

THE PROGRAM

Welcome Events – Monday 12 February

5.30pm **Young farmers networking function sponsored by GEA:** ADC 2024 Melbourne we have an exclusive social gathering for the younger brigade before the official welcome function. We will introduce to some key people, give you some tips and the inside running on the VIP list and provide a brief 101 of making the most of ADC. We'll make sure when it comes to networking and meeting people at the Welcome Function that you are all over it.



6.30pm **Fonterra Welcome Function:** The Fonterra Welcome Function is renowned for its high energy and buzz and this year will be spectacular at the Aviary Rooftop bar overlooking the Melbourne CBD skyline. Meet with dairy farmers and industry supporters from around the country and globe. 2024 also brings the finest in Australian cheese with **Fonterra Executive Chef Mark Normoyle** and **Ripe Cheese Hakim Halim** to leave you salivating!



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 young workforce called up to fight, their elders replacing them at the dairy in order to keep farming. Imagine having to deal with the reality of possible death every day, of checking for grenades prior to milking, while stoically producing milk for the region. This is the reality that **Andriy Dykun** oversees, from his position as president of the Milk Producers of Ukraine and chair of the Ukrainian Agri Council, representing some 1100 farmers, 150 of which are dairy farmers. The Australian Dairy Conference is privileged to bring Andriy to Australia to share the story of his people's remarkable resilience.

Andriy Dykun
President, Ukrainian Milk Producers Association

9.30am **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	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	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.	Mark Ferguson Founder and CEO neXtgen Agri - New Zealand

3.15pm 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.

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 Scientific Director and Fonterra Area Manager **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 & Fonterra Area Manager **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.

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



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



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

11.15am **What's the future of Australia's milk supply?**
Rabobank's **Michael Harvey** hosts this session to explore a range of views on our future milk supply will look like and where Australian dairy might fit in 2030.

Michael Harvey
Senior Analyst, Dairy and Consumer Foods
- Rabobank

11.20am **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

11.30am **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

11.45am **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
UK dairy farmer and
ARLA shareholder

12.00pm **The investor:** NZ expat and current advocate for investing 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

12.15pm Panel

12.30pm Lunch break



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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?

Sarah Moore

Dairy Farmer
South Australia

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.

Teena Pearse

Dairy farmer and proud mum
Victoria

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?

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

 DeLaval



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sponsors Maxcare & Lely**



**Relax, engage & connect at the
AF Systems Delegate Lounge**



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