DIARY DATES

JUNE 7 • DairySA Innovation Day,
The Barn, Mt Gambier 9.30am
Details: Bec Walmsley 0418 951 324

JUNE 12 • Farm Business
Fundamentals (Day 2)
Details: Beck Burgess 0438 262 966

JUNE 12 • People in Dairy DDG, SE
Details: Kylie Boston on 0407 231 547

JUNE 20 • ‘Advancing Your Dairy
Business Advisory Board Workshop’,
Rural Directions
Details: www.ruraldirections.com/
events or call 8841 4500

JUNE 22 • Cows Create Careers
Dairy Day, Mt Gambier
Details: Kylie Boston on 0407 231 547

JUNE 27 • Cows Create Careers
Dairy Day, Fleurieu
Details: Kylie Boston on 0407 231 547

JUNE 28 • Cows Create Careers
Dairy Day, Murray Bridge
Details: Kylie Boston on 0407 231 547

JUNE 29 • Cows Create Careers
Dairy Day, Barossa Mid North
Details: Kylie Boston on 0407 231 547

JULY 3 • Myponga DB DDG Delamere
Details: Beck Burgess 0438 262 966

JULY 4 • Healthy Hooves, SE
Details: Bec Walmsley 0418 951 324

JULY 31 • People in Dairy DDG Central.
Details: Kylie Boston on 0407 231 547

Further information on these events
can be found at www.dairysa.com.au/
news-events.aspx

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at National Muster

2018 DairySA Innovation Day
‘People, Pastures, Pathways’

Thursday 7 June, from 9.30am • The Barn, Mount Gambier

The world dairy landscape is changing:
how will this impact you?

From technology advancements
in ‘people practices’, the latest
innovations in dairy breeding
and pasture, and discovering
other avenues in and beyond the
dairy industry, the 2018 DairySA
Innovation Day promises an
inspiring lineup of speakers designed
to leave you motivated, revitalised
and ready for what is to come.

Take the chance to network with
like-minded dairy industry members
and service providers — through
lunch and a Conference dinner —
and explore the day’s presentations
through conversations with friends,
farmers and the broader industry.

Register today on Eventbrite at:
2018-dsa-innovationday.
eventbrite.com.au

Five reasons to attend!
✓ Draw insights to drive your business
✓ Discover strategies for recruiting the right people
✓ Learn about the latest technology around pastures and cows
✓ Be inspired by SA’s talented young farmers
✓ Enjoy the chance to network and chat, with great food

KEEP IN TOUCH
Visit Instagram, Twitter or Facebook
to give us your feedback

@_dairysa (#dairyssa)
@Dairy_SA
@dairysouthaustralia
@Young-Dairy-Network-SA

For further information please contact
Conference Coordinator Bec Walmsley
on 0418 951 324.
Jen Stolp is putting together her own personal A-Team to help forge a positive future in the dairy industry.

Jen, who farms with her husband Don on a 600-cow farm at Kongorong, south-west of Mt Gambier in South Australia, was inspired to surround herself with positive people after attending the Thriving Women 2018 conference aimed at connecting and advancing agri-women.

Jen was one of several women supported by the Australia’s Legendairy Women’s Network (ALWN) and DairySA to attend the conference, held in Hahndorf earlier this year.

“We need to surround ourselves with positive people for support and to bounce ideas off each other,” she said.

With family and friends filling out her A-Team, and not a mohawked Mr T in sight, Jen says farmers need to be ready to “have a crack” and find opportunities.

“We can’t do it on our own, we need to create our own A-Team and take as many opportunities as we can and create opportunities for ourselves,” she said.

Jen and Don are making strong headway in the industry. They started managing the Kongorong farm three years ago and entered a sharefarming agreement last year.

Although she grew up in a town in New Zealand and didn’t harbour any farming ambitions before marrying Don, Jen says she has happily adjusted to farm life, especially enjoying sharing the lifestyle with two-year-old daughter, Aurora.

“We’ve been here for three years and I think we’re here for the long haul,” Jen said.

As a follow-up to the conference, Jen is initiating new safety policies and procedures for the farm and has taken on a project to help her focus on setting priorities.

“One of the sessions was on coping with things out of our control,” Jen said.

“That’s good for our industry because things can change day-to-day. While we need to plan and be prepared, we also need to prioritise what we can do now and not dwell on things that might happen that we can’t do anything about yet”, she said.

“It’s about prioritising the important things and penning the other things,” she added.

Now fully embracing dairy farming, Jen says it’s a challenging but rewarding career.

“Because we’re looking to progress in the industry, I wanted to go to the conference for networking and to understand more about how businesses are run. It was excellent, and I hope there are more that I can attend in the future.”

DairySA workforce development coordinator Kylie Boston said the conference was a great opportunity for women

Like Jen, Kylie found a similar overriding message at the conference.

“You can do some fantastic things if you surround yourself with great people who can support you,” Kylie said.

The conference included presentations on shaping the future, getting the best from your team, food and fibre education, skills training, small business resources, and heard from many successful women in business.

Australia’s Legendairy Women’s Network was established to connect and support Australian dairy women. It is an active online community and can be joined at: www.facebook.com/groups/legendairywomensnetwork

For more Legendairy stories, head to legendairy.com.au
DairySA sponsored two South Australia dairy farmers to attend the Don Campbell Memorial Study Tour in Tasmania last month, and both came home with valuable learnings and insights.

The Don Campbell Memorial Tour is a five-day tour of the northern Tasmanian dairy industry by a group of 10 to 14 young farmers. The late Don Campbell was a dairy farmer from Yannathan in Gippsland and the first chair of the GippsDairy board. He was passionate about the development of young people within the dairy industry.

This year’s tour included a visit to Jason Chilcott’s robotic dairy in Meander and to Ringarooma, the current Legendary Capital of Australia.

For SA participant Don Stolp, a fifty-fifty share-farmer based near Mt Gambier, a highlight of the tour was visiting the large enterprises, along with the spectacular Tasmanian scenery.

“Coming from New Zealand, I am pretty accustomed to large scale enterprises, but hadn’t seen them in this scale in Australia since arriving here eight years ago,” Don said.

“One of the key things I took from visiting these farms was the immense sense of pride and the obvious resilience of Tassie dairyfarmers,” he said.

“They get everything thrown at them — extreme cold and extreme wet — and yet they are upbeat and proud of their industry and willing to tackle the associated challenges — it was quite uplifting,” Don added.

Since returning, Don has already started to look at his current health and safety policies, inspired by the approach taken by many of the corporate enterprises they visited.

“They were some of the best I’ve seen — including in New Zealand — and it’s certainly prompted me to revisit how we operate these in our business,” he said.

Another SA participant Andrew Gray lives on his parent’s small beef farm in Echunga, managing a Long Gully Ayrshire and Holstein Stud. He has agreements with a couple of dairy farms who house and milk his stud cows, keeping heifers and calves at home. Andrew has previously worked part-time on a 400 cow pasture based dairy on the banks of the Murray River in Wall Flat, but recently left to study in Armidale.

For Andrew the highlights of the tour were wide-ranging.

“One of the main highlights for me was visiting large 3,000 cow enterprises and learning about alternative forage crops such as fodder beet and maize,” Andrew said.

“Coming from an all-year round calving system, I enjoyed speaking to owners and managers who calve seasonally and hearing their experiences around the benefits and challenges,” he added.

A further highlight was visiting a calf rearing shed with the capacity to house 700 calves at once.

“Meeting the other participants and Tasmanian farmers — who exchanged valuable experience and knowledge over the course of the week — was also a definite benefit of the trip,” he said.

As a result of the tour, Andrew took away several learnings, including a deeper understanding of the profitability of cross bred cattle (Holstein x Jerseys) and three way crosses (Holstein x Jersey x Scandinavian Red), and the suitability of medium/small framed cattle for the Tasmanian environment.

“I also gained an understanding of the importance of employee accountability with calf management,” he said.

Both Andrew and Don are enthusiastic about the benefits of the tour and will be recommending it to others in the future.

“I’ll certainly be encouraging the younger employees in our business to apply for the Tour next year, as a valuable learning opportunity for seeing what else is out there in the dairy industry,” said Don.

Andrew is equally enthused.

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Andrew is equally enthused.

“I would like to thank Dairy Australia, Dairy SA, GippsDairy and DairyTas for organising and funding the trip, it was a valuable and enjoyable insight into the Tasmanian dairy industry,” he said.

The Don Campbell Memorial Tour was supported by GippsDairy and UDV District Council 5, with the SA participants sponsored by DairySA.

Advance Your Dairy Business!

An ‘Advancing your Dairy Business Workshop’ will be held this month in Strathalbyn which will introduce dairy business operators to corporate governance and how to implement an Advisory Board.

Corporate governance helps to make daily business management easier by establishing defined business systems and processes. If you are a dairy farmer seeking skills and information to run a business that is attractive to employees, family, suppliers and customers then head to the Advancing Your Dairy Business workshop. After the workshop participants will receive individual follow up phone support from experienced agribusiness consultant and workshop deliverer Simon Vogt, from Rural Directions.

For more information head to ruraldirections.com/events or call 8841 4500

Details

Wednesday 20 June 9am to 4.30pm, Strathalbyn
Workshop to be delivered by Simon Vogt, Rural Directions.
FREE (Funded by the SA Dairy Industry Fund)
ImProving Herds Project highlighted at National Muster

The recent ImProving Herds National Muster held in South Gippsland last month saw over 300 dairy farmers, dairy industry service providers, researchers and scientists tour ‘Jelbart Farms’ for a day combining science, research and real world collaboration.

Owner Tim Jelbart provided insight into how this dairy business has utilised genomic testing to make animal selections and herd management decisions. The Jelbarts run a 1000 cow herd on 800ha near Leongatha, and, according to DairySA Extension Officer Beck Burgess who attended the day it’s clear that they know every facet of their business.

“The Jelbarts understand where every cost of their business is attributed to, and if a particular part of the business isn’t profitable, they investigate why and see what changes need to be made,” Beck said.

“Genomic testing also has made financial sense to this business as it allows them to make profitability decisions based on the results,” she added.

Beck explained that they are a high input business, but a profitable one. They use consultants, breeding advisers and agronomists, and the business is overseen by an advisory group, which includes three family members on the Board.

“We were taken through some of the current and soon to be released herd improvement tools and guides that dairy farmers can utilise to make informed decisions for their own herd management and businesses,” she said.

“We also heard from two farmers from Northern Victoria who have used some of these tools to help them make better decisions to strive for profitable businesses,” she added.

The tour also included a visit to the the Ellinbank Research Farm which provided an opportunity to connect with researchers and to gain insight into projects that are currently being undertaken at the site.

Delegates who attended the Ellinbank Research Farm tour included Graham and Jayne Hunt (Monteith), Tom Vitkunas (Nangkita), Chelsea Donhardt (Nangkita), Beck Burgess DairySA, at rear, Nick Boyce (Torrens Vale), Shane and Kylie Mieglich (Mt Torrens), Ebony King (Torrens Vale)

Some of the projects discussed included:

- Optimising the use of PMR system to maintain total energy input to lactating animals during measured changes of pasture quantity and quality.
- Validating OBV Heat Tolerant cows, determining effects for recovery during heat and humidity stress and optimum diet strategies.
- Methane Emissions on all feedstuffs (Cereals, feed meals, forage, alternative feed sources etc), which feeds proven to be more efficient (production, cost, the least methane output) and how to reduce methane emission by 30%.

In the coming months, SA dairyfarmers will have the opportunity to see first-hand how selected South Australian Dairy Farms have been involved in the ImProving Herds Project.

For more information contact Beck Burgess on 0438 262 966.

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WARRNAMBOOL CHEESE AND BUTTER FACTORY, BEGA CHEESE, MURRAY GOULBURN CO-OP, PARMALAT, and B.- D. FARM PARIS CREEK kindly support the distribution of the DairySA newsletter.

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