

# REGIONAL FIELD DAY BEERWAH REPORT



**WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH**

The day began with Registration and Morning Tea at the Beerwah Community Hall, followed by an introduction by Vice President Jane Richter outlining the objective for the day. The morning sessions included a Soil Biology interactive exercise led by Jade King from Green Valley Agriculture, a more detailed talk on Soil Health from Tony Pattison and finished up with two short talks from Cynthia Godden (QRIDA) and Anna Geddes (Growcom) who both outlined the programmes offered by their respective organisations to assist farmers.

After lunch at the hall, the group moved a short distance down the road to Passiondale – a boutique farm and nursery owned and operated by Marcia & Anton Stretch, a pair of relatively new recruits to the industry. Anton gave an excellent tour of the farm, highlighting the changes they have made since taking the farm over in 2014 and the new nursery facilities which will hopefully produce up to 10,000 Sweetheart vines for sale to the industry this spring. After the tour, a number of progressive suppliers had set up a mini expo of their products and growers were able to take their time talking about products and learning about new developments particularly in organic based fertilisers. At the end of the day, a short survey was completed by each participant and a raffle held where a number of very generous product donations ensured that no one went home empty handed.

*Thank you again to our supporters: Elders, Katek, OCP, Zadco, JE Tipper, Growcom and QRIDA who made the day possible.*

An analysis of the feedback surveys has provided some useful information to ensure the Field Day programme is continually improved. One key suggestion, that will be in place for the next day scheduled for Bundaberg in July, is the use of a portable microphone and speaker to ensure that everyone present can hear properly – whether that be in the presentation sessions or out on the farm tours.

The Regional Field Day programme is all about sharing knowledge with growers so that they can go back to their farms and have a positive impact on yield and profitability. It was very encouraging to see that 76% of attendees agreed that they would make changes as a result of attending the day. The additional information providers we had were Queensland specific and we realise it would have been good to have the NSW equivalent organisations along too. We will certainly look to do this for all future SEQ Field Days given how easy it is for NSW growers to also attend those days.

**Hort  
Innovation**  
Strategic Levy Investment

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FUND**



## REGIONAL FIELD DAY SOIL HEALTH

**BUNDABERG — WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY 10AM – 4PM**

- Location will be confirmed shortly
- Morning session will include a talk by a local expert in Soil Health
- Afternoon session will feature a Farm Tour at one of the large passionfruit farms in the Bundaberg area
- Full details will be provided in the June Passiflora e-newsletter.

If you do not currently receive this, visit [www.passionfruitaustralia.org.au](http://www.passionfruitaustralia.org.au) to sign up or contact Jane via email [comms@passionfruitaustralia.org.au](mailto:comms@passionfruitaustralia.org.au)