



Rabobank

*Media release
September 25, 2014*

Rabobank Berri celebrates 10-year anniversary

Rabobank Berri celebrated its 10-year anniversary last night at the iconic Banrock Station where more than 80 members of the local farming community gathered to 'raise a glass' to the special occasion.

Visiting from the bank's headquarters in Sydney, Rabobank group executive for Country Banking Australia Peter Knoblanche attended the function and said he was proud to see how Riverland business had grown in the past 10 years.

"Seeing such a large number join us to celebrate our 10-year anniversary was really positive, reflecting the strong and meaningful relationships Rabobank Berri has with its clients," Mr Knoblanche said.

Mr Knoblanche spent several days touring the Riverland area and meeting with local farmers.

"The Riverland is a true 'hub' when it comes to horticultural production – it has been a privilege to visit world-class farming operations this week," he said.

Rabobank Berri branch manager Brent Fletcher said he and his team were humbled by the turn-out at the anniversary event.

"We really just wanted to thank our clients for their outstanding support since opening in the area – it's been a big decade and we look forward to a bright future here in years to come," Mr Fletcher said.

Rabobank Berri first opened its doors to the region in 2004 and has since developed a solid business with steady growth.

Mr Fletcher joined Rabobank in 2004, charged with opening and leading the Berri office.

Having been in agri-banking in the area for several years, combined with a passion for agribusiness lending and a deep knowledge of the area, Mr Fletcher said he was keen for a challenge and has thoroughly enjoyed seeing the local business build over the years.

"The decision to open an office in Berri was logical one – mainly because the area is in the heart of South Australia's horticultural region, being a core producer of almonds, citrus and bulk wine, as well as being surrounded by cereal cropping land," he said.

"We opened at a time that saw the onset of the 'Millennium Drought' as well as fluctuating commodity prices, but we have been fortunate to work with good farmers who operate sound businesses.

"Celebrating our 10-year anniversary with our clients truly reflects that our clients appreciate what we have done for them over the years, with agricultural knowledge and expertise, but more importantly, we feel a part of their businesses too and that brings us all



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great satisfaction.”

Joining Mr Fletcher in the ‘early days’ was Sam Johnson and Sue Butterworth who helped establish the local business growth from 2004 onwards. Both Mr Johnson and Mrs Butterworth since transitioned to Rabobank Adelaide.

The Berri team now comprises of Mr Fletcher, finance officer Mary Fournaros, senior rural officer Peter Butterworth, and rural manager Nicholas Di Giorgio.

Over the years, Rabobank has been an active supporter of various local community events and initiatives including cereal crop walks/days in the Riverland, the Riverland Wine Grape Growers Association, the Some Like it Hot Seminar, the Almond Board of Australia, Citrus Growers of SA, the South Australian Fresh Fruit Growers Association, and the Riverland Field Days.

For more information please contact Rabobank Berri on (08) 8580 1900.

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Rabobank Australia 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 41 countries, servicing the needs of about 10 million clients worldwide through a network of close to 1600 offices and branches. Rabobank Australia is one of the country’s leading rural lenders and a significant provider of business and corporate banking and financial services to the Australian food and agribusiness sector. The bank has 61 branches throughout Australia.

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