



EPARF

Eyre Peninsula
Agricultural Research Foundation Inc.

Developing Young Leaders - Gareth Scholz

Case Study *May 2015*

BACKGROUND

The Developing Future Leaders for Farming Communities on the Eyre Peninsula project aimed to provide young farmers from across upper Eyre Peninsula, South Australia with the confidence and skills to take on leadership roles in their local communities. The project engaged 16 young farmers, chosen from 8 farming groups, in activities to increase the effectiveness of leadership in landcare and agricultural practices, learn what is valued in communities, gain leadership skills, working in a team, and how groups work and can be inspired to see the value of committing to the future.

Why did you get involved in the project?

I was invited through EPARF as part of a local farming group. I considered the potential of learning about leadership and applying direction within my farming business and to also gain learning opportunities from beyond my farming business. I also hoped to gain confidence in public speaking.

What was your involvement in the project?

Attending workshops, organising and running the local Spring sticky beak day and hosting the Minnipa Agricultural Centre farmer update.

FAST FACTS

Gareth Scholz is a 28 year old fourth generation farmer involved in a 2,700 hectare mixed farming property near Minnipa, Eyre Peninsula, South Australia.



Gareth Scholz (left) with Wes Daniell, participants in the Developing Future Leaders program.

What changes have you made as a result of the project?

- Have introduced succession planning and running family meetings.
- Strategic planning towards the future.
- Gained confidence of direction and participation as a leader in the community.

What were the benefits to the farm business?

Participating in the workshops reinforced ideas already in place. I feel I now have a good path for the future to reset business direction on a good foundation.

Information sharing and networking ideas across the region is an ongoing benefit to my business. I gained understanding of the importance of involving others to allow success into the future.

Where to from here? How will you maintain these benefits?

Continue to improve the life and future of the local agricultural bureau of which I am President.

Continue involvement with a newly formed group from this project called the Eyre Peninsula Young Farmers.

What are other benefits or challenges?

Keeping people interested in meeting together in a small community.

Having crop walks and sticky beak days and keeping them interesting.

Succession includes turning over the leadership (say every 2 years) and can be a positive approach for the success of the group. Not allowing it to get 'stale' and continue to involve others at the leadership level.

Further information

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Workshop in action