

Subtropical Dairy Showcasing Dairy Careers



Maree Searle with Lismore dairy farmer Paul Weir at the Connect Northern Rivers Careers Expo at Lismore

Maree Searle
Extension Advisor
Subtropical Dairy



Subtropical Dairy Extension Officer and Farm Engagement Lead Maree Searle has been busy promoting careers in the dairy industry by connecting with high school students, school leavers and university students across the Northern Rivers and Mid North Coast of NSW.

Connecting students with dairy careers

On the 28th of July, Maree joined Lismore dairy farmer and industry advocate Paul Weir for the Connect Northern Rivers Careers Expo at the Lismore Showgrounds. The annual event brings together students from Years 10 to 12, early school leavers, job seekers, career changers, parents and teachers; and gives visitors the chance to speak directly with industry representatives about future study and employment pathways. At the Dairy Australia display, Maree and Paul spent the day speaking with students about the many careers available across the dairy industry. Discussions covered on-farm roles, herd and pasture management, animal health, milk processing,

agricultural technology, research, extension and agribusiness. Paul brought a practical farmer's perspective to the conversations, sharing his experience as a local dairy farmer and helping students understand the skills, variety and opportunities involved in running a modern dairy business in Northern NSW.

From Careers Expo to UNE farm tour

Three days later, on the 31st of July, Maree attended the University of New England (UNE) bus tour farm visit to Darley Dairy Farms at Dorrigo. This annual bus tour exposes students studying agriculture degrees at UNE to the various agriculture industries around the Mid North Coast of NSW. Maree set up an information table similar to the one she had prepared for the Careers Expo and spoke with the UNE students about career opportunities in the dairy industry, the role of extension in supporting farmers and her own career journey from studying at UNE through to her current role with Subtropical Dairy. The Darley family presented their farm beautifully and gave



UNE students visiting Darley Dairy Farms

students a clear insight into how the business is run. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for students to see a working dairy operation and to hear directly from the people managing it day to day. Harrison Darley also shared his story, speaking about his journey from UNE to becoming Operations Manager on his family farm. His experience helped demonstrate how agricultural study can connect with practical on-farm leadership and long-term career progression in the dairy industry.

Investing in the future

Together, the Careers Expo and farm tour highlighted the value of connecting students with real people working in the dairy industry. By sharing personal stories, practical farm insights and industry career pathways, Maree, Paul and the Darley family helped show that dairy offers rewarding careers for people interested in animals, agriculture, technology, business, the environment and regional communities. Following these events Maree has been contacted by several careers advisors and more than 10 individual students for more information or work experience opportunities within the dairy industry.

If you are interested in hosting work experience students on your farm, please reach out to Maree Searle on 0494 678 009. ■ ■ ■



Adam, Donna and Harrison Darley and Savanna of Darley Dairy Farms presenting to students

Find out more: To explore dairy careers, pathways and current opportunities, visit www.dairy.com.au/careers.