



Rabobank

**Media Release
March 22, 2013**

Rabobank officially opens in Bendigo

Agricultural banking specialist Rabobank has celebrated the formal opening of its Bendigo branch in central Victoria, joined by close to 80 guests at the Board Walk on Weerona Lake last night.

Appointed to lead the Rabobank Bendigo office is branch manager Leon Fennell who joined Rabobank in 2011.

Mr Fennell said he felt privileged to be in the position of branch manager, dedicated to leading the Rabobank business forward in Bendigo.

“Bendigo is an integral region for us as an agricultural bank – it’s a strong rural centre surrounded by many food farmers in the area that we are pleased to be able to support,” Mr Fennell said.

“It’s logical that Rabobank is based here in town, we are pleased to be a part of the farming community and look forward to working with the food and agricultural sector in Bendigo, adding value to those businesses and growing with them.”

Mr Fennell has a lifetime of agribusiness experience and was raised in Tatura in Victoria and has spent most of his career in the Mildura district.

Working alongside Mr Fennell is James Finnigan, rural officer with Rabobank, who comes from a sheep farm near Warrnambool in the Western Districts. Mr Finnigan has a strong base knowledge of farming and agribusiness and makes an excellent addition to the Rabobank team in the region.

Officially declaring the Bendigo branch as ‘open’, Rabobank CEO Thos Gieskes said Victoria is a very important state for Australia’s food and agribusiness industries, known for the wide range of agricultural commodities it produces, making it a “natural fit” for Rabobank, as an agribusiness lender, to support the local Bendigo farming community.

“Rabobank is very positive about the long-term outlook for agriculture, globally but also particularly in this part of the world,” Mr Gieskes said.

“The Australian agricultural sector is indeed fortunate in so many ways – we are blessed here to operate in a very stable business environment where we have not only economic and political stability but also, generally good access to capital.”

Mr Gieskes said the Australian agricultural sector will overall have the access to capital it needs to enable Australia to take advantage of the opportunities that will unfold in making sure it well-placed in feeding and clothing the rest of the world for the future.



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Presenting at the official branch opening was Rabobank senior grains and oilseeds analyst Graydon Chong. As part of the bank's Food and Agribusiness Research & Advisory division, Mr Chong provided some insights into the broader macro economic environment and discussed the outlook for domestic and international grains markets.

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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