

# The Chris Lehmann legacy

In July 2006, Cotton Consultants Australia Inc (CCA) hosted a testimonial dinner for long time member and cotton consultant Christopher Lehmann. The purpose of the dinner was to present Chris with life membership of the association, which he helped form and subsequently dedicated three decades of service to.

The dinner also helped raise funds for a trust fund established by CCA in conjunction with Chris and Deb Lehmann — the Chris Lehmann Trust fund (CLT). The principal object of the Trust is to perpetuate and honour the ideals and principals Chris dedicated himself to as the first independent cotton consultant. The trust bursary is an award for travel and accommodation within Australia to study agricultural and agronomy related issues.

The dinner and fundraising event was a tremendous success. Guest speaker for the evening, olympic swimming coach and mentor Laurie Lawrence, paid tribute to Chris and his passion for the cotton industry as evident at the dinner by the numbers in attendance and support for the auction. The CLT thanks the inaugural sponsors Deltapine, Boyce Benchmarks, Caltex, Summit Agro, Dupont, Bayer, Namoi and Beltwide Agriculture for their support for the 2006 bursary and dinner. The trust also extends thanks to guests at the dinner for their support of the auction which provides a solid foundation for the future of the bursary.




**Chris Lehmann, surrounded by his family at his testimonial dinner.**

Following on from the momentum of the dinner, applications for the 2006 bursary opened in September with a number of quality applications received. Interviews were held early in November and the interview panel noted that all applications received were of a high standard.

The winner of the 2006 bursary was Justin Ramsay, Farm Agronomist for Auscott Moree. A brief outline of Justin's project is provided below. Justin will present the findings from his project at the 2007 Cotton Production Seminar.

Unfortunately, Chris will not be around

to hear the results, but the future benefits of the study and research associated with the trust fund will be a fitting legacy for a man who devoted his life to learning and innovation in the cotton industry. 

## THE PROJECT

"Overhead irrigation gives farmers the flexibility to manipulate and alter the application of water. Currently cotton prices are historically low, so what other crops can we grow during these times to get the biggest bang for our buck and megalitre?"

"Of those crops that we can grow, how can growers improve the agronomy and marketing of them so that they can become a valuable rotational crop with cotton. As part of this project I will visit several farmers and consultants, viewing different crops and irrigation systems starting around Griffith/Hay and travelling down to the Murrumbidgee/Murray River system around Mildura.

"From there I will be travelling over to Western Australia where growers seem to have perfected the management of high input-high yielding wheat crops. This will allow investigation into the influences/suitability of several crops — corn, maize, rice, wheat, beans and peas.

The aim of the project will be to examine whether these crops have a place in our cotton system. I hope to find several suitable crops to use as a rotation that have favourable gross margins per hectare as well as per megalitre of water used.



**Deb Lehmann congratulates Justin Ramsay, the inaugural recipient of the Chris Lehmann trust fund bursary.**