



**Rabobank**

*Media Release  
January 31, 2014*

## ***Rabobank Shepparton celebrates 10-year anniversary***

There were smiles all-round at the Rabobank Shepparton 10-year anniversary held last night at the Olive House where more than 160 members of the local farming community gathered to celebrate the landmark occasion.

Rabobank Shepparton branch manager Roger Matthews said he and his team were overwhelmed with the turn-out at the anniversary event.

“Seeing such a large number join us to celebrate the anniversary was really positive and reflects the strong and meaningful relationships Rabobank Shepparton has with its clients,” Mr Matthews said.

“It was an opportune time to get together post-harvest, celebrate over a few drinks and ‘cut the cake’ to mark the 10-year anniversary. We really just wanted to thank our clients for their outstanding support since opening in the area – it’s been a big 10 years and we look forward to a strong future here.”

Rabobank Shepparton first opened its doors to the region in 2003. Regional manager Hamish McAlpin relocated with Rabobank to Shepparton in 2004 and together with Roger Matthews, Aileen Findlay (2005) and Andrew Mann (2007) have been key drivers of growth for much of the last 10 years.

Since then, Rabobank Shepparton has grown to a team of seven, with rural manager Jerard Brewer and senior rural officers Peter Dobbin and Clinton Campbell rounding out the team.

Reflecting on the past decade, Mr Matthews said Rabobank Shepparton had seen such growth that subsequently in 2011, three more branches were opened in the region – Albury, Bendigo and Echuca – to support the ever-increasing client base in the local area.

“What is quite remarkable is that when we opened, we were experiencing an extensive period of drought that actually lasted until 2010/11,” he said.

“Rabobank continued to grow in that extremely difficult period for our clients who are all farmers, adding resources and investing in the local area, knowing full-well that our commitment to the region was always long-term.

“We have continued to grow beyond the original plan – and opening a brand new, purpose-built premises in 2012 was a highlight for Rabobank Shepparton and we’ve been able to put more staff on and the plan is to keep growing with our clients in the future.”

Mr Matthews said the region has a large number of high quality farmers from a wide range of agricultural sectors including cropping, grazing, dairy and horticulture/viticulture.



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“Confidence is lifting a little now in most sectors and some balance has been restored season-wise so I think it’s going to be a positive future in the area,” he said.

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