

RACV Royal Pines Resort  
Ross Street, Ashmore  
Gold Coast, Queensland

7 - 9 March 2016



**Australian  
Summer Grains  
Conference**

*Securing our future*



### **Quiet achievers recognised for service to agronomy**

It is never an easy task to select a winner from a field of champions. This was the challenge for the Australian Summer Grains Conference selection panel recently when they worked their way diligently through the nominations for a new initiative attached to the conference.

Five quiet achieving agronomists have been named finalists in the inaugural Zoe McInnes Memorial Agronomy and Study Tour Award. Initiated by the joint venture partners of the Australian Summer Grains Conference and sponsored by the Mungbean and Sorghum Associations, the award recognises the enthusiasm and passion that Ms McInnes had for the grains industry prior to her passing in 2013.

The finalists are; Belinda Chase, Dalby Rural Supplies, Dalby; Andrew Millers, Elders Ltd, Toowoomba; Jordan McDonald, Elders Ltd, Dalby, Steve Muller, Dalby Rural Supplies, Dalby and Janet Loechel, Elders Ltd, Jandowae.

Chair of the Australian Summer Grains Conference committee Maree Crawford, says that it is reassuring that the industry has acknowledged the enormous contribution to the grains industry made by quiet achievers, by nominating several for this award, along with established consultants.

“For these five to be not just nominated, but selected as finalists for this award in its first year says a lot about the value grain growers place on a commercial agronomist and their valued contribution to the bottom line of a farming business”, says Ms Crawford.

“It is also reassuring that these quiet achievers are getting the recognition they deserve. Not only do they undertake their agronomy role professionally, some are also involved in behind the scenes activities through their involvement on industry committees and high level of personal support to farming families in their communities”. She said.

From the five finalists, one will be awarded the Zoe McInnes Memorial Agronomy and Study Tour Award which is valued at \$5000 and the runner up will receive \$1000 towards personal development.

“In the end the scores for each finalist revealed there was not much separating the five, so the committee have made the decision to include a runners-up prize valued at \$1000 to assist them with professional development” said Ms Crawford.

The five finalists receive complimentary registration to the conference, where the winner will be announced during GRDC Conference Dinner and Industry Awards on the evening of Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

The bursary will allow the recipient to increase their knowledge and to support them in delivering new information to growers. They will also become an ambassador for the Australian Summer Grains Conference and will be given the opportunity to deliver a presentation at the 2019 conference.

The Australian Summer Grains Conference will be held 7-9 March 2016 at the RACV Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast. It brings together the five summer grains industries of sorghum, maize, sunflower soybeans and mungbeans into the one convenient location. Delegates will have the opportunity to catch up on the latest in innovation, new technology and practice development, markets and research from international and national speakers.

To nominate an agronomist, download the nomination form via the conference website <http://australiansummergrains.com.au/#awards>

Registration and accommodation bookings may also be made via the conference website <http://australiansummergrains.com.au/#registration>

You can also keep up to date with their news via Facebook or Twitter  
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