

GRIFFITH

Frank Battistel

Griffith, NSW

Contact: 0429 996 776

Frank Battistel and his wife Maryann have been citrus farming for approximately 20 years in the Griffith area. They operate two farms, one in Griffith and one in Nericon near Griffith. They grow 110 ha of citrus which is all irrigated via drip irrigation. The irrigation is controlled by radio linked moisture monitoring system to get the most efficiencies from their water.

Franks parents have been citrus farming in Griffith for 35 years and both his bothers also have citrus farms in Griffith. and I have two daughters who both have professional careers in Griffith

Frank served 3 years as president of the Griffith and District Citrus Growers

He is currently the chairman of Riverina Citrus and has been for 6 years.

Richard Stott

Griffith, NSW

Contact: 0412 552 682

Richard, his wife Cheryl and two sons (Mathew and Andrew) run two farming operations in the area, one in Whitton and the other in Darlington Point.

The operations are quite diversified; with a vineyard, irrigated seed crops, commercial summer crops and winter cereals as well as a small stock operation.

The family has been in the area since 1952. Richard is a branch of a third generation farming operation.

Richard is presently Chairman of the Murrumbidgee Groundwater Inc.

NAMOI

Andrew Watson

Boggabri, NSW

Contact: 0428 343 368

Andrew Watson is a mixed cropping and cattle producer. He is a third generation farmer.

Educated in Armidale NSW, Andrew has an Honours degree in Agricultural Economics, and Graduate Diplomas in Applied Finance & Investment and Technical Analysis and has graduated from the Australian Institute of Company Directors' course.

In 2004 Andrew was named NSW Farmer's 'Young Farmer of the Year'. In 2006 he undertook a Nuffield Farming Scholarship with the subject of Water Use Efficiency in Irrigation. Andrew won the 'Australian Cotton Grower of the Year Award' in 2008.

Andrew is Chairman of the Board of Cotton Australia, has sat on the NSW Irrigators Council and on the Board of Namoi Water Limited, and has been on farmer reference panels for the GRDC, Land & Water Australia, and the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC. In his spare time he actually enjoys farming.

GWYDIR

Mark Winter

Moree, NSW

Contact: 0428 651 333

A fourth generation farmer on the family farm located just Northwest of Moree. Mark runs this farm with his wife and is in partnership with his brother. His three kids all have plans to continue on the farm.

With a total of 15,000 acres, Marks main crop is cotton, but he also has Beef cattle and depending on water availability grows wheat and some dry land farming.

Mark has always been involved in the community. Was President of the Scouts organisation, is a member of the local Fire Brigade and sits on the Gwydir Valley Irrigators association.

Sarah Ball

Moree, NSW

Contact: 0427 667 522

Sarah works on her family property "Norwood", at Moree. They irrigate cotton predominately but also sorghum and winter crops.

Sarah is the third generation to be involved in irrigation at "Norwood", and hence grew up with irrigation. She has been working with her father for the last 4 years, prior to this she worked as an agronomist for CGS in Moree. She is an alternate on the Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association and the vice chairman of the Gwydir Valley Cotton Growers Association.

Sarah is married with a daughter.

MURRAY

Phil Snowden

Tocumwal, NSW

Contact: 0427 839 217

Phil and his wife Lynda run a family farm in Tocumwal in the Riverina and have three kids. They farm just over 300 hectares with centre pivot and flood irrigation.

They purchased their farm in 1990 to run their own business (both Phil and Lynda have dairy farming backgrounds). They now produce irrigated Lucerne and Hay as well as Cattle and several dry land crops.

Phil is the President of local Land Care group, a delegate to Southern Riverina Irrigators group and a Member of the Fodder Industry.

Geoff Moar

Oaklands, NSW

Contact: 0412 193 799

Geoff has been farming for over 40 years. The farming operation grows cereals and potatoes. With over 700 acres of potatoes, they are produced for the processing market as well as the fresh market.

Geoff is very involved in the industry. He is the vice-chair of NSW farmers Horticulture Committee, on the Executive Council for NSW Farmers, is a Board member for AusVeg. and a Director of the West Corugan Irrigation Scheme.

Wife Lesley their son Shane and his wife Tarrin all work on the farm with Geoff.

Bruce Simpson

Deniliquin, NSW

Contact: (03) 5881 1866

Bruce is part owner of a Planning/Accounting/General Insurance Business, Peppin Planners, Insurance House @ Peppin and Planners & Peppin Accounting.

Provide a range of financial planning, farm and family strategic planning products, accounting & Centrelink services and life & general insurance products/services. The business employs 17 people and is based in Deniliquin, Melbourne & Bright. Their customers are mainly rural based from northern NSW to Melbourne and Tasmania, being a mix of farmers, retirees, government agencies and small business.

Bruce also runs the family's irrigated farm business based at Deniliquin. He has 34 years of experience in agriculture/agribusiness based in and around the Deniliquin region having been born, raised and educated in Melbourne and Wagga Wagga.

Over the years he has been involved in a wide range of community organisations and filled many roles. I have spent many of the 34 yrs involved in water organisations, R&D groups and

community based groups (economic development, education fund and local primary school P&C) and currently chair the Murray Group of Concerned Communities

Bruce is married to Shandra and has two wonderful children Charlie (13) & Lucy (11). He is a graduate of the ARLP, a Fellow of Australian Institute of Company Directors (FAICD) and a member of Australian Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (AIAS&T)

He has a passion for agriculture and rural issues, gets involved in community issues that will ensure communities are fairly treated and have the right to grow and prosper.

MURRUMBIDGEE

Larry Walsh

Coleambally, NSW

Contact: Thru John Culleton (CICL) – 0448 216 876

Larry has been in the Coleambally area since 1985, he and his wife Lyn own a total of 1600 acres in the Coleambally Irrigation area. They grow a variety of crops including rice, cotton, wheat, barley and canola. They also operate an agricultural supply and cartage business and a merchandising business in partnership with Elders.

Four family members and another 10 locals work in their businesses. Larry and Lyn also have four grandsons that live locally.

Marg & Keith Burge

Coleambally, NSW

Contact: Thru John Culleton (CICL) – 0448 216 876

Keith's parents were amongst the first of the pioneers who commenced irrigated agriculture in Coleambally in 1960. Keith returned from University to work with his parents on their property and later purchased additional land in the area.

Keith and wife Marg now own three properties within the Coleambally Irrigation area. Their primary crop is corn but they also grow rice, barley, wheat, sorghum when the right conditions present as well as running some sheep and cattle.

Keith and Marg have 4 children.

BORDER RIVERS

Michelle Ramsay

Bonshaw, NSW

Contact: 0438 801 020

Michelle, husband Tim and three young children live on the family farm that was established and built up over the last 3 generations. They operate a mixed farming operation - with 1,000 acres of river country under centre pivot irrigation and 12,000 acres 'trap rock' country used for fattening steers and a small breeding herd. Grow summer crops on the irrigated country - mostly cotton when able but also Lucerne, peanuts, and corn. The past 6 years of drought has meant they have had to buy water on the temporary market in order to operate.

They have a small, close community at Bonshaw and value the small local school highly. With around 20 children at the school, they are always thinking of opportunities for more employment and ways to draw more families into the district. Local employment opportunities are with farms like theirs, with some irrigation and therefore labour demands.

Michelle is an Agricultural Economics graduate from Sydney University, worked in consulting in the natural resource economics and catchment planning fields, was the Executive Officer at Macquarie River Food & Fibre (during the period of water reform when Water Sharing Plans were being undertaken). Michelle is now a partner in the decision making on the farm, a good mother, supporter of our local school and community as well as holding a board position with the Border Rivers Gwydir Catchment Management Authority.