

9th NAWRDES Forum

Speaker profiles



Lauren Hemsworth – AWSC, The University of Melbourne

Lauren holds a post-doctoral research and teaching position at the Animal Welfare Science Centre at the University of Melbourne. Her research interests include the human-animal relationship and its influence on animal welfare and productivity, field welfare assessment in farm and companion animals and developing education programs for recreational horse owners.

In her presentation, Lauren will present some research findings from a recently completed project facilitated by the National Primary Industries Animal Welfare RD&E Strategy. This one-year project, *Monitoring Public Attitudes to Livestock Industries and Livestock Welfare* concluded in July 2019.



Caroline Lee – CSIRO, Agriculture and Food

Dr Caroline Lee leads the animal behaviour and welfare research team at CSIRO. She received her PhD from The University of Sydney in 2002. Following this, she joined CSIRO and has been researching the welfare of sheep, cattle and laying hens.

Dr Lee's main research interests are in developing novel tests to assess animal welfare, in particular understanding cognition, learning and emotional states in livestock. She also works on developing virtual fencing systems for cattle and sheep. Dr Lee has published over 70 peer-review journal articles and is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Rural Science, The University of New England.

She represented CSIRO on the Board of the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching Ltd (ANZCCART), the Management Committee of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis, the National Animal Welfare RD &E Strategy Management Committee and is a member of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy.

In her presentation, Caroline will detail some aspects of The Virtual Herding project which received \$2.6 million from the Australian Government through its Rural R&D for Profit program. A further \$1.365 million was provided by a number of Rural Research and Development Corporations and R&D providers. The R&D providers include, CSIRO, the University of Sydney, University of New England, the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, The University of Melbourne and Agersens Pty Ltd, with additional contributions from Dairy Australia, Meat and Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation and Australian Pork Limited.



David Miller – School of Veterinary and Life Sciences, Murdoch University

David is an Associate Professor in the School of Veterinary & Life Sciences at Murdoch University. He received his PhD from The University of Western Australia in 1995 and then spent 10 years in the UK investigating the endocrine control of reproduction, appetite, and growth.

His research for the last 15 years has involved investigating existing and novel welfare assessment protocols for use at various points in agricultural product supply chains. These have included studies with pigs, cattle, goats, camels and sheep.

In his presentation, David will outline some novel strategies which can be used to monitor sheep welfare, work conducted under the Sheep CRCs ‘Enhanced sheep wellbeing and productivity’ program’ and several MLA-funded projects.



Cheryl McCarthy - Centre for Agricultural Engineering, University of Southern Queensland

Cheryl is a Senior Research Fellow in mechatronic engineering with the Centre for Agricultural Engineering (formerly NCEA) at the University of Southern Queensland. Her research involves developing machine vision and sensing systems for agriculture.

She has worked on machine vision projects for cotton and sugar cropping industries, in particular real-time weed spot spray systems, and her current projects include identification of automation opportunities for beef cattle feedlots and machine vision of poultry. She has a BEng (Mechatronic) and PhD from USQ.

Her research interests include automation, sensing of real-world environments and imaging spectrometry.

Cheryl will provide an update on an AgriFutures Chicken Meat project examining detection of chicken welfare using machine vision.



Gabriele Bammer - Research School of Population Health, The Australian National University

Gabriele is developing the new discipline of Integration and Implementation Sciences (i2S) to improve research strengths for tackling complex real-world problems through synthesis of disciplinary and stakeholder knowledge, understanding and managing diverse unknowns and providing integrated research support for policy and practice change. She convenes the Global Network for Research Integration and Implementation and runs the popular Integration and Implementation Insights blog (<http://i2Insights.org>).

Gabriele is a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam, Germany (2019-20), an ANU Public Policy Fellow, an inaugural Fulbright New Century Scholar alumna and has held visiting appointments at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government (2001-14) and the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center at the University of Maryland (2015-2018), along with short-term appointments at ETH-Zurich (2007) and the Universitaet fuer Bodenkultur in Vienna (2012). From 2007-2013 she was the convenor of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security's Integration and Implementation research program.

She co-convenes (with Michael Smithson) an edX Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on 'Ignorance!'.

Between 2011-13 she was Director of the ANU's Research School of Population Health, Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health and co-Director and then Director of the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute.

In her keynote presentation, Gabriele will consider how desired change can be effectively delivered by integrating scientific outcomes into change programs.



Robert Hewitt – SunPork Solutions, SunPork Group

Robert is Manager – Science, Technology and Adoption (North) with SunPork Solutions. A graduate of The University of Melbourne (B. Agr. Sci (Hons)), Robert commenced working in commercial pig production, with extensive experience in outdoor, intensive and nucleus production systems, before transitioning to a technical support role for PIC Australia and their customers. With the establishment of the Pork CRC in 2006, Robert commenced working under Dr Robert van Barneveld at CHM Alliance Pty Ltd (now SunPork Solutions) responsible for the delivery of high-quality public sector, commercial and internal research. His particular interest is on the post-weaned pig and the transition from milk to meal.

In his presentation, Robert will report on an APL project which aimed to reduce the impact of on-farm euthanasia on stockpeople through the development of practical protocols and validation of new methods of euthanasia.



Emily King - Woolgrower Extension & Adoption, Australian Wool Innovation

Emily is a graduate of Charles Sturt University where she undertook a Bachelor of Farm Management. She has worked for AWI for eight years in on-farm project roles, with a focus in the area of Woolgrower Extension & Adoption.

Emily will give a summary of the Lifetime Ewe Management Program and provide some examples of how the program has delivered effective change on-farm.



Pauline Brightling – Harris Park Group

Pauline is a well-respected leader in industry-level change management programs, primarily in the agricultural sector. She has been responsible for the design and delivery of internationally recognised programs in animal health management and workforce development.

Pauline started Harris Park Group in 1997. Harris Park is a consultancy firm which specialises in design, delivery and evaluation of Research, Development & Extension programs. Pauline has worked as a veterinarian, academic, business manager, consultant and adviser in the agricultural sector for over 35 years.

Pauline will give some insights into the lessons she has learnt during her career which have assisted in delivering effective programs to change practice.



John Penry – Dairy Australia

A veterinary graduate of the University of Melbourne, John has worked as a practicing vet in Camperdown and as a graduate researcher at the University of Wisconsin.

John is Manager, Technical and Innovation with Dairy Australia and has extensive experience as a developer and trainer in many of the national dairy programs.

In his presentation, John will examine how RD&E programs can deliver real welfare improvements for male dairy calves.