Bringing the experts in the lab to the experts in the paddock...

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Managing Climate Risk in Agriculture

Granite Belt, QLD

April 3, 2019 at 9am–8:30pm
Qld College of Wine Tourism, Stanthorpe

AustralianFarmersforClimateAction @farmingforever
SPEAKER PROFILES

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Robin McConchie

Robin McConchie is recognized as one of radio’s living treasures, and was inducted into the Queensland Rural Press Club’s Hall of Fame in 2011.

Robin joined ABC’s rural department in 1982. As a reporter and ABC’s Chief Rural Political Correspondent in Canberra and the Executive Producer of Queensland ABC radio’s Country Hour, she has reported on the issues and events that have shaped rural Australia.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Professor Mark Howden

Professor Mark Howden is Director of the Climate Change Institute at the Australian National University. He is also an Honorary Professor at Melbourne University, Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and a member of the Australian National Climate Science Advisory Committee. He was on the US Federal Advisory Committee for the 3rd National Climate Assessment and contributes to several major national and international science and policy advisory bodies.

Mark has worked on climate variability, climate change, innovation and adoption issues for over 30 years in partnership with many industry, community and policy groups via both research and science-policy roles. Issues he has addressed include agriculture and food security, the natural resource base, ecosystems and biodiversity, energy, water and urban systems. Mark has over 420 publications of different types. He helped develop both the national and international greenhouse gas inventories that are a fundamental part of the Paris Agreement and has assessed sustainable ways to reduce emissions. He has been a major contributor to the IPCC since 1991, with roles in the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and now Sixth Assessment Reports, sharing the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with other IPCC participants and Al Gore.

Sarah Barker

Sarah Barker leads the Sustainability Risk Governance practice at leading commercial law firm MinterEllison. She has two decades’ experience as a corporate lawyer, and is regarded as one of the world’s foremost experts on investment governance issues relating to climate change. Her expertise is sought by clients across Australia and New Zealand, and by global institutions from the Bank of England to the OECD, European Union and United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment.

She is currently a non-executive director of one of Australia’s largest superannuation funds, the $26-billion Emergency Services & State Super, and the Responsible Investment Association Australasia. She has taught the flagship Company Directors’ Course of the Australian Institute of Company Directors for more than a decade, is part of the faculty of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership’s Earth on Board executive programme, and is an academic visitor at the Smith School of Enterprise & the Environment at the University of Oxford.

Sarah has recently been appointed as a member of the steering committee for the Australian Sustainable Finance Roadmap initiative.

Professor Snow Barlow

Professor Snow Barlow is an agricultural scientist from Mungindi in North Western NSW where his family still farms. He is currently Emeritus Professor of Horticulture and Viticulture at the University of Melbourne.

Snow has been intimately involved in climate change research and policy within the land based sector for more than 30 years. He was a member of the Australian delegation to COP3 in Kyoto and served on two ministerial taskforces in the development of the Clean Energy Technology legislation (Carbon Tax). Snow then chaired the Expert Advisory Panel of the Department of Agriculture; Carbon Farming Futures RDE programs, and co-ordinated of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility Primary Industries Adaptation Research Network.

He is a Fellow of Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and in 2009 he was awarded the ‘Australian Medal of Agricultural Science’.

Snow currently chairs the Agricultural and Food Forum of the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering and is a Commissioner of the NSW Independent Planning Commission.

With his partner Winsome McCaughey, Snow operates a vineyard in the Strathbogie Ranges of north-eastern Victoria and markets premium wine under the Baddaginnie Run label.
Associate Professor John McLean Bennett  @mclean_bennett

From tilling by hand to now, global farming families have seen significant technology and knowledge evolution. Poor rainfall, early frosts, climate change and the roll of the dice decisions around planting times, all contribute to ongoing battles faced by farmers who invest their lives into providing for the globe.

Associate Professor John McLean Bennett’s research delivers results for sustainability and resilience in Queensland and beyond. John works at scales from sub-nano through to catchment level, harnessing advances in soil structural stability research to guide sensible land management policy. Policy that incentivises landholders’ management processes and enhances Australia’s resilience to changing climates, delivering ecosystems service, without compromising profitability on-farm. Combining sensing, soil data and soil-plant-climate system models, John’s team are cultivating real-world solutions being put into action as we speak.

John is the Deputy Director of Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems and the Immediate Past President of Soil Science Australia, the non-governmental peak-body for soils and soil science; through these he continues to work towards soil security for Australia.

David Carey  @QldAgriculture

David Carey leads a Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) project team funded by the Queensland Drought and Climate Adaptation Program (DCAP) to develop and evaluate a Bureau of Meteorology experimental long lead-time forecast model for the Lockyer Valley and Granite Belt vegetable production regions, funded and developed as part of this project. David holds a degree in Horticultural Agronomy from Gatton Agricultural College.

David has experience across a wide range of research and development activities including all aspects of commercial vegetable production and was an early advocate for the implementation of Integrated Pest Management and crop scouting on commercial Darling Downs and Lockyer Valley vegetable farms. David was a contributing author to both the Queensland Department of Primary Industries Lettuce Agrilink and the Brassica Agrilink publication series. Since 2008 David has been employed as a Senior Horticulturist with DAF and involved in a wide range of vegetable research, development and extension activities. This work has included: Vegetable Sucking Pest Scoping Study, Best Practice IPM Brassica and Lettuce field guides, Crop Protection Products Impact on Beneficial’s Wall Chart (Lettuce and Brassicas), Future Climate-Implications for Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Production, and a contribution to the Queensland Agricultural Land Audit.

Neil Cliffe  @QldAgriculture

Neil Cliffe manages the Drought and Climate Adaptation Program, a program funded by the Queensland Government to improve the capacity of primary producers to manage drought and climate risk and adapt to a changing climate. DCAP projects are contributing RD&E outcomes across the Queensland agriculture sector, including developing improved and customised weather and climate forecasts for the grazing and sugar industries in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government, Meat and Livestock Australia, Bureau of Meteorology, UK Met Office and Australian universities.

Neil has over 25 years’ experience in climate risk management extension in the agriculture sector. Recent project work has included facilitating planning processes with Natural Resource Management (NRM) and producer groups to identify climate change impacts and adaptation responses and manage climate variability for a range of Queensland primary industries.

Michelle Coelli  @TwistedGumWines

Michelle was raised on a small dairy farm in New South Wales before completing a Bachelor of Rural Science from University of New England (UNE) in Armidale (1989) and a Masters of Economics-Natural Resource Management, UNE (1995). She then worked as a research assistant at universities and on varied projects including soil conservation management in the wheat belt of Western Australia and water policy research in NSW.

In 2007, Michelle, together with her husband Tim and four children, moved to Ballandean, and began the conversion of a conventional vineyard to a dry-grown, eco-friendly, sustainable vineyard. Established a new business “Twisted Gum Wines”, focusing on production of high quality wines made entirely from grapes grown on the three-hectare vineyard, with no irrigation water. The business has been slowly expanded to include a cellar door in 2012 and an on-site micro-winery in 2015. All aspects of production are now done on site, including final bottling. In 2015 they received the QLD Premiers’ Sustainability Award for Small Business.

For last eight years Michelle has worked as a volunteer member of Granite Belt Wine and Tourism (GBWT) as co-organiser of a regular series of Vineyard Walks for grape growers and winemakers of the region.
Dr Tom Davison

Dr Tom Davison is currently with the University of New England (UNE) as Coordinator of the Livestock Productivity Partnership in a Professorial level appointment. The partnership between the University of New England, CSIRO and New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, University of Melbourne and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and the Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) Donor Company is designed to raise productivity and sustainability in grazing systems. Prior to this role, Tom worked in tropical and temperate grazing systems, leading the way on quantifying the impacts of heat stress on dairy cattle. During his time with MLA, Tom instigated and led the CN30 project with CSIRO on pathways to a carbon neutral red meat industry by 2030 and associated research priorities which led to the red meat industry adopting this target in November 2017 at the MLA AGM.

In addition, Tom managed the $3.5 million Managing Climate Variability Program, a 25-year national partnership of Rural Development Corporations including Grains, Sugar, Cotton and Agri Futures to develop improved seasonal forecasting for agriculture. Developed a new research plan for the partnership and led the bid for the successful $13.6 million Rural Research and Development for Profit project 'Forewarned is Forearmed' to predict seasonal climate extremes in collaboration with the Bureau of Meterorology, University of Melbourne, University of Southern Queensland, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Forestries, South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), Birchip Cropping Group, Suncorp and eight research and development corporation partners.

Brent Finlay @FinlayBrent

Brent Finlay has 40-years experience in the agricultural sector. He runs a sheep and cattle property called Cooinda in the Traprock region of South East Queensland.

Brent is also the Managing Director of Finlay Agricultural Industries which provides specialist strategic advice to both existing and emerging enterprises across the agricultural sector.

His business interests include developing the next generation of agricultural products and travelling to developing countries.

Brent spent 10 years working in agricultural industry representative roles, representing Australian farmers as the President of the National Farmers' Federation for three years as well a term as the president of Agforce Queensland. He was elected to the board of the World Farm Organisation based in Rome, where he represented the Oceania region.

Key issues negotiated while Brent was in these roles include trade agreements with China, Japan, Korea and the Trans Pacific Partnership, drought packages, backpacker tax and responses to natural disasters.

Recently Brent has been the independent chair of the Emu Swamp Dam Detailed Business Case, now known as Granite Belt Water which proposes the development of an irrigation project for the Granite Belt’s high-value horticulture.

Pamela Greet

Pamela is leading a team to develop the communication and engagement programs that will support the delivery of the Land Restoration Fund (LRF). Pamela has strong knowledge and experience in emergency services and disaster response in Australia and internationally from her roles with the Queensland Ambulance Service and as Director of ActionAid. She has project development and evaluation experience from her roles with State Government overseeing major sport and recreation infrastructure projects for community, local government and peak sporting organisations. In her spare time, Pamela is an avid Toastmasters International participant and loves gardening.

Mike Hayes @SirrometWines

With 39 years of professional wine industry experience across 16 wine regions, four states and two countries, Mike Hayes is well-known and respected in the industry, holding a Masters of Viticulture and is current president of the Queensland Wine Industry Association, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern Queensland, wine judge at the Australian Small Winemakers Awards and recently being awarded the Australian Society of Viticulture & Oenology (ASVO) Winemaker of the Year for 2017.

Currently one of Queensland’s leading wine makers, his contributions were recognised in 2014 with the Samuel Bassett Award for “A significant contribution by an individual to the Queensland Wine Industry”. His involvement covered all aspects of the industry including winemaking, viticulture, consulting, education and research. He also plays a significant leadership role at a State and national level.

Ian Heiner @NRMRegions

Ian Heiner has recently taken up the role of CEO at NRM Regions Queensland following a long career in government. Ian is playing an active role in driving some big questions regarding the management of Queensland’s natural landscapes; merging proactive land stewardship with achieving ecological and economic outcomes, and how Queensland regional bodies respond to future challenges.
Ross Henry

Ross Henry is an experienced project manager at Queensland Farmers’ Federation advising Queensland’s agricultural industries on policy development along with project management and delivery. He specialises in risk management and resilience planning and has been involved with climate change adaptation and risk transfer projects in recent years.

Lene Knudsen

Lene holds a Masters degree in Climate Change Adaptation and has over seven years’ experience delivering extension projects on climate change and natural disaster recovery and resilience for the horticulture industry. Lene has developed a climate risk module for Hort360—the horticulture industry’s Best Management Practice tool. She was one of the main authors for the Queensland Agriculture Sector Adaptation Plan and the Regional Action Plan funded by Department of Environment and Science. Lene has a strong understanding of climate change impacts and adaptation in the horticulture industry.

Peter Mailler

Peter Mailler runs a farming and grazing enterprise in northern NSW near the Boggabilla with his wife Clare. He also provides agronomy, finance and broader agricultural consultancy services to industry. Peter holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors director’s course, the Australian Rural Leadership Program, and maintains other professional affiliations and qualifications.

Peter is passionate about agriculture and rural and regional Australia as the cornerstone of our society. Peter has an extensive background in industry and community advocacy with leadership roles in the grain industry. More recently he has been advocating for meaningful action on climate change mitigation and proactively promoting opportunities in regional communities in renewable energy projects. Peter and his family have diversified their business into solar farming, recognising the increased resilience this offers for farm businesses and rural communities. Peter is a keen advocate of due process and sound governance and believes that these aspects are critical to the long term success of any organisation.

Russell Mehmet

Russell has spent over 30 years in the insurance industry as both an underwriter and broker. He has worked for international insurance brokers for most of his insurance career including the past eight years with Willis Towers Watson. During that time, Russ has successfully introduced, marketed and serviced some of Queensland and Australia’s largest accounts in sectors including government-owned corporations, government agencies and local government, construction, real estate, facility and group clients, major hotel groups, education and IT services.

David Oag

David has worked as a horticulturist in perennial tree fruit and vine crops for more than 30 years—he initially worked in tropical tree fruit crops in northern Australia, before moving to Queensland and temperate fruit crops. He has extensive experience in adapting crop production practices to local conditions, with a particular focus on tablegrape production practices for subtropical environments throughout Queensland. David holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of New England and Masters from the University of Queensland. He also works on disease management in strawberry and improving productivity in persimmon.

Peter O'Reilly

Peter O'Reilly has an extensive background in the tourism sector, culminating in his current role as CEO of the Queensland College of Wine Tourism. With experience ranging from accommodation and attraction products, through national and regional industry associations to Tourism Queensland, Peter has settled in the Granite Belt region and in addition to his duties at the Queensland College of Wine Tourism also runs a small vineyard on the family property and is Chairman of O'Reilly’s Canungra Valley Vineyards in the Gold Coast Hinterland.
Robert Quirk

Robert read an article about 20 years ago on how we could expect the climate to change over the next decades. Ever since he has been working to reduce the effects of drought and floods on his 100ha sugar cane property on the Tweed River. He has developed practices that see him planting above the ground and mounding soil over the cane. This gives about 100mm of extra drainage (the farm is only 50cm above sea level). For the dry period he retains the residue after cutting his cane without burning.

He has increased his soil organic carbon levels from 2–3% 20 years ago to now 5–6%, and has increased the soil pH by 100X. He was awarded the honor of carbon farmer of the year for Australia in 2014. The prize was 80 carbon tests on the farm. The results showed he had carbon stocks of 17,478 tons from 0–30cm. In 2019 the Department of Primary Industries calculated carbon stocks of 20,000t to -100cm—this equates to 70,000 ton in CO2 equivalents that have been taken out of the atmosphere and stored in the soil.

Elizabeth Rose

Elizabeth leads EY’s Climate Change and Sustainability Services practice in Queensland, a team of multidisciplinary specialists in climate change risk, greenhouse gas accounting, green finance, sustainability strategy and reporting, and outcomes measurement. Elizabeth works with leading corporates and government around the transition to a decarbonised future. Her recent work with the agriculture sector has encompassed climate change risk and strategy, greenhouse gas accounting, policy, carbon neutrality and supply chain risk. Over the past two years, Elizabeth has worked with the Queensland Government to understand climate change risks and opportunities for the Queensland economy, including deep sectoral analysis of the agriculture sector, and engagement with peak bodies and industry leaders.

Gavin Scurr

Piñata Farms Pty Ltd managing director, Gavin Scurr, is a seasoned fresh produce grower and industry representative with experience spanning some 30 years in Australian horticulture.

Piñata Farms is a family owned and operated business based at Wamuran, south-east Queensland. Beginning with a single pineapple farm in the 1960s, it today produces three Piñata-branded fruit lines in five states for domestic and export consumption. Run by brothers Gavin and Stephen Scurr, Piñata Farms has some 1,010 hectares under cultivation around Australia. It produces pineapples, strawberries and specialty mangoes on its own farms and contracts third-party growers around Australia to produce fruit under licence.

Gavin is also managing director of BerryWorld Australia, a joint venture company with UK-based BerryWorld Group, which produces specialty strawberries and raspberries for Australian consumption. Gavin drives an expanding business including a seasonally fluctuating workforce spread over multiple locations. He heads a management team and board of directors. He is former chairman of the Australian Mango Industry Association, served two terms as a director and represents the Northern Territory on the board. Gavin is also on the board of the NT Farmers Association. A sought-after industry commentator, Gavin is a member of the pineapple industry marketing advisory committee and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Megan Surawski

Megan Surawski is Director of the Queensland Department of Environment and Science’s Land Restoration Fund Unit.

Megan is leading the establishment of the Land Restoration Fund, which will invest in Queensland-based land sector carbon farming projects that deliver co-benefits. After more than 14 years working in environmental policy for the Queensland Government, including Senior Policy Advisor to the Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP, Megan has experience driving climate change adaption and mitigation actions across energy, transport and infrastructure sectors. Megan has a keen interest in fostering new environmental commodities such as carbon credits and tradeable co-benefits that will support a commercially and environmentally sustainable agricultural sector.

SPONSORS

Thank you to our generous sponsors: Morris Family Foundation, Garry White Foundation

Our sincere thanks also goes to all those who have provided ‘in kind’ support for this event: Loggers Rest B&B, 31 The Rocks, The Border Post, Traprock Group, QFF, Growcom, Southern Queensland NRM, Granite Belt Wine and Tourism, Landcare and many others who helped us to make this happen.
ACTIVATE

8 Psychological strategies to tackle climate change

A - Acknowledge feelings
C - Create social norms
T - Talk about it
I - Inspire positive visions
V - Value it
A - Act
T - Time is now
E - Engage with nature
## Managing Climate Risk in Agriculture

### WHEN | WHAT | WHO, WHY AND HOW
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9:00–9:15am | Welcome | Robin McConchie (MC)
9:15–11:00am | MORNING SESSION 1  
Plenary Session Climate Risk—The Big Picture | Professor Mark Howden (Vice Chair IPCC Working Group II, Director ANU Climate Change Institute)  
Sarah Barker (MinterEllison)  
Russell Mehmet (Willis Towers Watson)
11:00–11:30am | Morning Tea |  
11:30–12:30pm | MORNING SESSION 2  
Climate Change in South East Queensland | Megan Surawski (Department of Environment & Science)  
Elizabeth Rose (EY)  
Ross Henry (Queensland Farmers’ Federation)  
Facilitator: Brent Finlay  
(Finlay Agricultural Industries)
12:30–12:55pm | MORNING SESSION 3  
Adaptive Management across the World | Robert Quirk (Cane Farmer)
12:55–1:05 | NEXT GEN RISING  
A local youth perspective | Claire McCormack (School Strike for Climate)
1:05–1:40pm | Lunch |  
1:40–2:30pm | KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
Climate Change—Every Choice Counts | Professor Mark Howden
2:30–3:45pm | AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS (CONCURRENT)  
Challenges & Opportunities for Viticulture | Professor Snow Barlow (University of Melbourne)  
Mike Hayes (Sirromet Wines)  
Michelle Coelli (Twisted Gum Wines)  
Facilitator: Peter O’Reilly  
(Queensland College of Wine Tourism)
Challenges & Opportunities for Horticulture | David Carey (Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries)  
Lene Knudsen (Growcom)  
Gavin Scurr (PiñataFarms)  
Facilitator: David Oag  
(Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries)
Resilience in Mixed Farming Systems | Professor Mark Howden  
Brent Finlay  
Dr Tom Davison (National Livestock Productivity Program)  
Facilitator: Dr Neil Cliffe  
(Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries)
3:45–4:00pm | Afternoon Tea |  
4:00pm–4:15pm | WELCOME BACK  
Reflections on breakout sessions | Robin McConchie
4:15–5:15pm | BUILDING RESILIENCE INTO FARMING SYSTEMS:  
People, places & communities (Whole-of-farm approach) | Assoc. Prof. John Bennett (University of Southern Queensland)  
Peter Mailler (Solar Farm)  
Ian Heiner (NRM Regions Queensland)  
Dr Pamela Greet (Land Restoration Fund)  
Facilitator: Verity Morgan-Schmidt  
(Farmers for Climate Action)
5:15–5:30pm | Conclusion | Robin McConchie
5:30–8:30pm | Cocktail Evening |  

*Brought to you by Farmers for Climate Action—putting those on the front line of climate change, front and centre in creating climate solutions.*