

# WORKSHOP PROGRAM

## TEAM TE MANIA WORKSHOP

SUNDAY MAY 17– TUESDAY MAY 19, 2026  
ECHUCA, VICTORIA

# NAVIGATING THE NEXT FRONTIER:

THE NEW BREEDING INTELLIGENCE



**TEAM**  
**TE MANIA**

ESTABLISHED 1995



DENNIS & LOCKY GLEESON,  
COLLIGEN CREEK STATION



# WELCOME

This year's workshop, *Navigating the Next Frontier: The New Breeding Intelligence*, explores how the next level of genetic and commercial performance will be driven by the smarter integration of data, emerging technologies, and continuous improvement across the entire supply chain. It reflects the shift from artificial intelligence as a tool to breeding intelligence as a decision-making advantage, where genetics, data, and people work together to deliver real-world outcomes.



## PROGRAM

### DAY ONE: SUNDAY 17 MAY, 2026

- From 2.00pm **ARRIVAL**  
Accommodation Check In  
**Quest Apartments, Echuca 25-29 Heygarth St, Echuca**
- 4.30pm-5.30pm **WELCOME DRINKS ON BOARD THE PS CANBERRA, PADDLESTEAMER**  
Catch up with Team Te Mania members and enjoy a one hour cruise along the Murray River on board the historic century-old **PS Canberra Paddlesteamer. Boarding at 4.25pm sharp Port of Echuca, Riverboat Dock, Watson Street, Echuca**
- 6.00pm-8.30pm **WELCOME DINNER**  
Hosted by Team Te Mania. Enjoy a casual two course welcome dinner and drinks at the **The Echuca Hotel, 569 High St, Echuca**

### DAY TWO: MONDAY 18 MAY, 2026

- 7.30am Bus departs Quest Echuca
- 7.40am Bus arrives **Moama Bowling Club, 6 Shaw Street Moama, NSW**  
Guests will require a drivers license to sign in per Club NSW regulations.
- 7.45am **BREAKFAST / The Venue Room, Moama Bowling Club**
- 8.30am **WELCOME** by **Sam Reid, Te Mania Angus**  
**NAVIGATING THE NEXT FRONTIER. THE NEW BREEDING INTELLIGENCE**
- 8.35am **Ripley Atkinson, Australian Meats & Livestock Manager, StoneX**  
**AUSTRALIAN BEEF INDUSTRY MARKET OUTLOOK – FUNDAMENTALS SOUND, UNCERTAINTY APLENTY /** Ripley will examine the key drivers and fundamentals influencing and shaping Australia's beef industry's outlook for the next 12 months, transforming data and his on farm experience into insights about the broader macro-outlook Australia finds itself in. With increasing market volatility, climatic challenges and opportunities and heavy supply here domestically, whilst the constant of geopolitical instability and trade access issues remain, the market outlook remains uncertain, Ripley provides his unique perspective on where to next for the beef industry in 2026. Whilst also providing suggestions of potential solutions to manage the uncertain outlook through forward contracting and risk mitigation offered by StoneX.
- 9.05am **Merrick Studders, Chief Commercial Officer, Australian Country Choice**  
**FROM PADDOCK TO PLATE: INSIDE ACC /** As Chief Commercial Officer of one of Australia's largest integrated beef businesses - spanning breeding, backgrounding, feeding, processing and branded programs. Merrick sits at the intersection of the paddock and the global customer. He'll unpack where international demand is shifting, how consumer and retail trends in key export markets are reshaping what processors pay for, and what that means for the cattle producers want to be breeding. Merrick will share the ACC view on how cattle are actually valued beyond the grid, the market signals producers should be paying attention to, and what separates a preferred supplier from the rest in a changing global beef landscape.
- 9.35am **Professor Rob Banks, Former Director Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit, University of New England (UNE)**  
**THE GENETICS DIVIDEND: WHERE THE VALUE HAS COME FROM, AND WHERE IT'S GOING /** Rob has spent a career at the centre of genetic improvement in Australian red meat, as former Director of AGBU, through his work at MLA, and in the development of the systems behind BREEDPLAN and genomics in beef and sheep. In this session, he looks at how genetics actually pays for the commercial producer, what \$Index trends tell us, and the forces shaping the next decade, genomics, and environmental accounting including methane. He'll close on what it means for Te Mania and our commercial clients: the changing role of the commercial breeder, and emerging opportunities like beef on dairy, custom females and new market niches.
- 10.15am **MORNING TEA**



**DAY TWO: MONDAY 18 MAY, 2026**

10.45am **Brett Hosking**, *President, The Victorian Farmers Federation*  
**AGRICULTURE TODAY & TOMORROW** / Brett will explore how the practical application of AI and emerging technologies is reshaping modern agriculture and helping farmers work smarter. From growth productivity to reducing emissions and driving efficiency, this session will highlight how innovation is driving our future.



11.30am **Travis McKenzie**, *Business Development Executive & Territory Manager, Halter*  
**THE DATA BEHIND THE COLLAR: WHAT VIRTUAL FENCING IS TEACHING US ABOUT CATTLE** /



Halter's collars are generating a picture of cattle behaviour, grazing patterns and pasture use at a resolution the industry has never had before. Travis shares what the data is revealing about how cattle actually move, graze and perform, and what that means for producers rethinking infrastructure, labour and land use. Expect a look at real on-farm results, the productivity gains early adopters are unlocking, and where the technology is heading next.



12.00pm **LUNCH**

1.00pm **Cam Nicolson**, *Nicon Rural Services*  
**AGRONOMY IN THE AGE OF EXTREMES AND ALGORITHMS** / Few have watched Australian agronomy evolve as closely as Cam, 35 years across pastures, soils and farm decision-making, consulting to the grazing and cropping industries while running his own beef and sheep operation on the Bellarine. In this session, Cam tackles the forces reshaping how we manage country: seasons that are getting harder to read, and tools that are getting faster to answer. He'll unpack why managing for the extremes rather than the averages is changing what producers need to be prepared for and the decisions they need to make, where new technology genuinely adds value on-farm (and where it doesn't), and the fundamentals of a sustainable grazing system that the sharpest operators refuse to lose sight of, even as the shiny new tools arrive. A session on blending data, judgement and experience to stay ahead of the curve without getting distracted from what has always mattered.



1.45pm **Rob Wyld**, *Managing Director, Sapien Technology*  
**FROM RECORDS TO RESULTS: RETHINKING CARCASS DATA** / Team Te Mania holds more than 33,000 carcass records collected since 2010. In this session, Rob examines whether we are truly maximising this asset and shares innovative ways to turn carcass data into actionable intelligence. Join the conversation, challenge current assumptions, and discover how better use of data can directly drive breeding and performance decisions across the team.



2.15pm **Edward Gubbins**, *Te Mania Angus* / **BREEDING INNOVATION: RESEARCH & BREEDING UPDATE AT TE MANIA ANGUS**  
 Edward will provide an update on a number of current research projects underway at Te Mania, and introduce the new Team Te Mania member portal - a platform designed to bring member data, tools and insights together in one place, integrating with Sapien to streamline how members access and use their information.



2.45pm **AFTERNOON TEA – INTERACTIVE BREAKOUT SESSION** / Lead by **Sam Reid**, *Te Mania Angus* / **Travis McKenzie**, *Halter - Technology Innovation*  
**Rob Wyld**, *Sapien Technology - New Dashboard Innovation*  
**Ripley Atkinson**, *StoneX - Australian Cattle & Beef Market Insights*

3.15pm **GROUP DISCUSSION PANEL** / Lead by **Edward Gubbins** / **Travis McKenzie**, *Halter*, **Rob Wyld**, *Sapien Technology*, **Ripley Atkinson**, *StoneX*, **Joel Bentley**, *Australian Country Choice*, **Cam Nicolson**, *Nicon Rural Services*

3.45pm **WORKSHOP CLOSE** / **Edward Gubbins**, *Te Mania Angus*

3.55pm **Sam Reid**, *Te Mania Angus*  
**INTERACTIVE BREAKOUT SESSION: TEAM TE MANIA ONLINE COMMERCIAL FEMALE SALE**

4.15pm Bus Departs Moama Bowling Club (optional)

4.25pm Bus Arrives Quest Echuca

4.15pm **Edward Gubbins**, *Te Mania Angus* / **PROGENY TEST MEETING** / **The Venue Room, Moama Bowling Club**

5.00pm Bus departs Moama Bowling Club

5.10pm Bus arrives Quest Echuca

6.30pm **TEAM TE MANIA DINNER** / **The Steakhouse at 1895 The Royal, 183-187 Hare Street, Echuca**  
 The Steakhouse at The Royal brings an interactive dining experience where you will enjoy cooking your steak to your liking on the 470 degree hot rocks.



6.45pm **DINNER GUEST** / **Geoff Conway**, *Head Chef, 1895 the Royal, Echuca*  
 On the Plate: Interactive steakhouse dining and the importance of high-quality produce, with practical insights into beef cuts and how best to use them

9.30pm Close and return to Accommodation

# PROGRAM

## DAY THREE: TUESDAY 19 MAY, 2026

7.00am - 8.00am	<b>ACCOMMODATION CHECK OUT</b> <b>BREAKFAST / Essen Food &amp; Wine, 542 High St, Echuca</b> <i>(at attendees own cost)</i> For those looking to enjoy a hot breakfast on Tuesday 19 May, Essen Food and Wine opens at 7am and offers a great option, a short 3 minute walk from Quest Echuca. Please allow enough time after breakfast to return to Quest Echuca for the 8.15am Field Trip Bus departure.
8.15am	Bus departs Quest Echuca
9.45am	Bus arrives at <b>COLLIGEN CREEK STATION / 878 Werai Lane, Wakool, NSW</b> Hosted by <b>Dennis, Judy &amp; Locky Gleeson</b> . Colligen Creek Station is an 8,000ha mixed farming enterprise at Wakool in the southern Riverina, run by the Gleeson family in conjunction with neighbouring Werai Station. The combined operation runs an intensive irrigated cropping program (wheat, barley, canola, pulses and rice), an on-farm feedlot, nearly 1000 Te Mania-bloodline Angus cows and 8,000 composite ewes with Scotch Texel and East Friesian influence.
10.15am	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
11.15am	Bus departs Colligen Creek Station
12.00pm	<b>LUNCH IN TRANSIT</b>
12.45pm	<b>AUSTRALIAN FOOD &amp; FIBRE CONARGO FEEDLOT VISIT / 25km north of Deniliquin on the Conargo road, just after going over Forrest Creek there is a sign to Conargo Feedlot</b> Viewing of Team Te Mania Member cattle from Boona & Lakala Pastoral Co, Mumbannar, Victoria, on feed at Conargo Feedlot. Conargo Feedlot is an approved 12,000-head facility that has been operating since November 2017. The yard is strategically positioned to draw on the Riverina's livestock, grain and fodder base, and to service premier domestic and export markets. Conargo feeds a mix of company-bred, purchased and custom-fed cattle on behalf of a range of clients, targeting specific market specs.
1.30pm	<b>Mark Dwyer, Livestock Manager, O'Connor Beef</b> <b>PREPARING CATTLE FOR FEEDLOT SALE /</b> For generations the O'Connor family has been sourcing the finest quality beef from Gippsland and the surrounding regions, grazing on what is undeniably Australia's most prized pastures for producing premium beef. In the decades since founding the business, the O'Connor name has grown to be one of the most coveted grass fed and grain fed beef brands on menus, in stores and in kitchens around the world.
2.15pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA / Workshop Close</b>
2.45pm	Bus departs Conargo Feedlot
4.15pm	Bus arrives at Quest Echuca



COLLIGEN CREEK STATION, WAKOOL, NEW SOUTH WALES



### ENQUIRIES

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