

BAYER AUSTRALIAN COTTON GROWER OF THE YEAR

FIELD DAY

The 2025 Bayer Cotton Grower of the Year Field Day celebrates excellence and innovation in cotton farming.

It's a great opportunity to connect with others in the industry, exchange ideas, discuss challenges, and explore partnerships to enhance cotton production.

EVENT DETAILS

9am Wednesday 5 March, 2025

2024 Bayer Cotton Growers of the Year Scott & Shonel Balsillie – 'Clyde' - 10360 Castlereagh Highway, Dirranbandi



WEDNESDAY
5 MARCH
DIRRANBANDI

[RSVP NOW](#)

GOLD SPONSORS



GROWER OF THE YEAR FIELD DAY AGENDA

All times are in Queensland time

- 6:00am** Buses depart Moree (Pick up location TBC)
7:30am Buses depart Mungindi and Lightning Ridge (Pick up location TBC)
These buses return to pick up point that evening.
- 8:30am** Buses depart from the Hebel Hotel and Dirranbandi (Pick up location TBC)
- 9am** Morning Tea at 'Clyde', Dirranbandi and Welcome from Scott Balsillie
- 10am -12pm** **Group 1 Farm Tour of Clyde**
Scott Balsillie – Bayer Cotton Grower of the Year will host a tour of Eastern Australia Agriculture's myBMP certified farm.
- 10am -12pm** **Group 2 - Speaker Sessions**
- Understanding ESG & what it means for your business**
Catherine Marriott - Nuffield Scholar
- Panel discussion: Why bankless irrigation works**
Glenn Lyons - Irrigation Designer
Steve McVeigh - AgrRisk High Achiever
Craig Saunders - Plantation Farm
- What's New in AgTech**
Andrew Sevil - Calm Your Farm
- Overcoming Workforce Woes - What Employers of Choice Do Differently!**
Bec Fing – House Paddock Training
- Global market trends affecting our brand and retail customers**
Brooke Summers - Cotton to Market, Cotton Australia
- 12pm – 1pm** **BBQ LUNCH - Group 1 & 2 Combined**
- 1pm- 1:30pm** **Guest Speaker- Brendan Cullen, Royal Flying Doctors Service 'We've Got Your Back' Champion**
- 2pm** **Group 1 - Speaker Sessions**
Group 2 - Farm Tour
- 4pm** **Afternoon Tea**
- 4pm** **Afternoon bus departs for Moree and Mungindi**
- 4:30pm - 5pm** **Group 1 & 2 Combined**
Q&A Pannel Discussion
- 5pm** **Event close. Buses depart to travel to Hebel Hotel**
- 5:30pm** **Grower dinner at Hebel Hotel**
- 8pm - 9pm** **Buses depart for Moree, Mungindi, Dirranbandi and Lightning Ridge.**

TIP: CHOSE THE RIGHT GROUP.

Anyone wanting to leave earlier in the day is advised to make sure they are in Group 1 and do the Clyde Farm Tour first up in the morning.

You are welcome to drive to the Field Day but we encourage you to carpool where possible. There is ample parking at the Clyde shed. All roads well-formed and all-weather access. The entrance to Clyde is 20km from Dirranbandi on the right, and 50km from Hebel on the left.

For more information contact Sally Rigney sallyr@cotton.org.au or call 0417 758 353.

REGISTER TO ATTEND



SILVER SPONSORS

GROWER OF THE YEAR FIELD DAY

GUEST SPEAKERS

Scott Balsillie, Eastern Australia Agriculture

Scott Balsillie oversees Eastern Australia Agriculture's myBMP-certified operations at Clyde in Dirranbandi and Kia Ora in St George. Clyde produces up to 2,000 hectares of irrigated cotton, while Kia Ora grows up to 4,500 hectares. A bankless irrigation system has improved water efficiency, profitability, machinery and labour use, and fertiliser application. Strategic environmental flows to the Narran wetlands also support native bird breeding.

Catherine Marriott OAM

Catherine Marriott OAM is an agribusiness professional and advisor, chairing the Grains Sustainability Framework Steering Group and serving on the Farm Trade Australia Board. She recently completed a 2024 Nuffield Scholarship on the impact of global ESG policies on Australian farmers and will share her findings.

Bec Fing: House Paddock Training and Consulting

Dirranbandi's Bec Fing, founder of House Paddock Training and Consulting, has provided training and consulting since 2005. Her team helps regional businesses with planning, WHS, and HR management, delivering practical solutions to improve operations.

Brooke Summers: Cotton to Market, Cotton Australia

Brooke Summers leads Cotton Australia's Cotton to Market program, which supports demand for Australian cotton. The program helps brands and retailers integrate Australian cotton into their supply chains and promotes the quality, sustainability, and benefits of Australian Cotton.

Brendan Cullen, Royal Flying Doctors Service 'We've Got Your Back' Champion

Brendan Cullen is a Broken Hill farmer who swam the English Channel to create awareness about mental health issues. A Champion for the Royal Flying Doctors Service 'We've Got Your Back' initiative, Brendan will be sharing his life experiences and epic journey to better mental health and fitness.

BANKLESS PANEL

Glenn Lyons: GL Water Services

Glenn Lyons helps irrigators design farms to improve water efficiency, profitability, and sustainability. Over 20 years, he has challenged traditional methods and advanced affordable bankless and bay irrigation systems.

Steve McVeigh: McVeigh Ag, 'Loch Eaton', Dalby

Steve McVeigh, the 2024 AgriRisk High Achiever of the Year, grows over 1,000 hectares of cotton. He focuses on adopting water and labour-saving technologies to enhance productivity.

Craig Saunders: Saunders Farming, 'Plantation', St George

Craig Saunders is an innovator behind fully automated bankless irrigation systems and is well-known for sharing his expertise and experience to support the industry.

Andrew Sevil: Calm Your Farm, 'Whyenbah', Dirranbandi

Andrew Sevil developed systems to improve on-farm efficiency, starting with building a 53-metre tower to boost internet connectivity. His technologies are used on farms across the region.

[**REGISTER TO ATTEND**](#)



WHY COME TO THE 2025 BAYER COTTON GROWER OF THE YEAR FIELD DAY?

Hosted by Scott and Shonel Balsillie, this Field Day is a chance to see an award-winning farm in action. Scott's approach to farming combines cutting-edge technology with a strong focus on people, creating a highly productive and collaborative operation.

Scott is known for being an early adopter of AgTech, using the latest advancements to improve efficiency and keep the farm at the forefront of modern agriculture. His people-first leadership style ensures a motivated team, introducing new ways of working and building a positive environment.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Farm tour: See how Scott's innovative practices are applied on the ground.

Shed sessions: Learn about sustainability, water use, and workforce management.

Networking: Share ideas, discuss challenges, and connect with other growers.

[REGISTER TO ATTEND](#)

ACCOMMODATION

We recommend staying at Hebel, Dirranbandi or St George.

LOCAL ACCOMMODATION

The Hebel Hotel has cabins, rooms and a caravan park: <https://hebelhotel.com.au/stay/>

Dirranbandi Hotel Motel: <https://www.stgeorgeregion.com.au/listing/dirranbandi-hotel-motel/>

Dirranbandi Retreat & Caravan Park: <https://www.dirranbandioutback.com.au/>

St George accommodation: <https://www.stgeorgeregion.com.au/accommodation/hotels-motels/>

Lightning Ridge accommodation: <https://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/outback-nsw/lightning-ridge-area/lightning-ridge/accommodation>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information about region: <https://www.stgeorgeregion.com.au/>

Dirranbandi Airport will have a shuttle bus service, email your travel plans to Sally Rigney sallyr@cotton.org.au to arrange a transfer.

