



**Future Farmers Network (FFN) 2018 Board Position Nominees.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2018.**

**Explanatory Memorandum**

The skills and experience sought year to year in Director Candidates are guided by the skills and experience of the retiring Directors and the skills balance requirements of the Board.

For 2018 applications have been sought from prospective candidates who have the skills and experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Fund raising, sponsorship and commercial ventures
- Private sector non-executive Director experience
- Business finance and legal skills

All applicants are expected to have:

- Sound governance awareness and knowledge base
- Good communication skills, at ease relating to a broad range of people with a collaborative approach in making an active contribution to strategic Board discussions.
- Ability to review and question research and information presented to the Board
- Ability to interpret financial statements

Directors of the FFN Board collectively should have knowledge, understanding or experience across the broader agriculture and business sectors including but not limited to:

- Agriculture and agribusiness
- Agriculture related business and financial management
- Regional and rural youth issues and networks
- Education and skills
- Regional development
- Farming innovation
- International markets.

Based on these criteria, there were sixteen (16) nominations for the 2018 Board elections. Of these, eleven (11) candidates remain, of which the FFN Board has endorsed eight (8). Their experience and skills is outlined in the following pages for members information.

## HENRY GRATTE



Henry Gratte has served on the Future Farmers Network Board as a non-executive Director for one term (two years) and has nominated for re-election.

Henry grew up in the Swan Valley in Perth, Western Australia. His family are involved in beef production, viticulture and horticulture and have previously also had an interest in station in the Pilbara. His involvement in agriculture grew from involvement in these industries.

Henry attended Muresk Institute, a campus of Curtin University, where he completed a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness Technology with honours.

After completing University, Henry commenced working on cropping and mixed farms in Pingelly then Lake Kingand. In 2012 he was appointed as a Farm Manager on the south coast of WA, running a predominantly merino enterprise. After a change of direction Henry is now working in Lake King as an assistant farm manager on a cereal farm.

While studying at Muresk, the campus was in the process of being shut down with Henry actively involved in trying to keep it open. This led Henry to becoming involved with the WA Farmers Federation and in turn AgConnectWA, an under 35 social networking group for people involved in the agriculture industry of WA. Henry has since been elected to the AgConnectWA Committee.

Henry is passionate about increasing the connections among agribusiness professionals to improve the agricultural industry for everyone involved. Agriculture is the employer of the future and he believes the future is in our hands. We need to work proactively to ensure that the industry remains sustainable and attractive to the youth of today. Henry is passionate about the industry and promotes agriculture when ever possible.

***The FFN Board has endorsed Henry for his skills in the identified areas of:***

- ***Private sector non-executive Director experience***
- ***Western Australia farming based board member***

## ISABEL COULTON



I am an Associate Lawyer with Morgan + English Commercial Lawyers based in the Hunter Valley, Scone NSW. I specialise in corporate law and commercial litigation.

After completing my studies at the University of QLD, I spent the start of my career working as a commercial litigator in Sydney's CBD.

Upon making the rural move, I have had the pleasure of working with mid to large Agribusiness clients, providing advice on commercial transactions and corporate restructures, as well as commercial disputes and litigation.

I grew up on a cropping and cattle property in between Goondiwindi and Moree, where my family remains based today.

I currently live on my husband's family's cattle property out of Scone, commuting to town each day for work. I have traded my Sydney gym membership for shovelling cottonseed. I have a vested interest in agriculture and its future, both personally and professionally. I feel privileged and excited to hopefully be given an opportunity to contribute to an organisation like FFN, whose mission statement resonates with me as a young professional in the bush.

***The FFN Board has endorsed Isabel for her skills in the identified areas of:***

- ***Business finance and legal skills***
  - ***Governance***
- ***Private sector non-executive director experience***

## LACHLAN LYNCH



Lachlan is a Senior Investment Associate for Laguna Bay, a specialist funds management firm focusing on deploying institutional capital into various agricultural industries. Lachlan's primary role involves identifying investment opportunities for Laguna Bay's funds, as well as assisting with the management of existing assets in our portfolio. Laguna Bay currently manages several assets spanning row crop, permanent crop, sheep, cattle, and dairy sectors.

Having grown up on his family cattle station in North-west Queensland, as well as working as a station hand across QLD and NT, Lachlan has an in-depth appreciation of what it is like to be involved in production agriculture.

Lachlan has completed a Bachelor of Agribusiness from Marcus Oldham and holds a Private Pilot's licence for fixed wing aircraft. With this variety of experience, Lachlan hopes that he can bring a different agricultural perspective to the board and the various members.

***The FFN Board has endorsed Lachlan for his skills in the identified areas of:***

- ***Fund raising, sponsorship and commercial ventures***
  - ***Business finance and legal skills***

## MARY JOHNSON



Mary has professional experience in the red meat and livestock industry in agricultural policy, professional skills development, stakeholder engagement and communications.

In her current role as Assistant Manager – Trade and Market Access in Meat & Livestock Australia’s International Markets team, she works closely with industry representatives and the Australian Government to improve Australia’s red meat market access in the industry’s diverse international markets, seeking to reduce supply chain costs, maximise export values and improve the competitiveness of Australian red meat.

Prior to this role, Mary worked with the Cattle Council of Australia and MLA in communications, stakeholder engagement, policy development and industry capability building programs.

Mary hopes to work with the Future Farmers Network to increase the engagement of young professionals working in agriculture to identify opportunities for skills development and growth, regardless of geographic location.

Mary grew up on a grazing property near Boorowa, NSW, and is currently based in Sydney.

***The FFN Board has endorsed Mary for her skills in the identified areas of:***

- ***Fund raising, sponsorship and commercial ventures***
- ***Private sector non-executive director experience***

## MEGAN DAVIES

Megan Davies is currently the Chair of the Future Farmers Network. Megan has served the board for one term (two years) and is now nominating for re-election to undertake a second term.



Megan has a broad range of experience working in agriculture, ranging from agri-communications to agribusiness and most recently, agri-finance. Growing up on a mixed sheep/beef/cropping enterprise in Coonabarabran, she went on to gain a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Hons) from the University of Sydney where she majored in Agribusiness.

Megan currently works as a Human Resources Executive for Australian Food and Fibre in Moree. Prior to that, Megan was an Agribusiness Analyst for NAB Agribusiness, where she was responsible for the financial analysis of farming and business clients across the cotton, grains, livestock and horticulture industries of Northern NSW. She was previously employed by Meat & Livestock Australia where she held positions as a meat market analyst and a communications role managing key stakeholder relations.

Megan is passionate about the future of agriculture and providing education opportunities for young professionals in the bush, particularly business education in young farmers. She is a founding member of the Moree Young Aggies group, a networking group for young agri-professionals in Northern NSW who strive to better our local agricultural community. She would love to see the FFN membership base grow to include a wider range of industries to ensure we can adequately foster the next generation of industry leaders.

***The FFN Board has endorsed Megan for her skills in the identified areas of:***

- ***Business finance***
- ***Governance***
- ***Private sector non-executive Director experience***

## OLIVIA FALKINER

My name is Olivia Falkiner and I am applying for a position on the Future Farmer's Network Board. Having grown up on a large, multi-enterprise farming operation in Warren, NSW – I have a depth of experience and knowledge about the farming and ag sector, both from a family and commercial perspective.



I have a degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Sydney, where I majored in Ag Economics and International Trade. This degree gave me a good theoretical understanding of broad trade concepts and Australia's position in the global economy.

My work experience includes jackarooing for our own property as well as for Consolidated Pastoral Company, at Manbulloo Station. This work experience has meant I have a sound understanding of cattle and sheep production as well as crop production at the farm-gate level. During University, I

worked as an agri-business consultant for Chapman Eastway Capital, where I was exposed to a wide array of agricultural businesses, assisting with property transactions and conducting feasibility studies to evaluate growth options. I also conducted a study into family succession in agriculture, which was published in the Australian Journal of Financial Planning and referenced in the Australian Financial Review and The Land.

I am currently employed as a Policy Advisor under the Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, John Barilaro – where I manage the Regional Portfolio, which includes a \$1.3b infrastructure fund as well as overseeing policies and programs pertaining to Regional Development in NSW. This role also requires liaising with the Minister for Agriculture and his team, in areas where our policy areas intersect. This role has given me an extensive insight into Regional Development as well as regional and rural youth issues. I am also a board member for Haddon Rig, our family business, which involves exercising all aspects of board directorship: financial management, governance and Strategy and Risk. I am heavily involved in our Merino Stud and most aspects of our family business, where we have a high take-up of innovation and technology, most recently demonstrated at the Haddon Rig Open day, where we showcased our new centre-pivot, automatic feedlot, drone technology and CropX moisture sensors. I want to see the dissemination of this innovation throughout Australia, particularly in the areas of water-use efficiency and stock management.

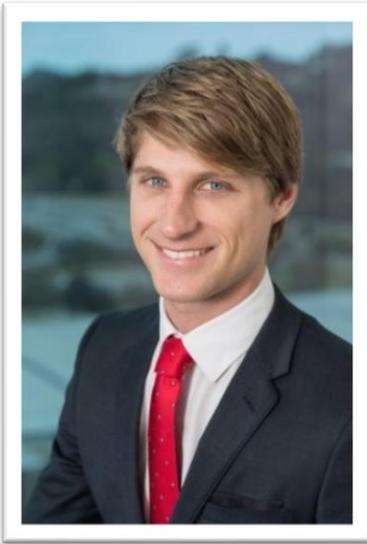
I undertook the Company Directors' course at the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) which has strengthened my skills in Board contribution. I am also currently completing a Diploma in Agri-Management at Marcus Oldham, to further strengthen my financial skills.

I would like to become a board member for the Future Farmer's Network because I believe I am in a good position with which to make a significant and worthwhile contribution to the agriculture industry in Australia. My goal is to increase the productive capacity of Australian farms by encouraging innovation and technology take-up as well as creating a regulatory and commercial environment within which farmers can maximise their production and profit.

***The FFN Board has endorsed Olivia for her skills in the identified areas of:***

- ***Business***
- ***Governance***

## **RICHARD KOHNE**



Richard is a Chartered Accountant and Business Valuation Specialist with experience in financial advisory prior to entering the agribusiness sector in 2015. His passion for agribusiness stemmed from his experience at Craig Mostyn Group, a leading diversified and vertically integrated agribusiness in Western Australia. In his time at Craig Mostyn Group, Richard was involved in various projects across the supply chain including farm expansion, abattoir expansion, sales contract pricing and sales contract negotiation. This experience inspired Richard to enrol in a Master of Agribusiness at the University of Melbourne.

Richard now works at Mareterram Limited, a company created through the union of Craig Mostyn Groups food service division and NorWest Seafoods, a West Australian fishing company. Mareterram aspires to become a diversified agribusiness in which Richard plays an integral role as the mergers and acquisitions manager.

His belief that there is a large network of young people looking for a way to contribute to agriculture and the opportunity to further connect city and country is what has excited Richard about the opportunity to join the FFN Board. Richard is passionate about ensuring the voice of regional Australia and their agricultural communities are both heard and understood

***The FFN Board has endorsed Richard for his skills in the identified areas of:***

- ***Fund raising, sponsorship and commercial ventures***
  - ***Business finance and legal skills***

## TOM ROOKYARD



Tom Rookyard is the Operations Manager at AuctionsPlus and has been with the company for 5 years.

Originally from Berrima NSW, now based in Sydney, Tom has always had an interest in agriculture, mainly in the sheep and wool industry. Tom's role leads him to managing the commercial livestock and stud livestock teams for AuctionsPlus, working closely with livestock producers, agents and buyers. In addition to this Tom also manages the wool platform for AuctionsPlus – AuctionsPlus Wool, an online bid and offer board.

Prior to starting at AuctionsPlus, Tom worked as a horse handler at William Inglis and Son, thoroughbred auctioneers at Randwick.

Tom graduated from Charles Sturt University Wagga with a Bachelor of Business Studies and has just completed his Masters of Agricultural Business Management by distance through Charles Sturt University at Orange and is currently completing his NSW Stock and Station Certificate of Registration.

***The FFN Board has endorsed Tom for his skills in the identified areas of:***

- ***Fund raising, sponsorship and commercial ventures***

## ELLEN SIMPSON



Ellen is originally from a beef cattle property near Braidwood in southern NSW. She returns home to play an active role in her family farm as much as possible, though now based in Sydney working for AuctionsPlus.

In her current role, Ellen is heavily involved in Integrity and Product Adoption, as well as client management in southern & central Queensland.

Ellen values sharing knowledge, active participation, reducing social isolation and relational leadership, all of which are vital to encouraging and retaining young people in agriculture.

## **JACOB HEARD**

Based in Victoria, Jacob is an engaged and invested young person committed to a career in agriculture. He believes his fresh perspective will contribute significantly to Future Farmers Network.

Jacob started his own 'paddock to plate' business in Year 10 of high school that has built a customer base of over 200, and he has been the recipient of a number of rural and regional youth achievement awards.

His knowledge, skills, experience and versatility are backed by a strong desire to be a voice for young people in agriculture, to support the growth and development of young people in agriculture today and into the future.

## TIFF DAVEY



I have grown up on my families' broad acre & prime lamb property, my passion for both the Australian Agricultural industry and regional Australia was cemented early. As well as my families' property, I execute regional events whilst working alongside the Dowerin Events Management board overseeing organisations with up to 300 volunteers and providing funds to a number of community organisations. I believe the combination of my communications & events background and agricultural knowledge at both

a grass root level and my experience and involvement with a number of organisations and committees at a local, state and national level would ensure I contribute a unique set of skills to the organisation.

I want to join the Future Farmers Network to ensure that I am a part of the decision making platforms that will influence the future of the industry I plan to devote my life towards and the regions I intend to live, plus to ensure that the young people within our state are well represented and that the future generation of those involved in Australian agriculture are the face of their own industry leading into the future.