

Monday, September 25, 2017

## Landcare Leaders Showcase Regional Projects and Produce

Landcare supports innovative leaders in agriculture share knowledge with consumers and producers

What do sunflowers have to do with sugarcane? Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister, the honourable Luke Hartsuyker is here to find out while visiting Central Queensland.

Reef Catchments Regional Landcare Facilitator, Juliane Kasiske said "Today is an opportunity to showcase the outstanding leaders in agriculture that we have in our region, how the National Landcare Programme is working for our community and to advocate for continued support for the program in our region".

"Funds provided by the Programme help our leaders who are trialing and innovating to share their knowledge with others through exciting events like the Sunset Symphony in the Sunflowers and the Farm to Plate Bus Tour" said Juliane.

"Projects funded under the program are chosen based on productivity for the farmer and environmental stewardship, we have world class examples right on our doorstep and its important to support and showcase them" said Juliane.

The Sunset Symphony in the Sunflowers event was open to the public this year . This event showcases trials using sunflowers in amonst growing sugar cane for soil health improment. The trials have taken place over the last few years. The community can see examples of cane farmer's trialing new ways to grow a profitable crop with the potential to reduce nutrient runoff to our Great Barrier Reef.

Projects like the Greater Whitsunday Food Network have benefits for regional economic development, supporting local farmers to sell direct to consumers and boosting agriculture as an industry in our region.

## **MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES**

Tuesday, 26 September 20178:30am – 9:30amCane Farm (Simon Mattsson), 171 Newman's Rd, Marion10:00am – 11:00amFreckle Farm (Deb McLucas), 247 Olletts Rd, Eton11.40am – 12:15amJambarlu Cattle Property (Joanne Bartolo), 405 Munbura Rd, BalberraENDS

**Media contact:** Tegan McBride | 07 4868 4213 | 0438 726 226 | tegan.mcbride@reefcatchments.com