

IREC Irrigation Technology Subcommittee Report

IREC Annual General Meeting – 2008

It has been another challenging year for us all, but the ITSC has been moving humbly along, with two main functions for the year to date.

The first of these was the Broad-acre field day, held in February at the Coleambally Demonstration Farm. Over 50 farmers and industry representatives attended the field day. After the wonderful breakfast provided by the Coleambally Lions Club, those in attendance were given the opportunity to hear about some of the newer technologies used in improving water management, including surface irrigation automation, alternative channel structures and weather stations.

The “Water into Wine” horticulture field day was held in April on a Yenda property. Those who attended were shown how to measure their irrigation system performance and told what effect this may have on the quality and quantity of the wine produced, as well as introduced to a new irrigation scheduling service being trialled by CSIRO. At the end of the afternoon the 35 people who attended were invited to taste the wines resulting from different management blocks.

We have one other field day coming up- this will focus on netting and matting trials in citrus being currently set up.

There have been some committee member changes for the ITSC in the last year. Jason Cappello (WGMB), Bryan Clark (IREC) and Jo Holcroft (RC) have all moved on to new professional challenges. Their positions on the committee have been filled, with Kristy Bartrop (WGMB), Marg Andreazza (IREC) & Melanie Garbett (RC). I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the committee, to thank Jason, Bryan and Jo for their efforts and support, and say the committee are looking forward to working with Kristy, Marg and Mel in the future.

On a very sad note, we lost one other committee member this year in the tragic death of Peter Dickie. Peter was a wonderful man a great farmer and his ideas, attitudes and approach to farming will be greatly missed.

Even though IREC faces an uncertain future, we, the Irrigation Technology Subcommittee would like to continue to be able to showcase available technology and provide forums for irrigation technology to be communicated.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Iva Quarisa
ITSC Chair