



THESE LEADERS ARE COMMITTED TO SHAPING THE FUTURE OF RURAL, REMOTE AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA.



## AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTORY COURSE 20 ♦ 2013-2014

### THIS IS THE PARTICIPANT DIRECTORY FOR THE TWENTIETH INTAKE OF THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.

The ARLP is 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.

The Program focuses on professional and personal leadership development, examination of key national and international issues that impact on rural Australia, and interaction with leaders in government, industry and the community.



*This Directory lists each participant's sponsor beneath their home town*

### INVESTORS IN RURAL AUSTRALIA THROUGH COURSE 20:

1st Floor 24 Napier Close Deakin ACT 2600  
 T. 02 6281 0680  
 F. 02 6285 4676  
 info@rural-leaders.com.au  
 www.rural-leaders.com.au  
 ABN 80 056 874 787



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**KENNY BEDFORD**  
DARNLEY ISLAND,  
TORRES STRAIT QLD  
Torres Strait Regional  
Authority

Kenny Bedford is from Erub (Darnley Island) in the Torres Strait, and has served in a number of representative roles in his region. He is currently the Member for Erub on the Torres Strait Regional Authority Board, where he has held the Torres Strait Fisheries Portfolio since 2008. Kenny holds a Bachelor of Health Science in Indigenous Primary Health Care and is on the Board of Reconciliation Australia.



**BEN CAMERON**  
LEWISHAM, TAS  
Fisheries Research and  
Development Corporation

Ben is an oyster farmer and General Manager/ Director of Cameron of Tasmania Pty Ltd. He has longstanding connections with the Tasmanian aquaculture industry and contributes to the management of several aquaculture industry bodies, including as 3rd generation Director of the Tasmanian Oyster Research Council. Ben is an active volunteer in his community and holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Bachelor of Arts (Public Policy and Political Science).



**ANNA CARR**  
O'CONNOR, ACT  
Department Agriculture  
Fisheries and Forestry

Anna is from the northern wheatbelt in WA and works for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES). She engages Australians working in risk and finance, productivity and innovation, communications, environment and society in discussion of rural futures at Outlook and regional Outlook conferences. Anna has a PhD in Resource and Environmental Management, a Masters in Economic Development and a BA (Hons) in Communication Studies.



**NOEMI CUMMINGS**  
BENDIGO, VIC  
Department Agriculture  
Fisheries and Forestry

Noemi is the General Manager of Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services (LCMS), and works with all levels of government to deliver a wide range of support programs for refugees. She sits on the Loddon Mallee Regional Advisory Council for the Victorian Multicultural Commission and is passionate about empowering refugees and migrants to make a valuable contribution to rural Australia. Noemi holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering and speaks three languages.



**CATHY CUMMINS**  
KUNUNURRA, WA  
Tim Fairfax Family  
Foundation

Cathy is the Arts and Business Manager at Waringarri Aboriginal Arts in Kununurra, and a resident of the Kimberley since 1996. She is passionate about the arts, community cultural development, supporting the success of community owned enterprises and the sustainable development of the Kimberley region. She sits on the regional arts panel of Country Arts WA. Cathy has a Bachelor of Arts and Education and is completing a Diploma of Business.



**SAM DUINKER**  
DERBY, WA  
Vincent Fairfax Family  
Foundation

Sam is Community Development Officer/ Chairperson in the Balginjir Community near Derby, Western Australia. She is a passionate advocate for creating social change through opportunity and is committed to the long-term sustainability of her community. Sam has worked for the last 10 years alongside her husband running a cattle station, and is especially interested in indigenous economic development and food production through alternative land use and micro industry.



**JACINTA ELSTON**  
TOWNSVILLE, QLD

James Cook University  
Jacinta, an Aboriginal woman from Townsville, is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Molecular Sciences, James Cook University, providing Indigenous leadership and strategic advice in health. For over two decades she has worked in higher education on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. Jacinta has been appointed to numerous committees, is an Advisory Council member of Cancer Australia and holds a Master of Public Health & Tropical Medicine.



**LYN FRENCH**  
EINASLEIGH, QLD  
Meat and Livestock  
Australia

Lyn is a grazer who lives and works on a 7th generation beef cattle station in Queensland's northern goldfields. As well as working for the family business, she is passionate about the education of Australia's rural and remote youth, and has worked as a volunteer with organisations that support rural education. Lyn recognises the evolving challenges of rural Australia and is determined to make a difference to its future.



**SARAH GALLOWAY**  
ALICE SPRINGS, NT  
Health Workforce Australia

Sarah is a doctor at Alice Springs Hospital and is training to be a Rural Generalist. She is passionate about tackling the challenges of healthcare provision in rural and remote communities. A member of the Junior Medical Officers' Forum and the Australian Medical Association of the Northern Territory, Sarah holds a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, a Private Pilot's Licence and is completing a Diploma in Obstetrics (DRANZCOG).



**KATY HAMILTON**  
FORBES, NSW  
Department of Health and  
Ageing

Living on a farm west of Forbes, NSW, Katy is an occupational therapist providing community based services to rural and remote communities. She is passionate about maintaining reliable therapy services to build the capacity of individuals and communities. Katy is a director of CareWest, a not-for-profit organisation based in Orange, also providing services to rural and remote communities. She holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy.



**JAN HUGHES**  
SCOTTSDALE, TAS  
Rural Industries Research  
and Development  
Corporation

Jan and her husband operate an agri-business company, RhuBru, focussing on value-adding to vegetable rejects. She is committed to developing community cohesion and co-operation to build capacity and achieve better outcomes for all stakeholders. Jan serves on the Dorset Economic Development Group, Northbourne Retirement Village Management Committee and is Secretary/ Treasurer of the local Men's Shed. Jan holds qualifications in Education and is a Graduate of the AICD.



**BLAIR KOPPEN**  
WARWICK, QLD  
Department of Health and  
Ageing

Blair is a Rural Generalist and the Medical Superintendent at Warwick Hospital. His involvement with community organisations includes Rural Mentor for the John Flynn Placement Program and Senior Lecturer for Rural Medical Students (University of Queensland and Griffith University). Blair holds a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, is a Fellow of the RACGP and the ACRRM and holds Diplomas from the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and the Australian College of Cutaneous Oncology.



**BJORN LUDVIGSEN**  
BRIDGEWATER, SA  
Australian Pork Limited

Bjorn is the Strategic Business Manager for Australian Pork Farms Group Ltd, South Australia's largest commercial pork enterprise. Originally from a 1400-sow family-owned pork farm in mid-north SA, he is passionate about intensive pig production and furthering Australian agriculture generally. He is a member of Pork South Australia, the SA Future Pork Network and the Future Farmers' Network. Bjorn holds a Bachelor of Economics (International Agricultural Business).



**NIGEL METZ**  
ESPERANCE, WA  
Grains Research and  
Development Corporation

Nigel works as project officer for the Southeast Premium Wheat Growers' Association, a farmers' group. He has worked on numerous grains research projects, including in the spheres of grain handling, precision agriculture, supply chain logistics and market development. He is involved with the Esperance community including the squash club and with the local festival. Nigel holds a Bachelor of Agribusiness (Marketing) from Curtin University's Muresk campus.



**KAREN O'KEEFE**  
ROKEWOOD, VIC  
Department Agriculture  
Fisheries and Forestry

Karen is a Landcare facilitator for the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group south of Ballarat, VIC. She also teaches at the University of Ballarat in the area of Conservation & Land Management. Karen is actively involved in the Australian Quarter Horse industry and is passionate about rural communities, sustainable agriculture and the environment. Karen holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Management.



**JAMES PALFREEMAN**  
RIVERVIEW, QLD  
Australian Lot Feeders  
Association

James is based in Brisbane and has spent the last 20 years living and working in the feedlot industry in rural NSW & QLD. He is currently Manager, Feedlots for JBS Australia, where he is responsible for grain-fed beef production across multiple sites in several states. Along with his wife he also runs a small beef backgrounding property in NSW. James holds an Honours degree in Agricultural Science and an MBA in Agribusiness.



**RUFINA PETER**  
PORT MORESBY, PNG  
Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural  
Research

Rufina is Senior Research Officer with the PNG Institute of National Affairs, handling matters relating to financial inclusion and agriculture and the natural resource sector. She has worked in several senior government policy roles and was previously Economist with the Cocoa Board of PNG. Rufina is a member of PNG Women in Agriculture and holds a Masters of Economics (Agricultural Economics), Bachelor of Science and a Graduate Diploma of Business Studies.



**KATE RIDDELL**  
PHEASANT CREEK, VIC  
Vincent Fairfax Family  
Foundation

Kate is a founder of the not-for-profit Firefores Australia, a grassroots organisation working with disaster-affected communities. She has worked in education for 19 years, runs a small business and is a Mental Health First Aid instructor and emergency services volunteer. Kate holds a Bachelor of Arts (Outdoor Ed), a Dip.Ed and a Master of Applied Science (Social Ecology), which have fuelled her passion for place, gender, environment, communities and organisational change.



**WILLIE RIOLI**  
MELVILLE ISLAND, NT  
Department Agriculture  
Fisheries and Forestry

Willie lives in the Pirlangimpi Community on Melville Island, NT, and works in land conservation. He is supervisor and mentor to six Tiwi Land Rangers, working with threatened species and weed and feral animal control as part of the Tiwi Land Council's environmental strategy. Willie has a Certificate III in Conservation Land Management, is chairperson of the Tiwi Island Fire Management Board and is an active volunteer in his community.



**RAGINA ROGERS**  
BANORA POINT, NSW  
Health Workforce Australia

Ragina is an Advanced Care Paramedic for the Queensland Ambulance Service and Coordinator of their Remote Indigenous Paramedic Cadet Program. She is also a member of the Department of Emergency Services (DES) and Indigenous Leader and Development Team, serves on the Departmental Woman's Reference Group and is a DES Indigenous mentor officer. Ragina is a member of the Bungalong Land Council and Co-operative and holds a Diploma of Advanced Paramedical Science.



**JEDD ROUTLEDGE**  
COFFIN BAY, SA  
Fisheries Research and  
Development Corporation

Jedd is managing partner of Natural Oysters, a family-owned aquaculture business in SA, and is the director of a new company, Natural Angasi. He is also Vice-President of the South Australian Oyster Growers' Association and a Research and Development board member of Oysters Australia. A graduate of the National Seafood Industry Leadership Program, Jedd has completed a Professional Management Program through Adelaide University's School of Business and is studying for an MBA.



**ANNA SPEER**  
DAYBORO, QLD  
Rural Press Ltd

General Manager, Livestock Exchange, Anna has a strong understanding of the global Agribusiness Industry. Opening new markets and building market credibility through innovative products, Anna is a member of the FFN and a mentor for the Yalari Foundation. Anna has spent time teaching in remote Indigenous communities and working in stock camps in remote NT and holds a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Science. She is currently completing a Masters in Business Administration.



**ELIZABETH STOTT**  
GOGELDRIE, NSW  
Cotton Research and  
Development Corporation  
and Cotton Australia

Elizabeth and her husband operate an irrigation farming business at Gogeldrie, NSW, growing cotton and cereal crops. She is also the Communications and Policy Officer for the Ricegrowers' Association of Australia Inc. Elizabeth is passionate about the agriculture industry and promoting a positive image of rural Australia to bridge the city-country divide. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Biology) and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Wildlife Health and Population Management).



**BROOKE SUMMERS**  
NORTH BONDI, NSW  
Auscott Ltd and  
Cotton Research and  
Development Corporation

Brooke runs a communication consultancy, Step Communication, and specialises in improving communication for the rural sector. Over the years she has worked with the vegetable and rice industries, Landcare Australia and Catchment Management Authorities, but for more than a decade her work has focussed on the Australian cotton industry. Brooke has a Bachelor of Arts (Communication), a Churchill Fellowship (Urban Conservation) and is actively involved in cotton industry groups.



**BEAU TAYLOR**  
CARINA HEIGHTS, QLD  
Australian Meat Processor  
Corporation

Beau is a project engineer for Teys Australia, a Cargill joint venture that operates beef processing facilities across eastern Australia. He leads significant capital investments, develops business policy and strategy and is committed to the long term success of the red meat industry in Australia. Beau holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical), is a member of Engineers Australia and in 2011 was a finalist for Young Engineer of the Year.



**SALLY THOMSON**  
WOODANILLING, WA  
Grains Research and  
Development Corporation

Sally runs Sowing Seeds, a rural development business that supports the agricultural industry to build skills and capacity. She has active interests in her family's sheep and cropping farm in Woodanilling, WA, and a background in community Landcare. She is an Executive Member of the Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Network (WA) and an inaugural board member of Southern DIRT regional grower group. Sally holds a BSc in Sustainable Development.



**ROB WATSON**  
MILLAA MILLAA, QLD  
Dairy Australia Limited

Rob is the Managing Director of Mungalli Creek Dairy, and a Biodynamic/Organic dairy farmer and processor in North Queensland. Rob has had a long involvement with Biodynamic farming practices and is interested in ways of rejuvenating rural communities. He is a member of the Queensland Dairy Farmers Organisation and Millaa Millaa Chamber of Commerce. Rob holds a Bachelor of Science degree.



**MARK WATT**  
BALLARAT, VIC  
Department of  
Environment and Primary  
Industries (VIC)

Mark is Biosecurity Operations Manager for New and Emerging Invasive Plants and Animals, for the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (VIC). He works within Biosecurity Victoria, the peak state government agency responsible for the management of animal and chemical biosecurity issues. Mark has over 15 years' experience in natural resource management and holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Biological Resource Management.



**ANNE WILKINS**  
BADGINGARRA, WA  
Woolworths Ltd

Anne is the Executive Officer, West Midlands Group- a local grower group. With her husband, they operate a grains farm in mid-West, WA. Previously, Anne worked for the Department of Agriculture WA for ten years in Trade and Development. She also has ten years' experience in grain and cotton production in Queensland and NSW. Anne holds a Master of Agribusiness, a Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Economics and an Agricultural Science Degree.



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