



AUSTRALIAN  
DAIRY  
CONFERENCE

# The Power of Purpose

## Program

12-14 February 2024  
Melbourne Crown

[australiandairyconference.com.au](http://australiandairyconference.com.au)

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# From the Conference Chair



Michael Rood aka 'Roody'

ADC in 2024 we are focusing on the 'Power of Purpose'.

Purpose drives everything that we do. Without it we can be like a rudderless ship being bounced by the everchanging and turbulent tides – a bit like the global environment at the moment where you never know what is about to happen next!

I am super proud of the ADC Programming Committee and the program we have curated for you in 2024 as we challenge every Australian dairy farmer to find or define their purpose and inspiration for what they do.

There is an underlying tone for ADC 2024 of getting comfortable with the uncomfortable and how we can make true change and impact by challenging ourselves and defining what we really want to achieve.

We have scaled the globe to find trailblazers that have overcome adversity and can demonstrate to Australian farmers the true meaning of purpose and resilience.

We are privileged to have one of our strongest international representations ever with eight keynotes joining us from across the globe with everything from dairy farming in the Ukrainian war zone to government regulation in the EU and climate mandates in New Zealand through to exploring AI implications in the dairy industry.

As always, ADC is a forum for farmers by farmers and with this stellar combination of international influence and homegrown heroes we hope you find something to inspire and drive your purpose for the future.

I am bursting to share the developed content with you in Melbourne at the magnificent Crown in February 2024. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to what is shaping up to be an absolute epic ADC.

See you in Melbourne 12-14 February 2024.  
Are you ready for it?

**Michael 'Roody' Rood**  
**ADC 2024 Programming Chair**



# THE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

## MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY

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**ADC Pre Conference Tour** – Northern Victoria

**Young farmers networking function** - 5.30pm - Crown Promenade

**ADC Welcome Function** - 6.30pm sponsored by Fonterra - Crown Aviary Rooftop Bar

## TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY

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**Conference Day 1** - 8.30am to 5.00pm - Crown Promenade

**ADC Gala Dinner** - 6.30pm sponsored by Rabobank - Crown Palladium Room

## WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY

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**Conference Day 2** - 8.30am to 3.15pm - Crown Promenade

**Happy Hour Drinks** - 3.30pm sponsored by Delaval - Crown Promenade

**register now**

**Registrations and bookings must be made online at**  
**[www.australiandairyconference.com.au](http://www.australiandairyconference.com.au)**

# THE PROGRAM

## Welcome Events – Monday 12 February

5.30pm **Young farmers networking function sponsored by GEA:** It can be daunting attending your first Australian Dairy Conference. So we have an exclusive social gathering before the official welcome for those here for the first time. We'll introduce you around, give you the inside running on the VIP speaker list and provide the 101 of making the most of ADC. We'll make sure when it comes to networking and meeting people at the Welcome Function, you're all over it!



6.30pm **Fonterra Welcome Function:** The Fonterra Welcome Function is renowned for its high energy and buzz, with dairy farmers and industry supporters from across the country and around the world. It will include an opportunity to meet our international guests, while giving delegates the chance to enjoy a 'mountain of Australian cheese', curated by the fabulous **Hakim Halim** from Ripe Cheese.



## Day 1 – Tuesday 13 February

### Session 1 – Getting comfortable with the uncomfortable

8.30am MC: **Tom Newton** has been part of the ADC team for many years. We bring him back for his final year as our much-loved MC to guide you through the next two days.

8.40am **Welcome to ADC 2024:** Programming Committee Chair and Muswellbrook, NSW, dairy farmer **Michael Rood** explains our why ... why we have brought the dairying globe to Melbourne and why you will get just so much out of this event.

8.50am **Farming on the front line:** Imagine dairy farming under constant shelling, your 75-strong workforce having to deal daily with the challenges of war, while managing the normal farming routine. This is the reality for **Andrii Pastushenko**, manager of the Dnipro Dairy Farm in a now de-occupied area of southern Ukraine, an area still under constant attack. Andrii's second-in-charge was abducted three times in 12 months by Russian forces, returning to work each time to support the farm's commitment to nourish the local war-torn community with dairy foods. This is the reality of farming on the front line. The Australian Dairy Conference is privileged to bring Andrii to Australia to share his story of resilience.

**Andrii Pastushenko**  
Dairy farmer - Ukraine

9.40am **Finding hope in the aftermath:** Many will have seen the horrific social media images of **Paul Weir's** dairy herd being washed away in the 2022 Lismore, NSW, floods. Hear how this farmer found purpose in his journey of recovery and on being comfortable with an uncomfortable decision: to rebuild on the same site – bigger, better, stronger.

**Paul Weir**  
Dairy farmer - NSW

10.20am Morning tea - sponsored by Saputo Australia



## Session 2 – What’s coming and what are we going to do about it?

- 11.00am **Getting comfortable with what’s coming – and the opportunity it presents:** Dairy Australia’s Managing Director **Dr David Nation** is responsible for ensuring the country’s dairy industry is ready for the future. We ask him to set the scene for this session and challenge our preparedness for what’s coming.
- Dr David Nation**  
Managing Director - Dairy Australia
- 
- 11.15am **What happens when governments take charge of dairy’s future:** Australia’s dairy industry has watched from afar as new European restrictions have prompted the Dutch government to mandate herd reductions and the Irish government to impose nitrate limits – all in response to climate change. Is the farmer rage in Europe warranted? And how can Australian farmers get ahead of the potential introduction of this type of regulation here. Irish dairy farm consultant **Mike Brady** tells us what’s really happening in Europe.
- Mike Brady**  
Dairy farm consultant - Ireland
- 
- 11.50am **Connecting with the public:** **Dr Amy Jackson** is a specialist crisis communications consultant with a passion for understanding what the UK public thinks about farming. Undoubtedly, public views have influenced northern hemisphere government policies that are changing the face of farming. But can farmers influence them too?
- Dr Amy Jackson**  
Farmer, PR Specialist, Agricultural Researcher – United Kingdom
- 
- 12.20pm **Embracing the challenge of meeting what the public wants:** **Chris Falconer’s** farm adjoins Whangamarino, a wetland of international importance in New Zealand’s North Island. He takes on all that Amy knows and doesn’t let what Mike’s seen worry him too much – as he goes about building a farming model based on his values.
- Chris Falconer**  
Dairy farmer and Nuffield Scholar - New Zealand
- 

12.45pm **Q&A with the speakers**

1.00pm Lunch - sponsored by Coles

**coles**

## Session 3 – Artificial intelligence: ag’s next big revolution



- 2.10pm **Session sponsor Allflex & Coopers Animal Health introduces this session**
- 
- 2.15pm Get ready for where AI can take you: Conference MC **Tom Newton** tests his dog training skills as he introduces you to Roger, the Robotic Kelpie.
- 
- 2.20pm **The mind-blowing potential of artificial intelligence:** The good, the bad and the just plain exciting – and how this may transform agriculture. **Professor Ben Hayes**, from University of Queensland, provides the lowdown.
- Professor Ben Hayes**  
University of Queensland
-

2.55pm

**The AI revolution in ag:** A rapid-fire look at some AI applications putting agriculture on the cusp of a revolution.

NZ-based sheep consultant **Mark Ferguson** is using AI to revolutionise sheep breeding and management. What he is doing is remarkable. How it could be applied to dairy is limited only by the imagination of those in the room.

Crazy-clever genetics student at the University of New England **Zhi Kang Loh** has created what he calls 'Cinder for Cows'. He demonstrates the quantum leap AI can enable in breeding decisions.

**Mark Ferguson**

Founder and CEO  
neXtgen Agri - New Zealand

**Zhi Kang Loh**

Research Fellow -  
University of New England

3.20pm Afternoon tea - sponsored by Bega Group



**Young Dairy Scientist Award** sponsored by Gardiner Foundation



4.10pm

This highly coveted competition has seen previous winners go on to stellar careers. It exposes the dairy conference delegates to the country's most exciting emerging dairy science talent. ADC science director **Dr Richard Rawnsley** is joined by guest speaker and communications expert **Dr Amy Jackson** to introduce this year's finalists, who will blow you away as they vie for this award for excellence in dairy science communication.

Co-hosted by ADC scientific director **Dr Richard Rawnsley** and **Dr Amy Jackson**, Farmer, PR Specialist, Agricultural Researcher – United Kingdom

5.00pm

**Day one close**

6.30pm

**ADC Gala Dinner sponsored by Rabobank**



## Day 2 – Wednesday 14 February

### Session 5 – Dairying beyond the comfort zone

- 9.00am **Welcome to day 2: MC Tom Newton** refocuses our attention on the stage after a wonderful night of celebration.
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- 9.05am **Forging great change to create a legacy:** ADC mounted a global search to find three people who dared to go beyond their comfort zone to forge great change. Dairy Australia Principal Scientist **Dr John Penry** introduces and hosts this session as we meet these remarkable entrepreneurs who were prepared to try something different and have fundamentally changed the way our industry thinks and operates. **Dr John Penry**  
Principal Scientist - Dairy Australia
- 
- 9.10am **How Halter became a game-changer:** Mechanical engineer and the son of a NZ dairy farmer **Craig Piggott** was just 22 when he established Halter in 2016. Eight years later he has 150 staff and a technology changing the way dairy farmers think and operate. While legislation is in the way of selling his virtual fencing products in some Australian states, Tasmanian farmers are already enjoying the fruits of this new way of farming. We ask Craig to take us from the moment he knew he had a game-changer on his hands – and what he thinks the legacy will be. **Craig Piggott**  
CEO Halter Limited - New Zealand
- 
- 9.30am **The moment sexed semen became the real game changer:** ADC has invited former Colombian Brown Swiss dairy farmer turned entrepreneur **Juan Moreno** to explain what he saw would be the legacy of converting the science of flow cytometry into the world wide commercial adoption of sexed semen technology through his company Sexing Technologies. **Juan Moreno**  
CEO, STgenetics - United States of America
- 
- 9.50am **How to earn and keep a social licence with your community:** **Ben Loewith** heads up Summit Station Dairy and Creamery – located 40 minutes from the heart of Toronto, Canada. This means Ben, his family and their herd of 500 Holsteins are surrounded by nearly 3 million people. Ben shares how he has earned and kept the respect of his city neighbours and what we can take from this legacy and mindset. **Ben Loewith**  
Summit Station Dairy & Creamery - Canada
- 
- 10.10am **Q&A:** This panel session brings **Dr John Penry** and our three international guests together to draw out a little more on what gave them the courage to forge legacy-creating change.

10.30am Morning tea - sponsored by Alltech Lienert

 Alltech LIENERT



Official coffee sponsors of ADC

## Session 6 – Supply chain evolution - what’s the future hold?



11.10 am **Session sponsor Kemin introduces our session**

11.15am **When your processor is a game-changer:** UK dairy farmer and ARLA shareholder **Tom Rawson** co-owns or leases nine dairy farms. One night, after a solid sales pitch and on the last possible day to join, he signed up his first two farms to supply the ARLA cooperative. His ARLA milk supply journey has taken him to places he never thought possible, including an attitudinal change from the days of farmers protesting the power of the processor. His message: prepare for change in what your processor wants from you. It is inevitable.

**Tom Rawson**  
Evolution Farming -  
United Kingdom

11.45am **What’s the future of Australia’s milk supply?** Session host Rabobank’s **Michael Harvey** starts this session with our three speakers giving their view of what our future milk supply will look like and where Australian dairy might fit in 2030. Our panel will discuss “why dairy, why here, now and in the future” and “what can we learn from the way other supply chains are evolving”.

**Michael Harvey**  
Senior Analyst, Dairy  
and Consumer Foods  
- Rabobank

**The analyst:** The FreshAgenda (now Ever.Ag) team was recently commissioned to examine Australia’s future milk supply and the changes to milk supply arrangements that might follow. Principal **Jo Bills** provides the top line summary.

**Joanne Bills**  
Global Insights  
Director - Ever.Ag  
Insights

**The processor:** Lactalis, a French multinational owned by the Besnier family, is the world’s largest dairy company. Its Australian business has a presence in every dairy region with a focus on high-value, fresh products and high-profile brands. Lactalis Australia CEO **Mal Carseldine** explains where Australia fits for this leading global dairy company, now and into the future.

**Mal Carseldine**  
Chief Executive Officer  
- Lactalis

**The investor:** NZ expat and current advocate for and investor in Australian dairy farming **Chris Procter** is more than positive about our future milk supply arrangements. He has built a portfolio of eight dairy farms from Mt Gambier, SA, to Gippsland, Victoria. As a savvy investor, he’s spread his risk with four free-range poultry farms north of Adelaide.

**Chris Procter**  
Dairy farmer and dairy  
investor

12.30pm Lunch break



Official media partners of ADC

## Session 7 – That moment in time

2.00pm

**Climbing Everest – it's not always a straight line to the top:** Lawyer and adventurer **Trent Thorne** embarked upon the adventure of a lifetime last year with the goal of conquering Everest. He came close – but missed the small window of opportunity. Trent shares how he felt in the moment he realised the summit was beyond him - and how that has spurred him on.

**Trent Thorne**

Partner, Co-lead Food and Agribusiness group - Hamilton Locke Lawyers

2.30pm

**A moment in dairying time:** We have asked three home-grown dairy heroes to share with us their 'moment in time' - to inspire us all as we head home to our farms.

**Sarah Moore** was an English backpacker who'd never been on a farm before she arrived in Australia. At age 26, in a snap decision, she decided dairy farming in South Australia was for her. What gave her the courage and inspiration in that sliding-door moment?

**Teena Pearse** is a dairy farmer and mother of Paralympic swimmer Col Pearse. Teena's 'moment' in dairy farming sees her juggling the farm and travelling the world to cheer Col on as he swims on the international stage. But it wasn't always this glamorous. As with everything, there was a lot of hard work before the reward.

**Evan Nicholas** lost 95 per cent of his farm in the Biggara Valley in the Black Summer fires. At the moment he was standing trying to protect his farm he said 'thank God I'm a dairy farmer'. What made him express that thought at that time - and why as he worked to restore his farm, was he so happy he was a dairy farmer?

**Sarah Moore**

Dairy Farmer

**Teena Pearse**

Dairy farmer and proud mum

**Evan Nicholas**

Dairy farmer - Victoria

3.00pm

**Have you been paying attention?** So we go out with a laugh, we have prepared a hilarious take-off of the hit show 'Have You Been Paying Attention'. Stand by as our MC Tom Newton does his best to channel his name-sake and hero Tom Gleisner as he puts some everyday delegates to the test with buzzer in hand.

3.15pm Conference close

3.30pm Farewell drinks sponsored by DeLaval



**register now**

**All enquiries to:**

Bradley Hayden  
Event Manager

T: **0412 461 392**

E: **conference@australiandairyconference.com.au**

**12-14 February 2024 Melbourne Crown**

**9**

# THE PRESENTERS

## **Andrii Pastushenko** Dairy farmer, Ukraine

There have been plenty of stories of resilience at ADC but none quite like what we are about to bring you at ADC Melbourne 2024... this is well and truly dairy farming on the front line. Imagine dairy farming under constant shelling with your 75-strong workforce having to deal daily with the harrowing challenges of war, while managing the normal farming routine. This is the reality for Andrii Pastushenko, manager of the Dnipro Dairy Farm in a now de-occupied area of southern Ukraine, an area still under constant attack. Andrii's second-in-charge was abducted three times in 12 months by Russian forces, returning to work each time to support the farm's commitment to nourish the local war-torn community with dairy foods. This is the reality of farming on the front line. The Australian Dairy Conference is privileged to bring Andrii to Australia to share his story at ADC 2024 Melbourne.



a positive and united culture in and around the industry. Tom has been part of the Australian Dairy Conference team for many years and he's back for his final year as the much-loved MC in 2024.

## **Paul Weir** Dairy Farmer - NSW

Paul is a fourth-generation dairy farmer on the coast of NSW near Lismore. In 1993 he returned to the farm after finishing an auto electrical apprenticeship, and in 2006, with his wife, Paul bought the family farm. Since then, the property has grown from 80 to 400 cows, with planning underway for growth to 700 cows. Paul is involved in dairy advocacy in NSW and is currently a Director of Norco Co-operative Ltd. Paul and Sharon operated a fertiliser spreading business alongside the dairy only to watch both businesses get destroyed by the record floods in Feb 2022. Unknowingly, footage of their cows getting washed away went viral and Paul became the face and voice of dairy in the flood recovery.



## **Hakim Halim** Marketer, Food Lover and Cheesemaker – RIPE Cheese

Born in Singapore, Hakim Halim has chosen Melbourne to be his home for the last 13 years. A marketer by trade and 'food-obsessed', he founded the retail brand, RIPE that champions only all-Australian cheese. Recently he was awarded the City of Melbourne Lord Mayor's Small Business of the Year and expanded his business to include Australian free-range cured meats under the brand 'Cured'. Hakim will be on hand for you to taste and sample at the ADC Welcome Function.



## **Dr David Nation** Managing Director - Dairy Australia

David has led large scale innovation projects, brought new technology to the dairy industry, and forged significant international partnerships to advance the dairy industry. At Dairy Australia, David leads a broad range of services for dairy farmers, including research and innovation, industry marketing, initiatives that support farm business management, tools to adapt to the environment and address climate, attracting people to the industry and building skills, marketing campaigns to drive community trust, policy research, market insights, and trade relations.



## **Tom Newton** Conference MC, Business Manager – MaxCare, Maxum Foods

Raised on a family farm west of Stanthorpe in Southern Queensland, Tom inherited his parent's passion for primary production. Now based in Southwest Victoria, Tom has been involved in the dairy industry for 17 years since joining Maxum Foods. As the Business Manager of MaxCare he relishes his involvement in the Australian and New Zealand agricultural industry. Tom is an advocate for dairy and agriculture and is passionate about fostering



## **Dr Amy Jackson** Farmer, PR Specialist, Agricultural Researcher – United Kingdom

Amy has spent most of her life in and around farming. She has worked with livestock and arable in the United Kingdom and Canada, as a trainee auctioneer in north of Scotland, and in agricultural public relations in the UK. Despite time spent in mainstream PR, Amy is happiest working in farming, and uses her experience to specialise in agricultural issues and crisis management for many years. This has included involvement in high

profile stories such as the horsemeat scandal and antibiotic use in livestock. Amy has a part-time PhD from the University of Nottingham examining public perceptions of dairy farming, and uses that knowledge to rejuvenate the reputation of agriculture.

**Chris Falconer**  
Dairy Farmer and Nuffield  
Scholar - New Zealand

Chris Falconer heads up Pukerua, a mixed dairy and beef farm comprising 255ha in Waerenga, North Waikato, New Zealand. This location is near a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. He has held this role for nearly 10 years and prior to that was sharemilking in Walton following a 9 year 'sabbatical' overseas. Chris was awarded a Nuffield scholarship in 2010 to study sustainable livestock systems. His work is modeled on a system of balancing personal, ethical, environmental and community considerations. The outcome of this is no artificial fertilisers, no bobbie calves, no milking twice a day, no cropping and no calving in one block. Outcomes have included lowering stocking rate, maintaining productivity, enhancing the landscape and providing a low-pressure environment for people and animals.



**Mark Ferguson**  
Founder and CEO neXtgen Agri -  
New Zealand

Mark grew up on the family farm in the Victorian Mallee and has spent his career in the sheep industry working throughout Australia and New Zealand. He has a PhD in genetics and a passion for enabling farmers to implement effective genetic strategies to get the most out of their livestock. Mark is the founder and CEO of neXtgen Agri, an innovation and consulting company with clients across Australia and New Zealand. He is also a co-founder and Managing Director of Genesmith, a technology company bringing the power of AI to the livestock industry.



**Zhi Kang Loh**  
Research Fellow - University of  
New England

Zhi's research interest is diverse and he has recently completed his Ph.D. in genetics at the University of New England. His main interest is in designing algorithms for various aspects of a livestock production system, ranging from estimating and exploiting additive and non-additive genetic component, optimal contribution selection (OCS), uncovering the genetic architecture for a trait, statistical properties of Genome-Wide Association Study (GWAS) and QTL models, as well as signature of selection. Zhi is also interested in pure mathematics, a subset of artificial intelligence.



**Dr John Penry**  
Principal Scientist - Dairy  
Australia

After graduating from University of Melbourne in 1990, John worked in a mixed dairy vet practice at in Victoria. From the late 1990's, after completing Master's program in Dairy Medicine and Management, he was involved with industry funded Australian national animal health and feedbase programs including Countdown and InCalf. In 2016, John completed a PhD program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison conducting milk harvesting research with Professor Doug Reinemann and Dr John Upton. After a recent research and advisory role at Anexa/Cognosco in New Zealand, he joined Dairy Australia. John and his family remain based in Camperdown in Victoria.



**Craig Piggott**  
CEO Halter Limited - New  
Zealand

Craig grew up on his family's Waikato dairy farm. After completing a Mechanical Engineering degree, he worked at a satellite launch company and saw technology being used to revolutionise this industry. Based on this learning and aged 22, in 2016, he founded Halter – a company set on modernising the dairy industry. Halter's mission is to empower farmers to run more productive and sustainable farms. Halter's collars and the corresponding app, leverage artificial intelligence to guide cows around the farm, enable farmers to set virtual fences and monitor cows' health. Halter was recognised as the Most Innovative Hi-Tech Agritech Solution at the 2021 and 2023 NZ Hi-Tech Awards.



**Juan F. Moreno**  
CEO, STgenetics - United States  
of America

Juan is founder and CEO of global livestock reproduction innovators Sexing Technologies® and STgenetics® based in Navasota, Texas. He was raised in the livestock business where his family operated a Brown Swiss dairy in his native Colombia. After receiving his degree in Dairy Science from the Ohio State University, he started his career as an embryo transfer practitioner. Juan went to Texas A&M University to pursue his degree in Reproductive Physiology, and produced thousands of IVF bovine embryos, sheep embryos and bison embryos. He went on to private practice and founded Genetic Resources International and Sexing Technologies® which for the past 25 years has been collecting and transferring bovine embryos. Working with his partner, Maurice Rosenstein, the organisation has been granted a license to sex sort livestock semen using a flow cytometry process that has led to the commercial implementation of sex semen technologies on a worldwide basis.



a bachelor degree in international trade from the Victorian University and a postgraduate degree in diplomacy and trade at Monash University.

**Joanne Bills**  
Global Insights Director - Ever.  
Ag Insights

Joanne is an experienced agribusiness executive working in the dairy industry for over two decades. Her work includes market analysis, forecasting and supply chain strategy development from farm to consumer. While work over the past two decades has been focussed on the Australian and global dairy industries, in her current role Joanne works across a number of agribusiness sectors. Joanne has held senior roles with Dairy Australia and was an analyst at the National Australia Bank and the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (now ABARES). Joanne has been on the board of GippsDairy, the Gippsland dairy industry's Regional Development Program and has been a member of the Australian Dairy Conference (ADC) Board since 2019.



**Tom Rawson**  
Evolution Farming - United  
Kingdom

Tom is a dairy farmer based in West Yorkshire. Tom and his wife, Catherine, started with a base of 50 cows when they took the leased farm over from Tom's parents and they now milk 240 autumn block calvers with a high emphasis on milk from forage. Tom is co-founder and equity partner in Evolution Farming, which since 2010 has grown to milking 3,800 cows over 9 sites around 9000 acres including arable, beef and sheep. Tom is also current vice chair of the UK Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust.



**Mal Carseldine**  
Chief Executive Officer - Lactalis

Mal joined Lactalis in 2014, holding several commercial management and leadership roles before heading up the Beverage and Milk business unit, the largest unit within the company. In 2023, he was appointed Chief Executive Officer. Prior to this, Mal spent around ten years in the drinks industry, with stints at Pernod Ricard Australia and then with Beam Global, culminating in the position of Commercial Director. He has a Bachelor in Business (Marketing & International) from Queensland University of Technology and an MBA from Macquarie Graduate School of Management.



**Michael Harvey**  
Senior Analyst, Dairy and  
Consumer Foods - Rabobank

Michael is an enthusiastic and experienced dairy analyst who has been actively involved in the Australian dairy industry for much of his life, including being raised on a dairy farm in northern Victoria. Michael has more than fifteen years' experience as a professional analyst, researcher and adviser gained through working with Dairy Australia, as part of the Trade and Strategy team before joining the Rabobank Research team in 2011 and has been a friend of ADC for many years in various roles. Michael has an in-depth knowledge of local and global dairy markets and how dairy supply chain's function. He holds



**Chris Procter**  
Dairy Farmer and Dairy Investor

Chris is originally from New Zealand's Waikato Region and first invested in dairy farms in Australia in 2007 in a time where land prices in New Zealand were increasing and dairy farming was offering poor cash returns. In 2014 he moved to Australia and built the business from the two original farms to nine in total, spread throughout South Australia and Gippsland. His growth in farms is a long-term strategy. All farms have different management structures and include share farmers, managers and contract milkers.



**Trent Thorne**  
PartnerCo-lead Food and  
Agribusiness group - Hamilton  
Locke Lawyers

Trent is recognised as a committed and passionate legal specialist for the agricultural sector. He has over 20 years' experience acting for food and agribusiness clients in a wide range of commercial matters, including complex commercial disputes, corporate and regulatory matters, negotiations, alternative dispute resolution and major pastoral property transactions. He has conducted international arbitrations, lengthy trials in Queensland and acted for major agribusiness entities, large property developers, multinational resource companies, major Government Owned Corporations and large corporate entities. He is a non-executive director on the board of the AAM Investment Group, Beef Australia and Rural Aid and he also enjoys mountain climbing.



**Sarah Moore**  
Dairy Farmer

Sarah has worked on a dairy farm in the Clare Valley for around 3 years, starting off as a milker and calf feeder during COVID and only intending to stay for three months. She is now the dairy and operations manager on the farm which currently milks 500 cows, a mixture of Friesians and Jerseys, on a 24 a side herringbone dairy. Sarah's introduction to the industry came about due to COVID and her background was previously in childcare and working on outdoor activity centres. The last three years have given Sarah opportunities for learning, new experiences and working with great people.



**Teena Pearse**  
Dairy farmer and proud mum

Teena is the proud mother of four children (including Paralympian Col Pearse) and the Manager of a farm in Victoria, near Echuca. She manages the farm with her husband and the help of 2 full-time workers, 1 full-time milker and backpackers when needed. They run 500 Holstein, dairy cows calving 3 times a year, with around 200 in each lot, and one of the dry off blocks has the most amazing native flower grasslands which are the best privately owned in Victoria. Teena had a native civet put on it to help protect it from being ploughed in the future. Teena is proud of the work done on the property and says 'A full cow is a happy cow, and a happy cow is a happy Teena.'



**Evan Nicholas**  
Dairy Farmer - Victoria

Evan is from a dairy farming family where all family members worked together with a few helpers along the way. At his farm in the Biggara Valley, work includes milking 580 Friesian cows and running roughly 1,700 head of stock across 1,800 acres. Chris is a dry land farmer and always hopes it rains at the right times to grow grass but to also cut and store enough silage. In 2020, during a major bushfire season, Evan's farm was engulfed by fire and 95% of the farm was lost including hay sheds and over 1,000 ton of stored feed. While no cows were lost, 114 in calf heifers perished. However, in the three years since, rain has come mostly when needed and the farm has benefited from a strong milk price.



**Jonathan Brown**  
AFL Footballer and Dairy  
Ambassador

In 2024, we are thrilled that Johnathan Brown will host the highly popular ADC Gala Dinner, sponsored by Rabobank. Jonathan, an AFL legend and media personality, was appointed as a dairy industry ambassador in 2020 and has helped to promote Australian Dairy through many promotional campaigns and events. Jonathan not only understands the industry but truly believes in it due to his personal connection. He is from a multi-generational dairy farming family and has a genuine and passionate commitment to supporting, promoting and protecting the industry.



**register now**



## GENERAL ENQUIRIES

### **Countrywide Conference Management**

Bradley or Kerryn Hayden

0412 461 392

[conference@australiandairyconference.com.au](mailto:conference@australiandairyconference.com.au)

**Cancellation Policy** A full refund, less a \$150 cancellation fee, will be made on any cancellations received by Friday 24 January 2024. No refunds will be issued for any registration cancellations made after January 24, although substitute delegates will be accepted.

**Insurance** Participants shall be regarded as carrying their own risk for personal injury or loss of property, including baggage, during the conference. We strongly recommend that, at the time of booking your travel, you take out travel insurance policy of your choice. The organisers are in no way responsible for any claims concerning insurance.

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**Condition of Entry** It is a condition of entry that no delegate may disrupt the order of events or intent of the program. Anyone considered to be disturbing the program intent will be asked to leave. Only pamphlets and brochures approved by the event organisers may be distributed.



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