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of Atherton & Mareeba

### **Field Days promotes youth in agriculture**

PROMOTING opportunities and career paths to the next generation of budding young farmers will be a highlight of this year's Rotary FNQ Field Days.

Run by the Mareeba District Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Ltd, an Innovation and Education tent will feature "Careers in Agriculture" information sessions for school students across the region.

The Careers in Agriculture program will consist of a full overview of primary industries within the region and interactive career "speed dating" workshops with many industry stakeholders.

It is being organised and facilitated for industry by Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network Far North Queensland officer Leanne Kruss.

Students will have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers as well as talk one-on-one with people in the industry, leaving them with more informed choices about their career paths.

The "quick chat" activity will also return this year, offering students the chance to talk with a wide range of industry professionals to gain valuable cross-industry knowledge.

Indeed, Field Days is a great opportunity for students to gain exposure to a full range of industries and career options.

"Agriculture is one of Australia's most technologically advanced industries," said Ms Kruss.

"During field trips and excursions, students are often amazed at how sophisticated agricultural science and food production has become. Agricultural innovation will be one of our greatest contributions to develop solutions to global food security challenges and sustainability.

"There is a very high demand for skilled labour within all areas of agriculture, making it an exciting career path for young people."

Funding and support for the Innovation and Education tent is being supplied by Northern Gulf Resource Management Group, supported by funding from the State Government's Queensland Natural Resource Management Investment program, Mareeba District Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and the Queensland Agricultural Workforce Network.





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The Queensland Department of Education's Gateway Schools to Agribusiness Project, which aims to help young people make a successful transition from school into further education or careers in agriculture, will also be involved this year.

About 16,000 people passed through the gates at Rotary FNQ Field Days in 2015, with all indications pointing to a repeat of that number this year.

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 Wednesday May 24 and Friday May 26, 2017 at Mareeba's Kerribee Park.

### **ENDS**

*Photo caption: Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network Far North Queensland officer Leanne Kruss stands with a drone piloted by Mareeba farmer Marcello Avolio.*

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For more information on Rotary FNQ Field Days, visit [www.fnqfielddays.org.au](http://www.fnqfielddays.org.au)

