

# Fashioning the Future at the 15th Australian Cotton Conference

With on-farm storages filling in many cotton growing regions, the Cotton Conference Committee is hopeful that an industry boost will see greater numbers than ever before at this year's Cotton Conference.

To be held at the Gold Coast Conference and Exhibition Centre from August 10–12, the program promises something for everyone, and aims to attract delegates from all links in the supply chain.

Cotton Australia and the Australian Cotton Shippers Association are again working together to deliver three days of informative sessions and networking opportunities, all based around an aspirational theme – *Fashioning the Future*.

The Conference will bring together growers, researchers, agronomists, merchants, service providers, spinners, international traders and brand owners in an exchange of knowledge, innovation and ideas for the future.

Organisers are particularly keen to attract a greater diversity of delegates this year, including the next generation of cotton growers, women, farmers from other industries and international guests. Child minding fa-



Preparations are well under way for the Cotton Conference in August.

cilities will be available so that families can plan a well-earned break around the Conference week and so that all parts of the cotton operation can take part.

Conference delegates can expect:

- New knowledge and solutions that will benefit your cotton business into the future, delivered by passionate professionals;
- A program with international, national, state, regional and local significance, designed to be informative while stimulating debate and feedback;
- Opportunities for networking and accessing new products and services through a comprehensive Trade Exhibit; and,
- On the final night of the conference, as has become tradition, a celebration of the Australian cotton industry with the popular Australian Cotton Industry Awards dinner.

## Start planning your conference participation now

August will be upon us before we know it, so it's important to start planning your week on the Gold Coast now. The Conference Committee, made up of cotton growers and representatives from Cotton Australia and ACSA, is busily preparing the program, recruiting speakers and planning a number of high profile events including a fashion parade and a major trade display. In these early stages, the

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## WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE 2010 AUSTRALIAN COTTON CONFERENCE?

- *"To see all sectors of the supply chain come together to map a future path for the Australian cotton industry."*  
**Cleave Rogan, Chair of Committee and St George grower.**
- *"The conference is all about finding ways to continually improve and to share that knowledge with each other."*  
**Phil Sloan, Cargill Cotton.**
- *"To showcase the Australian cotton industry and our product from the farm to the consumer."*  
**Phill Ryan, Queensland Cotton.**
- *"It's a chance to show the progress we've made in the past two years and to highlight all that is good about the Australian cotton industry."*  
**Rob Cairns, Cotton Australia.**
- *"We will be showing a fresh approach to the industry, one with an exciting and creative future – and a Conference that attracts a great diversity of people."*  
**Barb Grey, Mungindi grower.**
- *"Access to exciting new products and innovations that will take us forward over coming years."*  
**Andrew Watson, Upper Namoi grower.**
- *"I want to see industry extension all the way down the supply chain, with growers, researchers, suppliers and international customers networking together."*  
**Arthur Spellson, Auscott.**
- *"It's the cotton industry's big catch up."*  
**Dave Kelly, Cotton Seed Distributors.**

Committee is asking the cotton industry to get involved by:

- Putting the dates in your diary and start thinking about organising the kids, accommodation and how to get there.
- Having some input into the program. If there's a burning issue you'd like to see discussed at the Conference or you'd like to present your work to the industry, program and speakers are being developed now. Contact Guy Roth on (0417) 223 179.
- Registering for the Conference e-newsletter at [www.cottonconference.com.au](http://www.cottonconference.com.au) to keep up to date with conference news and developments.

### **Cotton's High Achievers to be recognised through the 2010 Australian Cotton Industry Awards**

Nominations are open for the seventh annual Australian Cotton Industry Awards.

Cotton Australia launched the 2010 Cotton Industry Awards at the recent Grower of the Year Farmwalk, held on Andrew Pursehouse's 'Breeza Station', the world class farming operation named 2009 Monsanto Cotton Grower of the Year.

The Australian Cotton Industry Awards recognise the very best in Australia's cotton industry, with winners to be announced at an Awards dinner and presentation during the 2010 Australian Cotton Conference on the August 12.

CEO of Cotton Australia, Adam Kay, said the Awards recognise the individuals and farming teams who have contributed immensely to Australia's innovative cotton industry, even during the tougher times.

"It's time to salute the people who have made a positive contribution to the cotton industry and the communities in which they live. It hasn't been an easy year for many, but through dedication and hard work, the Australian cotton industry still leads the world in cotton production and best practice," Adam said.

"There are five categories and everyone is encouraged to put forward worthy candidates who deserve recognition for their work and commitment," Adam said.

Entries close on Friday April 30 2010, and entry forms and full criteria can be downloaded at [www.cottonaustralia.com.au](http://www.cottonaustralia.com.au).

### **Monsanto Cotton Grower of the Year Award**

Nominees can be an irrigated or dryland grower, regardless of farm size, who can



demonstrate achievement in most of the following aspects of cotton production:

- Crop and pest management;
- Land and water management;
- Staff development and OH&S;
- Commitment to Best Management Practices (BMP);
- Business management and marketing; and,
- Industry and/or community participation.

### **AgriRisk Innovative Grower of the Year Award**

Nominees must be growers who have demonstrated a very high degree of innovation in one or more of these aspects of cotton production.

### **Chris Lehmann Trust Young Achiever of the Year Award sponsored by Bayer CropScience**

Nominees must be 35 years of age or less as at July 1, 2010. They must be involved in the Australian cotton industry have the potential to be a significant industry contributor and show commitment to and have a vision for the future of the industry.

### **Cotton Seed Distributors Researcher of the Year Award**

Researchers nominated must have:

- Contributed to overall service to industry research and/or extension;
- Produced or contributed to research or extension work that has had positive outcomes for the Australian cotton industry;
- Made a significant commitment to cotton industry research; and,
- Generated research and/or extension outcomes contributing to industry 'greater good'.

### **Cotton Service to Industry Award**

Nominees in this award must have:

- Provided exceptional service to the Australian cotton industry;
- Achieved a positive impact on the industry;
- Shown significant commitment to the industry; and,
- Contributed a legacy for the industry's 'greater good.'

Entry forms and judging criteria are available online at [www.cottonaustralia.com.au](http://www.cottonaustralia.com.au) or for further information and copies of the entry form and criteria contact Cotton Australia on (02) 9669 5222.



The Trade Display at the Cotton Conference attracts a lot of interest.