Our Dairy Industry. Ours to Shape.



ADC AUSTRALIAN DAIRY CONFERENCE

24 - 26 February Adelaide 2027

Adelaide Convention Centre

www.australiandairyconference.com.au

Dairy Australia ANZ



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

register now

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY

ADC Pre Conference Tours – sponsored by Lely, DeLaval, DairySA & VICCHEM (page 7)

ADC Young Farmers Function – sponsored by DLF Seeds – ACC*

ADC Trade Exhibition early opening 4.00pm – ACC

ADC Welcome Function – sponsored by Lactalis – ACC

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY

ADC Morning Milk Run – sponsored by Bega Group – River Torrens, Adelaide

ADC Breakfast sessions – sponsored by GEA, Evans & Partners and Halter – ACC

ADC Conference Day 1 – ACC

ADC Trade Exhibition – ACC

ADC Gala Dinner – sponsored by ANZ – ACC

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY

ADC Conference Day 2 – ACC

ADC Trade Exhibition – ACC

ADC Happy Hour Drinks – sponsored by Onside – ACC

*ACC = Adelaide Convention Centre

Registrations and bookings must be made online at
www.australiandairyconference.com.au



From the Conference Chair

'Our dairy industry. Ours to shape' 'is the theme for ADC 2027 in Adelaide. It reflects the potential for each of us to contribute and create something truly unique and special for Australian dairy.

Dairy farming in Australia offers so many advantages. Like many, I have travelled the globe to explore dairy farming practices and operations in other parts of the world, learn from others and gain knowledge. I bring that learning back to my own patch to help me put my best foot forward.

In Australia, we have the capability, know-how and environment to continue to set a global example through the way we operate as dairy farmers. Doing so is both an opportunity and a challenge – and I believe our industry is more than capable of meeting that challenge.

We are facing new frontiers and opportunities we once would not have thought possible. Automation, technological advances, genetics and pasture evolutions, virtual fencing and robotics are just some of the developments creating new possibilities. How we utilise and implement these industry advancements is up to us – and ours to shape.

As we embark on another Australian Dairy Conference, let's broaden our horizons and our thinking. By sharing thoughts, opinions and practices to embrace, we can harness the possibilities and opportunities before us and advance our industry for the better.

I am incredibly proud to lead the ADC Programming Committee for ADC 2027. The program before you reflects the Committee's insightful thinking, broad perspectives and teamwork. Together, we have brought you topics and conversations to help steer your own dairy journey and pathway.

We hope the lineup motivates you and sparks your curiosity. Our aim is to encourage thought about where our industry is heading – and where we want it to be; It's our industry and ours to shape

Hope you can join us on this journey in February 2027 in Adelaide.

Kieran Bourke
ADC 2027 Programming Chair

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 supporting resources to help bring one of the most valued dairy forums to fruition each year. In a collaborative effort to showcase the Australian dairy industry and drive significant change along with challenging the status quo, we thank Dairy Australia for their ongoing valued support towards ADC. **www.dairyaustralia.com.au**

Welcome Function Partner **LACTALIS**

What better way to kick off ADC 2027 than with the warmth and hospitality of Lactalis, the world's largest dairy company and proud host of the ADC Welcome Function. A much-loved opening to the conference, the Welcome Function brings delegates together to reconnect, make new connections and enjoy great conversation over delicious dairy-inspired fare. Showcasing some of Australia's best-loved dairy brands, Lactalis once again sets the scene for three days of inspiration, networking and opportunity. We thank Lactalis for their continued support in helping us welcome the dairy community to Adelaide in 2027.

Gala Dinner **ANZ**

We are delighted to welcome ANZ as a major event partner and proud host of the ADC Gala Dinner in 2027. One of the highlights of the ADC program, the Gala Dinner promises an unforgettable evening of spectacular surprises, captivating entertainment and celebration. It's an opportunity to recognise the achievements of our dairy industry, celebrate its people and look ahead to the opportunities shaping its future. We thank ANZ for their generous support and commitment to Australian dairy and look forward to delivering a memorable night in Adelaide in 2027.

GET ADC SOCIAL

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 2027 Adelaide.

@australiandairyconference @australiandairyconference Australian Dairy Conference @ausdairyconf

2027 Highlights

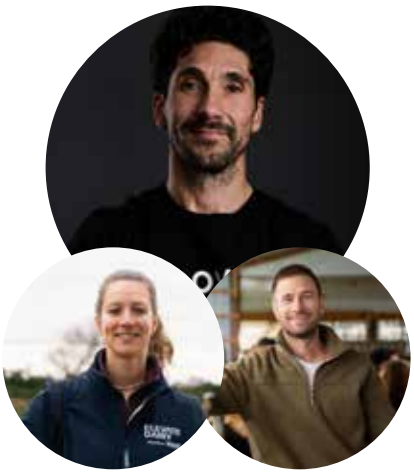
Our Dairy Industry. Ours to Shape.



The future of dairy isn't something we wait for. It's something we shape.

ADC 2027 brings together bold thinkers, global perspectives, industry leaders and progressive farmers to challenge convention, spark new ideas and explore what's possible for Australian dairy.

From big-picture thinking to practical on-farm solutions, we're tackling the opportunities, challenges and decisions that will define our industry's future. New perspectives. Fresh thinking. Real-world insights. Your future to shape.



Tomorrow's Opportunities. Today.

Challenge your thinking. Rethink what's possible. Innovation provocateur **Gus Balbontin** will push boundaries, challenge assumptions and encourage us to think differently about the future.

US dairy farmer and Nuffield Scholar **Paul Windemuller** explores how artificial intelligence and farm data can move beyond the hype to deliver real on-farm value, while Beanstalk AgTech's **Jolien Paalman** opens our eyes to emerging technologies and opportunities we may not yet have imagined. The future is coming. Are you ready to make it work for you?

Pyne Time for dairy



Politics, influence and the power of persuasion. Never one to shy away from an opinion, former Cabinet Minister The Hon **Christopher Pyne** brings his trademark wit, candour and political insider's perspective to ADC 2027.

From understanding your audience to building relationships and influencing decisions, Christopher explores the art of making your voice heard and why it matters for Australian dairy. Expect sharp insights, straight talking and plenty of food for thought.



ANZ Gala Spectacular

In 2027, we're delighted to welcome ANZ as our gala dinner host. With deep connections across Australian agriculture, ANZ joins us in celebrating the people, passion and progress that make our dairy industry extraordinary. One spectacular night in Adelaide.



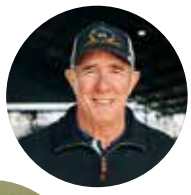

Shaping an Australian Story

What does it take to build an iconic Australian business while staying true to the values that made it successful?

R.M.Williams CEO **Paul Grosmann** takes us behind the boots to explore resilience, tough decisions, leadership and building a business for the long term whilst honouring your roots.

Bannister Downs Dairy's **Sue Daubney** also shares her remarkable journey of innovation, ambition and turning a family dairy business into a premium Australian success story.

Two different businesses. Shared lessons in courage, conviction and creating lasting value.


Pasture or TMR?

Two systems. Two perspectives. One big debate. **Rauiri McDonnell** leads a thought-provoking discussion that goes beyond milk production to explore the economics, efficiencies and realities of different dairy systems with SA TMR dairy farmer **Gary Zweck** and Tasmanian pasture-based producer **James Greenacre**. Robust discussion, practical insights and plenty to take home to your own business.





Lessons from beyond our borders

What can Australian dairy learn from farmers navigating some of the world's toughest industry challenges?

Olof Boson (Sweden) explores maintaining control and opportunity amid European regulation and policy whilst **LeAnne Blakelock** (NZ) examines the impact of biosecurity threats on farming businesses, and **Aled Jones** (Wales) shares perspectives on the disruption of foot-and-mouth disease across the UK.

Different countries. Shared challenges and valuable lessons for Australian dairy's future.



ADD TO YOUR SOCIALS!

Charlie Blomfield @cblomfield @boridgeree With 110k followers across his social platforms and a self-proclaimed reputation as a disturber of the peace, Charlie Blomfield has a knack for turning everyday farm life into content that makes people stop scrolling. Funny, fearless and refreshingly honest, Charlie brings his unique take on Australian agriculture to ADC 2027. Follow him now. Meet him in Adelaide.

ADC PRE CONFERENCE TOURS

LELY ROBOTICS

Three outstanding Lely robotic dairy farms in South Australia, including the Hurrells' Rockwella Farm Holsteins, the Connors' Nangkita Dairy, and Martin and sons' dairy farm. See the Lely Astronaut robots in action, and hear from the farmers about their journey - the decisions, the challenges, and what's changed since making the switch.

register now



DELAVAL DAIRY TOUR

Join DeLaval as they have lined up some of their best dairy examples in South Australia visiting a DeLaval E100 Rotary Farm and a DeLaval VMS V300 Farm, so you get to see the best of both worlds on this tour. See the latest and hear the latest leading into ADC 2027 Adelaide.

register now



DAIRYSA & VICCHEM

A South Australian showcase beginning with Altmann Farms dairy enterprise before the Thomas Foods International processing facility at Pallamana, lunch at Rezz Hotel, La Vera delicacy cheeses and a beer tasting pit stop at Coopers Brewery. Hosted by DairySA and brought to you by VICCHEM.

register now



AUSTRALIAN DAIRY CONFERENCE BREAKFAST

ADC is offering a breakfast smorgasbord in 2027 as we bring three options to choose from and delve deeper into your preferred topics of interest. Get extra insights, detailed knowledge and dairy expertise.

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2027

7.00am start
Adelaide Convention Centre
Light breakfast followed by session of your choice.

Select your breakfast option on registration. Breakfast sessions are complimentary for dairy farmers (must register).



Less Grind. More Milk

GEA Engineering for a better world.

Practical ways to take the hard work out of milking. Join GEA for breakfast and a practical conversation about the everyday jobs technology can make easier. Because smarter milking isn't about adding more technology. It's about making the work simpler and the information more useful.



Investing beyond the farm gate

EVANS & PARTNERS

Seasonal conditions, milk prices, input costs, interest rates and global demand can all shift quickly, and the effects often flow through to both farm income and the value of the land, herd and equipment. Evans & Partners will look at how farming families can build an off-farm asset position over time, so that some of their wealth sits in investments that are less tied to the agricultural cycle.



The Halter evolution

Halter

With more than 2 million Halter collars on cows, this session digs into the value being created for farmers. Hear from the Halter team about the value - what's making money for farmers, what knowledge is Halter creating for farmers and hear about the evolution and what is coming next for farmers.

THE PROGRAM

Welcome Events – Wednesday 24 February

4.00pm	**Young Farmers Function** A special meet and greet exclusively for young farmers before the official welcome. This casual gathering is designed to introduce you to others, share insider tips, and give you a run down of ADC making sure 'new' delegates are ready to network with confidence and fully enjoy the main event. DLF Seeds
5.30pm - 7.30pm	**ADC Welcome Function** – sponsored by Lactalis

Day 1 – Thursday 25 February

6.15am	**ADC Morning Milk Run** – sponsored by Bega Group Kick start your day with dairy colleagues in a run, walk or stroll. Join 100+ farmers in an outing that is more than just fitness - be part of the movement and camaraderie of dairy farmers on the run.
7.00 – 8.15am	**ADC Breakfast** – sponsored by GEA Engineering for a better world. EVANS & PARTNERS Halter ADC is offering a breakfast smorgasbord in 2027 as we bring three options to choose from and delve deeper into your preferred topics of interest. Get extra insights, detailed knowledge and dairy expertise. Must register to secure your spot.

Session 1 – Backing our future and investing in our business.

8.30am	**Opening ADC 2027:** We welcome back **MC Kimberley Busteed** to Australia's premier dairy event to lead delegates through two days of dairy discussion.	
8.40am	**Welcome to ADC 2027:** Programming Committee Chair Opener: **Kieran Bourke** kicks off to motivate us all on why we are at ADC and what to expect!	**Kieran Bourke** Dairy farmer (TAS)
8.50am	**Beyond Business as Usual: Opportunity Starts here** Could the way we've always done things be holding us back? Business as usual can feel comfortable, but familiar habits and assumptions can limit our ability to see opportunities, adapt and grow. **Gus Balbontin** is here to shake things up and challenge delegates to think differently about their businesses and what comes next. With energy, humour and a fresh perspective, he'll explore why the thinking that delivered yesterday's success may need to change to create tomorrow's opportunities - and encourage us to question what we do, embrace discomfort and take action.	**Gus Balbontin** Alternative Futurist (VIC)

9.30am	**Behind the Boots: Building a Business That Lasts** A strong legacy gives a business a head start. What does it take to turn that legacy into a profitable future? R.M.Williams CEO **Paul Grosmann** takes delegates behind the boots to explore business resilience, tough decisions and building for the long term. The conversation will unpack the story behind bringing an Australian icon back into Australian ownership—and the ambition driving its next chapter. People, place, purpose and identity are at the heart of this story. So is the commercial discipline to adapt, stay competitive and grow. For dairy businesses balancing generations of history with tomorrow's opportunities, this is a conversation about honouring your roots while having the courage to move forward.	**Paul Grosmann** CEO, R.M. Williams (SA)
10.00am	**Backing Dairy: The Bannister Downs Story** A story celebrating dairy and the confidence to invest in its future. **Suzanne Daubney** will share the Bannister Downs journey, exploring what makes dairy an attractive long-term investment and what it takes to turn ambition into a sustainable business. Hear about the decisions, negotiations and challenges along the way, alongside the lessons learned and opportunities recognised. A reminder of the potential within dairy and what can be achieved when vision is backed by action.	**Suzanne Daubney** Managing Director & dairy farmer, Bannister Downs (WA)
10.30am	**Morning tea**	noumi
Session 2 – Future Farming Systems		
11.15am	**Does It Fit Your Farm? Making AI and Technology Pay** US dairy farmer and Nuffield Scholar **Paul Windemuller** (USA) brings lessons from his own operation and farms around the world to explore where AI is already making a difference - from bringing information together to supporting decisions and reducing administration. Using his Farm Fit framework, Paul will challenge delegates to assess technology against their production system, people and business priorities. He'll look beyond the purchase price to integration, ongoing costs and measurable returns - and explore where human judgement remains essential. A practical session about turning data into action and making technology work for your business.	**Paul Windemuller** Nuffield Scholar and dairy farmer (USA)

12.00noon	**What's Next? Agriculture's Technology Horizon** Somewhere right now, someone is working on an idea that could change how you milk, feed, manage or make decisions. It might still be in a lab, on a trial farm or waiting for its first customer. **Jolien Paalman** brings a look at the technologies attracting attention in agriculture - including the ideas that haven't reached the market yet. What problems are they trying to solve? What could they unlock for dairy? And what still needs to happen before they're ready for your farm? A chance to lift your eyes from today's jobs, stretch your thinking and consider opportunities you may not yet have imagined.	**Jolien Paalman** Principal, Beanstalk AgTech (VIC)
12.30pm	**A Grain Grower, a Veggie Grower, and a Dairy Farmer Walk into the Future...** Every farm will need to invest in something. The question is: what problem are you trying to solve - and which investment will make a difference? Hear from producers across agriculture who have put technology to work in their businesses. From robotics in horticulture to drones on pastures, this conversation goes behind the purchase to explore what prompted the decision, how they weighed the options and what happened once the technology hit the paddock. Facilitated by **Tom Jefferies**, producers will share the opportunities, challenges and lessons they would take into their next investment. Different industries, familiar decisions - and practical insights to help dairy farmers identify the problem first, then assess the technology that could help solve it.	**Tom Jefferies** Senior AgTech Advisor, Elders Rural Services (SA) **Mark Shilling** Schiller Ag, Grain Grower (SA) **Troy Qualischefski** Farmer and Director/ Owner, Qualipac (QLD) **Abbey Smeets** Dairy Farmer (NSW)
1.00pm	**Lunch brought to you by Coles**	coles



Session 3 – People, Talent & Leadership

2.30pm	**Backing People: Creating Opportunity, Growing an Industry** For **Jim van der Poel**, **Will and Kim Grayling**, and **Josie Angus**, the answer starts with creating opportunities for others. Together, they'll explore how recognising potential, sharing knowledge and trusting people with responsibility can grow careers, strengthen businesses and build confidence in agriculture's future. Jim will share what they saw in Will and Kim and why they backed them. Will and Kim will reflect on what that opportunity meant - and how they are now opening doors for others. Josie brings a complementary perspective from the beef industry, exploring how graduate pathways and a place for the next generation can connect people to a future in agriculture. Led by **Adam Jenkins**, this conversation gets to the everyday decisions behind a culture where people thrive: being honest, building trust, supporting development and protecting relationships at work and around the kitchen table. Expect practical ideas and a challenge to take home: who could you back, and what could you help them become?	**Adam Jenkins** Nuffield Scholar & dairy farmer (VIC) **Jim van der Poel** Dairy farmers (NZ) **Will & Kim Grayling** Dairy farmers (NZ) **Josie Angus** Director, Angus Pastoral Company, (QLD)
3.20pm	Afternoon tea	

Session 4 – ADC Dairy Innovators

4.10pm	**Ideas into Impact: Dairy Innovators Finalist Presentations** sponsored by Gardiner Foundation, opens the door to a whole new world of opportunities. Inviting innovative dairy ideas from brilliant minds across all ages and stages of their careers. Whether seasoned professionals or just starting out, the finalists will be a delight to hear from and will undoubtedly 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.	Finalists: **Haseeb Ahmad** **Paul Booth** **Dale Creed** **Matthew Flavel** **Matt Makin**
5.00pm	**Day one close**	
6.30pm	**ADC Gala Dinner - brought to you by ANZ.**	



Day 2 – Friday 26 February

Session 5 – Industry Confidence & Advocacy

8.30am	ADC Annual General Meeting – Trade Exhibition	
9.00am	**From Voice to Influence: Making Dairy's Case** The Hon **Christopher Pyne** brings a political insider's perspective to the practical business of influence: understanding your audience, building relationships and making a case that connects. Chris will explore how farmers can communicate the opportunities a strong industry creates, with benefits that flow through local businesses, jobs and communities. The conversation starts within dairy, where different views can make a shared position difficult. How do farmers, processors and industry organisations find enough common ground to move forward together? From a conversation in your community to a meeting with government, this session asks: what are you trying to achieve, why should it matter to the person listening, and what are you asking them to do?	**The Hon Christopher Pyne** Pyne & Partners (SA)
9.40am	**Your Everyday, Someone Else's Extraordinary: Stories That Connect** This session will explore what it takes to connect with anaudience beyond agriculture. What makes people stop, listen and care? How do you make the realities of farmingrelatable to someone whose life looks very different? We will hear why these stories matter, the impact they can have and how farmers can recognise the value in their own experiences. An invitation to move beyond "I'm just a farmer" and share the people, purpose and everyday moments that give others a connection to our industry.	**Speaker** TBC
10.10am	**Farm Life, Unfiltered: Finding Your Voice and Connecting Beyond Agriculture** NSW farmer **Charlie Blomfield** shares how he uses humour, honest observations and practical explanations to bring people into agriculture's story. From paddock realities to business decisions, he explores what he shares, why he shares it and what he has learned about getting a message across. Charlie brings a fresh perspective of someone putting himself - and his farming life - out there. A practical conversation about finding your voice, making farming relatable and how individual farmers can build understanding that benefits the wider industry.	**Charlie Blomfield** Farmer & Influencer, (NSW)
10.35am	Morning tea	

Session 6 – Lessons from beyond our borders

11.30am	**Regulation, Response and Opportunity: Lessons from Sweden** What can Australian dairy learn from farmers navigating some of the world's toughest industry challenges? Swedish farmer **Olof Boson** explores maintaining control and opportunity amid European regulation and policy. From New Zealand, dairy farmer and Calf Chronicles founder LeAnne Blakelock examines the impact of biosecurity threats on farming businesses, while Welsh dairy farmer and industry leader Aled Jones shares perspectives on the disruption of foot-and-mouth disease. Different countries. Shared challenges. Valuable lessons for Australian dairy's future.	**Olof Boson** Agricultural Engineer & farmer (Sweden)
12.00pm	**When Biosecurity Hits Home: Lessons from New Zealand** Farmer, calf rearer and Chartered Accountant **LeAnne Blakelock** (Calf Chronicals) brings a personal perspective to New Zealand's experience with Mycoplasma bovis. Having supported not only her own business but two farming clients whose herds had detection and went through the eradication process; she has seen the consequences for both businesses and the people behind them. Drawing on their experiences, LeAnne will explore what they faced, what they learned and what Australian farmers could consider now to strengthen their preparedness. She'll also bring a farmer's perspective to responsible antibiotic use - from preventing illness to appropriate treatment when animals need it. A practical conversation about protecting our herds, supporting people through disruption and preserving access to medicines we depend on.	**LeAnne Blakelock** Dairy farmer & Chartered Accountant, (NZ)



ADC Trade show is supersized in 2027. The best in dairy products & services.

12.30pm	**Living with Livestock Disease: Lessons from Wales** For Australian farmers, foot-and-mouth disease and bovine tuberculosis can feel a world away. For farmers in the UK, they have shaped livelihoods, business decisions and daily life. Through the firsthand experience of farmer **Aled Jones**, explore what happens when a disease threat becomes a reality: the restrictions, difficult decisions and consequences for animals, people and the future of a business. What helped them respond? What do they wish they had understood earlier? And what would they want Australian farmers to take seriously today. An opportunity to learn from those who have lived through the disruption.	**Aled Jones** Dairy Farmer & Former NFU Cymru President (Wales)
1.00pm	Lunch	
Session 7 – Get Productive		LALLEMAND ANIMAL NUTRITION
2.30pm	**Beyond Milk: The Business of running the system** Pasture or TMR? These choices change more than how you produce milk - they change where you invest your money and what your business needs to earn. **Rauiri McDonnell** sets the scene by exploring the operational and investment characteristics of different dairy systems. What does this mean for operating profit, cost of production, return on assets and long-term wealth? Drawing on observations across pasture-based and TMR businesses, Rauri will explore where each performs well, where businesses can come unstuck and why comparisons need to look beyond milk production. An introduction to the farmer perspectives that follow, this session asks what successful operators understand about their system—and what it must deliver to make the investment worthwhile.	**Rauiri McDonnell** National Feedbase Lead, Dairy Australia (VIC)



3.00pm	**Two Systems, One Conversation: Making It Work for Us** South Australia's northernmost dairy farmer, **Gary Zweck**, and Tasmanian pasture farmer **James Greenacre** make the case for their TMR and pasture systems, putting the whole business under scrutiny. Production, feed costs, labour, infrastructure, cow performance, climate risk, milk pricing and lifestyle all come into play. Where does each system deliver - and what does it demand in return? Facilitated by **Rauiri McDonnell**, this conversation explores how to optimise a system using the resources at hand. Gary and James will share how their people, management and operating environments shape their decisions—and how they bring these together to get the best from their chosen approach. Through their contrasting experiences, we'll examine the investments and trade-offs that make each business work. How do you match your system to your team's strengths, available resources and local conditions? Because a system needs to deliver more than milk. It needs to support a profitable, resilient business and a life the people behind it find rewarding.	**Rauiri McDonnell** (Facilitator) **Gary Zweck** Dairy farmer (SA) **James Greenacre** Dairy farmer (TAS)
3.30pm	**Conference close**	
3.45pm	ADC Happy Hour	onside





MORNING MILK RUN

From cows on the beach in Queensland to dairy farmers hitting the urban streets - the ADC Morning Milk Run is back by popular demand in 2027 winding along the banks of the River Torrens in the heart of Adelaide.

Kick start your day with dairy colleagues in a run, walk or stroll. Join 100+ farmers in an outing that is more than just fitness - be part of the movement and camaraderie of dairy farmers on the run.

ADC Morning Milk Run is free and brought to you by the Bega Group.

THE PRESENTERS



Gus Balbontin
Alternative Futurist

Former Executive Director and Chief Technology Officer of Lonely Planet, Gus Balbontin is an entrepreneur, investor and speaker who challenges conventional thinking about innovation and change. Born in Patagonia, he moved to Australia at 17 and went on to establish a business and build an international career. At Lonely Planet, he worked with organisations including Google X, Nokia and Amazon on technology, creative cultures and high-performing teams. Today, Gus develops AI solutions, builds robots, explores 3D-printed wheelchairs and invests in climate technologies. His engaging presentations combine humour, practical ideas and fresh perspectives to help audiences navigate uncertainty and turn inspiration into action.



Paul Grosmann
CEO R.M Williams

Paul Grosmann has been Chief Executive Officer of R.M.Williams since November 2021, bringing more than 25 years of international retail and brand leadership experience. Previously, he held senior roles at Nike, including leadership of Greater China retail operations and its football and specialty businesses. He also worked with BBRC, supporting Lovisa through its IPO and global expansion, and spent nine years in management consulting, primarily with McKinsey & Company in Shanghai and Sydney. Having grown up working in his family's Harris Farm Markets stores, Paul combines a lifelong connection to retail with a focus on building R.M.Williams' global presence while preserving its Australian craftsmanship and heritage.



Suzanne Daubney
Managing Director, Bannister Downs Dairy (WA)

Suzanne (Sue) Daubney is the award-winning Managing Director of Bannister Downs Dairy, a leading premium dairy producer in Western Australia. Over more than two decades, she has helped transform the family business through innovation, value-added production and a strong commitment to regional communities. Working alongside her husband Mathew and business partner Gina Rinehart, Sue oversaw the development of The Creamery, a state-of-the-art processing facility featuring WA's first voluntary automatic milking rotary. She leads a team of more than 75 employees and champions local employment and community initiatives through the Hand in Hand program. A recipient of the Telstra Business Women's Innovation Award, Sue has held numerous industry and advisory roles and represented Australia at the 2016 G20 Conference.



Paul Windemuller
Nuffield Scholar & dairy farmer (US)

Paul Windemuller is a first-generation Michigan dairy farmer and recognised advocate for artificial intelligence in agriculture. A 2024 Nuffield International Farming Scholar and 2025 National Milk Producers Federation Farmer Communicator of the Year, he has studied emerging agricultural technologies across more than 15 countries. His Nuffield report, Leading the Herd: AI, Insight, and the Next Agricultural Revolution, explores data ownership and intelligent farming systems. Drawing on experience operating a robotic dairy, Paul is developing a farmer-owned data cooperative to help producers retain control and value from farm information. He also hosts the AgCulture Podcast, sharing perspectives from across global agriculture.



Jolien Paalman
Principal, Beanstalk AgTech

Jolien Paalman is a Principal at Beanstalk AgTech, specialising in go-to-market strategy, international business and agricultural innovation. She leads Beanstalk's landing pad programs and serves as Program Director for Elevate Dairy, connecting emerging technologies with opportunities in the Australian market. Her work includes engaging with farmers, innovators and industry events internationally to identify developments with practical potential for agriculture. Jolien also brings firsthand experience of scaling products through her previous work in an agtech start-up. She holds a Master's degree in International Economics and a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Economics.



Tom Jefferies
Senior AgTech Advisor, Elders Rural Services

Tom Jefferies is a South Australian agronomist and Senior AgTech Advisor with Thomas Elder Sustainable Agriculture, part of Elders Rural Services. His expertise spans precision agriculture, technology adoption and extension across irrigated crops, pastures, horticulture and other farming systems. Tom works with producers and advisers to assess new technologies while encouraging better use of existing investments before adding complexity. He also evaluates commercial opportunities in biological inputs, farm sensors, IoT and precision agriculture, and advises agtech businesses on research and product development. His practical approach focuses on helping farmers turn technology and data into measurable value.



Mark Schilling
Schiller Ag, Grain Grower (SA)

Mark Schilling is a fifth-generation grain farmer and agribusiness leader from Cunliffe on South Australia's Yorke Peninsula. Alongside his wife Merridee, he has helped grow AG Schilling & Co into a diverse business spanning grain production, seed cleaning and export, agricultural machinery imports and mouse bait manufacturing. Mark's approach to innovation starts with a practical question: how can we do this better? From adopting no-till farming and GPS technology to sourcing machinery that solves specific on-farm problems, he has consistently pursued opportunities to improve productivity, reduce costs and capture more value from the supply chain. His contribution was recognised with the Innovation Award at the 2026 South Australian Grain Industry Awards. He is also Deputy Chair and Southern Region Director of Grain Producers Australia, and a founding director of Grain Producers SA. Mark brings a farmer's perspective to technology and investment, sharing the thinking behind his decisions and the lessons from building businesses around real agricultural needs.



Troy Qualischefski
Director & Owner, Qualipac

Troy Qualischefski is a fourth-generation Queensland farmer and Director of Qualipac, a family business producing, packing and supplying vegetables for domestic and international markets. Returning to the business in 2001, he helped develop its broccoli program alongside its established onion operations and now oversees Qualipac Produce's packing facility in Gatton. Troy has also supported trials of autonomous robotic weeding and seeding through the Queensland Department of Primary Industries' Smart Farms initiative, exploring opportunities to improve efficiency and reduce labour and herbicide use. His contribution to agricultural innovation was recognised with the 2025 UPL Tech & Innovation Award at the Australian Horticulture Awards for Excellence.



Abbey Smeets
Dairy Farmer, New South Wales

Abbey Smeets is a dairy farmer on the NSW Mid North Coast, where she and her partner Ben Clarke milk approximately 350 cows using a total mixed ration (TMR) feeding system, feed pad and pasture-based loafing. Balancing farm operations with raising three young children, Abbey manages responsibilities spanning calf rearing, staff, administration and daily production. Since purchasing an agricultural drone in 2024, she has embraced the technology to improve efficiency, reduce reliance on contractors and increase flexibility in spraying and spreading operations. The drone also supports insecticide applications in their maize crops. Abbey brings a practical, hands-on perspective to agricultural innovation and is passionate about developing new skills and adopting emerging technologies to improve farm performance.



Adam Jenkins
Nuffield Scholar & dairy farmer (Vic)

Adam Jenkins is a dairy farmer, agribusiness consultant and Nuffield Scholar with more than 30 years of experience in agriculture and industry leadership. Drawing on his experience owning and operating a dairy farm in south-west Victoria, he works with farming families and rural organisations on leadership, culture and business transition. Adam holds qualifications in Agricultural Economics, Education, coaching, emotional intelligence and HBDI Whole Brain Thinking. As Director of Rural People Co, he develops emerging leaders and second-in-command managers, facilitates succession discussions and helps businesses navigate change. His focus is building sustainable agricultural businesses where people and future leaders can thrive.



Will & Kim Grayling
Dairy farmers, New Zealand

Will and Kim Grayling are Canterbury dairy farmers and equity partners in Singletree Dairies, alongside Jim and Sue Van der Poel. Their Ashburton operation has grown from 1,800 to 3,400 cows, with further equity partnerships established in other Canterbury dairy businesses. Will holds a Master of Applied Science in Farm Management Consultancy from Lincoln University and chairs the Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation co-operative. Kim has a background in human resources and manages people administration across their farming interests. She also leads the volunteer committee behind the not-for-profit Grassroots Dairy Management Graduate Programme, which has supported around 35 emerging dairy leaders.



Jim Van der Poel
Dairy Farmer & Business Leader, New Zealand

Jim van der Poel is a New Zealand dairy farmer and business leader who, alongside his wife Sue, progressed from sharemilking to owning multiple dairy farms. Through strategic investment, profitable operations and equity partnerships, they have expanded their farming interests across New Zealand and the United States while helping other farmers achieve business and land ownership. A former Fonterra Director and DairyNZ Chair, Jim brings extensive experience in dairy farming, investment and governance, offering valuable insights into building wealth and creating opportunities for the next generation.



Josie Angus
Director, Angus Pastoral Company

Josie Angus is a Central Queensland cattle producer, beef industry innovator and Director of Angus Pastoral Company. Over three decades, she and her husband Blair have developed their family operation into a vertically integrated branded beef business, supplying premium products to more than 30 countries under Signature Beef labels. Their latest investment is an on-farm processing facility, described as Queensland's first new greenfield abattoir in almost three decades. With capacity for 50,000 head and an associated employee village, the project extends their control of the supply chain from paddock to plate. Josie brings an entrepreneurial perspective on agricultural value creation and regional investment.



The Hon Christopher Pyne
Executive Chairman, Pyne and Partners

The Hon Christopher Pyne is Executive Chairman of Pyne and Partners and a former Australian Cabinet Minister. He served in the House of Representatives from 1993 to 2019, including six years in Cabinet and portfolios spanning Education, Industry, Innovation and Science, Defence Industry and Defence. He is an Industry Professor at Adelaide University and holds leadership and advisory roles across business, ageing and international relations, including Chair of the Council of the Ageing. Christopher is the author of A Letter to my Children and The Insider and hosts the Pyne Time podcast. He brings extensive experience in public policy, government and strategic leadership.



Charlie Blomfield
Farmer, New South Wales

Charlie Blomfield is a Queensland-born agricultural producer now based in central New South Wales, where he produces premium equine products, hay and lambs. His experience spans diverse locations, from Kowanyama and Cairo to Canowindra, shaping an unconventional perspective on business and agriculture. Across business strategy, people management and operations, Charlie is known for challenging expectations, questioning established approaches and pursuing high performance.
He brings a practical, entrepreneurial outlook to conversations about leadership, innovation and the future of farming.



Olof Boson
Agricultural Engineer & farmer, Sweden

Olof Boson is a sixth-generation Swedish farmer and agricultural entrepreneur based in Mönsterås, with experience in international agribusiness, business development and renewable energy. Formerly a Sales and Marketing Manager with DeLaval across international markets, he returned to his family farm in 2012. The diversified operation includes arable land, forestry, cattle and large-scale poultry production. From 2017 to 2024, Olof chaired Mönsterås Biogas AB and helped develop a major agricultural biogas facility inaugurated in 2025. He combines hands-on farming with a strong interest in efficient livestock production, sustainable energy and building profitable agricultural businesses for future generations.



LeAnne Blakelock
Dairy farmer & Chartered Accountant, New Zealand

LeAnne Blakelock is a New Zealand dairy farmer and Chartered Accountant based in Taranaki. Alongside her husband Ian and her parents, she operates a 172-hectare dairy farm milking 320 Jersey-cross cows while also running an accounting practice. Her interests span calf rearing, dairy beef, animal welfare and productivity, including work on the developing Rose Gold Veal brand. She founded Calf Chronicles to make research more accessible to calf rearers. LeAnne has also contributed extensively to suicide prevention and community support, including New Zealand's first crisis café. She brings a practical perspective on innovation, wellbeing and the people behind successful farming businesses.



Aled Jones
Dairy Farmer & Former NFU Cymru President (Wales)

Aled Jones is an eighth-generation Welsh farmer who, alongside his son Osian, operates a herd of 520 pedigree Holsteins near Caernarfon, Wales. Raised on a hill farm, Aled has combined a lifelong commitment to agriculture with extensive dairy industry leadership. He served nine years as a Holstein UK Trustee and seven years as Chair of milk recording organisation Cattle Information Services. Aled also chaired the National Farmers Union (NFU) Cymru Dairy Board for six years before progressing to Deputy President and President between 2018 and 2026. He brings extensive experience in dairy farming, industry representation and agricultural leadership. Aled and his wife Eilir have four children and seven grandchildren.



Rauiri McDonnell
R&D Manager Feedbace, Dairy Australia

Ruairi McDonnell is the R&D Manager Feedbase at Dairy Australia and has a strong interest in how better feedbase management can improve the performance and profitability of dairy farming systems. His work sits at the intersection of research and practical farm management, helping ensure that investment in dairy R&D leads to meaningful improvements on farm.

His interests include grazing management, pasture utilisation, post-grazing residuals, home-grown feed and understanding the relationships between feedbase management, animal performance and whole-farm profitability. Ruairi works with farmers, researchers and industry partners to challenge assumptions, test new approaches and translate research findings into practical management decisions. He is particularly interested in the differences between what is biologically possible, what is demonstrated in research and what is realistically achievable on commercial dairy farms, with a focus on ensuring dairy research remains relevant, rigorous and useful to farmers.



Gary Zweck
Dairy farmer, South Australia

Gary Zweck is a second-generation dairy farmer from Blyth, South Australia, operating a 300-cow total mixed ration dairy with his wife Ros and son Justin. Farming in a low-rainfall region, the family has invested in housed-cow systems, feed efficiency, genetics and dairy-beef production to strengthen resilience and profitability. Their registered Holstein herd produces approximately three million litres of milk annually. Gary has held industry representative roles with the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association, Dairy SA and other dairy organisations. He advocates for practical innovation and a strong, united industry voice through transparent engagement with government and the wider sector.



James Greenacre
Dairy farmer, Tasmania

James Greenacre operates Rosemount Agriculture, a pasture-based dairy business in Tasmania. He began his career in a partial mixed ration dairy system on the south coast of New South Wales before moving to Tasmania to enter an equity partnership with a local farming family. Since establishing Rosemount Agriculture, the business has grown from milking 780 cows to 2,600 cows across three sites. James credits teamwork and strong pasture management with supporting that growth and improving productivity and efficiency. He operates the business alongside his wife Sophie, a Launceston-based property lawyer, and brings a practical perspective on dairy business expansion and people management.





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Haseeb Ahmad
Calfmate, Forbes Dairy Partnership

Haseeb Ahmad is a dairy Herd Manager in Gloucester, NSW, and the founder of Calfmate. He holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore. Before moving to Australia he managed around 4,000 milking cows and a team of 32 people at Baladna Food Industries in Qatar. Day to day in the calf shed, he saw how easily feeds, treatments and withholding periods get lost on whiteboards and in notebooks. In June 2026 he started Calfmate, a simple phone app that records every calf at the pen and shows at a glance which calves are clear to sell and what it is costing producers to rear a calf. He is passionate about practical tools that save farm teams time and improve efficiency.



Paul Booth
Quick Trough

Paul is the co-founder of Quick Trough, a New Zealand venture developing portable inflatable water troughs for livestock. Working alongside co-founder Mel, he brings hands-on expertise in design, prototyping and manufacturing, with a passion for finding practical solutions to everyday farming challenges. They believe water infrastructure should be as adaptable as modern grazing systems. With virtual fencing creating new opportunities for flexible grazing, Quick Trough aims to make water access less dependent on fixed trough locations. Their working prototype inflates and connects to a water supply in a matter of minutes, totally deployable and robust. As an ADC Innovators Award 2027 finalist, Paul looks forward to connecting with Australian dairy farmers, exploring further trials and developing pathways to market.



Dale Creed
FieldSense Robotics

Dale Creed is Co-Founder and CEO of FieldSense Robotics, a Melbourne-based agtech company developing affordable, battery-electric autonomous farming platforms. With 25 years of hands-on experience in dairy farming and production horticulture, Dale combines practical agricultural knowledge with a strong focus on technology that delivers real on-farm benefits. Working with an engineering team experienced in autonomous systems and Australian defence technology, FieldSense aims to reduce diesel dependency, lower input costs and free skilled farm staff for higher-value work. The company is currently trialling its technology across four Western District dairy farms. Dale is passionate about making agricultural innovation accessible and practical, helping farming businesses improve efficiency and remain viable for future generations.



Dr Matt Flavel
More milk and less methane by feeding an Australian sugarcane extract - Latrobe University / The Product Makers

Dr Matt Flavel is Chief Scientist at The Product Makers, leading scientific innovation and product development in bioactive ingredients for animal nutrition. He has played a key role in developing Polygain, a patented sugarcane-derived polyphenol innovation for ruminants. His research explores how bioactive compounds influence the rumen microbiome and animal performance, including potential applications in methane mitigation, feed efficiency, milk production and growth. Matt focuses on translating scientific findings into practical nutritional solutions that support productive, resilient and sustainable dairy and livestock systems.



Dr Matt Makin
digitaldairy.ai – herd intelligence platform

Dr Matt Makin BVSc MBA MAICD is a veterinarian with 25 years' experience in dairy and livestock health. He is Managing Director of Reach Veterinary & Advisory, and was previously managing director of The Vet Group, then Australia's largest agricultural veterinary provider. A former national President of the Australian Veterinary Association and a Mayor, Matt recently concluded five years leading animal-health data insights for Australia's largest dairy operation and is current chair of the industries animal welfare assurance program. He is co-founder and director of digitaldairy.ai, a secure, curated AI herd intelligence platform designed to turn data into decisions and improve productivity.

PRICE LIST

Registrations for ADC 2027 Adelaide

Registration Type	Cost *inclusive of GST	Details
Early Bird Farmer Registration	$825	Register & pay by 1 January 2027 for this ticket pricing. Full conference package
Early Bird Farmer Registration – second and subsequent from the same farm	$715	Register & pay by 1 January 2027 for this ticket pricing. Must use the group portal and be from the same farm/employer. Full conference package
Farmer Registration (after early bird closes)	$990	Full conference package
Non-Farmer Registration	$1,540	Full conference package
Day Registration	$330 Farmer $770 Non Farmer	One day of conference only. NOTE: evening functions are not included with this ticket.
Additional sponsor	$1,155	Full Conference package for extra sponsor delegates.
Welcome Function	$125 per person	Included in full conference package. Additional tickets can be purchased for accompanying guests. Includes cocktail style dinner and drinks.
ADC Gala Dinner	$220 per person	Included in full conference package. Additional tickets can be purchased for accompanying guests. Includes 3 course meal and drinks.
ADC Breakfast tickets	$44 Non Farmer Free for first 100 Farmers	Additional to full Conference Package. Must register for attendance. Includes light breakfast.

Full Conference package includes:

- ADC Young Farmers Function (if applicable)
- ADC Welcome Function
- ADC Morning Milk Run
- ADC Breakfast – first 100 Farmers to register are free
- ADC Conference Days 1 and 2
- ADC Trade Exhibition – 2.5 days entry
- ADC Gala Dinner
- ADC Happy Hour

Early Bird Registrations close **01 January 2027.**

Register online at **www.australiandairyconference.com.au**



ACCOMMODATION

Adelaide offers extensive diversity of accommodation options within walking distance of the Adelaide Convention & Exhibition Centre (ACC), the CBD hub and the energy and highlights of the epicurean South Australian capital from arts, culture, sport and major events.

High end hotels and apartments, suites, large chain affordability and a plethora of boutique accommodation. There is something for everyone around the ACC hub. ADC also offers discounted rates to ADC delegates as part of Conference partnerships - please see **ADC Delegate Rates** for more information..

Please note delegates are responsible for making their own accommodation bookings and arrangements.



GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Countrywide Conference Management

Bradley Hayden / Jessica Hayden

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