



AUSTRALIAN  
DAIRY  
CONFERENCE

# Gold Coast The opportunity of milk

**12-14 February 2025**

Gold Coast Convention  
and Exhibition Centre

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





# THE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

**register now**

## TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY

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**ADC Pre Conference Tour** – Southern Queensland

Overnight return to Gold Coast

## WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY

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**ADC Pre Conference Tour** – Northern New South Wales

**ADC First Timers & Young Farmers function** – Eastern Terrace, GCCEC

**ADC Welcome Function** - Level 1 Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre

## THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY

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**ADC Morning Milk Run** – Kurrawa Beach, Broadbeach

**ADC Conference Day 1** – Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre

**ADC Trade Exhibition** – Hall 1, Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre

**ADC Gala Dinner** - Arena, Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre

## FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

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**ADC Yoga on the beach** – Kurrawa Beach, Broadbeach

**ADC Conference Day 2** – Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre

**ADC Trade Exhibition** – Hall 1, Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre

**ADC Happy Hour drinks** – Southern Terrace, Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre

**Registrations and bookings must be made online at**

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



# From the Conference Chair



ADC 2025 Gold Coast brings much excitement and anticipation as the first time in event history Australia's premier event has hit the glitzy GC as a host destination.

ADC 2025 is all about opportunity with the core theme of our program 'The Opportunity of Milk'.

Opportunity exists on every front wherever you are placed across the dairy supply chain.

Opportunity for dairy farmers from farm hands, generational farmers, new entrants building capital, those seeking to step away from the farm and commercial entities looking to capitalise on investments.

Opportunity to explore and implement new ways of doing business to enhance on-farm efficiencies including ways to enhance and foster your workforce, operations and farm development.

Opportunity for the industry as a whole to innovate and drive constant change and improvements to ensure we deliver a quality product whilst also creating sustainable practices, operations and businesses.

Opportunity at ADC 2025 for the industry to come together to connect, network and embrace the achievements of the Australian dairy industry and collaboratively work together and generate discussions to drive our industry forward.

And an opportunity to explore a new region in southern Queensland also extending into New South Wales as part of the ADC Conference Tour.

I am incredibly proud to present the ADC 2025 Program of which the Programming Committee has worked hard to deliver topics and conversations that will enable delegates to realise, acknowledge and embrace the opportunities that lie before them.

I hope you embrace 'The Opportunity of Milk' and take the opportunity to join us on the Gold Coast in February 2025.

Look forward to seeing you there.

**Monique Bryant**  
**ADC Programming Chair 2025**

## Industry Partner – Dairy Australia

As the national peak industry body, Dairy Australia is the ADC Industry Partner playing a pivotal role in bringing you Australia's premier dairy event.

Partners in name and nature, Dairy Australia provides financial input and resources to help bring one of the most valued dairy forums to fruition each year. In a collaborative effort to showcase Australia's dairy industry and drive significant change along with challenging the status quo, we thank Dairy Australia for their ongoing valued support towards ADC.



## Welcome Function Partner – Fonterra

Fonterra is the face to bring you back to ADC, as a regular supporter of the ADC Welcome Function for a long time now! The chatter, networking, introductions and vibe is always a welcome sight as delegates reconnect and meet new colleagues whilst they feast on dairy delicacies in a format that lends itself to good times and a great introduction to ADC every year. We thank Fonterra for their ongoing support to kick off festivities again in 2025!



## Gala Dinner Partner – Rabobank

Synonymous with the signature social event at ADC, Rabobank have stamped themselves on the national dairy landscape as the major supporter and host of the ADC Gala Dinner. In a setting that delivers spectacular surprises and magnificent entertainment, we thank Rabobank for their continued contribution towards putting the spotlight on dairy, its achievements, challenges and global outlook. We look forward to what is in store for 2025 Gold Coast.

## Sign up to ADC news

Get all the latest ADC news straight to your inbox via the ADC e-newsletter. Latest speaker releases, updates, special events and guests, along with everything you need to know about attending ADC 2025 Gold Coast.

## GET ADC SOCIAL



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Australian Dairy Conference



@ausdairyconf

# Special guests at ADC 2025

## Kimberley Busteed

### ADC 2025 Master of Ceremonies

Kimberley is a versatile Australian media personality, presenter, and MC, with 16 years of experience hosting Channel 7 programs like Weekender and Creek to Coast. Currently, she stars on The Great Outdoors. A sought-after host, Kimberley has led events such as the Queensland Tourism Awards and Beef Australia, working with top brands like Lexus of Brisbane, MLA, and Lion Australia. Her warmth and adaptability shine across diverse industries. Off-screen, Kimberley and her husband manage cattle properties in Somerset, blending her media expertise with a deep connection to agriculture. Kimberley will bring her own dynamic style, perfectly aligning with the ADC's name and values, ensuring an unforgettable conference experience that raises the bar once again!



## John Schumann

### Australian singer-songwriter

Experience an unforgettable evening at the ADC Gala Dinner hosted by Rabobank with legendary Australian singer-songwriter John Schumann. Known for his profound storytelling, John will deliver a moving oration followed by a live performance of his iconic anthem, 'I Was Only 19'. This powerful moment will celebrate resilience, community, and the human spirit, leaving a lasting impression on all who attend. With its emotional depth and timeless message, John's performance will be a true highlight of the night, creating a memorable and inspiring experience for everyone at the event. Don't miss this extraordinary showcase of talent and storytelling.

## Henriette Guldager

### ARLA's Dairy Farmer Support Officer, Denmark

Opportunity and change across the globe, we welcome Henriette Guldager to ADC 2025 joining us to share the journey of farmers in Denmark. With ambitious targets by ALRA Foods' dairy producers to reduce carbon emissions by 30% by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050, Henriette will share insight behind the vision, the innovation, the opportunity and the determination of farmers to reach this target. This is a story of collaboration, innovation, and seizing opportunities to build a more sustainable and prosperous future for dairy.





# ADC TOUR

Explore the dairy regions of Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales with the 2025 ADC Tour operating the two days leading into Conference thanks to tour sponsors MaxCare and Terragen.

ADC is operating the tour as two day tours returning to the Gold Coast overnight, meaning you can create your GC home base for the week and tour and make the most of ADC 2025.

## Day 1 Tour Tuesday 11 February

**Southern Queensland region > Gatton Research Facility & Toowoomba Feedlot**

Overnight Gold Coast

## Day 2 Tour Wednesday 12 February

**Northern Rivers region > Paul & Sharon Weir, dairy farm  
Tuncester NSW & 'Plantation Lorna', Dorey Family Macadamia  
nut farm, Knockrow, NSW.**

A popular pre-Conference opportunity to get on farm and check out different enterprises, models and operations in the subtropical part of the country.

Limited places available.

Tour pick up and drop off point will be the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. Accommodation is not included and is at own arrangement.



# THE PROGRAM

## Welcome Events – Wednesday 12 February

5.30pm



**ADC First Timers Function:** A special meet and greet exclusively for first-timers before the official welcome. This casual social gathering is designed to introduce you to others, share insider tips, and give you a rundown of ADC's key players. In short, we'll make sure 'newbie' delegates are ready to network with confidence and fully enjoy the main event! Brought to you by Lely.

6.30pm



**ADC Welcome Function sponsored by Fonterra:** An exciting lead-in event that brings a fresh twist this year, with a special introduction of all speakers and program committee members. Known for its high energy and lively atmosphere, this event will be full of dairy farmers and industry supporters from across the country, eager to reconnect setting the perfect tone to introduce ADC 2025.

## Day 1 – Thursday 13 February

### Session 1 – Farming in Australia – the Land of opportunity.

5.30am



Start the day fresh with the **ADC Morning Milk Run** sponsored by the Bega Group on the beautiful beaches of the Gold Coast as an invigorating way to kick off conference proceedings & connect with fellow delegates.

8.20am

Introducing MC extraordinaire **Kimberley Busteed** to ADC 2025! Kimberley brings 16 years of experience as an Australian media personality, hosting popular programs like Weekender, Creek to Coast, and The Great Outdoors. Off-screen, Kimberley and her husband manage cattle properties in Somerset, blending her media expertise with a genuine connection to agriculture. With her dynamic style and alignment with ADC's values we welcome Kimberley to ADC for the first time!

8.30am

**Welcome to ADC 2025:** Programming Committee Chair and northern Victoria dairy farmer **Monique Bryant** will encourage delegates to explore opportunities and get out of their comfort zone in this empowering and progressive forum.

8.45am

**Seizing the opportunities for industry: Paul Roderick, Chair Dairy Australia & ADC Board** grew up in farming, following his parents' example of community involvement and saying "yes" to opportunities. This shaped his path as a leader. He believes leadership isn't about titles but about embracing opportunities, learning, and sharing with others. It is rooted in encouragement and influence. Reflecting on his own doubts, Paul acknowledges the key figures who saw his potential and helped him find the courage to lead. Authentic leadership, he says, comes from seizing the chances we're given. As we gather in Queensland, Paul will share his insights on leadership and challenge us to reflect on our own stories and the opportunities we can embrace.

**Paul Roderick**  
Chair Dairy Australia &  
ADC Board Director



9.00am

**Opportunities in the Lucky Country:** Australia is often labelled as the lucky country, yet are we standing at the crossroads of tradition versus opportunity. **Nathan Scott** of Achieve Ag Solutions will address the importance of collective leadership and a chance to push the industry toward excellence, providing opportunities for those who truly care about and seek this country's 'luck'. He'll question how can we avoid highly predictable regrets as farmers, while inspiring a new model where both experienced and driven individuals can sustain farming legacies, allowing current owners to enjoy life beyond the farm.

**Nathan Scott**  
Achieve Ag Solutions

9.30am

**Success from opportunity:** Nathan will continue this theme of opportunity as he facilitates the inspiring journeys of dairy businesses who have found success and opportunity in Australia. Learn about the challenges they faced, the obstacles they overcame, and why they believe Australia has been the key to realising their dreams.

**Nathan Scott**  
Achieve Ag Solutions

**Clint Stephens**, has illustrated both growth and prospect (against the norm). Despite a pull to 'farm down south' he's seen the Queensland dairy industry as an opportunity to grab a hold of.

**Clint Stephens**  
Dairy farmer, QLD

**Brian Corr**, Gippsland has seized global opportunity to progress his dairy aspirations. Growing up in Ireland on a 150-acre mixed farm dairy, beef, sheep and poultry, and studying agriculture he spread his wings to dairy farming in New Zealand and the UK in management roles. In 2022, he and his partner purchased a 383-acred farm and expanded to 900 cows benefiting from land availability and favourable regulations in the region.

**Brian Corr**  
Dairy farmer, VIC

10.15am Morning tea brought to you by Saputo Dairy Australia





## Session 2 – Transitioning the Dairy Business

11.00am

**Rethinking Farm Transition:** We continue to hear stories on industry exits due to “no one to take on the farm” or “it’s impossible for me to get into farming” so what is the missing piece of the puzzle?

**Nathan Scott** believes nothing is missing and the people are right under our noses; it’s more of a mindset. Nathan will explore this further and be complemented with insights from three dairy industry businesses. They will share personal experiences of dairy transition - and not necessarily what they had hoped for. Nathan will challenge the audience that this is everyone’s responsibility to care about and change the mindset. He will push the audience as a call to action to transition the farm. Panel members Include:

**Lachlan Fry** Young WA Farmer – an inspiring young farmer who has attempted to enter into dairy but has failed to get asset owners to change their thinking to make way for a new entrant.

**Don & Jen Stolp** – Hailing from NZ, Don and Jen originally managed a Chris Proctor property in SA’s South East. Don and Jen reflect on their success story from Farm Managers transitioning through to share farmers.

**David & Penny Conn** bring a unique approach to share dairy farming that emphasises realistic goals and growth for ALL parties. They take immense satisfaction in seeing their sharefarmers thrive financially and grow wealth alongside them. This philosophy of sharing both opportunity and prosperity makes them exceptional models of balanced, equitable partnerships in dairy farming and inspiring voices on the power of collaboration and shared success in agriculture.

**Nathan Scott**  
Achieve Ag Solutions

**Lachlan Fry**  
Dairy farmer, WA

**Don & Jen Stolp**  
Dairy farmers, NZ / SA

**David & Penny Conn**  
Dairy farmers, VIC

12.00pm

**Transition Unlocked: The Ultimate Guide to Structuring for Success:** In this session, we’ve uncovered powerful stories of transition—but what does that actually look like in practice? **Claire Booth** from C.O. Booth Law & Advisory is here to break it down, offering the ultimate “how-to” on structuring your business so you’re fully equipped for a seamless transition. Get ready to walk away with the tools you need to be transition-ready.

**Claire Booth**  
C.O. Booth Law & Advisory

1.00pm Lunch brought to you by Coles

**coles**



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## Session 3 – Your guide to industry insights and practical solutions for the future



2.20pm Led by **Greg Duncan**, Farm Performance Lead, Dairy Australia

2.30pm **How do I become the farmer that everyone wants to work for?** With a focus towards workforce attraction, retention and development. **Rebecca Fing**  
House Paddock Training

**Rebecca Fing** founder of House Paddock Training and Consulting, brings 20 years of experience helping farms create safer, more productive, and people-focused workplaces. At ADC, she'll deliver a 10-minute session sharing her Top Tips to Becoming an Employer of Choice. Drawing from work with over 600 farms, Rebecca offers actionable strategies to improve safety, HR practices, and workplace culture. A follow-up video will provide deeper insights for building thriving, people-focused businesses. Don't miss this essential session for creating a workplace where great people want to stay.

2.40pm **Carbon confusion to clarity:** We keep hearing about Carbon but where do I start my learning or journey? What is a baseline, how is it measured and why should we know this. Climate change Professor **Richard Eckard** will give us the facts. **Richard Eckard**  
University of Melbourne

2.50pm **Farm Safety Simplified:** We all want to explore how to simplify farm safety and make it a practical part of daily operations. A leader from a recognised farming business will share why culture is the key to effective safety practices and highlight the tools they use to embed safety seamlessly on-farm. This session is perfect for those looking to improve safety outcomes while building a strong, people-focused culture. **Dairy farmer TBA**

3.00pm **Strategies for Surplus:** **Andy Hancock** presents examples of effective surplus calf management, showcasing the strategies and tactics that led to success. He'll explore the approaches that drove these outcomes and link them to the broader industry goals. This session will provide inspiration for addressing the issue of surplus calves for individual businesses at an industry level. **Andy Hancock**  
Dairy Australia

3.10pm **What do I do every day to look after me and my family's mental health:** Nuffield Scholar, Mental Health Counsellor and Dairy Farmer **Sarah Crosthwaite** will answer how mentally fit farmers equals a healthy dairy industry. **Sarah Crosthwaite**  
Nuffield Scholar, Mental Health Counsellor and Dairy Farmer

3.20pm Afternoon tea brought to you by Fonterra Suppliers Council



**MUELLER**

**Beat the heat at ADC 2025 as we keep you watered and hydrated thanks to the team at Westfalia Warragul**

## Session 4 – Dairy Innovators

4.00pm **ADC Innovator Award:** sponsored by Gardiner Foundation, an evolution of the former ADC Young Dairy Scientist Award, opens the door to a whole new world of opportunities. Now embracing a wider spectrum beyond pure science, this award invites innovative dairy ideas from brilliant minds across all ages and stages of their careers. Whether seasoned professionals or just starting out, the five finalists and their ideas will be a delight with the aim to inspire delegates. This is their chance to showcase research-backed or science-based ideas to the entire Australian dairy industry, capturing the very best talent and pushing the boundaries of innovation..



5.00pm **Day one close**



6.30pm **ADC Gala Dinner sponsored by Rabobank**

## Day 2 – Friday 14 February

## Session 5 – From Farm to Front Page

8.30am **Welcome to Day Two** MC Kimberley Busteed

8.45am **What 30 years of journalism has taught me.**  
**Leigh Sales**, ABC Reporter and Author, brings insights from 30 years of interviewing some of the world's most prominent figures to explore how media shapes the stories we see and hear. She'll delve into the challenges of navigating public narratives, offering a deeper understanding of how the media operates and its impact. With her wealth of experience, Leigh will share thought-provoking perspectives on communication, resilience, and building meaningful connections with audiences

**Leigh Sales**  
ABC Reporter and Author

9.30am **Dairy issues spotlight** With her expert interview skills, **Leigh Sales** will ignite a powerful panel discussion on the biggest issues in dairy—those that could make front-page news. Joined by industry leaders, they'll uncover potential challenges that could shake the industry and reveal bold strategies to navigate and overcome them for continued success.

Panellists Include:

**Jo Coombes**, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development NSW

**Ashlee Gardiner**, Stakeholder Engagement & Issues Manager, Dairy Australia

**Mark Billing**, Dairy farmer & President, Dairy Farmers VIC

**Grant Garey**, President, Australian Lot Feeders Association (ALFA)

**Jo Coombes**  
Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development NSW

**Ashlee Gardiner**  
Dairy Australia

**Mark Billing**  
Dairy farmer, VIC

**Grant Garey**,  
President, Australian Lot Feeders Association (ALFA)



**Official media partners of ADC**



## Session 6 – Are we really open to Innovation?

11.10am

**Embracing net zero:** Four years ago, ARLA Foods' dairy producers set an ambitious goal: to reduce carbon emissions by 30% by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050.

Today, this vision is becoming reality through the innovation and determination of farmers across Denmark.

**Henriette Guldager**, ARLA's Dairy Farmer Support Officer, will share the inspiring journey of how these farmers are embracing change and transforming the future of dairy.

Rather than being told what to do, ARLA farmers have discovered new opportunities through programs like FarmAhead, which tracks carbon footprints and identifies key areas for improvement, such as feed efficiency and land use. With support from advisors and incentives that reward sustainable practices, these farmers are not only meeting environmental goals but also enhancing profitability.

Henriette will bring real-life examples of farmers who have adopted groundbreaking technologies, partnered with researchers, and overcome challenges. Their story is one of collaboration, innovation, and seizing opportunities to build a more sustainable and prosperous future for dairy.

**Henriette Guldager**

ARLA's Dairy Farmer Support Officer,  
Denmark

11.40am

**Are we innovative enough and are we adopting it?**

**Nico Lyons**, Head of Science, DairyNZ will deliver a dynamic, presentation that paints a big-picture view of innovation in dairy, emphasising why it's critical for the industry's future. He'll explore the challenges posed by the flat productivity curve, highlighting the urgent need for transformative change. Nico will wrap up with actionable take-home messages, discussing what producers must do to drive innovation, the importance of building a supportive team, and how they can influence the future of innovative advancements for sustained success.

**Nico Lyons**

Head of Science,  
DairyNZ

12.05pm

**Early innovation & adoption** Facilitated by Dairy Australia's Chief Scientist, **John Penry**, the panel will feature New Zealand farmer **Hayden Lawrence**. Hayden, along with his wife Alecia, operates a 420-cow dairy farm near Eltham. As an early innovator and industry leader, Hayden will share real-world examples of how innovation has shaped his farming operation and discuss its critical role in driving success. This session will explore the value of early innovation and adoption, showcasing its impact on both individual businesses and the broader industry. Attendees will gain insights into how Hayden has influenced innovation in his operation, the importance of fostering innovation, and the key players behind his success.

**John Penry**

Principal Scientist,  
Dairy Australia

**Hayden Lawrence**,  
dairy farmer, NZ

12.25pm	<b>Collaboration &amp; innovation: Oli Madget</b> is passionate about connecting tech professionals with farmers to tackle industry challenges. He'll showcase how cross-industry collaboration drives innovation, sharing examples where tech experts addressed sustainability, energy efficiency, and automation. Oli will encourage delegates to embrace these "outsider" viewpoints and seek partnerships with experts in technology to overcome on-farm challenges and drive agriculture's future growth.	<b>Oli Madget</b> Vice President of Farmlab and Founder of SA AgriTech Meetup
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1.00pm Lunch brought to you by Lactalis Australia



## Session 7 – Opportunity in the sunshine state

Get ready for an exhilarating journey through the heart of Queensland as Session 7 celebrates the innovation, resilience, and ingenuity that defines the state. Through captivating storytelling and proven examples, this session will push you to think outside the box and explore bold new opportunities. This dynamic session will spark ideas, fuel connections, and celebrate the spirit of Queensland in a way that stays with you long after the conference.

2.10pm	Discover how the Angus family transformed from local QLD beef producers into global exporters by relentlessly seizing opportunities others overlooked. <b>Josie Angus</b> from Signature Beef will share the pivotal decisions and bold strategies that turned obstacles into catalysts for growth, revealing how their trailblazing diversification and value-added ventures paid off. Learn how they broke through traditional workforce barriers to attract talent into rural Australia, proving innovation trumps geography. Their story embodies resilience, courage, and forward-thinking, inspiring you to reimagine what's possible in your own enterprise. Walk away ready to embrace change, determined to turn your challenges into your next big success.	<b>Josie Angus</b> , Director, Angus Pastoral
2.40pm	In this closing session, discover how Belgian <b>Annelies Nijskens</b> turned a leap of faith into a springboard for success on the Gold Coast. Hear how embracing new opportunities in a fresh environment led to the founding of <b>Madocke Beer Brewing Company</b> —an enterprise built on firm values, innovation, and fearless experimentation. Trace the journey from modest beginnings to industry leadership, culminating in a pivotal role as an IBA (Independent Brewers Association) Director. Learn why stepping forward, seizing chances, and daring to shape your own path matters. Leave inspired to find, foster, and fully embrace the opportunities waiting in your own story.	<b>Annelies Nijskens</b> , Founder Madocke Beer Brewing Company

3.15pm Conference close

3.30pm ADC Happy Hour brought to you by Lallemand Animal Nutrition



# MORNING MILK RUN

At ADC 2025 we are launching the inaugural ADC Morning Milk Run!!

Those keen for an early morning start can join fellow farmers for a 3km run (or walk if you prefer) along the famous Gold Coast stretch of beach – and you never know who you may meet along the way!!

Kicking off at 5.30am for early bird dairy farmers looking to start their day the right way with a healthy start with the sand beneath your toes or runners!

ADC Morning Milk Run is free and brought to you by the Bega Group. Just tick the box and you are in!!



# YOGA ON THE BEACH

For a calm and gentle start to your Friday, line up next to your dairy farm buddy to limber up, stretch those joints and take in the serenity of early morning Gold Coast.

Even use ADC yoga as a chance to clear your head from the Gala Dinner the night before followed by a dip in the Pacific!! Whatever your preference, combine mindfulness and movement to create a memorable ADC 2025 Gold Coast journey.





# THE PRESENTERS



**Kimberley Busteed**

Channel 7 presenter, professional MC and farm manager

Kimberley Busteed, is a versatile Australian media personality, presenter, and MC, with 16 years of experience hosting Channel 7 programs like *Weekender* and *Creek to Coast*. Currently, she stars on *The Great Outdoors*. A sought-after host, Kimberley has led events such as the Queensland Tourism Awards and Beef Australia, working with top brands like Lexus of Brisbane, MLA, and Lion Australia. Her warmth and adaptability shine across diverse industries. Off-screen, Kimberley and her husband manage cattle properties in Somerset, blending her media expertise with a deep connection to agriculture. Kimberley will bring her own dynamic style, perfectly aligning with the ADC's name and values, ensuring an unforgettable conference experience that raises the bar once again!



**Paul Roderick**

Chair Dairy Australia, ADC Board & dairy farmer, QLD

Paul Roderick, a fifth-generation dairy farmer from Harrisville in Queensland's Scenic Rim, is set to become Chair Elect of Dairy Australia. With 30 years of hands-on farming experience and a lifetime of commitment to the dairy industry, Paul has been instrumental in shaping both his family business and the broader agricultural community.

At the helm of Roderick's Dairy, Paul and his wife Linda manage a 600-acre operation that milks 400 Friesian cows, producing over three million litres of milk annually. The farm combines a Partial Mixed Ration (PMR) system with advanced irrigation technologies, emphasizing innovation, sustainability, and strategic reinvestment.

Paul's impact extends far beyond the farm gate.

His leadership roles include Chair of Subtropical Dairy, where he was pivotal in establishing the Young Dairy Network (YDN) Queensland. He also served 11 years as a Director of Premium Milk Ltd, negotiating on behalf of Queensland dairy farmers with Lactalis. Currently a member of the Australian Dairy Conference Board and an EastAUSmilk District Councillor, Paul is deeply involved in the future of dairy. His extensive experience in advocacy, research, development, and extension has positioned him as a respected voice in the industry.



**Nathan Scott**

Achieve Ag Solutions

Nathan has been involved in Agriculture all his life. From milking cows as a kid through to an extensive career in prime lamb, merino wool and beef production, he has a passion for improving the profitability, productivity, and overall performance of agricultural businesses. His approach is based upon a unique blend of science, humour and inspiration to challenge traditional thinking. Nathan provides advice to individual clients, works with a number of producer groups, is a keynote speaker, guest lecturer and is involved within various industry projects. He is based in Inverleigh, Victoria.



**Clint Stephens**

Dairy farmer QLD

Clint Stephens is a first-generation dairy farmer who started his business from scratch on leased farms in Southeast Queensland in 2008, and now milks 550 cows across two sites. As a young farmer he was told it couldn't be done, "unless you inherit a property, the cost of dairy ownership is simply out of reach". He and wife, Joanna, have shown what looking for opportunities and the power of goals can achieve. They have increased their milking herd year-on-year for more than a decade and now

operate both leased and owned milking platforms. Clint holds a Bachelor of Agribusiness from the University of Queensland and worked full-time in Rural & Commercial banking until CGS Farms reached some key milestones of farm ownership and profitability. His secret to defying the odds in the Queensland dairy industry is a positive mindset and a long-range strategy. He learnt quickly not to let the harsh realities of farming define the business in the short term. From humble beginnings, Clint is now focused on systemising both dairies and attracting a talented team to secure CGS Farms ongoing success.



**Brian Corr**  
Dairy farmer, VIC

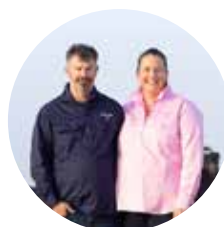
Brian grew up on a 150-acre mixed farm in Ireland, managing dairy, beef, sheep, and poultry. After earning a Diploma in Agriculture with experience in New Zealand, he managed a 350-cow UK dairy farm before returning to Ireland to help with the family's expanding poultry operation. Seeking broader opportunities, he moved to Australia at 26, working in broadacre cropping and eventually settling in West Gippsland, Victoria.

In 2022, Brian and his partner Myrid purchased a 383-acre farm, starting with 270 cows and quickly expanding their operation. By the next season, the couple will have expanded their operation to manage 900 cows across owned and share-farmed properties, capitalising on Gippsland's favourable climate, abundant land, and streamlined regulations. Their focus on scalable growth and sustainable investments has driven rapid success, showcasing the opportunities in Australian agriculture.



**Lachlan Fry**  
Dairy farmer, WA

Lachlan alongside his family own and operate Katandra Park Holsteins and Jerseys, located at Brunswick Junction, in the South West corner of Western Australia. The herd is a 50-50 split of Holsteins and Jerseys milking registered 140 cows. Lachlan and family regularly exhibit at their local shows in WA with great success over the years. Lachlan has been heavily involved in the success of Western Australia's annual youth cattle camp, holding various committee positions over the past 15 years. Lachlan is also the current Chair of the WA Region of Holstein Australia. Lachlan has had the honour of judging multiple breeds in every state in Australia, which has included International Dairy Week, Royal Shows, State Shows, Youth Shows and On Farm Challenges. Lachlan's most recent appointment included judging the 2024 Holstein Victorian Winter Fair and will judge the Holsteins at New Zealand Dairy Event in 2025. Lachlan looks forward to the opportunity to share his dairy journey.



**Don & Jen Stolp**  
Dairy farmers, SA

Don and Jen Stolp have carved a remarkable path in the dairy industry, bridging their New Zealand heritage with their life and business in Australia. Born and raised on a dairy farm in Ashburton, New Zealand, Don discovered his love for farming and machinery at a young age, working side-by-side with his father and grandfather and embraced full-time work on the family farm. Jen joined the farming world in 2006, coming from a non-farming background but quickly developing a deep respect and enthusiasm for calf-rearing. Under the guidance of Don's mother, she honed her skills and embraced the farming lifestyle. In 2009, they moved to Australia, driven by the desire to explore new opportunities in agriculture. Their journey included stints in sheep and crop farming, dairy heifer rearing, and even cattle truck driving, but dairy farming ultimately called them back. They

accepted a management role on a dairy farm in Kongorong, South Australia, where they excelled. After two years, they were offered a share-farming partnership. By 2017, they became 50% partners in Moana Dairies, and in 2020, they took full ownership. Now, with almost 15 years in Australia, 8 years at their share-farming position, and two children, Don and Jen have built a sustainable business that embodies their values and dedication to dairy farming. Their journey from New Zealand to Australia reflects a commitment to growth, resilience, and community within the dairy industry.



**David & Penny Conn**  
Dairy farmers, VIC

David and Penny Conn are lifelong farmers, with David dedicating his entire career to dairy farming and Penny joining him in the industry 32 years ago. Over the years, they have significantly grown their operations, managing both dairy and beef enterprises across three regions in Victoria and Tasmania.

Their success is driven by a clear goal: to ethically and sustainably double their net worth every 5–7 years while fostering wealth creation opportunities for their team. David and Penny prioritise simplicity in their systems, embracing the “Keep It Simple, Stupid” (KISS) principle to ensure efficiency and ease of operation. Until recently, they were hands-on in managing their beef enterprise but have since appointed a manager, allowing them to focus on the strategic side of their business. They now concentrate on planning and supporting their team where needed, ensuring continued growth and a positive work environment for all involved. David and Penny are passionate about creating opportunities for their team to share in the wealth and success of their farming ventures, making them respected leaders in their field.



**Claire Booth**  
C.O Booth Law & Advisory

Claire is a lawyer and farmer near Dubbo, NSW. In 2012, Claire and her husband Brendan started their farm business when both 28 years of age. BoothAg now produces irrigated crops and run a complimentary breeding and trading livestock operation. Prior to moving to Dubbo, Claire worked in large-scale agribusiness and the not-for-profit sector relating to children’s disabilities. Clients seek out Claire for her advice in relation to converting family farms into family corporates, and succession planning. Recently Claire has been approached to build syndicates for family farmers looking to purchase large scale agricultural assets. Claire is a 2017 Nuffield Scholar, who investigated if there was a link between financial literacy, profitability, and debt confidence, in relation to farm succession. As a side hustle in 2024 Claire created a café and art gallery ‘The Buckenbah Collective Project’ enables Claire to look at how a bank views farm equity – as part of an experiment to extract wealth from the farm balance sheet, to invest in ‘off-farm’ projects such as commercial, industrial, and retail property development and investment - hoped to be a case study for other families wanting to create “farm” and “off-farm” wealth portfolios. On a personal level, Brendan and Claire are parents to two young children (Lach 8 & Lucy 4) and are belatedly learning the art of slowing down, river-side picnics and building cubbies in the backyard.



**Greg Duncan**  
Agribusiness Program Lead, Dairy Australia

Greg was raised on a sheep; beef & cropping property Nth NSW and now lives with his family near Huskisson in the Shoalhaven region of NSW. He started his career in dairy herd management in the Riverina then moved into Regional Extension at Dairy NSW looking after Sydney to Bega and across to Wagga Wagga, while also leading the Young Dairy Network across the state for 7 years. In the last 4 years he’s taken on the Agribusiness Program Lead at Dairy Australia which sees him working



across all dairying regions assisting in delivering research, development, extension, & education programs that focus on improving farm profitability and sustainability. He's a keen diver, fisherman, wannabe triathlete and wrangler of 3 teenage children in his spare time.



**Rebecca Fing**

House Paddock Training

Rebecca Fing of House Paddock Training and Consulting has been helping farming businesses think strategically and provide a safer, more productive work environment for 20 years. Based in Goondiwindi, Rebecca provides Business Strategy, WHS and HR consulting services to farmers and small business. Having been on over 600 farms across six states, Rebecca has seen it done well (and not so well!) and loves sharing what she has seen and learnt along the way. Bec runs programs to help farmers and small businesses improve business strategy, WHS and HR through workshops, industry programs and online courses and is focused on practical, real solutions to everyday problems. Whether it is the big picture planning or the more detailed side of the business, Bec takes a no frills, practical approach from the ground up. "Process and adoption over paperwork" and "engagement from the outset" are two mantras Bec subscribes to when helping businesses, particularly with WHS and HR. Formal qualifications as well as an active and established relationship with the relevant regulatory bodies for WHS and HR ensure that the advice Bec provides, while practical, is well founded and credible. Shes also a huge advocate for the people in Dairy site which is a win / win. She also is part of her own family farm within the region so can "walk the talk".



**Richard Eckard**

University of Melbourne & Director Primary Industries Climate Change Challenges Centre

Richard is Professor of Carbon Farming at the University of Melbourne and science leader in the Net Zero Agriculture Cooperative Research Centre. His research focuses on carbon farming and accounting towards carbon neutral agriculture, managing extreme climate events and options for agriculture to respond to a changing climate. Richard is a science advisor to the Australian, New Zealand, UK and EU governments, the International Livestock Research Institute and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization on climate change adaptation, mitigation and policy development in agriculture. Richard was recently named on the Reuters list of the world's 1,000 most influential climate scientists and was appointed in 2021 as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. Richard developed the first greenhouse gas accounting tools, for all sectors of agriculture in Australia, that now forms an agreed national standard for agriculture.



**Dr Andy Hancock**

Sustainable Animal Care Manager, Dairy Australia

BSc, BV Biol/BVSc (Hons I), MVS/MVSc, MANZCVS (Vet. Epi.), Grad Cert BA. Andy is a dairy veterinarian with experience in clinical practice, academia, industry and government. Andy commenced working at Dairy Australia in February this year, in the position of Sustainable Animal Care Manager, where he is tasked with managing the dairy industry's commitments and targets under the Animal Care Commitment of the Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework. Andy came to Dairy Australia from Agriculture Victoria where he was the Principal Veterinary Officer (Cattle), supporting the Chief Veterinary Officer through the provision of technical, policy and strategic advice. Prior to this, Andy worked with Zoetis International, overseeing projects to identify, develop and demonstrate value propositions for Zoetis' global ruminant health portfolio.



**Sarah Crosthwaite**

Nuffield Scholar & Open Road Counselling

Sarah Crosthwaite is a 2023 Nuffield Scholar who recently completed a global study on enhancing mental health and wellbeing in farming communities. An Accredited Mental Health Social Worker, Sarah founded Open Road Counselling, a specialised telehealth service designed to reach and support farmers, their families, and farm workers with compassionate, tailored mental health care, no matter their location. She also serves on the advisory board for the National Centre for Farmer Health, where she brings a vital farmer perspective to advancing mental health initiatives in agriculture. In addition to her work in mental health, Sarah is actively involved in the daily operations of her family's dairy farm in Northeast Victoria, which she runs with her husband, Stuart. With experience across various aspects of the business, Sarah now manages the farm's administrative functions while continuing hands-on work during busy seasons like calving. Combining her farming background with mental health expertise, Sarah is dedicated to supporting the wellbeing of rural communities.



**Leigh Sales**

Journalist & author

Leigh Sales AM is one of Australia's most recognised and respected journalists.

For almost twelve years, she anchored the ABC's flagship evening current affairs program, 7.30, as well as being the face of major news coverage for the network, including federal elections and budget nights. She has been a foreign correspondent based in Washington DC, covered various rounds including national security and politics, and worked for TV, radio, print and digital. She is now the presenter of the ABC's beloved Australian Story program. She is the author of four books: Detainee 002: The Case of David Hicks (2007), On Doubt (2009), Well Hello (2021) and the national bestseller Any Ordinary Day (2018). She co-hosts a wildly popular podcast called Chat 10, Looks 3 with her friend Annabel Crabb.

It attracts hundreds of thousands of downloads each month, performs sell-out live shows around Australia and covers subjects ranging from arts and culture to friendship and grief. Leigh Sales has been recognised with many honours and awards, including three Walkley awards for journalism and an Order of Australia for her public service. She has also been awarded an honorary doctorate from Edith Cowan University. She has two sons and studies the cello in her spare time.



**Ashlee Gardiner**

Stakeholder Engagement and Issues Manager, Dairy Australia

Ashlee brings a unique blend of firsthand farming experience and professional expertise to the Australian dairy industry. Growing up on a dairy farm, she developed a deep appreciation for the sector, which she has channelled into a career spanning over a decade in agricultural policy, issues management, and stakeholder engagement. In her role at Dairy Australia, Ashlee leads the industry's issues management function, including biosecurity threats like Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), while fostering strong relationships with government and industry stakeholders. Her leadership during significant industry events, including managing disaster relief efforts, highlights her dedication to supporting Australian dairy farmers. A graduate in Agricultural Science with further studies in ruminant nutrition and agribusiness, Ashlee combines technical expertise with strategic vision, making her a trusted voice on issues shaping the future of dairy. As a panellist in "From Farm to Front Page," she will share strategies for tackling the dairy industry's most pressing issues and driving resilience for the future.



**Mark Billing**

Dairy farmer, VIC

Mark operates a dryland pasture-based dairy farm in partnership with his wife, Sam, situated 5 km

west of Colac in southwest Victoria. They focus on milking registered Holsteins and embody the values of a fourth-generation dairy farming family. Mark is passionate about the future of the dairy industry and dedicated to advocating for farmers. As the President of Dairy Farmers Victoria, he actively represents the interests of dairy farmers, ensuring their voices are heard in industry discussions. Mark is involved in initiatives that promote sustainable farming practices and improve livelihoods.



**Grant Garey**  
Australia Lot Feeders Association (ALFA)

Grant is the current President of ALFA. ALFA is the peak industry body for the Lot Feeding sector in Australia. Grant has been an ALFA director for 20 years and has worked in the feedlot industry for 30 years. He started his career as a feed truck driver after completing a B.Rur.Sci Degree at UNE Armidale, NSW. He is currently the General Manager of Feedlots for Teys Australia and oversees the running of their three feedlots with combined 67,000hd one time capacity. Teys is the second largest beef processor in Australia operating six beef facilities, three feedlots as well as value add and wholesale businesses, exporting beef to over 50 countries around the world. Grant is a former winner of the ALFA Young Lot Feeder Award in 2000.



**Henriette Guldager**  
Senior Manager Agriculture, Sustainability and Commercialization, ALRA

Proud to be working with some of the world's most innovative and sustainable dairy farmers. Having an educational background in farming I enjoy supporting the transformation of dairy to make us fit for the future. Part of my role is to create the data foundation with all our farmer owners stand on and facilitate the knowledge sharing which is key for us to develop as a whole.



**Dr Nico Lyons**  
Head of Science, DairyNZ

Since 2023, Nicolas has led DairyNZ's science team, driving innovation through technology, strategic science direction, and impactful partnerships. With expertise in robotic milking, farm systems, grazing, and cow behaviour, he has built and led multidisciplinary teams to tackle sector challenges and deliver large-scale programs.

A forward-thinker with a big-picture mindset, Nicolas connects people and ideas to create innovative solutions. Originally from Argentina, he holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from the University of Buenos Aires and a PhD in Veterinary Science from the University of Sydney. "Supporting our world-class team to innovate and make a difference for farmers is a true privilege," he says.



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

BVSc MVS PhD MANZCVS (ruminant nutrition) Dip HRM (dairy)

After graduating from University of Melbourne Veterinary Science in 1990, John worked in a mixed dairy vet practice at Camperdown in SW Victoria until 2013. From the late 1990's, after completing a Masters program in Dairy Medicine and Management, he spent a large portion of each year involved with industry funded Australian national animal health and feedbase programs including Countdown and InCalf. John completed a PhD program in 2016 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison conducting milk harvesting research with Professor Doug Reinemann. In addition, he had previously completed membership examinations with the Australian and NZ College of Veterinary Scientists in ruminant nutrition. Following a research and advisory role at Anexa/Cognosco in NZ, he joined Dairy Australia in 2019 and is the Principal Scientist for the organisation. Through his various industry roles, John has presented at conferences and workshops in twelve countries, primarily on



dairy animal health and milk harvesting topics. His family remain based in Camperdown, South West Vic.



**Hayden Lawrence**

Dairy farmer, New Zealand

Hayden is a dairy farmer just south of Eltham, Taranaki on the west coast of NZ. He, alongside his wife Alecia and three children own and operate a 420 cow farm in a split calving system. Before going dairy farming, Hayden completed a PhD in Precision Agriculture and undertook the development and rollout of the Rapid Pasture Meter, for which he holds the patent. He also worked as the Innovations manager for C-Dax Systems. Hayden has a passion for agricultural research and sits on the board of Dairy Trust Taranaki who run four research and demonstration farms in the Taranaki region. He loves finding the balance between the research process and the commercial realities of farming and adopting new ideas and innovations to their own dairy farming business.



**Oli Madget**

Vice President FarmLab & Founder SA AgriTech Meetup

Oli is VP of Special Projects at FarmLab, and has been working with Meat & Livestock Australia, AgriFutures and the Clean Energy Regulator for the past 2 years to scale soil carbon baselining and decarbonize supply chains.

Oli has been a grape grower in McLaren Vale since 2015, and founded the SA AgriTech Meetup, bringing together a community of more than 2,000 developers, farmers, and entrepreneurs interested in the agricultural technology space to develop novel solutions in AgTech.



**Dr Jo Coombe**

NSW Chief Veterinary Officer and Director, Animal Biosecurity at NSW DPI

Jo gained her Veterinary Science degree and PhD from the University of Melbourne. She started her career as a dairy vet in Timboon, SW Victoria. Jo held roles within Dairy Australia as Manager, animal health, welfare and fertility and Policy Lead. She has consulted to various universities and industries and was the Secretariat (and inaugural Chair) of the Animal Industries' Antimicrobial Stewardship R,D & E Strategy (AIAS). She is also an invited member of the Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on antimicrobial resistance (ASTAG). In Jo's spare time she races triathlons all over the world.



**Josie Angus**

Director, Angus Pastoral Company

Central Queensland cattle producer, beef industry innovator and agricultural advocate. Over three decades Josie and her husband Blair have built their family cattle producing operation into a dynamic branded beef powerhouse, supplying premium home-grown product to more than 30 countries under their own stable of Signature Beef brand labels including Kimberley Red, Oino Gustus and Angus Pastoral Company. Following several years of planning and two years of construction, they have also recently opened their own on-farm abattoir, the first greenfield processing plant to be built in Queensland for almost three decades. A bold move to bring processing "back to the bush", the 50,000 head state-of-the-art bespoke plant, complete with its own on-farm village providing permanent accommodation for 70 employees, completes the vertical integration of the Angus family's own supply chain from paddock to plate, the latest step in an ongoing dedicated quest to produce the world's best beef.



### **Annelies Nijskens**

Founder & Brewery Manager Madocke Beer Brewing Company

Annelies Nijskens is the founder and brewery manager of Madocke Beer Brewing Company on the Gold Coast, the only Belgian owned and operated brewery in Australia. Moved to Australia in 2016 with husband and children, purposely to open a Belgian Style Craft Brewery after a career change. Bound by visa restrictions, several setbacks, and from starting a brewery at their home garage to opening their bigger brewery in the midst of the Covid craze, Madocke made name and fame within the craft beer industry. Resulting in many Gold medal winning beers and being crowned Champion Independent Small Australian Brewery at the Independent Beer Awards 2023. Annelies currently also sits on the Board of Directors for the Independent Brewers Association, and is member of the Food & Beverage Industry Reference Group. Her journey highlights how passion and persistence can turn challenges into success. From a restrictive garage setup to an award-winning brewery, the story exemplifies how overcoming setbacks can lead to triumph.



## **Someone say cheese?**

Dairy lovers get your taste buds ready as ADC 2025 brings you a smorgasbord of cheeses for you to try, taste and sample thanks to the team at Australian Dairy Farmers. Hakim from Ripe Cheese, some of you may remember him from ADC 2024, is back on hand with his effervescent personality to get you excited about the best in Australian cheese!



# PRICE LIST

## Early bird registrations for ADC 2025 Gold Coast

Registration Type	Cost *inclusive of GST	Details
<b>Early Bird Farmer Registration</b>	\$825	Register & pay by Wednesday 18th December 2024 for this ticket pricing. Full conference package
<b>Early Bird Farmer Registration – second and subsequent from the same farm</b>	\$715	Register & pay by Wednesday 18th December 2024 for this ticket pricing. Must use the group portal and be from the same farm/employer. Full conference package
<b>Farmer Registration (after early bird closes)</b>	\$990	Full conference package
<b>Non-Farmer Registration</b>	\$1485	Full conference package
<b>Day Registration</b>	\$450 Farmer \$715 Non Farmer	One day of conference only. NOTE: evening functions are not included with this ticket.
<b>Pre-Conference Tour</b>	\$ 220 per person per tour option.	Pre Conference package: One day guided tour Coach Transport Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. **Accommodation is not included.
<b>Welcome Function</b>	\$120 per person	Included in full conference package. Additional tickets can be purchased for accompanying guests. Includes cocktail style dinner and drinks.
<b>ADC Gala Dinner</b>	\$150 per person	Included in full conference package. Additional tickets can be purchased for accompanying guests. Includes 3 course meal, drinks and entertainment.

Full Conference package includes:

- Welcome Function Dinner sponsored by Fonterra
- Conference Days 1 and 2
- ADC Gala Dinner sponsored by Rabobank
- Friday Night Happy Hour

Early Bird Registrations close **Wednesday 18th December 2024.**

Register online at [www.australiandairyconference.com.au](http://www.australiandairyconference.com.au)





# ACCOMMODATION

The iconic Gold Coast offers an endless range of accommodation options within walking distance of the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) and the main stretch of sand on Broadbeach, 15 minutes south of the heart of the Gold Coast CBD.

Hotels, apartments, suites, luxury homes and budget motels. Explore options via [www.gccec.com.au/accommodation](http://www.gccec.com.au/accommodation) as a starting point.

Delegates are responsible for making their own accommodation bookings and arrangements.



## 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 2025. No refunds will be issued for any registration cancellations made after Friday 31 January, 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..

**Disclaimer** Every effort is made to ensure that the contents of this registration brochure are correct. The organisers retain the right to make changes where necessary. The Australian Dairy Conference Ltd and the conference managers, Countrywide Conference and Event Management, will not accept liability for any damages of any nature sustained by participants or their accompanying persons or loss or damage to their personal property for the duration of the tour and conference.

**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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