April 11, 2007  Broomehill Recreation Centre.
Gordon Wilson, Chairperson Northern Agricultural Group presentation to the Tambellup-Broomehill Local Farmer Group.

General Points covered regarding the formation of a New Local Farmer Group:
- From the first meeting there was a lot of enthusiasm (August 2003). They formed a committee of 8 people that drove the group forward (August 2004).
- Got some young farmers involved.
- Once the group was mentioned to others in the community dissention started as other farmers, fathers of members, and the Farmers Federation were negative towards the group.
- Have had continued opposition from the Farmers Federation and shire councils.
- After the first meeting the next move was to establish their raison d’être.

The NAG proposed 6 key focus areas:
1) High cost of sustainability
2) Social issues and family time
3) Farm succession
4) Co-ordination of farm trial data
5) Environmental care
6) Emphasis of stock and pasture production

- Next they sent a flyer out to the district.
- They called an AGM which had good support. Annual general meeting is the only time that all members get together (65?). Other than that the committee meets 10 times a year to work on behalf of the group.
- In the first year had a membership fee of $50.
- Field days were organised with consultants. DAFWA helped with field trials. The Local Farmer Group Network, and Paul Carmody, were very helpful.
- Sponsorship was set up with Gold, Silver, and Bronze tiers. Rural bank was an early sponsor. It was noted that it is important in this area to take care of conflict of interest issues, and ownership of the group.
- Drew up constitution to have ownership of the group. This was to help with dealings with funding bodies. To aid in ownership of the group had a logo made and printed onto shirts and hats that were given free to members.
- Have sponsored activities in the district, to feed back into the community.
- The committee and the chair especially, drive the group.
- Include women.
- Have social aspect to the group.

Key Points:
- KISS – Keep It Simple (Stupid!)
- Take ownership of the group
- Build it and they will come