

Emma McCullagh



Emma McCullagh is the president of the Central Highlands Cotton Growers and Irrigators Association (CHCG&IA). She and her husband Chris, manage a family irrigation farm on the Nogoia River growing cotton, chickpeas and wheat. With a background in project delivery across education, health and agricultural sectors, in 2009 she became the secretary of the growers association. Emma is currently engaged to support the Fairbairn Irrigation Network Pty Ltd as the board and irrigators consider a transition to local management. Her passion is for **engaging** with people and **enabling** everyone to be involved in their community and industry. She loves to help people reach their full potential.



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Jill Rigney



Jill Rigney grew up in a mixed farming business west of Goondiwindi. She commenced her career in business support and in this role managed national benchmarking projects in a range of industries.

Her extreme perceptiveness has resulted in her being recognised as a national leader in group facilitation and leadership.

Jill's training activities include the co-design of *The Rural Leader's Bootcamp* and *SteppingUP* programs. Most recently, she completed a series of internal training programs in communication and leadership for 130 staff. She is highly sought after as a facilitator of Family Business Meetings to ensure continuity in succession planning.



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Ian McConnell



Ian joined WWF Australia in 2012 to lead the Australian Beef industry engagement and coordination of WWF global network's projects. In this role, Ian is an executive board member of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and is actively involved in improving the economic, social and environmental impacts of livestock production across 15 countries. This includes developing markets for sustainably produced beef, research and extension projects, policy development and consumer education.

A 5th generation grazer, Ian gained a Bachelor of Science in Animal Studies at the UQ and spent a year at Colorado State University supporting meat science and genetics research. He then joined the Queensland government extension service as an extension officer in remote western Queensland continuing onto south east Queensland. He pioneered innovative extension and outreach tools in remote Australia and led the development of remote animal management systems.



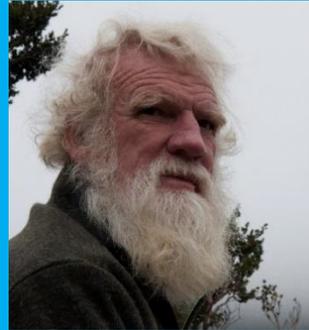
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Bruce Pascoe



Bruce Pascoe is a Bunurong, Tasmanian and Yuin man who lives on country, deep in the Victorian bush. A prolific writer, he is the author of over 20 books – fiction, non-fiction and children's.

In *Dark Emu* (Magabala Books 2014) – winner of the Book of the Year and the Indigenous Writer's Prize in the 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards – Bruce draws on the diaries of early explorers to provide evidence that Aboriginal people across the continent were sowing, harvesting, irrigating and storing. He argues that systems of food production and land management have been blatantly understated in modern retellings of early Aboriginal history.



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Dr Terry McCosker



Dr Terry McCosker is one of the great innovators of Australian agriculture who has had an inordinate impact on agricultural practises around the world. On this basis Central Queensland University conferred on Terry, the degree of Honorary Doctor of Agribusiness, in March 2015.

One of his greatest lifetime achievements has been to effectively bridge the gap between the contesting paradigms of traditional agriculture and regenerative agriculture, helping to ensure the long-term survival of Australian agriculture and its farming families.

Terry is an internationally acclaimed teacher and has worked in research, extension and property management in both government and private sectors for 50 years. He co-founded RCS over 30 years ago which has set the benchmark for capacity building in rural and regional Australia.



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Shane Webcke



Shane Webcke, football legend and sports presenter, is Queensland's Safety Ambassador.

Shane has a strong connection and commitment to work safely as his father was killed in a workplace incident.

"I lost my dad in a workplace incident, so I know first-hand that family and loved ones are the most important reason for work safety."

Shane will share the story of how his father's death impacted his family, and offer advice about the importance of staying safe at work and creating a strong safety culture.

Shane played 254 matches for the Brisbane Broncos (including their 2006 Grand Final win), made 21 State of Origin appearances for Queensland, and played 20 Test matches for Australia.



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Jackson Butchard



Jackson Butchard is eleven years old and lives on the Central Coast of New South Wales with his Dad, Tyson. Inheriting a passion for agriculture from his father, Jackson started his own agribusiness, breeding poultry for sale at local auctions. Jackson's financial success has allowed him to purchase his first house at the age of ten.

Tyson Butchard originated from a financial background, but now owns cattle and boar goat breeding enterprises, located on the Central Coast and the other in Texas, Queensland. He plans to diversify further over the next five years; however, on a day-to-day basis the single father can be found working within his own pest control and construction companies.



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Todd and Kristin Richardson



Todd and Kristin Richardson grew up in Emerald and are currently leasing 250 acres of irrigated land that for the past 40 years has grown back to back cotton.

Last year they began making their own inputs, in the form of bio-fertilisers and compost. It's a slow conversion process that will take around 3-4 years.

They are passionate about the health of their soil and their family, and believe that nourishing both of these is the key to a successful and sustainable farming venture.



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Dianne Haggerty



Dianne Haggerty farms with her husband Ian, and eldest son James, on three properties in the central Wheat belt of Western Australia. They grow cereal grains and run a self-replacing merino flock covering 13000 ha. The Haggerty's have developed a farming system, which successfully utilises "natural intelligence" via soil microbes, plants, animals and the process of photosynthesis. They are able to produce high quality grains, sheep meat, wool, plus a regenerate broad acre landscape, via carbon sequestration and returns of biodiversity to agricultural lands and remnant vegetation. It has increased the properties resilience in the face of climate variability, pests and disease, ensuring a safer, more profitable future.



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Helen Sullivan



Helen is a partner in her family beef cattle operation at Capella, Queensland. The property has been in the family for 66 years. She is involved in the daily operation of the business as well as attending many workshops to keep in touch with industry and what is changing. Helen has been a member of AgForce since it began and is president of the local Capella Branch. She has completed a Diploma of Agriculture and Rural Business Management through TAFE Queensland, and is very passionate about the rural industry and keeping the land held within the family unit.



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Fleur Anderson



Fleur Anderson is passionate about providing rural and regional businesses with the digital know-how needed to help their communities thrive. The committed Theodore-based businessperson and community advocate produces a podcast series, *Beating around the Bush* and is founder of Rural Business Collective. Fleur likes to see the glass half full and believes we are entering the 'Age of Small Towns'. She aims to create an entrepreneurial culture in rural Australia and increase regional economic diversity.

Fleur received Community Digital Champion in 2016 from the Queensland Government. Alongside her family's cotton farm, she divides time between her roles as Managing Director of Cahoots Group, Commissioner of GasFields Commission Queensland, and an elected non-executive Director on the Board of Cotton Australia.



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Paul Murphy



As Chairman of Southern Cross Agricultural Exports Pty Ltd, Paul Murphy is a significant driver behind the Emerald based company, which markets certified sustainable grains, legumes, hay, fresh produce, cotton, and animal products to national and international clients. Also the Chief Executive Officer of Radicle Seeds Australia Pty Ltd, another Central Highlands based company, dedicated to research and production of grain varieties bred for climatic conditions of the region.

A third-generation farmer, Paul is the Managing Director and owner of an organically certified grain property at Capella, supported by his wife and two adult children. First certified in 1991, he is among the longest serving organic growers in Queensland.



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Alicia Dunbar



General Manager | Southern Cross Agricultural Exports P/L

Alicia has a strong passion for strengthening Australia's agricultural industry as evident by her long and continuous involvement in numerous agricultural organisations, including Agforce, Cattlemen's Union and Grain Growers and currently the Independent Chair of CHRRUP board.

She was the founding member of Fitzroy Basin Food and Fibre, an industry body set up in the late 1990's to service the needs of irrigators and water users of the Fitzroy Basin. While working as a private agribusiness consultant, she took up the role of General Manager of Southern Cross Ag Exports. This role includes developing and administering the certification program which the company has built around sustainable farming practices.



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Liz Alexander



Liz Alexander is the Agribusiness Development Coordinator for the Central Highlands Development Corporation (CHDC). A new role for the organisation in 2016, she supports CHDC's Central Highlands Accelerate Agribusiness (CHAA) initiative to grow productivity and profitability, market growth and diversification, supply chain efficiency, and investment opportunities for agribusiness within the region.

Liz is a non-executive director of the Cotton Research and Development Corporation and Plant Health Australia. Prior to her appointment with CHDC, she was the Principal Consultant and Proprietor of Blue Dog Agribusiness, undertaking community-based planning, research, project management, communication and extension services for agricultural organisations and natural resource management groups across Australia.



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Anne Stünzner

Anne Stünzner is the Project Manager for Growing Central Queensland (GCQ). GCQ is an initiative that looks to understand how to further grow agriculture in Central Queensland, including new infrastructure, impediments to existing supply chains, and industry restructure. The project is auspiced by Regional Development Australia, and funded by the State Government and six local regional Councils.

Anne has been a beef producer for twenty-five years with a background in economics and law. She has a Churchill Fellow in the field of Innovation and prior to this role Anne worked in forestry, biofuels and research and development.



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Brian Costello



It was during Brian's days as a bush and airline pilot (1973-1981) and during serving as branch secretary on the Australia Federation of Air Pilots and secretary for Papua New Guinea Air Pilots Association, that he became involved in assessing investment opportunities offered to pilots.

This in turn led to development of investment strategies that best served the interests of investors, rather than those of the promoter. This led to the philosophy that underpins the company that he founded in 1992. It is believed to be the first fee for service Financial Services Company promoting direct ownership of investment assets. The company evolved into financial Grace Pty Ltd, and for many years has provided strategies to counter nature's mischief for the rural communities.



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Larissa Rose



Larissa is an energetic and resilient professional with a comprehensive knowledge of renewable fuels, environmental sustainability and biofuels. Tertiary qualified, Larissa has obtained a comprehensive knowledge and background in environmental studies, carbon and waste management, flora and fauna assessment, project management and business development.

Larissa's has spent many years facilitating environmental education classes to Brisbane and Gold Coast primary schools, delivering outstanding learning outcomes to students about environmental sustainability and renewable energy themes. She has spent extensive time advocating and engaging government, regional and rural communities on the economic, social, health and environmental benefits of renewable fuels.

As Managing Director and Founder of the Queensland Renewable Fuels Association, Larissa is evidently committed to delivering outcomes for industry and offers her drive to succeed, her practical and theoretical knowledge and experience to this pivotal association.



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Nigel Tomkins



Nigel Tomkins is the MLA Research and Development project manager for grass fed beef. The grass fed beef portfolio covers both northern, southern systems and extends to the rangelands of Western Australia. Nigel was previously a research scientist with CSIRO for 15 years in Rockhampton and Townsville and engaged in a variety of research activities including determination of spatial grazing patterns, methane mitigation and measurement for the beef industry, nitrate supplementation for cattle, macro algae feeding for cattle and leucaena finishing systems. He has published in both scientific and industry journals and maintains an active engagement across research and commercial interests that support a profitable and sustainable beef industry.



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Ben Fleay



Ben Fleay is responsible for the day to day operations of Precision Agriculture and is heavily involved in all aspects of the Precision Agriculture business. He extensive experience in agribusiness includes being Chief Executive Officer of Southern Quality Produce and has previously worked as a senior cotton agronomist for six years with corporate farms. Ben has a degree in Agricultural Science from Melbourne University and in his time at Emerald Grain was responsible for all grower origination and distribution activities in Victoria, NSW and SA.



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