



**Ceremony . . .** Academics, graduands and friends and family attended the graduation ceremony at the University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus earlier this month.

# Dookie's latest crop graduates

Australia's newest group of agricultural professionals graduated from the University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus in a ceremony earlier this month.

Ninety-two students graduated at Dookie in a range of courses including Bachelor of Agriculture, Associate Degree in Agriculture, Bachelor of Rural Business, Diploma of Horticulture, Advanced Diploma of Horse Management and Graduate Diploma in Wine Technology & Viticulture.

The speaker for the event was Rob Patrick, director of programs and development at the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

Merron Chalmers was named Valedictorian.

Mr Patrick and Ms Chalmers

both touched on the challenges that agriculture and agricultural graduates face in the future with regard to climate change, water and the diversity of career paths.

Ms Chalmers also highlighted the importance of community networks made while completing her education, along with the strength she found in the smaller campus community and dedication of staff.

Mr Patrick spoke about the importance of life-long learning and the ability of Dookie graduates to face the challenges facing Australian agriculture now and into the future.

University of Melbourne's Academic Board president Professor Pip Pattison presented each graduand with a certificate of admission to the appropriate award.