

PROGRAM 2023

Farming for the Future & National Farmers' Federation Natural Capital Summit:

Quantifying the value of natural capital
for Australian agriculture



**FARMING FOR
THE FUTURE**



**National
Farmers
Federation**

Program outline

Wednesday 13 September 2023

TIME	SESSION
12:00 pm	Seating and welcome <i>Wendy Agar, Master of Ceremonies</i> <i>Lunch to be served between speakers' sessions.</i>
12:25 pm	OPENING REMARKS: Natural capital and Australian agriculture The opportunity for Australian agriculture; Farm-level findings and other learnings from the research. <i>Michelle Gortan, Chief Executive Officer, Macdoch Foundation</i> <i>Tony Mahar, Chief Executive Officer, National Farmers' Federation</i>
12:45 pm	PRESENTATION: Farm level findings of the research <i>Dr Sue Ogilvy, Program Director, Farming for the Future</i>
1:45 pm	PANEL: Priming and aligning the system; empowering farmers to invest in natural capital for climate resilience How farmers currently interact with markets, supply chains, banks and governments and what's needed for natural capital investment. <i>Mark Gardner, Principal, Vanguard Business Services</i> <i>Clinton Peake, Director, Business Advisory, Moore Australia</i> <i>Simon Fritsch, Founder - Agripath</i> <i>Sarah Nash, Senior Consultant, PrincipleFocus</i>
2:30 pm	PANEL: Managing natural capital on farm The practical side of managing natural capital as a factor of production. <i>Tim Wright, Wool, Sheep and Cattle Producer, Northern Tablelands, New South Wales</i> <i>Felicity Wheelwright, Mixed Grazing Enterprise, Southern Tablelands, New South Wales</i> <i>Jo Bear, Grazing Enterprise, Canary Island, Victoria</i> <i>Paul Hewitt, Wool Producer, Grabben Gullen, New South Wales</i>
3:15 pm	Afternoon tea
4:00 pm	Revealing the value of natural capital to agriculture By quantifying private benefits of investment in natural capital and the public good also generated, <i>Farming for the Future</i> research and outcomes are positioned for system change activation. <i>Dr Elizabeth Heagney, Research Director, Farming for the Future</i> <i>Prof David Pannell, University of Western Australia</i>
4:30 pm	PRESENTATION: The future of Farming for the Future The 'business cases for investment in 'natural capital benchmarking' and the opportunities for system stakeholders. <i>Dr Sue Ogilvy, Program Director, Farming for the Future</i>
5:00 pm	Networking function <i>Drinks and canapes to be served.</i>
5:15 pm	MINISTER'S ADDRESS <i>Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Minister for Emergency Management</i> KEY PARTNER ADDRESS <i>Sarah Strachan, Group Manager, Adoption and Commercial Services, Meat & Livestock Australia</i> SUMMARY REMARKS <i>Michelle Gortan, Chief Executive Officer, Macdoch Foundation</i>
7:00 pm	Close

Program is subject to change.

Meet the speakers

Key Addresses



Session
MINISTER'S ADDRESS

Senator the Hon Murray Watt

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Minister for Emergency Management

Murray Watt is the Albanese Government's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and Minister for Emergency Management. He has been a Labor Senator for Queensland since 2016.

Brisbane born and bred, Murray has strong family ties to regional Queensland, with both sides of his family having a long history in farming and teaching.

For over 20 years, Murray's working life has been spent as an advocate for others, as a lawyer,

a public servant and as Chief of Staff to former Premier Anna Bligh. Murray also served one term as a Queensland State MP and Assistant Minister in health and economic portfolios. Since his election in 2016, Murray played a key role in Senate Estimates and a range of Senate Committees including the Rural and Regional Affairs Committee.

As a Senator and Shadow Minister, he led a number of Senate inquiries into issues including regional development, energy and resources, emergency management and health care.



Sessions
OPENING REMARKS: Natural capital and Australian agriculture
SUMMARY REMARKS

Michelle Gortan

Chief Executive Officer, Macdoch Foundation

The Macdoch Foundation invests in bold interventions that tackle systemic challenges and works with partners in Australia and internationally, across disciplines and sectors, to spur catalytic action or impact at scale. The work of Macdoch Foundation focuses on agriculture and food systems, climate change solutions, and healthy communities.

Originally trained as a lawyer, Michelle has held leadership roles in philanthropy, community and corporate partnerships, government relations and marketing in the NGO and public sector

in Australia, Chile and the UK, including working more than seven years with the British Council.

Michelle is currently a board director of the Australian Environmental Grantmakers' Network and co-chairs the Climate Working Group of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food. She also represents the Foundation on the international Stewardship Council of the Taskforce On Nature-Related Financial Disclosures.



Session
KEY PARTNER ADDRESS

Sarah Strachan

Group Manager, Adoption and Commercial Services, Meat & Livestock Australia

Sarah oversees the delivery of MLA's adoption and commercial services. This includes the research and commercial delivery aspects of Livestock Genetics, Meat Standards Australia, Producer Adoption, including adoption of on-farm sustainability practices, within MLA. These programs are driven by the ambitions of the Red Meat 2030 plan to grow the investment in adoption to help double the value of sales from high quality and trusted Australian red meat.

The programs achieve this through for converting research into commercial services for businesses along the entire supply chain,

as well as supporting the goal of the red meat industry becoming carbon neutral by 2030. This includes providing a diverse range of options for producers to engage with and apply research outcomes into their production systems such as the flagship practice change programs of Producer Demonstration Sites and Profitable Grazing Systems programs, as well as recently released products such as carbon accounting tools, and carbon workshops.

Sarah has a Bachelor of Rural Science qualification from the University of New England and has worked with MLA for over 20 years.

Meet the speakers

Speaker biographies are in order by session.



Tony Mahar

Chief Executive Officer, National Farmers' Federation

Tony comes from a farming background in South Western Victoria and has worked in and around agriculture for the majority of his working life. He has experience in working with global food manufacturers, major Australian agribusinesses and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture.

He has tertiary qualifications in agricultural commerce from Sydney University and a masters degree in industry policy from Australian National University.

He was appointed NFF CEO in March 2016 after holding the positions of Trade and Economics Manager and Deputy CEO.

Session

OPENING REMARKS: Natural capital and Australian agriculture



Dr Sue Ogilvy

Program Director, *Farming for the Future*

Dr Sue Ogilvy leads the *Farming for the Future* program, a public interest research and change program that aims to provide, as a public good, the evidence base, tools and resources for the agricultural sector to understand the relationship between differences in natural capital and differences in benefits to farm businesses and farming families. By considering natural capital as a factor of agricultural productivity and profitability, *Farming for the Future* aims to expose the double-dividend zone where benefits to farmers and better environmental performance

of agricultural markets and supply chains co-exist to support a more financially prosperous, climate-resilient, and environmentally positive agricultural sector in Australia.

Farming for the Future leverages Sue's research over the past decade which has focused on adapting and extending financial accounting concepts and standards and developing practical and useful measurement methods to enable farmers and their advisors to include ecosystems (natural capital) as part of their asset base.

Sessions

PRESENTATION: Farm level findings of the research

PRESENTATION: The future of *Farming for the Future*



Mark Gardner

Principal, Vanguard Business Services

After completing university studies in Agricultural Science, Mark has worked as a wool classer, jackaroo, property overseer and agronomist. He established Vanguard Business Services in Dubbo NSW in 1995 and now works directly with farming families across the eastern States.

Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation on innovative natural capital and farm-based projects. Mark sees huge value in *Farming for the Future* providing measurement of a farm's natural capital, for better future management.

Session

PANEL: Priming and aligning the system; empowering farmers to invest in natural capital for climate resilience

Vanguard coaches for change around land health, animals, people/wellbeing and profitability. Vanguard also works with Universities, Industry and R&D organisations including Meat &



Clinton Peake

Director, Business Advisory, Moore Australia

Clinton is a current partner of Moore (Vic) Pty Ltd and former managing director of Proadvice Pty Ltd.

Clinton's passion lies with helping businesses he works with understand decisions and non-decisions being made in the pursuit of helping family business thrive.

In these roles, Clinton has over 20 years' experience working with farmers and farming families in an advisory capacity as a chartered accountant. Clinton combines real world risk management and risk mitigation with objective opportunity-based decision making.

Session

PANEL: Priming and aligning the system; empowering farmers to invest in natural capital for climate resilience



Simon Fritsch

Founder - Agripath

Simon has over 30 years' experience in agriculture with his client base encompassing irrigation, dry land farming and grazing operations throughout SE Australia. Starting as a sole trader he is the founder and manager of Agripath a business that employs 15 staff which work with farmers to collect and analyse farm data for regional based benchmarking and farm business advice.

Simon is passionate about agriculture as a business and works with his clients to assist them get clarity in strategy and direction, working through the steps to ensure businesses are resilient and profitable, and enjoyable. Simon's work includes farm board directorships, succession work, projects and business advice and coaching. He also manages a 2,000 ha beef and grains farm near Tamworth.

Session

PANEL: Priming and aligning the system; empowering farmers to invest in natural capital for climate resilience



Sarah Nash

Senior Consultant, PrincipleFocus

Sarah is part of the consulting team at regional accounting firm PrincipleFocus where she combines her business, systems knowledge and experience, with a farming background to equip and empower farmers and graziers.

She is passionate about equipping business decision makers with the information and skills they need to achieve their goals. Hailing from a farming family in the Central West her focus in natural capital has grown as she recognises the vital role of ecological assets in financial landscapes.

Session

PANEL: Priming and aligning the system; empowering farmers to invest in natural capital for climate resilience

Sarah is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) and has, over the past 19 years, worked with for purpose organisations managing and delivering projects in Australia and overseas.



Tim Wright

Wool, Sheep and Cattle Producer, Northern Tablelands, New South Wales

Tim is a visionary farmer, pioneering the regenerative and biological farming movement since the 1990s. As the owner and manager of 'Lana', located in the northern tablelands of NSW, Tim's commitment to working with nature continues to benefit the agricultural community by participating in *Farming for the Future* research.

goes beyond mere profitability, focusing on resilience by leveraging nature's free resources into whole-of-farm practices.

Tim's dedication to working with nature has yielded remarkable rewards. Based on goals and decision-making his approach is to treat the causes, not the symptoms. The farm's ecology and environment have flourished, witnessing a resurgence of biodiversity, and healthier ecosystems, enhancing farm economics, and fostering a profound sense of well-being for Tim, and those around him.

Session

PANEL: Managing natural capital on farm

Together with his wife Suzanne, Tim operates a thriving superfine wool, sheep, and cattle enterprise, which has been a designated wildlife refuge since 1968. Their approach to farming



Session

PANEL: Managing natural capital on farm

Felicity Wheelwright

Mixed Grazing Enterprise, Southern Tablelands, New South Wales

Felicity owns and operates a mixed grazing enterprise at Roslyn on the NSW southern tablelands.

Felicity aims to build natural capital through holistic, sustainable management practices, establishing and expanding native tree corridors, rotational cell grazing, and riparian protection zones.

Felicity is planning for climate change, capitalising on social & economic recognition of the importance of soil carbon retention and developing new enterprises to improve drought resilience.

Felicity has a background in agribusiness banking and business improvement strategies.



Session

PANEL: Managing natural capital on farm

Jo Bear

Grazing Enterprise, Canary Island, Victoria

Known as Bear & Twigg, Jo and Greg manage a grazing enterprise on the Loddon River Floodplains at Canary Island Victoria. They are on a journey to build a profitable & sustainable farming business that incorporates sheep, the environment, and welcomes a diversity of people. Key to this journey is utilising data, and evidence to determine a snapshot of where the business is now, where it wants to go & how to get there.

Regenerative agriculture, collaborations, a holistic approach & being inspired are integral factors.



Session

PANEL: Managing natural capital on farm

Paul Hewitt

Wool Producer, Grabben Gullen, New South Wales

Paul is a fifth-generation farmer from Grabben Gullen in the Upper Lachlan Shire of New South Wales where Paul and Shauna, his partner and mother of their four children, run a small-scale soft rolling skin (SRS) merino flock.

Paul has long supported land management practices that delivered better outcomes emotionally and environmentally, as well as

economically. A graduate of RCS Grazing for Profit, facilitator of the Upper Lachlan Landcare Grazing Group and member of the ACT Grazing Group, Paul was also recognised as the Inaugural Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Carbon Cocky in 2007. Paul and Shauna are focused on profitably improving landscape health and resilience through strategic grazing.



Session

Revealing the value of natural capital to agriculture

Dr Elizabeth Heagney

Research Director, *Farming for the Future*

Dr Heagney is an experienced economic analyst, having worked as an infrastructure and environmental economist for the NSW Government over the past 20 years. In her previous role, she led the Advanced Analytics team within the NSW Department of Planning and the Environment, advancing the state's natural capital agenda and helping to secure more than \$1B in funding for environmental projects.

She has designed and implemented large-scale research projects focussing on productivity and efficiency in primary industries and has helped build the case for practice change that improves both economic and environmental outcomes. She holds a PhD in statistical ecology from the University of New South Wales.



Prof David Pannell

University of Western Australia

David is Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Western Australia; Director, Co-Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy; ARC Federation Fellow (2007-2012); Distinguished Fellow and past president of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society; Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia; and a Director of Natural Decisions Pty Ltd.

David's research includes the economics of land, water and nature conservation; environmental policy; farmer adoption of conservation practices; risk; and economics of farming systems. David has won awards for his research in the USA, Australia, Canada and the UK, including the 2009 Eureka Prize for Interdisciplinary Research.

Session

Revealing the value of natural capital to agriculture



Wendy Agar

Natural Capital Summit MC

Wendy is passionate about empowering leaders and facilitating change in rural Australia. Working primarily within the community, agriculture and for-purpose sectors, Wendy's experience includes ten years as a partner in a cattle and sheep enterprise in Western Queensland and 20 years working in leadership roles across remote, rural and regional Australia.



Farming for the Future

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