

Look out Gold Coast, here we come

The return of the Australian Cotton Conference to its 'home' at the Gold Coast has produced a resurgence in the event itself. Conference registrations are running well ahead of those in 2002 while the conference dinner looks like being a sell-out.

According to conference coordinator David Swallow, the increase in support has come from all cotton growing regions. "Considering the continued water shortage in some areas and the uncertain price, it has been a great vote of support for the return to the Gold Coast."

It may be back at the Gold Coast, but its at a brand new venue. The first official events at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre were only held at the start of July, so the Cotton Conference will be one of the first. The centre is linked by covered walkway to Jupiter's Casino and is just across the road from the Broadbeach shopping centre.

Artist's impression of the new Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

TRADE DISPLAY

Next to the conference hall is the trade display area which will be the social hub of the conference. All lunches, morning and afternoon teas will be served in the trade display area and it will also be the venue of the Incitec Pivot welcome reception on the Tuesday evening.

And the hub of the trade display will be the Case Cotton Club, where drinks and coffee will be served all day in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. To help the atmosphere, background Memphis blues music will be provided by the Rose Blue ensemble.

"You won't miss the Case Cotton Club," says display organiser John Forrest. "It's built around a big red cotton picker right in the middle of the trade display. It will be the focus of the whole area and we are trying to create an atmosphere where people want to stay around the conference and socialise rather than scattering all over the Gold Coast."

"Another relaxing area will be the National Australia Bank 'chill-out zone' where you can take your coffee or a drink in one of the lounge chairs, or find a quiet place for a short meeting."

"The whole facility is just fantastic and bookings in the trade display are running at about twice the level of 2002."

The trade display area will be open to everyone, so spouses and friends will be able to join delegates for a drink or coffee. But to get meals you must be a delegate or purchase a daily meal badge at the conference registration desk.

CHILDREN'S CRECHE

In keeping with the promotion of this year's conference as a family event, one of the great innovations is the free Dupont creche, where the youngsters can be looked after by experienced and registered

creche staff while the parents attend the conference. The kids will be just upstairs from the conference itself.

Dupont have organised experienced staff from 'Heaven Sent Help' to run the creche and almost 40 families have already booked their kids in. To make a booking in the creche or for any other registration or accommodation enquiry, call Moya at Ozaccom on 07 3854 1611.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

Apart from the focus on grass roots Australian cotton research, the organisers have lined up a star studded group of international speakers for the conference. With the support of the Australian Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA), two key international speakers will feature in the "Quality Cotton, Not Just Another Yarn" segment of the Conference.

Bill Dunavant

The keynote speaker for the segment will be William (Bill) Dunavant III, President and Executive Director of Dunavant Enterprises. Bill is well known in the world of cotton, serving on numerous committees and associations during his years in the business. Bill is immediate past chairman of Cotton Council International and immediate past president of the American Cotton Shippers Association and past president of the Southern Cotton Association and a board member of the National Cotton Council.

Bill currently serves as a Board member of the Memphis Cotton Exchange, The Seam, America Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and on the Advisory Board of Rabo Bank, North America.

Bill is also well known in Australia having established Dunavant's Australian operations in the mid 1980s. He is also involved in a large cotton farming operation in Emerald.

Bill will be addressing the world supply demand situation for cotton and develop-

ments around the cotton world including the US, China, Australia and Brazil.

With enormous change occurring in the world of cotton production and consumption some of the focal points of Bill's address will include:

- The growing dominance of China in textiles.
- The effects of the 50 per cent reduction in US consumption of raw cotton.
- The emergence of Brazil as a sizable exporter.
- Where Australia fits in the import requirements of the major markets.
- Production and consumption changes occurring in Africa, CIS, Europe and Asia.

Ed Jernigan

Ed Jernigan of Jernigan's Globecot Daily, is also well known in the cotton world, with his publications and market comments being the benchmark of reporting on cotton developments world wide.

Ed's daily Globecot publication provides detailed insights on the market, both physical and futures/options, and recaps news and events from all cotton producing and consuming regions across the globe.

A feature of Ed's publication is the

Globecot Matrix of prices of all export growths — a comparative analysis of spot and forward prices.

Ed will be addressing the subject "Quality Cotton — Review and Update", drawing on his vast knowledge of the price difference and price movement and trends between differing growths and styles of cotton, and the emergence of the strong high grade 1¹/₈" complex in the international trade of raw cotton.

Ed will also address price trends, technical considerations and likely future developments in the world of cotton.

Kater Hake

Kater has worked with cotton since 1976, primarily in field agronomy for the University of California, Texas A&M University, National Cotton Council and private companies. Starting in 1996, he developed Delta and Pine Land International's Agronomy and Technical Services program, and in 2001 became Vice President, Technology Development for Delta and Pine Land.

In this capacity he investigates and develops new transgenic technology for cotton customers. He serves as the seed industry advisor to the USDA and USTR

on trade policy and as the US oil and fibre crop representative to the International Seed Federation.

Rick Roush

Rick Roush's career spans research, teaching and administrative appointments in both the US and Australia. After working for nearly 10 years in Australia, Rick moved to California in March 2003 to become Director of the Statewide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program of the University of California, based in Davis.

Rick has been internationally recognised for his research on pest management since the 1980s, and has published widely on genetics, toxicology, biological control and the ecology of insects, mites, animal parasitic nematodes and weeds. A particular emphasis for the last 20 years has been to develop integrated solutions for slowing or preventing the evolution of pesticide resistance, about which he has consulted internationally.

In the 1990s, Rick was a principal architect of the resistance management strategies used for insect tolerant transgenic crops, including cotton, potatoes and corn, in Australia, the US, Canada and Mexico. 