



Report

Future Cotton Leader Travel Bursary

June – September 2007

The Cotton Research and Development Corporation 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 Helen Dugdale, CRDC, PO Box 282, Narrabri NSW 2390 Telephone: (02) 6792 4088. 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 sending to Helen at CRDC.

PART A: PERSONAL DETAILS

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PART B: YOUR TRAVEL

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

My travel bursary enabled me to meet up with many leaders within the cotton industry. I travel from Dalby to Narrabri and Wee Waa. Leaders that I met include Richard Wright, Mike Logan, Bernie George, Mike Carberry, Kate Schwager, Andrew Greste and Greg Kauter.

The aims of travel included:

- Gain ideas and opinions of how the Downs Young Farmers idea can be made more sustainable, relevant and successful.
- Develop a better understanding of issues facing the cotton industry currently and into the future.
- Gain ideas of how to make my local growers associations better and allow for it to move forward.

- Better understand why young people do/do not participate within the cotton industry and how we can address these issues.

PART C: KEY LEARNINGS

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

I was amazed that in general all of the leaders that I meet had a general consensus about what issues the industry is facing.

- Remain Positive – should promote the benefits of the drought not just focus on the negatives.
- Allow members of your organization to take ownership of the group – don't go to them with the solution of the problem.
- Develop a common purpose vision/mission within your group – drive this from the top.
- On a personal level try to associate with successful people, as they will inspire and encourage you to achieve your goals.

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

PART D: BENEFITS

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

For you	The trip reinforced the importance of associating with successful people and the positive benefits that this can have. This will benefit me as it further encourages myself to participate within industry groups as I know that I will meet many industry leaders within these positions. I hope to be able to learn from these people and take what I learn forward for the future.
For your project, enterprise or job	The trip has changed how I deal with groups, especially when we have a problem as I now understand the importance of creating a sense of ownership within a group. Do not go to them with the solution, but go to them with a problem and as a group solve it. This in turn, will allow for a sense of purpose and ownership to develop within the group, which is a very important credential to have for the long term sustainability of a group. This is an important benefit as what I have learnt from this trip can be put into practice daily and will be.
For the cotton industry	As an industry we should aim to remain positive and promote the benefits that the drought has had on water use efficiency and general

farming practices.

PART E: RECOMMENDATION

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

I would recommend the travel bursary concept to others as it allowed for me to reinforce and develop my views on the industry which is important for my future within the industry. I now have many more contacts within the industry that I probably never met without the bursary and feel that I would be able to use these relationships in the future if I ever have a problem.