

Testimonials from four attendees on the 2010 course

Testimonial – Andy Rumming

I found the CRL course immensely helpful, interesting and thought provoking. Learning flexible thinking skills, thinking seriously about what leadership is, and getting the chance to listen to and then get under the skin of well known respected leaders was a mind expanding experience. It provided some instant tips, techniques and ideas, but more importantly it provided a wealth of leads to follow up, links to build and friendships. I know these will provide significant benefits to me in my business and personal life for many years to come.

Rather than just being immersed for two solid weeks exploring the many faceted world of rural leadership, I think of the course as a new launch pad which has greatly assisted me into seeking out new opportunities and making the most of what I find. Being surrounded by a diverse group of highly energetic and keen tutors and participants made the course dynamic and very interactive but exhausting!

Testimonial – Kevin Bateman

I truly believe that the course is the most challenging yet rewarding thing that I have ever been involved in. It has changed my outlook on life, made my objectives clearer and given me the tools to achieve these objectives. The course has given me the privilege of meeting a group of very special people and who are now both friends and confidants for life. At the end of the course I gave myself three goals. If I had not attended the course I would firstly have struggled to even identify these goals, however I am now on my way to achieving these goals to the benefit of my business, my family and my personal well being. To anyone who is thinking of applying for the course, just do it.

Testimonial – Ann Maidment

For me, the Challenge of Rural Leadership course was perfectly timed. The content was superb with excellent support which really challenged the way I think and manage myself, as well as lead people. We were fortunate to have some of the key players in the agricultural industry talk to the course, an opportunity hard to match. Most importantly I was on a course with like-minded people, both national and international, with whom I have built a strong and longstanding association. I would highly recommend this course to those who feel ready to take the next step both in their personal and professional lives.

Testimonial – Phil Shere

Last November I spent a very interesting and intensive 2 weeks, with a group of international strangers on the Challenge of Rural Leadership Course and came away with thought provoking tools to help me evaluate situations and make decisions as well as 18 of the best friends you could wish for. Attendees came from various backgrounds and countries, with about half being active farmers and others from government and agricultural related organisations. The course is marketed with an aim of 'providing high-potential managers with the capabilities to grow and thrive in continuously changing conditions'. It certainly gave us every opportunity to challenge ourselves to reach this aim.

The agricultural and rural sector is often under represented. This course is a big stepping stone to guiding people in the right direction to become leaders and ambassadors for the industry. I have found it very useful in my work, enabling me to view things from a different perspective (on the balcony) and make challenging decisions when needed. With the world population forecasted to double over the coming years, providing food is going to be a major priority and therefore farming will be very important to achieve this. We will need strong decisive leadership that has the foresight to lead us in the right direction. This course goes a long way to providing that leadership

The course is very well organised and led by Duchy College, with a continuous stream of high profile and quality speakers linked to the agricultural industry and other businesses, sometimes quite controversial. We were able to question and challenge them with often very personal, honest replies, which further demonstrated to me the high profile and esteem the course is held in. We also engaged in a demanding case study and debated long into the night. This course isn't for the faint hearted, but if you believe you are up to challenge yourself to become a better leader for yourself, your work and the greater rural industry, then this is the course for you.