

The Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) Meeting for the Esperance Port Zone was held as part of an all zones Combined meeting held in the Swan Valley, at the Vines on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. An open survey was available from 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

Esperance RCSN members who attended the meeting included Frank D’Emden (proxy Quenten Knight), Ben Hyde, Craig Brown, Leon Bowman, Bevan Tuckett, Collin Penny, Kirk Jeitz, Peter Daw, Julianne Hill (Coordinator) and Cindy Power, Gilly Johnson, Brooke Heenan & Graham Mussell (Project Support). Apologies were Holly Meiklejohn, Andrew Fowler, Ryan Meldrum, Phil Smyth (retired from the RCSN)

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. A dinner for all RCSN members, as well as DAFWA research agronomists was held with special guest speaker **Mick Colliss**.

### 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 - varietal performance with different management package	KW & ALB Compaction Mitigation options for growers in the Albany and Kwinana West port zone	KW Regionally specific agronomy projects (RSAF) Early seeding trials
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 businesses	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

GroupMap was once again used to help the RCSN members to identify 1-3 top areas that they wanted to see addressed into possible development of project scopes, as well as other areas impacting on profitability, for GRDC consideration.

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

Rank	Issue	Discussion
1	Frost and heat stress	Frost lower yields less profit (aware of national initiatives). Alternatives for frost prone areas
2	<b>Weeds</b>	<b>Weeds summer spraying; Weeds that have a level of dormancy; Hard to control broadleaf weeds- stattice, marshmallow, fleabane</b>
3	Lack of glyphosate alternative	Glyphosate on everything! Best strategies for sustainability of glyphosate and our markets now that it’s registered for wheat, canola and feed barley.
4	Soil constraints - sodicity, boron	
5	Drainage tools for water management on the south coast	CTF and erosion down the slope. Tramlines seem to be the starting point for nasty wash outs. Run lines down the slope wash as gradient picks up. If across slope they deliver a lot more water to the headland run-line which can washout. Deep ripping issues. Effects of water logging on paddocks that have been ripped to 600mm. Excess water & how to deal with it

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/](http://www.facebook.com/theGRDC/) (like us!) as well as our dedicated RCSN website – [www.rcsn.net.au](http://www.rcsn.net.au). Follow us on Twitter @Julianne\_Hill, or visit GRDC [www.grdc.com.au](http://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](mailto:regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com). **Next Meeting?** July-Aug 2017 (date and venue TBC).