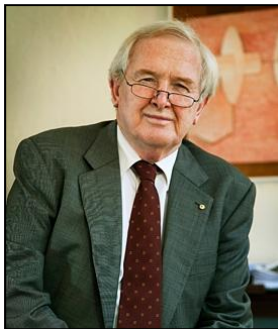


Professor Alan Robson AM CitWA, Vice Chancellor, UWA



Prior to his appointment as Vice-Chancellor in 2004, Professor Alan Robson was Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of The University of Western Australia from 1993. He has also held the positions of Foundation Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (CLIMA), Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Head of the School of Agriculture and Professor of Agriculture (Soil Science) at The University of Western Australia. He is currently the Hackett Professor of Agriculture.

Professor Alan Robson is currently Deputy Chair of Universities Australia.

Professor Robson was Chair of the Group of Eight (2007-2010), Deputy Chair of the Council of the National Library (1998-2005), a member of the Western Australian Science Council (2003-2009), and the CSIRO Board (2003-2008).

Professor Robson was Foundation Chair of the Grain Legumes Research Council, Deputy Chair Research Grants Committee of the Australian Research Council and a Member of the Committee for University Training and Staff Development (1998-1999), the Australian Teaching and Learning Committee (2000-2004) and the Board of Directors of the Australian Universities Quality Agency.

In 2001 Professor Robson chaired the Ministerial Taskforce on Structures, Services and Resources Supporting Government Schools. In 1989, Alan Robson was a member of a three person committee to review agricultural and related education in Australia. He has also been a member of review panels in Denmark, India and Canada.

In 1987, Professor Robson was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. Subsequently he was awarded the Australian Medal of Agricultural Science. In 2003, Professor Robson was made a Member of the Order of Australia, and awarded a Centenary Medal. In 2009, Professor Robson was made a Citizen of Western Australia.

Professor Robson's research interest is the mineral nutrition of plants and soil fertility.

Ms Vanessa Goss – General Manager, Business Services and Company Secretary, HAL



Ms Goss is currently the General Manager Business Services and Company Secretary of Horticulture Australia Limited, a position she has held for 4 years (including 8 months as acting CEO and 3 months as the General Manager of R&D). Previously Ms Goss has worked in both the cotton and sugar industries, and has held chief operating officer roles in other non-rural sector corporations.

Ms Goss has qualifications in law and is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries Australia.

Professor Lyn Beazley AO FTSE, Chief Scientist, WA



Professor Lyn Beazley was appointed Chief Scientist of Western Australia in 2006 and was re-appointed in 2009 by the current Western Australian government. She is a member of the new Technology and Industry Advisory Council to the Western Australian Government.

Since completing her Science degree (first) at Oxford and her doctorate at Edinburgh University, her research career has spanned 30 years. She is Winthrop Professor in Zoology at the University of Western Australia, where she built up an internationally renowned research team that focused on recovery from brain damage. Her research also changed clinical practice in the treatment of infants at risk from pre-term delivery.

Lyn has served on numerous bodies advising State and Federal Governments, such as the NH&MRC Fellowships Committee (2006-2009) and the Australian Research Council for whom she continues to provide expert advice. She currently chairs the Scientific Advisory Panel for Western Australia's Low Emissions Energy Development Fund. Lyn is a passionate advocate for the Western Australian Museum where she was a Trustee from 1999 until 2007 and continues her commitment as Patron of the 2011 Harry Butler Lecture Series – "In the Wild West". Some of the boards on which she sits are The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, The Institute for Radio Astronomy Research, Scitech and Future Directions International.

Lyn was awarded Officer of the Order of Australia in January 2009. She became a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering in November 2009.

Mr Stephan Hendriks, Manager – Leadership and Organisational Development, Woolworths Ltd



Stephan has been with Woolworths since June 2008. In his role he heads up leadership development at Woolworths, and is also responsible for the annual Woolworths Agricultural Business Scholarship program. This program focuses on developing young leaders in Agriculture.

Stephan has spent the last 15 years in the leadership and organisational development field. He has worked in different organisations around the globe and some of his roles include:

- Change Consultant, Woolworths, South Africa
- OD Manager, Fisher & Paykel Appliances, NZ
- Consultant, Mercuri International, Middle East

Mr Arthur Blewitt, Chief Executive Officer, AgriFood Skills



Arthur Blewitt was appointed the inaugural CEO of AgriFood Skills Australia in August 2004, the key body on skills, training and workforce development in the agrifood industry and regional Australia. In his role as CEO, Arthur takes a proactive approach to industry and government liaison, addressing cross-industry workforce and development issues, driving sustainable change in enterprises and Australia's regions, and influencing national policy so that it meets contemporary industry skill development needs.

Arthur is a strong advocate of regional development, and the untapped potential of the agrifood industry in being a key contributor to addressing the looming food security and workforce demographic issues. More specifically, his focus is on the need to attract and retain highly skilled workers and their families in Australia's regions, especially the next generation.

Arthur has a background in executive leadership and management in the public sector and statutory authorities, has worked as a business consultant and held company directorships in banking, R&D and the arts. His roles have involved working with boards, industry and government in developing strategy and policy, building organisational capability, business development, financial management, and governance and compliance.

Arthur's appointments have included Chief General Manager, Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts; Chief General Manager and Head, Old Parliament House; Executive Director, CSIRO; General Manager, Human Resources, CSIRO; Secretary, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Arthur is based in Canberra and regularly presents at conferences and comments in the media on skills and workforce issues in the agrifood industry and regional development. Arthur is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and of the Australian Institute of Management.

Mr Peter Russo, Chief Executive Officer, ASTA



Peter Russo, Chief Executive Officer, of the Australian Science Teachers Association, began in the position in January 2007. The ASTA office is located in Canberra. Prior to this appointment, Peter worked for 10 years as the Senior Policy Officer for Science in the Department of Education and Children's Services in South Australia. He has many years of experience working for ASTA both as President, Councillor and as President of the South Australian Science Teachers Association.

Mr Vic Dobos, Program Manager, National Strategic Development, PICSE



Vic has worked with the PICSE program since 2004, firstly in the capacity of Executive Manager for the Grains Research and Development Corporation's (GRDC) capacity building portfolio of investments. Whilst at GRDC, he worked closely with A/Professor David Russell in establishing the Western Australian activity centre and a small team in the production of the business case submitted to government in 2008 that resulted in the program establishing its current national footprint. More recently, Vic has been appointed as a Visiting Associate in the PICSE program with the University of Tasmania. Vic is currently working in a part time capacity as a member of the PICSE senior management team and has primary responsibility for strategic development and communication.

In 2008, Vic was appointed as General Manager, Tourism Research Australia (TRA), a dedicated autonomous research unit, responsible for the production of Australia's foundation data sets on domestic and international travel patterns, behaviours and economic impacts.

In late 2009, as a result of a machinery of government change, TRA was integrated into the Department of Resources, Energy and Resources where Vic spent time as General Manager of National Tourism Policy and the implementation of the commonwealth's National Long-Term Tourism Strategy.

Mr Gordon Stone, Program Manager, National Investment/Evaluation, PICSE



In conjunction with his contracted PICSE role, Gordon is joint Director of the strategic monitoring and evaluation consultancy business, QualDATA Pty Ltd and of his own consultancy business.

Commencing from a state agency regional manager role, Gordon then worked as a policy officer for a state farming organisation, before commencing his consultancy business in 1991. He spent close to a decade developing, trialling and managing varied technology adoption programs for rural research and development corporations and farmer groups in the meat and livestock, grains, horticulture, dairy and irrigation sectors.

His particular passion is to facilitate the delivery of research results to farmers. He has developed a detailed understanding for the role of the agribusiness sector in supporting information delivery and technology adoption to farmers.

His introduction to PICSE came in 2003 when QualDATA undertook a national horticulture industry project to investigate the development of a strategy to attract bright young people into that sector. He subsequently worked with David Russell in the development of the Scoping Study that resulted in PICSE's establishment. He has continued in his current role of supporting the development of PICSE to its current national position – and is looking forward to achieving the goal of 15 Activity Centres by 2014.

Associate Professor David Russell, National Director, PICSE



Associate Professor David Russell studied at the University of Tasmania, completing his Post Graduate studies in Geochemistry on the Beaconsfield Gold Mine. The next 23 years were spent teaching Year 11/12 Science in Rosny, Alanvale, Launceston and Don Colleges in Tasmania.

In 1998 David joined the School of Agricultural Science, University of Tasmania to develop a program on the North West to improve science retention rates and encourage students into careers in primary industry.

This program was the genesis of, what we now know to be, the Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE). Over the last 13 years and \$6m later, this program has expanded across the State and into Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland.

In December 2008, the Federal Government granted the PICSE program \$3.6 million from the Diversity Structural and Reform Fund. This funding is being matched by universities, local industries and national R&D corporations. David is the National Director of PICSE.

Mrs Debbie Worley, National Executive Assistant, PICSE



Debbie has worked with The University of Tasmania since January 2007. Having emigrated from the UK in 2004, she was initially appointed as PA to the Director of the Cradle Coast Campus, before taking on the role of Executive Officer. She currently works as Executive Assistant in the National PICSE Office, a position she has held since February 2009.