

21st Commonwealth Agricultural

“The Power of Water”
Albury, New South Wales
March 2004

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW is set to play host to the 21st Commonwealth Agricultural Conference in 2004. Organised by the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC), the Conference gets underway on 23 March in Albury, with the post conference program to wind up at the Royal Easter Show. Involving city, regional and local Show societies, the conference and associated tours will focus on the all-important worldwide issue of water.

Speakers from around Australia and overseas will converge on the Conference to discuss the topic “The Power of Water” ranging from Australia’s role in water management and public/private water partnerships to urban water management and the power of water.

Chairman of the RASC, Lord Sam Vestey, said the conference has all the makings of a milestone event.

“Increasingly, those concerned for the future are concerned for water. The concern is not just global, or indeed Australian, but it is personal, affecting every one of us,” he said.

The conference program is divided into four modules:

Module 1A	Pre conference program	15 March to 23 March
		(8 nights – Melbourne to Albury via Griffith)
Module 1B	Pre conference program	19 March to 23 March
		(4 nights – Griffith to Albury only)
Module 2	Conference program	23 March to 27 March
		(4 nights – Albury)
Module 3	Post conference program	23 March to 3 April
		(7 nights – Albury to Sydney via Canberra)

Conference Program

Nowik Centre ■ Charles Sturt University ■ Albury campus

Wednesday 24 March 2004

7.30 to 9am	Conference registration, Nowik Centre
9am to 9.15am	Conference opening and welcome by The Rt. Hon Lord Vestey DL Chairman Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth (RASC), invites the Prime Minister of Australia to officially welcome conference delegates (to be confirmed) Prime Minister to deliver official address
9.45am	Conference sessions commence
9.45 to 10.15am	Paper 1.1 – Setting The Scene Representative of New South Wales Government
10.15 to 10.45am	Paper 1.2 – Water for Everyone – A Basic Need Mrs Graca Machel, Chair of the Foundation for Community Development in Africa and wife of Nelson Mandela
11.15am	Session Chairman: The Hon Tim Fischer, Former Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Trade Chairman Crawford Fund, Director, Australian Agricultural Company Ltd
11.15 to 12 noon	Paper 1.3 – The Philosophy of Water – “Water is Life” Professor David Mitchell, Charles Sturt University (2003 International Fellow of the Society of Wetland Scientists)
12.00 to 12.45pm	Paper 1.4 – The Water Balance – Effective Farming Versus Sustainability Mr John Blackwell, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO),

	Division of Land and Water
2.00pm	Session Chairman: John Riddiford, Chairman of the Northeast Catchment Management Authority
2.05 to 2.40pm	Paper 1.5 – The Power of Water – Maintaining River Health and Environmental Sustainability Mr Andrew Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, Land and Water Australia
2.40 to 3.15pm	Paper 1.6 – Managing the World’s Finite Resource Mr Stephen Lintner, Senior Water Advisor, World Bank Washington
3.45 to 4.15pm	Paper 1.7 – Sustainable Water Management – Urban Perspective Mr Chris Davis, Australian Water Association
4.15 to 5.15pm	Panel Chairman – Neil Inall Panel Discussion – “Where’s the Balance and can it be win – win?” Panelists: Mr Tim Fisher, (Australian Conservation Foundation), Mr Johnny Kahlbetzer (Operations Director of Twynam Pastoral, Australia’s largest cotton producing and rice growing company as well as being the sixth-largest wool producer), John Blackwell (CSIRO), Daryl McGregor, (Chairman Murray Catchment Management Board, Member NSW Murray Wetlands Working Group, Executive Member NSW Water Directorate, Manager Albury Water)
6.30pm	Evening reception function sponsored by the cities of Albury and Wodonga at the Albury Civic Centre

Conference

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Thursday 25 March 2004

9.00am	Session Chairman – John Fairfax, AM, Chairman Rural Press Ltd, RAS Councillor
9.00 to 9.45am	Paper 2.8 – Australia's Role in Water Management (world perspective) Mr Don Blackmore, CEO Murray Darling Basin Commission
9.45 to 10.30am	Paper 2.9 – Public Private Water Partnerships A representative from Pratt Water Group
11 to 11.45am	Paper 2.10 – World's Best Practice – Urban Water Management Andrzej Listowski, Manager Water and Energy, Sydney Olympic Park Authority
11.45 to 12.30pm	Paper 2.11 – Farming and Community Initiatives for Environmental Management – Water Catchment Plans/Landcare/Community Involvement Leith Bouilly, Chairman Community Advisory Committee, Murray Darling Basin Commission, Past Director Land & Water Australia, Agricultural Producer (sheep, cattle, cotton)
12.30pm	Summary – John Fairfax
1.45pm	Session Chairman – Mr Mike Taylor, Secretary (CEO) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia
1.45 to 2.30pm	Paper 2.12 – The Importance of Water To Future World Trade Mr Graham Blight, Past President of the National Farmers' Federation and International Association of Farming Associations
2.30 to 3.30pm	Youth Panel – How Will Future Generations Manage For A Sustainable World (The Future And Me) Chairman – Mr James Moody, 2001 Young Australian of the Year (Science & Technology), Member, UN Secretary General Task Force on Science and Technology. The panel will consist of "young minds" representing Commonwealth countries
3.30pm	Summary Day 2 – Mike Taylor
3.45pm	Delegates depart for regional visits (Agricultural production and associated industries in Victoria and New South Wales)
7.30pm	Evening dinner hosted by regional Agricultural Show Societies

Friday 26 March 2004

8.45am	Session Chairman – Mr Peter Corish, President of the National Farmers' Federation of Australia
8.50 to 9.35am	Paper 3.13 – Water Rights – Current Situation and Options for the Future Mr Mike Young, Ecological Economist, CSIRO Land & Water
9.35 to 10.15am	Paper 3.14 – Threats and opportunities – 10 x 10 – A 10 point plan for identifying 10 things the RASC can achieve over 10 years Mr Ian McKelvie, New Zealand (Past President Royal New Zealand Agricultural Society), farmer and Director of Farmers' Mutual Group
10.45 to 11.30m	Youth Panel Chairman – James Moody
11.30 to 12noon	Outcomes and take home messages Neil Inall
12.00 to 2.00pm	Breakout sessions Chairman – Mr Charles Runge, Honorary Secretary Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth
2.05 to 2.35pm	Paper 3.15 – Is Water Life? Reverend Mark Walker, Elgin Community College, Western Cape, South Africa
2.35 to 3.00pm	Breakout session report – Charles Runge
3.00pm	Conference close – Lord Vestey
3.15pm	Optional visit to the Albury Gold Cup
6.00pm	Depart for Rutherglen in Victoria
6.35pm	Arrive All Saints Winery, Rutherglen (regional food showcase and wine-tasting)
7.30pm	Conference Dinner (hosted by RASC) Keynote address – the Hon Warren Truss, Australian Minister for Agriculture Return transfers to Albury

For registration and full conference and tour details contact Ms Penny Menzies, Agritours, Telephone **02 6772 9066** and email pmenzies@anf.com.au

For general enquiries contact the RAS on **02 9704 1103**.