

AGIC Technical Program

WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 2025

The Australian Grains
Industry Conference

2025



8.00am - 8.45am	Registration & Exhibition Open
8.45am	Plenary Doors Open
9.00am - 9.25am	Emcee: Stephen Thompson, <i>Partner, HFW</i> Welcome: Andrew Goyder, <i>Chair, Grain Trade Australia</i>
9.25am - 9.40am	Session 1.0: Opening Address: Adam Fennessy PSM, <i>Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry</i>
9.40am - 10.15am	Session 1.1: ANZ Economic Outlook Keynote Speaker: Adelaide Timbrell, <i>Senior Economist, ANZ</i>
10.15am - 10.45am	MORNING TEA
10.45am - 11.30am	Session 1.2: Outlook for the Global Grain and Oilseed Market Keynote Speaker: Emily French, <i>Founder, Global Ag Protein (USA)</i>
11.30am - 11.45am	Session 1.3: China's adoption of GE soybeans & corn: potential implications for agri supply chains Speaker: Vladimir Zinkovski, <i>Principal Agricultural Economist, Head of APAC Crops, S&P Global Commodity Insights</i>
11.45am - 12.30pm	Session 1.4: Value Adding Through the Domestic Market Facilitator: Stephen Thompson, <i>Partner, HFW</i> Panellists: Patrick Hutchinson, <i>Director, Gibraltar Strategic Advisory</i> Michael Schmidt, <i>Head of Commodity, Mauri</i> James Williamson, <i>General Manager, Neste</i> <p>Every tonne of grain processed locally can add value to Australian economy: from the feed sector to processing to biofuels. Our panel will dive into what we are currently doing and can be done to add more value to Australian Grain & Agriculture.</p>
12.30pm - 1.45pm	LUNCH Sponsored by Holding Redlich  HOLDING REDLICH
1.45pm - 2.40pm	Session 1.5: Australian Market Review – Outlook, Challenges and Opportunities Facilitator: Erin Burns, <i>Head of Risk Management, Mauri</i> Panellists: Simone Dax, <i>Senior Commodity Trader, Pulses, Louis Dreyfus Company Australia</i> Mark Lewis, <i>Chief Commercial Officer, Riordan Grains</i> Sam Napier, <i>Senior Director, Ag & Trading, Cargill Australia</i> <p>From export supply chain, capacity, destination issues and risks, the expert panel will look at domestic demand, processors perspective, the impact of regional droughts (SA, VIC, NSW), rail and road logistics and how this can drive trade behaviour. They will also touch on the opportunities for growers - selling, planting, gross margins and comment on various commodities, market outlooks and drivers for the longer-term outlooks/prospects.</p>
2.40pm - 3.00pm	Session 1.6: War & Wheat Speaker: Dennis Voznesenski, <i>Author</i> <p>War and Wheat navigates the tumultuous landscapes of both World Wars, COVID-19, and the war in Ukraine through the eyes of Australia. Dennis will share his insights into this compelling narrative, which explores the profound impacts of future conflicts on farmers, grain merchants, speculators, investors, food manufacturers, and governments.</p>

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3.00pm - 3.30pm

AFTERNOON TEA

3.30pm - 4.15pm

Session 1.7: The Global Geopolitical Landscape: Making Sense of Risk and Uncertainty

Keynote Speaker: Richard McGregor, *Senior Fellow, Lowy Institute*

The Australian grain industry is an export orientated industry operating in a competitive global market. Richard will explore global food security, global growth/stability and trade frameworks.

4.15pm - 5.00pm

Session 1.8: Global Trade Impacts and Facilitating Trade

Facilitator: Rosemary Richards, *Chair, Australian Oilseeds Federation*

Panellists:

John Ackerman, *General Manager Market Access, Grains Australia*

Jaine Chisholm Caunt OBE, *Director General, GAFTA (United Kingdom)*

Troy Williams, *CEO, National Farmers Federation*

The panel will look into the link between policy, training, contracts, execution risks, digitalisation of trade and trade execution and how this can improve market access. They will dive into the local and international space and discuss how to engage with governments to improve FTA outcomes and for regulatory harmonisation.

5.00pm - 5.15pm

Day 1 Closing Comments and GTA Five Under 30 Presentations

Michael Wood, *Principal, Rural Logic & Deputy Chair, Grain Trade Australia*

5.15pm - 5.20pm

AGIC 2025 Welcome Reception Comments:

Mark Bergamasco, *Head of Trade and Supply Chain, Port of Melbourne*

5.20pm - 7.15pm

AGIC 2025 Welcome Reception – Sponsored by Port of Melbourne Crown Promenade Foyer

Port of Melbourne



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DRIVING FORWARD SOWING SUCCESS

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THURSDAY 31 JULY 2025

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7.30am - 8.30am

HFW Women in Grain Networking Breakfast. Registration Required

Hear success stories, build rapport and network with other women in the grain industry. Rooms M5 and M6, Crown Promenade.

8.00am - 8.45am

Registration & Exhibition Open

8.45am - 9.00am

Session 2.0: Emcee: Alex McKellar, *Partner, HFW*

Day 2 Welcome: City of Melbourne Representative

Opening Remarks: Rosemary Richards, *Chair, Australian Oilseeds Federation*

9.00am - 9.30am

Session 2.1: Keeping Up With Technology To Sow Success

Facilitator: Tress Walmsley, *CEO, InterGrain*

Panellists:

Anna Falkiner, *CEO and Co-Founder, Cropify*

Osman Mewett, *Senior Global Regulatory Policy Manager, Seeds and Traits, BASF*

Narelle Moore, *CEO, Australian Crop Breeders*

The panel will discuss the impacts of biotechnology, plant breeding, innovation, integrating technology and AI on global food security and the supply chain. And ultimately how this affects producer and consumer confidence.

9.30am - 10.00am

Session 2.2: How Growers are Driving Forward and Sowing Success

Facilitator: Simon Tickner, *Director, Yellow Grain*

Panellists:

Kate Gunn, *Merrivale Partnerships*

Sam Heagney, *South Bunarba Agriculture*

Simon Stead, *Chair, CBH Group*

The panel will provide an overview of the current industry from a grower's perspective covering farming business, on-farm storage, marketing grain, price risk management and innovation across various aspects of farming and supply chain.

10.00am - 10.30am

Session 2.3: Policy Settings for Industry Growth

Facilitator: Jess Simons, *Head of Corporate Affairs & Government Relations, GrainCorp*

Panellists:

Shona Gawel, *CEO, GrainGrowers*

Pat O'Shannassy, *CEO, Grain Trade Australia & President, International Grain Trade Coalition*

Michael Whitehead, *Executive Director of Food, Beverage and Agribusiness Industry Insights, ANZ*

Getting the policy settings right is integral for growth and development within the sector and having a platform for a competitive playing field and confidence for investment. The panel will discuss the role for industry associations and private sector across various policy areas such as supply chain, wheat port code, transport, sustainability, biotech, containers, carbon, biofuel and food security.

10.30am - 11.00am

MORNING TEA

11.00am - 11.45am

Session 2.4 The Political and Geo-Political Landscape - Challenges for Australia's Success

Facilitator: Hugh Riminton, *Award-winning journalist*

In Conversation with: The Hon. Simon Birmingham, *Head of Asia-Pacific Engagement, Chairman, South Australia, ANZ Banking Group*

With deep experience at the highest levels of government, Simon will share his thoughts and expertise in trade policy, government finance, international relations and regulated environments.

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11.45am - 12.30pm

Session 2.5: CEOs In Conversation: The Bakers Delight Story

Facilitator: Hugh Riminton, *Award-winning journalist*

Panellists:

Lesley Gillespie OAM, *Co-Founder, Bakers Delight*

Roger Gillespie OAM, *Co-Founder & Executive Chairman, Bakers Delight*

From humble beginnings in 1980 when they opened their first Bakers Delight in Hawthorn to now spanning over 700 locations in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA, Lesley and Roger Gillespie's story is both impressive and insightful. Hugh will take an in-depth look into the evolution of this prominent Australian franchise.

12.30pm - 1.30pm

LUNCH Sponsored by TT Club



1.30pm - 2.15pm

Session 2.6: From Crocodiles to Cairns to Canberra

Facilitator: Hugh Riminton, *Award-winning journalist*

In Conversation with: Warren Entsch, *former Federal Member for Leichhardt*

From championing marriage equality to advancing global health initiatives, Warren Entsch has been a fierce advocate for equity and change throughout his parliamentary career. His path to politics was as varied as it was grounded, spanning the Royal Australian Air Force, mining, agriculture, and small business. Warren brings a unique perspective shaped by lived experience, practical insight, and decades of public service.

2.15pm - 2.45pm

Session 2.7: Demographic Drives Opportunities - Markets in Focus - China & India

Facilitator: Ranjani Sundar, *Partner, HFW*

Speakers:

Julia Zhang, *Agricultural Market Analyst Manager, Argus Media*

John Southwell, *Head of Economic Policy Branch, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)*

2.45pm - 3.15pm

Session 2.8: Generational Change: GTA's Five Under 30 Look at Industry Evolution

Facilitators: Isabelle McDouall, *Junior Grain Merchant, AGT Foods Australia* & Matthew Price, *Grain & Cotton Merchant, Bunge*

Panellists:

Ron Storey, *Principal, Storey Marketing*

Sam Tainsh, *Manager, Arrow Commodities*

GTAs Five Under 30 members interview industry stalwarts, diving into what's changed since they began and what they would do differently if they had their time over again.

3.15pm - 3.45pm

AFTERNOON TEA

3.45pm - 4.15pm

Session 2.9: "Grounded": Building mental health literacy and first aid capacity

Facilitator: Nick Poutney, *Head of Ag, Grains, ITOCHU Australia*

Panellists:

Tim Hewson, *Mental Health Advocate and Educator, Director, Betterment Consulting*

Jim Riordan, *Managing Director, Riordan Group*

Steph Schmidt, *South Australian based Farmer and Psychologist*

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4.15pm - 5.00pm

Session 2.10:

Keynote: Air Guitar and Tumble Turns: Inspirations from a triple Olympian

Speaker: Michael Klim OAM

A world champion, six-time Olympic medallist, and pioneer of the straight arm freestyle, Michael is celebrated as one of Australia's finest relay swimmers. Beyond the pool, he's an entrepreneur, advocate, and founder of the Klim Foundation, supporting those affected by CIDP, a rare autoimmune condition he bravely battles himself. Michael shares his inspiring journey of resilience, reinvention, and mental strength.

5.00pm - 5.10pm

Closing Comments: Pat O'Shannassy, *CEO, Grain Trade Australia*

7.00pm - Midnight

**AGIC 2025 Gala Dinner - sponsored by CBH Group
Crown Palladium**



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