



Agenda Thursday 14th September 2023

Please log on before the start time to ensure your set up is working. The expo will start promptly at 11am AEST.

TIME	PRESENTER INFO
11.00am	Welcome – RuralBiz Training
11.05am	Lucas Group – Geoff Lucas – Managing Director
11.20am	Elders – Melanie Rowse – HR Business Partner
11.35am	AgCareer Start – Haylee Murrell – Outbound Project Officer
11.50am	Dairy Australia – Jon Hurford - Schools Engagement Senior Advisor
12.05pm	DATA Ag – Sally Poole – Agronomist & Digital Ag Consultant
12.20pm	Costa - Lianne Casement – Group Manager Development, Engagement and Inclusion & Declan Portman - Graduate Program
12.35pm	Meat & Livestock Australia – Dr Sarita Guy
12.50pm	RuralBiz Training – Education and training pathways Lachlan McCabe – Student Experience Melanie Moeller – Business Development Manager
1.05pm	Summary & Final questions.





We are excited to announce the speakers for the 2023 Online Agricultural Careers Expo!



Geoff Lucas

Managing Director

Since 1990, The Lucas Group has been providing solutions to support clients in recruiting the right people for the right jobs across Australian food and fibre production. They provide executive search, recruitment, and human resource consulting across agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, and everything in between. The team at Lucas Group have unique insight and understanding of agribusiness and rural jobs across Australia.

With tertiary qualifications in Agricultural Management, Geoff has more than 30 years' experience in executive recruitment, HR consulting and project management. As Director of The Lucas Group, Geoff is also an Agribusiness Representative for the Industry Skills Council of SA and a member of the SA state council for Agribusiness Australia.

<https://lucasgroup.com.au/>



Melanie Rowse

HR Business Partner

Since 1839, Elders has been a leading agribusiness and iconic brand throughout rural and regional Australia. For 180 years, Elders has expertly combined agribusiness knowledge and technical expertise to create specialised products and services, tailor-made to meet the needs of our varied clients. Elders has links to markets, production expertise, national network, and access to leading farm supply brands.

Growing up on a farm in the South-East of South Australia, Melanie, who has only recently commenced with Elders, jumped at an opportunity to join such a reputable organisation in the agricultural industry. Having previously worked in local government, mining, casinos and natural gas, Melanie has a diverse and well-rounded HR generalist background with a current focus on working with livestock trainees.

www.elders.com.au



Haylee Murrell

Outbound Project Manager

Haylee is currently completing a Bachelor of Agriculture at the University of New England. As a young person passionate about Australian Agriculture, she understands the importance of providing pathways for young people to enter the industry. Haylee has spent the last two years working in a recruitment role for a university and has recently joined the AgCAREERSTART team as the outbound project officer. Her role is to advocate the program to young people aged 17-25 and encourage others to take a 'gap-year' in Agriculture. Haylee is a current 2023 Agrifutures Horizon scholar recipient and is passionate that you never know where a career in Agriculture will lead you.

AgCAREERSTART is a 10-12 month gap-year program designed to kick-start your career in farming. If you're under 25 and at the start of your career, it's a great way to learn new skills, apply your knowledge, and build your confidence.

www.agcareerstart.com.au



Jon Hurford

Schools Engagement Senior Advisor

Jon Hurford (BA Hons (ANU), B. Teaching (University of Sydney)) joined Dairy Australia in 2022 as Senior Advisor Schools Engagement after over a decade in Primary and Secondary Classrooms in Victoria, NSW and the ACT and roles with the State Library of Victoria and RMIT.

He is passionate about sharing the work and resources of Dairy Australia with students, teachers, career counsellors and school communities across the country and oversees programs including 'Picasso Cows' and the Discover Aussie Dairy web resources.

<https://www.dairy.com.au/>





Sally Poole

Agronomist and Digital Agriculture Consultant

Sally is an Agronomist and Digital Ag consultant with 7 years' experience working in both grain and cotton production across the Southern Darling Downs and Border Rivers region.

Sally was an Australian Grains Future Leader in 2022 and undertook a project looking at the sustainability of grain production in both Australia and Kenya.

Sally is also on the board of Crop Consultants Australia as the communication director where she is helping implement a new communication strategy aimed at growing connections and improving the information flow between members, the association, and the wider industry.

<https://au.linkedin.com/in/sally-poole-536a53121>



Lianne Casement

Group Manager of Development, Engagement and Inclusion

The Costa business started in a fruit shop in Geelong more than 120 years ago and has grown to be one of Australia's largest producer, marketer and exporter of premium quality fresh fruit and vegetables. Costa employs 7,000 people during peak season times and operates nationally across more than 30 regional and rural communities.

Lianne Casement is Costa's Group Manager of Development, Engagement and Inclusion. As part of her role, she looks after career development and pathways in the organisation, as well as building a culture that attracts and keeps the best talent at Costa. Lianne has a Master's Degree in Organisational Psychology and is currently based in Melbourne. She has worked in a range of different industries, including healthcare, retail, and energy, to now applying her expertise in the Agricultural industry.

www.costagroup.com.au



Declan Portman

Costa Graduate Program

Declan Portman is one of Costa's graduates in the 2022 cohort. As part of his studies Declan completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at La Trobe University. Declan knew he wanted to work in the agricultural industry since he was 16, and during his studies he was heavily drawn to the idea of being an agronomist or consultant as he wanted to help farmers achieve their best in all aspects of farming.



Dr Sarita Guy

Project Manager- Genetics Adoption

Sarita first knew she wanted to be in agriculture when she first stepped on a farm when she was just 12 years old. Little did she know; that pathway would lead her to be a scientist specialising in animal breeding and genetics. As a Quantitative Geneticist, Sarita has developed tools to help farmers breed for healthy and productive livestock.

In her role at Meat & Livestock Australia, Sarita is now supporting passionate producers in their uptake and use of genetic tools.

www.mla.com.au



Lachlan McCabe

RuralBiz Training Student & Guardian Angel.

Lachlan has completed both his Diploma of Agriculture and Advanced Diploma of Agribusiness Management with RuralBiz and has since come on board as a Guardian Angel (our student's go-to person) to help support our students.

Lachlan runs a small Merino wool & lamb operation, as well as growing out cattle on a family farm near Brookton WA and is also an Export Hay Buyer for Balco Australia!



Melanie Moeller

Melanie's early years were spent on a dairy farm, but she grew up to follow her interest in visual arts. With a degree in Fine Arts and extensive experience in stakeholder engagement and marketing, she is our Business Development Manager and has been with RuralBiz since 2016. Melanie is passionate about education and agriculture and loves helping students find the perfect training path.

Founded in 2002 RuralBiz Training has become a leading provider of accredited training for agriculture, agribusiness, horticulture, and agronomy across Australia. RuralBiz has designed a training model that means you can study from your farm – wherever in Australia that is. As part of Academies Australasia, this training is now available to international students in Armidale NSW.

www.ruralbiztraining.com.au

