CAREERS BY KIDS FOR KIDS - A SUSTAINING RURAL COMMUNITIES PROJECT

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An innovative collaborative project run by NSW DPI Cotton Pathologist Dr Karen Kirkby and CSIRO Cotton Industry Education Officer Trudy Staines introduced students from year 10 Narrabri High School to possible career pathways within both science and agricultural fields. Students role-played different career options working as cameramen, script writers, interviewers and editors producing a short film covering the three careers. The career videos produced by kids for kids have been placed on the Narrabri and District Chamber of Commerce website.

Key results and findings?
- Promoted exciting and rewarding careers in science and agriculture
- Promoted Narrabri High School as a school of choice
- Provided students access to the great facilities at Australian Cotton Research Institute
- Functionality of the ACRI brought to the communities attention

What impact will this have on the Australian cotton industry?
This innovative project addressed workforce capacity within the cotton industry. We feel it is an effective strategy for attracting, developing and retaining people in the cotton industry. This project highlighted some of the exciting career options to students in year 10 and may help to attract the future leaders of the cotton industry.

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www.australiancottonconference.com.au

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IMAGE 1. Students At the ACRI; Back, Jack Hardy, Liam Parker, Dylan Verrier, Tyler Allen, Eden Walker, Core Robinson, Thomas Hedley, Will Jones, Rachael Lilliebridge, Dr. Karen Kirkby, front, Zoe Tomlinson, Courtney Boyd, Sara Little, Riley Dafier, Amy Larsen, Damon Marshall, Luke Hennessy-McLeod, Trudy Staines, Absent: Chloe Atkinson, Zac Frawley and Isabelle Madden.

IMAGE 2. Back; Amy Johnson, Dr. Karen Kirkby, Corey Robinson, Tom Hedley and Zac Tomlinson. Front; Trudy Staines, Sarah Little, Courtney Boyd, Isabelle Madden and Damon Marshall.