

Super cotton conference enters new era of co-operation

This year's 14th Australian Cotton Conference to be held at the Gold Coast from August 12–14 reflects a new era of industry co-operation, with the Australian Cotton Growers Research Association (ACGRA) and Australian Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA) combining forces to unite the entire cotton industry — from research and production through to marketing and consumer requirements — at one biennial conference.

“The conference theme, *New Beginnings — Cotton in a Climate of Change*, reflects current challenges and future opportunities for the industry as it recovers from drought and begins to build for the future,” says ACGRA Chairman Ben Stephens.

He said traditionally the cotton industry is renowned for its proactive and innovative approach and it will continue as a leader in agriculture in terms of research, development and productivity.

ACSA chair Pete Johnson said that ACGRA and ACSA joining forces sends a strong message for both the Australian industry and to the markets we serve that we are united in seeking a customer-focused future.

He said it “will assist us in raising the profile of Australian cotton internationally while establishing a joint forum for infor-



ACGRA Chairman Ben Stephens.

mation sharing up and down the value chain.”

The program features informative, relevant and diverse presentations by passionate professionals and experts including the 2007 Australian Scientist of the Year, Australia's only Professor of Climate Change and a Nobel Peace prize recipient.

The event offers tremendous value with high calibre keynote speakers and expertise under one roof.

For the first time cotton growers can expect special offers including free admission to a *Growing Cotton's Future: Practical Solutions for Managing Your Water* day brought to them by Cotton Australia (CA) and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF) and a half price offer for spouses and partners.

“Aside from the quality speakers and information packed days, we hope participants can take advantage of the Gold Coast while they are here and enjoy a break before heading home again,” says Ben.

The conference offers free child mind-

ing and trade demonstration and displays from over 70 exhibitors.

All growers should soon receive a registration form for the conference — or go to www.australiancottonconference.com.au for full details on the conference program, registration and accommodation options.



ACSA Chair Pete Johnson.

AWARDS DINNER

The Australian Cotton Conference will culminate this year with the 2008 Australian Cotton Industry Awards, at a gala dinner to recognise the industry's highest achievers. This is your chance to help celebrate individuals and farming operations showing innovation, leadership, foresight, commitment and resilience — through what had been the industry's toughest years.

Finalists and winners will be honoured in five categories:

- Monsanto Grower of the Year
- AgriRisk Innovative Grower of the Year
- CSD ACGRA Researcher of the Year
- Australian Cotton Industry Young Achiever of the Year Award
- Cotton Service to Industry Award

Come along to support your local finalists and be part of this industry showcase event, proudly hosted by Cotton Australia and ACGRA.

Event and booking details

When: 6.30pm for pre-dinner drinks Thursday 14th August 2008

Where: Arena 2, Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre

What: Three course dinner and alcohol included (cash bar after midnight), high profile MC and dance band

Dress: Coat and tie, semi-formal

Cost: \$120 per person (GST inclusive). This is not included in the conference registration fee.

Bookings: Book your tickets through the Cotton Conference registration process.

A table plan and facility to organise your table bookings will be available at the conference registration desk. Dinner seating bookings must be completed no later than 12 noon on Thursday, August 14.