

The 12th Annual



Ag Excellence Alliance Forum & Awards

April 6 – 7, 2017
The Grand Chancellor On Hindley



Linking grower networks

www.agex.org.au

Welcome

Ag Excellence Alliance came into existence to support SA's broadacre agricultural communities by leading innovation and practice change through grower groups. This purpose is just as important, if not more important, today as when we first started this journey.

After extensive consultation with the State's grower groups our 2017 – 2022 Strategic Plan has been launched and released with a focus on the following four main goals.

Goal 1 is to empower, support and up skill Ag Ex members and industry networks

- Provide a central communication and events platform
- Identify and facilitate delivery of industry training needs
- Expand the influence of Ag Ex.

Goal 2 is to facilitate collaborative technical, business, environmental and social project development

- Facilitate forums that link groups and industry networks
- Pursue collaborative project development and delivery.

Goal 3 is to advocate for recognition of the role played by groups and industry networks

- Better understanding of the diversity of groups, networks and their needs
- Develop value propositions to take to potential funders
- Advocate for the role played by grower groups to industry and government
- Match market opportunities to new and innovative funding models.

Goal 4 is to advocate and support the delivery of extension, adoption and practice change

- Work with key networks to build on previous successes
- Provide leadership in extension and adoption practices.

The Ag Ex Committee has taken a fresh approach in developing the 2017 program with the 'speed networking' session; the new direction of the 'PIRSA Grower Group Award' and the introduction of the 'Ag Excellence Perpetual Award' to recognise those within our communities for their outstanding service. I trust you will enjoy the program and the opportunity to network with your fellow industry partners.

I welcome all of you to our forum and hope you make it the best one yet!

Trent Potter, Chairperson



2017 Ag Excellence Annual Forum & Awards – 'Linking grower groups'

SPEAKERS



Kate Burr
Comedian

Comedian and MC Kate Burr is the “Physically Stuffed Mum” in the comedy musical show “Three Stuffed Mums” and is the creator of “Recharge” Comedy Shows. After horrifying her family and friends in 2007 when she gave up her day job to do full time comedy, the last 10 years have seen Kate has touring around Australia including the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Adelaide Fringe and even Roxby Downs! She has performed at International Business Conferences, the GO Festival in Melbourne and now regularly MC’s the Wallis Cinema’s Girl’s Night Out. Kate also shares her knowledge with others, running Humour Coaching for Speakers and will be revealing all the “trade secrets” on how to use humour to engage and influence in her soon to be released book “Stand Up from the Crowd”. “Full Marks” The Advertiser

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Alex Gartmann
Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Rural Bank

Alexandra joined Rural Bank as Chief Executive Officer in October 2015, having been a member of the Board since November 2014. Before joining Rural Bank, Alexandra was CEO of the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), a charitable foundation based on a partnership between philanthropy, community, government and business supporting the economic prosperity of rural, regional and remote communities across Australia. Prior to this, Ms Gartmann held the position of CEO of the Birchip Cropping Group for 10 years – a not-for-profit agricultural research organization based in the Mallee Wimmera region. Alexandra was previously a member of the Board of the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria. She is Chair of the CSIRO Agriculture Advisory Council, a member of the Prime Minister’s Community Business Partnership and a member of the Victorian Agriculture Advisory Council. She has been a member of the Crawford Fund, National Rural Advisory Council and RIRDC National Rural issues Consultative Group.

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Anna Fischer
Managing Director, Zonte’s Footstep

Anna Fisher, mother of two daughters, entrepreneur and lover of life. Anna is the Managing Director of Zonte’s Footstep Pty Ltd – a McLaren Vale based wine company that is proudly innovative, fun and testing the boundaries of the conventional. Anna is a CPA GAICD FGLF (see if you can guess what those all mean) with a Masters in Business and a Degree in Ecotourism, she believes in life long learning.

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Jeanette Long
Managing Director, Ag Consulting Co

Jeanette is a facilitator, trainer and coach who is passionate about developing people skills in agriculture. Jeanette delivers a range of training programs, facilitates meetings and workshops and assists farm families with succession and business planning. Jeanette's qualifications include a Master in Business Administration – Agribusiness, Bachelor of Applied Science in Agriculture and a Graduate Diploma in Education. She has also completed formal training in coaching and speakership. She is the President of APEN and a member of the Ag Excellence Alliance.

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Cam Nicholson
Partner, Nicon Rural Services

Cam is a partner in Nicon Rural Services, a consulting business near Geelong working with the grazing and cropping industries and in natural resource management. Cam has been involved in many farmer programs for the GRDC, MLA and in Landcare. He provides consultancy advice to farmers and lectures on animal and pasture systems at Marcus Oldham College. He and his wife Fiona run a 420 ha beef and sheep farm on the Bellarine Peninsula turning off cattle for the long-fed Japanese market, lambs and wool.

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Trent Potter
Chairman, Ag Excellence Alliance
Director, Yeruga Crop Research

Trent Potter established Yeruga Crop Research Pty Ltd in October 2012 after being a Senior Research Officer for SARDI since 1971. Trent was President of the Australian Oilseeds Federation for four years until October 2012, and is now vice president. Trent has been chairman of Ag Ex Alliance for the past four years and is a current board member of Mackillop Farm Management Group.

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Chris Reichstein
2014 Nuffield Scholarship Winner

Chris farms on the south coast of Western Australia in the Esperance region. His farm is in the 415 – 450 mm rainfall zone and comprises of a range of soil types from sands through to clay loams. The 440 ha operation is 100% cropping being a mix of wheat, barley, canola and pulses. Chris uses integrated weed management, controlled traffic farming and no-till strategies that he believes are important to maximize water use efficiency. Chris was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship in 2014 to look at agricultural extension, an interest that founded in his long involvement in industry good.

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Mark Stanley
Executive Officer, Ag Excellence Alliance
Director, Regional Connections

Mark comes from a mixed farming background and has had extensive experience in field crop development and extension and more recently in natural resource management in the State and Commonwealth governments and with industry. He currently operates his own project management business Regional Connections, on the Eyre Peninsula. Mark is contracted to lead a large carbon farming Outreach and Extension project with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, and provides executive leadership to the Ag Excellence Alliance, supporting farming groups across South Australia. He is on the GRDC Southern Panel, the board of the Eyre Peninsula Agricultural Research Foundation and is a committee member of the Lower Eyre Agricultural Development Association.

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Judy Wilkinson
Board Member, Hart Field Site Group

Judy has been an active member of the Hart Board for 4 years. She brings a range of skills and experience to the board including business, communication and succession planning. As a partner in a farming business in the Mid North of SA and having worked with the Hart Field Site Group over 15 years ago, she recognises the importance of farming system groups in an ever-changing market, climate variability and extension environment.

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Leet Wilksch
Director & Agronomist, AGBYTE

Leet Wilksch is a researcher and Ag Technologist with a focus on integrating new data technology into farming businesses. After spending 14 years at Landmark as a research agronomist managing multiple trial sites, he started his business AGBYTE. Leet still conducts replicated plot trial work for various organisations as well as providing soil moisture, crop and weather sensors and services to clients in the broadacre ag, viticulture and horticultural field. He is also executive officer of the NSS farming systems group and on the Ag Ex committee.

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Day One - Thursday, April 6

2.00 pm to 3.00 pm		Registration and Reception
3.00 pm to 3.15 pm		Welcome Address: Including Self-Introductions Trent Potter, Chairman, Ag Excellence
3.15 pm to 4.00 pm		Presentation: <i>'How Farmers Learn'</i> Chris Reichstein, Nuffield Scholar
4.00 pm to 5.00 pm		Facilitated Session: <i>'Grower Group Survey Results & Strategic Plan Summary' AND 'Chair's Forum Outcomes'</i> Mark Stanley, Ag Excellence & Jeanette Long, Ag Consulting Co
5.00 pm to 5.20 pm		Presentation: <i>'2016 Award Winner'</i> Judy Wilkinson, Hart Field Site Group
5.20 pm		Session Closed

Awards Dinner – Thursday, April 6

6.00 pm to 7.15 pm		AGBYTE Evening Reception: Canapés & Drinks
7.15 pm to 7.30 pm		Guests take seats
7.30 pm to 7.35 pm		Welcome Address Leet Wilksch, Sponsor, AGBYTE / Ag Excellence Committee
7.35 pm to 7.50 pm		Presentation: PIRSA <i>Grower Group Award</i> PIRSA Representative
7.50 pm to 8.00 pm		Presentation: <i>Perpetual Ag Excellence Award – for Outstanding Service to the Agricultural Industry</i> Trent Potter, Chairman, Ag Excellence
8.00 pm to 8.40 pm		Dinner Served
8.40 pm to 9.00 pm		Performance: Comedy Act Kate Burr Dessert Served
9.15 pm to 9.20 pm		Closing Address Trent Potter, Ag Excellence Chairman

Day Two – Friday, April 7

8.30 am to 8.35 am		Welcome Address Trent Potter, Chairman, Ag Excellence
8.35 am to 9.00 am		Presentation: <i>'My Leadership Journey'</i> Anna Fischer, Zonte's Footsteps
9.25 am to 10.25 am		Facilitated Session: <i>'Speed Networking'</i> Jeanette Long, Ag Consulting Co 1. <i>'Future funding systems post GRDC funding'</i> Naomi Scholz, SARDI 2. <i>'Podcasts'</i> Leighton Pearce, SANTFA 3. <i>'Pasture Grazing'</i> Brett Nietschke, BIGG 4. <i>'Ideas for new farming system research to build the profitability and sustainability of farming in the region'</i> Leet Wilksch, NSS
10.25 am to 10.55 am		Break
10.55 am to 11.55 am		Facilitated Session: <i>'Speed Networking'</i> Jeanette Long, Ag Consulting Co 5. <i>'Are rainfall based collaboration groups a formal network we require to ensure that FS groups can operate effectively and efficiently under current and future funding models?'</i> Ruth Sommerville, UNFS 6. <i>'Women in Ag'</i> Kim Blenkiron, PinG Feedback Jeanette Long, Ag Consulting Co & Group Facilitators
12.00 pm to 12.15 pm		Ag Excellence Annual General Meeting
12.15 pm to 1.15 pm		Lunch Break
1.15 pm to 2.15 pm		Presentation: <i>'Managing Risk – based on Grain & Graze 3'</i> Cam Nicholson, Nikon Rural
2.15 pm to 2.55 pm		Presentation: <i>'Funding into the future'</i> Alex Gartmann, Rural Bank
3.00 pm		Closing Address & Evaluation Trent Potter, Chairman, Ag Excellence

Ag Excellence Alliance

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