

2021

VFF Livestock and Grains Conference

Mercure Ballarat
15-16th June 2021

Donald McGauchie AO

Donald McGauchie is the Chairman of Australian Agricultural Co. Ltd (AACo), Chairman of the Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA) and a Director of GrainCorp Limited. In addition to being the former President both VFF Grains and NFF, Donald has had previous roles with public companies including Chairman of Telstra Corporation Limited, Deputy Chairman of Ridley Corporation Limited, Director of National Foods Limited, Chairman of Woolstock, Chairman of the Victorian Rural Finance Corporation (statutory corporation). During 2011 he retired as a member of the Reserve Bank Board. In 2001 Donald McGauchie was named the Rabobank Agribusiness Leader of the Year, was later awarded the Centenary Medal for services to Australian society through agriculture and business. In 2004, Donald was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia.



John Blackburn AO

Retired Vice Air Marshall John Blackburn is a consultant in the field of Defence and National Security. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of NSW, the Institute For Regional Security, the Sir Richard Williams Foundation and the Australian Institute of Energy. John has extensive experience across the fields of strategy, policy, planning, operational command, capability development and material acquisition. He has written and spoken on Energy Security, Economic Security, Integrated Air and Missile Defence, the 5th Gen Air Force, Cyber Security, Space Policy, Defence Logistics, Defence White Papers and Fuel Security. Board roles have included: Board Chair of the Institute of Integrated Economics Research - Australia, Chairman of the Kokoda Foundation (renamed the Institute for Regional Security,) Deputy Chairman of the Williams Foundation and Australian Strategic Policy Institute Council member.



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Dr Kate Burke



Based in Echuca, Dr Kate Burke has four generations of farming blood flowing through her veins. Kate is the author of *Crops People Money and You*, *The Art of Excellent Farming* and *Better Returns*. This book outlines a no-nonsense road map for sustainable profit taking and legacy making with less stress. Kate was recently awarded the GRDC Seed of Light Award for her contribution to extending grains research outcomes. Kate's mission as a mentor, coach, speaker, facilitator, author, and trainer is to help people fulfill their farming dream. Kate and her partner have started their own land ownership journey in recent years.

Andrew Whitelaw



Andrew Whitelaw started his career in the United Kingdom working for a large scale grain and animal feed trading business, before moving to Australia in 2010. Since 2010, Andrew has worked in the grains industry for Emerald Grain and Cargill in both Western Australia and Victoria. More recently Andrew was responsible for developing the marketing strategy and leading the grain/oilseed analysis for Mecardo. Andrew is a director in a commercial piggery located in Victoria along with fellow TEM analyst Matt Dalglish. The media have regularly approached Andrew for comments on agricultural markets due to his independent nature and ability to convey information in an easily accessible manner.

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Matt Dagleish

A graduate of Economics and Education Matt has had a keen interest in markets of all sorts from an early age. Starting out trading equities in the late 1980s, while still in high school, Matt moved across to trading currencies at a major Australian bank once university was completed. After more than a decade working in foreign exchange markets in Melbourne and London Matt spent time teaching VCE Economics and Special Needs Education. The lure of markets had Matt back working in real estate when he and his family moved from suburban Melbourne to a hobby farm on the outskirts of Ballarat. Making the transition into agricultural market analysis was an exciting opportunity, enabling Matt to use his data analysis and forecasting skills to provide commentary and strategic advice to the agricultural industry, particularly within the livestock sector. Matt has become a prominent agricultural market analyst, often quoted in the agricultural press and sought after for his independent, data driven assessment of agricultural markets.



Celia Scott

Celia Scott is a third generation farmer and VFF Livestock Councillor from Poolaijelo in South Western Victoria. Before returning to farming Celia completed a degree in Agribusiness from Marcus Oldham and then went on to work as an Export Facilitator for Elders International. She has extensive knowledge in the agricultural space through her previous work experiences as well as currently being involved with Sheep Producers Australia (SPA) RDA committee, SPA MMAT committee and Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund.



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Doug Nicholls



Doug is a Sustainability Innovation Manager experienced in livestock production, research and development, energy infrastructure project development, and business administration. Currently Doug is the Sustainability Innovation Manager at Meat and Livestock Australia, overseeing AUD30M p.a. investment into innovation processes where sustainability considerations (environmental, social, economic) are integrated into the Australian red meat value chain from idea generation through to commercialisation. This applies to new technology, products and services, as well as new business models.

Doug is also a partner in McNicholl Livestock & Veterinary Services, a beef production business in Queensland. Doug was formerly the R&D Program Manager at the Australian Meat Processor Corporation and has had various renewable energy project development roles in the UK.

Kirsten Diprose



Kirsten is a Communications Professional and former ABC journalist. She lives on a sheep, cattle and cropping farm near Caramut, in south-west Victoria, with her husband and two sons. They have also recently taken over a couple of dairies at Simpson. Kirsten is the Podcast Manager for Agthentic, an agtech strategy firm and Tenacious Ventures - Australia's first agrifood venture capital firm. Kirsten is a Board Director at South West TAFE and journalism cadet mentor at Deakin University. Originally, a suburban girl from western Sydney, Kirsten is passionate about bridging the city-country divide and opening up opportunities in agriculture for all.

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Olivia Lawson

Olivia grew up in South Gippsland Victoria and completed a degree in Agricultural Science. For the last 20+ years she has operated a beef seed stock and grazing enterprise alongside husband Tom based in central Victoria. Olivia's background includes working in agribusiness, export, finance and marketing. Working with commercial beef producers on driving profitability through genetic improvement, Olivia also has a lifelong passion for sustainable agriculture and biological grazing systems, awarded Victorian Sustainable Farmer of the Year 2013. Olivia is a strong advocate for the Australian beef industry, and capacity building through ag education. Since 2018 Olivia has served on the Board of Cattle Council Australia as the Southern Independent Director. She has also been a member of the Animal Health, Welfare and Biosecurity Committee, Environment and Sustainability Committee, and is Chair of the Governance, Finance Audit Committee. Olivia was recently nominated as Board Member of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef representing Cattle Council Australia. Tom and Olivia were awarded Coles Weekly Times Beef Farmer of the Year 2020.



Craig Cochrane

Craig is the Senior Supply Chain Manager South at GrainCorp, overseeing all up country, port and logistics functions south of Dubbo, including Port Kembla, Geelong and Portland Export terminals. Previously he was the Victorian Ports Manager looking after Geelong and Portland for 10 years. Started with GrainCorp at Port Kembla Terminal in 2001.

