



Your Levy at Work



Murray Dairy eNews

Friday 26 May 2017

Dear All,

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[Everest or dairy farming - which is the most challenging peak to reach?](#)

Join us for dinner to find the answer, and hear the latest dairy Situation and Outlook with Dairy Australia's **John Droppert** followed by inspirational speaker **Green Beret Commando, Mark "Squiz" Squirrel the author of *From Arafat to Everest*. Cost: Free to Dairy Farmers,**

\$25 for Service Providers. **RSVP** to Murray Dairy, phone (03) 5833 5312 or email admin@murraydairy.com.au

Echuca: Tue 20 June, Moama Bowls Club
Shepparton: Wed 21 June, GV Hotel
Wodonga: Thurs 22 June, Huon Hill Hotel.

Call for Board Members

Murray Dairy is seeking applications to fill two Murray Dairy board positions commencing formally in October 2017. These are skills based appointments with a dairy farmer board position and a service provider board position available. Applications close July 11, 2017. For a position description and more information contact Murray Dairy on (03)5833 5312 or email admin@murraydairy.com.au

Farm Business Management (FBM) - Courses made for you!

Three upcoming courses, listed below:

1. Getting into Farm Data — 2 Day Course

This course will get you ready to meet with your accountant and meet your tax obligations; then use this information for making management decisions on farm. To view the Course Flyer, click [here](#).

Cobram, Mondays, 19 June & 26 June.

2. Getting into Farm Business Management (FBM) — 3 Day Course

This course will enable you to gain farm business management knowledge in the areas of compliance, financial data and budgeting management and how to efficiently monitor and report on your business performance. To view the Course Flyer, click [here](#).

Echuca, Mondays 22 & 29 May & 5 June.

Numurkah, Tuesdays 23, 30 May & 6 June.

Tallangatta, Tuesdays 13, 20 & 27 June.

3. Dairy Farm Analysis — 2 Day Course

This course provides participants with a detailed understanding of farm business management and the use of the dairy industry tool DairyBase. To view the Course Flyer, click [here](#).

Kyabram: Thursdays, 22 & 29 June.

Are you Interested in Digital Agriculture?

Last chance to enter - Do you want to take a lead in evaluating opportunities for adoption of digital technologies in the dairy industry? **Accelerating Change** is sponsoring **two positions to the Australian Farm Institute's forum** on *Harvesting the Benefits of Digital Agriculture*. For details on the forum click [here](#).

To apply, submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) no longer than one page and your resume answering the following questions:

1. How would you and your business benefit from attending the conference?
2. How would you share the learnings from the conference to the broader industry?

Applications are open to farmers and service providers and now close on Friday 2 June 2017. For more information please contact Amy Fay, 0400 911286, email:

amyf@murraydairy.com.au

Setting up your Season - Dates for your diary

These sessions will provide an update on key seasonal and commodity outlooks and identify critical decision points for your business along with tools and resources available to assist you.

Speakers from RaboBank, GMW and climate expertise will be in the room.

Dates: Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19 July. Locations to be confirmed and Thursday 20 July, Shepparton.

Contact Murray Dairy for more information on (03) 5833 5312

Are you a young farmer, dairy worker or new to the dairy industry and looking to join a discussion group in the Numurkah area?

If this sounds like you - come along to the first meeting Wednesday 31 May at the Shamrock Hotel, Numurkah at 7pm to discuss future plans for this local discussion group. Anyone with an interest in furthering their skills and knowledge in dairy alongside other young farmers & new entrants, is welcome to come along. To express your interest in the group, contact YDN Coordinator, Sarah on saraht@murraydairy.com.au. View event flyer [here](#).

Is Lameness adding costs to your farm business?

Dairy Australia's Healthy Hooves program has introduced a portal for videos, factsheets and tools to help with lameness management. Visit the portal, click [here](#). The site also has a calculator to help measure the costs of lameness, click [here](#).

Watch and Learn

Dairy Australia has recently release a number of short informational videos on optimising irrigation performance, including:

- Benefits of an irrigation system maintenance check - [Watch it here](#)
- Optimising irrigation potential - the green drought - [Watch it here](#)
- Improving irrigation efficiency - Catch can testing - [Watch it here](#)

Do you Want to Know the Cost of Production...?

Did you know that by completing a **Taking Stock** with Murray Dairy you can have at your finger tips the **cost of production** and know the **break even milk price coming into the new financial year**?

Taking Stock is a free 1:1 business assessment and support service using a consultant to assist in the collection and analysis of current financial and physical data with the aim of clarifying future farm business options. This is available to **all levy paying farmers**, regardless of who they supply. Call Murray Dairy on (03) 5833 5312 or click [here](#) to find out more. This program is supported by the Australian Government and Gardiner Foundation.

Regional Network Group Meetings- dates for your diary

These group meetings enable all dairy farming families and the associated dairy service sector the opportunity to contribute to identifying and prioritising future dairy research, development, extension and education needs. The meetings also provide an opportunity for

people to hear about current services available to the industry

Meetings will be held:

- North West** - Monday 17 July at Bower Hotel, Cohuna
Eastern - Tuesday 18 July 2017 at Shamrock Hotel, Numurkah
Central - Monday 24 July 2017 at Blue Brick Hotel, Kyabram
Riverina - Tuesday 25 July 2017 at Returned Services Club, Finley

Men's Health Event 2017

With the guest speaker Murray Dairy's Chairman Rick Cross and sponsored by Primary Care Connect, GV Health and the Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District inc. this night will cover a range of health related topics. Click [here](#) for more information. **Wednesday 14 June, Shepparton.**

Scholarships now open

Nuffield scholarships are now open to Australians aged 28 – 45, who are engaged in farming as an owner, manager or active member of a farming business. As well as individual regional scholarships, there are dairy-specific scholarships sponsored by Dairy Australia, the Australian Dairy Conference and the Gardiner Dairy Foundation. Deadline June 16. Visit www.nuffield.com.au to apply.

Explore your potential with the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program

The **Gardiner Foundation** is offering a full scholarship for our **2017-2018** Program. AVCLP are seeking an emerging community leader actively involved in the Dairy industry in North-Eastern Victoria, or an active community member in the Mitta Valley (whether involved in dairy or not). Applications close 13th June 2017. To access the AVCLP website click [here](#) or click [here](#) for more information on the scholarship.

Farmers Fund supports resilience and sustainability

Dairy farmers can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 for programs, training or infrastructure that enhance productivity, build resilience and stimulate sustainable growth. The Farmers' Fund grant is available to dairy farmers in South Eastern Australia including Victoria and areas of southern New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania. The Farmers' Fund is owned and managed by farmers through the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF). For more information click [here](#)
Contact **VFF** 1300 882 833 or farmersfund@vff.org.au

Dairy Support - Financial, Health and Community Assistance

CONCESSIONAL LOAN SCHEME: Product suppliers to Murray Goulburn, Fonterra or National Dairy in 2015/2016 may be eligible for the Australian Government's Concessional Loan Scheme. The program offers:

- A concessional loan (maximum term of 10 years)
- A variable interest rate commencing at 2.47%
- A maximum loan amount of \$1,000,000 (capped at 50% of farm debt position).

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) is offering free and confidential assistance to help with the application process. [Click here](#) for scheme application details and guidelines. Applications close June 30, 2017.

Dairy Farmer Central

Dairy Farmer Central is a website designed to be a central source of information on programs, initiatives and events for dairy farmers and their communities. For more information click [here](#).

Rural Financial Counselling Service.

Free, independent and confidential assistance.

North East Victoria (Goulburn Valley Region): **1300 834 775**

North West Victoria: **1300 769 489**

Southern NSW: **(02) 6452 5820**

Rural Financial Counsellors can help you with:

- Dairy & Drought Concessional Loans
- Farm Business Concessional Loans
- Assessing and understanding your financial position, identify options and develop an action plan to move forward.
- **Farm Household Allowance.** This is available to all eligible dairy farmers irrespective of who you supply. As of January 1, 2017 there has been an increase in the asset limits. Click [here](#) to access the FHA fact sheet and [here](#) to access the FHA Checklist tool.

To find out how your FHA application is going call the Farmer Assistance Hotline on 132 316 (8am- 8pm).

To find out more visit www.rfcsvicne.org.au or call one of the above phone numbers

Agribusiness Toolkit - On farm Training

Qualify is a specialist regional training and employment services provider and that works closely with clients, employers, TAFEs and industry partners to help people develop new skills and find sustainable employment across regional Victoria.

Their Agribusiness Toolkit training program is designed to assist Farm Householders work towards improving their capacity for self-reliance. For more information, click [here](#).

Rural Skills Connect Commences in Murray Dairy Region

Rural Skills Connect is a program funded by the Victorian Government and is aimed at **providing employment and training guidance for dairy farmers, their family members or employees** and affected dairy farm service providers to support them as the dairy industry recovers.

The Program engages with people impacted by the downturn in the dairy industry who need to seek new employment or explore new opportunities through training.

Workers in the dairy industry have a broad range of existing skills and knowledge to be job-ready candidates for existing job vacancies within the region. The program's aim is to identify those transferable skills of dairy farm workers and if required, further develop them to meet local workforce needs. This is achieved through engagement with employers, industry and registered

training organisations to identify current opportunities and connecting them with participants who are registered in the program.

For further information or a confidential discussion, please contact Joanne Turner, Program Manager - Rural Skills Connect on 0472 863 050 or via joanne.turner@ecodev.vic.gov.au

To access the Back to work dairy fact sheet, click [here](#).

Gannawarra Shire Dairy Industry Counsellor

Northern District Community Health have appointed a **Dairy Support Counselor** to assist in supporting the Victorian Dairy Industry and all those that are connected to it within the Gannawarra Shire. Rachel Weaver's flyer attached [here](#) gives more information.

Tatura Business Breakfast- grow your business through digital and social media. Wednesday 31 May from 7.15 am. Free but please RSVP to Heather.East@Shepparton.vic.gov.au

Stanhope Men's Shed will host a health event on The Men's Health Event is on Friday 16 June. Starting at 10am and a free BBQ lunch will be provided. The speaker will be Leon Sinnot from Beyond Blue. For more information click [here](#)

Community Events

A number of events and opportunities are on around our region. Please refer to the Murray Dairy [website](#) and [calendar](#) for more information.

Rosie Batty 2015 Australian of the Year

Rosie Batty, whose belief that "tragedy gives you an opportunity to make a difference", will be presenting at three **events in the Campaspe area on Friday 2 June**.

The first is for **Service Providers** and will be held in **Echuca**. Click [here](#) for more information.

Afternoon Tea, Kyabram. All Welcome. Raising awareness of domestic violence within the local community and advocating for change. Click [here](#) for more information

Dinner event, Moama. All welcome. Three course meal. Raising awareness of domestic violence within the local community and advocating for change. Click [here](#) for more information.

All funds raised at this event will support the work of the Campaspe Family Violence Action Group.

NCDE/Murray Dairy Courses

Cups on Cups off (CoCo) is a two-day training course designed by Dairy Australia and delivered by the National Centre for Dairy Education (NCDE) to help dairy farmers achieve best practice in milk harvesting, with an emphasis on detection, treatment and prevention of clinical mastitis.

CoCo Wednesday 14 June 9.30 - 2.30pm and Thur 15 June , 9.30- 12.30pm at Leitchville

Contact Murray Dairy or click [here](#) for more information

CoCo - Milawa area - please call Murray Dairy if you are interested in attending a course at or near Milawa.

CoCo - Numurkah- Strathmerton area- 27/28 June - please call Murray Dairy if you are interested in attending a course in this area.

Accredited Calf Rearing Workshops will run in mid-July. These will be one day workshops running from 9:30 to 3:00pm. Locations are Numurkah and Echuca with a third course location TBA – Contact Murray Dairy for more information.

Soil Biology Masterclass 2017

The soil biology masterclass will provide you with core knowledge and principles to assist you in incorporating soil biology and health in management practices to sustainably increase productivity and profitability. 5 & 6 September, 2017. Click [here](#) for event flyer.

Got a minute for a survey?

This online survey around DELWP's water information delivery and how it can improved to meet your needs would appreciate your input. Click [here](#).

John Ralph Essay Competition open for 2017

Topic: Structural changes in the Australian agriculture sector over the past two decades have thwarted the objectives of competition reforms. For more information click [here](#).

BoM

BoM is regularly updated and the newest seasonal forecasts are now available. Click [here](#).

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has announced that they have released a [Water Information Dashboard](#) which will provide national up-to-date coverage of water storage levels and water market information. This dashboard allows you to compare water levels and volumes for more than 300 publicly owned lakes, reservoirs and weirs.

The Dairy Forecast Service

The Dairy Forecast Service can be found [here](#). This site gives concise information relevant to your area.

Key features include:

- National Overviews
- 7 day Outlook toggle on the My Site page
- Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) weather observations

Events, Courses and Training

Please see the Murray Dairy Events calendar for all dairy related events, training and courses happening throughout the region. Click [here](#)

With best regards from the Murray Dairy team.

Jenny Wilson

Chief Executive Officer
Murray Dairy