



Australian Government
Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Report

Future Cotton Leader Travel Bursary

2009 - 2010

Cotton Australia and The Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) has made available up to \$1000 for travel to support your Future Cotton Leader project. The guidelines stipulate that once approved, you can the make your own arrangements for travel. **Within one week of your travel** please send a Tax Invoice with copies of your expenses in line with the amount approved to Jo Eady, PO Box 257, Foster. Victoria. 3960 Telephone: (03) 5682 2811. Up to \$1000 will then be reimbursed. Also include a one page report of your travel including benefits to you, enterprise, industry and whether you would recommend this activity / event to others. Use this report format. Please email a copy of your report to jo@ruralscope.com for feedback prior to final version being submitted. Final reports will then be forwarded by Jo to Cotton Australia and CRDC.

PART A: PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:	Susan Maas
Phone:	07 49837403
Email:	susan.maas@deedi.qld.gov.au

PART B: YOUR TRAVEL

1. Provide a short overview of what your bursary achieved. (Include name / aims of travel / course. Names of leaders / enterprises visited. Location of travel etc)

The aim of this study tour was to

- Learn from adoption process in a different industry and
- Learn from leaders in extension

Cathy Phelps, Dairy Australia (Melbourne) Natural Resource Management Program Manager,

Gave an overview of Dairy Australia Extension programs, in particular DairySAT and the NRM programs she is involved in.

Discussed adoption, including successes and challenges.

Outlined her personal leadership journey

Shared some ideas for personal development.

Julie Williams and Benita Kelsall, Vic DPI (Ellinbank), Dairy Extension,

Described extension programs they are involved in, including barriers to adoption innovative extension methods and successes.

Discussed their leadership journey,

Jo Eady (Foster), Mentor/course facilitator

Personal leadership development – tools

Career planning – developing goals, managing work life balance to prevent burnout.

Invoices attached for:	Amount
Flight (em to bris return)	419.71
Flight (Melb to Bris)	162.7
Flight (Bris to Melb)	22.17
accommodation (2 nights)	205.95
Car Hire	88.49
Fuel	50.31
Parking	5
Transfers -airport to accom	16
Transfers -accom to airport	16
	\$986.33

PART C: KEY LEARNINGS

2a. What are two or three key things that you learned through your travel bursary?

Tips for improved adoption:

Get farmers to identify needs

Identify the hook

Building adult learning capacity in grower groups.

Leadership:

Leadership through empowerment

Tips on personal development – active listening, diary techniques for self improvement.

2b. Is there anything you would improve to gain more from this course / activity / bursary?

In hindsight I would have liked to have taken the time to meet with at least one farmer so that I could get their perspective.

PART D: BENEFITS

3. What benefits have you achieved from your travel bursary?

For you	I have a number of tools to better develop my leadership skills, and have a better understanding of the type of leader I want to be.
For your project, enterprise or job	I have identified a couple of extension ideas currently being undertaken by the dairy industry that I intend to trial as part of my project.
For the cotton industry	The industry will benefit from improved leadership in extension.

PART E: RECOMMENDATION

4. Would you recommend this travel / course / experience to others? Why / Why not?

I think this was an excellent opportunity to expand my horizons and learn from others and I would recommend it to others in extension. By stepping outside of my comfort area I was able to look at how another industry approaches extension. As a result I have been able to

look at our own activities and really evaluate why we do things and possibly look to improve some activities. By establishing contacts within other industries I hope to continue to benefit from our shared experience in extension. From a personal perspective, I have identified a number of activities I can do to improve my extension/leadership skills.