Regional Network Meeting
Merredin, 29th March 2007

Present:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ryan Lamond, Ninghan Farm Focus Group</th>
<th>Chris Schelfmout, DAFWA</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Butcher, Bodallin Catchment Group</td>
<td>Vanessa Stewart, Ninghan Farm Focus Group (DAFWA)</td>
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<td>Luke Sprigg, Ninghan Farm Focus Group</td>
<td>Toll Temby, WANTFA</td>
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<td>Scott Dixon, Kellerberrin Demonstration Group</td>
<td>Linda Vernon, Yeenlna Catchment Group</td>
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<td>Sandy Turton, Corrigin FIG</td>
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<td>Paul Carmody, LFGN</td>
<td>Greg Shea, DAFWA</td>
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ACTIVITIES SINCE LAST MEETING
Ningham Farm Focus Group, Luke Sprigg

Field Day – September 2006
Group was happy with attendance and outcomes, although:
- Local support was down but had good sponsor support
- Late spraying and flystrike impacted on numbers
- Excellent feedback from those attending
- Next years trials at one site – logistical reasons and field walk
- Good to see different crops across the district
- Tried to do too much last year
- Concentrated on agronomy issues

Tour – Soil Conservation Trip to the Central Wheatbelt
- Good to meet other farmers in the wheatbelt
- Tramlining visit, stubble residue management
- Jim West, Colin Hutchison, Colin Steedy

Crop Updates – February 2007
- Vanessa letters and organization – credit to Vanessa
- Resourcing people is a challenge to get them to support group activities
- Need people with the skills to organize events, etc.

Grain Marketing Day – March 2007
- 28 participants
- Dennis Wise was the presenter
Very good day
50% of the audience at a different level of understanding

**ACTION:** LFGN to provide feedback to grain course people – split the group

**Annual General Meeting – held last week**
- Two new members
- Research committee revised

**Trials for 2007**
- Long season wheat
- WANTFA cover crops controlled
- Long term acid soil management trial
- Tarvis has a group doing???
- CSBP and Summit doing trials – best Zinc into crop, looking for Potassium and Phosphorous responsive site.

**Farmer Demonstrations – Ryan Lamond**
- Legumes gross margin trial
- Copper trial/demonstration
- WANTFA – groups looking for farmers to do a trial to sow into the row or “off the row”
- NVT wheat trial – Peter Burgess
- Mike Walsh – burning in the windrows for weed management
- Hayden to do alternate oilseeds trial again.

**Green Australia Fund – Sandalwood Trials**
- And saltbush from SLPA
- NRM – Susie ? to coordinate trials in this area
- Hadley Norman – CSIRO – resourcing the perennial native – opportunity for grazing but limited seed so there was no trial.

**Q. What do we do to pay the lease?**
- John Shadbolt needs to be acknowledged for his contribution.

**Soil Health Monitoring – Avon Catchment Council**
- With UWA to benchmark OM

**Kellerberrin Demonstration Group - Scott Dixon**
- Members – dropped two and pick up one.
- Part of the Crop Updates – release trials booklet
- Four main events in 2006 – Economics of nutrient management
- Three walks
- October – Bill Bowden and Aglime people – our 3.4 pH site
- Just finished planning 2007 trials and activity.
2006 Highlights
  o Green manure trial - lupins, pasture or peas then browned out with Roundup
  o Grass pasture had the highest level of water at depth

2007 Trials
  o CSBP are going to come in to do a trial
  o Culture in wheat
  o Response and tactical trial on Calcium applications in cereals
  o 2007 going to grazing manure sites
  o Barley Nitrogen rate trials
  o Happy with wheat Nitrogen x seed rates after 12 years of testing
  o Trialing “Boxagold” with Trifluran (G. Fosberry
  o Repeating the CEC trial; dolomite; lime; gypsum
  o Get the amount of trials and concentrate them for more effective results
  o Three field walks as usual for 2007
  o Soils day
  o Last year with CSIRO in June
  o Picked up more
  o Proposed to have group Christmas at Lake Charlotte

Corrigin Farm Improvement Group – Sandy Turton

2006 Activities:
  o Sandy is contracted as a NRM officer (two day/week) but group expect more
  o Two field walks
  o Livestock issue instead of crop issue last year
  o Eighty people at Spring Field Walk
  o Farmbiz Needs analysis with 13 committee members
  o Group membership fees - $33 membership increase, now $55 per family
  o February Crop Updates well attended
  o Grain Marketing course held
  o Landmark have given a list of trials in district and invite group to see
  o No highlights as the results are not available – difficult to extract from the growers.
  o AGM – two new committee members
  o President changes every two years
  o Succession planning

2007 Activities
  o Angelo Loi to do a do a pasture trial
  o Planning meeting to focus the group is next Tuesday
  o They like to do their own trials – Andrew Duncan offer but $4K offer is too to CEPIC (?) and to NLP project.
New Development Officer, Chris  
  o Two months in Perth training, just started some projects  
  o Fine wool project “close to skin comfort” – surveys of farmers who have  
    this type of wool.  

Q. How are you contracting farmers.  
Would like to identify farmers though groups too but though the agents  

Five year rotation at Corrigin – what is this about – more details.  

WANTFA – Toll Temby  
  o Looking at No till within the Farming system:  
    ▪ Cover Crop Trial held at Cunderdin College for 15 years.  
    ▪ Now ground proofing, all site soil information, measuring  
      sustainability,  
    - O/S lots of work – weed control, moisture  
  o Conventional trial next to cover crop  
  o SA University project looking at disc seeders  
    ▪ Soil plow, Drag on machinery, Seed placement issues  
  o Want to have more cover on the ground  
  o Move away from type as it acts as a rake  
  o Tour of disc seeders, leading no till farmer  
  o WANTFA want to promote a residue system and need to have a better  
    document  

Bodallin Catchment - John Butcher  
Past activities  
  o Soil pit day, line site at Kents  
  o Pits right across the valley on different soil  
  o Two members attracted saltbush planning  
  o Capitio put 50K plants of saltbush  
  o 40mm of rain in Sept they planned to sow Japanese millet – but took too  
    long to get seed.  
  o Trial of cattle on saltbush??  
    Tim and John went to Birchip  

2005 and 2006:  
  o Tim has been trial sowing @ 1ft spacing, now going to set up paired rows  
    with a skip row.  
  o May test this year a 10ha site with wheat – (15 mins to change seeder  
    configuration)  
  o Use DBS with hydraulic types  

Opportune Crops – Seed is an issue.  
  o Salia Oats (Toll has some) doing  
  o According to Bill Porter the chemistry is right for this plant to help change  
    the soil pH.  
  o Lucerne has been established, evaporation ponds and bore being  
    monitored through a ACC project  
  o More activity after ecoscapes funding
Looking at linking remnant vegetation

**Yeelana Catchment Group - Linda Vernon**
- No group activity for last 6 months
- Went to Katanning and attended the Carbon Trading course
- Soil food web
- Lucerne growers – 270 ha of Lucerne
- Individuals doing NRM
- No trial activity
- NRM – Elders provide verbal assistance – “NEWROC” – what are the barriers to adopting
- Glen McGrath Foundation looking at EMS and planning
- Control Traffic Conference in July – Sandy
- Suggest group get involved in this

Q. Where does the information from these meetings go?
- Report to the Regional Manager
- The issues are raised at the meeting

**ACTION:** Needs to be undertaken

**Greg Shea joined the meeting:**
- Ask groups what is the best way to deliver the Crop Update in the region?

**ISSUES RAISED**

1. Local Support for Local Groups – raised by Luke

**Action:** Linda Vernon to meet with Ninghan to explore opportunities for new ROC to provide administration support.

2. Grain Marketing Course – more targeted audience required

**Action:** Paul to contact Denis Wise to provide feedback. Good workshop but audience understanding needs to be better catered for during the workshops. Can Denis explore ways to establish segmentation of the audience to make the workshop more beneficial for all attending.

3. Support to Generate Newsletter/Report from the Groups

**Action:** Vanessa and Chris to explore if Ninghan Newsletter can be inserted in Agmemo. Concept of an eastern grower group activities to be inserted in central AgMemo.

4. Lease of Trial Site – How to manage this?? Ninghan Group

**Action:** Advice from Toll was to manage the relationship and recognize it.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 10.40 AM**

**NEXT MEETING - AUGUST**
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