



**RAID**  
NETWORK

RESEARCHERS IN AGRICULTURE  
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



# RAID Network Annual Report

2018-19



RAID Network is a program of the Crawford Fund

**CONNECT ENGAGE SUPPORT**

## Executive Summary

The RAID Network is an active group of early to mid-career researchers with an interest in agriculture and international development. Over the 2018-19 period, we have continued to share knowledge and opportunities, build research capacity, and communicate the value of agricultural research.

RAID continues to curate new partnerships and strengthen existing partnerships alongside the Crawford Fund to engage, connect and support the international agriculture community. The key achievements for 2018-19 are highlighted below.

### Events and Representatives

- RAID hosted 15 networking events, engaging over 430 people.
- The network has gained 7 new representatives from within several new organisations and research disciplines.
- There are now a total 27 RAID representatives across Australia.

### Capacity Building

- RAID and Crawford Fund hosted three workshops titled 'Agricultural Research Leadership and Management' for Australian-based researchers in Adelaide (October 2018), Hobart (February 2019) and Wagga Wagga (May 2019).
- 46 early to mid-career researchers participated in the workshops.
- Planning is underway to deliver similar workshops in Darwin (September 2019) and Perth (February 2020).

### Partnerships

- In 2018, RAID increased its involvement with the Crawford Fund Parliamentary Conference; through the development and delivery of the Young Scholars day program, and as Keynote Listeners producing the Crawford Fund Parliamentary Report.
- The State and Territory Committees of the Fund have been a key partner for local events, including stand-alone networking events and training workshops, providing support and funding.
- ACIAR continues to provide the majority of RAID's funding, through the Crawford Fund, and will again for the coming financial year.
- We have continued to liaise with Australian Volunteers International (AVI) to seek new opportunities for RAID to be more involved in their program, this includes developing a new AVI-RAID volunteering model.
- RAID continues to partner with new organisations such as Centre of Tropical Crops and Biocommodities, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), Syngenta, La Trobe University and Flinders University to deliver networking events across Australia.

### Communications

- RAID has increased its following by 43.9% on Twitter and 34.3% on RAID's Facebook Group.
- Formal membership on RAID's website reached over 1000 members in 2018-19, growing by 30% from the previous year.
- RAID ran a blog competition and the winners were announced in February 2019.
- In 2018-19 RAID published 27 fortnightly blogs with an average of 348 hits per blog.
- A major undertaking in the past 12 months has been a web redesign project. The RAID website will be integrated with the Crawford Fund website and will be launched before the annual Conference.

## About RAID

Researchers in Agriculture for International Development (RAID) is an Australia-based network, bringing together early to mid-career researchers with an interest in agriculture and international development.

RAID was founded by a group of motivated Australian researchers who saw an opportunity to establish a network through which they could better **CONNECT** with their peers and share knowledge, experiences and opportunities working internationally. The group also believed that by raising awareness about career pathways into international agricultural research, more Australians would **ENGAGE** in agriculture. Finally, the group wanted to **SUPPORT** the career development of early to mid-career researchers.

RAID is a program of the Crawford Fund Ltd and was established in December 2013 with the support of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

## Mission

To connect, engage and support early to mid-career researchers with an interest in agriculture and international development.

## Vision

RAID is an active network of early to mid-career researchers with an interest in agriculture and international development, through which knowledge and opportunities are shared, research capacity is built, and the value of agricultural research is communicated.

## Objectives

1. Connect researchers involved in international agricultural research for development by facilitating networking and knowledge sharing.
2. Engage more people in agriculture by raising public awareness about career pathways into, and the importance of international agricultural research for development.
3. Support career development of early to mid-career researchers through targeted capacity building initiatives.



Figure 1. Anika Molesworth (NSW Rep) and Cambodian researchers with crop trials at the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute.

## Strategy and Management

The RAID Network is managed by a Central Committee supported by a team of regionally based representatives operating on a voluntary basis. The Central Committee oversee the implementation of RAID's strategic plan and manages day-to-day business. RAID regional representatives report to the Events Directors and are responsible for organising events and raising awareness at a local level.

To support RAID's growth, the Crawford Fund supported the appointment of a part-time administrative officer, Sue Faulkner, who commenced in June 2018. Sue has provided excellent support to RAID in the past 12 months, in website management, graphic design and all other aspects of administration. As RAID continues to grow, we hope to increase Sue's time to free up the central committee to deliver in other areas such as advocacy and capacity building activities.

As the committee functions on a voluntary basis, we want to recognise the considerable effort of committee members in ensuring RAID achieves its goals. With the generous support of the Crawford Fund, two places at the week-long *Research Leadership and Management Workshop* were offered. The consensus amongst the committees was that these opportunities should be used to reward the hard work of committee members. Based on a voting system, Bianca Das (Events Program) and Dave McGill (Communications Program) attended the workshop in Penang, Malaysia in November 2018. This will be an ongoing initiative that will be offered to one central committee member and one regional representative.

## Central Committee

### Executive

**President:** Jack Hetherington

**Vice President:** Madaline Healey

**Secretary:** Jenny Hanks

**Treasurer:** Sam Coggins

### Core Portfolios

#### Communications:

- Thomas Williams
- Candice Skelton
- Harry Campbell-Ross (previously David McGill)

#### Events:

- Emily Lamberton
- Bianca Das

#### Capacity Building:

- Rohan Yargop
- Rebecca Cotton
- Tamaya Peressini

**Administrative officer:** Sue Faulkner

## Partnerships

In 2018-19, RAID strengthened its existing key partnerships, as well as developing new and innovative partnerships. As RAID continues to develop its partnerships and sponsorship portfolio, in-kind support and partnerships will be key to the continued success of RAID's outputs. These partnerships allow us greater outreach to connect with new members and grow our network across different institutions and disciplines, particularly as new members enter the early-mid career space.

This year RAID increased its involvement with the Crawford Fund Parliamentary Conference; through the development and delivery of the Young Scholars days, and as Keynote Listeners compiling the Crawford Fund Parliamentary Report. This is one of the key activities delivered by RAID as a program of the Crawford Fund, and is a key example of our ongoing partnership. It has long been a key calendar event of the Crawford Fund and increasingly RAID has had greater input. Feedback from the August 2018 young scholar day was overwhelmingly positive, with a number of scholars joining our membership network, writing blogs and also seeking out volunteering and career opportunities through RAID. Plans for delivery of the Young Scholars days in 2019 underway.

In addition, the RAID website will soon become a part of the Crawford Fund website providing an integrated online appearance.

RAID representatives continue their involvement with Crawford State/Territory Committees. RAID committee members sit on Committees in Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and the ACT. This strengthens our connections at a state level providing opportunities for co-branding and funding of events. Committee members have stated that they enjoy having early-mid career members sit on their committees as it brings a fresh new perspective to discussions. For RAID members, it provides them with the opportunity to connect with well-established researchers. RAID values the ongoing support provided by the Crawford Fund and we will continue to work closely together in pursuit of our shared goals.

The majority of RAID's funding comes from the ACIAR grant to the Crawford Fund and will again for the coming financial year. We have continued to work closely with ACIAR to maintain a strong relationship. As a tangible measure of this, ACIAR graduate officers have continued to hold positions on our committee with new graduates starting at ACIAR eager to be involved in RAID. Additionally, the close proximity of the ACIAR Outreach team has assisted with communicating the important stories of RAIDers in the field. A number of RAID network members have had their stories published in the Partners magazine on a regularly basis. This is a great initiative to showcase the work early-mid career researchers are involved in.

We have continued to liaise with AVI to seek opportunities for RAID to be more involved in their program, particularly as our network can be considered a major target for volunteer opportunities within their volunteer program. The opportunity exists to formalise a partnership between AVI and RAID, whereby RAID members are involved in short-term open volunteering opportunities within the AVI program. We are also seeking ways to contribute to the Crawford Fund's volunteering and mentoring program by advertising opportunities through our network and assisting in matching volunteers and mentors.

A list of organisations involved in our networking events across Australia:

- State and Territory Crawford Fund Committees
- Australian Society of Animal Production
- University of Queensland
- Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES)
- Pacific Biosecurity Partnerships
- Charles Sturt University, Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation
- Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, QAAFI (Event and Funding Support)
- The University of the Sunshine Coast (Event and Funding Support)
- The University of Adelaide (Events Support)
- The University of Tasmania (Events Support)
- The University of Sydney (Events Support)

## Communications

### Membership

RAID's primary modus operandi is via its website and social media platforms. RAID's website ([www.raidaustralia.net](http://www.raidaustralia.net)) is the central location of all stories, jobs, opportunities and events. These are then pushed through the various communication channels, primarily Facebook and Twitter however, RAID also publishes material to Instagram and YouTube.

RAID has increased its following across all platforms, including by 43.9% on Twitter and 34.3% on RAID's Facebook Group. See Table 1 for membership and followers across all of RAID's online platforms. Formal membership on RAID's website reached over 1000 members in 2018-19, growing by 30% from the previous year. This reflects the outreach success of RAID through its networking events and participation in the young scholar, where we are reaching new members to join our network.

**Table 1. Number of people engaged with RAID across platforms**

Platform	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Increase from the previous 12 months
RAID website	214	384	561	827	1080	<b>30.60%</b>
Facebook group	282	386	519	686	921	<b>34.30%</b>
Facebook page	NA	726	868	1036	1180	<b>13.90%</b>
Twitter	141	310	619	947	1363	<b>43.90%</b>
Instagram	NA	NA	95	113	143	<b>26.50%</b>

### Blogs

In 2018-19, RAID ran a blog competition, publishing blog contributions fortnightly. The blogs were shortlisted by the RAID committee and the top three winners were then selected by an invited judge, Oikoi's storyteller, Caspar Roxburgh. The winners were chosen based on their readability, engagement with the RAID community, and the novelty of the topic. The winners were announced in February 2019. In 2018-19 RAID published 27 blogs with an average of 348 hits per blog (median: 256 hits, range: 154–888 hits).

### Newsletters

RAID published one newsletter in August 2018. The newsletter was opened by 48% of 790 recipients. For the 2019-2020 financial year RAID will coordinate monthly summaries to be included in the Crawford Fund monthly highlights e-newsletter. The purpose to highlight some of the key events that have happened, or are happening, to the Crawford Fund audience.

### Website Project

A major focus of RAID communication in 2018/2019 was the development of a new web platform. Set to launch in August 2019, the website refresh will align RAID and Crawford Fund under one sub domain. The new website is focussed on usability and will become a functional access point for RAID member communication. A second component of the website - the members' platform - will continue to be developed after the initial launch of the new website in August. Features of the members' platform will include a discussion board and members' directory to facilitate increased member interaction. The idea behind this is to allow members to profile their work, and therefore allow other members to connect and reach out to specific people, those working in a certain sector or country.

There are currently 1,079 registered RAID users but it is suspected a portion of these accounts are no longer active. As part of the launch of the new website, RAID will require members to re-register and create a new profile for the website. The purpose of this is to capture accurate metrics of current RAID members. In June 2018, RAID attempted an all-member renewal system on the existing website

platform; this was unsuccessful due to technological fault (i.e. the renewal requirement only activated on some accounts).

## Events and Representatives

### Networking Events

RAID networking events provide early-mid career researchers with an opportunity to connect with their peers, as well as interact with more experienced researchers in an informal setting. During these events, knowledge and information is shared and career pathways in international agricultural research are discussed. The Crawford Conference networking event, RAID trialled trivia as a new format of networking. This was extremely well received, with teams consisting of a mix of established researchers and Crawford Fund members and young scholars. Feedback was extremely valuable, with the more senior researchers indicating that this was a great platform to engage researchers at all levels of their career. For the young scholars, it provided a relaxed environment where they could relax and connect with more established researchers that they may not have felt comfortable doing so in a regular setting.

In the past year, RAID hosted 15 networking events, engaging over 431 people, similar to the previous 12-month period (15 events).

**Table 2. Summary of RAID networking events**

Date	Title	Location	Participants
14 <sup>th</sup> August 2018	Crawford Conference Scholars Networking	Canberra, ACT	75
27 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	RAID Research in Rapid Fire	Sydney, NSW	10
17 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	RAID NT Planning and Networking	Darwin, NT	6
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2018	Australian Society of Animal Production and University of Queensland end of year event	Gatton, QLD	25
1 <sup>st</sup> November 2018	RAID NT Launch Event	Darwin, NT	30
14 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	AARES Networking Event	Melbourne, VIC	60
26 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Leadership Workshop Networking	Hobart, TAS	20
27 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Ateneo Networking Event	Brisbane, QLD	25
28 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Canberra RAID Networking Event	Canberra, ACT	15
7 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Research Showcase and Networking	Perth, WA	45
11 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Reverse Networking Event	Gatton, QLD	20
7 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	UQ Plant Society BBC Careers Night	Brisbane, QLD	25
16 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Pacific Biosecurity Partnerships Networking	Canberra, ACT	25
30 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	RAID and ACIAR Biosecurity Networking Event	Brisbane, QLD	20
14 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Networking in the gardens	Darwin, NT	30
		<b>TOTAL</b>	431

### RAID Representatives

To reach its growing member-base, RAID relies heavily on its network of representatives to host events in their local areas. In the past 12 months, the network gained 7 new representatives from within several new organisations and research disciplines to help expand our reach.

New representative partnerships include the Centre of Tropical Crops and Biocommodities, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), Syngenta, La Trobe University and Flinders University. The table below outlines the current list of RAID Representatives.

The inaugural RAID Representative Award, which recognises consistent efforts towards organising events and contributing to RAID's blog series, will be announced in August 2019. As part of this award,

the RAID representative will attend the Crawford Fund's 5-day Leadership and Management Workshop in Penang during November 2019.

**Table 3. Current RAID Representatives by state and city.**

State	Hub	RAID Representative
<b>QLD</b>	Brisbane	Shanice Van Haeften – Centre of tropical crops and biocommodities, QUT
		Elizabeth (Lizzie) Worrall - Queensland University of Technology, QAAFI
		Nahuel Pachas – University of Queensland
		Tarni Cooper – University of Queensland
		Bianca Das - CSIRO
	Sunshine Coast	Jack Koci – University of the Sunshine Coast
		Madaline Healey – University of the Sunshine Coast
	Toowoomba	Megan Williams - Syngenta
	Townsville	John Otto – James Cook University
<b>NSW</b>	Sydney	Lucinda Dunn – University of Sydney
		Lilian Buchholz – University of Sydney
	Wagga Wagga	Thomas Williams – Charles Sturt University
		Emma Hand – Charles Sturt University
	Griffith (based in Broken Hill)	Anika Molesworth – Deakin University
Armidale	Pete Orrell – University of New England	
<b>ACT</b>	Canberra	Dave Gale – Plant Health Australia
<b>VIC</b>	Melbourne	Sophia Callahan – University of Melbourne
		Tim Luke – La Trobe University
		Jenny Hanks – University of Melbourne
<b>TAS</b>	Hobart	Beth Penrose – University of Tasmania
		Elya Richardson – University of Tasmania
<b>SA</b>	Adelaide	Emma de Courcy-Ireland – Flinders University
		Rohan Yargop – University of Adelaide
<b>WA</b>	Perth	Alicea Garcia – University of Western Australia
		Ana Manero – University of Western Australia
		Rodrigo Pires – University of Western Australia
<b>NT</b>	Darwin	Maddison Clonan – NT DPI

## Capacity Building

Enhancing the skills of agricultural researchers and professionals in the agricultural development sector is an important priority for RAID. One key area is the development of research leadership and management skills.

The RAID committee and Crawford Fund's Capacity Building Director, Shaun Coffey, hosted three workshops for Australia-based researchers in FY 2018-19, to develop an introductory understanding of management and leadership of agriculture research.

The initial workshop was held in Brisbane, June 2018, was a pilot model for workshops that followed in Adelaide, Hobart and Wagga Wagga. These workshops were delivered as part of RAID's initiative to build the capacity of motivated early to mid-career researchers. The feedback from each workshop was taken on board and critically assessed to ensure the next workshop was improved. Some of the feedback from the first workshop indicated that there needed to be more interaction and activities between participants for better engagement and learning. This was taken on board and following the final workshop in Wagga Wagga, it was clear that the delivery style was improved and well received. Participants indicated that they found the workshop very valuable and would highly recommend to other early-mid career researchers. For each workshop, RAID has coordinated with the local State Committee of the Crawford who have kindly sponsored the workshop.



## Adelaide Workshop

- The first workshop titled 'Agricultural Research Leadership and Management' was held from 9 to 11 October 2018, at the Centre for Global Food and Resources (CGFAR), University of Adelaide.
- 16 participants from institutions including the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and Plant and Food Research Australia attended.
- The workshop was facilitated by Shaun Coffey and Lynne O'Brien, with assistance from Rohan Yargop of RAID.
- The South Australian Crawford Fund Committee provided financial support and were represented at the associated networking by John Radcliffe.
- Based on the participants' feedback and reflections from the workshop facilitators, the RAID capacity building team and Shaun indicated that committee members should be more involved in the future workshops as co-facilitators.



**Figure 2. Participants at the Adelaide Workshop (October 2018).**

## Hobart Workshop

- RAID's second workshop was held at the University of Tasmania, Hobart, from 26 to 28 February 2019.
- 15 participants from institutions including the University of Tasmania, Tasmanian Berries, Plant Breeders without Borders, SARDI, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, University of Melbourne and ACIAR attended.
- As per the feedback from Adelaide, Shaun Coffey and Lynne O'Brien delivered the core content of the workshop with facilitation support from RAID committee members Rebecca Cotton and David McGill.
- The Tasmanian Committee supported the workshop and were involved in the networking event.
- The workshop received positive feedback, particularly the involvement of RAID Central Committee members as co-facilitators.
- The participation of RAID as co-facilitators complemented the knowledge and expertise of both Shaun and Lynne, with increased interactivity and group learning.

## Wagga Wagga Workshop

- The third workshop was held from 14 to 16 May 2019, at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga.
- 15 participants from Charles Sturt University, Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, CSIRO, Poultry Research Foundation, Syngenta, LiveCorp, and the Department of Primary Industries attended.
- Shaun Coffey and Lynne O'Brien delivered the workshop with the support of RAID committee members David McGill, Rebecca Cotton and Jack Hetherington.
- The NSW Committee of the Fund sponsored the event and Deidre Lemerle represented the Committee at the networking event.
- Again, the workshop received extremely positive feedback, which will be used to ensure the delivery of future workshops are as well received.

## Planned workshops for 2019-20

RAID will continue to offer the 'Agricultural Research Leadership and Management' workshop in FY 2019-20, with two workshops currently planned for Darwin and Perth. RAID aims to offer these workshops concurrent with international conferences being held in each location, this provides a wider base of people to attend networking events and reduces the cost of travel for regional, interstate or international participants.

The first workshop is planned for 9 to 10 September 2019 in Darwin, prior to the Asia Pacific Extension Network (APEN) conference 12 to 13 September. The workshop planning has commenced and is being coordinated by the RAID Capacity Building Team and Northern Territory state representative.

The second workshop is planned to take place in Perth in February 2020 the week of 10 to 14 February 2020. The Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) Conference is being held in Perth in the same week. The capacity building team has had initial conversations with Western Australia state representatives on workshop planning.

The positive feedback from participants at these workshops has been warmly received. It is an indication of the valuable outreach and capacity building initiatives that RAID are delivering. We believe that our close interaction with our members in developing ideas for activities and close consultation for feedback ensures we are delivering opportunities and activities tailored to our network's needs.

## Financial Summary

RAID's revenue and expenditure is outlined in Table 4.

The primary source of RAID's budget for 2018-19 was funding from ACIAR. Additionally, revenue from workshops - including SA, Tasmania and NSW State Committee support and participant registration fees - contributed to costs associated with hosting the workshops (e.g. catering and travel).

Total expenditure for the fiscal year was \$59,623.70. The remaining balance was \$14,143.70, which will go towards salary and costs for part-time administrative support in 2019-20.

In January 2019, the business name 'RAID Network' was registered with ASIC for a 3-year period.

**Table 4. Financial Summary**

	Amount (AUD)
<b>REVENUE</b>	
Reserves Brought forward	\$9,759.87
C/O-Interest Recd +Dividends	\$128.44
Fed Government Distribution	\$50,000.00
Workshop revenue	\$13,879.09
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$73,767.40</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Capacity Building	(\$29,266.97)
Communications	(\$1,900.21)
Events	(\$4,919.93)
Committee operational costs	(\$17,536.59)
Infrastructure	(\$6,000.00)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>(\$59,623.70)</b>
<b>Net profit (loss)</b>	<b>\$14,143.70</b>

## Final words

The concept of RAID was born out of the passion, drive and commitment of a small group of early career researchers in 2013. Over the past six years RAID has seen many changes and has developed into an Australia wide-network with an excellent reputation for commitment to promoting international agricultural research and for delivering opportunities for all people working in this space to connect and engage. RAID values the dedication of its core committee members, and the regional representatives across Australia, who have been key to RAID's success. RAID are establishing themselves as a well-renowned organisation, who people are seeking out to engage with and work alongside. We hope to continue to provide opportunities for early-mid career researchers to share knowledge and experiences into the future.