

Minnipa Agricultural Centre events in 2019

Naomi Scholz

SARDI, Minnipa Agricultural Centre

Event	Topics	Attendance
GRDC Soil and Plant Testing workshop Lock 1 Feb	For those participating in the GRDC funded project with Fiona Tomney and Amanda Cook: "Using soil and plant testing data to better inform nutrient management and optimise fertiliser investments for grain growers in the southern region".	17 people (7 growers, 3 advisors, 3 researchers, 2 presenters, 2 others)
LEADA Expo Ungarra 15 March	Jessica Gunn and Naomi Scholz provided an introduction of Dryland Legume Pasture Systems (DLPS) project and demonstration opportunities. DLPS entry survey was conducted.	63 people attended (33 growers, 20 advisors, 5 researchers, 5 other)
Harvest report farmer meetings Minnipa, Wirrulla, Kalanbi, Elliston, Kimba, Cowell, Rudall and Warrambo 18-22 March	Presenters (in person): Amanda Cook (barley grass management, Piednippie biomass/break crop trial, BigFIG oats trial, soil and plant nutrition, herbicide residues), Jessica Gunn (sheep nutrition and management, containment areas, DLPS project overview), Fiona Tomney (DLPS and inoculation trial results), Fabio Arsego (co-limitation of N and water, and proximal sensing), Naomi Scholz (evaluation, coming events). Via pre-recorded video presentation: Andrew Ware (soil moisture probes), Kenton Porker (winter wheats) and Neale Sutton (NVT online features).	198 people attended (153 growers, 25 advisors, 4 researchers, 16 others)
GRDC Low Rainfall Barley Grass Minnipa 27 March	Gurjeet Gill and Amanda Cook held a project planning meeting for the upper EP paddock demonstration site.	13 participants (10 growers, 1 advisor and 2 researchers)
GRDC/EPARF Effective Spray workshop Minnipa and Cleve 27-28 March	Naomi Scholz hosted on EPARF's behalf the workshops presented by Jorg Kitt and Leighton Wilksch.	28 growers attended in total
EPARF Research & Review Committee annual trial planning meeting MAC 10 April	Current trials and potential new research opportunities were discussed and planned.	19 participants (9 growers, 2 advisors, 8 SARDI)
EPNRM Exploring Soil Health workshop Ungarra 21 June	Jessica Gunn and Naomi Scholz attended a soil health – mixed species and legumes seminar and field walk, funded by LEADA and NRM. Jessica presented information about the 5-year Rural R&D for Profit Dryland Legume Pasture Systems (DLPS) project. Visited Butler Tanks DLPS demonstration site.	19 participants (10 growers, 5 advisors, 1 researcher, 3 others)
Recovering from a Dry Start workshop Mallala 26 June	Jessica Gunn presented information about the Grain and Graze project at a 'Recovering from a dry start' workshop run by the Mid North Young Guns. Jessica was sponsored by GRDC to speak at the event.	

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2019 Annual SAGIT Update Adelaide 11 July	Amanda Cook was a key note speaker presenting results from the SAGIT Swathing for barley grass weed seed collection and applying drone technology (S117 project).	
GRDC/EPARF Rhizoctonia workshops Cowell and Kalanbi 29-30 July	In-paddock workshop for refresher on Rhizoctonia development and symptoms and how this relates to modern farming systems, digging plants, examining the roots and identifying disease symptoms. Group discussion with researchers and agronomists on symptoms, identification, seasonal factors affecting yield loss, sowing strategies, seeding rate, nutrition and crop selection. Strategies to identify which paddocks are at risk and resources to support future decision making. Alan McKay, Blake Gontar, Gupta Vadakattu, Craig James and Andy Bates.	72 attendees (60 farmers, 7 advisors, 3 researchers, 2 others)
GRDC Farmer Update MAC 31 July	Emerging management tips for early sown winter wheats - Kenton Porker. A profit first approach to precision agriculture - Patrick Redden. Underperforming sandy soils - Lynne McDonald. Sustaining our herbicides into the future - Chris Preston. Grain & pulse storage - Ben White.	
BigFIG Crop Walk Buckleboo 9 August	Eucalyptus oil harvesting - Bernie Henderson Livestock management - Luke Ramsay and Jess Gunn Deep Ripping Trials - Tristan Baldock NVT Trials - Dan Vater Hay Variety Trials - Pat Guerin (SARDI contract trial, A Cook) GPSA - Dion Woodford GRDC & Grain Growers - Tristan Baldock	
DLPS Pasture Tour WA 18-23 August	Organised by Angelo Loi and assisted by the WA team, a small group of EP growers and researchers participated in a tour of WA farms and facilities: Northam DPIRD facilities, Boyle's farm - Yorke, Roberts farm - Dandaragan, Brodie/Kelly/Forward farms - Mingenew area, Stokes farm - Chapman Valley, Teakle, Reynolds, Cripps, Harris, Johnson Farms - Northampton and Binu, Paish farm - Badgingarra, CSIRO - Perth. Pasture species, seed production machinery, silage, herbicides, sheep.	SA contingent 7 (3 growers, 3 researchers, 1 other)
Australian Agronomy Conference Wagga Wagga 25-29 August	Fabio Arsego presented his paper: Proximal sensing technologies on soils and plants in the Eyre Peninsula. Fiona Tomney presented her paper: 'Identifying the causes of unreliable Nitrogen fixation by strand medic (<i>Medicago littoralis</i>) based pastures.' By Fiona Tomney, Brian Dzoma, Ross Ballard & Nigel Wilhelm.	
GRDC Southern Panel Spring Tour MAC, Cungena 9-11 September	The GRDC Southern Panel visited MAC and a number of project trial sites on their EP tour in August. This was a valuable exercise for the Panel members to gain insight into our local farming systems and experience first-hand some of the issues and opportunities for the region. Current research projects presented by Amanda Cook and Fabio Arsego.	~30 participants
Mixed Farming Masterclass Lock 12 September	Decision making, assessing and managing risk in mixed farming systems - Cam Nicholson, Nicon Rural Services Fodder options in a mixed farm; matching supply and demand with seasonal conditions and livestock requirements - Hamish Dickson, AgriPartner Consulting Livestock technology, innovations and data management options - Michael Wilkes, Thomas Elder Consulting Facilitated session on managing risk in variable seasons (decision making about the end product; grain, graze or hay) Panel discussion on seasonal conditions and Q&A Managing soil cover in variable seasons - Brett Masters, PIRSA Rural Solutions SA	34 participants (25 of the total were attendees, with 9 presenters) [farmers 24, advisors 8, researchers 1, other 1]

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	<p>Electric fencing (RAPPA system) and pasture meter monitor demonstrations - James Ellis, Datamar and Sarah Voumard, EPNRM</p> <p>NREP Regenerative Agriculture Project mixed species trial - Mary Crawford, EPNRM</p> <p>Seasonal conditions and feed on offer in paddock discussion</p> <p>Dryland Legume Pasture Systems and new varieties - Jessica Gunn, SARDI</p> <p>Minnipa Agricultural Centre and Kerran Glover, Local Farmer</p>	
<p>Minnipa Agricultural Centre annual field day MAC 19 September</p>	<p>MAC Farm update - Jake Hull (SARDI). Barley grass management strategies (GRDC Low rainfall barley grass project), Herbicide residues (Soils CRC project), and Dry sowing (SAGIT Dry sowing project) - Amanda Cook (SARDI). Virtual fencing - Rick Llewellyn (CSIRO), Nutrition strips (GRDC Soil & plant testing project) - Sean Mason (Agronomy Solutions), Razor, Scepter, Vixen - Jake Hull (SARDI), NVT Barley and wheat, Management of Early Sown Wheat – James Hunt (LaTrobe Uni), Farm practices survey - Hanabeth Luke (SCU), GRDC Nutrition management in alkaline soils - Fabio Arsego (SARDI), EPARF AGM - Bryan Smith (EPARF), GRDC Low rainfall pulse options - Sarah Day (SARDI), Vetch - Stuart Nagel (SARDI), Mixed species cover crop trial - Mark Farrell (CSIRO), Overview of Dryland Legume Pasture Species (DLPS) project - Ross Ballard (SARDI), DLPS Pasture species trial - Fiona Tomney (SARDI), DLPS Large scale grazing trial - Jessica Crettenden (SARDI), Russian wheat aphid trial - Tom Heddle (SARDI).</p>	<p>113 people attended (69 growers, 14 guests/speakers, 13 staff, 17 sponsors)</p>
<p>Sticky Beak Days Upper Eyre Peninsula 3 September to 8 October</p>	<p>A series of 15 crop walks organized by local Agriculture Bureau Groups across the Eyre Peninsula.</p> <p>Key contributions from the Minnipa Agriculture Centre staff included the Minnipa Sticky Beak Day on 11 September where Amanda Cook presented rye grass trials and dry sowing research. Amanda Cook also presented her research on the Soils CRC Herbicide Residues, SAGIT Dry Sowing trials, GRDC low rainfall barley grass, and Fabio Arsego's trials on GRDC Characterising water limited yield potential of highly calcareous soils and the soil moisture probe network at Streaky Bay, Wirrulla/Cungena and Mount Cooper Sticky Beak Days. Fiona Tomney presented the Dryland Legume Pasture trials at Wirrulla on 26 September with 13 attendees.</p> <p>The GRDC trial site at Murlong on 3 October attracted a crowd of 25 people. Differences between crops grown within row and inter-row were observed under different treatments utilising surfactants and wetters on non-wetting sandy soils.</p>	<p>A total of approximately 300 people: mostly farmers with 60 agribusiness representatives, 3 x RALF's attended 12 Sticky Beak Days, 1 x EPNRM staff, 3 x SARDI staff and 1 x RAP staff.</p>
<p>EPARF Research & Review Committee annual trial planning meeting MAC 10 December</p>	<p>Project progress update, planning for newly funded projects and development of new projects.</p>	<p>16 attended (6 growers, 5 advisors, 5 SARDI staff)</p>