

Professionals Preparing for 2040 Agriculture



NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
2015

Agricultural professionals
meeting 2040 food and fibre
challenges – Productivity,
profitability, people, policy

20-21 MAY

Moda Events Portside
39 Hercules Street Hamilton Qld



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The Conference

Professionals Preparing for 2040 Agriculture

A conference with a focus on the agricultural professionals who will be meeting the 2040 food and fibre challenges – productivity, profitability, people, and policy.

Ever considered what it will be like working as an agricultural professional in 25 years time?

We have heard a lot in recent times about the agricultural challenges relating to future production and supply demands. But what does this mean for the people leading, innovating and enabling these advancements?

This conference will address pertinent questions and topics that are essential for preparing professionals not only from an agronomy perspective, but also technology, policy, industry, business, professional development, leadership, and international considerations.

Key Themes

- ✓ What will Australian agriculture look like in the future? What does this mean for professionals working in agriculture?
- ✓ What are the opportunities and challenges for agricultural professionals in positioning for the future?
- ✓ Policy challenges, settings and responsibilities.
- ✓ Showcase rising professionals from across Australia.
- ✓ Technology application.
- ✓ Celebrating, acknowledging, networking and showcasing the best of Australian agricultural professionals - present and future.

Event Highlights

The Queensland Division of the Ag Institute Australia is hosting the two day event.

What's on offer?

- ✓ topical presentations
- ✓ robust discussions
- ✓ professional development
- ✓ networking
- ✓ participation
- ✓ relevance

What will be achieved?

The conference program explores what skills, experience and support professionals may need leading into future opportunities and challenges facing Australian agriculture. Discussion opportunities will inform the role which Ag Institute Australia can take to shape the future of Australian agricultural science.

Who's coming?

The conference will connect over 100 professionals from a broad representation of Australia's agricultural industry.

- ✓ Ag Institute Australia members
- ✓ consultants
- ✓ scientists and researchers
- ✓ agribusiness and natural resource management professionals
- ✓ product and service providers
- ✓ government and industry representatives
- ✓ educators and students

Special Highlights

- ✓ River views and balcony breakout area
- ✓ Evening of fabulous food, networking, guest speakers and awards
- ✓ Ag Institute Australia Business Breakfast
- ✓ Showcase of event and industry supporters
- ✓ Great conference experience

PROGRAM

Wednesday 20 May 2015

10:00 am	Registration	Morning tea
10:30 am	Welcome	Dr Peter Allsopp, Chairman, Qld Division Ag Institute Australia
2040 agriculture		
10:50 am	2040 – a quantum leap from 1990	Mr Ian Davies, General Manager, Agriculture Wilmar Sugar Australia Limited
11:10 am	Finding The Farmers of the Future	Mr Matthew Durack, Director Stahmann Farms Enterprises Pty Ltd
11:30 am	Sustaining the future	Mr Ian McConnel, Global Commodity Lead- Beef, WWF Australia
11:50 am	What can professionals expect in 2040?	Panel Discussion
12:15 pm	Lunch	
Showcasing excellence of future agricultural scientists		
1:00 pm	Research paper presentations by AEV Richardson Memorial National Student Award nominees from Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales Western Australia and Tasmania	
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea	
Technology opportunities and challenges		
3:20 pm	Opportunities and challenges for 2020 and beyond through genetic improvement, in sheep and other domestic species	Dr Robert Banks, Director Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit, UNE
3:40 pm	Irrigated cropping in 2040	Prof Philip Brown, Professor of Horticultural Science, Central Queensland University
4:00 pm	Using the Technology Revolution in Cropping	Dr Don Yule, Soil Scientist And Farming Systems Specialist, CTF Solutions
4:20 pm	Data Enabled Businesses in Agriculture – Improving your Business Understanding with Geography	Mr Doug van Gelder, Manager, Business Development, Esri Australia
4:40 pm	Agriculture advancing technology	Panel Discussion
5:10 pm	Close	
Evening Event		
5:20 pm	Canapés and drinks on balcony	
6:30 pm	AEV Richardson National Student Award	Peracto Sponsor
8:00 pm	Will 2040's agricultural professionals be born or made?	Prof Derek Baker, University of New England

AG INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND DIVISION

Professionals Preparing for 2040 Agriculture | National Conference | 20-21 May 2015

Thursday 21 May 2015

Business Breakfast

7:30 am	Queensland Division Annual Meeting	Dr Peter Allsopp, Chairman, Qld Division Ag Institute Australia
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7:45 am	Breakfast	
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8:15 am	Ag Institute Australia Annual General Meeting and Annual Report	Mr David Hamilton, Chairman Ag Institute Australia
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8:45 am	Registration	
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9:00 am	Welcome	
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Positioning for the future

9:10 am	Agricultural education in the 21st century	Prof Holger Meinke, Head, School of Land & Food and Director, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, University of Tasmania
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9:30 am	A practitioner's perspective	Mr Ken Severson Price Severson Agricultural Advisory Services
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9:50 am	Farming facilitators	Ms Rhonda Toms-Morgan, Climate Change Officer, Queensland Murray-Darling Committee
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10:10 am	Training work ready professionals	Mr Mike Stephens, Director, Meridian Agriculture
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10:30 am	Preparing professionals for 2040	Panel Discussion
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11:00 am	Morning Tea	
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Policy challenges, settings, responsibilities

11:30 pm	Agriculture's responsibility for future directions	Mr Mick Keogh, Executive Director Australian Farm Institute
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11:50 pm	Growing global competitiveness	Mr Selwyn Snell, Chair, Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd
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12:10 pm	Optimising Australia's response to international conditions and opportunities	Ms Joanne Grainger, President, Queensland Farmers Federation
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12:30 pm	The journey ahead	Panel discussion
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1:00 pm	Lunch	
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2:00 pm	Positioning of the Ag Institute Australia into the future - on behalf of all professionals	Mr David Hamilton, Chairman, Ag Institute Australia
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2:20 pm	Sowing the seeds	Group discussions, reported by student leaders
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2:50 pm	Highlights, messages, outcomes, actions	Ms Chaseley Ross, Company Secretary Ag Institute Australia
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3:30 pm	Close	Afternoon tea
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Presenters



Mr Ian Davies
General Manager
[Agriculture Wilmar Sugar
Australia Limited](#)

As General Manager for Agriculture, Mr Davies has accountability for Wilmar Sugar's 7,000 ha of cane farms, is a director on 4 industry-based productivity and extension companies, plus a director of Australia Molasses Trading (an export molasses company) and has been a past director of BSES (now SRA).

Ian is the technical head for the agricultural side of Wilmar's sugarcane development overseas. Ian has frequented places such as Myanmar, Brazil, India and other parts of Asia.

Ian has held senior management positions with Queensland Cotton and Bundaberg Sugar and numerous business management roles during his 10 years with CSR (now Wilmar Sugar).

2040 – A quantum leap from 1990

It is said that 80% of what our children take for granted today was not even thought of when we were their age. The ability to look to the past and project forward is denied to us due to the exponential rate of technology, driven by a thirst for information and the ever-increasing demands from our communities to be doing the right thing by the environment.

Farming in 2040 will definitely be a different beast to that of today and vastly different to that of 1990. With this in mind, I will explore the needs and wants of a corporate farming operation in 2040.



Mr Matthew Durack
Director
[Stahmann Farms Enterprises
Pty Ltd](#)

Mr Durack is the majority shareholder in the Stahmann group which farms over 830 Ha of pecans in Moree NSW and operates a processing facility in Toowoomba Qld handling up to 8,000MT of pecans, macadamias and walnuts annually. In 2013 Green Gold Premium nuts was formed which now handles over 15% of global macadamia supply and a growing portion of the world's pecan crop.

Matthew was pivotal in establishing the Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures and its inaugural CEO in 2004 and active in leadership roles developing Australian agriculture.

Finding the Farmers of the Future

Farming has traditionally been a business heavily dependent on "hands on experience" and well suited to the generational ownership patterns of the family farm. Ownership structures are changing; skills are not being handed down from generation to generation as they once were. In addition, the rate of technological and market change occurring is putting real pressure on our traditional knowledge base. What does the next generation of farmers look like, where will they come from and how will they learn the skills required? Environmental and population pressures will place our industry "Centre Stage" over the next 25 years.

I can't imagine a more exciting time to be up there – but who will be there with me and how do we best encourage and support the right people to take up the challenge. I will explore these themes in the context of our own business and importantly the community we operate within.



Mr Ian McConnel
Global Commodity Lead- Beef
[WWF](#)

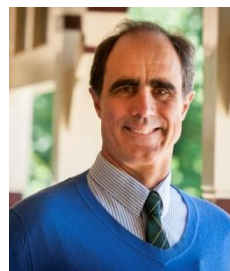
Mr McConnel joined WWF-Australia in 2012 as a project coordinator in Sustainable Beef and in 2013 became the global commodity lead, leading the networks support for increasing the sustainability of beef production. Ian is passionate about driving adoption of profitable, sustainable land management practices and communicating environmental credentials to the wider community.

Ian is a past Australian Rural Ambassador and Beef Industry Rising Champion and actively involved in supporting the youth movements of the Agricultural Show Movement. Ian worked in Scotland with Roxan ID, developing electronic ear tags and readers for stock. He also worked for the Department of Primary Industries in Longreach.

Sustaining the future

Agriculture in 2040 will be facing challenges and realising opportunities that past and current industries are yet to come to grips with. The world population will be growing at an unprecedented rate; putting real pressure on the capacity of our natural systems to provide food, fibre and energy while maintaining the health of our planet. Society too, will be placing pressure on agriculture to ensure that it is addressing these issues and the values that it aspires to. All this, while the costs of Agricultural production will inevitably be continuing to rise, the average age of farmers still increasing and consumers becoming increasingly distanced from production.

Addressing these issues cannot happen in isolation, each is inextricably linked and must be dealt with together to achieve a strong, profitable and sustainable agricultural sector. How does Agriculture improve its practice, its perception and its value all at once? Collaboration.



Dr Robert Banks
Director, Animal Genetics and
Breeding Unit
[University of New England](#)

Dr Banks is the Director of the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU), based in Armidale. AGBU is a joint venture of the University of New England (UNE) and NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), and conduct R&D underpinning the BREEDPLAN, Sheep Genetics, PIGBLUP and TREEPLAN genetic evaluation systems.

Opportunities and challenges for 2020 and beyond through genetic improvement, in sheep and other domestic species

Genetic improvement of farmed animals (and plants) has long been accepted as important, but it is only in recent decades that scientific understanding has been translated into effective programs at the farm or industry level. This is due to advances in methods of analysing data, and to advances in computing power. When the technology is harnessed effectively, the results can be dramatic, as is illustrated in the transformation of the Australian lamb industry since 1990.

This transformation contains lessons for other industries, and at the same time has established a basis for acceleration in the rate of innovation across the industry. This is now being reflected in use of genetic means to simultaneously improve production efficiency, product quality, animal well-being and reduction of risk, and is in turn generating the ability to utilise the next generation of technologies – those focussed around DNA.

The livestock industries are rapidly becoming more open to, and dependent on, creativity and imagination in breeding, in value chain relationships and development, and in product design and marketing – making agricultural science and its application a highly stimulating and rewarding field for the current and future generations of producers and researchers.



Prof Philip Brown
Professor of Horticultural
Science
Director of the Institute for
Future Farming Systems
[Central Queensland University](#)

Prof Brown is a horticultural scientist with research interests in crop agronomy and physiology as well as a passion for teaching undergraduate students and training research postgraduates in horticultural science.

Phil is currently Director of the newly formed Institute for Future Farming Systems at CQ University, and has previously been Head of the School of Agricultural Science at the University of Tasmania. Phil's current research activities focus on improving productivity and profitability in the horticultural industries through adoption of precision agriculture approaches and technologies.

Irrigated cropping in 2040

Australia's horticultural industries are rapidly evolving. Intensification, and particularly the requirement for high 'knowledge' input as well as high capital, resource and labour inputs, has delivered more highly controlled production systems focussed on saleable not total yield of products. Increased product volume flowing through a smaller number of value chains, and increased complexity in the business and contractual arrangements linking growers into global value chains is common.

One of the greatest challenges to industry is the speed of change – new technologies, markets, and products are emerging more rapidly than in the past, and accessibility to new knowledge and information is now so easy that 'filtering/interpreting' information is much more important than finding information. This challenge has many facets, from the re-engineering of extension services to be effective in an accessible information age to the strategies that a producer should use to ensure any change is consistent with increasing chain competitiveness.



Dr Don Yule
CEO
[Controlled Traffic Farming \(CTF\)
Solutions](#)

Dr Yule is a soil scientist and farming systems specialist. CTF Solutions specialises in controlled traffic farming, no-till and precision agriculture adoption. The team consults to farmers, grower and catchment groups, and conducts R&D and adoption projects.

Using the Technology Revolution in Cropping

Electronic, digital and spatial technologies will revolutionise cropping systems by 2040. Technology development follows Moore's Law – they improve exponentially by 2 times per year, getting better, smaller, quicker, cheaper. By 2040 they will be 34 million times better! Ridiculous? Our challenge? Our guidance? We need to speculate the unbelievable.

What will this do for agriculture? There are still farms and farmers, and similar crops. Maybe nutrition is provided by pills from factories and food is a delicacy. If the price of food follows Moore's Law, farmers become the wealthiest sector in the community and Ag professionals the highest paid.

What will change? Machinery is automated, highly efficient and effective; all operations are on controlled traffic, with GNSS guidance and remote management; operations and crops are spatially managed and remotely monitored; telecommunications distribute BigData in real time for analysis, interpretation and management responses; R&D programs are on farm and managed within farm operations.

Cropping is managed within a holistic systems culture by teams of Ag professionals and farmers that identify problems and direct discipline silos to provide solutions. Systems teams apply technology developments to farming systems. Ag professionals will need new and different skills, including educational, psychological and social skills. People management in teams is the key.



Mr Douglas van Gelder
Business Solutions Manager
[Esri Australia](#)

As the head of Esri Australia's Queensland division, Mr van Gelder is passionate about helping clients leverage greater business value from their data by utilising GIS technology.

Doug has worked in a number of roles across the ICT industry. He first used GIS technology as a navigator and warfare officer in the Royal Australian Navy and has maintained his passion for the use of the technology to improve decision making and planning ever since. Doug honed his expertise in the use of GIS in agriculture to improve land management, and integrating GIS into agribusiness to enable a clearer appreciation of business facilities and assets for management, and operational and strategic planning.

Data Enabled Businesses in Agriculture – Improving your Business Understanding with Geography

One of the biggest issues facing farmers, farm manager, agricultural companies and businesses supplying the industry is the access and management of data that is considered 'non core'. It is important that data on sheds, equipment, fences, pumps, etc. can be collected with ease, and then be made available to stakeholders in the finance, insurance, agronomy and government sector.

This data is vital in ensuring the future success of agricultural businesses and should be gathered, retained and shared efficiently. Doug van Gelder will discuss these issues and explain how you use the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to improve your data collection, collation, analysis, storage and sharing with suppliers and service providers efficiently – to reduce costs and improve a farm's bottom line.



Prof Derek Baker
Professor of Agribusiness and
Value Chains
[University of New England](#)

Prof Baker's work primarily deals with competitiveness issues throughout the food, fibre and agricultural industries. He has worked extensively with value addition and innovation issues, and with value chain access and performance.

Derek has worked in over 40 countries, this includes roles such as leading the Economics Programme at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi, Kenya; managing the Danish Food Industry Innovation project in Copenhagen, Denmark; and food and agricultural economics consultant across Africa, Asia and Europe. Derek started out as a farmer and agribusiness consultant in New Zealand during the pro-market reforms of the mid-late 1980s.

Will 2040's agricultural professionals be born or made?

The managers of the future's agriculture will be different from those of today. Stakeholders and partners will be different, act differently, and be paid for differently. Managers will report to stakeholders in ways and on subjects that we are yet to grasp. This will affect the ways we define and measure management and industry performance, and so call for new types of agricultural professional. Will they be thrust upon the world by others, or will we ask today's professionals create and guide them? This speaker believes the latter, and his remarks offer one view on the nature of the task.



Professor Holger Meinke
Head of the School of Land and
Food & Director of the Tasmanian
Institute of Agriculture
[University of Tasmania](http://www.utas.edu.au)

Prof Meinke's disciplinary background is in crop physiology, agricultural systems analysis, systems modelling and applied climate research. Holger was an internationally renowned cropping systems and climate scientist with the Queensland Government and pioneered operational climate risk management for agriculture in Australia and internationally. He is a member of two editorial boards (European Journal of Agronomy and Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability) and published over 100 papers in disciplinary and transdisciplinary journals. He currently supervises 4 PhD candidates.

Agricultural education in the 21st century

Agricultural education must overcome an ingrained image problem that has plagued the sector for several decades: the misconception that to study agriculture means to study farming. This misconception fails to recognise that agriculture is a fundamental pillar of most economies. The bumper sticker 'Agriculture – without us you are dead' says it all. It is no accident that the issue of food security has begun to dominate some political agendas. In their recent report 'Building the Lucky Country', Deloitte labelled 'Agribusiness' as 'Australia's forgotten hero', a sector ideally placed to capitalise on a world-wide leap in demand for higher-value food products.

In terms of tertiary education we need to accept that agriculture is not a discipline with neatly defined boundaries. It cannot be taught the way we teach mathematics, chemistry or computing. To study agriculture means to study all of the natural sciences plus a lot more, such as engineering, economics, business or law. This is increasingly recognised and reflected in the design of modern agricultural curricula. Agriculture has become a knowledge-intensive sector of highest societal relevance.



Mr Ken Severson
[Price Severson Agricultural
Advisory Services](http://www.price-severson.com.au)

Mr Severson is known throughout the industry as one of Australia's leading agricultural consultants. He has consulted on all aspects of farm business management with a diverse multi sector and geographically spread client base.

Consulting to the Scintillating 500

The Agricultural Consultants have provided quality advice over a 50 year period. Today there are between 90 and 100 practising Agricultural Consultants in W.A. The fraternity is dominated by three major companies. Previously the sole practitioner was the dominant business structure but these firms are now in the minority (<10%).

As consulting companies have grown they have also diversified and specialised. The three biggest consulting companies in W.A. all now employ management, agronomic and grain marketing specialists.

A recent trend is the development of research and technology as part of the agricultural consulting practice. This trend will increase and expand over the next decade (2025).

Today I estimate that there are about 3000 key farmers in W.A. as we move forward to 2040, my current forecast is that only 500 key farmers will produce 80% of the output (the Scintillating 500).

Farming operations will increase in size over the next 25 years and their key managers will be time poor and information thirsty.

The provision of generalist information will play a smaller role in the future. More specific, focussed and directed information provided by consultants with knowledge of the farm business and in a working relationship with the manager will be the norm. A collective of 150 agricultural consultants will service that need.



Ms Rhonda Toms-Morgan
Climate Change Officer
[Queensland Murray-Darling
Committee](#)

Ms Toms-Morgan is responsible for the development and implementation of climate change, energy and carbon projects across the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin region as part of the Natural Resource Management plan to manage greenhouse emissions and climate change risks. Extension to landholders regarding carbon markets has been a key component of her role. Rhonda has been instrumental in programs supporting the region to reduce emissions, consider options for adaptation, and retain resilience of our natural resources and communities.

Farming facilitators

The kaleidoscope of options to carve out a life working in agriculture is vast and today is often truly as local or as global as your ambitions and education facilitate. However, the colours of an agricultural career are changing and other than needing to be 'green', the spectrum people perceive of lifestyle and a living associated with the sector has far more colours that need to shine more brightly to enable the picture of prosperity to be painted.

The need for all hands on deck to meet the challenges ahead for feeding our growing global population will require fundamental value shifts in organisational behaviour, policy and practice. Some of these shifts are for the individual. Others require cultural norms and paradigms to transform at business, organisational and government levels to actually be able to deliver on promises of investing in a vibrant and prosperous agricultural sector.



Mr Mike Stephens
Director
[Meridian Agriculture](#)

Mr Stephens is a consulting partner with Meridian Agriculture. He is a Director of NIPE (Indigenous Pastoral Enterprise), and Director of Country Education Program (Vic). Mike is the immediate Past President of Ag Institute of Australia.

Mike has a farm management recruiting and project management background. He provides advice to individual clients, specialising in strategic and succession planning.

Training work ready professionals

Amid all the discussion about the future of Australian Agriculture and the opportunities which await it there is a re-occurring question.

Can agriculture attract, train, mentor, develop and retain individuals with the skills, knowledge, attitudes and attributes who will keep abreast of current knowledge and ensure that Australia has a strong and vibrant agricultural sector?

While some studies have shown a chronic shortage in many sectors of agriculture recent studies by The Australian Farm Institute and Meridian Agriculture for Research and Development Corporations, including MLA and GRDC indicate that, although there are some shortages of skilled people, across the board the industry is heading towards equilibrium.

Recent university enrolments should ensure an adequate supply of graduates. The immediate challenge is to ensure that with the reduction in recruiting by traditional 'First Job' employers (agricultural and veterinary, chemical and fertilizer companies, CSIRO and state departments) other opportunities are developed.

The paper will explore those opportunities.



Mick Keogh
Executive Director
[Australian Farm Institute](#)

Mr Keogh was appointed as Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute in 2003. Since that time, Mick has been involved in research in a wide range of issues impacting on the agriculture sector, both in Australia and internationally, and has authored a large number of papers and reports on these subjects.

In 2011, Mick was appointed Chairperson of the Australian Government's Panel which reviewed drought support measures, the outcome of which was a fundamental change in Australian drought policy. In 2012, Mick was appointed Chairman of the Australian Government's National Rural Advisory Council, a statutory Council which provides advice to the Australian Government Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.



Mr Selwyn Snell
Chair
[Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd](#)

Mr Snell has extensive experience as a senior executive with leading agribusiness and biotechnology enterprises in Australia and internationally. Mr Snell is currently, Chairman of the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations, the Queensland Government's Horticultural Development Committee and Barawyn Pty Ltd. He is a non-executive Director of Plant Health Australia Limited and member of the APVMA advisory board.



Ms Joanne Grainger
President
[Queensland Farmers Federation](#)

Ms Grainger is the President of the Queensland Farmers Federation and has been a Director of the Federation since 2006. She is the past chair of Cotton Australia and was involved at the board level of that organisation for eight years. She was a director of the National Farmers Federation 2010-12. Joanne is keenly interested in education and career development in the primary industries sector and is a Director of the Primary Industries Education Foundation.

Optimising Australia's response to international conditions and opportunities

Australian agriculture has been a sector of the economy that has consistently performed for the economy despite a decreasing number of farmers and a range of external challenges and setbacks. It now has a growing opportunity to be a source of quality food and fibre globally but in particular to the growing demand from Asia. There is a growing sense of urgency for change in order to capitalise on this situation, change that can only come about by adopting a long term vision for agriculture, developing a plan for that change, and effectively executing that plan. This requires leadership from both government and industry and alignment of a sense of purpose. Our globally competitive agricultural sector will capitalise on any international stimulus presented by higher commodity prices, however, a continuation of the status quo will not optimise Australia's response to international conditions nor enhance its domestic market place. An integrated approach to robust reform and the ability to communicate and convince the Australian public of the need for such reform is required.



Mr David Hamilton
Chairman
[Ag Institute Australia](#)

Mr Hamilton is a consultant and farmer and was previously General Manager, Plant Science, with Queensland Department of Employment Economic Development and Innovation, (Department of Primary Industries). David worked for DPI for over 37 years, initially as an Extension Agronomist and ultimately as an RD&E manager.

He has held positions of Board Member, Cotton Catchments Communities Cooperative Research Centre, and other CRCs, and Chairman, Basin Sustainability Alliance, a group representing agriculture and business interests aiming to ensure the sustainability of soil and water resources in the face of mining and coal seam gas extraction.

His consultancy interests span business planning, strategy development for research and innovation, project management, and development and utilisation of new science and technology in agriculture. He also grows grains and cotton on the Darling Downs.

Ag Institute Australia - Annual Report Extract

I would like to acknowledge and thank the AIA Board. We have had a constructive and successful year and I thank them all for their energy and input. As volunteers, they have made a very worthwhile contribution to our profession.

2014-2015 has seen us consolidate our administrative arrangements with The Association Specialists in Sydney. This is a cost effective option for an organisation of around 1000 members with 500 paying their full contribution.

Cussons Media has made a very worthwhile contribution with the Weekly Alert and promotion of our events etc.

Peter Finlayson has continued to do an outstanding job as editor of our Journal. Peter has signalled his intention to retire later this year and Shaun Coffey has agreed to become our new editor. Leanne Isaacson led a very successful webinar on Growing Business on Line and we have a series on Multi Peril Crop Insurance scheduled for this month.

Our Advocacy and Policy work has been supported by a new Special Interest Group, with members from each Division. We have made submissions to the Senate Enquiry on R&D Levy Contributions, to the Government Green Paper on Agricultural Competitiveness and our Institute has been represented at the Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia and the NFF Congress. In addition, we have given evidence to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee on R&D levies.

We have made good progress on Professional Accreditation. We have consulted like-minded organisations, R&D Corporations and the Council of Deans of Agriculture. Our new scheme, Chartered Agricultural Professional will have a register, will be open to other like-minded organisations (with certain conditions) and will supersede CPAg and AgCredited. Individuals will be required to meet set standards for their professional area and will also be required to maintain their professional skills with professional development activities assessed each year.

In each state we have active State Divisions who are our direct link to our members and who organise local events. Local Divisions also take a lead on State AIA policy issues (consistent with our national policies) and provide direct linkages to local universities and other professional activities. Thanks to the Chairs and committee members for their highly valuable input.

MORE INFORMATION

Dinner Event

The dinner event on Wednesday night will be a casual evening of socialising and networking. The event will commence at the close of proceedings at 5pm with canapés and drinks on the balcony overlooking Brisbane River.

The dinner includes a 2 course meal and we ask you to purchase your own drinks at the conclusion of the pre-dinner drinks at 6pm.

The evening will feature a guest presentation and address from the event major sponsor.

Special awards will be presented including:

- AEV Richardson National Student Award sponsored by Peracto
- Fellowships
- Medal of Agriculture for 2015



Business Breakfast

The Business Breakfast featuring on Thursday morning is an opportunity to hear more about the Ag Institute Australia.

Chairman Mr David Hamilton will present the annual report of the Institute, outlining key achievements, outcomes, challenges and activities. The annual general meeting will be held at this time.

The Venue

The Queensland Division is pleased to welcome guests to beautiful Brisbane City. The [Moda Events Portside](#) venue has easy access to the airport and inner city with good accommodation options close by.



Find Moda Events and transport options [here](#).

Read about the venue and see accommodation options [here](#).

Enquiries

Event Coordinator

Liz Todd 0457 831 512

liz@liztodd.com.au

Ag Institute Australia

PO Box 576, Crows Nest NSW 1585

Phone 02 9431 8657 | Fax 0 2 9431 8677

admin@aginstitute.com.au

