

# THE COOKBOOK GRADUATE CONTRIBUTORS

## ABOUT THE COOKBOOK

An Australia-based network supported by ACIAR is helping to promote career pathways in agricultural research-for-development work within Australian and international organisations. The network is called RAID—Researchers in Agriculture for International Development—and it has inspired early career scientists to apply for the new ACIAR graduate positions that immerse scientists in ACIAR's project development and review work, including trips to partner countries. Responsibilities include communication and dissemination activities, with 2016 ACIAR graduates taking on the responsibility of

producing this issue of *Partners*. The issue tries to connect readers to the many cultures and communities ACIAR, and its partners, works with. Each story places the key ingredients of each recipe within the production environment and the current challenges facing farmers around the world. The research ACIAR funds seeks to tackle a broad range of issues ranging from technical biophysical constraints, including natural resource management, crops, livestock and fisheries production, through to policy, market and social systems. Each recipe represents a different geography and research program.



### LACHLAN DENNIS

Lachlan Dennis is a research graduate officer in the livestock and fisheries cluster at ACIAR. Lachlan completed his undergraduate degree in environmental science at the Australian National University before moving to the University of Canberra's applied science division to undertake an honours project on a threatened fish species in the mountains around Canberra. Lachlan is interested in the conservation of natural habitats and of fish stocks and how these can enhance the standard of living for those who depend upon them. He plans further research into the role of distinct habitats in the maintenance of robust fish communities. Lachlan is a keen fisher and enjoys exploring aquatic environments for weird and wonderful life forms.



### JACK HETHERINGTON

Jack Hetherington is a research graduate officer in the social science and economics clusters at ACIAR. Jack completed his undergraduate degree in animal and veterinary bioscience at Sydney University and undertook an honours project entitled 'The impact of livestock ownership on food security in Sub-Saharan Africa'. He is passionate about research and development and hopes to pursue further research relating to the role of livestock in food security and livelihood outcomes. Alongside his role as a graduate Jack also has the role of events coordinator for the RAID network, which aims to connect, support and engage early-to-mid-career researchers working in international development.

**MIRIAM MCCORMACK**

Miriam McCormack graduated from the University of Tasmania at the end of 2015 with a bachelor of agricultural science (honours). She completed her honours project entitled 'Knowledge transfer pathways among smallholder beef farmers on the south-central coast of Vietnam' as part of a case study for ACIAR project LPS/2012/160. Miriam travelled to Vietnam in 2015 to collect the data for her honours project and attend a farmer field visit for a forthcoming project under the Livestock Production Program. She has an interest in the areas of monitoring and evaluation, social sciences, and the role of women in rural and developing country settings. Miriam works in the crops cluster at ACIAR.

**CARL MENKE**

Carl Menke is a research graduate officer in the natural resource management cluster at ACIAR. Carl completed his undergraduate degree in environmental management with honours at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, before starting his masters in soil and plant nutrient cycling within a rehabilitation context. He is very interested in the sustainable management of soil and plant systems to maximise long-term growth, as well as novel agricultural and communication technologies. He hopes to continue research into sustainable soil and crop management and one day have his own farm.