

Wednesday, 21 November 2018

Research and innovation on the ag-genda on National Agriculture Day

Three local organisations who drive agricultural innovation joined forces on National Agriculture Day to recognise the contribution of our farmers and the role of research in helping them ‘Grow for Good’.

A National Agriculture Day celebration in Wagga Wagga has highlighted research and innovation as key ingredients to ensure the long-term viability of our rural industries. More than 100 people gathered at Charles Sturt University (CSU) for the annual event, embracing the theme ‘Grow For Good’.

AgriFutures Australia, the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation and Regional Development of Australia (RDA) Riverina NSW fired up the BBQ and celebrated alongside farmers, producers, researchers, students and all who contribute to our agricultural industry.

AgriFutures Australia General Manager, Research and Innovation Michael Beer said it was a unique take on the theme.

“The world population is expected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030. How we continue to feed the world, and to do so in a sustainable way will require research. We took this year’s theme of ‘Grow for Good’ and highlighted the importance of research and innovation in the quest to feed more people and produce safe, affordable and nutritious foods,” said Mr Beer.

Acting Director of the Graham Centre, Associate Professor Marta Hernandez-Jover said it was also an opportunity to do some good.

“We wanted this event to shine a light on the importance of agriculture while making a positive difference to those who are experiencing drought,” said Professor Hernandez-Jover.

Gold coin donations went towards the NSW Country Women’s Association drought relief effort.

RDA Riverina Chief Executive Officer, Ms Rachel Whiting said days like this highlight the importance and the need to celebrate all that is positive in our sector.

“People in our cities can forget where our food comes from. The Riverina produces one third of NSW’s fruit, vegetables and nuts, half of NSW’s wine grape production and one eighth of all other agricultural production in NSW. We need days like National Ag Day as a reminder to all of what agriculture does for us,” said Ms Whiting.

National Agriculture Day is a National Farmers' Federation initiative. More than 100 events were held at locations across Australia to celebrate agriculture, the largest employer in many of Australia's rural and remote communities.

A special thanks to Big Springs Water and the Junee Rotary Club for their support of this year's National Agriculture Day event in Wagga Wagga.

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