

Ag@Otago in collaboration with **The Future Food Network** will host the first of a series of 4 Seminars and Supper for Undergraduate students at the University of Otago this academic year.

Date: Wednesday, 9 May, Room 1.17, Level 1, Otago Business School, at 5.30pm

The **Future Food Network** is a programme for tertiary students that is all about New Zealand's Food Production industry, whether that be science, business, technology or other areas. The first Seminar will be led by Dr Patrick Aldwell (Academic Director of the Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme and retired Dean of Commerce, Lincoln University). This first session is where you can hear more about the programme and play an active role in shaping the direction of the programme.

As an industry, there is a demand for skilled employees in the Agriculture and Food sectors. There are also a number of challenges being faced nationally and around the world that are rapidly disrupting the way we do things and the environments we are operating in. The Seminars will cover aspects of food as a social, economic, cultural and an environmental issue. Government projections are that there will be 50,000 new skilled jobs in this sector over the next decade. The Seminar Series will highlight the challenges and showcase some inspiring solutions New Zealanders are coming up with regarding these challenges. The programme is currently funded by the Red Meat Profit Partnership and enables them to bring key influencers into the tertiary area to network and speak with the students as part of the programme. The programme has been running across six tertiary Institutes and is launching into three more Institutes, including the University of Otago, in May this year.

The purpose of the programme is:

- To provide tertiary students with networking and leadership skills
- Help them to build a professional network with key influencers before they graduate
- Help them discover the drivers for pursuing a particular pathway
- Empower them to also bring solutions to the table around real life challenges

A maximum of 40 places are available for Undergraduate students, across all disciplines within the University who may consider a professional career within the Agriculture or Food sectors. Anybody who is interested in attending these Seminars should contact Emeritus Professor Frank Griffin, Director, Ag@Otago: ag@otago.ac.nz for further details.

Expressions of interest should be lodged by May 1st to ag@otago.ac.nz.



Frank Griffin
(Director Ag@Otago)