

# Bulletin



Issue 20 | August 2015



## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

The past few months have been extremely busy with Food Innovation Australia transitioning to the Growth Centres Initiative and recruiting additional team members. We are also busy preparing programmes for the coming year, which we will be announcing over the coming months, including the plans for developing a competitiveness plan for the food and agribusiness industry.

I am also delighted, on behalf of the team and industry, to congratulate our Chairman, Peter Schutz, for receiving the 2015 AIFST Keith Farrer Award of Merit. Peter has been recognised for his outstanding achievements within food science and technology across education, research, industry and government, as well as furthering the aims and objectives of the Australian Institute of Food, Science and Technology.

This edition of our news bulletin also features our new Board and you will see from their biographies that their knowledge and experience of the food and agribusiness industry puts FIAL in an excellent position to achieve many great things for the sector. Next month Peter will be back from his much earned break in Europe and will be contacting many of our key stakeholders about aligning initiatives for the country. We also will introduce our new team members who will have settled into their new role and already commenced working with you on joint and collaborative initiatives for the sector.



## FOOD AND AGRIBUSINESS GROWTH CENTRE BOARD

### PETER SCHUTZ

Peter Schutz is a highly regarded food industry advisor, chairman and director with an extraordinary portfolio of experience in food and agriculture in Australia.



Peter is the inaugural Chairman of the Food and Agribusiness Growth Centre and Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL), which is a national food and agribusiness hub that drives innovation and market initiatives for the industry.

Peter is looking forward to the challenge of building a resilient, cohesive and progressive food and agribusiness industry using skills he's gained from a career in senior management roles in operations, sales, marketing, technical services and compliance, innovation and technology transfer, sustainability and environmental management.

His active involvement in developing food science and technology in Australia includes board and advisory roles with the Grains and Legumes Nutrition Council, the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology and CSIRO's Food Futures Flagship.

Peter spent 10 years as the CEO of George Weston Technologies (George Weston Foods), where he was awarded the AIFST Food Industry Innovation Award in 2003 and the Keith Farrer Award of Merit in 2015.

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## DR MIRJANA PRICA

Mirjana Prica is an experienced business and strategy leader in food and agribusiness, with a passion for connecting ideas and devising solutions to deliver maximum benefit.



She is currently Managing Director of Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL), a national food and agribusiness hub that has brought together over 2000 stakeholders and 3000 organisations to drive innovation and market initiatives for Australia. In this role Mirjana was instrumental in delivering strategies and plans that assisted in the formation of the Food and Agribusiness Growth Centre.

Mirjana has more than 20 years experience as an R&D project manager in food, agribusiness, and materials. A key role was in business development and technology transfer for George Weston Foods (GWF), part of the Associated British Foods Group. She helped establish a global feed ingredients business for the group and managed the GWF's analytical testing business, servicing both internal and external food, agricultural and animal feed customers.

Mirjana is a business-science post-graduate from the University of Melbourne and has worked as a senior research scientist and lecturer at Keele University in the UK. She also spent part of her career as a scientist at Food Science Australia (CSIRO).

## DR MICHELE ALLAN

Michele Allan is a food industry and agribusiness specialist who has held senior executive and director positions in the food and education sectors, and has an academic background in biomedical science, management and law.



She is the current Chair of the Board of Meat and Livestock Australia, Charles Sturt University, Apple and Pear Australia Limited and Grains & Legumes Nutrition Council (formerly Go Grains Health & Nutrition). Her current board positions include Innovation Australia, CRC Advisory Committee, Hearing Cooperative Research Centre and Grains Growers Limited.

In 2013-14 she chaired the Wheat Industry Advisory Taskforce for the Federal Minister for Agriculture, The Hon Barnaby Joyce. She also chaired the Tasmanian Fruit and Vegetable Taskforce appointed by the Federal Government.

Michele's prior non-executive director roles include Patties Foods Limited, the Dairy Research & Development Corporation (now part of Dairy Australia),

CallaghanInnovation, Tasmanian Irrigation, William Angliss Institute, Forest and Wood Products Australia, Food Standards Australia and New Zealand, RuralCo Holdings, Birchip Cropping Group and the Grape and Wine Research Development Corporation.

Michele holds a Bachelor of Applied Science from the University of Technology Sydney, a Master of Management (Technology) from the University of Melbourne, a Doctor of Business Administration from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and a Master of Commercial Law from Deakin University.

## JANE BENNETT

Jane Bennett is currently a non-executive director of the Australian Farm Institute, the CSIRO, Nuffield Australia, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Tasmanian Ports Corporation and the Van Diemen's Land Company, Australia's largest dairy farming business.



Jane is immediate past Chair of the Food Industry Advisory Council in Tasmania and has worked in the cheese industry in the UK and Australia for more than 20 years, including a decade as Managing Director of Ashgrove Cheese, a family owned business in Tasmania.

In 2010 Jane was the Tasmanian Telstra Business Woman of the Year and in 2011 won the Australian Institute of Company Directors Gold Medal (Tasmanian Division). In 1997 Jane was named the ABC Radio Australian Rural Woman of the Year.

She was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship in 2008 to study the role of regionality in the marketing and branding of food, which involved four months of travel and research across North America, Asia and Europe.

## TERRY O'BRIEN

Terry O'Brien is Chairman of the Australian Food and Grocery Council and has represented the food industry on the Federal Government's Food Processors Industry Steering Group, the National Food Policy Working Group and the National Food Industry Strategy Group.



Terry has been Managing Director of Simplot Australia since 2001 and is a member of the global senior leadership team of its parent company, the US-based multinational food and agribusiness, the JR Simplot Company.

Prior to his appointment as MD of Simplot Australia, Terry was the company's Deputy Managing Director

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and Chief Financial Officer. He is a qualified accountant with a post graduate qualification in banking and finance and is a Fellow of both CPA Australia and the Institute of Company Directors.

Before joining Simplot he had two years with the Pacific Dunlop Food Division, nine years of financial and managerial experience with Cadbury Schweppes and nine years experience in the textile industry.

### GEOFF STARR

Geoff Starr has extensive business experience in the household, food, chemical, agribusiness and services industries, including six years as Chief Executive of George Weston Foods Limited (Associated British Foods Limited). He brings a wealth of international market experience, as CEO for Mars Inc. companies in Japan, Asia and Europe.



Since 2006 he has been a Director of Foodbank Australia as well as Chairman of the Fundraising Committee and a member of the Audit Committee. Foodbank Australia is the largest food relief organisation in Australia employing over 200 people and engaging more than 2000 volunteers, and since 2013, a director of Australian Pork Limited, a producer-owned organisation that represents the pork industry.

Geoff was appointed in 2013 by the Federal Government to the position of Food and Beverage Supply Advocate to the Department of Industry.

He is a former Chairman of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, representing the \$108 billion non-retail food and grocery industry that employs 300,000 people. Geoff has also held the roles of Director and Chair of the Council's Health, Nutrition and Regulatory Affairs Committee.

### ASHLEY ARNOTT

Ashley Arnott is FIAL's current Company Secretary, having previously served on the FIAL Board as Director from June 2014 until June 2015. He is a highly experienced and successful business adviser, specialising in financial reporting and control, strategic management and business systems planning.

Ashley is a partner of the Melbourne-based consultancy business CFO On Call and has a diverse industry background in the biotechnology, life sciences, environment, water, renewable energy and engineering sectors.



Ashley has been involved in provision of business consulting and advisory services since 2003 and now works with businesses of all sizes to improve their cash flow, lift profits, accelerate growth and undertake exit and succession planning.

Ashley's past experience includes roles as chief financial officer and company secretary for the Australian Stock Exchange-listed environmental services and technology company The Environmental Group Ltd, biotechnology company Cytopia Ltd and renewable energy company Solco Ltd.

Prior to these appointments, he was the tax and treasury manager, and trading division's financial controller for Robert Bosch Australia P/L and management accountant for manufacturer CSR Building Materials.

He is a qualified accountant and holds a graduate diploma from the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## INDUSTRY AWARDS

### PETER SCHUTZ RECEIVES THE 2015 AIFST KEITH FARRER AWARD OF MERIT



Peter has been a Fellow of the Institute and was the recipient of its Food Innovation Award in 2003, and has staunchly supported the AIFST and its objectives over many years.

With a committed passion to equity in opportunity and in developing and nurturing people to achieve their maximum potential, he has been a keen advocate for the development of food science & technology within Australia.

He served as Chairman of the AIFST's Publications and Editorial Committee between September 2011 and September 2013.

With a career in the Australian food industry spanning some 43 years, he is a highly regarded food industry advisor, innovator, chairman and director.

Listen to Peter's [acceptance speech](#).

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## ENTERPRISE SOLUTION CENTRE



The Enterprise Solution Centre (ESC) program, previously known as the SME Solution Centre, continues to be well supported, with 12 submissions received in the latest round, which closed in July. Three companies were successful in securing funding for projects, which will be completed by December 31st 2015. The projects cover cheese heating scale up, tropical juice flavour extraction and stabilizing, and product reformulation to remove allergens.

The ESC has been supported by CSIRO who have contributed funding to the program for the 2015-16 financial year. We are currently in discussions with other partners to add their financial support to the program and enable a greater number of companies to benefit from collaborative research that gives an opportunity to reach expanded markets.

## TAKING VITAL TO THE WORLD

**Welcome to VITAL® Online**

VITAL Online is an improved and user-friendly, web-based update of the Allergen Bureau VITAL® Calculator. VITAL Online is for the Australian and New Zealand and international food industry.

**VITAL Online allows you to:**

- assess likely sources of allergen cross-contact from raw materials and the processing environment
- evaluate the amount of allergen present
- review the ability to reduce allergenic material from all contributing sources
- use a particular precautionary allergen statement according to the level of allergen cross-contact identified

**REGISTER AN ACCOUNT** **FREE 1 MONTH TRIAL**

**VITAL®**  
an initiative of the Allergen Bureau

Support for the development of VITAL® Online has been provided by Food Innovation Australia Ltd (FIAL) through the SME Solution Centre program.

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VITAL® Online, (Voluntary Incidental Trace Allergen Labelling) program is a standardised allergen risk assessment process for the food industry. The VITAL project was supported through the SME Solution Centre and FIAL is pleased to say that the Allergen Bureau's user-friendly, web-based update of the VITAL Calculator was launched on July 12th at the 48th AIFST Convention. [Find out more...](#)

## INDUSTRY EVENTS

### SHOWCASING AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTS AT GULFOOD AND FOOD & HOTEL ASIA SINGAPORE '16



In collaboration with Austrade and State Government Agencies and following on from the success of the FIAL stand at HOFEX Hong Kong in April this year, FIAL will be showcasing over 50 Australian brands to Middle Eastern and Asian buyers at both Gulfood '16 and Food & Hotel Asia Singapore '16. To be considered for this exciting opportunity, **only suppliers that are profiled on the FIAL eCatalogue as at 9th October will be considered.** Registering your profile is free – please go to: [www.fial.com.au/ecatalogue](http://www.fial.com.au/ecatalogue).

The FIAL eCatalogue is continuously being reviewed by over 400 international buyers and is the sourcing tool used by senior buyers that participate on FIAL Inbound Missions. More information about these events will be shared in our next bulletin. Please email any queries in the interim to [Mr Najib Lawand](mailto:Mr.Najib.Lawand@fial.com.au), GM Market Development.

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

**AG in the Asian Century CONFERENCE 2015**

**National Export and Innovation Conference**  
22-24 September 2015, Toowoomba, QLD

The Ag in the Asian Century National Export and Innovation Conference is returning in 2015 due to the overwhelming success of last year's event. Don't miss the opportunity to build on what you learnt at the 2014 event, and hear from world class speakers delivering practical advice and the latest information to make your business endeavours in the Asian Century a reality.

**It was an honour to be involved in such a professional, insightful and forward thinking conference. The session, the speakers, the views, the industry have never all fit so well.**  
— Catherine McKeown, Group Export Manager, Sustainable Health Food Company

The **Ag in the Asian Century National Export and Innovation Conference** is returning to Toowoomba on 22-24 September. Find out more about this agriculture and export event click [here](#).

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## PROTECTING THE CONSUMER



Forthcoming **AFCG/AIFST seminar** addressing who carries responsibility for consumer harm in the event of a product failure – food or grocery.

Click [here](#) to find out more.