



RICE INSIGHT

‘Old Coree’ field day attracts 350 guests

The rice industry’s premier research showcase, the Rice Field Day, was hosted at ‘Old Coree’ near Jerilderie on Thursday.

It was attended by more than 350 rice growers and agribusiness professionals.

The theme for 2017 was ‘Tradition, Technology, Productivity – A Balancing Act’.

Participants said the event was beneficial to their business and reflected the importance of continual innovation in the rice industry.

The field day, designed to showcase the latest in rice research and technological advancements in rice growing, for the second year running had a business and innovation forum.

According to Rice Research & Development Committee chairman Ian Mason, the event was structured to reflect the importance of the industry’s R&D program for grower profitability.

“Some of the highlights this year at the field day included the latest information on rice R&D, innovation, new perspectives on agriculture and a SunRice grower update,” he said.

“R&D topics such as the evolution to aerobic rice and remote sensing for nitrogen management were covered throughout the morning’s field visits and proved to be of interest.

“This is a very important date for rice growers every year and this year we had a fantastic range of speakers to assist Australian rice growers to be smarter farmers and better equipped to make decisions, both in the paddock and the office.”

One of the day’s presenters, Department of Primary Industries research agronomist Brian Dunn, spoke of remote sensing for nitrogen management.

“The day was a great opportunity to interact with growers and discuss some of the innovative uses growers can use drones for.

“The use of drones and remote sensing in agriculture is promising many benefits, but it is important that their use can provide increased productivity and profitability in the rice industry.”

Following the field tour and business

forum, participants heard from SunRice CEO Rob Gordon and chairman Laurie Arthur.

Mr Gordon outlined global market conditions. Despite downward global trends, he indicated SunRice pricing has held relatively well.

Participants then had the opportunity to enjoy the social aspects of the day viewing the displays from resellers and industry groups.

A cooking demonstration of a simple, healthy and quick Mediterranean chicken with rice and quinoa by television cook Zoe

Bingley-Pullin was also enjoyed by the large crowd.

The number of people attending the field day demonstrated the passion and commitment growers have to the rice industry.

The positivity of growers was evident through the lines of questions and interactions with presenters and fellow growers.

This year the Rice Industry Field Day was held in conjunction with the International Temperate Rice Conference, with many international guests attending the Field Day and Sundowner Dinner.

“International guests enjoyed both the International Temperate Rice Conference and the Rice Industry Field Day,” Mr Mason said.

“The Sundowner Dinner was a great opportunity for conference delegates, industry members and rice growers to further socialise and was enjoyed by all who attended.”



■ Rice Field Day attendees were given tours of the Rice Research Australia Pty Ltd crops at 'Old Coree'.