



Brought to you by Tableland Rotary Clubs  
of Atherton & Mareeba

### **Thousands flock to Field Days opening**

A STRONG crowd of thousands have converged on Mareeba's Kerribee Park for day one of Rotary FNQ Field Days, delighting organisers with a solid start to the iconic event.

Rotary FNQ Field Days committee chair Pauline Spackman said she was pleased with the turnout so far, with thousands more expected to pass through the gates on Thursday and Friday.

"It's been wonderful," she said.

"The traffic has been flowing beautifully and I've just been up in the helicopter – the aerial view is spectacular. The cars were packed in so that's a great indication."

Mrs Spackman said there had been strong interest from the crowd in a whole variety of events and exhibitions – from the Rotary John Deere Tractor Pull belting out big horsepower to specialist stalls offering financial, lifestyle and farming products, as well as cattle displays.

The GBR Helicopters scenic flights also proved a winner on the day with some wonderful aerial views over the Mareeba area.

Even the food is out of this world, with several community organisations cooking up a storm to feed the hungry masses.

"Every exhibitor I've talked to has been really happy with the foot traffic they're getting," she said.

"There's something for everyone out here."

Mrs Spackman said the event was also running the first ever "Machine of the Field Days" competition, open to any machine under 12 months old.

Technology and innovation is playing a big part too at this year's Field Days, with the Future Farmers Innovation and Education tent, Inventor's Contest and an awesome display from the Yamaha RMAX Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) turning heads.

Mrs Spackman said she was delighted to see at least six different schools visit the Innovation tent, which is featuring "Careers in Agriculture" information sessions for school students across the region.





Brought to you by Tableland Rotary Clubs  
of Atherton & Mareeba

The program consists of a full overview of primary industries within the region and interactive career “speed dating” workshops with many industry stakeholders.

But Mrs Spackman said Field Days never forgot its roots and core mission to promote agriculture across Far North Queensland.

“The traditional farmer will always be our focus. That’s what we’re about,” she said.

“Everything the farmer needs to know about is here, from tractors and machinery to various bits and bobs. There’s just so much on offer.”

Mrs Spackman said she couldn’t wait for another strong crowd to return tomorrow and Friday for Field Days.

“It’s not over until Friday afternoon at 4pm, so there’s still plenty of time to come and see what’s out here,” she said.

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 captions:*

- 1. The impressive aerial view at this year’s Rotary FNQ Field Days. PICTURE: TREVOR DUNCAN*
- 2. Yamaha’s RMAX UAV was a highlight at Field Days. PICTURE: TREVOR DUNCAN*
- 3. A tractor hauls a sled at the Rotary John Deere Tractor Pull. PICTURE: TREVOR DUNCAN*
- 4. Harry Officer, 14, is supporting Tolga farmer Joe Trimarchi in the tractor pull with his Massey Ferguson 135.*





Brought to you by Tableland Rotary Clubs  
of Atherton & Mareeba

For media enquires, contact Ida Portella on 0439 545 433 or email  
[marketing@fnqfielddays.org.au](mailto:marketing@fnqfielddays.org.au)

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

