



**Rabobank**

**Media Release  
3 March, 2011**

## ***Banking on growth in Colac – new Rabobank branch opens***

Specialist agricultural lender Rabobank has officially opened its new branch in Colac in the southwest Victoria.

To celebrate the opening of the new branch, more than 80 guests attended a launch held at the prestigious Otway Estate south of Colac last night.

Presenting at the event, Rabobank state manager for Victoria Mark Bennett said the opening of the new Colac branch allows the bank to better support its clients in the area.

“As a specialist in agribusiness banking, it makes perfect sense to be located in key agricultural production areas such as Colac,” Mr Bennett said.

“Staffed by a capable team with a solid knowledge of the region who have been managing clients in Colac for some time now, Rabobank is well placed to service the local farming community there.”

Located at 24 Murray Street, in the centre of Colac, the new branch will help service the southwest farming community which is largely focused on dairy, beef, and sheep production.

Appointed to manage the new office is Rabobank branch manager for Colac Garry Pattison who comes from the bank’s Warrnambool branch. A long-term southwest resident, Mr Pattison is very familiar with the district and said he is pleased to be based locally to work closely with existing clients in the area.

Mr Pattison has a strong background in the dairy industry where he spent more than 13 years working with Bonlac Foods, a dairy cooperative now owned by Fonterra, before moving to Rabobank seven years ago.

“Despite operating from Warrnambool, I have personally focused on the Colac area from early on and I am looking forward to being local to the bank’s clients there and more accessible to them in the long-run,” Mr Pattison said.

“The southwest farming community has given Rabobank a lot of support over the past few years and opening a branch here is a reflection of that support.”

Joining Mr Pattison in the new branch is Rabobank rural officer Karen Brady. A resident of Colac, Mrs Brady has a long history of working in the banking and finance sector and is an active member of several community organisations.

At the launch of the new branch, a keynote agribusiness presentation was given by specialist agri analysts from Rabobank’s Food and Agribusiness Research and Advisory (FAR) division – general manager for FAR Justin Sherrard and dairy and food processing analyst Michael Harvey – providing the audience with a generally positive outlook for agriculture both domestically and internationally.



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FAR is a team of agri-economists who analyse developments in food and agricultural markets and industries and advise the bank and its clients on the strategic implications for their businesses.

The world's leading food and agribusiness bank, Rabobank started life as a cooperative formed by Dutch farmers more than 110 years ago to finance other farming enterprises. Still structured as a cooperative, it now operates in 48 countries.

For more information please contact Rabobank's Colac branch on 03 5234 3900 or visit [www.rabobank.com](http://www.rabobank.com) .

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**Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is a part of the international Rabobank Group, the world's leading specialist in food and agribusiness banking. Rabobank has more than 110 years' experience providing customised banking and finance solutions to businesses involved in all aspects of food and agribusiness. Rabobank is structured as a cooperative and operates in 48 countries, servicing the needs of more than nine million clients worldwide through a network of more than 1600 offices and branches. Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is one of Australasia's leading rural lenders and a significant provider of business and corporate banking and financial services to the region's food and agribusiness sector. The bank has 83 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand.**

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