

# HART

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## HART FIELD DAY DRAWS A BUMPER CROWD

Robotics, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), fence line weed control and frost stress on crops were among the hot topics at last week's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Hart Field Day.

A crowd of more than 600 people flocked to the Hart Field Site – located between Blyth and Brinkworth – to hear from some of the country's top researchers and agronomy personnel.

In a rolling program of 21 sessions across the day, it was certainly robotics and UAVs that had the site abuzz – quite literally at times, with UAV and quad copter demonstrations buzzing around the skies.

Hart Field-Site Group chairman Justin Wundke says it was exciting to see one of the next 'big things' in agricultural technology in action and up close at the field day.

"The robotics and UAV demonstrations and presentations were certainly a highlight and fitted right in with this year's theme of Farming from a Different Perspective," he says.

"Most farmers are up to speed with auto steer and they're looking for the next breakout technology and I think we saw it at Hart last week.

"Having the researchers and commercial options available, farmers at the field day got a good idea of how they could utilise this technology on their properties.

"I can definitely see a role for this type of technology, in the short term, for agronomists, consultants and retailers offering a service."

Other popular sessions included the particularly relevant frost and heat stress presentations, fence line and grass weed control, time of sowing and the ever-popular wheat and barley varieties sessions.

During the lunch time proceedings, Hart farmer Michael Jaeschke was presented with an award in recognition of his tireless contribution to the Hart Field-Site Group over the past 31 years.

Mr Wundke says the crowd at the field day were optimistic about the growing season and were now looking for a good rain to finish the crops in the district.

"It's a familiar situation to last year, we've got through with good winter rains, albeit with more frost this year, and farmers are looking for a kind finish to optimise their crop yields," he says.

"Cool weather, without frost, and any rain will be welcome in the next month."

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