



## **Media Release – 4 October 2016**

### **Forum Research Looks into the Future**

The upcoming Murray Dairy Business Forum, at Barooga Golf Club on Thursday 20 October, is not only celebrating the research brought back onto farms in the last 20 years, but is showcasing current research in readiness for bringing to farms into the future.

Dr David Nation, Co-Director of DairyBio, a new 5-year investment in dairy bioscience, will speak on the vision to drive large-scale benefits for Australian dairy building strong institutional support for agricultural innovation.

DairyBio takes on the good work of Dairy Futures CRC, which provided a great legacy of the dairy industry working together with research sectors to deliver some of the most positive and permanent changes to dairy herds and dairy pastures. This continued stream of new innovations and new ideas from DairyBio will form the basis of genetic improvement for the next 20 years.

From the Biosciences Research's Molecular Plant Breeding group of DEDJTR in Hamilton, Victoria, research scientist, Dr Pieter Badenhorst will feature his work in the development of high-throughput tools and methodologies for pasture plant breeding. Pieter's work with breeding high-energy pasture earned him a nomination in 2013 for the Victorian Young Achiever Awards.

To share the learning from the tough Queensland drought, David Barber, a Senior Research Scientist from DAF in Gatton, will present some of the results from their research in dairy nutrition and feeding systems. A key driver found was flexibility of the forage base as a key driver of resilience to underpin profitability.

Sharing these systems, and how they got there, provides a fascinating insight from another region, which has faced decisions to overcome similar tough seasonal conditions.

Andrew Bodycoat, from Zoetis will speak on the large focus on the adoption of genomic testing, which provides information on young heifers that is equivalent to seven lactations of herd recording data. Andrew will present these technologies, working with producers, to ensure this technology is being successfully applied at the dairy farm level.

Other speakers will address key learnings from the Accelerating Change Project, leading farmer profile stories, and also hear from AFL premiership coach Kevin Sheedy.

For enquiries on registrations for the forum, contact Murray Dairy on (03)5833 5312 or on the website at [www.murraydairy.com.au](http://www.murraydairy.com.au)



Dr David Nation, Co-Director DairyBio

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