



INNOVATION DAY 2017

Innovation Generation - dairy farmers leading the way



27th September 2017

Emmanuel Centre, Warrnambool

Trade Stalls open 9.00am – 4.30pm

Presentations start at 10.00am

*“Innovation: the introduction of new things, ideas or ways of doing something”
- Oxford Learners Dictionary*

Time	Session				
9.00am	Doors Open				
10.00am	"Innovation at WestVic Dairy" - Lindsay Ferguson, Regional Manager of WestVic Dairy				
10.05am	"What innovative research is Dairy Australia doing?" - Ian Halliday, Managing Director of Dairy Australia				
10.15am	"Making innovation work - a farmer's experience" - Duncan MacDonald, Tasmanian Dairy Farmer and Nuffield Australia 2017 Scholarship Winner				
10.50am	"Innovation at what cost? When does financial investment produce positive return" - Nicolas Lyons, Development Officer at NSW Department of Primary Industries				
11.30am	"Mid Infrared Technology and its possibilities: an update from the research project" - Michelle Axford, Genetic Evaluation Manager, DataGene				
12.00pm	Lunch				
12.50 - 1.30pm	"Sensor technologies for the silo, water, soil and the vat". - Mark Billing (Dairy Farmer)	"Smarter Irrigation for Profit" - Dr James Hill, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	"Cow Monitoring - the next level" - Farmer Craig Bennett, Chris Kendall (World Wide Sires) and Jo Holloway (Semex)	"Measuring pasture from above: the use of drones on-farm" - Andrew Phelan, AgVic Researcher	"The new age of livestock medication: the auto data syringe" - Dr Matt Makin, The Vet Group
1.35 - 2.05pm	"Sensor technologies for the silo, water, soil and the vat". <i>(Repeat Session)</i>	"Smarter Irrigation for Profit" <i>(Repeat Session)</i>	"Cow Monitoring - the next level" <i>(Repeat Session)</i>	"Measuring pasture from above: the use of drones on-farm" <i>(Repeat Session)</i>	"The new age of livestock medication: the auto data syringe" <i>(Repeat Session)</i>
2.05 - 2.30pm	Afternoon Tea				
2.35 - 3.05pm	"There is an App for that: handy apps for dairy farmers" - Tony Francis, DataGene	"Predict, Plan, Prepare: using new tools to optimise pastures and make smarter decisions" - Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	"Collecting and processing dairy data: from innovation to profitability" - Duncan MacDonald, Tasmanian Dairy Farmer and Nuffield Australia 2017 Scholarship Winner	"How smart is your tractor? New and old technology and how to use it" - Dairy Farmer Michael Hawker, Dairy Consultant Hugh Crockford, Agrimac and Topcon	"Thinking outside the box - virtual farming future" - Think Digital, Deakin University
3.10 - 3.40pm	"There is an App for that: Handy apps for dairy farmers" <i>(Repeat Session)</i>	"Predict, Plan, Prepare: using new tools to optimise pastures and make smarter decisions" <i>(Repeat Session)</i>	"Collecting and processing dairy data: from innovation to profitability" <i>(Repeat Session)</i>	"How smart is your tractor? New and old technology and how to use it" <i>(Repeat Session)</i>	"Thinking outside the box - virtual farming future" <i>(Repeat Session)</i>
3.45 - 4.10pm	Panel session with the workshop facilitators				
4.10 - 4.15pm	Closing of the day				
5.00 - 6.00pm	Eccles' Farm: "Genomic testing: the here and now" - Anthony Eccles, Dairy Farmer, Purnim				
6.30pm	City Bowls pre dinner drinks				
7.30pm	Dinner				
8.00pm	"Less is more: how can optimising the production process benefit farmers" - TBC				
8.45 - 9.15pm	"How did we get to where we are? Where to next?" Duncan MacDonald, Tasmanian Dairy Farmer and Nuffield Scholar				



Join the region's dairy farmers to hear interstate and regional speakers discuss innovations that will assist in advancing the dairy industry.

The day will focus on decision making and adopting innovations and there will be trade stalls with interactive demonstrations.

The day is sectioned in three events: day sessions, a farm visit and evening dinner.

The key speaker on the day will be Tasmanian farmer and 2017 Nuffield Scholar Duncan MacDonald.

Ticket Prices

Day sessions

Emmanuel Centre, Warrnambool

Dairy Farmers: \$10

Service Providers: \$30

Bus Trip to Eccles' Farm

"Genomic testing: the here and now"

4.40pm Bus pick up at Emmanuel College Warrnambool

4.45pm Bus pick up City Memorial Bowls Club for Eccles farm and Genomic testing

FREE TRIP for all

Bookings Essential

Evening Dinner

City Memorial Bowls Club, Warrnambool

6.30pm Pre-dinner drinks

7.30pm Dinner and Speakers

(RSVP essential for catering purposes)

DINNER COST \$30 per person, includes a 2 course meal

RSVP by Monday 25th September to WestVic Dairy on (03) 5557 1000 or email amanda@westvicdairy.com.au

Seminar Summaries

"Making innovation work – a farmer's experience"

Duncan MacDonald, a dairy farmer from Tasmania and winner of a Nuffield Australia 2017 Scholarship will talk about how innovation has made their farm more profitable. He will outline the changes that have been implemented and how they have benefited the farm business. Duncan will discuss how they researched the technology, advocated the systems to farm members and workers and how they introduced them into the business.

"Innovation at what cost? When does financial investment produce positive return?"

Nicholas Lyons from the NSW Department of Primary Industries will speak about what to look out for when investing in innovation. Is the investment going to enhance your profitability and work/life balance or is it a piece of technology that you think you need, but that won't make you any money? Nicolas will interview Phil and Symone Vines, dairy farmers from Simpson, who have been operating a robotic dairy for the last 12 months.

"Mid Infrared Technology and its possibilities: an update from the research project"

Michelle Axford is currently researching Mid Infrared Technology (MIR) and the possibilities it may hold for dairy farmers. She will give an update on her project which is looking at using MIR to predict production, feed efficiency, fertility, health and longevity through herd test milk samples. MIR is a technology that passes a light beam through a milk sample to measure certain components. Traditionally it's been used only to calculate milk fat and protein content. Recent research has shown it can be used to indicate a cow's status for energy balance, fertility, health, methane emissions and feed efficiency.

Presentation Workshops Summary

“Smarter Irrigation for Profit”

Dr James Hill from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture will present on a project, which is using data and autonomous technology to help farmers make informed decisions and improve their efficiency of irrigated water use in pastures. The project looks at the use of irrigation water in pastures by collecting data on water use, energy use and pasture production from five sites across Tasmania. Using this data, the team will work with farmers to make changes to improve water use efficiency and will continue monitoring the sites to measure the success of these changes.

“Cow Monitoring - the next level”

Hear from local farmer Craig Bennett how implementing a new cow management system has improved his farming practice. The system offers fertility, health and nutrition modules, providing better data to make more informed management decisions. Chris Kendall (World Wide Sires) and Jo Holloway (Semex) will outline some of the products available and how they might suit your farming business.

“Measuring pasture from above: the use of drones on-farm”

Andrew Phelan from Agriculture Victoria will explain how scientists used GPS to strategically plant each of the ryegrass varieties across the 6ha site at the Agriculture Victoria Hamilton research centre. The drones capture precise plant biomass measurements for each plant, in a flyover that only takes around 14 minutes.

“The new age of livestock medication: the auto data syringe”

The Vet Group's Dr Matt Makin, will present on how the auto data syringe can revolutionise the way farmers administer and record drugs given to their livestock. The system sees an end to unreliable, inaccurate injector guns and replaces them with an automatic, traceable, tamper-proof applicator that prevents underdosing and overdosing by using NLIS to trace products administered to individual animals.

“There is an App for that: handy apps for dairy farmers”

Tony Francis from DataGene will showcase some of the apps available that will help farmers in their day to day work. He will discuss the use of DataGene apps (Mistro and EasyDairy), Countdown, Body Scoring, Good Bulls Guide, and more.

“Predict, Plan, Prepare: using new tools to optimise pastures and make smarter decisions”

Sense-T is a partnership program between the University of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Government, CSIRO and IBM. It is building the world's first economy-wide, intelligent sensor network that integrates different data sources and give business, governments and communities the tools to make better decisions. The project aims to provide farmers with web based tools to predict pasture growth and test new technologies for tracking cattle behaviour with the aim of improving the early detection of subclinical diseases, reproductive performance and feed allocation.

“Collecting and processing dairy data: from innovation to profitability”

Duncan MacDonald, dairy farmer and Nuffield Australia 2017 Scholarship Winner will discuss how innovative collection and processing options for dairy data can help your farming. The workshop will also include a presentation of what's new in DairyBase and its proven financial benefits.

“How smart is your tractor? New and old technology and how to use it”

Dairy farmer Michael Hawker and dairy consultant Hugh Crockford will highlight financial benefits of “smart” tractors and how they might be able to be used on your farm. They will be joined by Agrimac and Topcon, who will showcase the innovations that are available for tractors, including the new driverless GPS tractor.

“Robots and milking: Deakin University and robotic technology”

Hear from Peter Miles, PhD student at Deakin University, who created a proof of concept, in the hopes of building low cost, retrofit robotic milking systems for dairy farms.

“Thinking outside the box - virtual farming futures”

Take a digital tour with FarmVR, an immersive Virtual Reality experience of some of the most amazing Agricultural properties from around Australia.

“Genomic testing: the here and now”

Anthony Eccles will focus on the adoption of genomic testing on his farm, which provides genetic information on a heifer's potential, equivalent to seven lactations of herd recording data. Matt Aikenhead, from ABS and other AI companies will present on the cost benefit of genomic testing to your business.

“How did we get to where we are? Where to next?”

Duncan MacDonald will talk about his business goals for the future and how he aims to achieve them.

