



## Agenda Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Please log on before the start time to ensure you set up is working. The expo will start promptly at 11am AEST.

11.00am	Welcome RuralBiz Training
11.05am	Aggregate Ag Overview of salaries & conditions in Ag. Erica Berntsen, Farm Business Analyst
11.20am	Elders Melanie Rowse, HR Business Partner
11.35am	Costa Fiona Bell, HR Manager
11.50am	Australian Agricultural Company Katie Gelling, HR Business Partner
12.05pm	WA Farmers Trevor Whittington CEO
12.20pm	Student Experience Emma Boland Delta Ag Education and training pathways Melanie Moeller, Marketing Manager RuralBiz Training
12.35pm	Summary
12.50pm	Final questions.



# ONLINE AG CAREERS EXPO

We are excited to announce the speakers for the 2020 Online Agricultural Careers Expo.



## Erica Berntsen

Farm Business Analyst

Erica grew up on a sheep farm in the Falkland Islands, South Atlantic. After leaving school, Erica managed the family farm until it was later sold. Erica then gained experience working in shearing teams across the world.

Erica discovered her passion for advisory in Agriculture when she took a position as an Agronomy Assistant with the Department of Agriculture in the Falkland Islands. After many years in this role, Erica decided to further her education and completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga.

After graduation, she worked at a practical level in the industry in shearing sheds and assisting professionals in the industry. Before Erica's employment with Aggregate, she worked as an analyst for a grain advisory business.

At Aggregate, Erica is responsible for managing the benchmarking process, organising group meetings and providing support to both clients and our senior consultants.

[www.aggregateag.com.au](http://www.aggregateag.com.au)



## Melanie Rowse

HR Business Partner

Since 1839, Elders has been a leading agribusiness and iconic brand throughout rural and regional Australia. For 180 years, Elders has expertly combined agribusiness knowledge and technical expertise to create specialised products and services, tailor-made to meet the needs of our varied clients. Elders has links to markets, production expertise, national network, and access to leading farm supply brands.

Growing up in on a farm in the South-East of South Australia Melanie, who has only recently commenced with Elders, jumped at an opportunity to join such a reputable organisation in the agricultural industry. Having previously worked in local government, mining, casinos and natural gas, Melanie has a diverse and well-rounded HR generalist background with a current focus on working with livestock trainees.

[www.elders.com.au](http://www.elders.com.au)



## Fiona Bell

HR Manager

The Costa business started in a fruit shop in Geelong more than 120 years ago and has grown to be one of Australia's largest producer, marketer and exporter of premium quality fresh fruit and vegetables.

Costa employs 7,000 people during peak season times and operates nationally across more than 30 regional and rural communities. Fiona has been working with Costa HR for more than 9 years.

[www.costagroup.com.au](http://www.costagroup.com.au)



## Emma Boland

Current RuralBiz Training Student.

Emma completed an Advanced Diploma of Agribusiness Management with RuralBiz Training in 2020 and then enrolled in the Diploma of Agriculture to develop her production management skills with a particular focus on livestock production and soils management.

Emma works for Delta Agribusiness as an Animal Health Specialist and is also involved in the business development the Delta Agribusiness Cowra branch.

## Melanie Moeller

Marketing Manager

Melanie joined RuralBiz in 2016. Melanie's early years were spent on a dairy farm, but she grew up to follow her interest in visual arts. With a degree in Fine Arts and extensive experience in administration, customer service and an aptitude for technology Melanie is our Marketing Manager.

Founded in 2002 RuralBiz Training has become a leading provider of accredited training for agriculture, agribusiness, horticulture, and other related courses. As part of Academies Australasia, this training is now available to international students. Kathy has also designed and delivered agribusiness training in Papua New Guinea since 2015.

Melanie is passionate about education and agriculture and loves helping students find the perfect training path. [www.ruralbiztraining.com.au](http://www.ruralbiztraining.com.au)





## Trevor Whittington

Chief Executive Officer

WAFarmers (Western Australian Farmers Federation) represents the voice of farmers throughout Western Australia and is continually working towards a more viable, profitable and sustainable future for the agricultural industry.

As part of this pursuit, WAFarmers develops corporate partnerships with companies who provide a service to WAFarmers members, which place money directly back into farmers pockets.

Founded in 1912, WAFarmers boasts a membership of over 3,500 farmers throughout Western Australia and continues to work directly with farmers on issues related to their on-farm business.



## Katie Gelling

HR Business Partner

Established in 1824, Australian Agricultural Company (AACo) is one of Australia's largest integrated cattle and beef producers, and is the oldest continuously operating company in Australia. Today, AACo owns and operates a strategic balance of properties, feedlots and farms which occupy around 6.4 million hectares of land – a little under 1% of Australia's IN. AACo specialises in grain fed beef and Waygu beef production. AACo offer's a range of opportunities across our stations, feedlots and farms, as well as within our corporate office.



Growing up in Far North Queensland and having limited exposure to agriculture Katie, who commenced with AACo in 2020, was incredibly excited by the opportunity to join this transforming business. Having worked across industries including mining, hospitality, local government and transport, Katie quickly found her feet within AACo and was able to support her stakeholder group as a strong HR generalist. Working closely with the Pastoral, Environment & Sustainability and Health, Safety & Wellbeing business units, Katie's role focuses on supporting people leaders through the entire employee lifecycle, whilst also managing the graduate program and annual recruitment process. [www.aaco.com.au](http://www.aaco.com.au)