

# Skilling the Food Bowl

~ Liberal Policy Forum ~

**Skilling the Food Bowl** is a Liberal Policy Forum seeking input from rural educators, industry stakeholders and forward thinkers on how education channels can be improved to ensure Australia has the necessary skills and training to keep our primary industries at peak productivity.

Why do reports of skill shortages and research gaps abound?

Do current education systems create career paths and meet business needs?

What needs attention for our billion dollar agrifood industry to reach its potential?

## Forum hosts:

- \* **Tasmanian Liberal Senator Richard Colbeck** \* **State Liberal Deputy Leader Jeremy Rockliff**
- \* **Federal Candidate for Lyons Eric Hutchinson** \* **Tasmania's Liberal Rural Delegate Peter McKay**

**Friday February 24**

**1 pm - 6.30pm**

**Clarendon House, 234 Clarendon Road, Evandale**

**Followed by a gourmet barbecue from 6.30pm**

- Presenters include

- **Jackie Brown:** Tasmanian Rural Woman of the Year & Bridgewater High School Farm Coordinator
- **Simon Drum:** General Manager, Harvest Moon
- **Ian Macleod:** Managing Director, Peracto
- **Aaron Bain:** AgriFood Skills Ambassador
- **Ben Stockwin:** CEO, Primary Industries Education Foundation

- Also attending will be Federal Coalition representatives

- **The Hon. Christopher Pyne MP** - Shadow Minister for Education, Apprenticeships and Training
- **Senator Chris Back** – Chair of the Senate References Committee for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

**Registration is essential. Please reply using the form enclosed by February 10.**

Enquiries to Senator Colbeck's office (03) 6424 5960 or [senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au)



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## Guest speakers and presentation topics

### **Jackie Brown**      **Out of the classroom and into the field**

Jackie Brown is 2011's Tasmanian Rural Woman of the Year and is Coordinator of Bridgewater High School Farm. Jackie has spent 20 years developing the 8 hectare school farm site, where a variety of programs are offered to students from primary age up to Vocational Education and Training (VET) students. Jackie is motivated to see more young people exposed to and trained for work in the agricultural sector and is keen to develop a broader curriculum for the school farm.

### **Simon Drum**      **Matching training outcomes with business needs**

Simon Drum joined Harvest Moon in 2010. He previously held senior roles with Elders Ltd, Horticulture Australia Ltd and Inovact Consulting.

Harvest Moon is Tasmania's leading vertically integrated fresh vegetable company. The company produces more than 60,000 tonnes of vegetables annually for local, interstate, Asian and European markets.

Harvest Moon has approximately 125 permanent staff and employs up to 450 people at peak times. Skill requirements vary greatly and include - but are not limited to - machinery and factory operations, agronomy, grading and packing, logistics, marketing, general trades and accounting.

### **Aaron Bain**      **On the right path – a view from within**

Aaron Bain is a recently appointed AgriFood Skills Australia Ambassador. Aaron lives at Gawler in South Australia and is passionate about harness racing – driving, training, commentating and promoting the sport. Aaron completed a school based traineeship in Business Administration (Racing) with Harness Racing SA and is currently the organisation's media officer.

At 19, Aaron is a recent "user" of VET and he will share his experience of the program. Aaron's skills will be further displayed when he delivers a phantom race call during the barbecue.

### **Ian Macleod**      **Finding the answers – How a research business tackles the challenges**

Ian Macleod has more than 25 years experience in agricultural research and development.

Ian started Peracto in 1985 and from a staff of one it is now one of Australia's largest private sector agricultural research organisations with 50 team members spread between 14 locations in Australia and New Zealand.

Ian has particular interest in research and training and is currently chair of the US-based National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants' Research Education Committee.

### **Ben Stockwin**      **Cultivate the system - tools for teachers to grow interest in agriculture**

Ben Stockwin is CEO of the Primary Industries Education Foundation. The Foundation provides credible, relevant and factual information on all matters relating to agriculture, fisheries and forestry for Australia's teachers, students and the community. Ben's role aims to ensure the Australian community understands the source of its food and fibre and the career opportunities available within the sector. Prior to this position, Ben was a school principal and teacher in Tasmania and Queensland.

