Greetings from your DairySA team...

...and a farewell

Verity Ingham, David Kuchel, Kylie Boston, Rick Hinge, Beck Burgess, Katie Moorhouse, Anna Eddy, Bec Walmsley, Monique White (L–R).

New pastures

After fourteen years as Regional Manager/Executive Officer with DairySA, Verity Ingham has taken up the new national role of Extension Development Manager with Dairy Australia.

Kerry Grigg has been appointed as the new Regional Manager/Executive Officer for DairySA. Kerry joins DairySA with extensive experience in the agricultural sector, working in the cropping industry acting as the manager and executive for a farmer led organisation, Victorian No-Till Farmers Association. We'll introduce Kerry further after she joins us officially on September 1.
Have you seen the new DairySA website?

The new DairySA website is up and running and offers loads of information, resources, video clips, and the latest news on the dairy industry in SA.

Under the green DairySA ‘Farm’ Tab, there is a range of DairySA specific topics including information on Dairy Discussion Groups, Farmer Support in SA, DairySA Land Water Carbon and much more. The ‘Farm Resources’ white section offers easy access to Dairy Australia’s range of resources around areas including Feedbase and Animal Nutrition, Farm Business Management, People, Animal Management and others. Remember to join up to receive the regular DairySA electronic newsletter in the ‘Contact Us’ section.

Check it out at dairysa.com.au

Joining a DairySA event is now even easier

With the launch of our new look website and the integration of our farmer management system, it’s now even easier to see the range of DairySA Events on offer. Head to the News & Events section (located in the top right hand corner of the home page) and select Events Calendar to see the highlighted events for that month.

To see all the details of any given event – for example, workshops, field days, pasture walks – simply click on the highlighted event, and select the blue PDF flyer button. You can RSVP to any event by completing your details in the form on the screen, which submits directly to the Event Coordinator. (Of course, it is still possible to respond directly to the Coordinator using their mobile or email contact details).

Reflections from Verity Ingham...

To the SA Dairy Community,

As I prepare to move on from DairySA, and with time to reflect, it is with a sense of sadness that I will also be leaving the SA dairy community, DairySA Board and my team.

My role as Executive Officer and Regional Manager has evolved and grown over the years, and I feel fortunate to have been surrounded by strong and collaborative dairy industry leaders who have developed DairySA into the industry service body it is today.

I’ve very much appreciated the support of the SA dairy farming community as I grew into the job over the past fourteen years, and have valued your friendship, advice and feedback along the journey. I’ve been welcomed into homes and onto farms, and have made some wonderful friendships. I have watched the industry rise and fall more than once, and am constantly heartened by the care, concern and support the dairy community provides, pulling each other through to the good times again.

The DairySA team goes from strength to strength and their support, service and friendly faces will continue on for the SA dairy community well beyond my departure. I am extremely proud of their commitment, talent and professionalism – if you’re looking to get maximum value from your levy investment then all you need to do is welcome the DairySA team to be part of your farm business team!

I have been inspired, challenged and mentored by the humble leaders on the DairySA Board. They give up their time and put up their hand to make a difference to the industry. Their positive focus, collaborative leadership and commitment to being part of the solution have been invaluable – and I thank them for their excellent guidance and support through my time at DairySA.

To those who have: given me cups of tea; shared their views and ideas; supported our projects; offered their time and expertise to underpin all that DairySA does; been honest; celebrated the good times; shown strong leadership in the challenging times; and helped me grow, develop and succeed within DairySA...

please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Kindest regards,

Verity

Verity Ingham will be leaving DairySA after fourteen years as Regional Manager / Executive Officer.
Good effluent management is good business

Dairyfarmers across the state are being encouraged to revisit their effluent business practices to ensure they are compliant with the Code of Practice for Milking Shed Effluent.

Monique White from DairySA says that a good effluent management plan is paramount to running a strong, healthy business – and there’s plenty of help available to achieve this.

“DairySA is committed to working with the State’s dairyfarmers to reach best practice when managing effluent,” she said.

“We recognise that this can be challenging – but DairySA is there to help farmers achieve this goal,” Monique added.

The SA dairy industry has developed a range of resources that are designed to assist dairy farmers with their effluent management plan – from initial set up to ongoing management. The newly launched DairySA website houses many SA-relevant manuals detailing good effluent management.

The ‘Dairying For Tomorrow’ website – an initiative of Dairy Australia – also has a selection of videos on a range of topics including effluent system set up, minimising volume and managing storage levels, and the value of effluent.

To reduce the risk of complaints or a review by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Monique encourages dairy farmers to ensure effluent is not discharged onto roads or stormwater drains, adhere to setback distances from neighbouring properties, minimise odour, and maintain backup systems.

But according to Monique, whilst the EPA monitor and audit effluent management for compliance with legislation, it should not be the motivating factor for farmers.

“It’s important to remember that effluent is in fact a valuable farm product – and with advances in technology it is easier to manage, reducing time and hassle involved,” Monique said.

“It has the two-fold effect of minimising environmental risks and optimising agronomic benefits,” she said.

“With good environmental management being important to dairy consumers, and by thinking of effluent as a valuable resource for your business, there are plenty of motivators to ensure best practice,” she added.

Dairyfarmers who are looking to redesign or upgrade their effluent system can contact an accredited effluent designer who can assist with meeting current EPA requirements.

“We encourage dairyfarmers to contact a member of the DairySA team if they have any queries about their effluent management – we’d be happy to assist,” Monique said.

Further information can be found at the following websites:

dairyingfortomorrow.com.au

dairyaustralia.com.au/dairysa/farm/
dairysa-farm/dairysa-land-water-carbon

SA dairyfarmer awarded AgriFutures Scholarship

Echunga’s Andrew Gray has received an agriculture scholarship that will help progress his steadily growing career. In recognition of his leadership potential and commitment to the future of Australian agriculture, the University of New England student was recently awarded one of 14 AgriFutures Horizon Scholarships.

Sponsored by Dairy Australia, Mr Gray will receive $10,000 over two years to assist with his studies and living expenses, while gaining access to professional development workshops and work placements.

Mr Gray said he had relocated to Armidale in NSW to study a Bachelor of Agriculture and Bachelor of Business, and that his ultimate goal was to own and operate a multi-enterprise agricultural business.

Through breeding and purchases, Mr Gray’s stud now operates with cattle on four farms primarily in the Hills, and one farm in northern Victoria. The young stock are run on his parents’ property, while Mr Gray’s milking cows are housed at commercial dairies with whom he has struck a deal.

While proud of his achievements, Mr Gray said it was time to progress further.

“Learning the industry through work I’ve done myself has been great, but now it’s time to grow my industry contacts and work with some of the best in the business,” he said.

(Reproduced with kind permission from the Courier. May 23, 2018)
Can you imagine saving up to $40 000 on your power costs?
This was the reality for six SA dairy business owners who participated in the DairySA / SADA Fresh dairy energy efficiency audit program over the past six months.

The Energy Efficiency Program, jointly funded by DairySA and SADA, saw six SA dairy farms across the Fleurieu, River and Barossa regions apply to participate in the program, providing each with a preliminary energy efficiency audit.

The audits were carried out by a South Australian energy services provider specialising in low carbon system solutions and aimed to review the potential for SA farmers to reduce energy costs and improve farm efficiencies, while also trialling a process for future audits across the state.

Participating farmers were using 42–93 MWh/year costing them between $14,500 and $36,400 annually. This energy use also comes with greenhouse gas emissions ranging from 23-49 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents per year (TCO2e/year).

The audits identified potential savings of between 23 and 66 MWh/year or $5,600–$40,000. Emissions could be reduced by 12–35 TCO2e/year and most importantly the payback from the changes was between 3 and 4 years, making investment in the changes a solid business decision.

Recommended changes to farm businesses in the audit ranged from optimising off peak energy rates, low cost investments in lagging pipes to reduce heat loss, shading cooling systems and changing lighting over to more energy efficient options through to investments in up to 30kW of solar PV (photovoltaics) and consideration of changing energy tariffs to spot price purchasing.

Each farm was found to be able to benefit from:

- upgrading lights to higher efficiency light options to reduce energy consumption while improving the quality of lighting
- fitting a variable speed drive for the vacuum pump
- installing up to 30kW of solar, along with power diverters for electric hot water control.

Farmers were encouraged to consider a phased approach towards optimising energy efficiency including upgrading the energy meter to an interval meter and configuring import export option. The interval meter will allow future energy audits to better pinpoint savings and monitor performance.

If you are interested in undertaking an energy audit for your business, please contact a DairySA team member to register your details for future opportunities.

DairySA is a Regional Development Program of Dairy Australia and provides strategic direction and support for dairy research, development and extension for the South Australia dairy industry.

To receive this newsletter via your email, please contact katie@dairysa.com.au or view online at www.dairysa.com.au