



## Media Release

November 2018

### Top rural photographer and drone specialist offers unique introductory workshop

After 30 years of aerial photography from helicopters, drone photography has brought a new sense of freedom to the iconic images of rural Australia created by well-known rural photographer Fiona Lake.

Fiona grew up on a wheat/sheep farm on the Murray River, near Moama, on the New South Wales –Victorian border.

She began her career as a professional photographer while living and working on farms and cattle stations across northern and eastern Australia.

In 2016, Fiona bought her first drone and invested heavily in self-education and training, travelling overseas to learn more.

She is now one of the few Australian women who are fully-licensed by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), which regulates the safety of Australian aircraft, including drones.

“I was surprised to learn there are more women qualified to shear sheep than there are licensed as drone pilots,” she said.

Earlier this year Fiona was one of 10 winners of the Global Women to Watch in UAS (drones) Award. She also was a Queensland finalist in the AgriFutures Rural Women’s Award.

Fiona runs workshops designed to pass on her knowledge and experience to people who are interested in flying drones, whether it’s for recreational or business use.

She has delivered the workshops in Queensland and Victoria for agricultural industry organisations, local government and rural women’s groups.

The next workshop will be a great value full-day session in Townsville on Saturday, November 10.

“This is the practical, experience-based information I wish I’d had access to when I was new to drones,” Fiona said.

“I would have travelled a long way to get a start like this.

“It will also give experienced drone pilots, who haven’t undergone formal training, a leg-up to another level. And if you’ve crashed a drone, I might have the answer for what went wrong, to restore your confidence and avoid a replay!”

Fiona will cover a range of topics, including how to choose a drone and accessories, legal and safety information, trouble-shooting, current and future business opportunities, plus what every parent of a student drone pilot needs to know.

The drone industry is rapidly evolving in response to technological developments and there’s now a big range of consumer-friendly drones. Starting with small drones under 100grams and \$200, which are ideal for students to learn coding with, up to \$2500 quadcopters capable of many tasks including quality photography, infrastructure inspections and sophisticated mapping.

“I sort fact from fiction so drone users can confidently get started or progress,” Fiona said. “Because reliable information can be hard to find.”

Bookings via [Eventbrite](#) .

For more information, go to [www.fionalake.com.au](http://www.fionalake.com.au) or call Fiona on [REDACTED] .

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Photos attached: Fiona Lake, Agricultural photo x 2

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