

2020 National Seafood Industry Leadership Program – Cairns Graduate Profiles

Graduates

Amie Steele



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

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I joined the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in 2007 as an administration assistant. From there I moved to the rock lobster team, helping to implement the quota management system, then into pearling support.

In recent years I have taken on more fisheries management roles, including a number of small, hand collection fisheries as well as progressing the Department's Developing New Fisheries program (including providing trials for two new resources). I have recently begun managing the North Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource and have been enjoying the change and variety of work that comes with this new role. I appreciate the diversity of my role and the seafood industry, and hope to be further empowered to effect positive change within both, with a particular focus on supporting innovation.

Amrik Singh Aulakh



Amrik Singh Aulakh
Skipper / Engineer
Dinko Tuna Farmers Pty Ltd
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This is Amrik Singh Aulakh working for Dinko Tuna Farmers Pty Ltd at Port Lincoln South Australia as Skipper/Engineer. Through the seafood leadership program I would like to achieve more confidence in public speaking and networking as seafood industry is growing tremendously. We need innovative ideas to fulfill the demands of the market so my goal is to try to find a better and efficient way of fishing, processing and value adding products need to be looked to reduce wastage of end product!!

Anita Lee



Senior Commercial Manager, Oceania
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I work for the Marine Stewardship Council as the Senior Commercial Manager for the Oceania Region, working with all stakeholders including fisheries to processors, distributors, proprietary brands, retailers and end users in.

Am looking forward to learning and connecting with others in the NSILP program in order to make a bigger impact in the seafood industry to ensure that we have fish for the future.

Ben Stobart



Senior Research Scientist (Molluscan Fisheries)
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I am a senior research scientist for SARDI and regional manager for the Port Lincoln Marine Science Centre. Amongst others, I am responsible for the annual stock assessment for the Western Zone abalone fishery used to set commercial catch limits.

I am participating in NSLIP to hopefully improve my confidence and ability to communicate effectively with marine industry stakeholders, gain new insights into the fishing industry from a non-science perspective and better understand what industry needs to progress. I want to contribute to making abalone fishing sustainable and to promote science as something industry can embrace and work with.

Brandon Panebianco



Senior Hatchery Technician
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I work in the aquaculture sector at Ornatas, where we are operating a world first commercial Tropical Rock Lobster hatchery. As Senior Hatchery Technician I manage a small team of technicians who nurture our larvae through this delicate stage of their development.

I'm participating to further develop my leadership skills enabling me to assist the development of staff in our company, helping to further their careers. I hope to make strong connections through the program and learn from other peoples experience. Help to create a pathway for people entering the seafood industry and generate further interest around the sectors by connecting industry with the wider community.

Cindy Manu



Night Shift Data Entry Operator
Sydney Fish Market Pty Ltd
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My name is Cindy Manu and i'm 38 years old. I was born in Tonga but i've lived in Australia now for just over 23 years. I'm a Night Shift Data Entry operator for Sydney Fish Market on our Auction Floor and I've worked for SFM for 4 years. I love my job and the people I work with and i've never felt more at home at a job until I started working for Sydney Fish Market.



I want to know and learn more about this Industry. I want to understand how and why things are the way they are and how we can make it better in the future for everyone. I want to make a positive impact not only at my work but within the Seafood Industry. I want to promote the Seafood Industry to Everyone and make them understand and appreciate our value and our amazing contribution to the world.

James Thomas



Owner / Founder – South Coast Seaweed
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My name is James Thomas I am from the Yuin nation on the south coast NSW, I am the owner and co-founder of South Coast Seaweed an indigenous business initiative created to reconnect indigenous people with traditional aquaculture practices. Collecting and Harvesting Seaweed

I am participating in the NSILP to learn more about the industry and running a successful business within the seafood industry and my community, I think this program will help me gain more knowledge to do that.

Create sustainable jobs for our future and reconnect indigenous people with traditional aquaculture practices - To be the first indigenous aquaculture initiative that forages and harvest sea kelp to create modern resources.

Lewis Christensen



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I am at fisheries research scientist at Northern Territory Fisheries and carry out fish age stock structure assessments, artificial reef monitoring, fish tagging and a range of other research and fieldwork activities. I am in the NSILP to develop myself as a person along with peers and to connect with a diverse range of industry members

Ultimately, I want to help bring research and the fishing community together with a better understanding that can work towards sustaining our fish stocks, at the same time as maximising economic development.

Luke Dutney



Senior Extension Officer
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I have been working in the aquaculture industry for more than 20 years. I have spent significant time working for both commercial operations and research organisations. My specialty areas are developing emerging species, hatchery operations and education/training.

I am looking forward to engaging with and learning from the wider seafood industry. I would like to understand more about the requirements and challenges they face and how they have overcome some of them. I would like to use this newfound knowledge and contacts to assist my clients to help expand and commercialise some of the emerging species that I work with and the broader aquaculture industry.



Rhett Barz



Supermarkets Customer Service Officer
A Raptis & Sons Pty Ltd
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Have been working for Raptis for 11 years, having first started in customer facing retail and progressing through to warehousing, supermarket support and into a management position encompassing the former two roles.

Primary role within the business begins with stock management of chilled and frozen goods and flows through the logistics chain for primarily supermarket requirements.

NSILP feels like the logical next step to progress my current job into a career in the industry. Would like to play a key role in establishing new and inventive products and processes within the seafood industry, ensuring it maintains its reputation as a premium industry within Australia and worldwide.

Sam Bock



Research and Development Officer
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Recreational fishing is an important part of my life, and motivated me to pursue a career in the fishing and seafood industry. As a Research and Development Officer at Recfishwest, WA's peak body for recreational fishing, I largely work on artificial reef projects which benefit the recreational fishing sector.

I look forward to participating in NSILP and see this as an amazing opportunity to develop my leadership skills, share my perspective, and form a strong personal and professional network in the industry. I hope to use my learnings to improve and maintain safe, accessible, and exciting fishing experiences throughout Australia.

Siobhan Threlfall



Project Officer
Oceanwatch Australia
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Siobhan Threlfall works as a project and communications officer at OceanWatch Australia, and has experience working on initiatives surrounding urchin management, industry best practice, estuary clean-ups, and litter prevention.

She is taking part in the NSILP program to further develop the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure her work in the seafood industry has a positive and lasting impact.

Siobhan wants to ensure the seafood industry is highly valued in the community by showcasing the commitment to best practice, and the maintenance of healthy, productive fisheries habitats within the seafood industry

Thomas Hatley



Australian Government

**Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority**

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I've been passionate about fishing and the environment from a young age. As Manager – Sustainable Fishing at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, I work with Australian and State government management partners, commercial and recreational fishers, scientists and environmental organisations to promote ecological sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. By participating in the National Seafood Industry Leadership Program I hope to connect with and learn from passionate seafood / fishing industry future leaders from across Australia.

My objective is to help demonstrate that fishing activities can be and are ecologically sustainable, and ensure future fisheries sustainability.

Wil Conn



Technical Account Manager – Prawn
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A Northern Irish Aussie, with 24 years' experience in the aquaculture sector and supply chain, within Australia and abroad. Currently, I work for Ridley Aquafeed, with a responsibility for tropical species, specifically feed supply and account management.

Goals linked to the NSILP are (i) personal and professional growth (ii) strengthening my networks, and (iii) to better understand how each sector of our industry interacts / combines to deliver the 'Seafood Industry'. Post NSILP I hope to be able to identify opportunity to support the growth of the industry through committee or working group participation or similar.