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## A promising group of Australian dairy industry members prepared to lead the way.....



The Australian dairy industry can be assured its future is in good hands, with 18 industry members from around Australia taking part in the sixth national **Advance in Dairy** Leadership Development Program which commenced on the 4<sup>th</sup> December in Melbourne.

The **Advance in Dairy** Leadership Development Program supported by Dairy Australia equips participants to **effectively represent** their industry at a state and national level. It is a six month Program which includes two residential skill sessions of three and two days respectively.

In between the sessions participants are resourced to design and implement an industry project which has national implications and aims to result in a model for use by others. Project outcomes are presented to mentors and industry, business, community and political leaders at the final session in Canberra in April 2007.

The program focuses on developing leadership skills in members of the dairy industry, with opportunities provided for the participants to practice the skills they learn in the sessions that cover networking, profiling the industry, planning to bring about change, team leadership, communicating with impact, gaining outcomes from meetings and lobbying to bring about change.

For Victorian Dairy Farmer, Mr Simon Finger, the first session provided an insight into the various personalities of people and how to work them to get the best outcomes. "The Program has provided learnings about personality traits that I can and will use in my personal, professional and community roles," he said.

Guest speaker, Mr Paul Weller, Member for Rodney, presented an overview of the key characteristics of an effective representative in both industry and politics, together with his view of the major opportunities open to the dairy industry.

"The dairy industry needs to nurture its future leaders and support them in learning the required skills to take the industry forward," he said.

"I believe the future leaders will be people who are prepared to lead and make decisions on behalf of the industry and have the skills to involve industry in the process, communicating with them and gaining their trust. These sorts of programs enhance the process of finding people who will have the confidence and knowledge to establish the big picture for the industry," Mr Weller said.

Leading Industries Training Manager, Cheryl Phillips said "In today's climate, leadership is not about a single decision maker, but rather everyone has a valuable contribution to make," she said. "If we can form diverse groups of decision makers then the outcome is going to be much better for industry than if one person is left with the responsibility."

The Program has been developed and is delivered by Leading Industries with support from Dairy Australia and program sponsors, Westpac, the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry and FarmBis, along with various individual participant sponsors.

***For more information please contact Cheryl Phillips on 0407519992 or the participants on the list attached.***