

Media Release

Second SEED Ag Inspirations a hit with local students



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November 2014

A second Ag Inspirations program, hosted by the Southern Forests SEED Program, has been taking place over the last two weeks with students from Kearnan College. Only the second of its kind conducted in Western Australia, the first was also hosted earlier this year by the Royalties for Regions funded SEED program.

“Students are selected to take part in the program via an expression of interest process,” detailed Shire President Wade DeCampo. “The volume of first round of submissions was so high that two programs have now been run, with a third due to commence next week.”

The program has given students exposure to a wide range of careers in agriculture, with the timetable including a trip to Nannup for the food bowl experience, farm visits and interviews with local professionals in Agriculture to learn about how their careers have progressed to where they are today.

The final day of Ag Inspirations was celebrated at the Department of Agriculture and Food in Manjimup, where students heard from an impressive line-up of guest speakers, including Alana Starkie from Sally’s Lane, Erin Gorter from AgVivo Events and Jackie Jarvis who is WA Rural Woman of the Year and runner up for the Australian Award.

“The strongest message that students are taking from this round of Ag Inspirations is that you don’t have to have been born into farming to have a career in Agriculture - the variety of careers, and opportunities to enter the agricultural industry, are endless,” explained Cr DeCampo.

Pairs of students concluded the event with a presentation profiling one of the people who had inspired them during the course of the program. “These students were all really grateful for the experience, and spoke about the value of hard work and making the most of opportunities that may come their way,” said Cr DeCampo.

“The initiatives being rolled out as a part of the SEED program are proving to be hugely valuable in our region – the popularity of Ag Inspirations, and post-program surveys, are strongly indicating that the awareness of agricultural career pathways, and the level of interest in pursuing a career in agriculture, are on the rise,” said Cr DeCampo. “The SEED Program is really gaining momentum and is setting a national benchmark for other education providers and industry bodies to aspire to. The 2015 SEED Program is looking to be just as action-packed as this year.”

Ag Inspirations is one of many exciting initiatives taking place in 2014 as a part of the SEED Program. Funded by the State Government’s Royalties for Regions program, SEED aims to increase interest in agriculture as a career path by fostering relationships between industry and education providers.

Photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a0fnheirdoi7v12/AAC5vzN7D7qW2Ch-xZjcxqHya?dl=0>

More information on the Southern Forests SEED program:

<http://www.manjimup.wa.gov.au/SEED>



Pictured above: Blake Liddelw, Chloe Thompson-Darke and Kira Blechynden (front).

-ENDS-

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