

The Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) Meeting for the Albany Port Zone was held as part of an all zones Combined meeting held in the Swan Valley, at the Vines on March 1st and 2nd, 2017. An open survey was available from 1st – 31st January and then again for the last week of February, and was used by 48 participants via the RCSN website, providing information/ideas that formed part of the closed meeting discussions. This was the first RCSN meeting for 2017.

RCSN members who attended the meeting included: Ben Ball, Daniel McDougall, Mark Lawrence, Mark Pearce, Mark Sullivan, Stuart Witham, Trenton Parsons, Scott Smith, Jeremy Lemon, Kent Stone, Mae Connelly, Julianne Hill (Coordinator) and Cindy Power, Gilly Johnson, Brooke Heenan and Graham Mussell (Project Support). Apologies were accepted from Ben Creek.

Presentations at the meeting included: **Steve Jefferies**, GRDC Managing Director as well as a facilitated RCSN discussion with GRDCs Steve Jefferies, Peter Roberts, Roger States, Julia Easton, Darren Hughes, Juan Juttner, & Ken Young. All Western Panel members were in attendance (apologies from Darrin Lee). Presentations were delivered by **Ben White/Josh Giumelli**, Kondinin Group on Technology; **Peter Newman**, AHRI on Herbicide Resistance, chaff decks, iHSD; **Juan Juttner**, GRDC Canberra: GRDC frost pre-breeding research & **Rob Sands**, Farmanco: Impact of frost 2016; & **Dr Shaun Ridley**, Deputy CEO from AIM WA on making good strategic decisions.

Project updates of current RCSN projects were delivered in concurrent sessions as follows:

GER & KE Spray fallow techniques for better moisture conservation; better weed control	KE Wodjil Workout – Rise of the pH	KW Compilation of lime trial results and grower case studies
Grant Thompson, Crop Circle Consulting	Ty Henning, TekAg	Anne Wilkins & Bill Bowden, WMG
ALB Effective baiting options for conical snails in the Albany port zone	KE & KW Investigating double break (or stacked rotation) options	GER & ESP Case studies of growers managing inputs using VRT
Christine Kershaw, Stirlings to Coast	Chris Wilkins, WMG	Niki Curtis, SEPWA
KE Reducing variety selection risk through understanding varietal performance with different management packages	KW & ALB Compaction Mitigation options for growers in the Albany and Kwinana West port zone	KW Regionally specific agronomy projects (RSAP) Early seeding trials for the Kwinana West port zone
Andrew Crook & Vanessa Stewart	Dean Revell, Revell Science	Geoff Fosbery & Brad Joyce, ConsultAg
KW Machinery replacement options for growers in the Kwinana West port zone	ALB & KW Is Triazine resistant silver grass a looming threat for the mixed cropping belt in central & southern WA?	KE & GER Review and demonstration of different rotations and break crops for Western Australian growers
Ben White, Kondinin Group	Garren Knell, ConsultAg	Kelly Cussons, Cussons Media
KW, KE & ESP Assessment of some harvest weed seed management options	ESP Early seeding - a knowledge gap strategy for very early season starts	KE & KW Report: Investigating double break (or stacked rotation) options for growers
Peter Newman, Planfarm	Craig Brown, Synergy	Dani England, AgInnovate
KE Options for herbicide resistance management and lime incorporation methods	GER, KE & ESP WA Crop Sequence Calculator Workshops	GER Early seeding trials for the northern part of Geraldton port zone
Peter Nash, GIWA	Rob Sands, Farmanco	Karl Suckling, NAG
GER Business training for WA farm business managers – option	ALL Partners in Grain WA's INSPIRE SUMMIT 2017	KE Case studies of growers using novel techniques to utilise available moisture
Peter Newman, Planfarm	Jules Alvaro, PinG	Melissa Williams, Coxinall

A dinner for all RCSN members, as well as DAFWA research agronomists was held, with Mick Colliss having us in stitches with his dinner presentation. GroupMap was once again used to help the RCSN members to identify 1-3 top areas that wanted to see addressed into possible development of project scopes, as well as other areas for GRDC consideration.

The top priority areas and their general discussions for Albany port zone RCSN included:

Ranked	Issue	Discussion
1	Soil constraints in Albany – strategic tillage	One off strategic tillage options for non-wetting, subsoil acidity, frost mitigation as well as compaction
2	Soil constraints in Albany – subsoil constraints	Better understanding of soils - subsoil constraints, subsoil sodicity, compaction issues, aluminium toxicity
3	Crop Sequencing for Profitability	
4	Crop nutrition	Nutrient removal of high yielding crops and harvest weed seed management
5	Non-wetting soils	Non-wetting soil-economics of management options, longevity of options, ranking of soil amendment options.

Other issues were also brought up but were not as highly ranked. A full list is available from the RCSN Coordinator. All issues raised at the RCSN meetings will continue to have presence at the RCSN discussion table and have been forwarded to the GRDC Western Panel for continued visibility as port zone related issues that feed into existing or future initiatives.

Connect with Us. Facebook page – www.facebook.com/theGRDC/ (like us!) as well as our dedicated RCSN website – www.rcsn.net.au. Follow us on Twitter @Julianne_Hill, or visit GRDC www.grdc.com.au. **Further queries?** Please call Julianne Hill (GRDC Regional Cropping Solutions Network Coordinator) on 0447 261 607 or email regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com. **Next Meeting?** July 2017 (date and venue TBC).

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