

# australian rural leadership program

DIRECTORY COURSE 9 > 2002-03

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

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 9 in the Kimberley - May 2002



**Geoff Akers**  
Tallygaroopna VIC

*Sponsor: Dairy R & D Corporation*

*The Patrick Rowley Leadership Award*

Geoff is the owner/manager of a family dairy farm at Tallygaroopna in Northern Victoria. Geoff is the Chair of the Murray Dairy Board, a Central Councillor of the United Dairy Farmers of Victoria and sits on the Board of the National Dairy Alliance. At a local level he is President of the Shepparton and District Tennis Association Inc. Geoff has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture).



**Cecily Andersen**  
Kingaroy QLD

*Sponsor: Education Queensland*

Cecily is Executive Director of Schools for the South Burnett region based in Kingaroy. She is involved in developing women's networks and beginning Principals. Cecily has a strong interest in building the capacity of individuals and works with Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander groups and Queensland Health to deliver health, welfare and education in school communities. She has a Bachelor of Education and Graduate Diplomas in Linguists, Special Education, and ATSI studies.



**Philip Armatage**  
Wee Waa NSW

*Sponsor: Cotton R & D Corporation*

Philip is employed by Cotton Growers Services, and is based in Wee Waa, North West NSW. His role in the company as Development Manager involves commercialisation of new technologies such as biotechnology, crop diagnostics, and conventional chemistry. He is a member of the Cotton Consultants Association and has held a position on the association as a director for the last three years. Philip has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture) from Charles Sturt University.



**Debbie Borden**  
Watchem VIC

*Sponsor: Australian Park Limited*

Debbie is a Co-Director of two family owned businesses "Lynbardeen," specialising in the supply of breeding stock to the pork industry and "Trev's Harvesting" a contract harvest business. Debbie serves on the VFF Pig Council, VFF general council and has been active in the pig industry at both a state and national level. Debbie has a Diploma of Applied Science in Nursing and is a breastfeeding counsellor for Nursing Mothers of Australia.



**Dominic Calabro**  
Bairnsdale VIC

*Sponsor: Horticulture Australia / Vegco Pty Ltd*

Dominic is National Process Owner of People and Culture at Harvest Freshcuts/Vegco. He has extensive experience in the Local Government, Health and Education sectors, and private industry. Dominic is responsible for the development of people management systems and workplace culture. He is a member of the Australian Human Resource Institute and the Gippsland Food Industry group. Dominic holds a bachelor degree in Social Work and a Graduate Diploma in Business Management.



**Jon Cobden**  
Coleambally NSW

*Sponsor: Rural Industries R & D Corporation Community Services Scholarship*

Jon is Business Development Manager for MIA Rural Services in Griffith, NSW. He is also an irrigation farmer and grower of rice, cereals, oilseeds and sheep. Jon is currently Chairman of Coleambally Community Action, chairs the Health & Aged Care Committee, and sits on the board of the local Chamber of Commerce. Jon has an interest in developing people and the rural communities in which they live. He holds an Associate Diploma in Agriculture.



**Gregory Cramond**  
Basket Range SA

*Sponsor: Primary Industry and Resources South Australia*

Gregory is National Evaluation Manager with the Australian Pome Fruit Improvement Program. He is manager of "Surrey Orchards," a tree fruit and grapevine farm. He was on the Board of Ashton Co-operative and is a former Chair of the SA Pomefruit Improvement Committee. He is part of the Adelaide Hills IPM Group and the Basket Range Primary School Management Council. He has a Certificate in Agriculture from Urrbrae Agricultural High School.



**Rob de Fégely**  
Melbourne VIC

*Sponsor: Rural Press*

Rob is a forester and Principal of Jaakko Poyry Consulting, a Finnish management consulting company that provides advice to the forest industry globally. He manages their forest consulting operations in Australia and throughout the Asia Pacific region. Rob has a Master of Science and is a Board Member of the New Zealand Forest Industry Council and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He coaches junior football and has a strong interest in rural development.



**Chris Doody**  
Ballarat VIC

*Sponsor: Telstra*

Chris is Telstra Country Wide's General Manager for South West Victoria. He has extensive experience in managing the sales, service and operational areas associated with providing telecommunications at both a regional and national level. Chris is also involved in a number of organisations including being on the Boards of the Ballarat Telecommunity and the Ballarat & District Life Education Council. Chris has a Graduate Diploma of Management (Business).



**John Foss**  
Bruce Rock WA

*Sponsor: Grains R & D Corporation*

John is a Director of his family's farming company 'Biami', a grain, meat and wool producing operation in the West Australian wheatbelt. He is a consultant with Marketing Edge, specialising in supply chain management, quality assurance and environmental management programs. He is the marketing and client services manager for East Mundalla Merinos. John is a Nuffield scholar, and has a Bachelor of Business in Agriculture and a Graduate Diploma in Marketing.



**Steven Gill**  
Perth WA

*Sponsor: Fisheries R & D Corporation*

Steven is the Executive Director of the Western Rock Lobster Council Inc, the peak industry body for the Lobster Fishing Industry in Western Australia. He is the former Executive Officer of the NSW Seafood Industry Council. Steven is a graduate of the first Seafood Industry Strategic Leadership Course. He has a Bachelor of Science with honours from James Cook University of North Queensland



**Robert Gray**  
Brisbane QLD

*Sponsor: Horticulture Australia / The Harvest Company*

Robert is the Chief Operating Officer for The Harvest Company, a Brisbane based fresh fruit and vegetable supply chain management company. The Harvest Company specialises in fresh products such as seedless watermelons, mangoes, Shepard avocados, Bantanga gold pineapples, gherouted sweet stonefruit, rockmelons and asparagus. Robert has a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Science (Rural Management), and a Diploma in Export Management from the University of Queensland.



**Suzie Kidman**  
Coonawarra SA

*Sponsor: National Farmers' Federation / Telstra*

*The John Allwright Memorial Scholarship*

Suzie manages the farming enterprise that accompanies the family's viticultural and wine making business in Coonawarra. Her focus is prime lamb production, with vealers and cropping as well. She is a member of the SA Farmers Federation Livestock Executive and a member of the SA Meat Residue Coordinating Committee. She is the Chairman of the South East Regional Country Arts Trust Board and a Trustee of Country Arts SA.



**Robin Logan**  
Narrabri NSW

*Sponsor: Commonwealth Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia*

*Rural Women's Scholarship*

Robin is the Business Manager of the Cotton Research & Development Corporation. She is also Chair of the Australian Cotton Centre, a 2 million dollar tourism project which opened in July 2002. She is also involved in the family cotton and grain farm at Narrabri and commercial cattle breeding at Nundle. Robin has a Bachelor of Commerce degree and a Masters of Business Administration.



**Michael Long**  
Melbourne VIC

*Sponsor: Australian Wheat Board Limited*

Michael is General Manager, International Sales and Marketing for Australian Wheat Board Limited. He is responsible for the marketing of Australian wheat internationally. He is Chairman of the National Durum Steering Committee and a Council member of the London based Grain And Feed Trade Association (GAFTA). He has lived and worked extensively overseas in Europe, Middle East and Asia. Michael has a Bachelor of Science (U.N.E.) and a Graduate Diploma in Agribusiness (Monash).



**Margaret McKinnon**  
Canberra ACT

*Sponsor: Commonwealth Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia*

Margaret is a General Manager in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (AFFA). Margaret has policy responsibility for the Horticulture and Wine Industries, as well as food integrity systems. Margaret manages the New Industries Development program, which aims to accelerate efforts to improve Australia's performance in the development and commercialisation of new agribusiness products, services and technologies. She has a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Management, both from the Australian National University.



**Andrew Monk**  
Beerburum QLD

*Sponsor: Rural Industries R & D Corporation*

*Emerging Industries Scholarship*

Andrew is Chief Executive Officer of Biological Farmers of Australia - Australia's largest organic certifier and representative grouping of interests in biologically oriented agriculture. He and his partner own and direct CoolChain (Australia) Pty Ltd, which is involved in primary production of vegetables, processing and distribution. He has a PhD on sustainable agriculture and the organic industry and is a QSA registered environmental auditor.



**Michael Murray**  
Darlington Point NSW

*Sponsor: Rice R & D Committee*

Michael is a mixed irrigation farmer, growing a range of cereal and legume crops, as well as producing wool. He is a delegate to the Ricegrowers Association of Australia Central Executive and Chairs it's Rural Affairs Committee. Michael is a member of the Lower Murrumbidgee Groundwater Management Committee, and is also a member of the Kondinin Overview Group (Eastern). He has a Bachelor of Arts majoring in English and agriculture.



**Clair O'Brien**  
Mataranka NT

*Sponsor: News Limited*

Clair is a Director of her family's Brahman cattle company that leases 500 sq kms from the Numul Numul Aboriginal Corporation. With her adult children operating the property, Clair invests time in other leadership roles including Landcare and the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association. Clair is Vice President of Australian Women in Agriculture and established the Northern Territory reference group of AWIA in 1999. She was named 1998 Northern Territory Regional Territorian.



**Michael Owen**  
North Star NSW

*Sponsor: Grains R & D Corporation*

Michael is a Director of Owen Enterprises, a dryland grain, irrigation and commercial cattle operation. He runs a Risk Management Advisory Service and an Earthmoving Company. He is a member of The Australian Securities and Investment Commission, a Committee member of Border Rivers Food and Fibre and his local Irrigation Water Association. Michael has a Degree in Agricultural Economics and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and Investment (Treasury stream).



**Peter Read**  
Port Lincoln SA

*Sponsor: National Australia Bank*

Peter is the Senior Agribusiness Manager for the National Australia Bank, based in Port Lincoln, servicing broad acre farming businesses throughout the Eyre Peninsula and fishing industries based in Port Lincoln. Peter is a member of the Eyre Regional Development Board and holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Agriculture.



**Barry Ruddy**  
Victor Harbor SA

*Sponsor: Westpac banking corporation*

Barry is currently the State Manager for Westpac's Regional Banking Division, covering all of Rural and Regional South Australia. He has been in the finance industry for 25 years working in country NSW and South Australia. He is a member of Westpac's National Agribusiness Council. Barry is an accredited rugby coach, and has served on the boards of various rugby clubs. Barry holds a Diploma in Management.



**Lynette Seymour**  
Blackall QLD

*Sponsor: Commonwealth Dept. of Transport and Regional Services*

*Regional Development Scholarship*

Lynette is owner/director of Seymours Department Store and the current Queensland winner and national finalist for Telstra Business Women of the Year - Westpac Business Owners category. She is a Councillor on the Blackall Shire Council and a director on Regional Area Planning and Development Board for Western Queensland. Lynette has a Dip Teach, Bachelor of Education and Graduate Diploma in Educational Administration.



**Jenny Shaw**  
Fremantle WA

*Sponsor: Fisheries R & D Corporation*

Jenny is a Senior Policy Officer in the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program, Department of Fisheries in WA. She is a State Director and on the National Board of the Women's Industry Network Seafood Community. Jenny has worked in marine related areas, in Government and industry in both Australia and overseas. She has a Science Degree in Zoology (Honours), Diploma of Education and is currently studying an MBA in Fisheries Resource Management.



**Jack Speirs**  
Casterton VIC

Sponsor: Meat and Livestock Australia

Jack is a third generation farmer at "Satimer" in Western Victoria producing Friesian Bull beef, stud and commercial fine wool Merino's. Jack, a committee member and past chair of the Sustainable Grazing Systems (SGS) program is currently implementing a mentoring program with SGS. He is a mentor for Agricultural students at Melbourne University. Jack is on the management Committee for the Bestwool 2010 program. He has a Diploma in Farm Management.



**Susi Tegen**  
Furner via Millicent SA

Sponsor: Commonwealth Dept. of Health and Ageing

Rural Health Scholarship  
Susi is the CEO of the Limestone Coast Division of General Practice. An advocate for rural communities, Susi served on the SA Farmers Federation in the areas of community services, sub-committee for rural health and deputy chair of FarmsafeSA. She has served on numerous regional committees and is a mentor to groups and individuals. Susi has a BA (Adel Uni), a Grad Dip Edn. (UNE) and is working towards an MBA.



**Rebekah Titko**  
Perth WA

Sponsor: Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd

Rebekah is the Manager of the Metro Grain Centre of Co-operative Bulk Handling (WA). She is responsible for the development and implementation of change to the financial practices within the operations division. Rebekah has a Bachelor of Economics, owns and operates a small business and is an active member of the Co-operative Bulk Handling Women in Grain Corp and the Australian Grains Institute.



**Heather Tomlinson**  
Canberra ACT

Sponsor: Commonwealth Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia

Heather is a senior policy adviser and program manager with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (AFFA). She has developed and implemented a number of policies and programs relating to natural resource management, structural adjustment and farm welfare, rural community development, and industry and trade matters. Heather has had 2 years experience in a Commonwealth Ministerial Office. She holds a Bachelor of Agriculture Economics (Honours) from UNE.



**Brett Tucker**  
Bundaberg QLD

Sponsor: Dept. of Primary Industries Queensland

Brett is Senior Trade Development Officer with Queensland Department of Primary Industries. He has tertiary qualifications in Marketing, Farm and Rural Systems Management. His core role focuses on providing leadership and team development, building enthusiasm, and commitment towards integration of value chain partnerships. Brett has contributed extensively to marketing group development leading to increased trade capacities of the horticulture, grain, beef and processed food industries.



**Darria Turley**  
Broken Hill NSW

Sponsor: Commonwealth Dept. of Transport and Regional Services

Local Government Scholarship  
Darria is the current Deputy Mayor of Broken Hill. She is employed as the Sexual Health Coordinator for the Far West Area Health Service. She has been involved with various Regional, State and National organisations. Darria is Vice President of the Australian Local Government Women's Association (NSW) and a founding member of Impotence Australia. Darria has a Bachelor of Social Science and a Graduate Diploma in Counselling.



**Robert Watson**  
Derby WA

Sponsor: Commonwealth Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia

Indigenous Leadership Scholarship  
Robert is Managing Director of Mt Anderson Station, a cattle property owned by the Jarimadanga Community. Robert is Vice Chairperson of the Kimberley Aboriginal Pastoralists Association; a member of the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA and is a member for the West Kimberley Fire and Emergency Services. He is a former Chairperson of Wanang Ngari Aboriginal Resource Agency and former Deputy Chair of the ATSI Regional Council.



**Glen Whittaker**  
Warren NSW

Sponsor: NSW Agriculture

Glen is an Irrigation Farmer growing cotton, wheat and faba beans at "Wingfield" in central west New South Wales. He is Chairman of the Macquarie River Food and Fibre and a member of the Macquarie Floodplain Management Committee. He is also very involved in the Macquarie Cotton Growers Association as a grower and consultant. Glen has a Diploma of Applied Science (Agriculture).



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

Course 9 is kindly sponsored by >



**John Quantrill**  
Executive Director



**Rob Patrick**  
Director - Programs and Development



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