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Major industry organisations

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Cotton industry organisations

Australian Cotton Industry Council

The Australian Cotton Industry Council Ltd (ACIC) was established in March 1997 as the peak body representing all sectors of the cotton industry. It provides leadership to the whole industry – farmers, researchers, ginners, shippers, and related equipment and service providers. Importantly, ACIC also provides a united approach to handling industry issues for the sustainable long-term future as well as the opportunity to speak with a single voice when dealing with government, service providers, chemical companies and the community.

ACIC's mission is for a prosperous, secure and caring Australian cotton industry that is outward looking, sustainable, committed to continuous improvement and international competitiveness. ACIC's goals are:

- Environmental sustainability;
- Economic sustainability of individuals and enterprises in the cotton industry;
- Openness by the industry to public scrutiny;
- Endorsement by community, government and stakeholders as a good corporate citizen;
- Innovation and continuous improvement;
- Accountability for industry actions and progress across generations; and,
- A free market trading environment.

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Deputy Chair

Peter Graham
Phone: 02 6795 0000

Members

- Australian Cotton Ginners Association
- Australian Cotton Growers Research Association
- Australian Cotton Planting Seed

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Association

- Australian Cotton Shippers Association
- Cotton Agricultural Products Association
- Cotton Australia Limited
- Cotton Catchment Communities Cooperative Research Centre
- Cotton Classers Association of Australia
- Cotton Consultants Australia Inc
- Cotton Research and Development Corporation
- Croplife Limited

Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia is the peak representative body for Australia's cotton growers. It represents and advances the interests of growers to governments, non-government organisations, the media and community.

The organisation works in two key areas: servicing growers in the field and lobbying to have their interests met at Federal and State levels. Policy and overall strategic direction is set by a Board of seven elected Directors who are all growers and ginners.

A team of 11 staff based at offices in Sydney, Brisbane, Narrabri and Toowoomba focus on the following Board objectives:

- Obtain positive outcomes for cotton growers in natural resource management;
- Increase grower uptake of the industry's environmental program, Best Management Practices (BMP);
- Maintain a social license to grow cotton;
- Ensure financial security for the organisation; and,
- Improve cotton industry viability.

Cotton Australia also part-funds local Cotton Grower Associations, develops industry policies and delivers education, media and community relations programs.

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Deputy Chair

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Australian Cotton Growers' Research Association

The Australian Cotton Growers' Research Association Inc. (ACGRA) is a grower-based industry body which was set up in 1972 to administer research in the industry before the introduction of the Cotton Research Committee, and ultimately, the Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC).

The membership of ACGRA is made up of grower representatives of the Cotton Grower Associations together with representatives of all the major cotton processing organisations and the seed companies.

ACGRA and Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd. have a partnership agreement to provide financial assistance and ACGRA also operates on finance from interest on, or liquidation of, past investments.

Vision for the future

The ACGRA vision for the future is for "a profitable industry committed to the stewardship of resources and supported by a strong, focused and committed research program."

Mission

To engage the cotton growing community in a strong and committed effort to guide and encourage:

- Research communication within the cotton industry;
- Adoption and maintenance of responsible cotton growing practices;
- The identification of new research initiatives and strategic plans;
- Review of existing research programs;
- The Australian Cotton Conference program; and,
- The Australian Cotton Industry Council plan.

To provide an effective two-way line of communication between cotton growers and the key research funding body, the CRDC, to prioritise grower needs with research funds and also facilitate the on-farm implementation of the ensuing research. ACGRA is also a key industry participant in the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC.

In addition to the primary role of prioritisation of R,D&E, ACGRA also convenes the industry stewardship of, resistance management (through TIMS committee), Industry Biosecurity and support for industry development in Northern Australia.

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The current membership of the ACGRA is:

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The ACGRA Executive Officer is based on the 2nd level of the CRDC building at 2 Lloyd St, Narrabri.

**Aerial Agricultural
Association of
Australia**

The Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia (AAAA) comprises operators of agricultural aircraft engaged in spraying, spreading and seeding and has membership of 90 per cent of those working in cotton growing areas.

It has a commitment to maintaining and upgrading the training needs of all pilots, operations supervisors and ground support staff.

This has been formally recognised in the development of Spraysafe, an AAAA initiative involving education, training and accreditation of industry personnel.

Agricultural pilots must pass an examination based on the Spraysafe Pilots' and Operators' Manual.

Ground support staff receive training under the program on the occupational health and safety aspects of their job as mixers and loaders.

Aircraft operators must employ only approved pilots and have on-the-job training in place for their ground staff. In addition, their equipment, including aircraft and mix-

ing, loading and storage facilities are required to meet a standard set by the AAAA.

Cotton growers are encouraged to support Spraysafe by having their aerial application carried out by accredited operators.

AAAA contacts

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President

- Ashley Miller



**Australian Cotton
Ginners'
Association**

The Australian Cotton Ginners' Association was formed on December 4, 1992 and became an association of all the cotton processing organisations within Australia.

Its aims are:

- To promote the common business interests of persons engaged in the cotton ginning industry within Australia;
- To encourage and promote co-operation;
- To sponsor technical development; and,
- To seek improvement of communications, education and safety within the ginning industry.

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Member Organisations

- Auscott, Sydney
- Brighann Ginning, Moree
- Carroll Cotton, Carroll
- Clyde Agriculture, Bourke
- Dunavant Enterprises, Brisbane
- Koramba Ginning, Moree
- Namoi Cotton, Wee Waa
- North West Ginning, Moree
- Queensland Cotton, Brisbane

Australian Cotton Shippers' Association

The Australian Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA) is principally involved in enhancement of Australia's cotton industry in our export markets. It also aims to promote best management practices and prosperity within the industry and the communities within which we operate. This especially includes the preservation of contract sanctity and adherence to established International trading terms and arbitration procedures and protection of the forward marketing platform.

ACSA merchant members comprise the following:

- Auscott Marketing
- Cargill Cotton
- Dunavant Enterprises
- Ecom Commodities
- Namoi Cotton Cooperative
- Paul Reinhart Australia
- Plexus Cotton Australia
- Queensland Cotton
- Twynam Agricultural Group
- Volcot Australia
- Weil Brothers — Cotton (Aust)

The organisation has the support of over 30 associate member firms who deliver finance, insurance, marketing, controlling, shipping and logistics services to the post farm supply chain.

ACSA plays an active role in the local and international cotton arena through its membership of the Australian Cotton Industry Council (ACIC), the Australian Peak Shippers Association (APSA), the Committee for the Cooperation between Cotton Associations (CICCA) and the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF). All merchant members are also affiliated with the International Cotton Association (ICA).

The Association is represented on the ACIC Trade Committee and Cotton Evaluation and Advancement Committee (CEAC), the Australian Cotton Growers Research Association (ACGRA), Cotton

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Australia and is a contributor to the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC.

ACSA subscribes to the implementation of industry wide best management practices (BMP) and has been supportive of developing BMP modules of each stage of the movement of cotton beyond the farm gate and the development of standards under the EMS Pathways project to provide integrity for branding of Australian cotton.

ACSA has continued to support BMP by collaborating with Cotton Australia to launch the BMP Cotton trademark and provide education to retailers and end-users in Japan and other traditional Asian markets. ACSA also undertakes regular visits to both traditional and emerging markets to promote the sale of Australia and BMP cotton. ACSA also undertakes regular visits to both traditional and emerging markets to promote the sale of Australian and BMP cotton, and recently collaborated with Cotton Australia to produce the website www.bmpcotton.com.au specifically targeted at brand-owners and end users.

It has been improving the dialogue with growers, seed breeders, the seed companies and CSIRO's TFT unit in Geelong to ensure that messages from the market are fed back to those who can influence the direction of our research and development.

The interaction afforded by participation in these activities demonstrates ACSA's commitment to the industry as a whole.

Office bearers

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Vice Chairman:

- Arthur Spellson
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Cotton Agricultural Products Association

The Cotton Agricultural Products Association (CAPA) was formed in 1995 to lift the profile of the cotton merchandise distributors and to present a common voice to other industry associations.

CAPA provides a forum for objectively discussing industry issues involving product supply, industry practices, service levels and new technology introduction. It is a member of the Australian Cotton Industry Council.

Members

- Ag-N-Vet
- B & W Rural
- Cotton Growers Services
- Downs Fertilizers
- Elders Ltd
- McGregor Gourlay Agricultural Services
- North West Seed Producers
- Pursehouse Rural
- Total Ag Services
- Landmark

Chairman

- Peter Weal
B & W Rural
Phone: 02 6752 5300

Secretary

- Rob Dugdale
CGS Wee Waa
Phone: 02 6795 3100

Cotton Classers' Association of Australia

The Cotton Classers' Association of Australia (CCAA) has five Classing Members, three Non Classing Members and four Associate Members.

The main aim of the CCAA is to promote consistency between classing facilities within Australia, both merchant and independent.

The CCAA monitors this consistently through regular check tests for both visual classing and HVI testing. The CCAA is also involved in an international program – Commercial Standardisation of Instrument Testing (CSITC). All data from testing programs are analysed independently and results sent to classing facilities.

The CCAA is firmly committed to its BMP program to ensure that Australian cotton growers and end users worldwide have their product graded consistently under the

best possible standards and conditions. A brief BMP description follows.

CCAA Best Management Practice:

If Australia is to maintain its reputation as a consistent supplier of high quality cotton it will need to ensure that classing facilities in Australia consistently specify their cotton. To do this the cotton classing sector needs to be assessed independently to determine compliance to the Best Management Practice (BMP) for Classing handbook, compiled by the Cotton Classers Association of Australia (CCAA), via formal audits. These audits are conducted currently by René van der Sluijs of CSIRO's Textile and Fibre Technology (CTFT), an organisation which is considered to be independent.

These audits will allow individual facilities to make technical and operational corrections to their practice, so that ultimately the industry can achieve consistent and better prediction of classing grades.

There are currently nine Classing Houses in Australia, of which eight agreed to be audited initially in 2005. Since then two formal audits were conducted in 2006 and 2007 and six classing facilities were certified by Cotton Australia as compliant to the current version of the BMP handbook for classing.

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- The six classing facilities are:
- Australian Classing Services in WeeWaa;
 - Auscott Limited in Sydney;
 - ProClass Pty Ltd in Goondiwindi;
 - Queensland Cotton in Brisbane;
 - Paul Reinhart Australia in Toowoomba; and,
 - Weil Brothers Cotton (Aust.) in Toowoomba

Office bearers

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Treasurer

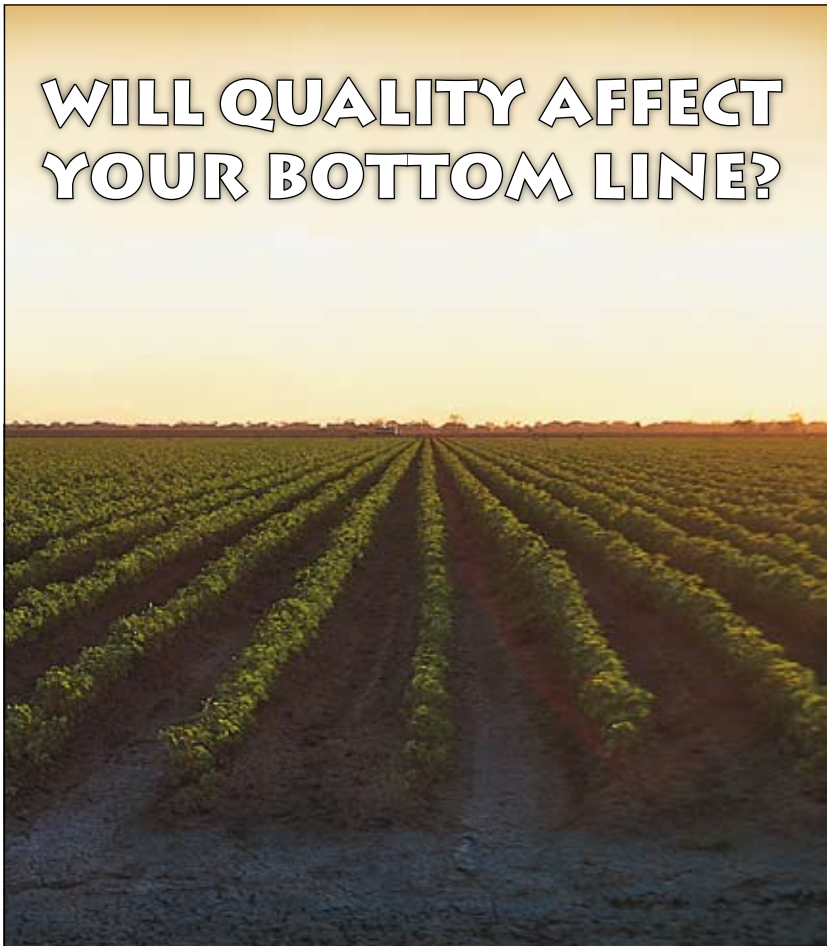
- Stuart Thompson
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The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, development, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry. The Cotton CRC aims to provide innovative knowledge to stimulate economic, social and environmental outcomes at farm, regional and national levels.

The Cotton CRC aims to:

- Develop internationally competitive cotton farming systems;
 - Best practice cotton enterprises delivering sustainable ecosystems and reduced impacts on catchments;
 - Mutually beneficial interactions between industry and regional communities;
 - High quality, consumer preferred cotton; and,
- ... 138 ▷



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 Fax: (02) 6790 3030
 Email: admin@ausclass.com.au
 Web: www.ausclass.com.au



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- Increased adoption of new knowledge and enhanced decision-making capability of people working in or with the cotton industry, its catchments and communities.

The activities of Cotton CRC have contributed to industry development in many areas. The implementation of an Integrated Pest Management program (IPM), biotechnology crops and best management practices has contributed to an 80% reduction in the use of pesticides in the Australian cotton industry. Water use efficiency has improved 20% over the last five years and crop yields have reached world record levels.

The collaborative research, education and commercialisation model that forms the foundation of the Cotton CRC concept is readily transferable on a global scale, as are many of the goals pursued and outcomes achieved.

Areas of research expertise

Integrated management of insects, weeds and disease, transgenic crop management, crop physiology, bioremediation, ecology, biodiversity and native vegetation management, ecosystem services, irrigation and groundwater science and water use efficiency, soils, salinity and water management and stewardship, river health, catchment health and planning, environmental management, agronomy, crop nutrition, best management practices, precision farming, fibre quality control, value-adding, textile technology and marketing, product development, commercialisation, regional development, socio-economics, education, training, extension and decision support.

Participants

- Cotton Australia Ltd
- Cotton Seed Distributors
- Cotton Research and Development Corporation
- CSIRO
- ACGRA
- NSW Department of Primary Industries
- Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
- Department of Agriculture Western Australia
- The University of New England
- The University of New South Wales
- The University of Sydney
- University of Technology — Sydney

Affiliates

Industry

- Australian Cotton Shippers Association
- Aboriginal Employment Strategy Ltd
- Ag Biotech Pty Ltd

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- Aquatech Consulting Pty Ltd,
- Boyce Chartered Accountants
- Conservation Farmers Inc
- Cotton Consultants Australia
- Dunavant Enterprises Pty Ltd
- Grains Research and Development Corp
- Incitec Pivot Ltd
- Monsanto Australia
- Orica Ltd
- Queensland Cotton
- SunWater
- Sustainable Irrigation Systems
- Telstra Corporation Ltd
- Terrabyte Services

Universities

- The Australian National University
- Central Queensland University
- The University of Queensland
- Charles Stuart University

Education Centres

- Australian Cotton Exhibition Centre Ltd
- International Fibre Centre
- NSW TAFE

Catchment Management Authorities & NGOs

- Condamine Catchment Natural Resource Management Corporation Ltd
- Greening Australia
- Namoi CMA
- Queensland Murray Darling Committee Inc

Local Government

- Narrabri Shire Council
- Narromine Shire Council
- Inverell Shire Council
- Millmerran Shire Council
- Warren Shire Council

State Government

- Department of Water and Energy, NSW
- Qld Natural Resources & Water

Regional Media

- Greenmount Press/Australian Cotton Trade Show
- Rural Press Queensland Pty Ltd
- The Courier Group

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- David Anthony

Directors

- John Herbert
- Kathryn Adams
- Dianne Bentley
- Dr Gary Fitt
- Stuart Higgins
- David Hamilton
- Vacant (Cotton Collegiate)



The Australian Government and the cotton industry established Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) in 1990 as a research and development partnership.

This partnership is part a unique Australian innovation called Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs). This R&D investment model provides industry-driven and market-responsive rural innovation and industry sustainability. As an RDC, CRDC is accountable to the Australian Government and Australian Cotton Growers' Research Association (ACGRA) representing the cotton industry.

CRDC plays a key leadership role in setting the strategic direction for investment in research and development. CRDC also invests in knowledge creation and delivery

to maximise benefits of public and industry funds.

CRDC delivers economic, social and environmental outcomes to cotton growers, regional communities and the nation. Economically, there are benefits from productivity gains, employment and capital infrastructure attributed to the cotton value-chain. Environmentally, the industry is actively working towards reducing the impact it has on the environment, and socially, regional communities benefit through greater employment and opportunity.

Direct investment in industry's extension and knowledge services influences uptake of the outputs of R&D investment while supporting delivery of knowledge.

The Australian Government sets priorities for national rural R&D and these priorities include productivity and adding value, supply chain and markets, natural resource management, climate variability and change and biosecurity. CRDC investment strategies are geared to deliver against these government policies.

Following extensive industry and government consultation, July 2008 saw the implementation of a new five year strategic plan (2008–2013).

Through this plan, CRDC expresses the industry's vision of a globally competitive and responsible cotton industry. Hence the CRDC strategic mission is the 'quest for sustainable competitive advantage'. Three goals are established to guide investment decisions over the next five years. They are:

- Add value to the Australian cotton industry with premium products operating in improved routes to market;
- Cotton in a highly productive farming system with improved environmental performance; and,
- A culture of innovation and learning.

CRDC R&D investment funds are derived through a \$2.25 per bale levy. This is matched by Australian Government matching contributions up to 0.5 per cent of the gross value of cotton production; or up to an amount not exceeding the average contribution from grower levies over a rolling three year period. Additionally, CRDC receives income from royalties paid from exploitation of IP developed through R&D investment.

Below average cotton production volumes over the past five years have significantly impacted on the investment resources available to CRDC for investment in R&D. Despite this, CRDC strives to ensure investment in key strategic areas continues to provide stakeholders with targeted outcomes.

CRDC co-invests with many research providers to achieve a balanced set of R&D

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outcomes. It is a large investor in the Cotton CRC committing around \$4 million annually. Additional research partners include CSIRO, universities, state agricultural departments, specialist consultants and individuals.

Annually there is an advertised call for new project investment with proposal assessment beginning in September. Information associated with applications is available from CRDC offices or from the website: www.crdc.com.au.

The CRDC website provides details on the Corporation's operations and plans. This includes all aspects of the 2008–2013 Strategic R&D Plan and the scope of R&D projects in which CRDC maintains investments. CRDC publishes a quarterly news magazine concerning industry R&D.

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Bruce Finney

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David Connors
Glen Fresser
TJ Higgins
Lisa Wilson

R&D Management Team

General Manager R&D Investment

Bruce Pyke

General Manager – Financial Administration

David Coleman

Manager – Communications & Capacity Investment

Rohan Boehm

Manager – Farming Systems Investment

Ian Taylor

Manager – R&D Implementation

Helen Dugdale

Project Administration Manager

Lee-Anne Melbourne

Assistant Accountant

Position vacant

Executive Assistant

Dianne Purcell

Administration Assistant – R&D Investment

Karen Larsen

Administration Assistant/IT

Margaret Wheeler

**Cotton Seed
Distributors Ltd**

Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd (CSD) has for over 40 years supplied quality cotton planting seed to the Australian Industry. CSD is an Australian grower owned and controlled organisation. It is a company owned and controlled by Australian cotton growers.

CSD and the CSIRO Cotton Breeding team are partners in the breeding and development which aims to deliver elite cotton varieties which are specifically adapted for Australian growers needs.

CSD and CSIRO constantly screen elite cotton germplasm from around the world to ensure Australian cotton growers have access to varieties that have attributes that drive to farm profitability.

Further, CSD takes an active role in pursuing biotechnology traits that will add value to the overall performance of its varieties and to Australian growers.

CSD is strongly focused on research, contributing significantly to research focused at increasing the performance of our industry.

CSD aim to be a growers 'first choice' for cotton planting seed.

CSD is the only seed company to be a core partner in the Cotton Catchment Communities Cooperative Research Centre (Cotton CRC).

Among the core activities of CSD are:

- Large-scale replicated trials focused on new and existing varieties to determine their suitability under different conditions. These trials are an extension of the CSIRO breeding program. There are over 60 trials across the industry (all conducted and audited to the CRDC protocol);
- Production of grower information publications, through the CSD Extension and Development team, for provision to growers and consultants;

- Development of a comprehensive, constantly updated interactive website, featuring weekly video material, trial tracking capacity, crop in progress reports, trial results, research, varieties, pest, disease, agronomy and management details and data;
- Organisation of an annual Grower Information Tour which covers all major cotton growing regions, facilitating face to face interaction and feedback;
- Growing seed increase crops with commercial growers' co-operation, to provide healthy weed free seed for sale;
- The development of modern storage, seed growers unmatched flexibility and service;
- Significant funding of research programs that are forecast to have a positive effect in the cotton industry, and on its sustainability.

For further information please go to the CSD website www.csd.net.au.

Staff

Managing Director

- Peter Graham

Executive Assistant

- Belinda Steigrad

General Manager

- Stephen Ainsworth

Financial Controller

- Peter Rozendaal

Extension & Development Agronomists

- Rob Eveleigh (Wee Waa)
- Craig Farlow (Narromine)
- John Marshall (Dalby)
- Dave Kelly (Goondiwindi)
- James Quinn (Moree)

Trial Agronomist

- Bill McDonnell (Wee Waa)

Group Operations Manager

- Tony Stove

Product Development Manager

- Phil Steel

Quality Assurance Officer

- Brett Ross

Quality Management Officer

- Stephen Beale

Logistics Co-ordinator

- Jarred Hetherington

Customer Service Officer

- Sue Duncan

Human Resources Manager

- Jacqui Carolan

Seed Increase Agronomists

- Gerard Lonergan (Wee Waa)
- Dr Rose Roche (Wee Waa)

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syngenta

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Crop Consultants Australia

Cotton Consultants Australia Inc has announced a new name and new focus for the organisation. Crop Consultants Australia Inc was created in 2008, from the original Cotton Consultants Australia model that operated successfully for 20 years.

The change was brought about by the need to increase the number of crops focused on by the association in order to remain relevant to members, and the business models they operate. Most consultants are now involved in the whole farm system, as opposed to just the cotton crop.

The organisation has retained many of its initial values, the main one being to increase the level of professionalism of consulting agronomists, whilst undertaking major change in order to remain valuable to members and propel the organisation into the future.

The CCA is primarily an association for those who provide agronomic advice to crop producers in Australia. The secondary role of the CCA is to provide a forum for information exchange and technical training for agronomists, or for those with an interest in agronomy.

The main aims of the association are to facilitate the transfer of information between members and the wider industry, as well as the opportunity for consultants to network and compare experience and technical knowledge. The association aims to increase the level of professionalism of members, and to encourage up-skilling. The association is also able to represent the profession to the wider agricultural industry when required.

Aside from the new focus on a range of crops one of the major changes to the CCA is the new membership categories. There are now only two distinct membership categories, with both categories having full voting rights within the association. Independent Members are those who are self employed, or who work for an independent consultant or a farming enterprise, whilst Corporate Members are those who work for, or are attached to an industry organisation (Researchers, Government Employees, Chemical Company Employees, Sales Agronomist etc).

To complement the new membership categories, there will now be one flat rate for all members of the CCA: \$300 + GST. There are also several discount schemes in place which may apply to members: Multiple Member Discount applies to any company who has more than one financial member of the association, meaning you may be eligible for discounts of up to \$75 per member. Members will also be eligible to receive a discount to their membership fee if they introduce new members to the association. The 20 per cent discount for one year's membership will be applied per new member introduced. In other words — introduce five new members, and you get your membership free for the year.

The Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing the functions of the CCA. If you have any questions suggestions, feedback or concerns regarding the CCA please feel free to discuss them with any of the Executive.

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Executive Officer

• Amber Dimond
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One of the key resources of the cotton industry is the availability of information. To further facilitate the sharing of information, a network was formed in December 2000 to provide a resource for women involved in the cotton industry. This network is now known as Wincott.

Wincott was established with the help of funding from CRDC but in recent times has

developed sponsorship packages to fund the network. Our Gold sponsors are ANZ, Grant Thornton and Associates, Monsanto, Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, AustSafe Super and Telstra, with Bronze sponsors, Bayer Crop Science and DrumMuster. With the support of these sponsors, Wincott now provides free membership to all those within the industry. Registering is easy via our website www.wincott.net.au.

The network brings together people from all different sectors of the cotton industry, sharing information and increasing their knowledge.

The network is an inclusive organisation and is unique in that it brings all industry sectors together.

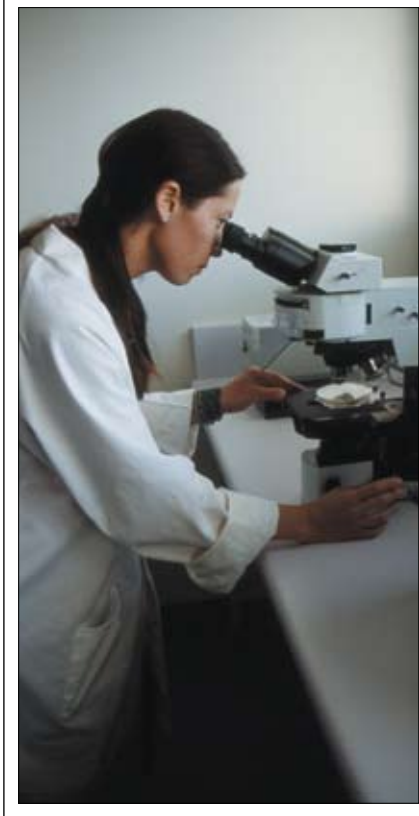
Wincott seeks to proactively address industry issues in an environment suitable to women by providing opportunities for them to participate in industry discussions and events, as well as by encouraging their participation at various levels within the industry. They also aim to provide an informed 'voice' in the agricultural sector of issues pertaining to women involved in the many aspects of the cotton industry.

Wincott provides information days, general interest field days and opportunities for skill building within the cotton industry, and encourages the opportunities and benefits of networking, all of which increase skills and knowledge which improve confidence when participating in industry organisations. Wincott endeavours to provide support, information and resources to support the various roles that women play within the cotton industry.

Wincott has the potential to broaden the input and knowledge of industry issues. This is important as women are often the industry interface with the community.

Wincott:

- Is a support network, not only for women in the cotton industry, but all industry participants.
- Promotes communication between women within the industry.
- Aims to increase awareness of industry issues.
- Is an avenue for constructive feedback to both industry and government.
- Provides support for women new to the industry by providing a starter kit and other industry information.
- Distributes an informative quarterly newsletter.
- Supports regional activities such as field days, training and networking events.
- Provides a connection to all industry activities.



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Regional cotton grower associations

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Vice Presidents

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- Mitch Abbo
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Secretary/Treasurer

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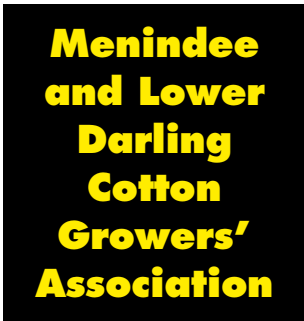
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The MLDCGA was formed in 1998 by employees of Tandou Ltd to improve the flow of information and Cotton Australia's services and resources to our isolated location. Tandou Ltd is the only cotton growing enterprise in the area. Our association currently has 30 members comprising Tandou staff and contractors associated with cotton production.



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