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Muradel - its origins and its people

Muradel is a proprietary company limited by shares, founded in December 2010 by the University of Adelaide, Murdoch University and the majority shareholder SQC Pty Ltd, which is soley funded by Aban Australia Pty Ltd.

The Muradel Demonstration Plant in Whyalla was funded by shareholders and a grant of AU\$4.4 million from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency's Advanced Biofuels Investment Readiness program.

Construction began in late 2013 and the plant, staffed by experienced and technically trained operators, became operational in mid-2014.

Muradel comprises a small hand-selected team of skilled and experienced staff who have a passion for the development and production of liquid transport biofuels from sustainable feedstocks.



Oliver Clark AM, Chairman

Ollie joined the gas industry in 1956 as a Cadet Engineer, moving through the ranks to become General Manager and a Director of SA Gas Co. Following the restructure of the energy industry, Ollie was appointed inaugural Managing Director of Envestra Pty Ltd which was to become the largest gas distributor in Australia.

He has served as a Director on a number of Boards, including Statewide Superannuation Trust, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and Regency College of TAFE, and is currently Chairman of SQC Pty Ltd.

Ollie is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia, the Australian Institute of Energy, and the Institution of Gas Engineers UK, and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. In 2004 Ollie was invested as a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the gas industry, educational and community organisations.



Rob Chalmers, Muradel Director

Rob is Managing Director of Adelaide Research and Innovation Pty Ltd (the University of Adelaide's commercial development company). Rob has more than two decades of experience in technology development and commercialisation in multiple roles across a broad range of fields including Health, Agriculture and Defence.

Rob's past roles include work with the private and public sectors, specialising in IP and commercial work relating to the development and commercialisation of new technology, for the Defence Science & Technology Organisation, the Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Universities and companies. While at CSIRO, Rob was part of a team awarded the 2005 CSIRO Medal for Business Excellence.

Rob is also Chair of Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia Inc, the peak body for commercialisation and knowledge exchange between the public and private sectors.



Samantha Dymond, Director

Samantha is currently leading the Murdoch University Knowledge Transfer Office whose role is to provide access to and facilitate diffusion of the University's discoveries. Sam has been with Murdoch University since 2007, supporting researchers, managing IP, and seeking commercial and community outcomes. She manages the licensing and assignment of Murdoch derived technology, including developing commercialisation plans, and has been a Board Member on several university spin-out companies. Sam has 20 years' experience with the assessment of R&D related projects, including commercialisation, and IP assessment and management.

Jacob Cherian, Director

Jacob is a CPA-Certified Practising Accountant who holds a Master's Degree in Business Analysis and Financial Management. Working internationally and with multi-nationals for near thirty years, Jacob started up the Ausker Group of Companies in 1991. The Ausker Group is a commodity and energy trading house. He works in the conventional and renewables sectors and set up the investment operations of Aban in Australia.

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David Lewis, PhD, CEng, FIChemE, Chief Executive Officer

David is a chemical engineer with a trade background, having worked as an Electrical Fitter/Mechanic in the mining and automation industries before moving into R&D. After enrolling as a mature-age student, David became a lecturer at the University of Adelaide in 2002 where he set up the Microalgal Engineering Research Group (MERG) with a research focus on sustainable technologies exploiting microalgae. MERG undertakes R&D on water and wastewater quality & treatment, commercial and environmental applications for microalgae, and is actively involved with the development of sustainable downstream processing technologies for microalgal products, in particular bio-energy.

David is well equipped to undertake commercial and industrial scale research and development in his current role as full-time CEO of Muradel. His engineering background provides the necessary skills to be able to conceptualise and scale-up processes that are economically and environmentally sustainable.



Andreas Isdepsky, BE (Biotech), Operations Manager

Andreas managed the construction and now manages the operations of the Muradel Demonstration Plant in Whyalla. He recently completed his PhD thesis which is part of the "Fully integrated process of biodiesel production from microalgae in saline water" AP6 project. Outcomes of his research include microalgae culture optimisation in terms of lipid productivity, scaling up of microalgae culture and the integration of further downstream processes into the culture management. His thesis also included the plant design and operation of the Muradel Pilot Plant in Karratha, Western Australia, the determination of limits for outdoor algae mass culturing.

Andreas has 9 years experience in applied phycology and provides scientific leadership within the company. Prior to his biotech study, Andreas was working 10 years in a Bio-ethanol plant in Germany responsible for process control maintenance and optimisation. His broad skill set suit very well the area of management concerned with overseeing, designing, and controlling the process of production and redesigning business operations



Andrew Milligan, PhD, MBA, GAICD, FAIM, Business Development Manager

Andrew is a business development professional with a combined 20 years' experience in the areas of scientific research, innovation, technology commercialisation, intellectual property management and business advisory. Prior to joining Muradel, Andrew held the position of Business Development Manager at BioSA where he was responsible for capturing new commercialisation and industry development opportunities in the agricultural, environmental and industrial biotechnology sectors. Before BioSA, Andrew co-founded the biotech company Lifeprint Australia, which successfully licensed one of his patented inventions to a large crop biotechnology company.

Andrew is a member of the local life sciences investment group, BioAngels, and an advocate for industrial biotechnology as a key enabler of Australian competitiveness in the coming decades.



Ruth Conry, Grad Dip Proj Mgt, BMgt, Administration Manager

Ruth is the Administration Manager at Muradel. Prior to this role, Ruth managed her own project and event management business for ten years. With post-graduate qualifications in Project Management, Ruth specialises in the industry areas of science, technology and digital media, organising education, networking, professional development and industry development events for several industry and professional associations, the State Government and Commonwealth Government.

Ruth has worked with numerous start-up companies and managed the Tomorrow Studio 3-year project - an incubator for start-up media, digital design, gaming and other creative technology companies based in Adelaide, South Australia. Ruth co-ordinated services to member companies who were establishing commercial digital media businesses or who wished to commercialise strategic IP relevant to digital media.

Dr Meera Verma, PhD, FTSE, FAICD, Strategic Advisor

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Meera is a professional executive with expertise spanning the global healthcare, product development and biotechnology industries. She is Director of Headland Vision, a strategic product development advisory and consultancy company, and previously served as Site Director for the Adelaide-based R&D and manufacturing facility of Hospira Incorporation, a global specialty pharmaceutical and medication company. Dr Verma is a Fellow of both the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Dr Verma holds a Doctoral Degree in Biochemistry from the University of Adelaide and is a Non-Executive Director of Ellex Medical Ltd and Biosensis Pty Ltd.

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