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of Atherton & Mareeba

Rotary John Deere Tractor Pull Revs Up

BOASTING more horsepower than you can poke a crankshaft at, the popular Rotary John Deere Tractor Pull is set to get hearts racing at this year's Rotary FNQ Field Days.

Tractor Pull organising committee member Mark Brown said he was excited to put pedal to the metal as at least 30 tractors from across regional Queensland go head to head.

"We've got people coming from as far as Rockhampton, Mackay, the Burdekin and Ingham," he said.

"We've got a lot more tractors coming this year."

Run for the first time at Field Days in 2013, the Tractor Pull involves either a "vintage" or "classic tractor" pulling a sled along a 120m track.

Engine capacity categories have been boosted for Field Days in 2017, with tractors competing in categories ranging from 20 horsepower right up to 200 horsepower and potentially even higher, depending on numbers.

All tractors competing must be two-wheel-drive.

"Tractors are what farmers are virtually born with and they're always trying to beat each other in the competition," Mr Brown said.

"Some people spend 200 hours or even up to 2000 hours working on their tractors.

"I'm working on one now and by the time I get it going I'll have probably spent 1000 hours on it and a couple of thousand dollars."

Mr Brown said he couldn't wait for the tractors to rev up at Field Days this year.

"A lot of those spectators have never seen some of these tractors, especially working under a full load," he said.

"You get a lot of farmers and mechanically-minded people in the crowd.

"We might be getting older but we're still pumped up for it."

Agricultural equipment supplier Honeycombes will supply the "pull-back tractor" for the event, which will pull the sled back to the start of the 120m track once each competing tractor has a run.





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Making its debut at Field Days alongside the tractors this year will be the Ride-On Lawn Mower Pull, designed for backyard warriors wanting to get in on the fun.

“It’s a good thing to get the kids involved in, it gets them away from computers and gives them an understanding of how things work mechanically,” Mr Brown said.

“We’re just in the process of building a sled for that competition and should have it finished in two or three weeks.”

The event is a truly family-orientated affair, promising loads of fun for mum, dad and the kids.

Mr Brown said interest was already growing for the new event, with several locals converting their ride-on lawn mowers.

“You’ve got to get rid of the deck and then they tune the motor up a bit to make them pull a bit better,” he said.

“Some people are putting quad bike tyres on and even tractor tyres.”

Mareeba Tyrepower, MSF Sugar and Mareeba Mazda are the major sponsors of Rotary FNQ Field Days 2017.

A biennial event, Rotary FNQ Field Days will be held between May 24 and May 26, 2017.

ENDS

Photo caption: The popular Rotary John Deere Tractor Pull will get hearts racing again at this year’s Rotary FNQ Field Days.

To nominate a tractor or lawn mower, call Ruth Maisel 0417 629 208 or email maiselr@bigpond.com

For media enquires, contact Ida Portella on 0439 545 433 or email marketing@fnqfielddays.org.au

For more information on Rotary FNQ Field Days, visit www.fnqfielddays.org.au

