



**Rabobank**

*Media Release  
August 31, 2012*

## ***Rabobank Forbes celebrates 10-year anniversary and new premises***

It was a double-header celebration for Rabobank Forbes branch last night to honour its 10-year anniversary and the opening of its new premises in the heart of town.

Spilling onto the pavement, more than 150 local farmers, friends and agribusiness professionals gathered onsite at the new Rabobank branch located at 16 Sheriff Street in Forbes to celebrate the landmark occasion.

Speaking at the event was Rabobank chief executive officer Thos Gieskes who proudly acknowledged the success of the Forbes branch on reaching this milestone and cementing a presence in the Forbes and wider central New South Wales community since opening a local branch in March 2002.

With the Forbes branch officially moving to new, purpose-built premises to coincide with the 10-year anniversary, Mr Gieskes said the evening's event was doubly significant for Rabobank.

"The strong growth that Rabobank has achieved in the past decade in Forbes is testament to the strength and quality of the local agricultural sector," Mr Gieskes said.

"Rabobank has always had its roots firmly in agriculture, with its global parent beginning as a farmer's credit cooperative in the Netherlands in 1898."

Now the world's leading food and agribusiness bank, Mr Gieskes said, Rabobank remains one of the highest-rated banks in the world and has been ranked among the top safest banks globally for more than 10 years.

"Now we have state-of-the-art premises here which is built for Rabobank, and is the newest branch office in our network of all 61 branches across Australia – indeed it will be the template for new branch offices that we will open in the future," he said.

"When we first came to Forbes in 2002 we were known as PIBA, and had one staff member, Nick Turner, who continues to manage the branch here today."

Rabobank Forbes branch manager Nick Turner came from the bank's Dubbo operations to bring the business closer to its clients in the Forbes area.

Mr Turner said the occasion was special for Rabobank and for the township of Forbes.

"By opening our new office, we're reinforcing our commitment to this town and this region," Mr Turner said.



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“We’ve built something brand new and we’re here to stay. We’ll continue our support of the community on many levels and we’re pleased everyone could join us to celebrate at the official opening onsite at the branch.”

Mr Turner said that while it had been a challenging environment for the farming community throughout the past decade, the growth Rabobank had seen in the Forbes area was even more significant due to the quality of the clients it supports.

“We’ve had droughts, we’ve had floods but we’re here to stay – we have a big commitment to agriculture in this area,” he said.

Raised in Trundle, Mr Turner took the pioneering steps to Forbes 10 years ago to open the new branch in a new town, with the aim to grow and develop the business in the region.

“We wanted to be closer to our clients and their businesses and Forbes is a key agricultural area with good operators both on and off-farm,” Mr Turner said.

Now with a total of five staff, Mr Turner will continue to lead the team and its business throughout what he believes will be a particularly good few years ahead in agriculture.

“I think the outlook is quite positive for agriculture right now – especially now that, for the first time in ten years, our irrigation dam is full – and commodity prices are reasonably good, so agriculture and agri banking has a lot to look forward to,” he said.

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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 47 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 93 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand.**

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