

Crawford Fund Annual Conference

2023 Scholar Bios



Phoebe Arbon (QLD Committee) – Phoebe is a PhD candidate and Research officer at James Cook University, within the JCU AquaPATH Detection Laboratory, Townsville Queensland. Phoebe’s research interests are centered around applied aquatic animal health in aquaculture, especially relating to enhanced sustainability and economics of aquaculture production through improved biosecurity. Currently, Phoebe’s research investigates viral pathogens of concern to the Australian prawn farming industry, and involves techniques such as molecular genetics, aquatic animal challenge trials and bioinformatics. Phoebe’s other research interests include quantitative genetics, selective breeding, and machine learning. Throughout all aspects of her studies and research, Phoebe aims to work closely with Australian aquaculture farmers, and is passionate about the delivery of real-world benefits to industry through targeted and well-translated research.



Tayla Blight (SA Committee) - I am a current third year Agricultural Science at the University of Adelaide. Beyond University I see myself working in the agribusiness sector working with primary industries, to maximise productivity and efficiency. Australia’s primary industries must become more efficient with land use and management decisions to maximise production to meet food demands, not only in Australia but also for export markets. Post university I aim to become a consultant and by attending this conference it will provide me with a greater understanding of the importance of research and development to promote food security and the global impact. I hope to be able to travel overseas and provide consultancy work in less developed countries and to be able to work with farmers to produce more nutritious foods, more sustainably even in varying climates and in more variable farming zones.



Nakita Cally (QLD Committee) - Bubbly like a fermenting wine; shy like the English sunshine. I have a passion for cropping agriculture, especially broadacre, and a bit of horticulture. I would love to learn more about perennial crops. I like to feed people and know people are getting fed in the most efficient and optimal way possible. This is the reason behind my love for learning about agriculture and getting hands-on in the field.

I firmly believe the quickest way to heart is through the stomach. Learning about agriculture in tropical, subtropical and arid environments is invaluable to growing food where it counts - in developing nations across the world, especially Africa.



Sibjan Chaulagain (ACT Committee) - I am a Postgrad Student at Fenner School studying Master of Science in Agriculture Innovation. Apart from studies, I am involved in different positions at ANU such as Business Development Officer at Center for Agri Entrepreneurial Technology (CEAT), Research Officer at the Institute of Climate Energy and Disaster Solution, and hold a casual position at Researcher Development Team, and Student Central.

One year ago before coming to ANU, I was supporting farmers of my home country Nepal. I founded this initiative in 2014 after spending 2 years as a computer teacher and a farmer in my rural village after my Engineering graduation. My Digital Agritech Platform combination of SMS, Mobile application, and Facebook Chatbot is being used by over 500K farmers in Nepal.

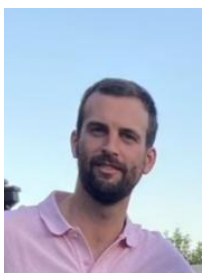
I have a special interest in agriculture research for development, especially in low and middle-income countries. My research interest is around agriculture market information, Agro Meteorology Advisory service, and Climate Smart Agriculture.



Ming Cheng (University of Queensland) - My name is Ming Cheng, and I am a 3rd year PhD in Plant breeding and genetic improvements at the University of Queensland. My research focuses on improving the traits of pineapple using gene edition tools. I am interested to learn more about efficient plant transformation methods and modern breeding technology.



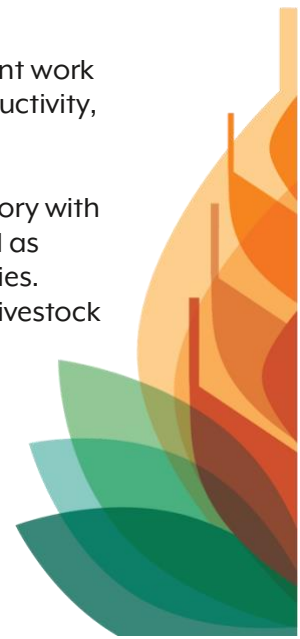
Claudio Cortellazzi (NSW Committee) - I am a currently a PHD student at the university of western Sydney. With my Research being focused on sustainable Agriculture with my crop being Sorghum. I have also completed my Master of Science at western Sydney university in horticulture with a focus on protected cropping. I have also done research projects on capsicums in a protected cropping environment and a research project on cotton. Some of my hobbies include camping and fishing.



Laurent Christophe d'Abbadie (WA Committee) - I am a Chemical Engineer with a Master's in Agricultural Economics from UWA. My experience encompasses over eight years of planning, economics, operational improvement, and modelling in the energy, manufacturing, and agribusiness industries.

The thesis from my masters, in which I analysed the resilience of beef production in the Southern Rangeland of WA, is the basis of my current work in the Southern Rangeland and beef production in WA which integrates livestock productivity, land use management, carbon sustainability, and biodiversity.

I have developed expertise in the carbon-emissions calculations of the National Inventory with a focus on agriculture and LULUCFs (Land use, land-use change, and forestry), as well as experience in international carbon accounting and Life cycle assessment methodologies. Additionally, I am collaborating in mixed farming systems, horticulture, and intensive livestock production research and modelling.





Yashkumar Desai (TAS Committee) - I am a master's student at UTAS. This is my double master's. Before that I completed my masters by research from India with thesis title of "Effect of different physiological ages and harvesting periods on seed tuber size of potato", where I learned a lot about physiology of crop. Here in Tasmania potato production is more compared to other state but I don't have knowledge about cropping systems and patterns. I tried to figure out how farmers took advantage of physiological age but there is not such a thing like that. So, I am hoping to do further research on that and learning some exciting things from the conference.



Bisakha Dewan (AARES) – As a PhD student at the University of Queensland, Bisakha is actively involved in agribusiness research with a specific focus on gender, women's empowerment, community development, food supply chains, and sustainable value chains. Her dedication to these areas derives from her recognition as an AWARD and Bangladesh Prime Minister fellow, which has inspired her to pursue gender-responsive agricultural research and contribute to sustainable development efforts. In addition to her scholarly pursuits, Bisakha takes pride in her indigenous heritage and serves as an academic staff member at the Department of Agribusiness and Marketing at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

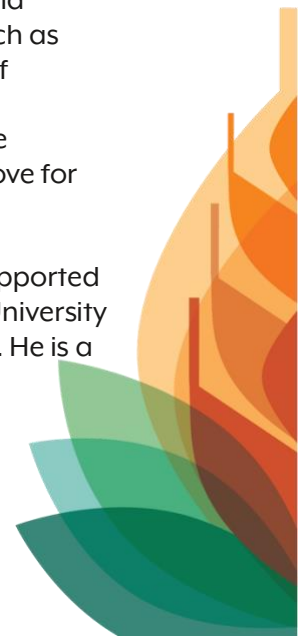


Mr Binyin "Patrick" Di (NT Committee) – Patrick is a versatile Biosecurity Industry Liaison Officer at the Northern Territory Farmers Association. He is an avid bibliophile specialising in tropical agriculture and ecology with a passion for emerging technologies and a track record in delivering research and extension activities on various topics, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Precision Agriculture (PA). Leveraging knowledge from the past experience, he is dedicated and has devoted himself to agricultural research for international development. He holds a Bachelor Honours' degree in Agricultural Science majoring in Plant Science from the University of Queensland and has been a member of the RAID Network since 2019. For more information and contact details about him, please visit his personal webpage at di-ag.github.io.



Viet Duong (University of New England)
Mr. Viet is a lecturer/researcher of Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF), Viet Nam. He is now doing a PhD study at the University of New England. His research is geared towards enhancing sustainable beef cattle free-grazing management strategies in hilly, mountainous, and remote forest pastures for poor farmers in developing countries (such as Vietnam). The research aims to promote better livelihoods, and beef production, and reduce farming conflicts among ethnic minority smallholders. This makes his research fits well with the themes of the Crawford Conference which brings an excellent opportunity for a student who has a love for agriculture, food security, and sustainable development.

Viet gained a Master's degree in Environmental Management at Flinders University supported by Australia Awards Scholarship. He was selected for the Southeast Asia One Health University (SEAOHUN) fellowship program for international agriculture development with CIRAD. He is a YSEALI PFP fellow under the theme of Sustainable Development and the Environment.





Leif Emberg (NT Committee) - I am a student at Southern Cross University studying environmental science and marine science management. With my undergraduate studies completed, I am set to graduate around the same time as this conference. My deep-rooted passion for the ocean and scientific processes has steered me towards a career in aquaculture. Currently, I work at the Darwin Aquaculture Centres (DAC) facility on Channel Island in the Northern Territory.

Initially, I interned here, which later evolved into a full-time position focusing on the oyster component at DAC. This role has equipped me with valuable industry skills in microalgae production and oyster larval/spat rearing. Looking ahead, DAC plans to collaborate with indigenous communities in northern Australia and partner with Fijian communities for a tropical oyster and seaweed co-culture project in 2024. I am proud to participate in this initiative, which aligns with my passions. Thanks to the Crawford Fund Student Award, I can travel to Fiji and actively contribute to this project.

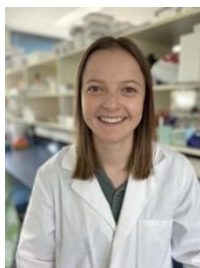


Margaret Gene (DFAT/PNG) – I am from Papua New Guinea, and I graduated from Vudal University or now University of Natural Resources in Rabaul Papua New Guinea in 2000 with a diploma in Tropical Agriculture. I am currently working with the Department of Agriculture & Livestock for over 15 years now. I specifically work with the Gender Desk for Women in Agriculture in the Policy & Planning Branch, Department of Agriculture & Livestock. I am a senior Agriculture Technical Advisor to assist in any activities/programs for Women and Youth. A lot of Women & Youth are

active in Agribusiness & Food Security to sustain their daily livelihood in the rural & also peri-urban places in Papua New Guinea. As a government employee I provide technical advice & support to the Women & Youth. The type of Technical Support & Advice I provide are as follows:

- Back Yard Gardening or farming
- Floriculture (Cut Flowers & Flower arrangements)
- Small Livestock Production
- Compost Making for seedling production
- Cottage Industry (Cooking, making coconut oil, Avocado oil, sewing, weaving bilum/bag)

During the Crawford Fund Conference, I am very much interested in meeting and knowing more scholars and mentors and about experiences of farming in Australia. Also, I am very interested in attending short courses, conferences and workshops of a similar kind in Australia in future to enhance my knowledge and skills. That will be my greatest opportunity as an Agriculture Technical Advisor.



Alison Gill (SA Committee) – Alison is a final-year PhD candidate in Agriculture at the University of Adelaide where she investigates industrial hemp drought resistance and water requirements. Her interests include the sustainable production of food and fibre in challenging environments, plant physiological responses to abiotic stresses, and potential emerging crops to combat climate changes.

In 2022, she completed part of her PhD in the Bowles Agroecology lab at the University of California, Berkeley on a Fulbright Scholarship where she researched the sustainable management of dry farmed tomatoes. She is a recipient of the CJ Everard, Tim Healey Memorial Trust, and Playford Trust PhD Scholarships.



Emma Gillingham (VIC Committee) – Emma is a PhD candidate in the Whelan Laboratory at La Trobe University, working on characterizing molecular genetic pathways involved in nutrient homeostasis. Her research is focused on the negative regulation of phosphate starvation responses, and how to maximize the efficiency of this response to minimize the reliance on exogenous fertilizers, with an emphasis on improving the sustainability of agricultural practices. Her PhD project is a continuation of her Honours research, which culminated with being awarded the D.M Myers University medal as the top undergraduate student from the College of Science, Health and Engineering.

Beyond this research, Emma is passionate about effective science communication, and understanding how innovations in sustainable agriculture can be tailored across cultural and geographical landscapes. She balances PhD pursuits with raising two young children and loves spending time outdoors with them.



Madeleine Grist (QLD Committee) - Last year I completed my honours on the Indonesian seaweed industry. I have a keen interest in international development, especially in the Asia Pacific. I studied both plant biochemistry and Asian studies.

I am now working at the department of agriculture in Canberra. I came to the Crawford conference last year and really enjoyed the stories shared by the guest speakers who work on the ground in Pacific development.



Marieke Hoelscher (NSW Committee) - I am an undergraduate student in my last semester studying a Bachelor of Agriculture at Charles Sturt University. At the time of the conference I will just have returned from a group study trip to Timor-Leste, focused on Agriculture, Forestry and Livestock Education. This will be my first experience with Agricultural Research Overseas and I am excited to learn all about ACIAR and their projects. As part of the program we will be visiting project sites and doing language classes, as well as spending time at NUET in Dili.

I am passionate about global food security and sustainable agricultural development. I have also been lucky enough to have been involved in the Agrifutures Horizon Scholarship program over the past year and a half, which has opened a world of opportunities and new experiences for me. I am sponsored by the Agrifutures Emerging Industries program which has included placement with industrial hemp, insect protein and native bees as well as the chance to attend many different conferences and networking opportunities.





Lachlan Jaensch (SA Committee) – Lachlan is a student at The University of Adelaide who has worked in the wine industry for five years across wineries in South Australia and Victoria. Despite also working in grain and dairy, Lachlan is most passionate about the wine industry having grown up on a vineyard.

Currently studying a Masters degree in Global Food and Agricultural Business, Lachlan is researching the influence of government incentive initiatives on the adoption of pump infrastructure upgrades for Murray Darling Basin irrigators. Furthermore, Lachlan also holds a Bachelor’s degree in Health Sciences from Flinders University.

Lachlan’s professional interests include farmer advocacy and encouraging on-farm best management practices to promote agricultural development. He is passionate about representing rural communities and has professional aspirations to promote programs which encourage sustainable regional development.

This conference presents a great opportunity for Lachlan to connect with and learn from others who share his passion for rural development.



Harrison Keymer (WA Committee) - I am currently studying a Master of International Development at the University of Western Australia. Growing up on a sheep farm near Albany, Western Australia undoubtedly instigated my passion for agriculture and the environment. My core interests centre around the reduction of socioeconomic inequalities, especially via agricultural development; and novel approaches to reducing the harmful environmental impacts of agriculture whilst achieving food and nutrition security.

I work casually as a lab technician in UWA’s Rumen Microbiology group within the School of Agriculture and Environment. The team’s research aims to find plants, feeds and feed additives that can help reduce methane emissions.

I am exploring options for my master’s dissertation and hoping to explore links between agricultural development, food security and road infrastructure building in developing world contexts. Attending the conference will allow me to explore specific issues and gain more knowledge to guide my research and longer-term career trajectory.



Pravin Khambalkar (ACT Committee) - I obtained my Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Agricultural Biotechnology in 2012 from Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani, India. I then completed a Master of Science (MSc) in Biotechnology from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, India in 2014, where I worked on the isolation and characterization of Burkholderia spp. and studied their plant growth-promoting properties.

I joined David Jones’s Lab, in the Research School of Biology, Australian National University in 2017 for a PhD in Plant Science focusing my research on plant-pathogen interaction using the tomato-Fol pathosystem. I also work on C4 rice project as Research officer.





Edith Kichamu (QLD Committee) – Edith is an interdisciplinary scientist recognised for her expertise in soil science, climate systems, agriculture, food security, and environmental sustainability. She recently submitted her PhD thesis, “Towards climate-smart landscapes in smallholder farming communities”, for examination at Griffith University, Australia. Her research focuses on mitigating climate change through sustainable Agriculture. She aims to promote climate-smart agricultural practices that boost food production while mitigating climate change and enhancing environmental sustainability. Edith has 4 publications in peer-reviewed journals as a lead author and co-author, which can be accessed on <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=txROGjcAAAAJ>

Edith earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from Egerton University, Kenya, and a Master of Agribusiness from the University of Queensland. Her Master’s thesis examined the “Impacts of climate change on agribusiness.” With over 10 years of experience in Kenya’s agricultural sector, as an Agricultural Officer, Edith has guided farmers on sustainable farming practices, crop production, management, and marketing.



Sang Le (University of New England)

Sang Le, an accomplished researcher, holds an Honors degree from the Vietnam Academy of Agriculture and an MSc from the University of New England, Australia. Beginning as an Assistant Researcher, he progressed to a pivotal role as a researcher at the National Institute of Animal Science in Vietnam. With a background in quantitative genetics and animal breeding, Sang has focused on enhancing pig production in Vietnam through genetic selection and crossbreeding between swine breeds.

Currently pursuing his PhD at the University of New England, Sang’s research delves into the evaluation of genetic diversity and the impact of inbreeding depression on the body weight and reproductive traits of Lao native goats. He also employs GPS data to track animal movement and assess the degree of herd mixing. Sang aspires to develop a comprehensive breeding program for Lao native goats. He is particularly interested in genetic evaluation, population genetics, animal movement analysis, genomic selection, and innovative breeding program design.



Kayla Lochner (NSW Committee) – Kayla is in her third year of her PhD within the School of Humanities and Languages at UNSW.

Her research examines a just transition in agriculture, with a focus on sugarcane communities in Australia and Fiji. With a background in development studies and anthropology, Kayla’s work uses geographical and policy approaches to understand how transitions can emerge in agriculture, including understanding the distribution of risks and rewards in our agricultural systems.

Kayla is also Project Officer at UNSW where she contributes to strategic projects within the Alliances and Strategic Initiatives team. Kayla holds a Master of Development Studies with Excellence (UNSW 2019) and a Bachelor of Arts (USYD 2017) in Archaeology and Anthropology.



King Yin Lui (WA Committee) is a research agronomist who has experience in farming systems spanning irrigated crops of the tropics to rainfed systems of the temperate south of Western Australia. King Yin's current research focuses on soil and water quality dynamics of tropical cropping systems exposed to high heat and wet season tropical rainfall and irrigation during the dry season. She leads projects developing agronomy and adaptation to various climates of new crop species under rainfed and irrigated production systems, crop protection constraints, and soil types.

Throughout her research career King Yin has championed extension and addressing the complexities of decision-making as core to delivering outcomes.



Quintin Murphy (VIC Committee) - I am an undergraduate student studying a Bachelor of Agribusiness through Charles Sturt University and have four years of experience as a technician in wheat breeding. I graduated from Longerenong College in 2019 with an Advanced Diploma in Agribusiness Management. While studying, I was awarded the "Global Footprints" scholarship which gave me the opportunity to travel to the UK to gain insights into agriculture globally. Over the past four years, I have been working for BASF in their wheat breeding business where I worked across all areas of the team and supported the release of three commercial varieties and gained a passion for research. I am currently focusing on my studies.



Rachel Nye (ACT Committee) - I am currently a veterinary epidemiology consultant with Ausvet. I completed my Masters of Biostatistics in 2022.

I currently work across a wide range of projects involving research, data analysis and providing training to clients. I have worked on projects involving white spot disease in prawns, exotic disease biosecurity and the development of dashboards for data analysis and visualisation.

Previously, I worked at the Department of Health on the COVID-19 pandemic response. I am passionate about the use of data to help gain a better understanding of current issues and make more informed decisions for positive change.



Maria Ortiz (TAS Committee) interacts with farmers and other stakeholders to enable resilience and innovation in Tasmania's agriculture sector. Her role includes delivering enabling activities, connecting farmers with innovation, and understanding their needs and pathways to improve their resilience to climate variability. Maria has an animal health background and has worked in different countries in the dairy industry, conservation and coral propagation. Maria is passionate about allowing communities to thrive and the One Health Approach to health.

She is also passionate about building sustainable farms with a holistic view of animal production and welfare that interacts and benefits from nature.



Sally Poole (NSW Committee) – Sally is an Agronomist and Digital Ag consultant with 7 years' experience working in both grain and cotton production across the Southern Darling Downs and Border Rivers region.

Sally is currently doing a Master of Philosophy at The University of Sydney, researching the use of digital tools to map and understand the interactions between soil water and subsoil constraints, and their influence on crop yield.

At the completion of her studies, she hopes to work in international agricultural development in the agronomy, soils, and digital agricultural space. She is a passionate advocate for sustainable agricultural develop, food security, diversity is agriculture, and agricultural innovation.



German Puga (SA Committee) - I studied agricultural engineering in Argentina, undertaking parts of my degree in Brazil and the United States, and completed a master's degree in agricultural science at the University of Western Australia. I have experience in farm management and consultancy, and have worked at Concha & Toro, the Argentinean Wine Corporation and the National University of Cuyo, among other organisations. I am a final-year PhD student in agricultural economics at the University of Adelaide. I am also a volunteer (Secretary) of the SA branches of the Agricultural Institute of

Australia and the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society.



Shahin Rahman (WA Committee) – I am a Research Scientist at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). Previously, I worked as an Assistant Professor at the Bangladesh Agricultural University from 2021 to 2022.

I have a PhD in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Melbourne, an MSc in Agricultural Chemistry and a BSc in Agricultural Sciences from Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh.

My research focused on how to improve soil quality for enhanced availability of plant nutrition for achieving sustainable food security. I have published articles in scientific journals, attended a few conferences and participated in many voluntary activities to enhance research in Agricultural Sciences.



Jorge Ramos (NSW Committee) - I have been working in forest management in Australia, community forestry overseas and more recently in agroforestry and community carbon projects with small landholders in Timor-Leste.

After some absence from academia (perhaps I'm a mature student (?); not sure about the definition); I decided to embark on a PhD – also in Timor-Leste. I'm studying coffee agroforestry systems, investigating the correlation between temperatures and shade tree proportions of those systems.

I'm also investigating farmers' habits, experiences and emotions and their influence in adaptation behaviour, in this case, the adaptation of specific tree shade management in agroforestry systems.





Jemma Restall (QLD Committee) - I'm a 2nd year PhD student based in QAAFI at the University of Queensland undertaking a project titled "Evaluating Diverse Taro (*Colocasia*) Germplasm to Enhance Food Security and Climate Resilience in the Pacific Islands".

My research involves the field assessment and collection of wild taro germplasm, development of a low cost, high throughput phenotyping system to screen for salinity tolerance, and DNA fingerprinting this collection of wild Australian taro.

Additionally, I'm working with our collaborators at The Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) in Fiji to genotype the world's largest in vitro taro/aroid collection.

I'm passionate about working in research to improve food security, especially in Pacific Island countries and territories, and making a tangible difference in the lives of farmers and communities.



Sarah Roberts (TAS Committee) - I am a second-year student at the University of Tasmania, studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science with Honours, majoring in Crop Science and Plant Health. I am learning Chinese (Mandarin) and I have previously taken a course on Asian Studies. I am interested in Australia's relations with Asian countries, especially in terms of agriculture.

In the future, I would like to work on a bioethics committee or in agricultural policy at some point in my career. I have also been considering plant pathology careers in industry. The Crawford Fund conference is an excellent opportunity to learn more about food security and gain insight into potential career and study directions.



Matthew Roscher (NSW Committee) - I grew up in the Chesapeake Bay watershed of Maryland, USA and first moved to Australia for a Masters degree program.

After working for several years elsewhere, I decided to come back to pursue a PhD in Wollongong. My research focuses on small-scale fishing livelihoods in the Pacific Islands and aims to enable better targeted policies and investments that encourage positive synergies between rural development and fisheries management objectives.



Bethany Smith (QLD Committee) - I am an Environmental Social Scientist and PhD Candidate with the Livelihoods Lab at James Cook University, with a background in spatial analysis, marine biology (MSc) and biological sciences (BSc). My research works to support the development of community-led adaptation pathways to locally relevant shock and stressor events.

The project works with small-scale fishing communities in Solomon Islands and utilises spatial analysis, participatory action research and risk analysis to identify pathways towards resilient, sustainable and equitable local livelihoods. I additionally utilise spatial analysis through my role at the International Water Management Institute (and



previously WorldFish) where I contribute to rice-fish suitability mapping for integrated aquatic food production across Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos.

I am passionate about utilising spatial analysis as a decision support tool to enhance scientific communication. As a 2022 Crawford Fund Scholar, I will lead spatial analysis training for local civil society organisation ESSI in Solomon Islands to support the integration of mapping as a multi-stakeholder communication tool within local projects.



Joanna Talbot (TAS Committee) – I am currently working as a technical officer in the livestock and pasture production team at The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) in the North of Tasmania. TIA, a joint venture between the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government, provides a platform for agricultural research and development.

Growing up surrounded by agriculture, it has always been an integral part of my identity. After raising my children, I pursued my passion by enrolling as a mature-aged student at the University of Tasmania (UTAS), where I studied Agribusiness. During my time at UTAS, I had the memorable opportunity to participate in Steven Ives' project, "Increasing Beef Production in North-Western Vietnam." This experience exposed me to working farms in Vietnam and allowed me to engage with local farmers, providing valuable insights into how international research can contribute to food and nutrition security.

With a solid foundation of local research experience, I am now eager to broaden my horizons and develop my international research skills. My goal is to expand my involvement in the global research community, focusing on addressing pressing agricultural challenges with a particular interest in biosecurity. By contributing to international research efforts, I aim to make a meaningful impact on global agricultural sustainability and food security. I am extremely grateful for this experience.



Danielle Yidan Tang (VIC Committee) - I am a motivated, resilient and down-to-earth PhD candidate through Agriculture Victoria (AV), the Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC), and the University of Melbourne (UOM).

I have been well-trained in Singapore, New Zealand, Melbourne, Dookie and Denmark with multiple awards and scholarships received. I have been involved in multiple research projects relating to agricultural technology and climate change solutions, specifically developing machine learning models using Near-Infrared Spectroscopy for quality testing and predictions.

Currently I am a 3rd year PhD candidate creating spatial mapping preharvest tool for lentil and faba bean grains quality across paddocks at Horsham, Victoria working with agronomists, pathologists and growers. My passion lies in sustainable production and precision agriculture.



Haydn Tracey-Shaw (TAS Committee) - My name is Haydn Tracey-Shaw, I am 28 years old and from a farming family in southeast Victoria. In previous work, I have worked in the food industry as Butcher, and most recently in the Army as an Officer.

I am very interested in how our food system works and want to impact future developments. This has led me to attend the University of Tasmania and study for a Bachelor of Agricultural Science.



Louise Walker (VIC Committee) - Originally from NZ, I have come to La Trobe to study sustainable agriculture science. I am in the first year of my PhD, working on faba bean grain quality under heat and drought stress. My passion for plant science comes from a desire to make an impact benefitting the health of people and the planet on a significant scale. I have an immense appreciation of the natural world we live in and am thrilled to work on a project that allows me to contribute to a more sustainable future.

I enjoy studying the molecular control of stress responses in plants, but most of all I love the opportunity to apply that knowledge to physiological, farm relevant phenotypes that can be used in the development of the agriculture of the future.



Anna Yامنة (DFAT/PNG) - I am currently working with the Department of Agriculture and Livestock as a Coordinator, Women in Agriculture Development, based here in Port Moresby, National Capital District.

I am married with three children, and I am from the Enga Province of Papua New Guinea.



Rose Zhang (ACT Committee) - My name is Rose and I'm a first-year PhD student in the ANU Division of Plant Science. My PhD project aims to use synthetic biology approaches to improve drought tolerance in chickpea, an agriculturally and nutritionally important legume crop both in Australia and globally. I'm passionate about building strong mentoring networks in STEM and advocate for greater educational equality and accessibility for disadvantaged students. Outside of my work, I love hiking, watching football (soccer), and reading - I'm trying to read 50 books this year!