

Digital Rural Futures Conference



Digital *Rural Futures*

Smart Farms - Smart Regions

CONFERENCE

A national broadband communications network offers enormous opportunities for Australia's agricultural sector. In turn, connected farms, and their supporting industries will play a significant role in Australia's digital economic future.

Digital *Rural Futures* is a national forum to exchange ideas and provide updates on the opportunities and challenges faced by agriculture and rural and regional communities in Australia's digital economic future. In 2013 the event was held at the University of New England.

Australia's 140,000 farms; many of them small-medium, family owned businesses, are a vital part of our teleworking future, both on and off farm. Farm-to-customer retail, remote on-farm product support, tele-veterinary and tele-agronomic support, remote diagnostics, assisted living, tele-health and education are but a few of the exciting possibilities available to an emerging smart services sector. Farms are a rich source of environmental data, for both farm managers and their external advisors, and also for those involved in the health of our landscapes. Add to these opportunities in crowd sourcing and 'citizen science'. Then come the technology developers working on the latest in ICT and sensors. Examples include high-volume sensor networks and intra-farm communications supporting remote vision, plant/animal sensors and precision agriculture. We also face challenges and opportunities around how we manage data and information within and between stakeholder and client groups; how we store and secure it, derive value-add products from it and exchange it. Finally, of course, none of this will ever fly unless it stacks up economically.

5.00	Farming Technology Making a Difference?	PrecisionAgriculture.com
5.00 – 5.35	Plenary 2d: Digital Rural Futures: Implications for Identity, Inclusion, Economy and Society	Prof Mike Keppell, Executive Director, Australian Digital Futures Institute (ADFI) , University of Southern Queensland
5.35 – 5.40	Housekeeping	Prof David Lamb, Precision Agriculture Research Group, University of New England
Evening	Dinner	MC: Prof David Lamb, Precision Agriculture Research Group, University of New England
7.00 for 7.30 – 10.30 (Bus departs)	Booluminbah will open from 6pm, with canapés and drinks to be served from 7pm.	Dinner Speaker: Bryan Dawe, Political Satirist

Thursday 27th of June

Plenary Session 3 (Auditorium)		Chairperson: A/Prof Craig Baillie, National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture, University of Southern Queensland
8.00 - 8.30	Keynote 3a: Will Apps make better farmers	Richard Heath, Grains Research and Development Corporation
8.30 - 9.05	Plenary 3b: Raising productivity and creating opportunities for Australian primary industries from smart services	Colin Griffith, Director, Australian Centre for Broadband Innovation (ACBI)
9.05 - 9.40	Plenary 3c: The role of regional government organisations in promoting the digital economy	Dr Peter Adams, Director Commercial & Economic Development, Wagga Wagga City Council
9.40 - 10.30	Open Panel Session: How do we drive real change and benefits for rural Australia?	Facilitators: Colin Griffith, Director, Australian Centre for Broadband Innovation (ACBI) Prof Mike Keppell, Executive Director, Australian Digital Futures Institute (ADFI) , University of Southern Queensland Panel: Peter Kuhlman, 2012 Farmer of the Year Tim Neale, PrecisionAgriculture.com Ben Sorensen, AACo Fiona Simson, NFF & NSW Farmers

	horticulture - examples from the mango and apple industries, Kerry Walsh, CQU	Web Mapping Services to the Farm, Andy McAllister, Vic DPI	of digital, satellite-image based yield maps to sugar cane growers via the internet, Andrew Robson, Qld DAFF	modern agricultural extension, Greg Mills, GBS
4.05–4.25	Sensors and wireless sensor networks in productivity, efficiency and phenomics of grazing livestock, Paul Greenwood, NSW DPI	Interoperable data - a researcher's dream? Peter Dahlhaus, UB	Evaluation of Cloud based winemaking process and financial management software, Alan Gaudin, CTO	Supporting farmers' learning and knowledge development through dialogue and digital technologies, Ann Starasts, USQ
4.25 – 4.45	Precision Agriculture initiatives at the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture – USQ, Troy Jensen, USQ	Intersect's Service Offerings, Johan Boshoff, Intersect Aust.	Real-time, web-enabled adaptive control and monitoring of surface and overhead irrigation systems, Alison McCarthy, USQ	Extending extension: virtual shed meetings in a digital age, Helen Farley, USQ
4.45 – 5.05	Development of machine vision-based precision weed sensing for interstate sites using broadband internet services, Steven Rees, USQ	Integrating real-time location data into decision support systems for harvest and transport operations in sugar cane, Robert Crossley, Agtrix	The 'Complexity' in Developing Smart Services to Leverage Economic Benefit from the NBN in Rural and Regional Communities, Gerrie Carr-MacFie, UB	Landcare in the Digital Era: Can Living-Lab Foster Social Innovation? Subas Dhakal, SCU

Closing Session (Auditorium)

5.10 – 5.30	Closing Address	Prof David Lamb, Precision Agriculture Research Group, University of New England
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