

THE PROGRAM

Welcome Events – Wednesday 12 February

5.30pm



ADC Young Farmers Networking 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 Busted** 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, 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; its 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:

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.

Ashley Kirk is a third-generation Red Brahman breeder with over 20 years’ experience and recognized as a leading expert in the field. Following a Bovine Johne’s Disease outbreak in 2012, Ashley spearheaded a transformative relocation and rebuild of Rockley Brahmans, elevating it to industry prominence.

Nathan Scott
Achieve Ag Solutions

Don & Jen Stolp
Dairy farmers, NZ / SA

David & Penny Conn
Dairy farmers, VIC

Ashley Kirk,
Beef Producer

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

12.50pm 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 Program 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 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.

Rebecca Fing
House Paddock
Training

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
Professor of Carbon
Farming, Melbourne
University

2.55pm **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
Sustainable Animal
Care Manager, Dairy
Australia

3.05pm **Looking after your mental health** Nuffield Scholar, mental health counsellor and dairy farmer **Sarah Crosthwaite** has a very practical take on strategies that will contribute to the mental fitness of dairy farmers. She goes well beyond the usual advice of physical fitness, good sleep and a healthy diet, to tackle the less comfortable but perhaps even more important elements that can make a difference.

Sarah Crosthwaite
Nuffield Scholar,
Mental Health
Counsellor and Dairy
Farmer

3.20pm Afternoon tea brought to you by Proud to be a Dairy Farmer



MUELLER

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

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..

Finalists:

Grant Rogers
Jose Lopez
Davor Daniloski
Dilini Weerathunga
Michelle Axford



5.00pm **Day one close**

6.30pm **ADC Gala Dinner sponsored by Rabobank**
Performance by John Schumann



Day 2 – Friday 14 February

Session 5 – From Farm to Front Page

6.30am **Yoga by the Beach** – Kurrawa Beach

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

8.45am **What 30 years of journalism has taught me.**
Leigh Sales, Author & Journalist, 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
Author & Journalist

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.

Jo Coombe
Department of
Primary Industries
& Regional
Development NSW
Ashlee Gardiner
Dairy Australia
Mark Billing
Dairy farmer, VIC
Grant Garey,
President, Australian
Lot Feeders
Association (ALFA)

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**, 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

Senior Manager
Agriculture,
Sustainability and
Commercialisation,
ALRA

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**, alongside **Henriette Guldager** and **Nico Lyons**, sharing their insights and expertise.

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

Henriette Guldager

Nico Lyons

MORNING MILK RUN

Thursday 13 February starts 5.30am
Kurrawa Park, Broadbeach

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.



YOGA ON THE BEACH

Friday 14 February 6.30am
Kurrawa Park, Broadbeach

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.



12.45pm

Collaboration & innovation: Oli Madget 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.

Oli Madget
Vice President of
Farmlab and Founder
of SA AgriTech Meetup

1.10pm 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.

2.30pm

Local to global opportunity Discover how the Angus family transformed from local QLD beef producers into global exporters by relentlessly seizing opportunities others overlooked. **Josie Angus** 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.

Josie Angus,
Director, Angus
Pastoral

3.05pm

Brewing opportunity In this closing session, discover how Belgian **Annelies Nijskens** 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 **Madocke Beer Brewing Company** 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.

Annelies Nijskens,
Founder Madocke
Beer Brewing
Company

3.40pm Conference close

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

