

GRDCs Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) meeting for the Kwinana East Port Zone was held on 9-10 August from 1.50pm (9 August 2017) to 1.00pm (10 August 2017) in Nungarin at the Nungarin Recreation Centre. This closed RCSN meeting followed on from three Open Local Forums which were held in Narembeen, Southern Cross and Nungarin during 8-9 August 2017. This was the second RCSN member meeting for 2017, after the combined RCSN meeting in Perth on 1-2 March 2017.

Meeting attendees included: Bob Nixon, Caroline Peek, Cathy Cooke, Clint Della Bosca, Darren Kilminster, Matt Steber, Scott Dixon, Ty Kirby, Ty Henning, Glen Brayshaw, Alex Douglas, Jenni Clausen, Kyle Chambers, Charlie Thorn, Jules Alvaro, Julia Easton, Jessica Murray, Vanessa Stewart, along with Julianne Hill (Coordinator) and Cindy Power (Project Support). Apologies were received from David Stead and Nick Gillett.

The meeting included the following presentations:

- **Glen Bradley (Bayer) & Alex Douglas (DPIRD):** Matricaria trial work and agronomy; other hard to kill weeds.
- **Wayne Pluske (EQUIL) and Joel Andrews (MapIQ):** Economics and practicalities of subsoil amelioration (especially liming and compaction) in low rainfall zones.
- **Dion Nicholl (DPIRD):** TOS, heat stress and frost.
- **Kylie Chambers (DPIRD):** Nematodes, rhizoctonia and crown rot.
- **Doug McGuinness:** MADFIG Update (breakfast speaker).

In addition to the above presentations, Julia Easton (GRDC) and Gemma Walker and Jules Alvaro (Western Panel) also provided a GRDC and RCSN general business update. Presentations provided additional information to assist with meeting discussions.

The RCSN members then considered and voted on all ideas that had been gathered from the three Kwinana East port zone Open Local Forums, plus their own incoming ideas and ideas from the five growers they liaise with prior to each meeting. The top 10 ranked issues are listed in the table below.

ID number	Idea (SC = Southern Cross; NB = Narembeen; NG = Nungarin)	Expansion	Where did the idea originate?
KE1	<i>NB, NG: Heat stress and frost</i>	Re-examine all of the long term data to determine a weighting for different soil types and localities as whether heat stress is more important than frost for those localities. NB - heat stress after seeding and at grain fill. NG - Frost and heat stress - big issue. NB - Frost impact. Communicate current work and look at function of soil type, soil colour, temperature retention of soil...	<i>Open meeting ideas (Southern Cross; Narembeen; Nungarin)</i>
KE2	<i>SC, NB: Local agronomy trials</i>	SC - Yard stick trial. Variety x environment crop trials using common practice time of sowing, nutrition and equipment. Also can include 3 TOS. Rule out all subsoil constraints to achieve a full potential so farmers have a goal of 100% water use efficiency. Something farmers can quantify to work towards. SC - How deep can you go seeding, variety difference, seed size etc, NB - Nutrition - crop agronomy trials. What are our limits after amelioration? What does it change in our environment? If you remove limiting factors then are you changing your production system? eg. Add legumes to the rotation	<i>Open meeting ideas (Southern Cross; Narembeen; Nungarin)</i>

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KE3	<i>How to identify the most limiting factor or the biggest return on investment</i>	This needs to be given to the Business Updates to factor into their next round of updates. Further development by RCSN	<i>RCSN ideas at beginning of Closed meeting</i>
KE4	NB, NG, SC: Connectivity	NB - Connectivity issues - the ability to use new technology and not be limited by poor connectivity. What are the opportunities in this space? NG - Connectivity - PA, communication on and off the farm, want to be able to use tools in the paddock - sometimes there's no point in the office. SC - Connectivity and communications. None in most parts	Open meeting ideas (Southern Cross; Narembeen; Nungarin)
KE5	<i>NB, NG, SC: Acidity and sodicity management</i>	NB - Acidity - subsoil amelioration for acidity and compaction. What are the right steps to fix it? What decision making tools are available to assist growers to successfully address the issue for the long term?, NB - Local cost benefits of amelioration to identify, management, how to diagnose, cheapest and best way to go about it, NB - Sodic - how to turn around the soils? Reducing the risk of lower production on sodic soils. Gypsum x ripping followed by canola to provide soil pathways for following cereal crops. Ongoing benefits, risk reduction in tight years. NG - Alternative lime sources, SC - Sub soil amelioration using alt sources of lime, as well as incorporation. SC - Alternative sources of lime, where to find it.	<i>Open meeting ideas (Southern Cross; Narembeen; Nungarin)</i>
KE6	<i>Free lime identification made simple</i>		<i>RCSN ideas at beginning of Closed meeting</i>
KE8	NG, SC: Herbicide resistance	NB - Reliance on glyphosate. Herbicide resistance in the zone. What are other alternatives we can use in the system to take pressure off glyphosate., NG - Summer weed control with alternatives, NB - Herbicide resistance, selective long term options pre-emergent ryegrass, radish, NG - Glyphosate resistance, NB - chemical fallow in total cropping. Herbicide resistance and options, SC - Reducing Glyphosate usage to halt resistance development. Use of fallow, alt chemistry/application methods eg paraquat double knock, glufosinate, NG - Resistance along fencelines, SC, NB, NG: Glyphosate, fallow etc, SC - Resistance radish, control options knockdown and in crop	Open meeting ideas (Southern Cross; Narembeen; Nungarin)

ID number	Idea (SC = Southern Cross; NB = Narembeen; NG = Nungarin)	Expansion	Where did the idea originate?
KE9	NG, SC, NB: Matricaria	NG - Matricaria control both in-crop & during the pasture/ fallow phase. Herbicide & non-herbicide options, SC - Matricaria, button grass and other emerging weeds- chemical control, cropping, pasture, summer, pre-emergents, NB - Matricaria and other Declared weeds. How are they going to affect agriculture and what is the cost to the industry.	Open meeting ideas (Southern Cross; Narembeen; Nungarin)
KE10	<i>Rhizoctonia: Following Kyllies disease survey, is there a correlation between paddock history, sheep vs crop, long term cereal vs good rotation.</i>		<i>RCSN ideas at beginning of Closed meeting</i>

The RCSN members were split into groups of three to work up the chosen priority areas as identified in ***bold and italics*** above. Members in were asked to further refine these top issues, considering the following:

- **IMPORTANCE AND SCALE** – geographical area, crop types, frequency, cost of control.
- **CURRENT SITUATION** – what do you currently do to manage this situation/issue?
- **END RESULT** – what & where would you like to see work happen (R, D or E)? What needs to change for this to happen?

Other issues were also brought up but were not as highly ranked; however, all issues including the high ranking issues that were further developed by RCSN members 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.** GRDC now have a Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/theGRDC/](http://www.facebook.com/theGRDC/) (like us!) as well as a 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)

**The next meeting of the RCSN** will be during the week commencing 5 February 2018 in Canberra to visit agencies including GRDC, CSIRO and other places of interest.