

GREG BRAGG

Territory Manager Terranova Seeds - South Australia. Vegetable seed Merchant.

My home town is Sydney, and I did all of my junior schooling in NSW and some in the ACT. We then moved to Sth Aust where I completed my senior schooling years. I am firmly a crow eater these days and why wouldn't you be? With the best wine and food in Australia!

I joined Yates vegetable seeds in July 1986, in Oct 2003 SPS purchased YVS and Terranova was formed. In this time haven't I seen some changes in the industry. Even though I deal with all vegetable crops my passion lays strongly in the onion industry, it is getting scary for myself as I am now starting to deal with 3rd generation onion growers, the only advice I can give every one I will not be dealing with 4th generation onion growers! But it is great too see the equal passion from the younger growers moving up through their family farms, and bringing with them more technology and applying it to farming.



JASON DANIELL

Burdett Harvest Pty Ltd - Burdett, South Australia

I have been growing onions since 1995. Originally we were located on 40Ha of land in Mypolonga. In 2005 we moved to our current location in Burdett where we have 900Ha. As well as onion production we also grow around 90Ha of Certified Seed Potatoes. We are growing around 60Ha per year of onions of which the majority are reds. I am nominating for the executive as I feel it is important for there to be a number of growers on the executive from across Australia. I have been growing onions for over twenty years so I feel I can give some insight to the executive from a South Australian growers point of view.



TIM GROOM

Managing Director, Wynyon Pty Ltd - Penguin, Tasmania

I grew up in Hobart and studied Agricultural Science at the University of Tasmania, graduating in 1980. I first worked with Roberts Ltd as a sales agronomist, then spent 12 months at Hawkesbury Agricultural College undertaking a Graduate Diploma specialising in vegetable nutrition. I returned to Roberts on the NW Coast of Tasmania, then set up my own agricultural consulting business in 1986. I teamed up with Julian Shaw in 1988 and provided agronomy services to Vecon Pty Ltd, at the time the largest onion packer in the southern hemisphere. I rejoined Roberts in 1990 when they purchased an onion packing operation at Wynyard as Production Manager, then became General Manager and was involved in onion export sales/marketing. Roberts Vegetables merged into Field Fresh Tasmania in 1997, where I became the General Manager. I left Field Fresh in 1999 to join pyrethrum producer Botanical Resources Australia in a research capacity and then became Agricultural Manager. I also set up an onion business, Wynyon Pty Ltd in shares with several onion growers. I finished in 2017 with Botanical Resources and now concentrate solely on onions. We have a joint venture with Charlton Farm Produce, another Tasmanian based onion grower and packer.



BLAIR CAMPBELL

Sales representative at Magnus Kahl Seeds - Melbourne, Victoria.

Growing up on a livestock property in Northern NSW and working in a range of different sectors of the agricultural industry has sparked a passion for agriculture. He is a recent Agribusiness graduate from the University of Queensland which saw much of his degree focused on the horticultural surroundings of the Lockyer valley which helped in fuelling his interest in horticulture.

Outside of work he is an avid sports fan watching just about anything that involves a ball and when he is not watching sport he is planning his next overseas adventure. He is currently very fresh to the onion industry and looking to grow his knowledge and experience in this field by getting involved in as many ways as possible.



MARK DOBSON

General Manager - Dobmac Ag. Machinery - Ulverstone, Tasmania

Born and raised on the North-West Coast of Tasmania, I worked interstate in IT Services for 5 years before returning home to work as a field service technician at Dobmac in 2003. I moved into Sales and After Sales Service and in 2012 took over as General Manager. Our second generation family owned and operated business has a strong focus on the onion industry. We have a long, proven history of importing the latest technology and automation to Australian onion growers and packers. Working with manufacturers from the USA, UK and Europe creating integrated and specialised solutions across Australia. Being a member of Onions Australia over the past 15+ years has provided many opportunities to network closely with Australian Onion Growers. Through OA, I continually gain a better appreciation of growers' needs on a hands-on practical level. I am very passionate about working with growers/packers to deliver unique solutions to enhance their operation, continually striving to make the industry more efficient, profitable and resilient.



LEWIS LYDON

Crop Breeding Manager (Onions), Enza Zaden (Australia) (aka "Seed Breeder") - Narromine, NSW

I grew up in Brisbane, Queensland. I studied Ag Science at the University of Queensland. My first job out of Uni was Assistant Plant Breeder with Yates Seeds at Narromine, NSW in January 1989. Breeding Onion, Cabbage, Carrot, Parsnip, Tomato, Zucchini for Yates, (Onions only from 1997). In October 2003 the Commercial Vegetable Seeds division of Yates was sold to Enza Zaden, and I have worked for them in basically the same area (Onion Breeding), with slightly evolving role ever since. Currently responsible for the International Onion breeding program for Enza (Australia, NZ, USA and Europe Primary breeding sites, breeding for all major International Onion Seed markets). I retain a strong passion and loyalty to the Australian domestic Onion industry, hence my interest and involvement with Onions Australia, my personal mission being to help wherever, whenever and however possible to make the industry more profitable for all participants, from the grower to the consumer.



DEAN METCALF

Metcalf Biocontrol, Tasmania

I have been involved in the onion industry for 25 years and I have a garlic seed production business that has many parallels to onions.

Because I am both a grower and a scientist working on onion diseases I think I have been able to bring some useful extra skills to the executive. I have worked in the biosecurity system in Tasmania and I have often been able to help OA negotiate some of the hurdles with Quarantine issues that are not as well known to growers. I think there is more work to do to ensure that onions imported into Australia are from legitimate sources that don't pose a threat to introduce new diseases. I have served 14 years on the OA executive including three years as Vice President and I would be pleased to help OA further.



PETER SHADBOLT

Onion grower, Northern Victoria.

Growing up on the family farm has given me a passion for farming especially growing Onions. We also grow broccoli, beetroot and pumpkins.

I have been involved with OA since as far as I can remember and been a member of the Executive for around 10 years. Currently coming into the end of my second year as chairman and only just starting to understand the role and all that it requires.

I want to see the Onion Association stay relevant and up to date with all the happenings in the Australian and Global Onion World. Working alongside other peak bodies to leverage resources is something I want to do more of to maximise our levy money for our industry.

I am married to Tracy, have 3 adult children, and a coupla dogs. Hobbies include dirt bikes, snow/water skiing and hanging out with Trace.



ALAN THIERRY

Founder and director, Just Onions Pty Ltd - Geelong, Victoria

From a background in wholesale fruit and vegetables, and a stint in retail, I have a firm grounding in marketing and consumer trade.

Just Onions is a packer/wholesaler business based in Victoria, servicing central markets clients in all States of Australia. It commenced trading in 1985 and was officially named in 1990.

Just Onions sources onions from all major growing regions in Australia. It seeks to develop mutually beneficial relationships with all the players in the supply chain, from paddock to plate.

As a long-time player in the onion industry, I have developed a keen passion to identify trends, utilising the newest technologies to bring about positive outcomes for consumers, thus bringing rewards for all in the industry.

I'm not a grower but seek to bring marketing experience to the OA Executive.

I firmly believe that expansion of the onion industry must be consumer driven.



DARREN RATHJEN

Delta Produce, Grower/Packer - Farm Manager Murraylands & Upper southeast

Over 25 years growing onions on the family farm along side my father Steve and brother Brendan. Onion production is the main focus with potatoes, cereals and beef cattle playing a role in the farming operations.

I have a strong passion for the onion industry and Onions Australia.

My goals would be to keep the industry updated with information about new projects, chemicals. Also to make the industry more profitable for all involved.



ROHAN SHADBOLT

Mallee Primary Produce Farmer - Beverford (near Swan Hill - North Victoria)

I grew up in Beverford on my parents family farm with my two brothers and sister.

I left Australia in 1994 to travel. I did not return for 10 years.

I am married to Sophie and have 3 kids - Harry, Liam and Tillie.

We bought our current farm in 2003 of about 40 acres of which half was planted to citrus. I have since cleared all the citrus and have expanded the farm to around 100 acres.

I grow onions, pumpkins, cabbages and potatoes.



DARREN WOOD

ANZ Seminis Sales Manager, Monsanto Vegetable Seeds Australia - Melbourne / on a plane

After leaving the home farm in Kalbar QLD, I studied a Bachelor of Electronic Commerce majoring in Accounting at UQ. After University, I moved to Toowoomba and spent close to 10 years working in the meat industry with different companies in the feedlot, abattoir and stockfeed manufacturing sectors.

After a short stint in the manufacturing and heavy haulage industry my passion for agriculture led me back to a position at Withcott Seedlings where I spent 5 years as the CFO for Withcott Group. Through innovation and cost efficiencies our management team was able to return Withcott Seedlings to profit by providing quality seedlings to growers across Australia.

In 2014, I joined Monsanto Vegetable Seeds as the sales manager for all Seminis crops including onions across Australia and New Zealand. Through this position I have enjoyed gaining a deeper understanding of the onion industry both in Australia and in NZ. Seminis has a strong breeding program in Onions and my position allows me great flexibility and time to engage, educate and discuss onion related issues with growers. I am fortunate to have regular contact with our onion breeders where I gather insights about our pipeline and global market conditions.

