



PURSEHOUSE RURAL

a g b u s i n e s s s e r v i c e s

PR AG Services - Cnr Lennox and Loder st (PO Box 140) Quirindi NSW 2343
Ph. 02 6746 1633 Fax. 02 6746 3581 Email: pragservices@prural.com.au



PR Ag Services Agronomy Team

Quirindi

Adrian Nelson is the head agronomist of the PR AG Services team based out of the Quirindi branch. Adrian has been with the company since 1998. Adrian completed a Bachelor of Applied Science-Systems Agriculture which developed into a keen interest in precision farming and broadacre agriculture. With over 10 years with Pursehouse Rural, Adrian leads a professional and experienced agronomy team.

Josh Hack recently started at Pursehouse Rural as a trainee agronomist, to initially be based in Quirindi. Originally from Hobart, Josh began his career in agriculture with an apprenticeship on a vegetable, lucerne and sheep property on the northern midlands of Tasmania. From this experience Josh moved to Wagga Wagga where he completed his degree in Agronomy.

Melissa Quinn is our most recent recruit to Pursehouse Rural Quirindi. Melissa joins us following 2 years with the independent research company Peracto, in Shepparton Victoria. In this role, Melissa conducted numerous efficacy and GLP trials for the majority of major chemical companies. Prior to this, Melissa completed a Bachelor of Agriculture with honours from the University of Melbourne's Dookie Agricultural College in 2006. Following a move to Gunnedah in December, Melissa has begun work with Pursehouse Rural in the development of its research and trial program. Melissa will be undertaking field demonstrations of new technologies as they emerge from seed companies and chemical suppliers.



James Urquhart is our most experienced agronomist with over 13 years with Pursehouse Rural in Quirindi. James commenced work in 1997 following the completion of a Bachelor of Applied Science (Systems Agriculture) at UWS Hawkesbury. James's experience extends from broadacre cropping systems to intensive pastures and is very well known on the Liverpool Plains.

James Cheetham commenced work with Pursehouse Rural in January 2007 following the completion of a Bachelor of Agricultural Science with Honours from the University of Sydney. Since joining Pursehouse Rural, James has undertaken various study trips in Australia and overseas which has provided a valuable incite into intensive farming and grazing systems. 2009 sees an exciting year for James who will be taking over the Quirindi Opti-crop program.

Sara Winston-Smith is the PR Ag Services Coordinator for Pursehouse Rural. With a degree in horticultural science Sara spent the first 2 years out of university working in St George as a trainee agronomist. In this role Sara worked in the cotton industry, broadacre and some horticulture. Sara's role with Pursehouse Rural is to provide support to the agronomists including farm and field mapping, trials, field days and ongoing training requirements. Sara is based out of Quirindi's head office.

Gunnedah

Nick Park started with Pursehouse Rural in Gunnedah in May of 2001 to kick start the Opti-Crop Advisory Program in the area. Nick has a Certificate in Agriculture, with an associate diploma in applied science (rural technology) in the field of agronomy from the University of Queensland's Gatton Campus (formerly the QLD Ag College). Nick has been in the agricultural chemical, seed and fertiliser business since 1991. His extensive experience began with 10 years in Dalby on the Darling Downs prior to his move to Gunnedah and Pursehouse Rural. Throughout this time, Nick's primary focus has been broadacre cropping and the continuing development of the Opti-Crop advisory program on the Liverpool Plains.

John Nott started with Pursehouse Rural Gunnedah over 11 years ago. John was employed with Pursehouse Rural as a cotton consultant and broadacre agronomist for the Gunnedah area. After completing school, John lived and worked on the Liverpool plains, before attending university and graduating with a degree in farm business from the University of Sydney's Orange campus. Outside of work John enjoys hunting in Australia and has recently returned from a hunting adventure in Africa.

Matt Roseby started in Gunnedah in February 2008. Since the beginning with Pursehouse Rural, Matt's training and experience is developing under the guidance of Nick Park. Matt graduated with a Bachelor of Agribusiness, majoring in rural science in 2007 from the University of New England.



From left: John Nott, James Urquhart, Adrian Nelson, Sara Winston-Smith (PR Ag Services Coordinator), Nick Park, Callen Thompson, Adam Bensch, Josh Hack, Matt Roseby, Hugh Urquhart and James Cheetham

Narrabri

Hugh Urquhart completed a Bachelor of Science in agriculture from the University of Sydney in 2000. Following his degree, he began his career with Pursehouse Rural in Quirindi as a trainee agronomist. Hugh has enjoyed all facets of agronomy during this time and was also involved in the Opti-Crop program. After 2 years in Quirindi, Hugh ventured overseas to travel and work before returning to Pursehouse Rural. Hugh moved to Narrabri where he has now been based for five years working predominately in broadacre farming.

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Coonabarabran

Callen Thompson is the Pursehouse Rural agronomist at Coonabarabran in western New South Wales. Following university in 2004, Callen moved to Coonabarabran where he began his work in broadacre agriculture. After a year he moved to Mullaley only to return 12 months later to Coonabarabran with Pursehouse Rural. Callen's work in Coonabarabran is primarily on mixed farms, with some broadacre customers. His work in pasture systems has recently taken Callen to New Zealand where the latest techniques in pasture management is used on the Canterbury Plains.

Mullaley

Adam Bensch is originally from a farming family near Grong Grong in the Riverina. Adam completed a Bachelor of Rural Science from the University of New England in 2005 before the travelling bug took over. Adam travelled to Canada where he worked with Terraflex, an agricultural services company. Adam has been working with Pursehouse Rural since May 2007 and is currently based at Mullaley.

Clifton

Ben Thrift is the agronomist for Pursehouse Rural Clifton. Ben's experience in the field of agronomy stems from two and a half years in Goondiwindi, three years in St George and a year in Wee Waa. Throughout this time, Ben has worked extensively in broadacre agronomy, as well as more intensive systems including cotton. In 2002, Ben completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from the University of Queensland's, Gatton campus. From his coastal start, Ben has built his knowledge to the ever changing landscape of agriculture.



Melrose

Mick Fing graduated with Bachelor of Applied Science (rural technology) from the University of Queensland's Gatton campus in 1995. Following this, he was employed by Colly farms as a trainee agronomist, working his way into a senior agronomy position by the time he left. From 1999 to 2007, he was a senior agronomist based in St George before moving into a consulting agronomist and business development coordinator role for Elders Queensland (broadacre and cotton).

In 2007 Mick joined the Pursehouse Rural team as a sales agronomist based out of Melrose. Mick has over 13 years experience in cotton production and is involved in GPS farm and field maps for PHR.



Qld Agronomists from left: Andrew Jakins, Mick Fing, Jeff Stone and John Hegarty (Ben Thrift absent)

Pittsworth

Jeff Stone joined Pursehouse Rural 15 months ago in Pittsworth, following 8 years as an agronomist in Dalby, on the Darling Downs. Prior to this, he travelled overseas and enjoyed three years as an arable specialist in the United Kingdom and 1 year on a rural exchange to Canada. Jeff was an agronomist in Forbes for six years and has farming experience in central NSW, Croppa Creek and Canada. Driven by a passion for all things soil and plants, Jeff enjoys developing relationships with farmers and challenges with maintaining crop returns. His main interests are soils and maintaining their fertility. Jeff has a Bachelor of applied science (Systems Agriculture).

John Hegarty is Queensland's most recent recruit with a broad range of experience. John began his agricultural career with a certificate in agricultural production and animal husbandry in 1985 before working as a farmhand, parts interpreter and storeman on the Darling Downs over the next 10 years. His work as a storeman developed into a work as a trainee agronomist and from 1998 until 2006 John worked in agronomy based on the Darling Downs. After a short time in machinery sales, John was employed with Pursehouse Rural in early 2009 and is currently based in Pittsworth.

Allora

Andrew Jakins has been based at the Allora branch since October 1999. As Pursehouse Rural's most experienced agronomist in Queensland, Andrew is continually evolving with the changes to agriculture on the Darling Downs. Born in Moree, New South Wales, he graduated from the University of Queensland's Gatton campus with a Diploma in Applied Science and moved to the Darling Downs. Andrew's primary focus in this area is with Broadacre agronomy including grain sorghum, maize, summer and winter forage, pulse and winter cereals. He is also accredited in animal husbandry, lucerne production and all you soil nutritional requirements.



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