



## **Agricultural Education Symposium: Growing the Future**

**June 21-22, 2018 Waite Campus**

The inaugural Ag Ed Symposium was hosted by the University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, bringing together the community of academics that contribute to the teaching of agricultural science and related disciplines at Australian tertiary and VET institutions. I had the pleasure of convening the organising committee which also included colleagues from University of Tasmania, University of Queensland, Charles Sturt University, Curtin University, Central Queensland University and University of New England. Our goal was to encourage the scholarship of learning and teaching for agricultural science educators. The symposium had 87 delegates from 20 different organisations from across Australia and New Zealand with the key themes for the Symposium including developing curriculum for precision agriculture (and big data management on farm), and the development of research, quantitative and work place skills in graduates. This Special Issue of *IJISME* on Agricultural Education highlights key work presented at the Symposium and demonstrates the breadth of topics and scholarship of learning and teaching in the field. In particular, it highlights the interdisciplinary nature of agriculture which often relies on science to inform economic and business decisions. Indeed, graduates from agriculture (and related) degrees have multiple career pathways available to them. The opportunity to encourage more students into agriculture by building secondary school teacher capacity was also discussed. This issue provides specific examples and evaluation of the employability of graduates, the engaging of tertiary academics in curriculum mapping of quantitative skills, the role of mentors in developing research skills, technical skill development (specifically in a language-dependent field such as wine assessment), secondary school teacher capacity-building programs, and, the design and delivery of courses.

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