

GROWER GROUP  
NETWORKS  
SUPPORTED BY



EPARF  
Eyre Peninsula  
Agricultural Research Foundation Inc.



4-5 APRIL, 2019  
STAMFORD GRAND, GLENELG SOUTH AUSTRALIA

# AG EXCELLENCE FORUM & AWARDS

PIRSA 'GROWER GROUP' AWARD &  
AG EXCELLENCE 'PERPETUAL AWARD'  
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE



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# WELCOME

**A warm welcome to the 14th Annual Forum & Awards. An opportunity to gather with industry partners in the united quest for knowledge, sharing of ideas and most importantly to add value.**

Ag Ex plays an integral role in providing leadership and encouragement to South Australian Grower Groups to engage and partner with each other as an influential network. The collective strength of groups is paramount in ensuring the sustainability of farm businesses and ultimately as a driving force for practice change within the broader Ag industry.

Ag Ex has instigated a number of initiatives and projects over the past year which directly involve our Grower Groups, some of which are below:

- 'Strengthening of the Grower Group Network' is a PIRSA funded project, collectively devised by Ag Ex, PIRSA and Ag Bureau SA. The study's primary purpose is to further understand what the network most values and identify pathways to ensure an effective and collaborative approach.
- Continued partnership with Northern & Yorke Natural Resource Management in the effective delivery of the Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator (RALF) role. Ag Ex farewells Michael Richards and commends him for his enormous contribution to this role and the broader industry. We welcome Emma McInerney on board as the new RALF and wish her every success for the next 5-years.
- Ag Ex led a successful collaborative bid to the NLP Smarter Farming Partnerships program in securing funding for the project 'Warm and Cool Season Mixed Cover Cropping for Sustainable Farming Systems in south eastern Australia'. Key partners who have come on board include CSIRO, SANTFA, and six SA Grower Groups.
- Ag Ex continues to provide responses to key issues and opportunities affecting the grower group network including:
  - Significant input into the NRM reform process;
  - Feedback on the development of a national approach for agriculture to climate change adaptation;
  - Response to the State and Commonwealth review of drought response;
  - Support for the forum organised by Deanna Lush to discuss practical strategies to build community trust and social licence in your organisation and the wider food system.
- Ag Ex have established quarterly meetings with the PIRSA executive and Ag Bureau SA in a dialogue to establish two-way communication and trust to support the grower group network.

We trust that you will enjoy the program ahead, now start networking!



Mark Stanley  
Executive Officer – Strategy,  
Relationships and Planning



Leighton Wilksch  
Chairperson

WELCOME

# AWARDS DINNER

THURSDAY 4 APRIL 2019

TIME	SCHEDULE
6:00pm	AGBYTE Networking Drinks & Canapés
7:15pm	Guests to take seats
7:30pm	<i>Welcome Address &amp; Acknowledgement of Country</i> LEET WILKSCH, SPONSOR AGBYTE / Ag Excellence Committee
7:45pm	<i>PIRSA 'Grower Group' Award Winner 2018 Presentation</i> GEORGIE KEYNES, TECHNICAL FACILITATOR/COORDINATOR Barossa Improved Grazing Group (BIGG)  <i>PIRSA 'Grower Group' Award 2019</i> SCOTT ASHBY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Primary Industries & Regions SA
8:05pm	<i>Ag Excellence 'Perpetual Award' – for Outstanding Service</i> LEET WILKSCH, CHAIR Ag Excellence
8:15pm	Dinner served
8:45pm	<i>Dinner Speaker – DANIEL MOTLOP</i> Owner/General Manager, Something Wild Australia Former AFL star turned foodie, Daniel Motlop became general manager and part-owner of Something Wild Australia in 2016 – Australia's first indigenous-owned supplier of game meats and native foods.  As a proud Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander man, Daniel is passionate about promoting the ethical, sustainable and permitted use of native Australian ingredients. With a focus on engaging and supporting Indigenous forager and suppliers, Daniel has become an advocate for educating consumers on the ethical harvesting of these products. His hopes are that the current trends spotlighting Indigenous foods will help build a sustainable industry that is respectful and beneficial to Aboriginal communities and traditional landowners.
9:15pm	Dinner concludes

# FRIDAY 5 APRIL 2019

TIME	SCHEDULE
8:00am	Registration, Networking, & Light Breakfast
8:30am	Welcome to the Forum – Acknowledgement of Country
<b>THEME: SHAPING THE FUTURE</b>	
8:40am	<b>RICHARD HEATH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b> Farm Institute 'Social License and Marketing Ourselves to the Non Rural Sector'
9:20am	<b>MARIUS CUMING, GENERAL MANAGER, WOOL GROWER &amp; SHAREHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</b> Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) 'Opportunities & Challenges for the Australian Wool Industry'
10:00am	<b>DEBBIE HUDSON, PRINCIPAL RESEARCH SCIENTIST</b> Bureau of Meteorology 'Forewarned is Forearmed' – Managing the Impacts of Extreme Climate Events
10:40am	Morning Tea
<b>THEME: ENGAGING AND INNOVATING</b>	
11.00 am	<b>NIC HENRY JONES, DIRECTOR &amp; SENIOR DIGITAL MEDIA STRATEGIST</b> Market Me 'Visionary Marketing' – How Perception of your Community Organisation is Key to its Success
11:40am	<b>PANEL SESSION: 'Engage, Collaborate, Innovate'</b>  <b>DR KATJA HOGENDOORN, SENIOR RESEARCHER, SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE FOOD &amp; WINE</b> The University of Adelaide 'Food for Us, Food for Bees, Food for Thought' – Secure Pollination through Revegetation  <b>TONY RANDALL, TEAM LEADER SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE</b> South Australian Murray Darling Basin NRM 'An NRM Perspective' – Engaging with the Community  <b>BELINDA CAY, DIRECTOR</b> Ag Communicators 'More than Gumboots and Tractors' – Creative ways to Engage Students, Teachers and Career Advisors in Agriculture (Food & Fibre Education SA)
12:45pm	Lunch
<b>THEME: DRIVING CHANGE</b>	
1:30pm	<b>MARK STANLEY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b> Ag Excellence 'Ag Ex – the Past Year in a Nutshell'
1:45pm	<b>FIONA HART, EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b> Riverine Plains Inc 'The Business of Being a Grower Group'
2:15pm	<b>DR JAY CUMMINS, DIRECTOR &amp; PRINCIPAL LEAD CONSULTANT</b> International Agriculture for Development 'SA Grower Group Network Findings'
2:45pm	<b>ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: 'How can we Work Better Together?'</b> <i>Implementing findings from the recent grower group review</i> This interactive session will see all participants break into small groups and discuss at least one of the key recommendations to come out of the review. Everyone will be asked to think about groups they are involved with (e.g. Landcare, grower groups, other community groups) and what makes a successful group, can we improve our communication with landholders and industry partners and what do we have as a collective.
3:15pm	Group Feedback to Audience
3:40pm	AGM
4:00pm	Close

FORUM

# KEY SPEAKERS



**RICHARD HEATH**  
Executive Director  
**AUSTRALIAN FARM INSTITUTE (AFI)**

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farminstitute.org.au

The AFI is an independent policy research organisation whose objective is to enhance the economic and social wellbeing of farmers and the agricultural sector in Australia by conducting highly credible public policy research and promoting the outcomes to policy-makers and the wider community. Previous to this role Richard was Associate Professor of Agronomy and Farm Management at the University of Sydney and before that was involved in a large family farming business in North West NSW. Richard is a director of the Grains Research and Development Corporation and sits on the Advisory Committee for CSIRO Agriculture and Food. He is a Nuffield scholar and was a director of Nuffield Australia.



**MARIUS CUMING**  
General Manager,  
Woolgrower &  
Shareholder Engagement  
**AUSTRALIAN WOOL INNOVATION (AWI)**

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wool.com

Marius Cuming is the General Manager of woolgrower engagement at Australian Wool Innovation, parent company to The Woolmark Company. He also owns and runs a small woolgrowing and prime lamb business in western Victoria with 2000 ewes. Coming from a background in rural journalism, he is responsible for all AWI state extension networks and events and enjoys communicating with woolgrowers about what AWI does on their behalf. He has initiated a number of programs that have bridged the gap between the farmer and consumer. Marius enjoys connecting woolgrowers with brands, processors and ultimately, consumers and speaks as a passionate farmer, woolgrower, woolclasser and agricultural scientist.



**DEBBIE HUDSON**  
Principal Research  
Scientist  
**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY**

Debbie.Hudson@  
bom.gov.au

Debbie Hudson is a principal research scientist at the Australian Bureau of Meteorology focusing on multi-week and seasonal climate prediction. She is currently leading the Bureau component of a large multi-institution project that will deliver direct value to farmers by providing forecasts of extremes and equipping farmers with the information and tools to be forewarned and prepared. The Bureau, working with several research partners, will develop and deliver forecasts of the likelihood of climate extremes on multi-week to seasonal timescales – beyond the 7-day weather forecast. Her team are investigating the science behind making predictions on this timescale, and are evaluating and developing new forecast products for Australia.



**NIC HENRY JONES**  
Director & Senior  
Digital Media Strategist  
**MARKET ME**

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gmail.com

Nic Henry Jones is a purpose-driven creative, passionate about 'unlocking potential'. Her 9 years experience in running a Marketing Company, and working with hundreds of brands & individuals and over 100 speaking engagements and workshops, positions her with a unique understanding and insight into what is required to unlock the best in individuals, businesses and organisations.

Nic is an Entrepreneur, Business Strategist, Thought Leader, Educator, Keynote Presenter, Coach and Author. A purposeful visionary and action taker, Nic has a unique ability to engage, empower and inspire people to be their best whatever the context.



**DR KATJA HOGENDOORN**  
Senior Researcher,  
School of Agriculture  
Food & Wine  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE**

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adelaide.edu.au

Dr Katja Hogendoorn is a senior researcher with expertise in ecology and evolution of bee behaviour and diversity. Katja aims to use her understanding of bee behaviour to improve management decisions for the enhancement of bee health, biodiversity, and crop pollination services.

Professor Andy Lowe and Katja currently lead a large collaborative project between South Australian researchers, primary industries, governmental organisations and NGOs to design habitat support for crop pollinators around, lucerne, apple/pear, canola, and almond. The project is supported through funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit Programme.

# KEY SPEAKERS



**TONY RANDALL**  
Team Leader  
Sustainable Agriculture  
**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
MURRAY DARLING  
BASIN NRM**

Tony.Randall2@sa.gov.au

Tony Randall has over 20 years' experience working within the agricultural and natural resources management industries within South Australia and the Northern Territory. Tony has worked extensively in the not for profit sector as both a project officer and in leadership and management roles including as executive officer. Tony is currently the Team Leader Sustainable Agriculture for Natural Resources South Australian Murray- Darling Basin (SAMDB) managing a team delivering soils and water resource management projects that assist farmers to build skills and knowledge in soils management and adopt practices that improve the natural resource base whilst increasing on farm profitability.



**BELINDA CAY**  
Director  
**AGCOMMUNICATORS**

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Belinda is a science communicator and educator with a passion for primary production. She has 15 years' experience in using colour, fun and credibility to communicate science to non-scientific audiences – and has received national accolades for her work. Belinda engages audiences using a range of hands-on and interactive platforms, such as practical displays and demonstrations and all forms of traditional, social and digital media. She has extensive experience in designing education and training programs which use enquiry-based learning principles and is an engaging science presenter, a skill gained as part of the Qwestacon Science Circus.



**FIONA HART**  
Executive Officer  
**RIVERINE PLAINS  
INC.**

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Fiona Hart is the Executive Officer of Riverine Plains Inc, a farming systems group located in north-east Victoria and southern New South Wales. Fiona grew up on the family's mixed farm at Wilby (15km south of Yarrowonga). After 10 years away, working in administrative positions in Melbourne and regional Victoria, Fiona returned to Yarrowonga where she and her husband are raising their two children. Fiona is also involved with a small farming operation near Peechelba. The opportunity to work for Riverine Plains Inc has allowed Fiona to combine two of her passions; agriculture and administration. Having worked with the group over the past 15 years, Fiona is well-placed to speak with us today about the growth, challenges and opportunities Riverine Plains Inc has experienced as it has evolved into the highly regarded organisation that it is today.



**DR JAY CUMMINS**  
Director  
**INTERNATIONAL  
AGRICULTURE FOR  
DEVELOPMENT**

jay.iafd@gmail.com

Passionate about agriculture in both Australia and internationally and following a successful career in agricultural extension and farming systems development in Australia; the professional focus in recent years has been in a developing country context working throughout South Asia and beyond. As Director of International Agriculture for Development, consulting activities focus on agricultural extension research and farmer adoption of innovation, empowerment of youth and women in agriculture and the development of sustainable farming systems that enhance food and water security outcomes. Jay's professional expertise is recognised through several academic appointments as Adjunct Senior Fellow with the Centre for Global Food and Resources at the University of Adelaide and Visiting Professor at the Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia.



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