an artificial breed technician. Miles is involved with successfully reclaiming dry-land salinity into productive pastures. The farm has won many Landcare awards and hosts research programs for schools and universities.

Miles is also a board member of the School of the Air.



Greg COCKS
Broken Hill NSW

Australian Dental Association Inc., Dental Leader Scholarship

Greg is a dental surgeon at The Dental Centre in Broken Hill. He graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1981. He is a member of the Australian Dental Association and is currently a rural councillor and vice president of the South Australian branch. Greg is an active member of various educational, cultural and sporting organisations and is the chairman of Senyum, an international humanitarian dental aid project.



James CORNISH
Perth WA

Elders Limited, Elders Scholarship

James is the State Manager of Elders WA Livestock Division, leading a network with an involvement in commercial livestock, live exports, stud stock and supply chain management. He sits on the boards of the WA Live Export Committee; WA Livestock Salesman Association and is a member of Elders National Training Committee. He is involved with numerous sporting and community groups.

James is a licensed Real Estate Principal and holds a Diploma of Management.



Leah DOLBY
Broome WA

Dept. Local Government and Regional Development - WA/Kimberley Development Commission/Argyle Diamonds, Industry Leader Scholarship

Leah is the Coordinator of the Marjia Jarndu Outreach Services at Broome, working with women and children in family crisis, close educational training, community trips, awareness, session support group, court support, counselling and mediation at a community level, and has been a committee member on various school and sporting organisations.

Leah has been working with the Aboriginal Women's Leadership Program through the Office of Indigenous Policy Co-ordination in Canberra throughout 2005-2006.



David ELLIS
Port Lincoln SA

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Fisheries Leader Scholarship

David is employed in the capacity of Research Manager for the Tuna Boat Owners Association of South Australia, managing research projects within Aquafin CRC. He is a member of the Seafood Training Centre of Excellence Board, the South Australian Fisheries Research Advisory Board, a member of the steering committee for the Southern Bluefin Tuna sub program and consults to other aquaculture industries.

David is currently studying for a Masters/PhD in tuna nutrition with the University of Tasmania.



James FITZPATRICK
Cottesloe WA

Australian Government Dept. Health and Ageing, Rural Health Scholarship

James is a doctor training in Paediatrics in Perth, WA. He completed a B.Sc. and served with the army before studying medicine. A past chair of the National Rural Health Network and active in promoting rural and Indigenous health, he was honoured as the Young Australian of the Year in 2001. In 2003 he founded True Blue Dreaming, a rural youth and community development organisation.



Rowan FOLEY
Yulara NT

Australian Government Dept. of Environment and Heritage, Industry Leader Scholarship

Rowan Foley comes from the Wondonna clan of the Badjtjala People, traditional owners of Fraser Island, QLD. He is the Park Manager of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, which is jointly managed with the Traditional Owners. The UKTNP receives about 400,000 visitors and generates \$400 million for the Australian economy annually.

Rowan has been active in community politics and has worked with traditional owner groups in northern Australian on major projects.



May GOH
Bordertown SA

Australian Government Dept. of Transport and Regional Services, Industry Leader Scholarship

May is a general practitioner in the upper south east of South Australia, working in partnership with another GP and employing an overseas trained doctor.

May is the Principal Medical Officer at the Bordertown Memorial Hospital and has been involved in the Division of General Practice Network and is a director of the South East Clinical Senate.



Iain GORDON
Aitkenvale QLD

CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Departmental Scholarship

Iain is Group Leader in CSIRO's Sustainable Ecosystems Division, based in Townsville. With a PhD from Cambridge and professorships at UQ, JCU and the University of Aberdeen, Iain's research interests include improving livelihoods and off-farm impacts of beef farms in eastern Queensland and involving communities in Asia, Africa and South America in wildlife management. Being Scottish, Iain also enjoys golf and keeps native bees and collects antique inkwells.



Romy GREINER
Townsville QLD

Dept. Primary Industries and Fisheries - QLD, Industry Leader Scholarship

Romy is an ecological economist and director of River Consulting, a research company specialising in natural resource management and matters of regional development and community well-being in rural and regional Australia. She is the Director, Social and Economic, of the Berdakin Dry Tropics NRM Board and serves on the scientific advisory committee of the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

Romy holds a PhD and Masters in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Hohenheim, Germany.



Rod KELLY
Toowoomba QLD

Westpac Banking Corporation, Westpac Banking Scholarship

Rod Kelly's career with Westpac spans 31 years and he is presently Head of Agribusiness Queensland. He holds tertiary qualifications in Accounting, Banking and Finance and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Banking and Finance. Rod has been associated with rural interests personally for many years.

On behalf of his team, in 2001 Rod accepted the Queensland Premier's Award for Community Service in the International Year of the Volunteer.



Ilse KIESSLING
Rapid Creek NT

Australian Government Dept. of Transport and Regional Services, Industry Leader Scholarship

Ilse is a regional officer with the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage. For the last 7 years she has worked on the conservation and management of northern Australia's oceans. In 2001, Ilse was joint winner of a Banksia Environmental Award for a project involving Indigenous communities, government and conservation groups and industry.

Ilse is a member of the Planning Institute of Australia, and holds a PhD in marine resource policy.



Colin LYE
Goondiwindi QLD

Horticulture Australia/ Bower Bird Pty Ltd

Colin is the Managing Director of Bower Bird Marketing P/L. After 15 years in the cotton industry, Colin moved into horticulture to develop market alliances and construct grower clubs associated with proprietary ventures and brand development around Australia. This has resulted in commercialisation activities associated with Plant Variety Rights and trademarks for a range of global plant breeders and marketers.

Colin is a graduate of Murrumbidgee Agricultural College and UNE.



Mark PAGANO
Perth WA

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Fisheries Scholarship

Mark is the Principal Policy Officer for Recfishwest, the peak body representing the interests of recreational fishers in Western Australia. Mark has been a member of the Metropolitan Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee since 2001. He also lectures part-time at Curtin University in fisheries and coastal marine management.

Mark holds a Bachelor of Business, a Bachelor of Science (Aquatic Resources and Fisheries Management) from Curtin University and Honours in Veterinary Biology from Murdoch University.



Carl RICHARDSON
Albany WA

Forest and Wood Product Research and Development Corporation, Industry Leader Scholarship

Carl is the National Operations Manager of plantation forestry at Integrated Tree Cropping (ITC) Ltd. Carl leads the operations team in management of 150,000 hectares of plantation estate across 8 regions of Australia. He is a member of The Institute of Foresters Australia and is involved with the Australian Forest Growers organisation.

Carl holds a Bachelor of Science (Horticulture) and a Masters of Sustainable Management.



Karen RONNING
Penola SA

Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation, Industry Leader Scholarship

Karen is the Public Relations, Sales and Marketing Manager for Zema Estate Wines in Coonawarra, South Australia.

Karen has a Masters in Tourism Management with a major in wine tourism and has worked in a variety of locations within Australia and overseas. Karen is passionate about food, wine and tourism and is an active participant in a range of local and regional community organisations and is a member of the 2006 Wine Australia International Advisory Panel.



Troy SETTER
Quirindi NSW

Australian Lot Feeders Association, Industry Leader Scholarship

Troy is the Manager of Killara Feedlot Pty Ltd which produces high quality beef for domestic and export markets. Troy is Vice Chairman and Treasurer of the Australian Beef Industry Foundation, Chairman of Quirindi Prime Stock and Director of CCAQ.

Troy has a Bachelor of Rural Science from the University of New England and is a member of the Australian Institute of Management.



James SMITH
Mt Gambier SA

Centrelink, Departmental Scholarship

James is the Working Age Participation Manager for Centrelink's Berri, Broken Hill and Mount Gambier offices.

James advanced to the APS Executive level aged 28 years and, in his first year as Manager, his office won the 2004 Victor Harbor Business of the Year award.

James is Vice-President of the Salvation Army Basketball Association and has a passion for mentoring future generations. He is married to Pauline and has three children.



Ben STEPHENS
Narrabri NSW
Cotton Research and Development Corporation/Cotton Seed Distributors/Auscott Ltd, Cotton Leader Scholarship
Ben is Farm Manager of an irrigated cotton farm in northwest New South Wales. He is Chairman of the Lower Namoi Cotton Growers Association. Ben is also on the executive of the Australian Cotton Growers Research Association which provides grower input into research and development and industry leadership.
Ben holds a Bachelor or Rural Science and a Graduate Diploma in Rural Science specialising in cotton production.



Jane STEWART
Melbourne VIC
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, Rural Women's Scholarship
Jane is the Founder of Sustain Ability International – an Australian company specialising in the development of innovative edu-tainment programs relating to sustainability. Her latest creation covers ideas of sustainable consumption – linking agricultural issues to mainstream education like never before. Jane's education programs have been distributed to schools in Australia, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and America. Jane holds a Master of Environment from Melbourne University.



Jeff STORER
Nicholls ACT
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, Community Leader Scholarship
Jeff is the General Manager with RIRDC. Jeff's work involves aligning the strategic objectives of the corporation within the operational environment. Jeff has worked in many diverse areas of agribusiness and community development, and is passionate about contributing and making a difference.
Jeff holds degrees in accounting and marketing and a Masters in International Business. He is a Graduate of the AICD, a Fellow of the AIM and an accredited mediator.



Stephen STRANGE
Bruce Rock WA
Growers Advisory Council, Industry Leader Scholarship
Stephen is a third generation grain producer from Bruce Rock in the central wheat belt of WA.
Stephen was educated at Bruce Rock District High School and Cunderdin Agricultural College.
Stephen is the Shire President of Bruce Rock (9 years) and has been a councillor for 17 years with involvement in Landcare, roads, building infrastructure and community programs. Stephen is a member of the WA Farmers Federation and has a firm commitment to agriculture and rural communities.



Tracey VALENZISI
Leeton NSW
Rural Press, Rural Press Scholarship
Tracey is the Tourism Manager for Leeton Shire Council and has a background in agriculture. She is a partner in a horticultural business, a board member of Riverina Regional Tourism and the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands Trust.
Tracey lectures in marketing at Charles Sturt University, Griffith and has a keen interest in women issues, agricultural tourism and eco-tourism.
Tracey has a Bachelor of Business majoring in tourism management.



Andrew WESTLAKE
Warrnambool VIC
Australian Meat Processors Corporation, Industry Leader Scholarship
Andrew is the Operations Manager of the Midfield Group of Companies, an export food processing operation with pastoral activities and a co-products rendering process.
He is a member of the AMPC's National Technical and Environment Committees and is a current member of the OHS Committee of the Australian Meat Industry Council.
Andrew has a particular interest in the manufacture of alternative fuels and water recycling in industry.



Craig WHITEFORD
Ballarat VIC
Dept. Sustainability and Environment – Vic, Departmental Scholarship
Craig is a senior manager of biodiversity with the Department of Sustainability and Environment. His role is to oversee matters such as wildlife and native vegetation management and threatened species protection. He has a particular interest in community based nature conservation and has twice led community based projects to the finals of the National Landcare Awards.
Craig holds a Bachelor of Forestry and a Graduate Diploma in Sciences Communication.



Julie WOODROFFE
Gleniffer NSW
Australian Government Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Rural Women's Scholarship
Julie is a primary producer at Gleniffer and an independent provider to the natural resources industry on native vegetation management.
Julie is a representative for the Rural Women's Network of NSW, a director of Nature Trust NSW, a board member of the Northern Rivers Catchment Authority and a member of her local Landcare community.
Julie is a graduate of the AICD and has a Bachelor of Science.



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



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