



MEDIA RELEASE

11 October 2011

GARDINER FOUNDATION CELEBRATES ITS ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Gardiner Foundation celebrated its eleventh AGM today, led by Mike Taylor AO at the conclusion of his first year as Chairman. Mr Taylor paid tribute to the Foundation's project partner organizations, many of whom were represented at the AGM, for the body of work they have delivered which has created beneficial outcomes across the dairy value chain.

In Mr Taylor's first year as Chairman, the program to renew and refresh the Board has continued, and despite a volatile year in financial markets, the value of the Foundation's financial assets, managed by ANZ Trustees, has been increased by \$4.7 million to close at \$83 million at 30 June 2011.

The Foundation's Member Organisations, the Victorian Farmers Federation Property Trust Ltd (on behalf of the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria Commodity Group of VFF), the Australian Dairy Industry Council and the Australian Dairy Products Federation accepted the Annual Report for the financial year 2010/11 and formally made new director appointments.

Professor Paul Moughan has been re-elected for a further three year term and **Tyran Jones**, a dairy farmer from Gippsland is newly appointed to the Board.

Doug Chant has retired from the Gardiner Board and was recognised for his contribution not only as a director, but also as President of the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria, a principal project partner of the Foundation. As President of the UDV, Doug also served as a Member Representative to the Gardiner Foundation for a number of years. Doug's commitment to the Victorian dairy industry and its communities, and particularly in the development of young people in the industry, was noted and recognised with appreciation.

In 2010/11 the Foundation invested \$2.2 million in new funding to 46 projects plus another \$8.6 million investment in ongoing projects over the next 5 years. Gardiner is listed by Philanthropy Australia as the sixth largest philanthropic grantmaker in Australia.

New staff came on-board in mid-2010 to lead major new programs - Strengthening Small Dairy Communities and the Flexible Dairy Business (FDBP) Program.

FDBP was one of three projects profiled at the AGM, introduced by Program Manager Wolfie Wagner, with discussion by leading dairy farmers John Harlock (Chair of the FDBP Board) and Neville Kydd, a Murray Goulburn supplier farming in the northern irrigation area. Discussion centred around the value of data generated through the Australian National Dairy Database which would allow dairy farm businesses to benchmark themselves against industry leaders, facilitate scenario planning and assist in maintaining competitiveness in a global market.

Also profiled was the "Meterman" project conducted at Tatura Milk Industries, by Environmental Manager Graham Parton and energy efficiency expert Kevin Joyce. With energy costs, particularly electricity, rising rapidly, the imperative in the next 20 years will be to produce more with less fossil fuels and less water and this project is expected to produce outcomes which can be applied beneficially across the Australian Dairy Industry.

Finally, Cohuna Secondary College students Anthony Doyle and Ashleigh Rogers joined project leader Tricia Currie of Northern District Community Health Service to talk about *Gateways 4 Sustainable Communities*, an innovative project partnering educators with employers and the wider community to create vocational "gateways" through which young people can enter local agricultural industries.

The Foundation continues its funding of significant scientific research through the Dairy Futures CRC, and in collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries, and key projects supporting healthy consumption of dairy products through the Dairy Health and Nutrition Consortium.

Gardiner Foundation initiated a series of dairy leaders meetings for the chief executives of Australia's seven largest dairy companies, funding and advocacy bodies which led to the dairy leaders collaborating to provide an annual donation of two million litres of milk to the national FoodBank Australia program.

The Gardiner Foundation Annual Report 2011 is available on www.gardinerfoundation.com.au and contains profiles of other projects successfully completed by project partners including *Green Cleaning (GippsDairy Board and AgVet Projects)*, *Dairy Business Networks (Murray Dairy and NCDEA)*, *leadership programs and the Terang Wetlands Project*.

* * *



Director appointments at AGM 2011:
(l. to r.) Tyran Jones and Professor Paul Moughan, both appointed for three year terms, with Chairman Mike Taylor AO.

New Director profiles:

Professor Paul Moughan has been re-elected for a further three year term. Paul is a globally pre-eminent dairy scientist in nutritional and health promoting properties of milk products. He holds the position of Distinguished Professor at Massey University, NZ, and is Director of the Riddet Institute. He holds a Personal Chair at Massey University and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, England. He was recently appointed Chair of the FAO Expert Consultation to review recommendations on the characterization of dietary protein quality in humans.

Tyran Jones was newly appointed for a term of three years. Tyran brings to the Gardiner Board his experience as a dairy farmer and engagement in dairy industry structures. He served as a director of GippsDairy for 7 years, 4 as Chairperson; Chair of the *Project 3030 Investor Steering Group* (a large collaborative feedbase project); Chair of Gippsland's *Future Ready Dairy Systems* Regional Reference Group and is a member of the *Dairy Moving Forward* Steering Committee, which is responsible for developing the industry response to the new national R, D and E framework. He is a partner in a 500 cow dairy farm at Gruyere in Gippsland.

Print quality photo available – contact Cynthia Mrigate
(Tel. 03 9606 1911 or Cynthia.Mrigate@gardinerfoundation.com.au)

Media contact:

Mike Taylor, Chairman, Gardiner Foundation
Tel. 9606 1900 or info@gardinerfoundation.com.au

If you do not wish to receive any further electronic messages to this address from or authorised by this sender then please send an email to unsubscribe@gardinerfoundation.com.au