



► DR CATHERINE BOWEN

Dr Catherine Bowen is a Jennacubbine farmer, teacher, business woman, mediator, facilitator, wife and mother-of-four who joined the RAS council in 2014.

With an attitude that you get out of life what you put into it, Dr Bowen has been awarded two scholarships within the past decade – the first – the Australian Wheat Board’s ‘International Women in Agriculture’ took her to Washington DC and the second, the WA Government Women’s Policy ‘International Women in Agriculture’, saw her flying to Madrid in Spain to take part. Dr Bowen was also a finalist in the WA Rural Women’s Award for her work with Succession and Family Business Conflict, which in the farming world, is a critical issue for many and the topic of her Conference Papers.

With the emphasis on agriculture – an industry Dr Bowen has grown up with, married into and maintains, and an inherent capacity to educate she is adamant women play an influential part within the industry in this country.

“Women have always been on the land alongside the men and increasingly bring their own energy, skills and enthusiasm into this multi-dimensional industry.”

Dr Bowen grew up in the south west on an orchard and beef property.

“And working within the world of agriculture which includes horticulture is something I have done my whole life. My children are 6th generation born to the land”, she adds.

Dr Bowen intends to use her knowledge and extensive experience to assist with the long-term planning and vision of what the Royal Agricultural Society.

“Educating people is high on the agenda. It is important the general public understand they are actually part of the agricultural ‘fabric’ of our industry. For instance when they buy a kilo of potatoes they are not only supporting the family growing the vegetable, but everyone involved to the point of sale to the consumer.

“Agriculture has always been part of the strength and rich history of our nation. The WA agricultural industry contributes as much as \$5 billion to the total Australian economy, so there are many reasons why we need to continue to nurture, promote and educate the consumer about this wonderful, exciting – and essential industry.