



# FORUM & AWARDS 8 AUGUST, 2022 *Program*

Marion Hotel, Adelaide, South Australia



#AgExForum2022

## **BUILDING COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY**

Forum2022 is a response to the ever-growing need to learn and adapt more efficiently, build on expertise and capability, bring diversity to the way we think and operate and be more efficient in delivery.

# OUR VALUED PARTNERS

## PLATINUM PARTNER



## AWARD PARTNER



**Government of South Australia**

Department of Primary Industries  
and Regions

## GOLD PARTNER



## SILVER PARTNERS



**Government of South Australia**

Department for Environment  
and Water



## BRONZE PARTNERS



## PRE-DINNER NETWORKING PARTNER



## WINE PARTNER



# WELCOME

A warm welcome to Forum2022! This year's program features a broad line-up of RDC's, national and state agencies, alongside grower groups with the aim to deconstruct the complexities of the existing ecosystem and ultimately create new conversation pathways to strengthen collaborative approaches.

The theme 'Building Collaborative Capacity' responds to the ever-growing need to innovate, hastily adapt, build on expertise and capability, bring diversity to the way we think and to be more efficient in delivery. Collaboration also brings the human element; it isn't outsourced to machine or technology. This human interaction is a quality that rewards, is often highly complex, and above all connects us, stimulating our passion and drive for improvement.



**The Ag Excellence Forum is South Australia's premier grower group event which provides a valued collection point for grower groups, government and industry to share experiences, develop new ideas, enrich connections and contribute to the evolving conversations and ways of operating in agriculture.**

New opportunities are emerging in agriculture through the convergence of ag-tech, policies, consumer-driven market shifts, sustainability targets, climate science and adoption initiatives. We all need to further develop our ability to harness opportunity for more representative and multi-faceted delivery.

Ag Excellence Alliance provides independent leadership, strengthens collaboration and is a connector in agriculture. The launch of Strategy 2022 – 2027 will further develop, deliver and govern support initiatives of value to key stakeholders in line with Ag Ex's Purpose, Vision and Values.

The Ag Ex team continues to expand, ably led by Mark Stanley, Executive Officer; Kerry Stockman, Administration Manager; Emma McNerney, Northern and Yorke Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator; Tony Randall, SA Drought Hub Knowledge Broker and recently appointed Rachel May, Farming Systems Specialist Adoption Officer.

Supported by a highly pro-active committee represented by Natalie Sommerville, Vice Chair and GPSA ; Brett Bartel, Primary Industries and Regions SA; Meg Bell, Mackillop Farm Management Group; David Evans, Farmers Business Network; and Naomi Scholz, Agricultural Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula.



Leighton Wilksch  
Chair

WELCOME

9.30am - 10.00am	Registration and networking Morning tea
10.00am - 10.10am	Welcome to Forum2022  LEET WILKSCH, CHAIR Ag Excellence Alliance  BELINDA CAY, MC Ag Communicators
10.10am - 10.40am	2023 Down to Earth – why South Australian producers should join us  MICHAEL MACOLINO, DIRECTOR Steering Committee Member of evokeAg
10.40am -11.10am	Investing in grains RD&E in partnership with grower groups  STEPHEN LOSS, SENIOR REGIONAL MANAGER SOUTH Soils & Nutrition (South) Grains Research and Development Corporation
11.10am - 11.40am	A vision for soil being recognised and valued as a key national asset by all stakeholders  TROY CLARKSON, DIRECTOR NATIONAL SOIL STRATEGY Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
11.40am - 12.10pm	Stronger together – Building alliances through the Future Drought Fund  KIMBERLEY SHRIVES, PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR Future Drought Fund, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
12.10pm - 1.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm - 1.20pm	Launch of the Ag Ex Strategic Plan 2022-2027  MARK STANLEY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER Ag Excellence Alliance
1.20pm - 1.30pm	Been farming long? - a workshop series for early career farmers  SANDY KIMBER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER Hart Field Site
1.30pm - 1.50pm	What I've learnt about successful (and not so successful) collaborations  CAM NICHOLSON, PARTNER Nicon Rural Services
1.50pm - 2.15pm	Beef collaboration on sustainability  JACOB BETROS, MANAGER, BEEF SUSTAINABILITY Meat and Livestock Australia

# Ag Excellence Forum & Awards

## Building Collaborative Capacity

2.15pm - 2.25pm	The future is bright  PRUE LYNCH, EXECUTIVE OFFICER Mallee Sustainable Farming
2.25pm - 2.50pm	Extension opportunities in the wool industry  EMILY KING, NATIONAL EXTENSION MANAGER Australian Wool Innovation
2.50pm - 3.10pm	#Collabriculture  OLI MADGETT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER Agritech Meetup South Australia
3.10pm - 3.40pm	Afternoon tea
3.40pm - 4.00pm	Carbon Farming Pilot  EMMA WINSLOW, CLIMATE AND ADAPTION PROJECT OFFICER Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
4.00pm - 4.30pm	The integral role of grower groups in the SA Drought Hub  DR STEPHEN LEE, DIRECTOR South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub
4.30pm - 5.15pm	Panel session Q&A Vision for collaborative prosperity – taking lessons learnt to the next level  PROF SIMON MADDOCKS, CHAIR Primary Producers SA
	ALEESHA LESIUK, OUTREACH OFFICER Livestock SA
	CAM NICHOLSON, PARTNER Nicon Rural Services
	ROBYN VERRALL, CO-FOUNDER Kere to Country
5.15pm - 5.30pm	Summary and closing remarks  BELINDA CAY, MC Ag Communicators

# Dinner Awards

6.00pm - 7.15pm	Pre-dinner networking drinks and canapés
7.30pm - 9.30pm	Dinner and award presentations
	Welcome address & acknowledgement of country
	LEET WILKSCH, CHAIR Ag Excellence Alliance
	2021 PIRSA grower group award winner
	JARRED TILLEY, CHAIR Mid North High Rainfall Zone Group
	2022 PIRSA grower group award winner
	PROFESSOR MEHDI DOROUDI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
	2022 Ag Excellence Alliance perpetual award winner
	LEET WILKSCH, CHAIR Ag Excellence Alliance



## Dinner Speaker – carbon, cows and collaboration

**DR ADAM MAIN, GENERAL MANAGER – CH4 Global**

Adam has over 20 years of deep experience in the aquaculture world and is an experienced CEO and General Manager. Prior to joining CH4 Global Adam was General Manager of Aquaculture (@ PIRSA) where he was responsible for leading the operational and strategic directions of the Aquaculture, Policy Planning and Environmental Group. Previous to PIRSA, Adam was the longest running CEO of the Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association (TSGA). Before TSGA Adam worked at an executive level with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and as a Divisional Manager for Greening Australia. Adam is also a past Director on the Boards for the National Aquaculture Council, the Tasmanian Aquaculture Council and Seafood Training Tasmania. Academically, Adam completed a double major degree in Marine Biology and Natural Resource Management and holds a PhD in the field of Community Ecology.  
M 0407 490 898 | adam@CH4global.com



# Ag Excellence Forum & Awards

## Building Collaborative Capacity



**BELINDA CAY, DIRECTOR – Ag Communicators**

Belinda is a science communicator and educator with a passion for primary production. She has over 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 Questacon Science circus.

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**MICHAEL MACOLINO, DIRECTOR – Steering Committee Member of evokeAg**

Michael has a strong track record as an entrepreneur and business advisor, launching his first company at 21 and spending the next 13 years building five businesses across a range of industries. Michael now leverages his skills, experience, and network to assist AgriFood Tech companies to commercialise and scale through his roles at BDO, Sprout X, ThinLab and Farmers to Founders. His support of entrepreneurship and mentoring was recognised in 2020, as a winner in the InDaily 40 under 40 awards. Michael is also deeply engaged in the development of the AgriFood tech eco-system, as co-organiser of the South Australian AgriTech Meetup Group and advisor to several Corporate and Government eco-system development initiatives. Through this work Michael aims to raise awareness of emerging technologies and their potential to build a sustainable food system. M 0407 547 047 | [michael@michaelmacolino.com](mailto:michael@michaelmacolino.com)



**TROY CLARKSON, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SOIL STRATEGY – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

Troy Clarkson is the Director of the Soil Information Section with the Commonwealth's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Troy was involved in the development of the National Soil Strategy, and his team is now responsible for delivering soil information related programs as part of the National Soil Package. Troy's experience working for NSW and Victorian state governments from 1998 to 2013 delivering soil extension services and other regional programs provides a practical on the ground basis for his work with the Australian Government. Since 2013, he's supported the delivery of key Australian Government programs including the Rural Financial Counselling Service, National Landcare Program and Carbon Farming Futures.

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**STEPHEN LOSS, SENIOR REGIONAL MANAGER SOUTH – Grains Research and Development Corporation**

Stephen obtained a degree in ag science and PhD in soil science from the University of WA. He worked on frost and pulse agronomy with the WA Department of Agriculture, before managing the field trial program and soil and plant testing service for CSBP Fertilisers for 12 years. Between 2012-15 he led a foreign aid project promoting conservation agriculture in the Middle East, while living in Jordan. Stephen joined GRDC in 2015, initially in Canberra but he helped establish the GRDC Adelaide office later that year. He was recently appointed as Senior Regional Manager, responsible for grower and stakeholder engagement in SA, Vic, and Tasmania.

M 0408 412 453 | Email: [stephen.loss@grdc.com.au](mailto:stephen.loss@grdc.com.au)



**KIMBERLEY SHRIVES, PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR – Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Branch, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

Kimberley leads teams delivering drought resilience research, adoption, grants, long-term trials and regional hubs. There are eight hubs across Australia, including the South Australian Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Hub. They have a dual remit to identify and help address local needs in preparing for future drought and to support the uptake of innovation more broadly in agriculture.

Lucy Morrell, Communications Officer | M 0493 065 427 | [lucy.morrell@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:lucy.morrell@agriculture.gov.au)



**CAM NICHOLSON, PARTNER – Nikon Rural Services**

Nikon Rural Services is a consulting business near Geelong working with the grazing and cropping industries. Cam has been involved in many farmer programs for the GRDC, MLA, Landcare and the current Future Drought Fund initiative. He provides consultancy advice to farmers and lectures on animal and pasture systems at Marcus Oldham College. His most recent work has focused on understanding and discussing risk in farming businesses and how to enhance decision making. He and his wife Fiona run a 400 ha beef and sheep farm on the Bellarine Peninsula turning off cattle for the long fed feedlot market and fine wool.

M 0417 311 098 | [cam@niconrural.com.au](mailto:cam@niconrural.com.au)



**EMMA WINSLOW, CLIMATE ADAPTION OFFICER – Primary Industries and Regions South Australia**

Emma coordinates and delivers various carbon farming projects and initiatives, notably the Carbon Farming Demonstration Pilot. She relishes the opportunity this role provides in engaging with a broad scope of cross-sectoral primary industry bodies and representatives. Prior to this role, Emma was with SARDI for 10 years as senior research officer conducting research on sheep production systems, with particular focus on optimising ewe management for improved lamb survival.

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**STEPHEN LEE, DIRECTOR – South Australian Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub**

Stephen has previously been Partnerships Manager for the Davies Livestock Research Centre with the University of Adelaide where his focus was on forming collaborative research and development programs spanning livestock health and wellbeing, genetics, productivity and product quality. In 2015 Stephen was appointed the manager of the SA Sheep Industry Blueprint and Beef Industry Blueprint where he led the development and implementation.

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**JACOB BETROS, MANAGER – Beef Sustainability, Meat and Livestock Australia**

Working with Meat and Livestock Australia, Jacob is responsible for the management of the Australian Beef Sustainability Framework and related research and engagement projects. This includes services for the industry appointed Sustainability Steering Group, the management of data collection projects, and in collaboration with RDA, coordination of research and adoption programs within MLA to deliver on the framework objectives. In addition he assists industry groups in growing their own sustainability initiative through greater understanding of social and corporate sustainability responsibilities.

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**EMILY KING, NATIONAL EXTENSION MANAGER, Australian Wool Innovation**

Emily has worked for Australian Wool Innovation since 2012, focusing primarily on AWI's grower extension, youth and leadership projects, including AWI's state grower extension networks, Lifetime Ewe Management and extension development and delivery. Emily also had a decent stint in the AWI On Farm R&D team, where she headed up the Reproduction & Nutrition research portfolio.

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**OLI MADGETT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, Agritech Meetup South Australia**

Oli became a grower in McLaren Vale in 2015, and leads Perennial in Australia, working with the MLA and AgriFutures to scale soil carbon quantification and decarbonise agrifood supply chains. Oli runs the Adelaide AgriTech Meetup, which brings together a community of more than 1,500 developers, farmers and entrepreneurs interested in the agricultural technology space.

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**SANDY KIMBER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, Hart Field Site Group**

Sandy provides leadership and support to a committed volunteer board of twelve and small but dedicated research team. Other key aspects of her role include communications, marketing, project and event management. Sandy is particularly passionate about linking farmers with research and the ag industry more broadly. If covid has taught us anything, it's that technology is amazing but you can't beat face-to-face interactions. Hart is celebrating its 40th year in 2022.

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# Ag Excellence Forum & Awards

## Building Collaborative Capacity



**PRUE LYNCH, EXECUTIVE OFFICER – Mallee Sustainable Farming**

Prue operates a mixed cropping enterprise in conjunction with her husband Chris and parents-in-law in north west Victoria. She has a Degree in Business and is excited by the incredible potential and growth of the Australian agricultural industry. Prue is passionate about learning and improving both on a personal and business level. Prue commenced on the MSF Board in 2021 and was appointed as Executive Officer in May this year.

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**PROFESSOR SIMON MADDOCKS, CHAIR – Primary Producers SA**

Prof Maddocks is responsible for coordinating the activities of the state's key primary industry sectors to help drive profitability and sustainability for South Australian primary producers and rural communities. He has held senior positions at SARDI as Chief Scientist, Livestock Systems, and Director of Science Partnerships; he was the first Director of Adelaide University's Roseworthy Campus, was Head of Animal Science, and for a period also Director of the Waite Institute. He recently completed an extended term as President and Vice Chancellor of Charles Darwin University, (2014-2020). He remains an active primary producer with a mixed farming property outside Hamley Bridge, growing cereal crops and producing prime lambs.

M 0418 833 900 | [chair@ppsa.org.au](mailto:chair@ppsa.org.au)



**ALEESHA LESIUK, OUTREACH OFFICER – Livestock SA**

Aleesha has studied in Environmental Science and previously worked as a Park Ranger in remote Northern Territory National Parks. Aleesha is currently an Outreach Officer with the Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia program. Aleesha is hosted by Livestock SA, who are one of the 5 partnering non-government organisations delivering grant funding and support to Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement owners across South Australia. The \$2.9 million pilot program funded by the South Australian Government has provided grant funding for 131 land management projects across three grant rounds since October 2020.

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**ROBYN VERRALL, CO FOUNDER – Kere to Country**

Robyn has had a unique career path with opportunities in both traditionally female and male fields. Beginning her career as a Registered Nurse, followed by medical equipment sales and then marrying a farmer. She is now navigating opportunities and challenges of life in agriculture in regional south Australia. Robyn is an Executive Officer of farming enterprises providing meat products to Australians. She is the South Australian 2022 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award Winner, championing all, especially women in agriculture, in business, women's employment and general inclusion.

M 0408 542 057 | [robyn@bullsbeef.com.au](mailto:robyn@bullsbeef.com.au)



**JARRED TILLEY, CHAIR – Mid North High Rainfall Zone (MNHRRZ) Group**

The MNHRRZ work closely with leading agricultural researchers to undertake research into sustainable broadacre cropping and grazing practices to improve productivity and profitability. With trials sites located at Giles Corner and Farrell Flat, key focus areas are always evolving to meet the needs of the regions farmers including crop nutrition, frost mitigation, pasture production, crop disease management, dual purpose crops, variable soil constraints and weed management.

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**PROF MEHDI DOROUDI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Primary Industries and Regions South Australia**

MEHDI'S primary focus is on advancing the prosperity and sustainability of SA's primary industries and regional communities and he is a proud and passionate leader in agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry with over 30 years of experience. Prior to becoming the Chief Executive, he was the Deputy Chief Executive of PIRSA. He has also held executive positions within the Department of Primary Industries in both Victoria and NSW and in the private sector. Professor Doroudi completed his degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Tehran University and his PhD at the School of Marine Biology and Aquaculture, James Cook University and holds an Affiliate Professorial position with the University of Adelaide. He was awarded the Australian Public Service Medal in 2019 for outstanding public service in the advancement of science to inform policy and the management of primary industries in South Australia.

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# Projects



**Project:** Smart Farming Partnerships Cover Crops  
**Funder:** NLP; GRDC; DEW  
**Project Lead:** Mark Stanley  
**Date:** 2018 – 2022  
**Project Team:** CSIRO; SANTFA; MRLB; Ag KI; SFS; MFMG; Air EP; Michael Nash



**Project:** SA Carbon Footprint and Feasibility  
**Funder:** Aust Govt FDF; PIRSA; DEW N&YLB; R&MLB; Ag Ex  
**Project Lead:** Emma McInerney  
**Date:** 2021 – 2022  
**Project Team:** Integrity Ag



**Project:** Riverland Mesonet  
**Funder:** PIRSA Regional Growth Fund  
**Project Lead:** Mark Stanley  
**Date:** 2019 – 2021  
**Project Team:** Peter Cousins, Mick Faulkner, Warwick Grace; Damon Grace, Tania Morgan, Campbell Scientific



**Project:** Climate Carbon Knowledge in the Northern & Yorke region  
**Funder:** Aust Govt NLP2  
**Project Lead:** Emma McInerney  
**Date:** 2020 – 2022  
**Project Team:** N&YLB



**Project:** Drought Resilience Innovation and Adoption Hub  
**Funder:** Aust Govt Future Drought Fund  
**Project Lead:** University of Adelaide | Mark Stanley  
**Date:** 2021 – 2025  
**Project Team:** Stephen Lee, University of Adelaide; Rhiannon Schilling, SARDI; Mark Stanley, Ag Ex; Tony Randall, Knowledge Broker; Rachel May, Adoption Officer



**Project:** Delivery of MLA Products & Services  
**Funder:** DEW; Ag Ex  
**Project Lead:** Mark Stanley  
**Date:** 2021 – 2022  
**Project Team:** SFS; BCG; MFMG; RP; GSSA; Ag Ex



**Project:** Northern & Yorke Agricultural Landcare Facilitator  
**Funder:** Northern & Yorke Landscape Board | Dept of Agriculture  
**Project Lead:** Emma McInerney, RALF  
**Date:** 2021 – 2023  
**Project Team:** Emma McInerney; Mark Stanley



**Project:** On-Farm Grain Storage  
**Funder:** GRDC  
**Project Lead:** Leet Wilksch  
**Date:** 2021 – 2024  
**Project Team:** Leet Wilksch



**Project:** National Grower Group Extension Plan & Capacity Building  
**Funder:** Aust Govt NLP  
**Project Lead:** Mark Stanley, Ag Ex  
**Date:** 2019 – 2023  
**Project Team:** WAGGA; BCG; SSF; CWFS; Farmlink; ACC; Uni of Melbourne; Landcare Australia



**Project:** SA Grower Group EO Network  
**Funder:** DEW; Ag Ex  
**Project Lead:** Mark Stanley  
**Date:** 2021 – 2022  
**Project Team:** Meg Bell

**Ag Excellence also plays a key role in responding to requests from industry and government on advice in the development of new strategies and programs, including:**

- The Future Drought Fund Advisory Group
- Northern & Yorke Regional Drought Resilience Plan Development
- Resetting the Future Together Stakeholder Workshop
- Agri-Food Tech Summit Workshop
- SA Carbon Farming Roadmap
- State Landscape Strategy
- Carbon Valorisation Project
- National Landcare Program 2 Review

**For further information on Ag Excellence Alliance projects and initiatives please visit [www.agex.org.au](http://www.agex.org.au)**

# Grower Groups



- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  Agricultural Bureau of SA                         |  Fleurieu Beef Group Inc         |  Murray Plains Farmers                        |
|  Agricultural Innovation & Research Eyre Peninsula |  Fleurieu Farming Systems        |  Northern Sustainable Soils                   |
|  Agriculture Kangaroo Island                       |  Hart Field Site Group           |  Society of Precision Ag Australia            |
|  Agritech Meetup South Australia                   |  Lucerne Australia               |  South Australian No-Till Farmers Association |
|  Barossa Improved Grazing Group                    |  MacKillop Farm Management Group |  Upper North Farming Systems                  |
|  Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group                  |  Mallee Sustainable Farming      |  Women Together Learning                      |
|   |  Mid North High Rainfall Zone    |  |



Linking Grower Networks

[www.agex.org.au](http://www.agex.org.au)



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