

Minnipa Agricultural Centre events in 2018

Naomi Scholz

SARDI, Minnipa Agricultural Centre

Event	Topics	Attendance
Soil Moisture Probe Network discussion group meetings Wudinna, Kimba and Cummins 8-9 February	The sessions covered included how the probes work, work being done behind the scenes to make sure the information is useful/accurate, how to access and read the graphs and how Yield Prophet works. Presenters were Andrew Ware (SARDI Port Lincoln), Shane Oster (Alpha Group Consulting), Tim McClelland (Model Agronomics).	60 farmers and advisors
EPARF member day MAC 14 February	Topic: Pulse management in low rainfall farming systems. This event brought in five high quality, experienced speakers who presented information and take home messages applicable to growing pulses and break crops in a low rainfall environment. Speakers: Larn McMurray, Pulse Research Scientist with Grains Innovation Australia; Dr Liz Farquharson, Senior Research Officer, SARDI; Dr Jenny Davidson, Leader Pulse Pathology laboratory, SARDI; Sam Holmes, a leading consultant from Yorke Peninsula; and Michael Moodie, a Mildura based agronomist. The program also included Andy Bates, a leading consultant on the Eyre Peninsula facilitating an interactive panel session and Naomi Scholz, Project leader Minnipa Agricultural Centre, SARDI, who concluded the day with an evaluation session, which showed growers had gained a better understanding on pulse production and the management of pulse crops by attending the event.	100 people, a mix of growers, industry and research scientists
GRDC Updates for Advisors Adelaide 20-21 February	Jessica Crettenden presented ongoing research about the 'Impact of Livestock on Paddock Health' from the Grain and Graze Project at the conference.	445 people, a mix of growers, industry and research scientists
Sheep pregnancy scanning workshops Minnipa, Cowell and Ungarra 27-28 February and 1 March	Jessica Crettenden organised and attended three workshops presented by Phillip and Sally Schoeffel of Advanced Farm Systems. The workshops were jointly funded by Eyre Peninsula Natural Resource Management, SheepConnect and Eyre Peninsula Agricultural Research Foundation.	30 farmers and advisors
Harvest report farmer meetings Minnipa, Port Kenny, Piednippie, Charra, Cowell, Rudall, Kimba and Warrambooboo 19-23 March	Presentation of 2017 research results and projects were made by SARDI staff, Amanda Cook, Jessica Crettenden, Fiona Tomney, Naomi Scholz and Nigel Wilhelm. The meetings were facilitated by Regional Landcare Facilitator, Linden Masters. Amanda Cook spoke about current topical issues for upper EP and the latest research from the GRDC Updates including Russian Wheat Aphid (Maarten Van Ryder, SARDI) and Brome grass research (Sam Kleemann and Gurjeet Gill, University of Adelaide). Amanda presented the outcomes from the GRDC EPARF Stubble Initiative, recently completed guidelines and current research, SAGIT weed seed burning results (Ben Fleet), SAGIT Fluid delivery systems and the SAGIT Barley grass monitoring project outcomes. Fiona Tomney spoke about her trial, 'Identifying the causes of unreliable N fixation in medic based pastures.'	140 farmers and advisors

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	Jessica Crettenden spoke about three new mixed farming projects occurring at or involving the SARDI Minnipa Agricultural Centre. Nigel Wilhelm presented results on GRDC controlled traffic, trace element and sandy soils research. PIRSA Biosecurity Animal Health Officer Patric Lawler also informed farmers of welfare and biosecurity requirements, and livestock health issues and prevention strategies. Evaluation of the events and local farming practice surveys (soil probe network use, farm software program use, pasture issues and preferences and stubble management practice changes) was conducted by Naomi Scholz.	
EPARF Research & Review Committee annual trial planning meeting MAC 10 April	Current trials and potential new research opportunities were discussed and planned.	6 farmers and 7 staff
EPARF/SARDI RD&E on EP meeting MAC 27 June	The morning session involved an update from Craig Ruchs, GRDC Program Manager, South, on the new GRDC Strategic Plan and how grower groups can be involved in the submission of issues and ideas, discussed issues around RD&E capacity in regions and gaps in GRDC investment in recent years on Eyre Peninsula. Minister Tim Whetstone and Peter Treloar MP were present for part of the morning discussions, followed by a farm tour.	27 farmers, advisors, EPNRM, SARDI staff
'Farmers Catch Up in Hard Times' workshop Ceduna, Poochera, Wudinna and Cowell 30 July - 2 August	Jessica Crettenden presented information about livestock grazing systems, managing feed base options in dry seasons and livestock health and nutrition.	A total of 134 farmers and 30 advisors attended the four workshops
Minnipa Farmers Crop Walk Minnipa area 31 July	Amanda Cook presented results at the GRDC Herbicide Efficacy trial, and also at the SAGIT, UAV Grass Weed paddock at Bruce Hedde's.	14 local farmers
Buckleboo Farmers Group Crop Walk Buckleboo area 3 August	Amanda Cook presented results to the growers at the Balco Oats trial.	32 farmers and local industry reps
GRDC Business Updates Adelaide 17 August	Jessica Crettenden presented information about a 9-year Grain and Graze study.	Approximately 60 farmers and advisors
Upper North Farming Systems Expo Booeroo 30 August	Jessica Crettenden presented information on livestock feedbase options, animal nutrition and sheep health.	Approximately 40 farmers and advisors

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Minnipa Agricultural Centre annual field day MAC 20 September	SARDI presenters and topics were: Naomi Scholz (welcome), Kathy Ophel-Keller (official opening), Jake Hull (farm report, broadacre demonstrations - wheat and barley varieties, mixed species for grazing/hay, ripping and spading), Kym Perry (snails and Russian Wheat Aphid), Kenton Porker (barley and wheat varieties), Penny Roberts (low rainfall break crop options), Andrew Ware (canola varieties), Amanda Cook (herbicide efficacy), Ross Ballard (overview of Dryland Legume Pasture Systems project), Jessica Crettenden (large scale pasture grazing trial), Fiona Tomney (pasture species selection trial). Other guest presenters were: James Hunt (LaTrobe University) spoke on early sown wheat varieties; Mary-Anne Young (RSSA) mitigation of wind erosion prone areas; Scott Gillett (Wisdom Data) using drone imagery for grass weed identification; Ben Fleet (University of Adelaide) management options for rye grass control. The EPARF AGM was held, with 2 new board members elected and Andy Bates (EPARF) farewelled Ken Webber, Nufarm and thanked him for his many years of service to agriculture on upper EP.	129 people: 80 farmers, 20 reps, 19 staff
Sticky Beak Days Upper Eyre Peninsula 3 September to 8 October	A series of 12 crop walks held by ag bureau groups across upper Eyre Peninsula. Approximately 42 people attended the Streaky Bay Sticky Beak Day held on 27 September, where Amanda Cook presented the trial results for the season at the GRDC Maximising dry matter production on alkaline soils trial at Piednippie.	A total of 470 people: 344 farmers, 17 SARDI staff, 3 Rural Solutions SA staff, 1 x RLF x 10 events, 6 EPNRM staff, and 90 agribusiness representatives