

Hosted by



DRYANDRA

WOMEN IN FARMING 2023 ANNUAL SEMINAR

FINDING *your* PLACE

Official Program



Thursday 14 September 2023 | Pingelly Recreation and Cultural Centre



Program

8.15-8.45am	REGISTRATION & COMPLIMENTARY HOT BEVERAGES
8.50am	WELCOME Eliza Dowling, Dryandra Branch President; Carolyn Reid, Women in Farming Board President & Jo Drayton, MC
9.00am	Jo Drayton (Holyoake) - The importance of investing in you
9.30am	Fiona Baird (The Livestock Collective) - Find your place on social media
10.15am	Ley Webster (2WorkinOz) - Find your workforce
10.35am	MORNING TEA
11.10am	Stephen Park & Mel Adams (Pacer Legal) - Role of succession planning in defining your place
12.15pm	Danielle McNamee (ProcessWorx) - HR update
12.30pm	LUNCH
1.25pm	Rhiannon Mouritz (The Remedy Physio + Pilates) - Mapping out my place off farm
1.50pm	<i>Panel Session - Learnings from the journey of finding your place</i> Facilitated by Mike Monaghan (Farmanco) with panel participants including Audrey Bird (Farmer), Dr Kelly Pearce (Director of the Western Australian Agricultural Research Collaboration), Hilary Wittwer (FarmWorks Narrogin Agronomist)
2.40pm	Gabrielle & Kate Cousins (Two Little Chicks) - Sisters finding their place
3.00pm	CLOSE Carolyn Reid, Women in Farming Board President & Eliza Dowling, Dryandra Branch President
3.10pm	SUNDOWNER Brought to you by FarmWorks Narrogin together with Delta Agribusiness

Welcome

Welcome to the Women in Farming Seminar 2023. On behalf of Women in Farming and the Dryandra branch, I would like to welcome you all here to the Pingelly Recreational and Cultural Centre for the Women in Farming Seminar 2023, Finding Your Place.

The Dryandra Branch had its first meeting in August 2017. We now have 22 members drawing from Cuballing, Wickepin, Williams, Wandering, Narrogin, Pingelly and Brookton. As with all women in farming, our members come from different backgrounds and enterprises, with a wide spectrum of skills and knowledge. We are always keen to expand our membership and welcome new farming women.

Our theme this year is Finding Your Place. Everyone has a different story as to how they came into farming, some purposeful and some accidental. You might have been born on your farm, have sought a career in agriculture or find yourself on a farm because you have fallen in love with a farmer – or all three!

A farming woman's life and place on the farm also changes over time as careers off farm, children, elderly parents, opportunities and other commitments come and go. This seminar is designed to help you think about your options and develop strategies so you can find the place on your farm that you want.

We have an excellent line up of speakers today and hope that by combining different formats (workshops, presentations and panels), you will get the most from each session. We look forward to your feedback.

We would like to thank the speakers, the event partners, our sponsors, the Women in Farming Board and all of you for coming together to ensure the success of our seminar. Our Dryandra Women in Farming members have worked tirelessly to bring the day together and, as President, I am so grateful to these women. We hope you have an amazing day

Eliza Dowling

Eliza Dowling, President
Dryandra Women in Farming



Thank you to our Women in Farming Sponsors



Jo Drayton

The importance of investing in yourself

Jo has worked in primary mental health and suicide prevention for over two decades. Her position as Wheatbelt Suicide Prevention Coordinator is funded by the Mental Health Commission via the WA Suicide Prevention Framework 2021 – 2025. Her position is auspiced by Holyoake's Wheatbelt Community Alcohol and Drug Service and covers the entire Wheatbelt region of Western Australia.

Jo is an accredited Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention, Rural Minds and safeTALK (Living Works) facilitator. She collaborates with a variety of stakeholders/agencies and communities in her work in mental health, wellbeing and suicide prevention. Jo also supports postvention responses which provide support to families, workplaces, sporting clubs and communities bereaved by suicide.



Notes

Fiona Baird

The Livestock Collective - Find your place on social media



Born and raised on a New Zealand Cattle and sheep station, after studying Art and Design at Auckland University and several years in New Zealand working as a makeup artist, Fiona made the move to Australia where she entered the red meat industry in 2005 as a Jillaroo, moving up to headstock person and finally a contract musterer.

In 2011 Fiona started in the Live Export industry and has been an Australian Accredited onboard stockperson for over nine years,, completing around 200 short haul voyages throughout Asia as sole onboard stockperson.

Fiona provides in market training for importer personnel, crews and other Australian stockpersons. She also personally mentor young people getting into the industry, in the shipping and cattle side of the industry and has spent a lot of time up in Asia setting up a successful breeding project over the last five years.

Notes

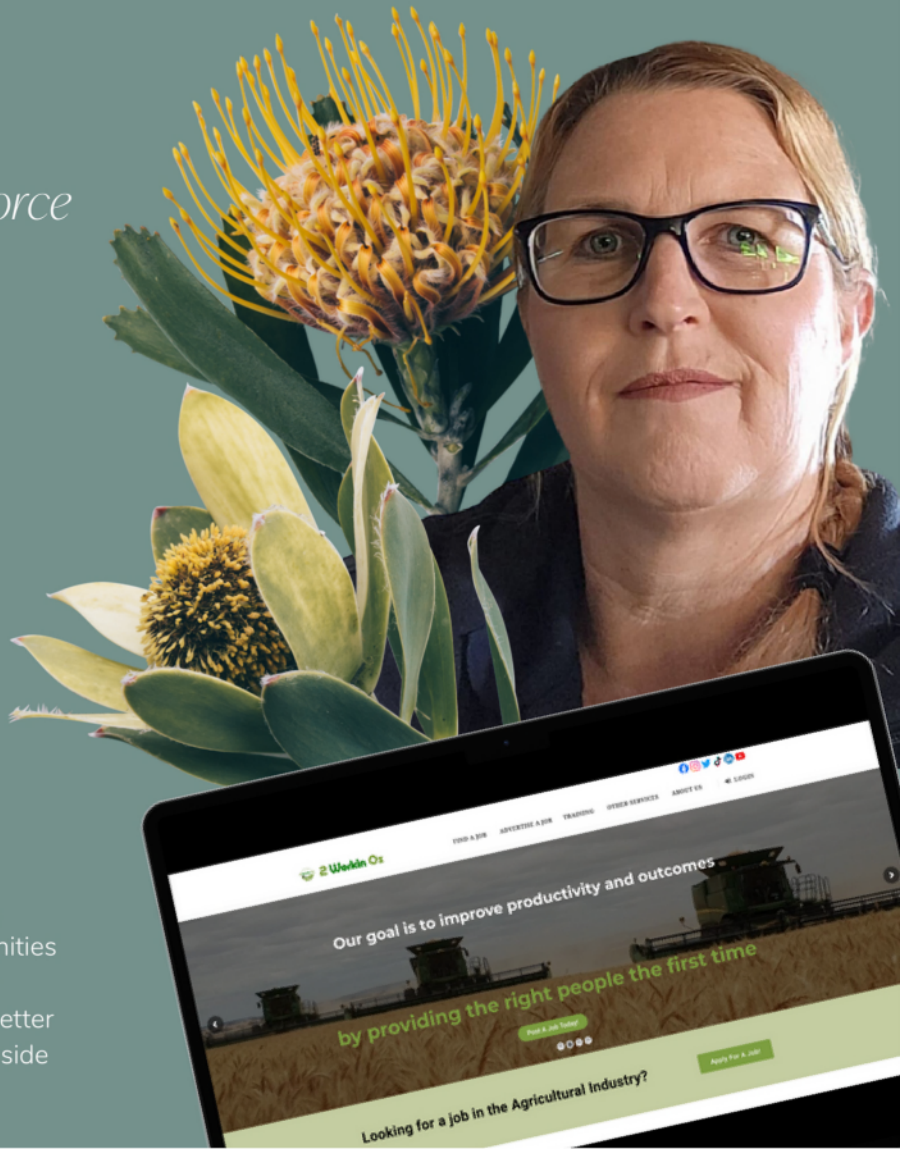
Ley Webster

2WorkinOz - Find your workforce

Since 2011 Ley has established and developed 2 Workin Oz. This is a concept that grew from personal experience and listening to the industry issues with employment.

2 Workin Oz provides hands on farm skills training for grain and livestock skills linked to the recruitment service. The course design has evolved with the business remaining focussed on the key goal to assess and improve skills, knowledge and productivity for people looking to get a start or improve their job outcomes in agriculture. This simultaneously improves the employment outcomes for farmers by reducing accidents, machinery damage and staff turnover.

COVID threw Ley and the business the ultimate workforce challenge and provided new opportunities to explore and develop workforce solutions. Ley continues to pursue with a passion to develop better programs and opportunities for the workforce inside the farm gate.



Notes

Stephen Park & Mel Adams

Pacer Legal - Role of succession planning in defining your place



Stephen Park

Stephen co-founded Pacer Legal in December 2009, as a family business with his brother David.

With David leaving in 2018 to move to Canada, Stephen undertook an internal succession plan for Pacer Legal, with the company shareholding now involving fellow lawyers Mel, Alex Keelan and Matt Priestly. Stephen's main practice areas are in estate/farm succession planning and farm leasing and conveyancing.

Mel Adams

Melissa joined Pacer Legal in 2012 and practices in farm related commercial law and in the area of estate/farm succession planning. Mel has extensive experience in defending equitable claims lodged against family farming businesses and has managing litigation matters in the Supreme Court of Western Australia, the High Court of Australia and in the Federal Court of Australia.

Mel had a primary role in the preparation of the Pacer Legal investigation report into the Esperance fires of November 2015. She has returned to the family farm at Cranbrook and successfully manages to balance the demands of a young family, being involved in a family farming operation and having a successful legal career.

Notes

The menu page features a light teal background with decorative floral elements in the corners. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are green leaves and yellow and red bottlebrush flowers. In the top-right and bottom-left corners, there are red and yellow bottlebrush flowers. The word "Menu" is written in a large, white, elegant serif font in the center.

Menu

Morning tea

Arrangement of Cakes and Slices
Fruit Platter
Mini Quiche
Sausage Rolls

Lunch

Chicken Curry and Rice
Vegetarian Curry and Rice
Warm Penne Pesto Pasta Salad
Fresh Salad Wraps with Chicken or Ham
Fruit Platter

Sundowner

Assortment of Sushi Rolls
Assortment of Pizza Slices
Grazing Boards



Rhiannon Mouritz

The Remedy Physio + Pilates - Mapping out my place off farm

Rhiannon grew up in Hyden within a farming family and like many country kids, headed off to Perth for boarding school. After five years at Santa Maria College, she lived in Perth for 10 years and in that time completed her Bachelor of Science, travelled often and developed her physio career.

At the end of her time in Perth she was managing physio and pilates studios and mentoring new graduate physios in her role. Her first and only tinder date in 2018, proved very successful when she met her now husband, Wade.

Rhiannon was keen to move back to the country to settle down, and so mapped out what would soon become 'The Remedy Physio + Pilates'. After moving to live on Wade's family farm in 2020, Rhiannon opened the business that has now been running for three and a half years.

Notes

Panel Session

Learnings from the journey of finding your place

Mike Monaghan

Michael is a farm management consultant with Farmanco, working with growers from Wubin in the north, out to Narembeen, down to Broomehill and in between.

Raised in Perth, Michael had a broad interest in farming but not a refined idea of what a city bloke's fit could be. He launched out of WA and threw himself into an Agricultural Science degree at The University of Melbourne.

From there a nomadic and diverse agri-banking career followed. This saw Michael traverse SE Victoria, Far-North QLD and NW QLD, before returning home to WA for roles across Northam, Narrogin, and Moora.

After his 20 year Ag-apprenticeship via the degree and banking, Michael made the transition into farm consulting which had appealed to him for years. This finally allowed him to contribute to and work more closely with farm businesses.



Dr Kelly Pearce

Dr Kelly Pearce has worked in agricultural research for over 23 years at university and industry level and continues to coordinate several regional science and innovation projects. Kelly has recently been appointed as the inaugural Director of the Western Australian Agricultural Research Collaboration. Kelly recently retired from her role as Chief Executive Officer of The Facey Group. Kelly, along with her family is a grain and sheep producer from Yealering.

Kelly holds a number of industry positions including Grower Group Alliance Director, ministerial appointment to the Biosecurity Council of WA, the Western Australian Meat Industry Authority and the Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme. Kelly is a 2012 Nuffield Scholar, Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Research Fellow with the Australian Farm Institute.

Panel Session

Audrey Bird

Audrey was born in Scotland and emigrated to Western Australia with her parents and siblings in 1970. She has lived and worked on the family farm near Wickepin for the past 43 years with her husband and two sons, one of who has chosen to continue with the farm business. The business operates over 4500 ha of which some is leased land. It is a mixed farming enterprise consisting of crops and sheep.

Peter and Audrey successfully completed their business transition five years ago with their eldest son and daughter-in-law. The objective was to pass on a viable farming business while still giving them the security needed for their later years, AND still have family cohesion, love and respect for each other at the end of the process. Getting the right person to facilitate this process was absolutely critical. Nobody is going to get everything they want so there has to be some give and take to reach a successful agreement.

One of the activities that Audrey has enjoyed over the years is contributing to farming and non farming groups such as Women in Farming, Western Australian No-Tillage Farmers Association, WA Livestock Research Council, Facey Group and Wickepin CRC. These give Audrey personal development opportunities as well as social interaction that she needs off the farm and allows her to mingle with like-minded people. Audrey says, "Remember to support and give back to your local community."



Hilary Wittwer

Hilary grew up moving around Victoria and New South Wales and was associated with farming through family friends. Visiting farms as a child led to a keen interest in agriculture. Later she moved to Perth, going to high school at St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls and graduating from Curtin University, Muresk campus. This included studying abroad for a semester at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

After graduating, Hilary worked for Landmark in Narrogin as a Graduate Agronomist, for a couple of years developing her agronomic skills before becoming a consultant agronomist for Planfarm in 2012. Eight years and two children later, Hilary made the decision to take a break from agronomy to focus on her family and help run her husband's family farm, northeast of Cuballing.

The urge to keep busy and help other like-minded farmers found Hilary consulting to FarmWorks Narrogin as an independent agronomist through the Synergy Agronomy network. Recently the opportunity arose to become a business partner in that locally owned and operated business, supporting her client base in both broadacre agronomy and chemical/merchandise supply.

Hilary is committed to helping her clients understand and utilise agronomy for profitable production systems, believing that you can never have too much information to make a decision. She loves farm life and working alongside her husband but undertaking agronomy in her own right is a real passion.



Gabrielle & Kate Cousins

Two Little Chicks - Sisters finding their place

Gabrielle and Kate Cousins are two sisters who run Two Little Chicks, producing premium pastured eggs whilst also attending school in the Upper Great Southern.

Gabrielle and Kate run three chicken caravans in pasture rotations allowing the hens endless space and freedom. They aim to prioritise hen welfare and customer satisfaction with their motto, 'keeping our hens happy and healthy'.

The girls started their own commercial business in 2021 at the ages of 15 and 13 on the farm in West Popanyinning, and sell their eggs in Perth to high end supermarkets, including the Boatshed and The Herdsman Market.

The sisters loved working with animals on the farm and saw an amazing opportunity in a growing industry. Two Little Chicks can house up to 1500 chickens at a time, in 3 portable chicken caravans. In terms of school and chooks, the sisters do their best to balance their time but admit they wouldn't be anywhere if it wasn't for their parents.



Notes

About Women in Farming

Women in Farming is for women interested in agriculture. Interest may be due to working in the agricultural industry, directly involved in a farming business or rural enterprise or some other link with the broader industry.

Our main purpose is to provide a professional network where we share skills and ideas to assist in creating and maintaining sustainable and profitable farm businesses. Farm business management can be daunting. We aim to reduce this with informed discussions plus access to resources, webinars and workshops. Spread throughout Western Australia, we have more than 260 members across 12 branches.

Branches meet regularly and our members know when they attend an event or meeting, they have the opportunity to take home practical knowledge that can be applied to their business.

The Women in Farming Board host regular industry specific webinars and make available an online member portal for access to resources on varied farm business related topics.

Once a year our network of members come together at seminar hosted by a branch on behalf of the Women in Farming Board, to listen and learn about aspects, broad and varied, impacting on our agricultural and related businesses. The seminar is a great opportunity to make new friends, celebrate agriculture and learn more about the communities in which we live and work.

Before you leave today, it would be great if you could provide feedback on today's seminar via a survey. You can use the QR code or web link. Your feedback will assist when planning future seminars.

For more information about Women in Farming, please contact:

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We'd love to hear your thoughts on today's event



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