LARGEST FIELD DAYS IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Rotary FNQ Field Days
Brought to you by Tableland Rotary Clubs of Atherton & Mareeba

MAREEBA RODEO GROUNDS
ON behalf of our committee and members of the Rotary Clubs of Atherton and Mareeba, welcome to the 2019 Rotary FNQ Field Days. Now held over three days, this event will bring exciting innovations, great exhibits and outstanding attractions.

The success of the Field Days is evident by its longevity from humble beginnings on a potato farm in Malanda and the vision of grower Alan Beattie to the present day, where its reputation gives it the title of the “Largest Field Days in Northern Australia”.

Our planning started in 2018 with a hard working committee, friends and volunteers from the Atherton and Mareeba Rotary Clubs, who have once again shown their love and enthusiasm by giving up countless hours to ensure its success.

The response from exhibitors has been so overwhelming, in 2017 we opened stage 2 and this year we have expanded introducing new sites located both under and in front of the rodeo arena.

There is plenty of outdoor seating areas for families who will be able to enjoy the awesome weather that we experience during the event. We are attracting exhibitors from far and wide, and you will see old and new faces and many new products on display.

This year’s Field Days also has a major focus on Farm Safety, Mental Wellness and Innovations – all relevant topics for our rural industries.

As in the past, we have the support of our strategic partners – Mareeba Mazda, MSF Sugar and Mareeba Tyrepower – along with sponsors who we have acknowledged in this publication. The support from these entities is critical to the event’s success, and we thank them all once again for their involvement.

The following pages will provide a comprehensive overview of the event, the exhibitors and major attractions, agriculture in our region, the economic benefits, plus lots more. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our team who have worked countless hours behind the scenes. In particular, our Site Coordinator and admin Lea Coghlan, Marketing and PR Jeanette Sturiale, Official Guide Coordinator Natasha Srohi and Rotary Teahouse Coordinator Nina Akselsen Grant for going above and beyond in their roles and ensuring the smooth running of the Field Days.

Now is also the time to save the date for 2021 Field Days which will be held on May 26, 27 and 28.

On behalf of the organising committee, I welcome our sponsors, exhibitors and, most importantly, our visitors to the Field Days. I know that you will enjoy this great event.

Iida Portella
Chair, Rotary FNQ Field Days Committee
FNQ FIELD DAYS CONTINUES TO GROW

The Rotary FNQ Field Days is now the largest Field Days in Northern Australia.

THE 2019 Rotary FNQ Field Days is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet.

On the back of the fastest sell-out of sites in the event’s history – 80 per cent sold within a month of going on the market – the volunteer committee, drawn from the Atherton and Mareeba Rotary Clubs, is excited about what will unfold.

The three-day agricultural extravaganza will transform the normally tranquil paddocks at Kerribee Park, Mareeba, into northern Australia’s largest Field Days event, over May 29, 30 and 31.

More than 500 exhibitors from all over Queensland and interstate will fill more than 600 sites for the three days – inviting visitors to view the latest and greatest in agricultural products and services, and support industries.

From tractors to trailers, sheds to saddles – a huge investment of time, money and resources combine to deliver state-of-the art exhibits.

While the men are taken care of with an impressive display of “big” and “little” toys, the ladies are too with a wide range of female-focused stalls selling everything from lingerie to western wear and accessories.

Rotary FNQ Field Days chair Ida Portella is “thrilled” with the level of support for the event.

“I truly expect the efforts of exhibitors will be repaid in spades with more than 20,000 people expected to file through the gates over the three days,” Ms Portella said.

“This kind of exposure is second-to-none.

“This year, we have expanded into two new areas, under part of the grandstand and to the right of the entrance gates.

“Our exhibitors deliver quality – in products, services and support – and often timely specials and deals to suit the local farmer, grower or support business.”

To complement the exhibition area, the committee has developed an innovative and interactive attractions program, featuring some old favourites like the John Deere Tractor and Garden Tractor Pull and vintage static tractor and engine display, alongside new events like a special beef industry forum and interactive display from the Queensland emergency services.

“The exhibit and attractions program will combine to provide a platform for a bumper event,” Ms Portella added.

Wednesday will feature the official opening by State Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries Mark Furner.

Meat and Livestock Australia, together with Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, will host BeefUp on Wednesday, a beef cattle forum where guests will hear the latest about on-farm research and development and the latest insights and tools to grow a business in the beef industry.

Rugby league legend and Queensland Safety Ambassador Shane Webcke will hold centre stage on Thursday to deliver a powerful and personal safety message, drawing on his personal, heartbreaking loss of his father in a workplace accident.

Webcke will return Thursday evening to be special guest at a Farmers BBQ.

Friday coincides with Fatality Free Friday, a nationwide program held every year to raise road safety awareness.

In the arena, well known horsemanship clinician Geoff Toomby, and his wife Vicki, Toomby Horsemanship, will run a program over the event.
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**N-Drip set to spark a revolution in Australian irrigation**

With global water shortages becoming more critical and the increase in water and energy prices, the use of flood irrigation is proving to be less sustainable. Flooding is associated with water waste, lower yields, land and mineral waste, land depletion and groundwater contamination.

While there are more efficient water-use technologies on the Australian irrigation market, they require a substantial upfront investment, rely on filtered water and are subject to very high seasonal energy consumption and maintenance costs.

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The cost savings and optimization of yields delivered by N-Drip ensure a return on investment (ROI) within the first season, compared to the 5-8 year ROI period offered by alternative technologies, eliminating the financial barriers to farmers wishing to upgrade their irrigation technology. In addition, in areas where water availability limits field size, the water savings achieved by N-Drip enable farmers to expand their fields, resulting in an increase in productivity and total income.

N-Drip has already successfully installed seven systems across Australia, servicing Australia and New Zealand from the company’s base in Cairns, FNQ.

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**COVER PHOTO COMPETITION**

Winner of the 2019 Official Guide cover photo

AS the Rotary FNQ Field Days put the call out for nominations of photographs depicting 'agricultural and rural living' to be on the front cover of this year’s Official Guide, we were spoilt for choice as there were so many worthy winners.

Despite the number of fantastic entries, there was one which stood out from the rest.

This year’s winner and front cover of the official Rotary FNQ Field Days guide shows Tolga youngster Jack McLaren riding a tractor – which was taken at last year’s Field Days event.

The photograph was taken courtesy of Jack’s grandmother Linda Joseph, who stated that her motivation to enter the competition was one borne out of giving back to Rotary.

“Jack is my youngest of three grandchildren and 2017 was his first Field Days which is where I took the photo – he absolutely loved it and didn’t stop the whole time he was there.”

When asked what she felt stood out the most about the photo as it relates to agricultural and rural living specifically, Ms Joseph alluded to the tractor Jack was riding which has established itself as one of the most iconic brands in the agricultural industry.

“Definitely the John Deere tractor, to me John Deere is agriculture and the beautiful green and gold logo just made the photo stand out even more,” she said.
NEARLY double the number of tractors are expected to feature at this year’s John Deere Tractor and Garden Tractor Pull at the Rotary FNQ Field Days.

What started with a handful of tractors three events ago has grown into one of the most well organised events, which this year will attract more than 60 tractors – double the number that featured at the 2017 event – from across North Queensland and south to Mackay.

A key attraction at the Field Days, the popular event will be held over three days with Wednesday and Thursday a competition pull and Friday morning a display session.

The committee armed with delivering the event incorporated in 2018 – such is the popularity of the sport – to become the NQ Tractor Pulling Inc and president Mark Brown is excited about what will be on offer.

“We have a membership base of more than 160 people – all keen tractor pulling enthusiasts who hail from Far North Queensland and as far south as Yeppoon,” Mark said.

“Since we started running the event at the Field Days, its grown in popularity.

“It’s a hobby that is a great connection with our backgrounds – for most of us our that means on the farm tinkering with tractors and machinery.

“At the same time, it strikes a chord with spectators who delight in seeing a 150 horsepower 60-year-old John Deere pull a ten tonne sled along the track.”

Two sprints will be in action – one to pull 100HP to 200HP tractors, with a second to pull 30HP to 100HP – and are destined to help make the action more exciting.

In the garden tractor classes, junior competitors are encouraged with kids as young as eight competing for the trophy. Modified ride-on lawn mowers with the deck removed and garden tractors under 15hp and over 15hp will pull a smaller sled.

The tractor pull involves either a “vintage” or “classic tractor” pulling a sled along a 120m track. Engine capacity categories for the Field Days range from 20 horsepower right up to 200 horsepower along with additional crawler classes.

All tractors competing must be two-wheel-drive and at least 40 years old.

Mr Brown said the tractor pull was a novel way of giving a “retired” tractor a new lease on life instead of taking it to the scrap dealer.

“It’s ideal for those that want to keep tinkering and get enjoyment out of their old machines, without having to have them sitting around in the yard,” Mr Brown said. “What else do you do with old tractors.”

The competition will take place at 10am and 2pm Wednesday and Thursday, with a 10am display on Friday.
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Mark Furner MP will be on hand to officially open the 2019 Rotary FNQ Field Days on Wednesday May 29

OVER the last twelve months, primary producers have faced significant challenges. Some haven’t seen enough rain. Some have seen too much.

The time I spent with flood-affected communities across the state’s north reaffirmed how resilient Queensland farmers are. But it’s a tough job even at the best of times.

The wellbeing of our farmers is paramount. I want everyone to know that looking after yourself, your family and your friends is essential. I encourage everyone to engage in conversation about mental health over the three days at the Field Days and I thank Rotary for facilitating this opportunity.

Who would have thought a small gathering on Malanda-Atherton Road in the mid-1980s would grow into the largest field days in Northern Australia? Atherton and Mareeba Rotary Clubs have once again outdone themselves with this year’s event. There are more than 600 exhibitor sites plus the innovations showcase. The latter showcases the region’s innovative products related to the agricultural industry.

The Tablelands is home to a wide diversity of agricultural production. Central to this success is the resilience of local producers who adapt to market cycles and consumer demand. Through this diversity, we see a tremendous supply of fresh produce for both domestic and overseas markets.

As Minister for Agricultural Industry Development, my clear mandate is to work with industry in developing programs to support industry productivity and sustainable production. I hope the three days at the Field Days fosters innovation and collaboration.

I will continue to be on the front foot in supporting industry development and promoting the quality and untapped potential of Queensland’s agriculture and food sectors locally, nationally and globally.

I thank Rotary for their tireless efforts and unwavering support of Queensland’s agricultural industries. Welcome to 2019 Rotary FNQ Field Days.

Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
It’s not all about good looks

IT’S what’s beneath the skin that reveals the full story. Discover what makes the D-MAX ute and 7-seat MU-X stand out from the crowd both on and off the road.

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FARM SAFETY FIRST

FARMs are no different to any other business when it comes to safety. Growcom chief executive officer David Thomson said: “They are not a protected species nor are they any more complicated than other small businesses,” he said.

“All businesses need to be responsible for the safety of their employees and the law does not stipulate that farming is more dangerous.”

Mr Thomson said as employers, businesses needed to be aware of risks. “The first thing a business needs to do is identify and prioritise the risks in the business,” he explained.

“Look at your processes all the way through your business and then follow a risk assessment process.”

“Having identified the risks, work out how you, as an employer, can mitigate the risks from happening.”

Mr Thomson said small businesses didn’t generally have safety front of mind.

“It’s got to be a conscious action,” he said.

“Every business person needs to have safety listed as the first agenda item on the tool box meeting or the production meeting to organise the resources for the day, to identify what, if any, safety issues may arise for the day’s work.”

He said business owners who can demonstrate that they have started the farm safety journey, through a risk assessment and corrective action, would fare better in the event of an accident and subsequent workplace health and safety investigation.

“But if you are seen to know about a risk yet taken no action to mitigate it, and unfortunately something does happen because of that risk, then there could be serious consequences.”
BRISBANE Broncos enforcer Shane Webcke’s world turned upside down as a young boy when he lost his father in a workplace accident.

While a young Webcke went on to become one of the most formidable front row forwards in the modern game, that fateful day taught him the brutalities of life that ended up shaping the way he approaches farm and workplace safety today.

Webcke, who played more than 250 matches as a Bronco, 24 games for the Maroons and 26 tests in the green and gold, will be special guest at the Rotary FNQ Field Days on May 29, 30 and 31.

He will deliver a powerful safety message drawing on his personal experience – which shines the light on individuals and their responsibility to be safe, not just for them but, as Webcke stresses, for the people who will pay the ultimate price.

“Most blokes that you talk to are such that we don’t think about the context if we hurt ourselves. But it’s about us – it’s our family’s dramas and it’s our children’s dramas and the reason I know that is because that was my Dad and that’s what happened to him.”

Webcke said while the loss of his father changed his attitude to safety, it was becoming a father himself – today to three children – that ultimately made him turn his approach to safety on its head.

“People say that my Dad paid the ultimate price for taking a risk he shouldn’t have – he didn’t pay the price, we have been paying ever since,” he said.

“To be honest that is the only thing that changed my attitude when I had my family.

“I didn’t want to do to them what my Dad inadvertently done to me.”

Webcke, who as Queensland Safety Ambassador travels around the state, said the community’s approach to safety was changing.

“If you want to be safe, it’s up to you,” he said.

“Even with all the rules, procedures, guards on machines and lines on concrete, people are still dying and getting badly hurt.

“We are human beings and fail to the side of ‘she’ll be right’ and we do; people get complacent.

“But the only thing that can keep you safe at any workplace, farm or job is you – and your attitude.

“I go to places all the time where someone has been badly hurt or killed and every single one of them is in that position because they broke a rule that was designed to keep them safe.

“Sometimes that ‘she’ll be right mate’ is not enough.”

Hear Webcke’s full safety presentation at the Rotary FNQ Field Days on Thursday May 30.
High performance lubricants made in Australia

FUCHS is a global group based in Germany, with operations all over the world.

“Our Australian business employs 180 staff in our two manufacturing plants,” said Fuchs Queensland Sales Manager Greg O’Shea.

“With 98% of our products made in Australia, we like to use the reference – German Technology – Australian made.

“We have just completed a new manufacturing plant at Beresfield in NSW, and are the only lubricant manufacturer in Australia with OEM standard IATF 19649.”

FUCHS is also one of the world’s largest original equipment lubricant manufacturers, blending engine oil and transmission fluids for some of the largest Equipment manufacturers in the world.

“We have an extensive network of stockists in Far North Queensland, with a depot in Cairns operated by FNQ oils, who has been a FUCHS distributor for more than 20 years.

“The Rotary FNQ Field Days and Farmfest in Toowoomba, are two very important events on the FUCHS calendar each year.”

See FUCHS at the Field Days.

FNQ stockists of the FUCHS Agri range

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WHILE it’s hard to quantify the economic flow-on effects from the Rotary FNQ Field Days, the sheer volume of exhibitors and visitors is a clear indication of the event’s contribution.

For the past 12 months, the Rotary FNQ Field Days Committee has been preparing behind-the-scenes for the massive three-day extravaganza.

Meanwhile, exhibitors have been ordering stock, booking resources and accommodation to ensure they are ready when gates open at 9am on May 29.

Mareeba Chamber of Commerce president Joe Moro said the week of the event was a hive of activity in Mareeba.

“There’s no doubt about it, this is truly an agricultural Field Days and interest is increasing,” he said.

“From the Chamber’s perspective, we welcome a whole week of activity around the event. In the lead-up you have businesses preparing to exhibit and attractions that come into town early to get set up.

There’s obviously a lot of business conducted at the Field Days. Exhibitors will be able to see people not just from this area, but from as far away as Bowen, western Queensland and Cooktown – it’s a fantastic opportunity to expand their customer base.

“Awards, we find that a lot of people will stay around a bit longer so this is a key opportunity for local accommodation, hospitality and service providers and tourism operators. The motels will be really busy, visitors will have a bite to eat, stock up on supplies and visit other local attractions, so it’s very good for the economy.”

Mr Moro said the event provided exposure and advertising for businesses, with the results coming for months afterwards.

With 18,000 people visiting the Field Days in 2017 it’s no surprise that plenty of transactions took place inside the gates, but people might be surprised to learn that local businesses see the benefits of being at the Field Days as much as two years down the track.

“People come from all over North Queensland and while we do sell cars on the days, it’s about planting the seed for next 12 to 24 months. We’ve met people at the Field Days and then sold them cars in two years time,” said David Mete of Mareeba Mazda.

Rotary FNQ Field Days committee chair Ida Portella said local not-for-profit organisations also received an economic boost by running food and service stalls at the event, giving them an injection of funds and “benefiting the social fabric of the region”.

“Mareeba Cricket and the Queensland Country Women’s Association (QCWA) are just some of the organisations that work alongside commercial food providers, many of whom are also local,” she said.

“It’s about adding value to both our service clubs and the Tablelands economy.”

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Eric Barry 0407 273 500 eric.barry@omya.com

MAREEBA

Mareeba Chamber of Commerce

Mareeba Cricket and the Queensland Country Women’s Association (QCWA) are just some of the organisations that work alongside commercial food providers, many of whom are also local,” she said.

“It’s about adding value to both our service clubs and the Tablelands economy.”
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First things first, being a premium product there are exclusive features on a Woods Slasher that differentiates itself from other slashers. Here are our top 5:

1) Exclusive ‘Quick Change’ blade pin system – change blades within minutes with light hand tools with no need to use an oxy! The Woods Equipment slasher blade pin is 38mm (1.5”) rather than the standard 19mm on other slashers.

2) A hatch in the slasher deck allows the operator to change blades from above the machine – no need to increase OH & S risks and downtime by having to get under the slasher to change the blades. Blades can be changed in the paddock within a couple if minutes thanks to the ‘Quick Change’ blade pin system.

3) They do not leave a windrow, distributing the product similar to the way a mulcher does thanks to the unique rounded back allowing your paddocks to mulch evenly for increased productivity and improved pasture management.

4) The stump jumper disk protects the carrier unlike beams on other brands of slashers. This allows the operator to glide over objects in the paddock when slashing with ease with reduced risk of damage to slasher, and more importantly, to the tractor reducing the repair and maintenance cost of your machinery.

5) Woods Equipment slashers and implements are manufactured in the USA from American steel – these are robust products that are built to last. The gearbox has a five year or six year (on some models) warranty in Australia.

Woods Equipment Australia have some new products that have been trialled and sold throughout the North Queensland region – our modified side throw slasher and our galvanised slashers.

We can offer both medium-duty and heavy-duty single spindle slashers in a galvanised option. We get all machines galvanised in Australia and all warranty remains the same. We have the ability to galvanise any model of slasher and can customise to demand. Our side throw slasher modification gets us really excited – we thrive on engineering quality solutions to improve the potential of machinery in the field, ultimately assisting you achieve your production goals more efficiently! We can modify any model of the Woods Equipment slasher range and currently have machines with our side throw modification out working in our single spindle range, multi spindle range and also in our Batwing range.

We have developed options to have an adjustable side shoot manually, but can have a hydraulically adjustable side shoot to manage the discharge of material in orchards more efficiently. We can customise the design of the side shoot to ensure that the slasher meets your requirements to discharge material relative to your row size.

Our Dealer network is strong in North Queensland, with QMAC Machinery, McDonald Murphy and Russco and Vella Machinery your local agents with Woods Equipment in stock.

Other products in the Woods Equipment range includes: cotton mulchers, finishing mowers, grader blades, disc ploughs, landscape rakes, post hole diggers, box scrapers and seeders.
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Stoller manufacture high quality liquid fertilizers, nutrients and specialty products that assist crops to reach their full potential. Stoller products are distributed through a network of dealers nationwide. In Far North Queensland, Martin Shaw and Morgan Lewis deliver an extensive knowledge of horticulture and broadacre cropping practices and processes.

Growers throughout North and Far North Queensland have found success using Stoller products:

“I started using Stoller’s Bio-Forge March 2018 at the beginning of winter and have applied 1.2ts/ha by air every month with a fungicide throughout the winter period. I am pleased with the results as the trees look healthier and the bunch quality, size and weight has maintained through the winter period (I would have expected production and quality to drop). I have also seen a reduction of ‘under peel chill’.

As summer approached in 2018 I decided to continue using Bio-Forge as the temperatures increased but at a lower application rate of 600mls/ha. 2019 has been a very wet “Wet Season” along with extreme heat I have now decided to go back to full rate of 1.2Lts/ha to combat the stress of extreme temperatures.

“I would be happy to recommend Stoller’s Bio-Forge to other Banana growers,” said Andrew Apap, banana grower, Tully, North Queensland.

Contact Martin Shaw or Morgan Lewis today and find out how Stoller can help you increase yield, quality and profit. Martin Shaw via email martin@stoller.com.au or phone 0418 808 438 and Morgan Lewis at morgan@stoller.com.au or 0438 766 355.

THE Rotary FNQ Field Days will recognise the region’s farmers at a special barbecue on Thursday night (May 30).

To be held at the Rotary Bar from 6pm, the event will feature special guest, former Brisbane Broncos player Shane Webcke, who is a farmer himself.

A free barbecue will be provided and guests are invited to listen to a special Q&A with Webcke, who will on Thursday deliver a powerful safety presentation, drawing on his personal experiences.

Guests will be asked to make a gold coin donation to Rotary projects which raise awareness of mental health and fund programs and projects which offer assistance to those in need.

All farmers are welcome to attend the barbecue.

For catering, please RSVP to Maree Lopez via email at jam.lopez97@gmail.com, by Friday May 24.

The barbecue is sponsored by the Mareeba and Dimbulah Community Bank branches of Bendigo Bank, Rural Bank and Howe Farming Group.
MEAT and Livestock Australia is bringing its innovative and industry-focused beef forum series, BeefUp, to the Rotary FNQ Field Days on Wednesday May 29.

Forums are held across northern Australia, with topics tailored to the needs and interests of beef producers in the local area.

The industry’s leading experts come together to provide a snapshot of the current issues facing the beef industry, along with insights and tools for beef businesses to grow and develop.

MLA BeefUp Forum coordinator Barb Bishop said the Field Days provided the perfect platform to attract and engage with beef producers from Far North Queensland, west to the Gulf Savannah and north to Cape York Peninsula.

“We are excited to bring a solid line-up of guest speakers, many of them experts in their field, to share insights into a range of issues topical to beef producers in the region,” Ms Bishop said.

MLA managing director Jason Strong will deliver an update on MLA activities, while the organisation’s Nigel Tomkins will update producers on research and development priorities in northern Australia.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries extension officer Joe Rolfe will chair a supply chain panel session, gate to plate.

Ms Bishop will lead a discussion about regional research and development priorities for beef businesses, before the forum breaks for lunch.

The afternoon session will kick off hearing from Nuffield Scholar, Claire Osborn Booth, who runs a mixed farming and livestock enterprise near Dubbo, NSW, on farm business transformation.

Leading red meat industry marketing Richard Rains will take producers on the marketing roller coaster ride to achieving success.

As one Australia’s most successful beef exporters, he was responsible for selling the first Australian beef to Korea and McDonalds.

Meridan Ag’s Mike Stephens will discuss succession planning.

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Meridan Ag’s Mike Stephens will discuss succession planning.
Mareeba Mazda continues to lead the way in customer service and satisfaction after being named a Mazda Master Dealer yet again in 2018.

It’s the fourth consecutive year the local dealership has taken out the prestigious award that recognises Australia’s top performing dealers.

The Mazda Master Dealer program runs every year and dealers are assessed on all facets of their business, including new car sales results, service and parts operations and customer satisfaction. Mareeba Mazda ranked number one in the nation of the 53 rural dealerships across Australia.

Dealer Principal David Mete is once again ecstatic with the achievement, acknowledging it would not be possible without the continued support of wonderful and loyal customers.

He also paid testament to his team. “I am so proud and thankful to our dedicated staff. This award is a direct result of their willingness and commitment to the business and to customer service,” he said.

“It’s been an exciting six years since we opened our doors at our new showroom.”

Staff numbers have more than quadrupled since then, increasing from six to 25.

“We want to offer our customers a one stop shop for their purchase or service requirements and ensure that the process is as seamless as possible,” Mr Mete said.

“You can buy your car, you can finance your car and you can get your car serviced with parts in stock – it’s all under one roof and there’s nothing we really can’t do.”

In all facets of the business – whether it’s a purchase, service or spare parts needed – the customer is the number one priority.

“Our modern, state-of-the-art premises supports our customer focused approach,” Mr Mete said.

Mareeba Mazda is also big on giving back to the community. In addition to sponsoring clubs and organisations and partnering with events, such as the Rotary FNQ Field Days, their ‘Community Drive’ program continues to achieve great results.

Supported by Mareeba Mazda and Mitsubishi, the Community Drive sees local sporting, community groups and charities receiving $100 per new car sold. The buyer chooses the group the donation will be allocated to, with the groups receiving the donations each quarter. An impressive tally board is located in the dealership’s Mazda showroom.

Mareeba Mazda is a one stop shop for new and used cars, finance, service and parts. Zoom into Mareeba Mazda on Byrnes St, Mareeba or see the entire Mazda vehicle range on display at the Field Days.
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MAZDA CX-3
Mazda CX-3 Auto: From $26,590 Driveaway

BT-50 SINGLE CAB
BT-50 Single Cab: From $29,990 Driveaway

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BDO (Nth Qld) supports agribusiness in our region. The team are looking forward to attending the Rotary FNQ Field Days and meeting attendees throughout the three day event.

The team will be back on the Tablelands in June to share further knowledge and expertise with Tablelands business owners.

BDO works with clients across all parts of the food and agribusiness value chain. They treat your business as if it is their own: they get the job done, solve problems quickly, open doors, and come up with new ideas.

With their global reach, capacity and breadth of experience, they take their role seriously – to be an adviser you can relate to and understand, providing simple, uncomplicated answers to complex and complicated issues.

Come and meet the BDO team at the Field Days and register to receive your invitation to their complimentary events in Atherton and Mareeba to be held on 10 June at Atherton International Club and on 18 June at Mareeba International Club, or email your interest to: events.nq@bdo.com.au.

BDO is the leading full service accounting, audit, tax and business advisory firm in the region. They have been supporting businesses in the region since 1906 and can assist with all stages of the business lifecycle.

BDO is proud to be a part of community events. They sponsor The Cairns Show Association’s Rural Ambassador competition, which is open to young adults between the ages of 20-30, who have a strong commitment to rural industry and a genuine interest in their local agricultural and horticultural show movement.

BDO is also a proud sponsor of Agribusiness Australia and their Brisbane office will be hosting the next networking event, where we will hear John Lloyd’s views on the leadership role that horticulture is taking within the Australian agriculture industry and the future challenges and benefits.

PARKING MADE EASY OVER THE THREE DAYS

VISITORS to the Rotary FNQ Field Days are being reminded to keep a few things in mind once they arrive.

Patience is the key, says grounds coordinator Kevin Davies, who is tasked with ensuring the thousands of visitors file through the entrance and gates safely and as quickly as possible.

“We are working with key organisations including Main Roads, Queensland Police and Mareeba Shire Council to ensure disruptions are kept to a minimum, but as we have experienced in past years, it’s wise for visitors to allow extra travel time getting to and from the event.”

Between 7000 and 8000 parks will be available inside the rodeo grounds alone for field days, ensuring no-one misses out on the fun and excitement.

About 20 Rotary club volunteers and four traffic controllers will be on hand to help direct traffic on the day.

A designated exhibitor carpark will be in place as well. Volunteers will be showing people where to park while traffic control workers will be on Mareeba-Dimbulah Road to keep traffic flowing.

A range of ATV vehicles will be on hand to assist visitors with transporting large items they have purchased back to their cars. Visitors can request the service at the office.

“There are a few key take home messages for visitors,” Kevin said.

“Please be patient and follow all directions from traffic controllers and volunteers as they are there to help.

“Have the right money if possible – this will make entry as smooth as possible.

“And finally – enjoy yourself.”

WE’RE PART OF YOUR NETWORK

BDO is one of the leading full service accounting, audit, tax and business advisory firms in North Queensland. We have established a long-standing reputation for providing quality advice to clients in our region since 1906.

Our team of experts have tools and frameworks to help business owners at any stage of the business lifecycle. Whether you are starting out in business, looking to expand, or planning an exit strategy, our team is here to help.

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THERE is one thing driving the many volunteers who devote thousands of hours to plan, prepare and deliver the Rotary FNQ Field Days – charity.

Run entirely by volunteers (apart from two part-time paid contract positions), the event raises thousands of dollars each event, which is handed back to the Atherton and Mareeba Rotary Clubs for distribution to their benefactor communities.

“The community spirit shines brightly,” says Ida Portella, chair of the Rotary FNQ Field Days.

“We are a shining example of the good that can be done in the community.

“The benefit is two-fold – we provide a platform for our agricultural industries to showcase their products and services while at the same time, knowing that we can raise funds to go back to community projects and programs.

“There is an enormous amount of work that goes into events like this – and at the end of the three-day event, when the marques are packed away and the grounds are cleaned, collectively we reflect on the good that we have achieved.

“What’s particularly pleasing is that in a time-poor society, where volunteer numbers continue to dwindle, our volunteers keep turning up.

“I believe this is a credit not only to them as volunteers, but to our event which has established itself as an award-winning agricultural exhibition, and one which brings the community together.”

In a Field Days first, the committee this year donated $30,000 to local Men’s Sheds in Mareeba, Atherton, Kuranda, Julatten, Malanda, Ravenshoe and Herberton Men’s Sheds to launch the 2019 event.

“We know how important it is to create awareness about mental health and healthy living, especially among rural people,” Ms Portella explained.

In addition to Rotarians, the event attracts other volunteers who donate time and are paid a set fee, with the funds going towards their charity or community group like Cancer Queensland, QCWA, Lions Clubs and Friends of the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation.

Ms Portella said many people would be surprised to know how many groups and organisations benefitted from the event.

Atherton Rotary Club president Lesa Pershouse said the club would use funding raised from the 2019 event for a number of worthy projects in its benefactor communities.

“This includes equipment for the redevelopment of the Atherton Hospital and completion of stage two of the Rocky Creek Igloo redevelopment (for the removal of asbestos from the stage area, and interpretative and historical signage),” Ms Pershouse explained.

“We will also look at donating funds to the club’s ODA School in Cambodia and other community projects that have been identified for assistance in future years.”

In previous years, funds have gone towards the restoration of the Rocky Creek Igloo, the purchase of two electric medial beds for the Cairinya Home for the Aged in Atherton, and donations to various community organisations including the Tolga Museum, Atherton’s Mens Shed, presentation nights at southern Tablelands secondary schools and Atherton Hospital, as well as internationally, including Rotary Oceanic Medical Aid for Children and a shelter box to Bali after the earthquake.

Mareeba Rotary continues to take action and change lives locally, Australia wide and around the globe by connecting with and supporting various projects and events.

“One of our biggest projects completed last year was the purchase of a car for the Mareeba PCYC in support of Breaking the Cycle learner drive program, which is an initiative that helps teenagers without access to a family car or a job pay for driving lessons,” said club president Margaret Schweiger.

“This program then means these kids can get their drivers licence.”

“Our long-term support of the Mareeba Hospital foundation also continues.” Ms Schweiger said Mareeba Rotary had contributed more than $15,000 to local clubs and organisations in support of events and projects.

“We support the annual Mayors Christmas appeal, local schools, youth exchange, scholarships and many others, like the annual Fun Run,” she said.

“We are huge supporters of youth and education – they are our future and we do what we can to inspire and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.”

“We are also committed to supporting the revitalisation of the Mareeba Bicentennial lakes and have also earmarked improvements to Rotary Park in Mareeba.”

The club also supports international projects including the Helping Hands project and natural disaster appeals.

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VCV Cairns and Townsville are the Homes of Mack, UD and Volvo Trucks, supporting an extensive range of vehicles for on-highway or commercial use.

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Founded in 1984, IOR is a name that for many has been synonymous with remote and regional Queensland. From humble beginnings in Eromanga, IOR has grown to a national network of Diesel Stops reaching from Dinmore to Kewdale and Katherine to Two Well and a team with deep roots in their local communities. Indeed, 2019 marks a milestone year for IOR as the business celebrates its’ 35th year now working with the agricultural, transport, council, mining, aviation, civil, and oil and gas industries. As an Australian owned and operated business, IOR is known for its’ ongoing commitment to contribute to and develop regional, rural, and remote Australian communities. Throughout 35 years of operation, the team has consistently built meaningful relationships and employment opportunities within the communities they reach, well above and beyond their reputation for the delivery of high-quality fuel, pragmatic fuel storage solutions, and fuel management technology.

IOR is most proud of its contribution to major charities and causes including Heart of Australia, RACQ LifeFlight Rescue, It’s a Bloke Thing, and Outback Futures. The company believes in building thriving rural and regional towns to keep the outback heart of Australia pumping.

Frances Shafer represents IOR for North Queensland, based centrally in Charters Towers. Frances grew up on the Tablelands and with a background in Transport, Frances is familiar with NQ communities and their industries. Frances enjoys working with a diverse customer base from larger transport operators and family run properties who access our 24/7 diesel stops and bulk fuel capabilities to those in Aviation who use IOR’s on-airport refuelling facilities. For more information on IOR, or to enquire about an account, give Frances a call on 0418 380 454.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING AT FIELD DAYS

This year’s event will feature a Mental Wellness Stall (located near the Mareeba Rodeo souvenir shop). Two local women with a important message to share, Margie Bestmann and Katrina Kazim, will be at the stall and will be supported by a number of community organisations, listed below.

The stall will provide resource information and representatives to assist with any questions or guidance required.

- Mareeba Community Health – Free men’s health checks
- Mareeba Men’s Shed
- Mareeba Community Centre
- Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service
- Rural & Remote & Indigenous Mental Health Services
- Lives Livied Well – Counsellors
- Australian Hearing – Free hearing aid checks
- R U Ok
- Flower Therapy for mental wellness

SITE AWARDS

While exhibitors will showcase their products and services, they too have an opportunity to win for best site and best lifestyle exhibits. There will be $500 in prize money for each winner.
WE are two women, from different generations who have experienced the loss of special men in our lives to suicide. We have provided for you a small window into the life of our loved ones to help bring awareness to mental illness.

In 2016, my husband Dr Mark Bestmann, a local GP, ended his life, aged 55 years after a 20-year battle with depression. One year later, Katrina’s father, Vicktor Kazim, a local farmer and grazier, ended his life, aged 56 years, after a six-year battle with depression. Depression doesn’t discriminate. Both of these men were long standing, well respected members of the Mareeba community who came from different life and career paths. They were both kind and loving, and outwardly happy.

In Australia the current statistics indicate that 1 in 7 Australians will experience depression in their lifetime, and 1 in 6 Australians currently are experiencing anxiety or depression, or both.

Depression is not caused by one single event, but rather it can be influenced by a combination of social, genetic, biological or environmental factors. There are different types of depression so everyone’s experience is different, as are the treatments and practices that make a positive difference to their lives. There are many people who are living with this illness that are either managing it well or hiding it well. They may be the colleague you sit beside at work or the friend you have coffee with each week.

What is similar in most cases are the feelings that the person with depression has about their illness, and themselves. Both Mark and Vicktor were ashamed. They worried that they would be judged unfairly, and that friends would abandon them if anyone knew. After many years battling those thoughts Mark was able to be more open about his illness. As a health professional he realised he would be of more help to those who were struggling if he shared a small part of his own journey. Mark quietly battled with his thoughts of worthlessness in every way he knew how. He tried to stay connected and he made every lifestyle change he knew of to get out of the “black dogs” shadow, but it continued to follow him. Vicktor was deeply affected by the perceived stigma of his illness to the point it eroded his self-confidence and he began isolating himself, no longer engaging with others for fear of being unfairly judged and ridiculed.

We were fortunate to have two wonderful mental wellness ambassadors in Mareeba women, Margie Bestmann and Katrina Kazim, who have agreed to share their stories of their personal experience with mental illness, to help others dealing with these issues and, at the same time, raise awareness.”

Ida Portella Chair – Rotary FNQ Field Days

**REACH OUT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

In an instant life changes forever. Your present, your future thrown into chaos. Emptiness, despair and heartache become your normal, as you try to navigate through the reality of the sudden and tragic loss of your loved one by suicide.

Reach out a hand with kindness and empathy because everyone needs the chance to live an enjoyable fulfilling life.

Help your town rebuild connectedness by creating healthy communities that actively support recovery and social inclusion, and diminish discrimination.

We need to work together to continue to reduce the stigma associated with mental health disorders.

Katrina Kazim and Margie Bestmann

If you need to talk to someone, call: Lifeline on 13 11 14, MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978 or Beyond Blue on 1300 22 46 36

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We even have a colouring in competition for the kids so bring them along too and enjoy a coffee while we see how we can help you on your insurance.

**SITE NUMBERS:** F13 & F14
### What's On

#### Wednesday May 29

**BEEFUP FORUM**
8.15am-4.30pm  

**DRONE DEMONSTRATION**
9.00am-9.30am  
Demonstration by InFarm. Featuring weed detection and water management. Located in the Innovations Showcase area.

**EDUCATIONAL COLT START DEMONSTRATIONS**
9.15am-10.00am  
Demonstration by Geoff and Vicki Toomby. Located in the arena.

**DRONE DEMONSTRATION**
9.30am-10.00am  

**JOHN DEERE TRACTOR & GARDEN TRACTOR PULL**
10am at the Tractor Pull area.

**4WD OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**
10.00am-10.30am  
Vehicle Technology – delivered by the Australian Offroad Academy. Located in the Tyrepower Mareeba site (H4).

**TOOMBY EQUINE MUSCULAR THERAPY**
10.45am-11.30am  

**DRONE DEMONSTRATION**
12.00pm-1.00pm  

**PRESENTATION**
12.00pm  

**INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**
11.30am-12.15pm  
Preparing for your BIG trip – delivered by InFarm. Located in the Innovations Showcase area.

**4WD OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**
1.30pm-2.15pm  
Loading your 4WD and trailer – what’s legal – delivered by the Australian Offroad Academy. Located in the Tyrepower Mareeba site (H4).

**TOOMBY EQUINE MUSCULAR THERAPY**
1.45pm-2.30pm  

**RURAL FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY & DEMONSTRATION**
2.45pm

**DRONE DEMONSTRATION**
3.00pm-3.45pm  
By Fidelis UAV Solutions. Featuring Aerial bird scaring drone demonstration. Located in the Innovations Showcase area.

**TOOMBY EQUINE MUSCULAR THERAPY**
3.00pm-3.45pm  

**ROTARY FND FIELD DAYS OFFICIAL OPENING**
10.00pm by Mark Furner MP.

#### Thursday May 30

**DRONE DEMONSTRATION**
9.00am-9.30am  
Demonstration by InFarm. Featuring weed detection and water management. Located in the Innovations Showcase area.

**DRONE DEMONSTRATION**
9.30am-10.00am  

**PRESENTATION**
10.00am  

**INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**
10.00am-10.45am  
Loading your 4WD and trailer – what’s legal – delivered by the Australian Offroad Academy. Located in the Tyrepower Mareeba site (H4).

**TOOMBY EQUINE MUSCULAR THERAPY**
10.45am-11.30am  

**DRONE DEMONSTRATION**
12.30-1pm  

**FARM SAFETY WITH SHANE WEBCKE**
1.00pm at the DAF pavilion.

**MACHINE OF THE FIELD DAY PRESENTATION**
2pm

**EDUCATIONAL COLT START DEMONSTRATIONS**
2.00pm-2.45pm  
By Geoff and Vicki Toomby. Located in the arena.

**DRONE DEMONSTRATION**
3.00pm-3.45pm  
By InFarm. Featuring weed detection and water management. Located in the Innovations Showcase area.

**INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**
3.00pm-3.45pm  
Preparing for your BIG Trip – delivered by InFarm. Located in the Innovations Showcase area.

**TOOMBY EQUINE MUSCULAR THERAPY**
3.00pm-3.45pm  

**FARMERS BBQ WITH SHANE WEBCKE**
6pm at the Rotary bar.
DON'T MISS OUT...

FRIDAY MAY 31

**FATALITY FREE FRIDAY**
Stay safe on Fatality Free Friday. Visit the Emergency Services and Department of Transport and Main Roads sites.

**DRONE DEMONSTRATION**
9.00am-9.30am
Demonstration by InFarm. Featuring weed detection and water management. Located in the Innovations Showcase area.

**EDUCATIONAL COLT START DEMONSTRATIONS**
9.15am-10.00am
Demonstration by Geoff and Vicki Toomby. Located in the arena.

**JOHN DEERE TRACTOR & GARDEN TRACTOR DEMONSTRATION**
10am at the Tractor Pull area.

**4WD OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**
10.00am-10.45am
Vehicle Technology – delivered by the Australian Offroad Academy. Located in the Tyrepower Mareeba site (H4).

**TOOMBY EQUINE MUSCULAR THERAPY**
10.45-11.30am

**4WD OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**
11.00am-11.30am
Presented by InFarm. Featuring weed detection and water management. Located in the Innovations Showcase area.

**FARM SAFETY RESCUE**
11.30am-12.15pm
Displays by Emergency Services, Crane rescue demonstration in conjunction with SES Drone Rescue Demonstration.

**4WD OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**
11.30am-12.15pm
Planning your BIG trip – delivered by the Australian Offroad Academy. Located in the Tyrepower Mareeba site (H4).

**TOOMBY EQUINE MUSCULAR THERAPY**
12noon-12.45pm

**EDUCATIONAL COLT START DEMONSTRATIONS**
1.20-2.00pm
By Geoff and Vicki Toomby. Located in the arena.

**DRONE DEMONSTRATION**
1.30pm-2.00pm
By InFarm. Featuring weed detection and water management. Located in the Innovations Showcase area.

**4WD OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**
2.00-2.15pm
Loading your 4WD and trailer – what’s legal – delivered by the Australian Offroad Academy. Located in the Tyrepower Mareeba site (H4).

**4WD OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**
2.30pm-3.00pm
Safe 4WD recovery practices – delivered by the Australian Offroad Academy. Located in the Tyrepower Mareeba site (H4).

**RURAL FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY & DEMONSTRATION**
2.45pm

**TOOMBY EQUINE MUSCULAR THERAPY**
3.00-3.45pm

**TOOMBY HORSEMANSHIP IN THE AREA**
Geoff and Vicki Toomby will run 5 demonstrations a day in the arena.

**EDUCATIONAL COLT START DEMONSTRATIONS**
3.45-4.20pm
By Geoff and Vicki Toomby. Located in the arena.

**DRONE DEMONSTRATION**
4.30pm-5.00pm
Presented by InFarm. Featuring weed detection and water management. Located in the Innovations Showcase area.

**4WD OFF-ROAD ADVENTURE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**
5.15pm-6.00pm
Safe 4WD recovery practices – delivered by the Australian Offroad Academy. Located in the Tyrepower Mareeba site (H4).

**HEALTH & WELLBEING**
Visit the Men’s Shed for the “Spanner in the Works” FREE Men's Health checks and the community organisations within the Health and Wellbeing Pavilion

**QUAD SAFETY**
Visit the QuadSafe Australia Demonstration area & ATV and Quad Bike Rescue and Safety Demonstration with Collin Lawson

**VINTAGE DISPLAY**
Visit and revisit memories at the vintage static tractor and engine display

**EVERYDAY – FREE HEALTH CHECKS**
Visit Bendigo Bank sites for a FREE Health Check by the National Centre for Farmer Health experts.

**VINTAGE DISPLAY**
Visit and revisit memories at the vintage static tractor and engine display

**RELAX AT THE TEA HOUSE & NEW ALFRESCO DINING AREAS**

**NEW FAMILY & KIDS AREA**

**RELAX AT THE TEA HOUSE & NEW ALFRESCO DINING AREAS**

**NEW FAMILY & KIDS AREA**

**Visit MSF Sugar to view their interactive displays**

**Visit Mareeba Mazda and check out the new Next-Gen Mazda 3**

**Visit Tyrepower Mareeba for 4WD interactive workshops**

Times are an approximate only and program is subject to change.

With something for everyone over three action packed days, the Rotary FNQ Field Days is the place to be on May 29, 30 & 31
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The largest Field Days in northern Australia are made possible thanks to the support of the following sponsors.
Get the power of your local Tyrepower pro

SINCE the Year 2000, John and Adriana Raso have been powering vehicles of all sizes with the best wheels and tyres around.

The multi-award winning Tyrepower store in Mareeba is a dealer for Australia’s largest independent tyre retailer and together they have a commitment to customer service, quality, flexibility and the best value.

Located in the centre of town, Mareeba Tyrepower have a huge range of tyres, wheels and vehicle services on offer from brands you know and trust.

A variety of services are available in our repair shop and you can also benefit from promotional events on a regular basis.

Tyrepower’s broad range of products and services include tyres, wheels, batteries, wheel alignment, suspension, truck tyres, agricultural tyres, RTV and ATV tyres, earthmover tyres and a mobile tyre service.

Tyrepower is recognised by many of the largest manufacturers as a primary distribution channel in Australia and has preferential buying arrangements with industry trade names such as Toyo, Kumho, Dunlop, Kelly, Maxxis, Cooper, ROH Wheels, Speedy Wheels, Mullins Wheels and Century Batteries.

Tyrepower is uniquely positioned to offer you a wide range of quality products that meet your needs and provide you with the best value.

“We are focused on providing knowledgeable and friendly customer service,” said Mr Raso.

“This is why Tyrepower has become Australia’s biggest and most respected tyre retailer.”

Mr Raso also sits on the board of Tyrepower Queensland, a position he has held for the last 13 years.

Tyrepower Mareeba is proud to be a strategic partner of the Rotary FNQ Field Days.

“We are long term locals and we pride ourselves on giving back to the community wherever we can,” Mr Raso said.

With a team of six experienced tyre professionals, don’t hesitate to visit Mareeba Tyrepower to find tyres that suit your vehicle and your driving comfort.

Get the power of Australia’s leading tyre retailer in Mareeba and call in to 143 Walsh Street, or see the team at the Rotary FNQ Field Days for the great deals, the best service, advice and the right price.
GET THE POWER OF AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST INDEPENDENT IN MAREEBA

SEE US FOR GIANT FIELD DAY DEALS!
- SITES H1-H4 -

MAREEBA FIRST FOR SERVICE, ADVICE AND THE RIGHT PRICE!
143 WALSH STREET, MAREEBA
PHONE 4092 3300
Hatz ready for Field Days

HATZ Diesel will bring their new 3H50 water-cooled engine to the Field Days this year, offering the ideal solution for powering irrigation equipment.

The 3H50 was launched to the Australian market last year to mark Hatz’s 35th anniversary, and is suitable for use across a wide range of irrigation applications.

Sami Almogawish, Managing Director of Hatz Diesel Australia, says his team is looking forward to exhibiting at the expo and getting feedback on the newest variant in their water-cooled H50 series.

“It will be a great opportunity for us to show visitors our new 3-cylinder engine, and start promoting it to the wider industry,” he says.

Along with the 3H50 and its big brother, the more powerful 4-cylinder 4H50 engine, Hatz will have engines from their air-cooled range of industrial engines on display.

All Hatz engines undergo a pre-delivery process which includes running the engine and checking everything is working as expected, so it is turn-key ready for the customer.

“Hatz has a 140-year heritage, and we’re proud of our quality diesel engines and our customer focus. Come down and have a chat with us to see how we can help with your engine needs, large or small, we’ll be able to help.”

You know farming, we know diesel engines

Irrigation equipment works hard, so it needs a hard-working engine.

Hatz Diesel’s high performance air-cooled and water-cooled engines are backed by 140-years of German engineering and are built to last.

- Full in-house customisation
- Turn key ready
- Premium components
- Long service life

THE RISE IN AGRI JOBS

AGRICULTURE employs the greatest number of people in the Atherton and Mareeba Local Government Areas (LGAs), according to the Queensland Regional Profiles.

The information, developed using Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016, showed employment in agriculture, forestry or fishery accounted for 13.3% (Atherton) and 16.9% (Mareeba).

The health care and social assistance industry came a close second, followed by retail, education and training and construction.

Manager positions accounted for the largest employment occupation in both LGA’s followed by labourer positions.

When it comes to business, the statistics show 5.2% of businesses in Atherton had a turnover of $2 million or more in 2017-18 and 4.3% for Mareeba.

Nearly 30% of businesses are in the agriculture, forestry or fishing industry.

The growth of agriculture looks set to continue. Development in the area is continuing with existing farmers expanding and new farms being established.

There has been talk in recent years about northern Australia becoming a substantial supplier of additional agricultural production – the region is proving to be a base from which this is already occurring.
The region’s multi-million-dollar agriculture industry continues to be the economic backbone of the Atherton Tablelands.

The new 2018 Tablelands Agricultural Profile is nearing completion for release later this year, however, indications point to continued growth in the agricultural sector, with avocado, citrus and tropical fruit production powering ahead.

The profile will draw on figures provided by industry bodies representing more than 80 crops grown in the rich Mareeba-Dimbula basin, and south to some areas of the Atherton region where industries such as dairy, beef and cropping are the mainstay.

“There are strong indications that over the past three years the annual economic value of the Atherton Tablelands agriculture sector has continued to increase from the $552 million estimate of 2015,” DAF senior development horticulturist Geoff Dickinson said.

When it comes to major growth in agriculture industries, Mr Dickinson said there were four strong performers – avocados, lemons, limes and blueberries.

“The growth in the Tablelands avocado industry has been exceptional,” Mr Dickinson said.

“The number of hectares of orchards has nearly doubled over the past five years to more than 2200 hectares.

“This includes both the Tablelands Regional Council and Mareeba Shire Council local government areas.

“These new plantings are now reaching production age and the results of this were seen in last year’s avocado season.

“This was a record avocado year for the region with nearly 4.2 million trays produced, compared to 2.2 million trays in 2015.

“More avocados continue to be planted so we expect to see annual production volumes continue to grow.”

Citrus orchards have nearly doubled over the past four years, with an additional 450 hectares planted over this period.

“The citrus industry has seen expanded plantings of limes and lemons, primarily in the Dimbula and Mareeba areas,” Mr Dickinson said.

“Increased plantings has raised the total area of citrus on the Atherton Tablelands region to more than 1000 hectares for the first time.”

Blueberries, a newcomer to the Atherton Tablelands horticulture industry, have now established themselves as a major player.

Mr Dickinson said there were approximately 100 hectares of blueberries, grown in high intensity systems including covered cropping, igloos and hydroponic systems.

“Further growth in this industry is expected to continue over the next few years,” Mr Dickinson said.

While the top four produce lines power head, Mr Dickinson said there was evidence of renewed growth in other horticulture industries.

This includes new large plantings of table grapes, mandarins, new lychee and mango varieties and coffee.

“This should result in good increases in the value of these crops over coming years,” Mr Dickinson said.
BASED in Renmark, South Australia, Dix Engineering was established in 1923 to provide engineering services and products to customers in the Riverland region of SA.

Dix Engineering manufacture a variety of filtration products, pipefittings and provide much needed machinery for the food industry.

In 1987 Dix Engineering designed and built electronic labelling machines capable of labelling a wide variety of fruit and vegetables.

These machines are now extensively used throughout Australia and are recognized as being robust and simple to operate.

They have few moving parts with carefully selected materials to keep maintenance to a minimum and ensure reliability.

There are a variety of models to suit labels of varying widths and sizes.

The hand labelers are ergonomically designed to promote a quick easy action and can apply up to six standard labels per second.

The automatic labelling machine is a solidly constructed, mechanically simple and reliable labelling machine manufactured in Australia.

The labeller is self-contained requiring only a light frame and a single-phase power supply for installation.

The labeller can be mounted on a variety of graders, singulators and conveyors. If the product is presented accurately to the labeller, strike rates will exceed 95%. This machine is capable of labelling 80–900 pieces of produce per minute.

Each labeller pivots independently to facilitate easy change of label rolls. A quick release mechanism enables easy removal of the labeller for maintenance.

The company is proud of its record of achievements and continues to be Australian owned. Dix Engineering is quality certified AS/NZS ISO 9001/18001.

Mareeba has been named the largest urban centre in Far North Queensland outside Cairns.

THE strong growth of Mareeba Shire over the last decade has seen the town emerge as the largest urban centre in Far North Queensland outside of Cairns.

The latest Census data for population by usual place of residence in urban centres recorded the following populations – Mareeba 7,741, Innisfail 7,236 and Atherton 6,871.

As urban centres, Mareeba is recorded as having grown by 447, Atherton 205 and Innisfail 60 (2011-2016 Census).

Population growth in Local Government Areas served by the three urban centres (2006 to 2016 (Census Usual Place of Residence), shows a similar picture with Mareeba Shire leading by a wide margin. Mareeba Shire recorded a growth of 18.8%, while Tablelands Regional Council had 4.8% growth and Cassowary Coast on 3.3%.

Part of the reason for Mareeba Shire and Mareeba’s urban growth has been the very strong growth in agriculture that has occurred in recent years.

According to Australian Bureau of Statistics data, the value of agricultural production (GVAP) in the Mareeba Shire rose by 70% over the period 2010-11 to 2015-16. Crops GVAP increased by $60m and Livestock turnoff by $72m.

Historically, most of the growth of the Far North Queensland region has focused around the region’s higher rainfall areas. The emergence of Mareeba as the second largest urban centre signals the growing importance of the region’s extensive “wet/dry” topics in the region’s economic progress.

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INNOVATION IS KEY

The way we farm today will be a far cry from how we do it in 50 years’ time. Agriculture is bursting with innovation, which is why the inventions competition was revamped to give rural innovators and entrepreneurs an opportunity to showcase their smarts.

As our agricultural industries move to navigate constant change and improvement, innovation is becoming the key to long-term sustainability.

That’s why the Rotary FNQ Field Days has chosen to make innovation one of its key focus areas, innovations Showcase Coordinator Charlie Martens said.

“This year we have revamped our inventions competition and given it a new look, and feel. “This year, we will focus on an innovations showcase, with several robust, exciting entries already locked in.

Entries will be accepted up until Tuesday May 28. Already locked in is The Farmer Meets Foodie App which allows farmers, harvesters and producers to connect to commercial food businesses (restaurants, cafes, grocers etc) allowing them to buy and sell direct.

Similar to an online social dating site, in that both businesses and Commercial Food businesses make a profile and connect, farmers are also able to upload what produce they have available right now and the chefs and food businesses are able to search by product or for what is in their area.

The app has been in development in Far North Queensland, after founder Erica Hughes came up with the concept through a combination of factors.

On their small farm, near Mount Molloy, Erica and her family were looking to see what produce they might grow to sell to the cafe / restaurant strip at Port Douglas, envisaging knocking on each businesses door and having to do that quite regularly with a high turnover of staff in the hospitality industry.

“In FNQ we are acutely aware that a lot of our produce travels to the main markets in Brisbane and then travels back again to be distributed to supermarkets and food businesses,” Erica explained.

“This is how the food system has evolved, all these situations got me thinking that there must be a better way to connect producers and food businesses and reduce food miles, with the technology we have today almost anything is possible.”

The App has proven to be popular with organic and biodynamic producers and those with a niche product. It is also an alternative market for farmers and harvesters to sell produce that doesn’t meet traditional market specifications.

There are currently 280 businesses trialling the FMF App, mostly from FNQ but there are businesses in all Australian States on board.

MACHINE OF THE FIELD DAY

AMONGST the more than 500 exhibits at this year’s Rotary FNQ Field Days could be a new piece of agricultural equipment that will turn the industry on its head.

The winner of the Machine of the Field Day Award will recognise the most outstanding new piece of agricultural machinery exhibited at the event, with tractors and headers eligible for entry.

Rotary FNQ Field Days chair Ida Portella said the award was a “farmer’s choice”, judged by an independent panel of regional primary producers.

“Our event puts agriculture front and centre,” Ms Portella said.

“We are fortunate to have a number of businesses exhibiting, many of which are the forefront of technology and innovation in their chosen agricultural industries. “This award may well uncover the next piece of equipment that will go on to become standard on farms across Australia.”

Entries will be judged on the machine’s purpose and suitability, construction, ease of maintenance and service, ease of operation and judgement, availability of parts and overall value for money.

Those entries that have been released onto the Australian market must have been done so between 29 May 2018 and 29 May 2019.

To enter, please complete forms online at www.fnqfielddays.org.au

The Rotary FNQ Field Days chair Ida Portella said the award was a “farmer’s choice”, judged by an independent panel of regional primary producers.

“TULLY farmer Callan Marneros (pictured) won “Best Machine of the Field Day” in 2017 for his vibrating post driver.

The device enables farmers to drive koppers logs, rail line, split posts and strainers up to 350mm into the ground in record time with minimal fuss.

There has been positive feedback from fencing contractors, particularly in terms of efficiency.
What is the Project Uplift Farming Systems Initiative?

Project Uplift is a principal partnership between Growers and MSF Sugar that aims to increase profit and resilience of the sugar industry and the Great Barrier Reef. The Project Uplift Farming Systems Initiative is the first activity of this partnership and works with the Federal Government Reef Trust to support Growers in the adoption of the SRA Farming System. There are three components to this support:

1. Interest free loans provided for the purchase and modification of machinery required for the adoption of the SRA Farming System;
2. Cash grants of 50% for farm re-design and drainage improvements required for the adoption of the SRA Farming System; and
3. Agronomy support from the MSF Sugar Agronomy Team.

The SRA Farming System

The SRA Farming System is the farming system that was recommended by the SRA (BSES) Sugar Yield Decline Joint Venture research program. It has four components:

1. Controlled Traffic;
2. Minimum Tillage;
3. Legume Break Crops; and
4. Green Cane Harvesting and maintaining the Trash Blanket.

This system has been proven to improve soil health and reduce variable costs. Gains in operational efficiency may result from the system. Positive reef outcomes include improved NUE, sediment and chemical abatement.

Who is eligible?

Growers who hold a current cane supply agreement with an MSF Sugar Mill and have not adopted all the components of the SRA Farming System. Groups of growers and Growers in common harvesting groups are encouraged to apply however individual growers are also eligible.

Farms where drainage water does run to the Great Barrier Reef catchment are eligible for Farm Re-Design and Drainage Grants. This is because these grants are funded by the Federal Government Reef Trust. All MSF growers are eligible for interest free loans from MSF Sugar Ltd.

How to apply?

Growers should contact a member of the MSF Sugar Agronomy Team. An agronomist will assist in formulating a Project Uplift Farming Systems Initiative Implementation Plan. Team members to contact

1. Maryborough contact John Tomlin (0409114542) and Barry Callow (0487017811).
2. South Johnstone contact John Tomlin (0409114542) and Michael Porta (0427620316).
3. Mulgrave contact Nigel Young (0439181018) and Noel Wright (0419975591).
4. Tablelands contact Nigel Young (0439181018) and Graham Cripps (0448341415).
MSF Sugar’s Green Energy Power Plant, located at the company’s Tableland Sugar Mill, is pioneering a new direction for the 125-year old company. The power plant turns bagasse, the fibre remaining after sugarcane is crushed into high value renewable green energy.
The Port of Townsville has committed $27.3 million in infrastructure upgrades which will support agricultural exports from northern Australia.

Container handling capacity is set to double with the development of a new container terminal, a new ship to shore container crane and an additional 40 refrigerated container points.

The investment, together with international container line ANL’s new weekly service to Asia, is set to further catalyse agricultural exports after the first successful shipment of mangos to China in 2017.

Port of Townsville Trade and Business Development Manager, Maria James, said the Townsville Port community has the capacity to facilitate the export of north Queensland’s fresh produce direct to a growing Asian consumer market.

“We are northern Australia’s largest container port and are serviced by three international container liners with refrigerated container handling expertise,” Ms James said.

“Our proximity to the north’s agricultural precincts significantly reduces time in-transit and consequent handling damage and, compared with air, sea freight is a more cost-effective, sustainable supply chain solution,” she said.

Harbourside Coldstores, a 4,000-pallet cold store facility with export licences to Asia, is just 2km from the port gates.

The Port of Townsville’s $190 million Channel Capacity Upgrade will allow access for larger container vessels to attract new trading opportunities.

Ms James said the Port of Townsville is invested in developing northern Australia’s sea-fired agricultural export hub and is partnering with industry to incentivise trial shipments of horticultural produce to Asia.

“Food vendors will be strategically positioned near shade areas. With thousands of visitors expected at Mareeba Rodeo Grounds over three days, along with hundreds of exhibitors and their staff to feed, the Field Days committee has made plans to make sure no-one goes home with an empty stomach.”

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From sweet to savoury, exotic to traditional and from all corners of the globe, every kind of tastebud will be catered for. There’s seafood, German sausages, pies, kebabs, pizza, pasta and ice cream and lots more.

The good old Aussie hamburger and chips will be there, along with the delicacies of Japan and popular Thai offerings. Coffee will also be served up.

Aside from commercial food vendors, a number of regular, not-for-profit clubs will return this year to use the event as a fundraiser.

If you would like to know more about exporting your agricultural products, contact the Port of Townsville’s Trade team – trade@townsvilleport.com.au (07) 4781 1500

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TRUCK loads of food will be available at the Rotary FNQ Field Days this year with all tastebuds well catered for. Food vendors will be strategically positioned near shade areas. With thousands of visitors expected at Mareeba Rodeo Grounds over three days, along with hundreds of exhibitors and their staff to feed, the Field Days committee has made plans to make sure no-one goes home with an empty stomach.

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NEW TEAHOUSE

IF you are looking to take time out this Field Days, away from the hustle and bustle of the main exhibition area, where you can sit, relax and be treated to old fashioned hospitality, the Rotary Teahouse is the place for you.

A new addition to this year’s event, the Teahouse is all about tea, with delicious cakes, scones and biscuits available, set amongst a vintage style atmosphere.

It will be located in the top bar at the rodeo grounds beside the new family area – an ideal spot for the adults to chill out and relax, while the kids enjoy themselves nearby.

Teahouse coordinator Nina Akselsen Grant (pictured) said well-known tea grower Nerada Tea, of Malanda, has come on board as a sponsor.

“Nerada tea will be supplying a wide range of local produce tea,” Nina said.

“It’s wonderful to have the support of a local supplier. We are looking forward to showcasing a local product, plus enjoy the hospitality of Nerada’s Bev Poyner.

“To ensure the dining experience is a little bit special, tea will be served in real China tea cups and teapots, just like a bygone era.

“The setting will be amazing, and we have sourced an amazing collection of old and new soft furnishings.”

Nina thanked Lifeline in Mareeba for their help in sourcing cups, tablecloths, decorations and much more.

“You might even recognise a pre-loved cup that was once yours,” Nina added.

Rotary Teahouse is open over the three days from 10am to 4pm. It will operate as a fundraiser for Rotary.

Private functions within the Teahouse are also available and to book email Nina at ninaakselsengrant@gmail.com

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Damien Gorton of Total Tools Cairns, is a local franchisee who grew up in Northern Australia and understand the needs of FNQ. See Damien and your local Total Tools team at the Field Days for for massive offers over the three days.
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See the Norlift team at the Field Days or visit them at 144 Lyons Street, Bungalow Phone 4041 6767, email admin@norlift.com.au or online at www.norlift.com.au

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Schulte to debut at FNQ Field Days

CELEBRATING 30 years as the Australian and New Zealand distributor of Schulte rock removal and vegetation management equipment, Schulte Sales Australia founder, Neil Eckart, will attend this year’s field days and showcase the Schulte range. Neil will be a familiar name and face to many in FNQ having started his career in machinery sales with Young’s Machinery and serving clients across Qld. Schulte is known world-wide for building high quality, high performance equipment that represents excellent value for money in today’s competitive machinery market.

Schulte will display key models of rock removal and rotary cutter equipment. “We are looking forward to bringing our products to producers in FNQ,” said Neil. “With a changing climate, producers are under even more pressure to get the best productivity from their country and we have the gear to help them do it! All models on display will be available for immediate delivery to motivated buyers and will come with a substantial contribution towards freight costs, saving the buyer money.”

Neil has shown his confidence in Schulte equipment by using it on his own properties. “We use Schulte cutters in our macadamia plantation at Bundaberg and on our grazing property at Wellington, NSW. We’ve also invested heavily improving our Wellington farm by getting rid of the rocks that were making the paddocks unsafe and difficult to plant for pasture.”

Schulte Sales Australia look forward to exhibiting at the Rotary FNQ Field Days and welcome product enquiries beforehand. See them at Site D27-28.

PRISON PITCHES IN WITH TABLES & BENCH SEATS

THE Rotary FNQ Field Days has again sourced hand-made timber furniture from the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre.

Back by popular demand are bench seats, which will be located strategically throughout the exhibition area. This year, the committee also engaged the centre to build table and chair combinations, which will be located in the new alfresco dining area.

Rotary FNQ Field Days chair Ida Portella said it was pleasing to be able to source the furniture locally, with the arrangement a win-win for both organisations. This year the bench seats and table and chair combinations will be offered for sale and available for collection after the event. Ms Portella said those interested in purchasing the furniture are invited to register their interest by emailing info@fnqfielddays.org.au

For the world’s best slashers, rock pickers and rock windrowers, come & see us at Site D27-28.
Bumper Vintage Static Tractor and Engine Display

The public’s fascination with machines from a bygone year will be more satisfied at Rotary FNQ Field Days with a bumper Vintage Static Tractor and Engine on display.

Well patronised at past events, the display of vintage tractors, engines and other machines will complement the action at the John Deere Tractor and Garden Tractor Pull.

Display facilitator Ray Blain said the organising group was expecting around 60 or more tractors.

“We’ll have people coming from right across the Tablelands, Townsville, Burdekin, Mackay and places further afield,” Ray said.

“Over the past few years the collection and restoration of vintage tractors and machinery has blossomed.

“These machines are sure to fascinate machinery enthusiasts.

“The engines themselves are renowned for their simplicity, whilst operating without the assistance of a computer, air cleaner, or forced oil lubrication in the most extreme conditions.

“If somebody had an old stationary engine or tractor that’s come off of their property, they’re very delighted to see it returned to its original condition.”

Mr Blain said while the display was on show, it also provided a unique story-telling experience, where old friends can reminisce and reflect on the old days.

“There’s stories that come from a lot of the women as well like when they used to wind a corn grinder by hand all day Saturday before their parents would allow them to go dancing that evening.

“Anybody who listens to the various conversations find it entertaining, and the older folk get great enjoyment out of sharing their stories of the good old days.

Mr Blain said most of those vintage tractors on display would participate in the John Deere Tractor Pull at Field Days.

“There’s always great competition for first place,” Mr Blain said. “It’s certainly a crowd pleaser.”

Mr Blain said the display highlights the stark contrast between “the old and new” and provides the next generation of farmers with a renewed appreciation of farming in the bygone era.

“It’s the comparison between the level of work required by farmers to prepare a paddock with the machinery they once had against what they have today,” he said.

“As we are trying to grow this wonderful hobby into the future, if anyone is interested in being part of its future, come and have a chat at the display.”

Visit the display at the Field Days.
Visit Gallagher at Rotary FNQ Field Days

Come along and chat with the Gallagher team about how our range of Permanent and Portable Electric Fencing and Weighing & EID solutions can help improve your on-farm productivity.

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Robust, accurate Gallagher technology simplifies detailed livestock management

HAVING the ability to manage livestock according to accurate weight data was one reason Charvel Grazing wanted a Gallagher TWR-5 Weigh Scale and Reader.

Charvel Grazing is run by the Hewitt family, who have been farming in Queensland’s Dawson Valley since the early 1900s. Looking for a new weighing system, the family came across the Gallagher TWR-5 Weigh Scale and Reader at the 2018 Beef Australia expo at Rockhampton.

“We’re working towards increasing our data accuracy. That’s pretty important to what we do, but it’s a slow process because we’re only a family operation with just a few hands on-deck, so it’s very labour intensive. The Gallagher TWR-5 seemed to have less inputs required; you can really pick and choose what you want to record against each animal, so it’s very labour intensive. The Hewitts to draft by weight, weight gain, EID list, or recorded data or traits. Rather than needing to connect a separate device to the weigh scale to read EID tags, the EID reader’s electronics are combined into the body of the TWR-5 Weigh Scale. This “all-in-one” solution means hands-free EID reading, so only one person needs to be in the yards. The combination of the TWR-5’s ease of use and integrated EID tag reader work very well for the Hewitt family, with significant savings labour wise. Saving time without compromising accuracy: Time saved in faster, more accurate processes is also proving to be one of the benefits for a Gympie steer-backgrounding operation. Danny and Kellie Attard, along with Danny’s father George, run 600 head on 81 hectares (200 acres) in south-east Queensland. They buy in a mix of European breeds at around 280-300 kilograms, turning them off to a feedlot at around 460-500kg.

Numbers game: Danny says, “Everything revolves around weight gain; it’s all a numbers game. The numbers are important: we need to know who’s doing what sort of weight gain; so which ones do we keep, which do we sell when, and which ones do we need to cull.”

Enter their advanced, EID-compatible Gallagher TW-3 Weigh Scale and Data Collector.

“There was another scale and panel reader setup here when we bought the place 12 months ago moving down from Mackay, and it was just a pain in the backside. I’d been looking at Gallagher for a while, we were really needing a better idea of what they’re doing. I saw this on the internet, and we liked it the more we looked into it.

Accuracy and simplicity: Danny says the impact on the day-to-day management of their business has been substantial. “Our data is far more accurate. We know who’s putting weight on, and who isn’t. Who’s cost us money, and who’s making us money. On top of that, it’s just easy to use: it’s like a big smartphone with a touchscreen really. You can talk to it through your phone, too. It’s really good.”

All data is recorded via the pre-loaded Animal Performance Software (APS). “So you don’t have to go back and spend hours in the office, just putting in data, it’s all there. You can sit there and just scroll through, having a beer instead, looking at what you want. Quality and support: Kellie says, “What we’ve done with the fence and the TW-3 Weigh Scale, it’s all about time and accuracy. We’re not wasting time now, checking stuff, all this Gallagher gear saves us heaps. And the quality of the products is really good too. Even down to the handles for the gates. We’ve converted pretty much all over to Gallagher now. The Gallagher ones last much better. For expert advice on the full range of Gallagher on farm solutions, including Multi Powered iSeries Energizers and TWR Weigh Scales and EID Tag Readers, visit us on site at the 2019 Rotary FNQ Field Days and speak with our team about a Gallagher solution to suit your needs.

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MILLER Harris Lawyers are locals that pride themselves on genuine expertise, local knowledge and excellence in service. The firm has been operating in the Far North for nearly 30 years, servicing Cairns, Mareeba and the Atherton Tablelands.

Throughout this time, Miller Harris Lawyers have developed strong relationships with the local community and gained an in-depth knowledge of the dynamics and expectations of the regional business environment.

This vision ensures that the team at Miller Harris Lawyers remains integral to the success of the organisation. All staff are members of the community, they are locally based and pride themselves on providing personalised and practical service that is suited to the region. The firm recognises that regional Australia, its industries, and its people have vastly different needs from those living and operating in capital cities. Miller Harris Lawyers has a depth of knowledge and understanding about the unique circumstances and in many instances, challenges, that living and doing business in this part of the world brings with it. The firm’s local knowledge and dedication to understanding their clients’ situation enables them to provide tailor-made services that result in the best possible outcomes for their clients.

Miller Harris Lawyers has more accredited specialists than any other firm in the region, including the only accredited business law specialist and the only accredited property law specialist. This level of expertise delivers better value to its clients by having comprehensive knowledge across many areas. The firm is able provide its clients with a level of advice that is unmatched in terms of quality and efficiency, ultimately saving time and money for the firm’s clients.

Miller Harris Lawyers have a particular interest in agribusiness, and its rural clients appreciate the fact that the staff understand the importance of this regional and foundational industry. The firm’s agribusiness lawyers work with clients in the dairy, sugar, fishing, fruit and vegetable and forestry farming sectors and has strengthened its knowledge and experience in a variety of technical farming legalities including infrastructure development, water licensing, cooperative agreements, supply chain advice, organisational structuring and more. The team works closely with its clients to help assess and realise opportunities that may be available.

The firm is focussed on continuous improvement and development. As one of the most liveable regions in the world, the Far North Queensland and its local businesses are well-paced to focus on positive impacts of population and economic growth. 2019 is expected to see continued growth in development and investment in tourism and infrastructure – building on strong performance in the region’s agriculture and food production. With record employment, and continuous growing tourism figures, Miller Harris Lawyers have every confidence that the future of the Far North will be bright.

Miller Harris Lawyers is a full services legal practice, offering support in all areas of business and personal law. The team is able to provide essential assistance required to guide its clients through problem areas, workplace matters, safety issues, employment concerns, regulatory requirements, leasing of property and equipment, insolvent issues and financial distress, family matters and conveyancing. The team look forward to working with current and new clients to help you manage agricultural and mining interests, build your business, develop your interests. 2019 is expected to see your interest in times of dispute, buy your new home and to plan for your commercial or personal future.

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Conveyor belts, driven rollers, drive motors and systems are needed to transport fruit from the field, through the packing system to the pallet stacker.

Conveyor Supplies Qld based in Townsville has been supplying all aspects of conveying equipment to a growing number of producers in Northern Australia for over 20 years. Fruit brushes have been supplied for over 10 years.

Our manager Brian Armit will be available at site D38 to discuss your conveying requirements. To discuss any conveying issues pre Field Days contact Brian on 07 4755 0277, mobile 0408 060 908 or brian@conveyorsuppliesnq.com.au.

Pick, pack or process produce requires conveying systems. Conveyors, driven rollers, drive motors and systems are needed to transport fruit from the field, through the packing system to the pallet stacker.

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A clean shed floor is a good look

How do you keep a busy packing shed floor clean, both efficiently and effectively?

Use a battery operated floor sweeper or scrubber. They efficiently collect dust and debris into a hopper that can be deposited away from the action. The broom relocates the problem to another location within the shed. One of our first sales over 10 years ago was to a large melon shed with a major problem each year cleaning and repairing dirty condenser fans in the cold rooms - they would be covered in dust from forklifts. The solution was a ride-on battery vacuum sweeper. It is still operating today, along with a variety of machines at many packing sheds in North Queensland.

Our manager Brian Armit will be available at site D38 to discuss your shed cleaning requirements and to quote on cleaning equipment. To discuss any cleaning issues pre Field Days contact Brian on 07 4755 0277, 0408 060 908 or brian@conveyorsuppliesnq.com.au.

Ask about special Field Days pricing – think of the efficiency of replacing the broom with a machine. Ride-on or walk behind, they are both efficient. Visit www.brushandbroomsuppliesnq.com.au for further information.

If you’ve ever wondered what comes of agricultural farm waste, the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group’s exhibit at the Rotary FNQ Field Days may have the answer.

The group is running the Sass My Trash project, inspiring and encouraging the community to produce a wearable piece of art using agricultural farming waste.

An Inspiration and Creation Day workshop will be held on May 16. Information is available on the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group website at www.mynortherngulf.org

“Most wearable art is made of fibrous materials and constitutes therefore a branch of the wider field of fibre art, which includes both wearable and non-wearable forms of art using fabric and other fibre products,” project officer Kathy Rowling said.

“Wearable art as an artistic domain can also include jewellery, or clothing made from non-fibre materials such as leather, plastic sheeting, metals, etc.”

Sass My Trash participants will be given the opportunity to showcase their artistic pieces at the wearable art display at the Field Days.

Entry forms will also be available on the group’s website. For more information, email Kathy.rowling@northerngulf.com.au

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**VALUABLE PARTNERSHIPS MAKE GREAT THINGS HAPPEN**

BEING a strategic partner with the Rotary FNQ Field Days is more than just getting your business name in lights.

Mareeba Mazda dealer principal David Mete joined the award-winning agricultural exhibition as a strategic partner in 2013 – when the collaboration was first introduced into the marketplace.

As a great supporter of the community, Mr Mete liked how the event benefited the community, with all funds raised going back into the club’s benefactor with all funds raised going to the community and our business partnership is a two-way street.

“I said. “But we soon realised this partnership is a two-way street.

“All profits from the event are donated back to the Tablelands community and our business can capitalise on the exposure it generates.

“With over 20,000 spectators and great media coverage our business has leveraged off this to connect with many potential new customers, some we may have never encountered otherwise.

Now entering its fourth consecutive event as a strategic partner, Mr Mete said the event’s growth and continued professionalism of the committee members and volunteers was second to none.

Tyrepower Mareeba managing director John Raso agrees.

“It’s a great event to be a part of, Mareeba has grown in such a big way with agriculture and I just love being part of the whole thing,” Mr Raso said.

“The field days is a great event to go out to every second year. If I sell tyres it’s a bonus, but if don’t just fly the flag to let people know we are out there and we can help with all tyres from small to large tyres.

“I have basically been going to the field days since it started. From when it was just a handful of exhibitors to what it has grown to today, it’s just magnificent.

“Having to give it to the people behind the scenes, all the volunteers, you should all be rewarded for what you do and it’s great to be able support your work and help give back to the community.

Rotary FNQ Field Days chair Ida Portella said an event as large and popular as the Field Days was not possible without the support of strategic partners.

“We are fortunate that our event has been able to grow off the platform of support from the likes of our three strategic partners being Mareeba Mazda, MSF Sugar and Mareeba Tyrepower, along with other sponsors who also recognise the value of the event, not only for what it does for the community, but what it delivers for their own businesses,” Ida explained.

“The collaboration is more than just a business deal – we benefit from the monetary and resource support that the strategic partners make available while the event provides a platform and exposure to thousands of people.

“Often, as many of our exhibitors have told us, the benefits continue for months afterwards, in after-event sales and enquiries.

“We appreciate the unique relationship we have developed with our strategic partners and other sponsors who share in our vision.”

**LOYAL EXHIBITORS VITAL TO FIELD DAYS**

THE Rotary FNQ Field Day is nothing without the support of exhibitors.

Some, like leading machinery dealer Honeycombes Sales and Service have exhibited at eight events across three different venues – that’s a 16-year partnership with the event.

“Due to varying reasons, events like this have dwindled so we find it’s better to concentrate on a good event – and this one is a stand out,” said Dave Kelsey, Honeycombes’ Group Support Manager.

“It gives us access to a lot of our customer base in one hit, as we have branches along the east coast and up in Tolga.

“There is the concentration of people in the one place, but it also gives us a chance for our staff to work together.

“This year we will have staff from Tolga, Cairns, Innisfail, Ayr and Townsville – some of which will meet properly for the first time at the event.”

Mr Kelsey said the event ticked all the boxes. “It’s a really well-run event,” he said.

“The promotion is great but what’s also great is the different attractions during the event.

“For Joe Public it provides an entertaining show but is as equally interesting for those people who want to see the latest developments in agricultural technology.”

Honeycombes, like many other major companies who exhibit, does very little business over the three days – the business comes months, even years after.

“We are not a stall where people come up and get a $10 item,” Mr Kelsey explained.

“We get people who are in the market for certain machines or equipment and they use the event as a one-stop shop to allow them to compare different manufacturers of machinery.

“Most have done their homework by then so this allows them to get a feel for the people they are dealing with and then they will go away and make their decisions.

“It’s in the coming months or years that we will see their business.

“This year, in addition to our usual John Deere and associated agricultural machinery, we will also display some IVECO vehicles, Atlas Copco portable equipment, and a range of JCB construction equipment.

“But the draw card will be our new Torcat 4x4, and Mudd-Ox amphibious vehicle which should prove very interesting.”

Honeycombes Sales and Service is also once again sponsoring the ever-popular tractor pull event.

**COME & SEE US AT THE FIELD DAYS FOR GREAT SPECIALS OVER THE 3 DAYS!**

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Atherton Rotary

Rotary unites problem solvers to do more good. Rotary connects to make stronger communities and revitalise the places we call home – that’s what people of action do.

Rotary unites people around the globe behind one goal: to do more good. Our members are driven to bring communities together to create lasting change. Connecting to make things better – that’s what people of action do.

Rotary believes education is a right. Our more than 1 million members across the globe unite to educate and uplift students through scholarships and service. Inspiring the next generation – that’s what people of action do.

The Rotary FNQ Field Days is proudly brought to you by the Rotary Clubs of Atherton and Mareeba.