



Future Grain Leaders Line Up

UNTIL RECENTLY, THE \$10 billion Australian grains industry had no proactive way of identifying and nurturing the individuals who would go on to meet the industry's future challenges.

In response to this, GGA launched the Australian Future Grain Leaders Program to find these future leaders and equip them with the skills and knowledge to take the grains industry forward.

With the inaugural intake for the program recently completed, 15 potential future leaders from across Australia and from all areas of the supply chain, met in Albury in October to review their involvement in the program (see following pages).

The three day workshop in Albury allowed program participants to explore their leadership potential as well as develop their communications skills. The cornerstone of this program is that it supports leadership in action, with participants setting their own integrated industry leadership project to work towards.

During the upcoming months of activity, the future grain leaders will visit with industry leaders, tour successful businesses, meet leading entrepreneurs and hear the latest in research.

Mel Taylor, General Manager of the National Grower Register based in Queensland is part of the program's inaugural intake. She says the program appealed to her because as she was relatively new to the grains industry it gave her the opportunity to develop both her personal skills and industry know-how.

In her individual project Mel will scope and develop an industry-wide traceability tool to meet emerging needs for Quality Assurance of grain.

"I have a tremendously challenging project ahead of me which requires solid leadership skills to bring together industry participation.

"At the end of the program I'm hoping to have full scope of the project complete with an implementation plan that I can use for ongoing industry discussions and to gain strategic buy-in," Ms Taylor said.

Grain grower Daniel Cooper from Pullabooka, NSW has been actively involved in GGA's young grower network and

saw the Australian Future Grain Leaders Program as the next stepping stone to further his grains industry involvement.

"I was encouraged to apply for the program to improve my own leadership skills and hopefully be able to have a positive influence on the grains industry moving forward," Mr Cooper said.

Daniel's integrated leadership project will address grain market opportunities for bags and containerised grain into Asia.

"When the program is complete I'll be in a better position to bring positive dialogue and improved leadership skills to the grains debate.

"It's important that the Australian grains industry now streamline and consolidate the way it approaches representing growers. We need grower representatives with appropriate skills and knowledge, and this is what the Australian Future Grain Leaders Program is helping to make sure happens" Mr Cooper said.

Other program participants are looking at projects such as promoting the grains industry as a career choice, developing a communication strategy for researchers in the Australian pulse industry, improving communications between growers and traders and encouraging young growers to become more involved in the grains industry.

The Program is being designed and delivered by Jo Eady at RuralScope Pty Ltd with project management from Heidi Cheney, Senior Membership Liaison Officer at GGA.

The 2008 intake of the Australian Future Grain Leaders Program will conclude their work in July 2009.



Australia's future grain leaders gathered in Albury.



Australian Future Grain Leaders Program



James Caracoussis
Sector: Agribusiness
Locality: Adelaide, SA
Email: James.cara@bigpond.com
Project Focus: *Industry Partnership Kit*
Develop an Introduction to Grains Industry Kit for agribusiness personnel.



Daniel Cooper
Sector: Production
Locality: Pullabooka, NSW
Email: dcooper600@hotmail.com
Project Focus: *Asia Bound*
Investigate bag and container trade opportunities into Asia.



James Hamilton
Sector: Production
Locality: Narromine, NSW
Email: jrhamilton@bigpond.com
Project Focus: *Aglink*
Develop a business plan for farm investment brokerage service.



Tom Saint
Sector: Production
Locality: Maitland, SA
Email: tom.saint@bigpond.com
Project Focus: *Seek Sponsorship*
Develop a sponsorship strategy for Grains Council of South Australia.



Josh Taylor
Sector: Agribusiness
Locality: Vale Park, SA
Email: Josh.taylor@etgrain.com.au
Project Focus: *National Supply Chain*
Establish national supply chain efficiencies within the de-regulated grains industry.



Mel Taylor
Sector: Agribusiness
Locality: Toowoomba, QLD
Email: mel@ngr.com.au
Project Focus: *Grain Trace*
Develop an industry wide traceability tool for improving the quality and saleability of Australian grain.



Alistair Murdoch
Sector: Agribusiness
Locality: Swan Hill, VIC 3583
Email: alistair.murdoch@agrivision.net.au
Project Focus: *Careers in AG*
Investigate ways of profiling and promoting the grains industry as an exciting career choice for school and university students.



James Nalder
Sector: Production
Locality: Coonamble, NSW
Email: Farmerjim01@hotmail.com
Project Focus: *Coonamble Farming Co-op*
Lead the implementation of the Coonamble Farming Co-operative to realise benefits for all stakeholders.



Georgina Whiting
Sector: Trader
Locality: Naracoorte, SA
Email: georgina.whiting@cbh.com.au
Project Focus: *Grower Engagement*
Develop an innovative model to increase grower engagement and enhance the interface between traders and growers.



Arthur Gearon

Sector: Production

Locality: Chinchilla, QLD

Email: agearon@bigpond.com

Project Focus: *Aglead*

Investigate leadership groups and roles in the Australian grains industry and establish a pathway for involvement and / or active participation.



Helen Richardson

Sector: Research

Locality: Horsham, VIC

Email: helen.richardson@dpi.vic.gov.au

Project Focus: *Pulse-Net*

Develop a communication strategy for researchers in the Australian pulse industry to share findings, results and outcomes for the benefit of industry.



Katrina Swift

Sector: Agribusiness

Locality: Parkes, NSW

Email: Katrina.M.Swift@nab.com.au

Project Focus: *Grain Buzz*

Investigate a national initiative which encourages younger growers / professionals to become more involved in the Australian grains industry.



Mark Swift

Sector: Production

Locality: Parkes, NSW

Email: swiftyandtreen@bigpond.com

Project Focus: *Influencing People*

Develop leadership influence through active participation in grains industry forums, committees and groups whilst encouraging new entrants to be more proactive.



Royce Taylor

Sector: Production

Locality: Lake Grace, WA

Email: annaroyce@esat.net.au

Project Focus: *Closing the Generation Gap*

Work with existing state grain leaders to identify and implement strategy/ies to encourage involvement of the next generation into the industry.



Lauren West

Sector: Trader

Locality: Lake Grace, WA

Email: Lauren.west@cbh.com.au

Project Focus: *Grower Group WA*

Facilitate the establishment of a regional grower group to lead key research into new technologies, improve sustainable agricultural practices, deal with climate change and facilitate extension projects.

NGR Seeks Grower Input

FOR SIX YEARS the National Grower Register (NGR) has been reducing paperwork for growers by centralising information on share-farming arrangements, contact details, tax, deductions and payment instructions.

The need for quality information is increasing and NGR has been asked to investigate streamlining other areas of duplicated information. NGR wants to hear your ideas, concerns and opinions on how this burden can best be minimised.

Growers are invited to comment on:

- Quality Assurance Programs
- Spray Diary methods
- Surveys and other industry requests for information

If you wish to participate and help shape the future of information delivery in our industry please contact NGR General Manager Mel Taylor on 1800 556 630 or email mel@ngr.com.au