



Rabobank

**Media Release
February 15, 2013**

Rabobank officially opens in Mildura

Agricultural banking specialist Rabobank has celebrated the formal opening of its Mildura branch, in north-west Victoria, joined by 200 local guests at the Mildura Club last night.

Located at 135 Lime Street in the centre of Mildura, the new branch is a state-of-the-art purpose-built, stand-alone premises designed especially for Rabobank.

Rabobank state manager for Victoria Todd Charteris said the opening of the Mildura branch was a great success, testament to the quality staff in the office who had drawn a substantial crowd of local growers, graziers, agricultural service providers and businesses.

“We see a great deal of potential for Rabobank to support the local agricultural community here,” Mr Charteris said.

“The Mildura branch will service a large area of northern Victoria with a bit of cross-over into New South Wales and South Australia. We see a lot of opportunities to support farmers in these areas being a very diverse region with intensive horticulture operations, extensive dryland cropping and grazing.”

Appointed to lead the Mildura branch team is long-term Rabobank employee Derek Wheaton who joined the bank in 1996.

Mr Wheaton was raised on a prime lamb farm on Kangaroo Island and has a wealth of agribanking experience. He has contributed to the successful growth of Rabobank’s business in areas including Adelaide, Kadina and Mount Gambier in South Australia, Emerald in Central Queensland and now Mildura.

Mr Wheaton said he was proud and excited to be opening a new Rabobank office in Mildura.

“I think this region holds a lot of promise – we’re proud to be here to support a new client base of diverse operations that exist in the area,” Mr Wheaton said.

“We’ve received great support from the community already – reflected by the phenomenal turn-out at our official opening and I think this comes down to the type of people Rabobank has employed here.

“We’re here for the long haul and opening a branch here in Mildura demonstrates that commitment we have to the local farming district.”

Supporting Mr Wheaton in the Rabobank branch is long-term Mildura local John Whitelegg who has been appointed rural manager. Mr Whitelegg has an extensive



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career in sales and equipment finance with local service providers and is well-connected with the Mildura business and farming community.

Rabobank rural officer Kylie Meehan has also joined the team in Mildura, bringing strong agribusiness banking knowledge with local farming and commercial clients in the area.

Presenting at the official branch opening were Rabobank's general manager for Country Banking Australia Peter Knoblanche and senior analyst Marc Soccio. As part of the bank's Food and Agribusiness Research & Advisory division, Mr Soccio provided some insights into the broader trends and opportunities in East Asia for the Australian agricultural sector.

Rabobank was once a newcomer to Australian agriculture circles, but today – more than 20 years later – it has become one of the country's largest rural lenders and a significant provider of corporate financial services to the food and agribusiness sector. With 61 branches across Australia, 14 strategically situated throughout Victoria, Rabobank is the world's leading food and agribusiness bank.

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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 approximately 10 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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