

Members Newsletter



SADA is extremely proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the three winners at the Gala Dinner with over 280 of its industry peers, what an inspiration to rank SA amongst the world finest.



Board member Tracey Cowie presented the winner for **Best Relationship with a Processor Award to Sam Martin.**

This award is deliberately designed to reflect the ambitions of the Dairy Industry Action Plan and has sought

to help build a relationship between processors and producers. Many thanks to the various processors who responded to SADA's enquiries as to who they had a good relationship with. Sam is milking 500 plus cows on the Murray in Wall Flat, supplying Bestons. Flexibility being the key to a great partnership, with clear and direct communications. Understanding where business is heading into the future, for both his own farm but also Bestons plans for the future. Sam likes to keep ahead of game and feels Bestons has the same outlook.



Board Member Ben McHugh presented the winner for **Most Innovative Farmer Award to David Altmann.**

The Most Innovative award was a difficult choice as there are a number of farmers across the state who are

making changes across their farming systems and their innovations do reflect farmers who understand the changing world they occupy as time passes. David developed a TMR system at a time that it was considered impossible to turn a profit in the area. Nevertheless, his risks have been rewarded, not only financially, but having the satisfaction of knowing he was right all along. David continues to look forward to other developments as he is currently working with the South Australian Dairy Industry Fund, SADA and the SA Government to raise capital for a methane power generation project to be installed on his farm. He plans to allow the plant to be a showpiece of what can be done making it available for all to come and see.



Board member Gary Zweck presented the winner for **Best Young Farmer Award to Ben Walker.**

The young farmer award recognises a farmer who applies themselves to their farm and possess the skills to run a profitable and sus-

tainable dairy business in the future. Tonight's award winner shows a passion for the dairy industry and stands as role model to others in the industry on how to do it right. This award reflects the reality that there is a future in dairy farming in our great state.

Ben firstly acknowledge his partner Michelle, as he whole heartly believes he wouldn't be standing here today without her dedication and foresight to get them where they are today. As one of the largest Proctor share farmers from Mt Schank milking a whopping 900 cows, so confidently he's just signed for another 3 years.





From the President

Robert Brokenshire

Another month has passed and we are now hoping for a good spring finish after what for most has been a wet winter. No doubt like you on your farm, SADA have experienced a busy month with meetings with the Minister for Primary Industries, CEO of PIRSA and ADF Board and Presidents meeting.

We are working with our **River Murray Dairy Farmers** re post flood recovery and whilst solid progress is being made we need to give further support to these Farmers who have concerns that still need addressing. **Water allocation plan** reviews are happening on the Limestone Coast (I personally thank our farmer representatives who have been working on the review) and SADA are about to receive briefings re the start of the Eastern and Western Mt. Lofty Ranges reviews, we will keep you posted over the coming months.

On a legislative front two key bills being the **Hydrogen Bill** and a comprehensive **Biosecurity Bill** will be a focus in the next few weeks for SADA and we will keep you updated on these.

At present the **world markets** for Dairy, Beef and Lamb have seen prices fall however commentators say they are expecting some recovery late this year, China is impacting on Global Auctions by a drastically reduced appetite for purchase and this is a contributor to price reductions. I still believe the longer term looks strong for Dairy as the world starts to stabilise from inflation and buyers start to increase their inventory stocks.

What is clear from experiences in New Zealand, England and Ireland is that if Government in Australia are careful with policy and **emissions legislation** we will have future opportunity to grow our exports and therefore production SADA and ADF must be active to ensure we have the strongest possible advocacy and SADA are committed on your behalf to make sure that occurs.

Please always feel free to contact our office, a board member in your region or myself on 0419/815990 should you have any concerns or need help with an issue.



<https://spoti.fi/3R5a7EQ>

In this episode, Oli Le Lievre and Samantha Noon embark on a journey to explore the carbon space in Australian agriculture. They are joined by Professor Richard Eckard, a renowned expert in climate and agriculture, to shed light on key concepts like carbon neutrality and net zero. The conversation covers Australia's emission reduction goals, the choice of baseline years, and the differences between net zero and carbon neutral. Across this series we aim to demystify the carbon space and shed light on the challenges and opportunities it presents.

Key areas covered:

- Understanding Australia's emission reduction targets & how they have been set
- Baseline years and carbon neutrality
- Carbon Neutral vs Net Zero vs Climate Neutral
- Various other environmental claims
- The challenge & opportunity for carbon neutrality in Agriculture

This series is sponsored by Ruminati, an online emissions calculator created by farmers for farmers. You can learn more about their solution [here](#) show notes or by listening to our bonus episodes after episodes 3 and 4.



Evaluation of the Western and Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plans

A water allocation plan (WAP) is a legal document that sets out the rules for using prescribed water resources. A WAP ensures water is fairly and sustainably allocated for community, industry, and the environment. Both surface water and groundwater is prescribed in the [Western Mount Lofty Ranges](#) (WMLR) and [Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges](#) (EMLR).

To ensure that a plan remains up to date, a water allocation plan must be reviewed (evaluated) on a comprehensive basis at least once every 10 years. The EMLR and WMLR WAPs were both first adopted in 2013 and are now due to be evaluated.

It is the view of SADA and the expectation of the legislation that once the evaluation process has been completed, a consideration of whether amendments are required should be undertaken. It would be inappropriate to form a strong view on amendments ahead of undertaking the evaluation.

Contact SADA for more information.

Impact of inflation on dairy products

28 Jul 2023: Robert Brokenshire, President | on ABC RADIO ADELAIDE.

What does this mean for farmers? Profits going up?

We were hoping it would see a profit margin that gave us good sustainability when we started to see some increases ... but like all consumers, businesses, families, inflation has hit us hard and we're coming off the back of a 10 year really difficult period in the dairy industry where the 'dollar a litre milk' really hurt Australian dairy farmers but at the moment we're focused on sustainability and making sure that we can produce the best quality milk at the most reasonable, sustainable price that we can and that's what's happening.

What's also happened is our input costs have gone through the roof, I'll give you an example, we've just been told our electricity's going to go up by between 28-40%. Along with fertiliser going up too, we're hoping to see some leveling and therefore South Australian dairy farmers are focused now on trying to grow the industry and increase production which will in the long term help the consumers in Australia.

Are you worried that there could be a point at which consumers look at the dairy aisle and just go 'I can't afford that'.

We hope that that wouldn't occur for two key reasons, the first is that if you look at a recent medical and science report that came out, saying that there are 23 reasons why Australian people should consume 3 serves of dairy a day and that's medically proven so dairy is a very, healthy good quality, clean green product. People know they need that as a staple, the second thing is that whilst there's been a lot of hype around the increase

in milk prices. Look at top quality premium milk it's between \$2.20 and \$2.70 a litre. If you buy a soft drink or a bottle of water in a shop it'll cost you more than that. While cheese is \$14-\$17 a kilogram, but when you slice that cheese up and you put that in your kids lunches or your lunch to take to work ... it's still one of the cheapest forms of protein that a family can buy and all families need protein for good health. So, we know the product is a good product and is still cost effective.

Can you see prices going down any time soon? Or, you just mentioned the electricity prices about to go up, will they just continue to increase for now?

We have this opening price that signs off on 1 July each year for dairy farmers through the ACCC code, and we've seen

some milk pricing processes pay a little bit more or less, it depends a fair bit on the export options, if we can grow our milk product locally and continue to be as close as possible to self-sufficient with fresh milk then we'll be able to be very competitive and the consumers will be buying an affordable, health product. So, that's where we're focused at the moment South Australia produces about 6% of the fresh milk market in Australia, SADA want to grow that 10 and that's our business plan, of course we have seen a reduction, remember when the dollar a litre milk hit and really hurt farmers and a lot exited, that pulled production right back and that's now having an impact and we've gone from nearly 10 billion litres of milk produced in Australia a year back to under 8.



The General Secretary reported that he had received information to the effect that A. A. Pitman is again endeavouring to obtain more producers from the Clarendon area. It is apparent that he is getting short of milk owing to the excessively dry lean period. Our delegates from that area, Viz. Mr. Easton, said that a number of our members were very restless because Pitman was offering them a higher price than what they were receiving under equalisation. He, Mr. Easton said he suggested a meeting should be held at Clarendon, and would like several members of the Executive to attend and address the members. The secretary said that, in company with Mr. Gormlie he attended the meeting and informed the developments that had taken place in connection with prices, particularly in regard to milk for manufacture and also the Associations overtures to the Milk Board in regard to whole milk. He went on to tell the members at Clarendon that we had always strongly supported equalisation and that any breakaway by any wholesaler or group of producers would seriously jeopardise the smooth working of an orderly plan. He then informed that the Milk Board was determined to prosecute any wholesaler who exceeded the quota and did not equalise.



- A Carbon market caution workshop held at Myponga. It became clear from the discussion that there is more work to be done in developing a clear understanding of the current requirements in relation to carbon and methane.
- An industry briefing on Indonesian LSD detections webinar hosted by NFF.
- Effluent system design course. SADA will be able to provide effluent design capacity for its members (and non-members for a higher fee) which will meet EPA benchmarks.
- With Dairy SA attended the Limestone Coast Jobs and Skills Showcase 2023 for its second year.
- Assisted a farmer with an application for the SADIF fund. That matter will now be under consideration for the next meeting.
- Andrew met with a number of Lower South East members to share a "Schnitty

with SADA". Valuable discussion was had across a number of topics including workforce, biosecurity, national dairy representation, and water allocation plans.

- PPSA Farm Safety Steering Committee Meetings, as this project has not completed, PPSA will seek some further funding to assist with project legacy and so the project can be repurposed for on farm rather than in schools.
- A legislative interpretation issues for the opposition in South Australia. This was on the back of a review conducted by SADA for a department. This led to a redrafting of the Veterinary Services Bill by the Department. The opposition contacted SADA to confirm that the changes were as anticipated. A letter was sent to the opposition indicating that the amendments attended to the issues raised by SADA, however, regulations would be closely monitored.
- Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Area flood response. We are close to completing the dewatering process. Next we meeting with representatives of each of the irrigation trusts and will discuss future.
- Adelaide Vet Students Association (AVSA) Industry Expo with Dairy SA. A well attended and great discussions with all Ag

Science and Vet Students.

- National Traceability Advisory Group meeting as part of an industry event bringing the importance of improved traceability standards to varying industries. SADA has committed to assisting GS1 in demonstrating the important work that was being undertaken in the area of traceability to other industry bodies.
- Assisted a farmer with a consumer affairs issues arising from the unsatisfactory operation of equipment purchased by the farmer.
- 2023 Aither Water Markets report which provided a very useful forecast on Murray Darling Basin allocations and Basin Plan implications.
- Josh Teague MP to brief on a number of issues impacting the Dairy Industry in South Australia, including the proposed Veterinary Services legislation as well as legislation aimed at governing renewable energy in the state.
- SADA/Datahash national traceability trial met essentially to ensuring the proper advancement of the project and remitting the schedule of works through the work plan back to the Commonwealth Government.



Could you be a Board Member on the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association board?

SADA has become a very diverse organisation operating a number of different aspects being the State Farming Organisation (SFO) arm for the National industry advocacy body Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF). Strong connections with Dairy SA and Dairy Australia to ensure dairy farmers are well connected and up to date with the changing environment across the entire supply chain. In 2012 we launched SADA Fresh . . . Since then, we have evolved to be-

come much more, the complexity of the organisation brings with it governance requirements and statutory compliance obligations that reach far beyond just attending meetings. The SADA Board has the important responsibility of setting and reviewing the Associations [strategic](#) direction and to help ensure a strong future organisation for our members and the dairy industry. The SADA Board oversees existing and potential risks, together with industry

compliance across all areas of the business. SADA is committed to a long, prosperous future and we plan to continue to grow and develop our services to meet members needs in the future. In line with SADAs [constitution](#), we are now seeking an applicant; from either the South East region or the River and Lakes / Adelaide Hills region. To find out more about joining the SADA Board, visit www.sada.asn.au phone: 8293 2399 or email: sada@sada.asn.au

Nominations for the SADA Board are now open.