

DEVELOPING EDUCATION CAPACITY IN THE AUSTRALIAN COTTON INDUSTRY

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17th **australian COTTON** conference
Our Fibre. Our Focus. Our Future

Prepared by CRDC on behalf of the 17th Australian Cotton Conference

www.australiancottonconference.com.au

Further Information

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Acknowledgements

Thank you colleagues and friends from CCRC, CSD, CCA, CA, CRDC, PICSE, CSIRO, NSW DPI, QDPI, CMA/LLS, PeeKdesigns and Schools across NSW & QLD.



Australian Government
Cotton Research and Development Corporation

The cotton industry is challenged with attracting and retaining core staff, on-farm labour, and access to professional advisers and service providers. This project is a strategy to link the cotton industry with schools, education organisations, government agencies and industry bodies to promote science and agriculture, particularly cotton. It links with other industry investments in education, development and delivery to attract, develop and retain skilled people in the cotton industry.

Key results and Findings

Since its inception in 2009 within the Cotton CRC, this project has delivered education programs linked to agriculture throughout 170 schools in 2 states and impacted 2865 primary school students and 1435 high school students. It has linked approximately 50 high school students with industry researchers and placed 18 undergraduate students as interns with cotton agribusinesses. There are emerging cases of students being engaged through this program at high school that have subsequently elected agriculture at university and are now engaged as professionals in the cotton industry.



What impact will this have on the Australian Cotton Industry?

This project aims to encourage students to elect science and agricultural as a career, either through academic training at universities or vocational education with agribusinesses. We are currently tracking successes through this project to gauge the impact on developing a capable and connected workforce that is resilient and highly skilled and contributes to a professional, profitable and sustainable community.



1. NARRABRI High School Year 10 students in the field at the Australian Cotton Research Institute participating in the Sustaining Rural Communities Bursary project "Careers by Kids for Kids".

2. WORK experience students at the Australian Cotton Research Institute, Katy Armson-Graham (Menai High School Illawong), Jess Kennedy and Gulio Heimoana (Narrabri High School), Kalinka Knudsen (Rotary exchange student from Denmark).

3. TENAYAH Woodward during her industry placement with Dr Karen Kirkby (NSW DPI).

4. DR SHARON Downes (CSIRO) helps a student create his own insect as part of the Narrabri Public School Science Extravaganza.