



National Conference
Narrabri, NSW
19 - 21 April 2010

Sponsors Feedback

In recent years, rural communities have been faced with significant challenges including:

1. Severe ongoing drought;
2. Significant changes in government policy especially those relating to water and carbon;
3. The mineral resources boom

These issues have the potential to change the face of rural communities forever and so there is need to understand the current situation (*The Research*), our response (*The Workforce*) and how we can plan for the future (*Building Capacity*). To address these issues, a 'Sustaining Rural Communities' Conference was held in Narrabri, NSW from the 19th to 21st of April 2010.

The conference attracted up to 170 delegates each day from around Australia, including representatives from all agricultural industries, along with delegates from government and industries such as mining, manufacturing, finance, tourism, transport, science, education and health. Briefly, the programme for the three days focused on the following three streams:

The Research: social research concerning rural communities, economies and the impacts of drought and climate change.

The Workforce: Responses to creating and sustaining regionally flexible workforces with resilient communities.

Building Capacity: Building the capacity of rural people and their communities. Promoting innovation, social capital and networks.



Sustaining Rural Communities



Cotton Catchment Communities CRC



Australian Government
Cotton Research and
Development Corporation

National Conference
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Speaker Professor Paul Martin UNE

Media Coverage

The conference received great publicity in the local and national media including 12 newspaper reports, 10 radio interviews across rural and regional Australia and widespread publicity through community newsletters and websites.



John Bird General Manager of
Rural Labour and Skilling Unit
DEEDI

Delegate feedback

A survey to gauge delegate's impressions of the conference is currently being undertaken. Feedback from delegates thus far include:

- "The conference really was excellent. The standard of speakers was very high, the organisation seemed to proceed seamlessly, people were friendly and open to the exchange of ideas and--a bonus--the food was really excellent. The same team have offered to run another conference next year, and if I possibly can be there, I will be."
- "Last week's conference was great – not only the information, but the passion of those there"
- "Fantastic 3 days! Congratulations to you and all your great committee for putting on such a great conference".
- "Firstly, congratulations to you and all concerned with the Conference. Brilliant, can't wait till the next. The speakers noteworthy, inspiring and challenging".



Speakers Danny Lester, Linda Botterill and John Buchanan



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Joanne Grainger Chair Cotton Australia in discussion with delegates at a workshop

What's next ??

Thank you to all the sponsors who supported this conference. It was a huge success and through your sponsorship we have been able to develop a 'Community Action Fund'.

This 'Community Action Fund' offers ten \$1000 bursaries to those rural community organisations that are committed to undertaking an activity which will help sustain their rural community.

The activities will be developed into case studies which will be presented at next year's conference.

Continuing the passion

Since the conference, the organising committee have:

- Posted speakers presentations and podcasts of the presentations on the following website:
http://www.cottoncrc.org.au/content/Communities/Noticeboard/Sustaining_Rural_Communities_Conference.aspx
- Registered and are in the process of developing a new dedicated 'Sustaining Rural Communities' website.
- Agreed to convene another conference again next year so delegates can further develop their skills, knowledge and partnerships.



Speaker Linda Botterill in discussion with delegates



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Workshop at the conference



Delegates Geoff Wise (Bourke Shire Council), Paul Cruickshank (DECCW NSW), Alison McIntosh (QUT) Ray Brown and Lisa Brown (Mayor Western Downs Regional Council)



Paula Jones (Cotton CRC) Dave Anthony (Cotton CRC Board) Hon John Anderson, Philip Armytage (Cotton CRC) Di Bentley (Cotton CRC Board)



Delegates taking in a speaker in a workshop and more delegates below at the conference





*Cr Andrew Lewis (Bourke Shire Council)
Geoff Wise (Bourke Shire Council)
Hon John Anderson*



*Dave Larsen (Cotton CRCI) Greg Morris
(Busy Bee, Narrabri), Ken Flower (Cotton CRC,
CRDC, Cotton Australia)*



*Some of our speakers from top left
going clockwise
Arthur Blewitt (Agrifood Skills)
Ray Brown (Mayor Western Downs
Regional Council),
Georgie Somerset (Rural
Communications Consultant)
Sylvia Admans (Chief Executive Officer
FRRR) and
John Walkom (Chair Regional
Development Orana Region)*



Delegates during a workshop



*Delegates Danielle Anderson (MDBA),
Andrea Leys and Di Shogran (Canberra)*



Delegate taking notes during a workshop



Delegates enjoying the time out and networking



*Delegate Jenny Croft asking the
questions*



*Organiser Guy Roth with local federal member
Mark Coulton*

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Whether your home is on the land or you live in town... we can all play a part in making a difference to the health of our landscape, our water and our native plants and animals.



For information, advice and training contact your local Namoi CMA office



Namoi

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in the heart of the North West?*

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Email: council@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.narrabri.nsw.gov.au





MP3 CD listing – (CD for use on home computers or MP3 compatible car audio systems)

Day 1 - The Research

Speaker presentation time	MP3 file name
Philip Armytage - Welcome and Context Audio 5 min	Sess01 1armytagewelcome
Mr Craig Trindall - Welcome to country Audio 4.5 min	Sess01 2trindallwelcomecountry A1
Professor Peter Shergold - Community Leadership in Rural Australia. Audio 42 min	Sess01 3shergold
Dr Linda Botterill - Challenges of drought policy and options for the future . Audio 31 min	Sess01 4botterill
Professor Paul Martin - Rural communities resurgence. Resilience. Trends and options. Audio 19 min	Sess02 1martin
Dr Judy Stubbs - Impacts of policy on community wellbeing in the Murray Darling Basin. Audio 42 Min	Sess02 2stubbsc
Mr Bruce Brown - Agricultural Sector Productivity and Natural Resource Management, Audio 28	Sess02 3brown
Associate Professor Sabina Knight - The social and health impacts of drought on rural and remote communities. Audio 27 min	Sess02 4knight
Mr Phil Alchin - Workshop 3-1 Improving our understanding of socio economic trends in rural communities. Audio 21 min	Sess03 1 1alchin
Neil Burgess - Workshop 3-1 Improving our understanding of socio-economic trends in rural communities. Audio 26	Sess03 1 2burgess
Jim Donaldson - Workshop 3-1 Improving our understanding of socio economic trends in rural communities. Audio 26 min 6.4MB (MP3 = 3.07 MB)	Sess03 1 3donaldson

Day 2 - The Workforce

Dennis Hoiberg - Agriculture: trends in the workforce and needs. Audio 20	Sess05 1hoiberg A
The Hon John Anderson- Work force challenges Audio 36 min	Sess05 2anderson B1
Professor John Buchanan - Understanding workforce participation. Audio 29 min	Sess05 3bucanan A
Joanne Grainger - Supply Chain: Retaining people in the regions for the regions. Audio 13 Min	Sess05 4grainger B1
John Bird - Supply Chain: Retaining people in the regions for the regions. Audio 9 Min	Sess05 5bird B1
Arthur Blewitt - Taking a regional approach to rural workforces Audio 21 min	Sess06 1blewitt
Cr Ray Brown - How to deal with major industry changes on the ground. A case study from Western Downs Regional Council, Qld. Audio 36	Sess06 2brown B1
Danny Lester Future opportunities for indigenous workforces Audio 23 min	Sess06 3lester B1

Day 3 - The Capacity

Sylvia Admans Building human capacity in regional communities Audio 25 Min	Sess09 1admans B1
Georgie Somerset Sustaining the people who sustain our communities. Audio 28 Min	Sess09 2somerset B1
John Walkom Building businesses to sustain rural communities. Audio 25 Min	Sess09 3walcom A
Rohan Boehm (Intro by Mike Logan) Human capacity development in rural industries. Audio 5 Min	Sess10 1logan Boehm B
Tom McCue Human capacity development in rural industries. Audio 11 Min	Sess10 2mccue B
Su McClusky Human capacity development in rural industries Audio 6 Min	Sess10 3mcclusky B

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