

final report

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Climate Champion Strategy 2010

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Abstract

Australia's primary industries are projected to be significantly affected by climate variability. The impacts must be understood so that primary industry can minimise risk and maximise opportunities.

The Climate Champion program reflects the fact that most farmers gain new knowledge and adopt new practices through interaction with respected peers. Participants are leading farmers who are knowledgeable about, and interested and active in managing climate variability and change.

Participants have made national and local strategic links with farmers, researchers, and policymakers. They have been involved in organising and speaking at workshops and conferences, field and demonstration days, and field trials. Participants have been recognised and nominated for industry prizes, scholarships and awards. The participants have also appeared in over 100 media articles, radio stories and TV spots.

Although drought and floods have affected participants, and all are busy running their enterprises, they are all still active and keen to participate in the program. They are eager to be involved with research about practices and new climate information that they can disseminate to their growing networks. Each participant is currently developing a plan for their activities for 2011.

Their activities are directed towards engaging with other meat and livestock producers about how to manage climate variability. By disseminating this information, participants are helping others choose practices that will assist with staying profitable and sustainable in the face of increasing climate variability.

Executive summary

Background

Australia's primary industries are projected to be significantly affected by increasing climate variability under climate change. The impacts must be understood so that primary industry can minimise risk and maximise opportunities. The Climate Champion strategy reflects the fact that most farmers gain new knowledge and adopt new practices through interaction with respected peers.

Project objectives

Climate Champion participants are leading farmers who are knowledgeable about and interested in managing climate variability and change, and who are most likely to be adopting tools and practices to help them better manage their climate.

Climate Champion participants will communicate with their fellow farmers to:

- Raise awareness and knowledge about the impacts of climate on regional climates and farm businesses
- Integrate and disseminate knowledge from relevant climate research
- Increase adoption of practices and tools for better managing climate

Results

Climate Champion program activities and links

Since early March when the program was launched, Climate Champion participants have been involved in creating strategic links with local and national growers groups, Landcare and catchment groups, researchers, government departments and other initiatives. This has involved writing, reviewing, providing feedback, speaking, organising and networking for these groups and associations. Econnect has developed a national database of climate experts for the participants to contact if they have questions or need information or research for their speaking engagements.

Participants have been willing and active participants in national and international conferences on climate, climate adaptation, growing and farming and general industry. They have also organised and spoken at workshops, field and demonstration days and field trials.

Participants write for newsletters, magazines, newspapers and other groups, and are accordingly published in media as well. There have been well over 100 articles or radio/TV spots that mention Climate Champion participants and/or the program. Many of these have been long-length features and profiles, or descriptions of practices from their farms. Industry magazines have gone so far as to commission monthly articles on the program and its participants. As well, the Econnect team have been profiling participants for inclusion on the Climate Kelpie website – 30 out of 34 profiles (including transcripts, photos, audio and video) have been collected. As well as the MLA-sponsored participants, many other participants are mixed farmers who produce livestock, which would resonate with many MLA members.

Many participants have been nominated by industry or government departments for awards, scholarships, prizes and leadership recognition. NGO awards have also been awarded to participants for work on their farms and in their communities.

The participants and the Econnect team keep in touch via a specially designed communication network (referred to as 'Ning'), where updates on activities, media, events and general news are shared.

Discussion

Considerations on continued support for the program and participants

Participants are excited about the upcoming national Climate Champion workshop in February 2011. They are looking forward to the chance to reconnect and discuss ideas, as well as see each other's farms (this is the first chance they have had to do so). They are also eager to participate in a series of conferences and field days already organised (by themselves) for 2011.

Drought in the west of Australia and floods in eastern Australia (and excessive rain in the south) have hindered participants' work on their own farms, as well created concern in participants that they aren't 'doing enough' for the program. The Econnect team has worked to reassure them and the creation of their action plans for 2011 about what they want to achieve with their networks has gone a way to alleviate this worry.

Providing future opportunities for the program and participants

Particular areas that Climate Champion participants want to learn about to share with their networks include: continued education about Australian and local climate and climate drivers, continued work with researchers about their on-farm practices and having these evaluated and techniques for overcoming climate change denial.

It is worth noting that the participants are all busy farmers running their enterprises and sometimes have difficulty with short-notice requests. As well, phone contact usually works better than email for most.

Attendance at conferences and meetings is sometimes not monetarily supported, so while they are usually very keen to attend, some farmers find it very difficult to go. The action plans that each participant is working on, with opportunities for communication with their networks, are most likely to require money and/or resources outside the Climate Champion program's scope. The actions will need to be prioritised and outside funding sought.

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Background

Australia's primary industries are projected to be significantly affected by increasing climate variability under climate change. The changes in climate over the next few decades will be substantial, but the effects will vary across regions.

As Australia's climate changes, climate variability is likely to increase. Some regions will experience average warming up to 1.8°C by 2030; in others average rainfall will decrease as much as 40 per cent by 2070 (compared to 1990). Coupled with this will be an increase in the frequency of extreme climatic events. These impacts must be understood so that primary industry can minimise risk and maximise opportunities.

The Climate Champion strategy is part of the Managing Climate Variability Communication strategy, which reflects the fact that most farmers gain new knowledge and adopt new practices through interaction with respected peers.

Project objectives

Climate Champion participants are leading farmers who are knowledgeable about and interested in managing climate variability and change, and who are most likely to be adopting tools and practices to help them better manage their climate.

Climate Champion participants communicate with their fellow farmers to:

- Raise awareness and knowledge about the impacts of climate on regional climates and farm businesses
- Integrate and disseminate knowledge from relevant climate research
- Increase adoption of practices and tools for better managing climate

Climate Champion participants are providing advice to MCV and its RDC partners about the concerns, needs and actions of their industry with respect to climate so that MCV can better inform national and state government decision makers. Climate Champion participants are providing MCV and MLA with feedback about potential research tools and products.

Results

Climate Champion program activities and links

The following reports on the general activities undertaken to support Climate Champion participants since early March when the program was launched.

- Strategic links
 - Creating strategic links with: Grain Growers Association (Bryan Clarke), Longerenong College (La Vergne Lehmann), Managing Climate Risk project (Jeff Clewett), Climate Risk Management & Adaptation Project (Neil Cliffe), ClimateSmart Clusters (DERM), Paul Carmody, Healthy Soils Australia (Pennie Scott), Australian Year of the Farmer (Mel Huggins), DERM Sustainable Industries (Glenn Tipman), NCCARF's Climate Adaptation Champion program (Ann Penny)
 - Developed national database of agronomy/climate experts for participants to contact if they need information (for instance, if talking to farmers about climate drivers and need some pointers) – which participants and experts have used to contact each other
 - Various participants involved in: CCRSPI conference (February 2011), MCV program management meeting, Grains Best Management Practices workshops, ABARE's national climate conference (March 2011), Greenhouse 2011 (April 2011), NCCARF's Climate Adaptation Conference (March 2011)
- Workshops
 - 2010 regional workshop video/presentations put on Ning network for participants to use; very successful evaluation of all workshops
 - National workshop on February 5-8, 2011 planned and under way
- Participants talking to farmers
 - Participants reporting back on speaking engagements they've been doing and articles they've been writing
 - Participants nominated for industry prizes/leadership (Lynne Strong, Matthew Pitt, Robert Quirk, David Bruer)
 - Sam Hamilton is currently working on 'Climate of Change' roadshow to go to several locations in NSW and talk climate change with farmers. Next conference call is scheduled for mid-Jan with stakeholders and funders. Econnect is assisting Sam organise the planning and budgets
- Participants getting involved with research/ers
 - Participants provided feedback on MCV climate products
 - Participants involved with researchers/farmer groups/climate committees around Australia
 - Participants being invited to speak at various climate and farming conferences around Australia and overseas
 - Participants 'attended' Graeme Anderson's webinar, gave feedback, and 'attended' webinars (Oct – Dec)
 - Some participants are interested in connecting with researchers looking at the psychological aspects of belief (or not) in climate change
- Interviews and profiling

- Completed 31 on-farm visits to get audio/video/interviews with each participant (3 left to do)
- Farming Ahead editor Laureta Wallace has commissioned climate, Climate Champion, and Climate Kelpie articles for each month
- Ground Cover magazine will include a profile of a Climate Champion participant in every bimonthly publication
- General
 - Designed a Climate Champion program postcard similar to Climate Kelpie's promotional postcard – will be printed early 2011
 - Using Ning network to keep participants up to date with activities, events, media coverage, workshop details; and sending out 'What's happenNING?' email to summarise fortnightly activity
 - Keeping participants up with important climate/agricultural reports, conference information, media, and other information

Media coverage

The following reports on the media activities around the Climate Champion program.

- Participants are getting involved with media
 - Participants talking to radio/TV/print journalists and stories are being published (and most times, mentioning the Climate Champion program).
 - Media releases with Climate Champion program mentions are being designed and released around significant events for the participants (ie. Winning awards or joining the program).
- Coverage continues to be wide and frequent, especially in the print media. Three media reports are attached in the appendices. The coverage that we are aware of since the launch at the induction workshop in March is as follows:
 - Print stories
 - International: 3
 - National: 28
 - Vic: 6
 - NSW: 20
 - Qld: 7
 - WA: 10
 - SA: 15
 - Radio stories: 19
 - TV stories: 2

Activities of the MLA Climate Champion participants

The MLA Climate Champion participants are:

- Sam Hamilton, Rylstone NSW
- Greg Hayes, Wodonga VIC
- Les and Alice Roberts, Dyers Crossing NSW
- Peter Whip, Longreach QLD

The following tables describe their activities and participation in the program late last year, and any media exposure since the program began in early March, 2010 (excluding general coverage of the Climate Champion program).

| | Sam Hamilton | Greg Hayes |
|---|---|--|
| Attended induction workshop? | Yes | Yes |
| Attended communication skills workshop? | Sydney | Melbourne |
| Have been interviewed on-farm? | Yes | Yes |
| Case study published on Climate Kelpie? | At approvals stage | At approvals stage |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showed Andy Pitman's climate change video at Land Care meeting • Organising Climate of Change roadshow • Handed out Climate Kelpie postcards at meetings • Helped organise and run Green Day (environment/climate displays and activities for Year 5 and 6 children in local schools) • Had a stand at Mudgee Small Farms Business day in July • Screened climate-related videos at Land Care events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review how well BOM did in the previous seasonal outlook forecast. • Exchange of ideas, views and information with fellow committee members from the Southern region Grassland Society • Exchange of ideas etc with fellow board members of Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum and the NE Catchment Management Authority • Suggestions for projects/topics for Mitta to Murray Land Care Network and constituent Land Care groups • Use of information and tools and ideas in planning own grazing operation and particularly in determining grazing and stocking/sale strategies. Using a grazing plan as part of Holistic Management approach • Sharing ideas and information with participants in seminars and workshops, notably a Holistic |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | | <p>Management workshop run by RegenAG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And kitchen table chats with neighbours, fire brigade management team and Land Care folk |
| <p>Media exposure (does not include general Climate Champion program articles/radio spots)</p> | <p>Mudgee Guardian: Weekly articles about Land Care, climate adaptation.</p> | <p>Hamilton Spectator: Article on Climate Champion program. Interviewee: Greg Hayes. 6 April, 2010.</p> <p>Berringa Newsletter (circulation 500): Quarterly articles about the season ahead and the various seasonal forecasts linking in with the rainfall to pasture growth tool from MLA with suggestions as to what it might mean to locals.</p> |

| | Les & Alice Roberts | Peter Whip |
|---|---|---|
| Attended induction workshop? | Yes | No |
| Attended communication skills workshop? | Sydney | Perth |
| Have been interviewed on-farm? | Yes | Scheduled for December 3, 2010 |
| Case study published on Climate Kelpie? | At approvals stage | n/a |
| Activities | <p>Working with local Land Care/bush care/coast care groups to organise workshops/field days/speaking with sustainable farming groups and individuals on the mid-north coast of NSW about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rotational grazing systems • weed eradication without chemicals • erosion • water infiltration • carbon sequestration • off stream watering systems • establishment of perenial pastures trials, shade belts and wild life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We organised and held a field day at Aramac (east of Longreach) speaking about practices and the impacts of climate change on maintaining groundcover • Holding another field day on similar topics soon, with a catchment management group • 2 Dec, 2010: speaking at the Desert Uplands (catchment management group) meeting on the impacts of climate change and possible adaptations for western QLD (Barcaldine) |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <p>corridors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water quality monitoring • organic farming <p>We've aimed to assist with understanding climate variability. We've been guest speakers at field days/ workshops on above subjects.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 Dec, 2010: speaking at a combined Agforce information day (Longreach) |
| <p>Media exposure (does not include general Climate Champion program articles/radio spots)</p> | <p>ABC Radio Mid North Coast NSW: Two Great Lakes farmers Les and Alice Roberts have been named climate champions in Canberra. Interviewees: Alice and Les Roberts. 31 March, 2010.</p> | <p>Longreach Leader: Article about the Climate Champion program and the practices that the Whips are using to manage climate variability.</p> <p>CMA Group newsletters: Article sent to local CMA about practices on the Whip's property.</p> <p>ABC Local radio: Talked to ABC about the Climate Champion program and the practices used on-farm to manage climate variability.</p> |

Discussion

Considerations on continued support for the program and participants

The following are reflections from our discussions with participants – from farm, phone and email discussions.

- Participants are, on the whole, very excited about the February national workshop and the speakers. They are looking forward to the chance to reconnect and discuss ideas, as well as see each other's farms (this is the first chance many have had to do so). There were many helpful suggestions and offers of assistance for speakers and organising the workshop.
- There is worry from one participant in the last half of the year who was concerned about 'not doing enough' for the program. We have reassured them that they are free to give as much or as little of their time and effort that they want – and I believe that the action plans for next year go a way to solving this concern. As well, since the action plans are as large or small as each participant wants, they can dictate their own activity levels.
- A non-MLA participant, Mike Kerkmans, has resigned from the program, citing a lack of time, and in previous conversations, a very bad year on-farm because of the drought. We fear this may be the same for other participants in light of the massive WA/south drought, and flooding in eastern Australia, though we haven't heard of anyone else considering pulling out. Colin Creighton advised us of this concern late last year to keep an eye out. We will continue to monitor participants as possible.
- All participants are very keen to participate in on-farm research and/or have their practices evaluated – this is seen as a priority activity.
- Other priority is to keep in contact with climate scientists and meteorologists to ask questions for own practices and to disseminate information at farmer meetings, presentations and conferences.
- Farmers are running busy enterprises and need to balance this with frequent and sometimes short-notice requests for input/information – as well, contact by email is often slower than calling participants – useful to note for above mentioned short-notice requests.
- Many participants in the program are very active and contact Econnect staff regularly (often weekly) for support or to suggest new ideas; others are less active but this is because they are currently busy with other issues or because they have different personalities.
- Each farmer sees climate change a little differently to the next, and they each will communicate with their communities in a slightly different way – as well, we have noticed that they have important and sometimes significant differences of opinion on other ideas such as GM breeding (none of which affects their ability to participate in the program), further illustrating that they're not a homogenous group.
- Attendance at conferences/meetings is sometimes not monetarily supported and so farmers find it very difficult to go but many are nevertheless very keen to attend.
- It may be useful, sometime in the next two workshops, to have a speaker/s or session on climate change belief (or not) – many participants are enquiring about how to deal with climate change skeptics or deniers. There are some great ideas for speakers in Australia (including Chris Evans, Graeme Anderson, Andy Pitman to name just three) who are potentially very keen to talk to participants about this issue.

Providing future opportunities for the program and participants

Opportunities we are currently working on to further the program and participant interaction include:

- Action plans for 2011 activities, developed with each farmer separately, will identify new opportunities for communication within each farmer's community and commodity group – approximately a third of the group have completed these so far.
- The action plans are likely to require resources outside of the program, and these will require prioritisation and approaches to other funding sources.
- We have nominated, as a group, the Climate Champion participants for NCCARF's Climate Adaptation Champions. Ann Penny is as yet unsure of what form the Champions will take, and how much involvement will happen, but will keep us posted.

Appendices

Media reports follow:

- Media report from launch of program, March 2010
- Media report from April – October 2010
- Media report from April – December 2010

Media report from launch of program, March 2010

Online Media Coverage

International

- **World News Network:** sourced from ABC Online. Climate champions' want to spread the word. A group of farmers who will teach others how to adapt to climate change want the problem to be seen as mainstream. Thirty farmers, recognised for their innovative techniques, have become the first group of Australia's "climate champions". Interviewee: Simon Wallwork. 30/3/2010. http://article.wn.com/view/2010/03/30/Climate_champions_want_to_spread_the_word/

National

- **ABC Online:** Climate champions' want to spread the word. A group of farmers who will teach others how to adapt to climate change want the problem to be seen as mainstream. Thirty farmers, recognised for their innovative techniques, have become the first group of Australia's "climate champions". Interviewee: Simon Wallwork. 30/3/2010. <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201003/s2859895.htm>
- **eFarming:** A group of farmers who will teach others how to adapt to climate change want the problem to be seen as mainstream. Thirty farmers, recognised for their innovative techniques, have become the first group of Australia's "climate champions". Interviewee: Simon Wallwork. 20/3/2010. [Article Link](#).
- **ABC Carbon Express newsletter:** Copy of *Stock and Land* article by Matthew Cawood. 10/4/2010. <http://abccarbon.com/>
- **Wotnews.com.au:** Copy of *Stock and Land* article by Matthew Cawood. 10/4/2010.

Victoria

- **Stock and Land (online):** The "Climate Champions" program, which kicked off last week, is designed to improve communication between farmers and the research community about the knowledge needed to deal with increased climatic variability. Interviewees: MCV chair, Ian McClelland, and Climate Champion participant John Ive. 10/4/2010. <http://sl.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/choosing-our-climate-champions/1797591.aspx>

News South Wales

- **The Land (online):** The “Climate Champions” program, which kicked off last week, is designed to improve communication between farmers and the research community about the knowledge needed to deal with increased climatic variability. Interviewees: MCV chair, Ian McLlelland, and Climate Champion participant John Ive. 10/4/2010. <http://theland.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/choosing-our-climate-champions/1797591.aspx>
- **Agriculture Today (NSW Government):** Climate champ's carbon caution. “Climate champion” John Ive has fine-tuned his predictions about how dry south-eastern Australia could become. The Yass superfine woolgrower is one of 29 people invited to help increase community knowledge around Australia about weather and climate data and how best to use it – but he prefers the more modest tag of climate “advocate”. Interviewee: John Ive. April 2010. <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/agriculture-today/april-2010/carbon-caution>

Queensland

- **Queensland Country Life (online):** Human-induced climate change or not, climate variability is a reality of Australian agriculture and one of the biggest risk factors for agricultural businesses. The “Climate Champions” program, which kicked off last week, is designed to improve communication between farmers and the research community about the knowledge needed to deal with increased climatic variability. Interviewees: MCV chair, Ian McLlelland, and Climate Champion participant John Ive. 10/4/2010. <http://qcl.farmonline.com.au/>

Western Australia

- **Farm Weekly (online):** The “Climate Champions” program, which kicked off last week, is designed to improve communication between farmers and the research community about the knowledge needed to deal with increased climatic variability. Interviewees: MCV chair, Ian McClelland, and Climate Champion participant John Ive. 10/4/2010. <http://fw.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/choosing-our-climate-champions/1797591.aspx>

South Australia

- **Stock Journal (online):** The “Climate Champions” program, which kicked off last week, is designed to improve communication between farmers and the research community about the knowledge needed to deal with increased climatic variability. Interviewees: MCV chair, Ian McClelland, and Climate Champion participant John Ive. 10/4/2010. <http://sj.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/choosing-our-climate-champions/1797591.aspx>

Print Media Coverage

National

- **Australian Cane Farmer:** Two sugar cane farmers have been chosen to represent their industry in a national program to help other farmers manage Australia’s increasingly variable climate. Interviewee: Robert Quirk. April 2010.

Victoria

- **Stock and Land:** The “Climate Champions” program, which kicked off last week, is designed to improve communication between farmers and the research community about the knowledge needed to deal with increased climatic variability. Interviewees: MCV chair, Ian McLlelland, and Climate Champion participant John Ive. 10/4/2010. <http://sl.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/choosing-our-climate-champions/1797591.aspx>

- **Corryong Courier:** A Corryong farmer is one of thirty of Australia's most innovative farmers who have been recruited as Climate Champions to help others manage our increasing variable climate. Interviewees: Ian McClelland. 1/4/2010.
- **Wimmera Mail Times:** Meet a Climate Champion. Wimmera farmer Susan Findlay Tickner will share climate change information with other producers in her new role as a climate champion. Interviewee: Susan Findlay Tickner. 21/4/2010.
- **Hamilton Spectator:** Article on Climate Champion program. Interviewee: Greg Hayes. 6/4/2010.

News South Wales

- **The Land:** The "Climate Champions" program, which kicked off last week, is designed to improve communication between farmers and the research community about the knowledge needed to deal with increased climatic variability. Interviewees: MCV chair, Ian McClelland, and Climate Champion participant John Ive. 10/4/2010. <http://theland.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/choosing-our-climate-champions/1797591.aspx>
- **The Land:** The "Climate Champions" program. Interviewee: Robert Quirk.
- **Northern Rivers Echo:** Thirty of Australia's most innovative farmers have been recruited as Climate Champions to help other farmers manager our increasing variable climate. Interviewee: Ian McClelland. 1/4/2010.
- **Condobolin Argus:** Thirty of Australia's most innovative farmers have been recruited as Climate Champions to help other farmers manager our increasing variable climate. Interviewee: Ian McClelland. 31/3/2010

Queensland

- **North Queensland Register:** Human-induced climate change or not, climate variability is a reality of Australian agriculture and one of the biggest risk factors for agricultural businesses. The "Climate Champions" program, which kicked off last week, is designed to improve communication between farmers and the research community about the knowledge needed to deal with increased climatic variability. Interviewees: MCV chair, Ian McClelland, and Climate Champion participant John Ive. 10/4/2010
- **Queensland Country Life:** Human-induced climate change or not, climate variability is a reality of Australian agriculture and one of the biggest risk factors for agricultural businesses. The "Climate Champions" program, which kicked off last week, is designed to improve communication between farmers and the research community about the knowledge needed to deal with increased climatic variability. Interviewees: MCV chair, Ian McClelland, and Climate Champion participant John Ive. 10/4/2010. <http://qcl.farmonline.com.au/>

Western Australia

- **Farm Weekly:** The "Climate Champions" program, which kicked off last week, is designed to improve communication between farmers and the research community about the knowledge needed to deal with increased climatic variability. Interviewees: MCV chair, Ian McClelland, and Climate Champion participant John Ive. 10/4/2010. <http://fw.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/choosing-our-climate-champions/1797591.aspx>
- **Narrogin Observer:** Help in climate of uncertainty.

If you have a question about climate change, Corrigin farmer and agronomist Simon Wallwork is just the man to ask. Interviewee: Simon Wallwork. 7/4/2010.

- **Great Southern Herald:** Help in climate of uncertainty. If you have a question about climate change, Corrigin farmer and agronomist Simon Wallwork is just the man to ask. Interviewee: Simon Wallwork. 7/4/2010.
- **Albany Advertiser:** Help in climate of uncertainty. If you have a question about climate change, Corrigin farmer and agronomist Simon Wallwork is just the man to ask. Interviewee: Simon Wallwork. 7/4/2010.
- **The Countryman:** Farmers to be 'climate champions'. If you have questions about climate change, Corrigan farmer and agronomist Simon Wallwork is just the man to ask. Interviewee: Simon Wallwork. 8/4/2010.
- **Farm Weekly:** WA farmers to become climate champions. Farmers will gradually be introduced to new technologies and practices in a move designed to help them adapt to and deal with climate change. Interviewee: Simon Wallwork and Ian McClelland. 22/4/2010.

South Australia

- **Stock Journal:** The "Climate Champions" program, which kicked off last week, is designed to improve communication between farmers and the research community about the knowledge needed to deal with increased climatic variability. Interviewees: MCV chair, Ian McClelland, and Climate Champion participant John Ive. 10/4/2010. <http://sj.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/choosing-our-climate-champions/1797591.aspx>
- **Eyre Peninsula Tribune:** Climate champions. Cleve farmers Mark and Andrea Hannemann are part of a group of growers who met in Canberra this week for a two-day workshop on climate change. Interviewees: Mark and Andrea Hannemann. 10/4/2010.
- **Eyre Peninsula Tribune:** Guest editorial – Andrea Hannemann, Climate Champion Program. Mark and I just returned from a two-day workshop in Canberra where the Climate Champion program was launched. 22/4/2010.

Radio Media Coverage

National

- **ABC Radio National (Bush Telegraph):** Their job is to spread the word about what they are doing to adapt to our wild climate, ten years drought followed by the biggest floods in memory, and how they are looking ahead to the long-term impact of climate change. It's a project run by the Managing Climate Variability program, which is supported by a number of industry and government bodies including the Grains Research & Development Corporation, and Meat and Livestock Australia. Interviewees: Ian McClelland and Krysteen McElroy. 30/3/2010. <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/bushtelegraph/stories/2010/2860110.htm>

Victoria

- **ABC Radio Western Victoria** Farmers have joined forces to counter what they say is the "green taint" in climate change discussions. The group of thirty farmers calls itself "Climate Champions". Interviewees: David Cattnach, John Ive, Simon Wallwork and Krysteen McElroy. 31/3/2010

News South Wales & ACT

- **ABC Radio 666 Canberra (Drive):** Compere says 30 farmer have joined forces to form the Climate Champions group, which is funded by Rural Research and Development Corporations covering grain, wool, meat, sugar, horticulture and irrigations. Interviewees: David Cattnach, John Ive, Simon Wallwork and Krysteen McElroy. 30/3/2010.
- **ABC Radio 666 Canberra (Rural):** Farmers have joined forces to counter what they say is the "green taint" in climate change discussions. The group of 30 farmers is called "Climate Champions". Interviewees: David Cattnach, John Ive, Simon Wallwork and Krysteen McElroy. 31/3/2010. <http://abc.com.au/rural/nsw/>
- **ABC Radio Upper Hunter (Rural Report):** Compere says 30 farmers have joined forces to form the climate Champions group, which is funded by rural research and development corporations covering grain, wool, meat, sugar, horticulture and irrigations. Interviewees: Krysteen McElroy, David Cattnach, John Ive and Simon Wallwork. 31/3/2010.
- **ABC Radio 666 Canberra (Breakfast):** A group of Australia's best farmers have been brought together to be 'climate champions' to help other farmers adapt. Interviewee: David Cavanagh, John Ive and Simon Warwick. 30/30/2010.
- **ABC Radio Mid North Coast NSW:** Two Great Lakes farmers Les and Alice Roberts have been named climate champions in Canberra. Interviewees: Alice and Les Roberts. 31/3/2010.
- **ABC Radio 702 Sydney:** Around Australia 34 farmers have been selected as climate change champions to help spread information and encourage innovation to deal with climate change. Interviewee: Anthony Gordon, Forbes Farmer. 15/4/2010.
- **ABC Radio NSW (Country Hour):** Farmers say they learn best from looking over the fence. So meet the Climate Champions who will demonstrate climate adaptation using the latest science. 31/3/2010

Queensland

- **ABC Radio North Queensland:** Ingham sugar cane farmer Michael Waring is one of thirty farmers from across the country recruited as a climate champion as part of a program funded by Rural Research and Development Corporations. Interviewees: Michael Waring. 31/3/2010. <http://abc.gov.au/rural/qld/>

Western Australia

- **ABC Radio 720 Perth:** The group of thirty farmers calls itself "Climate Champions". It's funded by rural research and development corporations for covering grain. 6/4/2010. <http://abc.gov.au/rural/wa/>

South Australia

- **ABC Radio North and West SA (SA Country Hour):** Forty of Australia's most innovative farmers have been recruited as 'Climate Champions'. Interviewees: Davd Cattnach, John Ive and Simon Wallwork. 30/3/2010. <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/south-australian-country-hour/id308767449>
- **ABC Radio South East SA:** Interview with Selina Green. Interviewee: Krysteen McElroy. 8/4/2010.

Media report, April-October, 2010

Print and online media coverage

National

Date unknown. The Australasian Beekeeper: More about the Climate Champion program (by Pele Cannon)

As announced in the May issue of the ABK, and also in the recently released RIRDC Honeybee R&D News (No.5 May 2010), I have recently been selected as a Climate Champion, representing the Honeybee Industry. As I explained in the last issue, the Climate Champion Program is being run by the Managing Climate Variability program, the Grains Research & Development Corporation, and Meat & Livestock Australia, and it is funded by Australia's major research and development corporations. <
<http://www.theabk.com.au/article/pele-cannon-%E2%80%93-climate-champion-beekeeping-industry>>

Date unknown. The Australasian Beekeeper: Pele Cannon - Climate Champion for the Beekeeping Industry (by Pele Cannon)

I recently attended the induction workshop of the Climate Champion program. This program is run under the Managing Climate Variability (MCV) initiative, an Australian government initiative, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Land and Water Australia. The Climate Champion program is funded by a collective of RDC's – namely Grains (GRDC), Sugar, Meat and Livestock (MLA), Dairy and RIRDC. <
<http://www.theabk.com.au/article/pele-cannon-%E2%80%93-climate-champion-beekeeping-industry>>

Date unknown. Get Farming Australia: Garah sorghum – turning rain into grain

Grain sorghum is pulling its weight not only in weed control and rotations but as an efficient means of turning rain into grain on Bill Yates' property, "Amondale", Garah, NSW. Interviewees: Bill Yates, Richard Daniel. <
http://www.getfarming.com.au/pages/farming/articles_view.php?fld=9200020100201160746>

February, 2010. SRDC Update: Sugar farmers recruited for Climate Champion program

Two sugar cane farmers have been chosen to represent their industry in a national program to help other farmers manage Australia's increasingly variable climate. Robert Quirk of Tweed River, and Michael Waring of Ingham, are participants in the Climate Champion program, which was initiated by the Managing Climate Variability Research and Development Corporation and in partnership with the Sugar Research and Development Corporation (SRDC), Grains Research & Development Corporation, Meat & Livestock Australia, Dairy Australia and Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. Interviewees: Ian McLelland, Robert Quirk.

May-June, 2010. GRDC Ground Cover: Farmers on board to champion climate risk management

Recognising that growers often look to their peers for the most reliable and relevant information, the GRDC is taking a fresh approach to communicating its latest research on climate change impacts and on-farm adaptation and mitigation strategies.

8 August, 2010. The Archibull Prize blog: Lynne Strong

For those of you who don't know, Lynne is the primary driver behind the Archibull Prize. She and her husband and son run a dairy property at Jamberoo, several hours south of Sydney. With her permission I am reprinting here a piece that she wrote for the Weekly Times, as it puts in words better than I can the issues that Lynne is so passionate about. Interviewee: Lynne Strong.

23 August, 2010. SRDC Update: Climate champions overcoming climate variability

In recent years, variable climate conditions have become increasingly difficult for Australian growers and researchers to manage due to the influx of climate change problems. In a time where climate issues are more critical than ever, Australian agricultural communities continue to build strength to combat variable conditions through the development of innovative ideas, technology and programs. Interviewees: Ian McLelland, Robert Quirk, Michael Waring.

21 September, 2010. Media release for Australian Farmer of the Year Awards: Industry leaders recognised for commitment

Finalists for the Farm-Industry Leader of the Year, sponsored by Rabobank have been announced today. Finalists Robert Quirk, Duranbah and Keith Perrett, Gunnedah both farmers from New South Wales have been recognised for their outstanding contribution to agriculture beyond the farm-gate as part of the first Australian Farmer of the Year Awards, hosted by Kondinin Group and ABC Rural. Interviewee: Peter Knoblanche.

Spring, 2010. Rural Women's Network magazine: Being brave

It started off innocently enough. In 2006 I put up my hand to undertake the Leadership Wimmera Skills Initiative. An eight month grassroots program aimed at giving people of Western Victoria's Wimmera region skills and experience in areas that, while invaluable to a community, are otherwise difficult to access from regional areas. Interviewee: Susan Findlay Tickner.

Upcoming, 2010. Farming Ahead: Farmers sign up to champion climate-risk management
Recognising that farmers often look to their peers for the most reliable and relevant information, the national Managing Climate Variability program is taking a fresh approach to communicating its latest research on forecasting, on-farm adaptation and climate management strategies. Interviewees: Ian McLelland, Susan Carn, Simon Wallwork, Fleur Grieve.

Victoria

21 April, 2010. Wimmera Mail Times: Meet a climate champion

Wimmera farmer Susan Findlay Tickner will share climate change information with other producers in her new role as a climate champion. Ms Findlay Tickner was selected as one of 30 climate champions from across the country to help other farmers manage climate change. Interviewees: Susan Findlay Tickner, Ian McLelland.

New South Wales

10 May, 2010. Conservation Agriculture & No-Till Farming Association newsletter:

John Ive – acknowledged as a 'Climate Champion'

John Ive has been selected to be a member of a very illustrious group of 30 farmers, called Climate Champions. These farmers have joined forces to counter what they say is the "green taint" in climate change discussions. It is funded by rural Research and Development Corporations covering grain, wool, meat, sugar, horticulture and irrigation. Interviewee: John Ive.

June, 2010. Environmental Farmers Network newsletter: Member profile: Ive Family, Yass Valley, NSW

I was privileged to have an inspection of the Ive family farm, "Talaheni" in mid May. The farm is located in the Yass Valley north east of Canberra and is about 500 metres above sea level in harsh Ordovician metasediment hill country (NSW Southern Tablelands). Interviewee: John Ive.

Queensland

9 April, 2010. Queensland Country Life: Two degrees is much more than it sounds
IN A country where a frosty morning can be followed by a 20-degree day, climate change predictions of a two-degree rise in average temperatures over the next 90 years sound trifling. John Ive thinks otherwise. A former CSIRO researcher who with his wife Robyn has produced highly-regarded superfine wool in the Yass Valley north of Canberra for 30 years, Mr Ive's studies have convinced him that two degrees difference in air temperature will translate to less soil moisture than the driest times of the past 120 years. Interviewee: John Ive.

8 July, 2010. Tweed Daily News: Cogeneration plant for sale
The proposed sale of the Condong cogeneration plant will not affect the running of the site's sugar mill, according to the Tweed River Canegrowers' Association. Interviewee: Robert Quirk.

1 July, 2010. Tweed Daily News: Black ash is back as mills can't handle trash
TWEED residents, especially those near cane growing areas, can expect a return of black snow for the next month to six weeks as cane fields are set alight during the start of the annual harvest. Interviewee: Robert Quirk.

26 August, 2010. Queensland Country Life: Awards finalists' workshops
MORE than 300 guests gathered at Canberra's Rydges Lakeside Hotel to attend presentations by the 88 national Landcare award finalists on 24th June. It was an opportunity for the finalists to share about their projects, achievements and their Landcare journey. Photo: Lynne Strong.

Western Australia

22 April, 2010. Farm Weekly: WA farmers become climate champions
Farmers will gradually be introduced to new technologies and practices in a move designed to help them adapt to and deal with climate change. Corrigin farmer Simon Wallwork was recently selected as a representative in the Climate Champion program to help other farmers in his region manage the increasing variable climate. Interviewee: Simon Wallwork.

28 April, 2010. The Wheatbelt Mercury: Simon to champion climate change
CORRIGIN farmer Simon Wallwork was recently selected as a representative in the Climate Champion program to help other farmers in his region manage the increasing variable climate. Interviewee: Simon Wallwork.

South Australia

10 April, 2010. Eyre Peninsula Tribune: Climate champions
Cleve farmers Mark and Andrea Hannemann are part of a group of growers who met in Canberra this week for a two-day workshop on climate change. Thirty farmers across Australia have been chosen as Climate Champions to help other farmers manage increasing variable climate.

22 April, 2010. Eyre Peninsula Tribune: Improving farm productivity (Guest editorial by Andrea Hannemann)
Mark and I have just returned from a two day workshop in Canberra, where the Climate Champions program was launched. The program is aimed at getting research information

out to farmers on new technologies and practices for dealing climate variability and climate change.

17 June, 2010. SA Stock Journal: Say hello to SA's climate champions

The national Climate Champions program launched in March aims to improve communication between scientists and the farming community, providing information and management tools for farmers to deal with increased climate variability. The program helps get research out to farmers about new technologies and the best practices available for dealing with climate variability and climate change. Interviewees: Bill Hunt, Kym Fromm, Susan Carn, Mark and Andrea Hannemann, Krysteen McElroy.

Radio/TV media coverage

Queensland

6 July, 2010. Nine Gold Coast News: Cogeneration plant for sale

TV spot talks about the Condong cogeneration plant (using waste biomass to generate electricity), but the plant is under financial stress and needs a buyer. Interviewee: Robert Quirk.

News South Wales & ACT

21 June, 2010. ABC Rural, Canberra: NSW Primary Producer winner in the Landcare Awards

At Jamberoo, I met farmer Lynne Strong, whose family produces 4.7 million litres of milk a year. I'm driving through the green rolling hills of the Southern Highlands – it's one of the wettest parts of NSW, Robertson and Jamberoo. Interviewee: Lynne Strong.

South Australia

10-12 August, 2010. ABC Country Hour: Eyre Peninsula field days

Annabelle Homer talks to Andrea Hannemann about what she'd do if she was the Agricultural Minister for a day. Andrea talked about about increasing R&D funds, how to help with the mouse and locust plagues, about climate change and rain at her place. Interviewee: Andrea Hannemann.

Western Australia

8 September, 2010. ABC Country Hour: Royce Taylor on Climate Champion program

Royce Taylor was interviewed about the Climate Champion program. He talked about climate change, the climate on his farm, and what farmers can do to help adapt to variability. Interviewee: Royce Taylor.

Media report, October-December, 2010

Print and online media coverage

International

17 December, 2010. The Hindu, India: Use predictive modelling to combat climate change: expert

Kerala needs a long-term intervention strategy based on predictive modelling to deal with the impact of climate change, noted agriculture scientist Kadambot H.M. Siddique said here on Friday... He proposed a participatory system involving farmers, scientists and policymakers

to help Kerala cope with the challenges posed by declining crop yield, poor soil health and resistance to new technology. "Farmers have to be involved in the development of technology. A grassroots level approach will ensure that technology is not isolated," he said. He said the Climate Champion initiative in Australia held a lesson for Kerala. "Essentially, farmers, the climate champions, are developing strategies to combat climate change with existing technology. They also bring researchers on board, so that over a period, something is achieved," he said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/kerala/article959095.ece>

18 December, 2010. The Hindu, India: Use IPCC models to combat climate change, says expert

Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala needs a long-term intervention strategy based on predictive modelling to deal with the impact of climate change, agriculture scientist Kadambot H.M. Siddique said here on Friday... He proposed a participatory system involving farmers, scientists and policymakers to help Kerala cope with the challenges posed by declining crop yield, poor soil health and resistance to new technology. He said the Climate Champion initiative in Australia held a lesson for Kerala.

<http://www.hindu.com/2010/12/18/stories/2010121863490700.htm>

National

2010. ABC Carbon website: Climate Champions: Bananas, Beer & Sugar in the Energy Mix
Two sugar cane farmers have been chosen to represent their industry in a national program to help other farmers manage Australia's increasingly variable climate. Robert Quirk, of Tweed River, and Michael Waring, of Ingham, are participants in the Climate Champion program, which was initiated by the Managing Climate Variability Research and Development Corporation and in partnership with the Sugar Research and Development Corporation (SRDC), Grains Research & Development Corporation, Meat & Livestock Australia, Dairy Australia and Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. Interviewees: Robert Quirk, Ian McLelland.

<http://abccarbon.com/climate-champions-bananas-beer-sugar-in-the-energy-mix/>

Issue 3, 2010. International Trade Forum, Forum magazine: Global standards sweeten sugar for buyers

Written by Robert Quirk. With biofuels becoming more prominent on the global market, production is being expanded in Brazil, Asia and Africa. This expansion has environmental groups concerned that sugar cane's environmental impact – deforestation, the high use of fertilizers, residue burn-off, harsh and dangerous conditions for workers in fields and mills, high water consumption and threats to biodiversity – outweighs the economic and social benefits.

http://www.tradeforum.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/1600/Global_Standards:_Sweeten_Sugar_for_Buyers.html

September, 2010. Beyond the Bale: Wool is a natural for our environment

No matter where you stand on the climate debate, one truth remains: the best farmers are those in touch with their environment and willing to make the most of the opportunities as they arise. It is this philosophy and outlook that gives superfine woolgrower John Ive of 'Talaheni' near Yass, in Victoria, optimism for the future of wool growing in Australia. Interviewee: John Ive.

10 September, 2010. Media release: Industry leaders recognised for commitment (Australian Farmer of the year awards, 2010)

Finalists for the Farm-Industry Leader of the Year, sponsored by Rabobank have been announced today. Finalists Robert Quirk, Duranbah and Keith Perrett, Gunnedah both farmers from New South Wales have been recognised for their outstanding contribution to

agriculture beyond the farm-gate as part of the first Australian Farmer of the Year Awards, hosted by Kondinin Group and ABC Rural. Interviewee: Peter Knoblanche.

21 September, 2010. ABC Rural: Farmer of the Year awards announced

A West Australian farmer is the inaugural Australian Farmer of the Year. It's passion that won Ross Woodhouse the inaugural Kondinin-ABC Rural Farmer of the Year award in Sydney last night. Twenty-two years ago Ross left a teaching career to take over his dad's 93-cow property in the south-west corner of Western Australia. Mention: Robert Quirk, runner up for Farm Industry Leader.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/content/2010/s3007891.htm>

21 September, 2010. ABC Rural: Innovation in cane

The New South Wales north coast is home to many innovative farmers. Duranbah farmer Robert Quirk is one of those. He has 126 hectares of sugar cane he farms in conjunction with his brother. The entire cane crop is planted on flood plains that traditionally have suffered from severe acid-sulphate soils. But he's found changing his farming practices has improved soil conditions, while sharing equipment has helped his bottom line. Interviewee: Robert Quirk.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/content/2010/s3017323.htm>

October, 2010. Nuffield Report: Carbon – the New Diamond for Australian Agriculture: A Study of Climate Policy for Australian Farmers

Authored by Jennifer Hawkins

October, 2010. ASSAY (53): Soil scientists see sugarcane up close

Soil scientists from all over the world got their hands dirty at a cane farm recently, when they travelled to Robert Quirk's farm in the Tweed Valley as part of the 19th World Congress of Soil Science. Interviewee: Robert Quirk.

28 October, 2010. Media release: Local dairy farmers are carbon cocky

Seventh generation Jamberoo dairy farmers, Michael, Lynne and Nick Strong's commitment and dedication to environmental stewardship and farm sustainability have made them stand-outs in the dairy industry. Now the family's efforts to build and store carbon in their farm soil and reduce CO₂ emissions at Clover Hill Dairies have been recognised at a regional and state level. Interviewees: Lynne Strong, Pam Green.

November, 2010. DAFF, AWI, Bestprac report: Best practice case studies and climate change management strategies, and future climate change training needs for the Australian pastoral zone

Case Study - Technological Strategy: Ben and Susan Carn. "Wootoona" Near Quorn in the Upper North of South Australia, Prepared by John Squires (Rural Directions Pty Ltd) with Ben and Susan Carn. Location of property and business: The property is located near Quorn in the Upper North of South Australia. Area of property: The property is 10,700 hectares in size and has a mix of grazing and cropping country.

November, 2010. Bestprac website: Weather Watch

Written by Susan Carn. Too much rain in the east, none in the west, plenty up north, and I'm stuck in the middle! We had no rain for exactly a month, but then 20mm in mid October saved the crops in the nick of time. Northern SA kept getting lots of rain, so why weren't we? It's human nature to want to put the blame on someone or something. You know how it goes: You're not happy so you yell at your spouse, spouse yells at kid, kid kicks the dog! Well now we can blame the dog, or dogs! The Victorian Dept. of Primary Industries have developed a series of videos entitled "The Climatedogs: The four drivers that influence Victoria's climate".

<http://www.bestprac.info/pages/news-articles/enews---november-2010/weather-watch-november-2010.php>

5 November, 2010. GRDC Ground Cover: Demise of wet autumns drives new farming system

John and Emma Scotney's farm is 3200 hectares of rolling country two-and-a-half hours north of Perth and 70 kilometres inland from the sea. John was working in London as an accountant 18 years ago when the phone call came through from his father, a farmer from the wheatbelt at Piawaning. He said: "I bought a property in Badgingarra. If you're interested in farming you'd better come home." Interviewees: John & Emma Scotney.

http://www.grdc.com.au/director/research/agronomy?item_id=199E5059B58E7EC093280056A022C292&pageNumber=2&filter1=&filter2=&filter3=&filter4=

12 November, 2010. Media release: SA vineyard wins two trophies for organic, vegan-friendly wines

A South Australian winery has won two out of a possible four trophies for organic wines at the 2010 Australia/New Zealand Organic Wine Show. The Temple Bruer winery, winner of the trophies, is Australia's largest dedicated organic winery, certified organic since 1995. The 2006 Temple Bruer Chenin Blanc was awarded Best of Wine Show and Best White Wine in 2010—following on from Temple Bruer's Best Red Wine and Best Preservative Free wine gold medals in 2009. Interviewee: David Bruer.

15 November, 2010. Malcolm Turnbull web blog: Small spaces and big ideas at the Woollahra Festival

Last Friday night, I spoke at the opening event of the Woollahra Festival with Professor Ian Hickie, GetUp! Communications director Sam Mclean, Lynne Strong, Prof Kay Wilhelm and Rachel Botsman, the author of *What's Mine Is Yours: The Rise of Collaborative Consumption*. The topic was "Invisible Cities: Communities, actual, virtual, possible and improbable" and there was a wide range of views about the impact of the virtual world on our lives.

<http://www.malcolmturnbull.com.au/homepage/small-spaces-and-big-ideas-at-the-woollahra-festival/>

30 November, 2010. ABC Rural: Niche markets find a new niche together

It's not often you see people who produce cashmere, coffee, wildflowers and buffalo in the same room. But the first conference of a new organisation called New Rural Industries Australia has brought them together on the Gold Coast. The group's chairman, olive grower Paul Miller, believes more diversity is the future of farming but there's a lot to learn about markets and product quality. Interviewee: Paul Miller.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201011/s3080234.htm>

December, 2010. Casella Wines: 2010 Casella Wine Rural Women's Award – winners announced

More than 50 women from around Australia were nominated for the 2010 Casella Wines Rural Women's Award. Choosing our winners was extremely difficult – there were so many inspiring stories about women who selflessly give their time and energy to ensure the well-being of their regional communities. Congratulations to the following eight women - our new champions of the bush who foster strength, nurture progress and empower others amid difficult times.

Lynne Strong from Jamberoo, NSW: In addition to running a dairy farm that produces and processes more than 2.5million litres of milk each year, Lynne volunteers as mentor and chairman of Dairy Youth Australia – a committee that holds events and activities that focus on youth, career opportunities, the arts and community and that helps build a deeper understanding of the role of Australian farmers.

<http://www.casellawines.com/2010-rwa-winner>

1 December, 2010. ABC Rural Report: New rural industries

Grass seeds are amongst the new and emerging rural industries being developed in Australia. We have a southeast producer engaged in collection and harvest of seeds for use in Landcare and local government projects. The seed work is just one of many new rural enterprises that will come under the banner of the new group lead by an olive grower. Paul Miller is the chairman of New Rural Industries Australia, and he is meeting this week on the Queensland Gold Coast with other farmers of the future. Interviewee: Paul Miller.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/regions/content/201011/3085464.htm?site=southeastnsw>

15 December, 2010. Media release: Innovative dairy farmer honoured on NSW women's volunteer roll

The creator of the Picasso Cows project and Dairy Youth Australia has been honoured for her volunteering contributions to her local community. Lynne Strong, from Clover Hill Dairies in Jamberoo, created the Picasso Cows project where schools were given a life-sized fibreglass cow to decorate in one of three environmental themes. She also formed Dairy Youth Australia, which delivers education programs about farmers, agricultural production and natural resource management using technology and art.

19 December, 2010. The Land: Arts prize hits bull's eye

A PILOT program using art to educate children about sustainable agriculture and food production has been hailed a success and is expected to be rolled out nationally as part of the Australian Year of the Farmer in 2012. The Archibull Prize, with a theme "love it or lose it", was trialled in 13 schools in the Sydney Basin, after Jamberoo farmer and Art4Agriculture program co-ordinator, Lynne Strong, initiated the project to help educate city students about agriculture. The program provided students with agricultural and environmental awareness through art, creativity and teamwork, with the target audience students in cities and large regional towns who don't necessarily have an agricultural connection. Interviewee: Lynne Strong.

<http://theland.farmonline.com.au/news/state/education/general/arts-prize-hits-bulls-eye/2026554.aspx>

28 December, 2010. Monsters and Critics News: Australians hoping for a dry New Year

Farmers hoping for bumper harvests after 10 years of drought were taking consolation in the prospect of higher prices for wheat because so much of the potential yield was lost to the record rains. 'Some crops are totally drowned out, and some have just been inundated,' said Wayne Newton, head of the farm advisory group Agforce. 'If it fines up, they'll probably bounce back to a degree, but it all depends on how much more rain we keep getting.' Linton Brimblecombe, a wheat farmer in Queensland's Lockyer Valley, said the biggest rains in memory were following the worst drought in memory. Interviewee: Linton Brimblecombe.
http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/asiapacific/news/article_1608206.php/Australians-hoping-for-a-dry-New-Year-Roundup

New South Wales/ACT

17 March, 2010. Weekly Times Now: Strongs raise the milk bar

MILKING cows is a profession. If you doubt that, key in the name Clover Hill Dairies into any internet search engine. A corporate-style brand dominates the left-hand corner of the page and drop-down menus are spread beneath a banner picture of Holsteins grazing lush rolling hills. Your eyes immediately move to the heading titled "Our Vision." At this stage, you could be forgiven for forgetting the website is for a family owned and run dairy farm. It is this professional, clean, green and enticing image that joint owner of NSW-based Clover Hill Dairies, Lynne Strong, has been working hard to develop. Interviewee: Lynne Strong.

http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2010/03/17/166335_on-farm.html

22 July, 2010. Weekly Times Now: Farmers need consumer links

FARMERS need to develop links with consumers to ensure farming has a future, writes LYNNE STRONG. There is no denying food is a hot topic. But all too often, food is viewed by consumers as an end-product, independent of the land that produces it, and the hands that grow it. Most media items about food are about cooking and eating, recipes and restaurants, with little attention paid to the origins of the key ingredients. That's us - Aussie farmers. However, modern consumers have high expectations that the food they buy will be produced on farms with high standards of animal welfare and environmental stewardship.
http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2010/07/22/211081_opinion-news.html

16 September, 2010. ABC Rural Report Canberra: Conservation farming on the rise

Superfine wool grower John Ive, Conservation Farmer of 2009, says farmers have become much more conscious of conservation. "The last ten years, if anyone hasn't grasped the vital importance of soil moisture in their operation well I don't think they've got a very long future in farming." John Ive has a property at Murrumbateman where the hilly terrain and shallow soils demand delicate handling. Interviewee: John Ive.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/regions/content/201009/3013136.htm>

9 October, 2010. Tweed Daily News: Rain cuts sugar cane productivity

On a sunny day Robert Quirk's farm can churn through 1000t of cane, but on a wet day like yesterday productivity can drop by half. "Out of eight machines we have two working today," third-generation cane farmer Robert Quirk said as we trudged through mud. Interviewee: Robert Quirk.
<http://www.tweednews.com.au/story/2010/10/09/sugar-cane-productivity-rain/>

November, 2010. Rural Women's Network, NSW Government Industry & Investment: 2010 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll

Minister Whan launched the inaugural Honour Roll at the Wentworth Women's Gathering. It celebrates 42 rural women who volunteer across NSW who were nominated by members of their communities. Features: Lynne Strong.
http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/360622/Hidden-Treasures-Honour-Roll-2010.pdf

8 December, 2010. Rouse Hill Times: Having a cow at Archibull Prize

THERE were painted cows, cows transformed into bikes and even one with an electrified city on its back. But it was a pair of cows balancing on scales with a garden watered by a solar pump created by students at Hurlstone Agricultural High School that claimed the 2010 Archibull Prize at a colourful ceremony at Rouse Hill Town Centre on Tuesday. Interviewee: Lynne Strong.
<http://rouse-hill-times.whereilive.com.au/news/story/having-a-cow-at-archibull-prize/>

24 December, 2010. Weekly Times Now: Hidden treasures

JAMBEROO dairy farmer Lynne Strong has been included in the first Hidden Treasures Honour Roll. Created by Industry and Investment NSW's rural women's division, the roll recognises the efforts of 42 rural women volunteers. Mrs Strong's work includes initiating the Picasso Cows project, where schools were given a life-sized fibreglass cow to decorate in an environmental theme.
http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2010/12/24/274001_opinion-columnists.html

31 December, 2010. Tweed Daily News: Cane growers suffer in rain

Tweed Canegrowers Association president Robert Quirk says more than half of the sugar cane hasn't been planted this season. Tweed's cane farmers are hoping for sunny days and

praying that rain, which could ruin hopes of a good harvest this year and next, will stay away. One of the wettest Octobers on record has had a near-disastrous result for cane growers and other farmers with continuing wet weather making both planting and harvesting difficult. Interviewee: Robert Quirk.

<http://www.tweednews.com.au/story/2010/12/01/cane-growers-weather-/>

Queensland

31 October, 2010. Queensland Country Life: Copping a 'beeting'

Vegetable grower Linton Brimblecombe has \$500,000 worth of beets in the paddock ready for harvest. But unexpected and unseasonal rainfall throughout the Lockyer Valley during the past few months is making the job all the more difficult. "We could be running into some big issues and we might have to be very friendly with our bank manager again," he said. Interviewee: Linton Brimblecombe.

<http://stage.qcl.farmonline.com.au/news/state/horticulture/general/copping-a-beeting/1983087.aspx>

30 November, 2010. ABC Rural Queensland: New kids on the block share their farming stories

Forget about wool and wheat, cattle and cane -- this week it's the new kids on the agricultural block who are meeting for the first time on Queensland's Gold Coast. They see themselves as a big part of farming in the future. A new organisation called New Rural Industries Australia has brought together producers of products as diverse as cashmere, coffee, truffles, wildflowers and buffalo. Interviewee: Paul Miller.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/qld/content/2010/11/s3080632.htm?site=widebay>

South Australia

October, 2010. SANTFA – The No-Till Journal: Cleve farmers championing water security Climate Change Champions' is not a label that sits comfortably with Cleve farmers Mark and Andrea Hannemann, who see themselves as 'ordinary farmers'. However, their efforts in creating an ingenious water harvesting scheme has seen them nationally recognised by the Climate Change Champions program. Interviewees: Mark & Andrea Hannemann.

11 November, 2010. Stock Journal SA: Storage helps sustainability

EYRE Peninsula farmers Mark and Andrea Hannemann, Mangalo, have finished an innovative water harvesting project in an effort to secure the long-term security of their property. The project has seen the Hannemanns recognised by the national Climate Change Champions program. Interviewee: Andrea Hannemann.

17 November, 2010. InBusiness South Australia website: Temple Bruer organic wines win two trophies

Langhorne Creek winery Temple Bruer has won two out of a possible four trophies for organic wines at the 2010 Australia/New Zealand Organic Wine Show. The Temple Bruer winery, winner of the trophies, is Australia's largest dedicated organic winery, certified organic since 1995. Interviewee: David Bruer

<http://www.in-business.com.au/news/story/2010-11-17/8568>

17 November, 2010. The Courier, Mt Barker: Organic pioneer now reaping wine rewards

A local winery has won two trophies in the 2010 Australia/ NZ Organic Wine Show. Langhorne Creek's Temple Bruer, the nation's largest organic winery, took home the Best of Wine and Best White Wine awards for its 2006 Chenin Blanc. The vineyard was established by David Bruer and his late wife Barbara in 1972 and has been certified organic since 1995. Interviewee: David Bruer.

18 November, 2010. Victor Harbor Times: Organic awards for winery
Langhorne Creek – organic is the word at Temple Bruer Wines as they took home two awards at the 2010 Australia/New Zealand Organic Wine Show. The Langhorne Creek-based winery received the Best of Wine Show and Best White Wine awards with its 2006 Chenin Blanc. The winery, certified organic since 1995, is Australia's largest winery of its type. Interviewee: David Bruer.

18 November, 2010. Stock Journal SA: Recognising sheep in the natural carbon cycle
The Wool Carbon Alliance (WCA) has resolved to reset the carbon agenda and recognise the role sheep play in the natural carbon cycle, a role not properly recognised under current carbon accounting protocols. WCA chairman Chick Olsson said consumers should be encouraged to rethink their views on sheep and greenhouse gases. While the climate may be changing, so must the understanding that sheep are part of the solution not part of the problem. Interviewee: John Ive.
<http://www.wool.com/Media-Releases.htm?item=7261.htm>

Victoria

5 April, 2010. ABC Rural Victoria website: Climate Champions push the issue mainstream
Farmers have joined forces to counter what they say is the "green taint" in climate change discussions. The group of thirty farmers calls itself "Climate Champions". It's funded by rural research and development corporations for covering grain, wool, meat, sugar, horticulture and irrigation. Interviewees: David Cattanach, Simon Wallwork.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/vic/content/2010/04/s2864347.htm>

Radio and television media coverage

National

22 September, 2010. ABC Bush Telegraph: New Rural Industries Australia
A new organisation has emerged in rural Australia to give voice and support to niche industries. In order to be a member of New Rural Industries Australia, or NRIA, you need to be in an industry that's innovative, creative and without big backing and that means you'd be part of an eclectic collection of interests. Interviewee: Paul Miller.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/telegraph/content/2010/s3018752.htm>

October, 2010. GRDC's Driving Agronomy: The National Climate Kelpie Program
Simon Wallwork, a Western Australian Climate Champion participant, talks to Driving Agronomy about MCV's Climate Kelpie website, as well as how he's handled the driest WA winter in a long time. Interviewee: Simon Wallwork.

30 November, 2010. ABC Bush Telegraph: New agricultural industries
Forget wool and wheat, cattle and cane, this week the new kids on the agricultural block are meeting for the first time on the Gold Coast. They include producers of emu meat, olives, cashmere, tea tree and wildflowers. Interviewee: Paul Miller.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/telegraph/content/2010/s3080456.htm>

27 December, 2010. ABC The 7.30 Report: Wild weather continues
Here is a story about the floods wreaking havoc this holiday season. Rain continues to lash the Sunshine State, with the inland town of Chinchilla bracing for the worst flooding in half a century. At least a dozen homes and the local hospital have been evacuated and residents are working around the clock to protect property. The big wet is also hitting parts of NSW, in particular the central west and the far north. And while the rain is forecast to ease in Queensland by the New Year, flooding is expected to continue into next week. Interviewee: Linton Brimblecombe.
<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2010/s3102350.htm>

Tasmania

12 September, 2010. ABC Hobart 936: Sunday Mornings

Landcare week ends today. Matthew Pitt of the Derwent Catchment NRM Committee is interviewed about his role as a Climate Champion, a program supported by the Grain Research Development Corporation and the Meat and Livestock Association. Pitt explains the role as being designed to ensure that farmers like him are involved with the transfer of information with the science community. Pitt says the idea is to ensure that the money spent on climate research is well spent. Pitt gives details for the Tasmanian Landcare Association as a contact point for other would be Climate Champions. Interviewee: Matthew Pitt.