



Australian Government
**Cotton Research and
Development Corporation**

TRAVEL & CONFERENCE REPORT

Part 1 - Summary Details

Please use your TAB key to complete Parts 1 & 2.

CRDC Project Number: CGA1307

Project Title: Attend APEN Conference

Project Commencement Date: 26/08/2013 **Project Completion Date:** 28/08/2013

Select Research Program (from CRDC Strategic R&D Plan 2008-2013):
- Please Select One -

Part 2 – Contact Details

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Ph: **Fax:** **E-mail:**

Signature of Research Provider Representative: _____

Part 3 – Travel Report

(Maximum two pages)

1. A brief description of the purpose of the travel.

Travel to and attend the Australasia Pacific Extension Network Conference in Christchurch New Zealand to co-present with Liz Alexander.

2. What were the:

a) major findings and outcomes

We were very well received at the conference, being farmers at an extension conference, the organisers and speakers were keen to know if we found it all relevant. Also, though the conference had little to do specifically with the cotton industry, it did highlight that mental health issues are the same from drought stricken farmers in Victoria, to flood affected farmers in Queensland to earthquake affected farmers in Canterbury. The strain of unchosen change (the theme of the conference) is felt not only by the farmers, but also by their staff and the extension officers who support them.

b) other highlights

Gaining insights into other industries, apart from our own, as diverse as West Australian wheat farming, Victorian dairy farming to New Zealand beef and sheep farming and Kiwi fruit growing, and horticulture, and that recovery strategies are similar in all situations (ie pathways to funding and help). There was a broad spectrum of issues covered, from the practical 'hands on' farming issues, to the unseen 'mental health' issues.

3. Detail the persons and institutions visited, giving full title, position details, location, duration of visit and purpose of visit to these people/places. (NB:- Please provide full names of institutions, not just acronyms.)

Lincoln University Ellesmere Junction Road, Lincoln, Christchurch 2.5 days.
For APEN conference.

A 4 hour bus tour visiting a developing Canterbury dairy farm, and the Selwyn Waihora Zone Lake, which is a natural forming lake catchment, which supplies much of the water for the Canterbury farming industries.

Conference dinner held at the Melton Estate Winery.

4. a) Are there any potential areas worth following up as a result of the travel?

We made a number of contacts during the conference in varied areas. The General Manager of Balance (a nutrients company) a North Island sheep farmer and extensionist, a researcher (who also presented at the conference) and many others, whom we would like to keep in contact with for information and knowledge sharing.

b) Any relevance or possible impact on the Australian Cotton Industry?

There was a particularly interesting and practical keynote speaker, who presented information about how to choose the right staff for your business, and how to maximize productivity from staff. This is a particularly relevant issue, not only for the cotton industry but most small business.

It appears that there is a lot of really good research getting done, but it results and suggestions not taken up by farmers, perhaps because of a bit of communication breakdown between researchers and farmers. Though we don't see this as the case with the cotton industry at present, keeping the lines of communication between researchers/extensionists/farmers, should be a priority.

5. How do you intend to share the knowledge you have gained with other people in the cotton industry?

With liaison through the local DVCGA, meetings and social gatherings. Also if our extension officer Liz Alexander should want assistance from us in the future we will be happy to help out, and share what we have learned.

6. Please list expenditure incurred. (*Double click inside the table to enter the data*)

Please email at least 30 days after travel/conference to: research@crdc.com.au