



**COTTON
AUSTRALIA**

Advancing Australian Cotton

2025 AUSTRALIAN COTTON COLLECTIVE

TOOWOOMBA | AUGUST 5-7

REGISTER TO ATTEND



The Cotton Collective is the industry's key learning and engagement opportunity, and the biggest trade show for cotton in 2025.

COTTON COLLECTIVE - DAY 1

AGENDA

| Time | Session | Location |
|---------------|---|---|
| 8:30-4.30pm | Darling Downs District Bus Tour Innovation Bus Tour COST: \$50 (Plus booking fee), includes lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excel Agriculture • Bayer Lab • RDO • SwarmFarm | Bus pickup from The Rock Hotel, Ruthven Street - 8:30 |
| 6.30pm-8.00pm | Welcome Drinks – Sponsored by LDC. Funds raised on the night going to the Jamieson Trauma Institute | The Rock Hotel, Ruthven St |

COTTON COLLECTIVE - DAY 2

| Time | Session | Location |
|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| 7.30 – 9.00am | Registration - Tea and coffee on arrival Trade Hall Opens 8.55am | Toowoomba Showgrounds |
| 9.00am | Opening Session Session Chair – Cotton Australia Chair Nigel Burnett | Glenvale Room |
| 9.00–9.05 | Official Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country - Nigel Burnett –Chair, Cotton Australia | |
| 9.05-10 | Megatrends and the Australian Cotton Industry Dr Stefan Hajkowicz PhD, Research Consultant, Analytics and Decision Sciences, Data61, CSIRO | |
| 10.00 – 10.45 | Morning tea | Founders Pavilion |
| 10.45 – 11.45 | Water Session Chair – Cotton Australia General Manager Michael Murray Has the Basin Plan been worth the Pain and What is Next? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDBA CEO - Andrew McConville • National Irrigators Council CEO - Zara Lowien • Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder - Simon Banks Panel Discussion | Glenvale Room |
| 11.45-12.15pm | My Family Farming Journey Stuart Tighe – Grain Producer and founder of the PURE Grain Network | |
| 12.15 – 1.45pm | Lunch | Founders Pavilion |
| 1.45-3.00pm | Session Chair – Cotton Australia Deputy Chair Liz Stott Growing a Successful Family Farm Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Dall'Abba, Director, Business Consultant and Mentor • Scott Balsillie, Chief Operations Manager, Easter Australian Agriculture • Luke Kenniff, Managing Director, Harvest Agents and Advisory • Bec Fing, Principal, House Paddock Training and Consulting • Stuart Tighe – Grain Producer and founder of the PURE Grain Network Facilitated Questions and Discussions | Glenvale Room |
| 2.45-3.00 | What is next for SwarmFarms? Andrew Bate, Founder Swarmfarms Founder | |
| 3.00 – 3.45 | Afternoon Tea | Founders Pavilion |

COTTON COLLECTIVE - DAY 2 (CONTINUED)

| Time | Session | Location |
|--------------|---|--|
| 3.45pm-4pm | Session Chair – Cotton Australia Cotton to Market Lead Brooke Summers Growing Great Leaders for the Farm and Beyond Matt Linnegar, CEO of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation | Glenvale Room |
| 4.00 -5.00pm | Beyond the Farm Gate – Australian Cotton in the Wider World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Gall – CEO of RB Sellars • Brooke Summers - Cotton Australia Cotton to Market Lead | Glenvale Room |
| 6.00pm | National Cotton Awards Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC – Matt Linnegar, CEO of ARLF • Guest Speaker The Honourable Dr Anthony Lynham | Armitage Centre, Empire Theatre, Neil Street |

COTTON COLLECTIVE - DAY 3

| Time | Session | Location |
|--------------|---|-----------------------|
| 7.30–9am | Registration - Tea and coffee on arrival Trade Hall Opens 8.55am | Toowoomba Showgrounds |
| 8.00am-9.00 | Cotton Australia AGM | Committee Room |
| 9.00 – 10.15 | New Product Session hosted by the Cotton Grower Magazine | |
| 9.35–10.05 | Practical Tech on the Farm (Drone spraying) – Aaron Kiely, Emerald, Matt Richards, Felton and Luke Chaplain the Sky Kelpie | |
| 10.05 -10.15 | Meeting the Training needs of our Workforce – Jasmin Smith, Smart Ag Qld | |
| 10.15– 11.00 | Morning tea | Founders Pavilion |
| 11-12pm | Rapid-Fire Research Insights Session CottonInfo Program Manager Janelle Montgomery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplifying the carbon + emissions conversation from one paddock to another - Grace Griffiths, Grower, Agronomist, and Sustainability Lead with Digital Ag Technologies (DATAAG) • Growing Grower Productivity - Sam Lee, Extension and Development Manager, Qld, NT & WA, Cotton Seeds Distributors • Optimising Bankless Irrigation through Automation – Dr Malcolm Gillies, UniSQ • The Australian Cotton Data Platform - Dr Meredith Conaty, General Manager Innovation, CRDC • Inline Contamination Detection – The Current State of Play - Rene van der Sluijs – CottonInfo Technical Lead Fibre Quality • Retention of Crop Residue in Cotton Farming Systems - Richie Quigley, grower and Nuffield Scholar • Cotton Farming Challenges in 2035 - Lauren Roellgen, grower and Chair of the Future Farmers Network • Is the Cotton Market just making you Hungry – Rob Imray, Cotton Compass/Farmaco | Glenvale Room |
| 12:45 -2:00 | Lunch | Founders Pavilion |
| 2:00 - 3:00 | Closing Session Session Chair – Cotton Australia CEO Adam Kay Keynote Closing Speaker - Reading People: The Business Skill You Can't Afford to Miss Natalie Waters, Human Behavioural Profiler, Adventure and Business Coach Closing Remarks Cotton Australia CEO Adam Kay | Glenvale Room |

SPEAKERS



Andrew Bate

Andrew is the co-founder and CEO of SwarmFarm Robotics, a pioneer in autonomous agriculture. A grain farmer from Central Queensland and trained agronomist, Andrew launched SwarmFarm in 2012 to commercialise robotic farming. In 2025, he and his wife Jocie were inducted into the AusAgritech Hall of Fame.



Andrew McConville

Andrew is Chief Executive of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. He has more than 30 years' experience in public policy and agriculture, previously serving as CEO of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association. He oversees implementation of the Basin Plan and operation of the River Murray system.



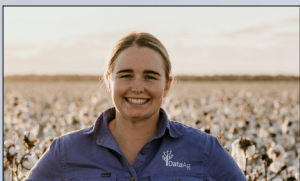
A/Prof Anthony Lynham

A/Prof Anthony Lynham is a maxillofacial surgeon and former Head Examiner for Maxillofacial Surgery. He was a Senior Consultant at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital before entering politics in 2014, where as a Senior Government Minister he led injury prevention reforms still in place today. He is Chair of Day Hospitals Australia, Director of Australian Retirement Trust, and serves on several advisory boards, including the Queensland Audit of Surgical Mortality and the ARC Training Centre for Cell and Tissue Engineering Technologies.



Bec Fing

Bec is the founder of House Paddock Training and Consulting in Goondiwindi. With nearly 20 years' experience, she provides practical WHS, HR and business strategy advice to farmers and small businesses. Having worked on more than 600 farms across six states, Bec delivers workshops and consulting services to improve safety, productivity and planning in rural workplaces.



Grace Griffiths

Grace is a grower, agronomist and Sustainability Lead at Digital Ag Technologies (DATA AG). A 2024 Cotton Future Leader, Grace is based in Goondiwindi and is focused on the evolving "Carbon Conversation" in agriculture. She combines practical experience with spatial soil analysis expertise to explore carbon markets, farm sustainability and the broader system shaping carbon initiatives.



Dr Malcolm Gillies

Dr Malcolm Gillies is a researcher at the University of Southern Queensland's Centre for Agricultural Engineering, with 20 years' experience in surface irrigation research for the cotton, sugar and dairy industries. His work focuses on evaluating and automating irrigation systems, and he also lectures in agricultural engineering at UniSQ.



Jasmin Smith

Jasmin is a Project Manager with the Queensland Farmers' Federation, delivering workforce and training initiatives for SmartAg Queensland. With a focus on cotton, she has led programs in picker and spray operator training, business skills, and safety—enabling hundreds of growers to access subsidised, tailored training.



Lauren Roellgen

Lauren is a cotton grower and Chair of the Future Farmers Network. Based on the Darling Downs, she also works as an Associate Director at LAWD. With a background in accounting and agribusiness analysis, Lauren is now applying her corporate expertise to her family's farming business.



Luke Chaplain

Luke Chaplain is a grazer and founder of SkyKelpie, a company pioneering drone mustering in Australia. Backed by MLA and QDAF, Luke's trials demonstrated the practical benefits of drones in livestock handling. A 2022 Nuffield Scholar, he is recognised as a leader in aerial stockmanship and drone integration on farms.

SPEAKERS



Luke Kenniff

Luke Kenniff is the founder of Harvest Agents and Advisory, a specialist agribusiness advisory firm. With a background in global commodities and finance, Luke supports agricultural investors across the value chain. He grew up on a cotton farm in Wee Waa and has worked extensively with corporate and family farming enterprises.



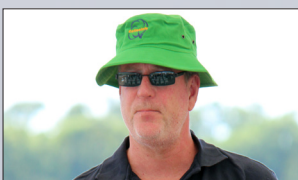
Matt Linnegar

Matt is Chief Executive of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. A former CEO of the National Farmers' Federation and a Fellow of the Foundation, Matt has over 30 years of experience across agriculture, water, trade and leadership. He has held roles with Murrumbidgee Irrigation, Ricegrowers' Association and the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation.



Natalie Waters

Natalie Waters is a behavioural profiler and business coach with a background in law enforcement across Australia and the Middle East. Her career includes work with intelligence agencies, training in hostage negotiation, and personal protection for dignitaries. She now specialises in human behaviour, leadership and high-performance mindset coaching.



René van der Sluijs

René is CottonInfo's technical lead on fibre quality and a textile technologist with more than a decade's experience. He has deep knowledge of the post-harvest sector and has presented at numerous international conferences. René is a former Australian Cotton Researcher of the Year and a long-serving member of the Australian Cotton Ginners Association.



Richie Quigley

Richie is a cotton and mixed cropping farmer from Trangie, NSW, and a recent Nuffield Scholar. His research focused on increasing crop residue through practices like stripper headers and cover cropping, aiming to improve water use efficiency in cotton and cereal systems on his family's farm.



Rob Imray

Rob is a Director of Green Pool Commodities and Farmarco Australia, and a co-founder of Cotton Compass. With over 35 years in commodity markets and risk management, Rob holds degrees in business and accounting. He is a former President and current Secretary of Queensland Agricultural Merchants Inc.



Sam Lee

Sam is the Extension and Development Manager for Queensland, NT and WA with Cotton Seed Distributors. Since joining in 2016, he has supported cotton growers through extension programs and leads efforts to grow the industry in Northern Australia with a focus on development and regional engagement.



Stefan Hajkowicz

Dr Stefan Hajkowicz is a chief research consultant at CSIRO, specialising in strategic foresight, scenario planning and megatrends. He is the author of Global Megatrends and has advised governments and industry globally. Stefan is a fellow of the Queensland Academy of Arts and Sciences and a long-time member of international foresight communities.



Stuart Tighe

Stuart Tighe is the founder of PURE Grain Network, a traceable, data-driven platform connecting growers to end users. A former CEO of Boolah Farms, Stuart has over 30 years in broadacre cropping. PURE Grain services over 180,000 ha, supplying premium malting barley to major brewers with full supply chain transparency.

[REGISTER TO ATTEND](#)