

# Next Gen supply chain tour hits the mark

Bron Ford, Berry Industry Development Officer

Twenty-one growers and other industry representatives recently participated in a NextGen Supply Chain Field Trip delivered in Queensland by the Berries Australia Industry Development and Communications Project funded by Hort Innovation.

The tour began with an early start to enable all participants to meet and greet over a coffee prior to a tour of the Brisbane Markets. Paul Alroe from Don Alroe and Sons gave everyone insights from a wholesaler and agent's perspective. Mark (Robbo) Robinson from Lindsay Fresh Logistics provided an in-depth tour of their facility and highlighted the strict security arrangements in place with their "Regulated Air Cargo Agent" status including their \$600,000 x-ray instrument.

The tour then headed to All Class Machinery head office to view presentations about Kubota machinery including an overview of what the near future looks like with autonomous machinery. The group then was given the opportunity to walk around the showroom, touch and feel small and large machinery including tractors, excavators, spray and precision farming equipment.

The final stop on the tour was the Coles Distribution Centre at Parkinson in south Brisbane. This was a whirl of activity watching "pickers" manoeuvre around the facility on forklifts packing each stores' requirements from their individual shopping lists. The highlight for many of the participants was the discussion and demonstration about the quality control process at the Distribution Centre.

Overall, 65% of participants indicated they would take action as a result of participating in the trip including following up on machinery options, investigating export opportunities and exploring other ways of doing things including marketing and logistics.



**It was such an insightful day. From the start to finish it was so well organised. I definitely got a lot out of it.**



**(Top to bottom)** Full group at All Class Machinery; Emily and Ashlee from Harrison's Harvest checking out the x-ray machine at Lindsay Fresh Logistics; Group participants outside Lindsay Fresh Logistics; Paul Alroe from Don Alroe and Sons presenting to the group at the Brisbane Markets.