



MEDIA RELEASE

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High-flying fun at AACC Mareeba Open Day

Students wanting to take their education to a higher level won't want to miss the Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) Mareeba Open Day on Friday, September 5 because visitors stand to win a hot-air balloon ride for two as a lucky door prize.

Mareeba Campus manager Mrs Alison Brunker said the unique chance of a joy flight was just a sample of the surprises the action-packed day had to offer from 9am to 2pm.

"In keeping with our Conservation and Land Management focus we have a number of exhibits that will entertain and provide a glimpse of what students will experience when attending the Campus," she said.

Visitors will be able to enjoy numerous exhibits including Pest Management strategies relayed by Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and Tablelands Regional Council. The Department of Natural Resources and Water will team up with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Services to demonstrate the latest fire management techniques. Visitors will also be treated to a presentation from a local indigenous elder on cultural bio-diversity.

Mrs Brunker said the fun would continue with a GPS treasure hunt and prospective students and their families would enjoy the Birds of Prey and koala exhibits.

"We also cater for students interested in agriculture and engineering courses with demonstrations and displays featuring chainsaws, welding techniques, ag machinery, horses, propagation and grafting," she said.

One student who knows how informative the days can be is Alison King who hails from Halls Gap in The Grampians National Park.

The 39-year-old Victorian had made the trek to last year's event and found it "invaluable" as an opportunity to meet AACC staff and the Campus's teachers.

"The one thing I didn't realise was that the displays were manned by the people I'd ultimately meet and learn from," she said.

"You see the Rural Fire people and Vern the chainsaw man, but you don't see the relevance as you're walking around, so if I can offer one bit of advice – it's go introduce yourself.

"You're going to be taught by them for the next six months, so it's the perfect opportunity to meet them in a social setting and have a good chat. That's why they're there."

Alison isn't sure if she's "brave enough" to continue on to her Diploma, but says she is happy to just take it one course at a time and appreciate the new skills and knowledge she has developed.

"Doing our Cert III was great fun and it allowed me to see a lot of places and do some amazing things," she said. "It was certainly worth it."

For more information about the AACC Mareeba Campus Open Day call 4086 3300, email mareeba@aacc.edu.au or visit www.aacc.edu.au

Photo Caption:

[**Training for outdoor careers on show:** Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management student Alison King attended the AACC Mareeba Campus Open Day last year and considers it to be an invaluable opportunity to meet the staff and get course information.]

AACC media contact:

Brett Hoefler, Marketing Coordinator, Corporate Office, Australian Agricultural College Corporation 4672 3126 or 0417 717 507, email: brett.hoefler@aacc.edu.au