



**Media Release**

**20/3/17**

## **Awards field day draws cotton growers, industry reps from across two states**

More than 150 cotton growers and industry representatives from NSW and Queensland last week gathered to attend the Monsanto National Cotton Grower of the Year Field Day near Quirindi, NSW.

The event was hosted by Grower of the Year recipients Ian, Marilyn and Harry Carter on their property 'Connamara' at Pine Ridge on Thursday (16/3/17).

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, was the keynote speaker. He spoke about the importance of agriculture to the economy and the cotton industry's vital contribution, and also took questions about trade negotiations and coal seam gas.

Cotton Australia CEO Adam Kay says the strong turn-out from farmers and others in the industry was testament to the Carters' sophisticated farm operation and hard work.

"The Carters had plenty to offer visitors to their farm, demonstrating several of their innovative on-farm techniques," Mr Kay says. "This included no-till farming to conserve soil moisture and water injection at planting to get better establishment, despite erratic seasonal conditions."

"The Carters also innovate with machinery, and fellow growers were impressed to see their sophisticated conversion of a cotton picker into a forklift, amongst other machinery on farm."

"Growers left the event with new ideas they can apply to their own operations, and many commented on the great care and attention to detail the Carters apply to their operation, and the outstanding results it produces."

Program highlights from the field day included:

- Farm tours to see the Carters' techniques in action in fields
- Presentations by experts on climate, moisture attractants, seed soaking and microwave weed control
- Precision machinery displays
- Headline presentations by Tony Mahar (CEO, National Farmers' Federation), Tony May (Managing Director, Monsanto Australia), Adam Kay (CEO Cotton Australia) and Ag Skilled representative Rebecca Fing (also a Cotton Australia Regional Manager)

Mr Kay says the event highlighted the value of the Australian Cotton Industry Awards program, nominations for which have now opened for the 2017 program.

"The annual Australian Cotton Industry Awards acknowledge the hard work of everyone in the industry, from growers and ginners to product suppliers, consultants, agronomists, researchers and others," Mr Kay says.

"The Awards are a great way to celebrate our industry's achievements and acknowledge the tremendous work and commitment of people throughout the cotton supply chain."

"I encourage everyone in our industry to nominate those around them who deserve recognition."

"Importantly, we stress that the Awards program is not designed to indicate who is 'best' - it is simply a way to recognise those who have made enormous efforts to better our industry."

Cash prizes are on offer for the successful recipients of the 2017 Australian Cotton Industry Awards, which has five categories:

- **Monsanto** *Grower of the Year*
- **AgriRisk** *High Achiever of the Year*
- **ADAMA** Chris Lehmann Trust *Young Cotton Achiever of the Year*
- **Cotton Seed Distributors** *Researcher of the Year*
- **IPF** *Service to Industry Award*

Individuals and teams can nominate others or themselves through the online nomination form at [www.australiancottonawards.com](http://www.australiancottonawards.com)

Entries for the 2017 Australian Cotton Industry Awards close at 5pm on 24 March, 2017.

Recipients will be announced at the Awards Dinner on July 26th, 2017 - held in conjunction with the Australian Cotton Collective and Cotton Trade Show (July 26 & 27) in Griffith, Southern NSW.

**Note: high-resolution images are available from this link:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/u284o8gwkmfac6r/GOTY%20Field%20Day%20images%20by%20Virginia%20Tapscott%20200317.zip?dl=0>

*Images are by Virginia Tapscott. Captions are:*

- *Simon Corish (Cotton Australia Chairman), Hon Barnaby Joyce (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture & Water Resources) and Adam Kay (Cotton Australia CEO)*
- *Cotton growers the Carter family: Ian, Marilyn and Harry Carter – 'Connamara', Pine Ridge – with Hon Barnaby Joyce (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture & Water Resources)*
- *Field session underway at GOTY Field Day*

*Cotton Australia is the peak representative body for Australia's cotton growing industry.*

**Cotton Australia media contacts:**

Adam Kay  
CEO, Cotton Australia  
0437 695 222

Chris Larsen  
Communications Manager, Cotton Australia  
0488 189 502  
ChrisL@cotton.org.au