

Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program

The Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program, supported by NAB Agribusiness, is an intensive five-day workshop conducted on the college campus at Geelong. The program, which commenced in 1992, is recognised as one of the longest running rural leadership programs in the nation. It has developed a strong reputation in the agricultural and agribusiness sector, attracting support from a wide range of industry and rural community groups from diverse regional backgrounds.

The Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program allows participants to develop leadership, communication and planning skills. Through personal involvement and group participation participants will gain an understanding of their strengths and development needs, as well as having the opportunity to network with keynote speakers from a range of rural and community organisations from across Australia.

The industries represented include livestock grazing for meat and fibre, broad acre summer and winter cropping, dairy production, poppy production, cotton production, horticulture, apiary and a range of agribusiness support businesses.

With an average of approximately 35 participants per course, there are in excess of 860 graduates from the program across Australia. A number of these graduates are now representing their industries or rural communities at the decision-making level in the boardrooms of both community and industry groups.

The program will develop the skills and knowledge of participants to enable them to:

- undertake a leadership role in their industry or community
- competently represent their industry or community in decision-making forums
- understand and address the issues facing rural industries and rural communities

You can expect to gain:

- an appreciation of the demands of leadership within the current rural environment
- awareness of the five major practices of successful leaders
- an understanding of your own strengths and development needs, and how these interact
- communication strategies
- decision-making skills

You can expect to understand:

- what are the leadership behaviours and actions that make a difference
- strategy development and implementation
- confidence to implement knowledge into your specific work and community context

You can expect to experience:

- time to reflect on the events of your personal and work life up until now
- networking opportunities with agri-related industry and community leaders who face a range of similar leadership challenges in their work, family and community lives
- hands on experiential learning environment

Who should attend?

The program is open to leaders and emerging leaders from across rural Australia. Applicants are accepted based on their:

Melons Australia
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- potential to contribute as a leader in their community and industry
- self-confidence and personal effectiveness
- demonstrated desire to develop their leadership skills, self-confidence and personal effectiveness
- capacity to contribute to our diverse national industry, sector and role

There are no maximum age or experience criteria, however, it is preferable participants should be at least 21 years of age.

More information: <https://marcusoldham.vic.edu.au/courses-enrolment/leadership>

Funding Available: For information on how to register or create a nomination, contact Joanna Embry at Melons Australia. For levy paying growers the cost is largely supported by the Melon levy aside from a small nominal fee of \$400 total to pay plus transport and accommodation costs. If you are a non levy paying member of the industry, as long as you have support from industry the cost will be 50% of the advertised price plus transport and accommodation costs.