

2018 IREC EO Report

It has been another hectic but enjoyable year with IREC. IREC is continuing its growth, punching well above our weight providing a quality service to our members. Thanks to all our members and our partners: CICL, Deakin University CeRRF, MI and Wester Riverina Community Banks of Coleambally, Hay and Hillston.

Membership:

The 2017/18 financial year saw a slight increase in the number of financial members to 550. Our continued partnership with Coleambally Irrigation (CICL) has helped maintain these strong numbers.

Website & Social Media:

Website visits: since September 2016, IREC Website has had over 11,700 visits. The IREC Homepage is the most visited page with Farmers' Newsletter page a close second and research page the 3rd most visited page. Twitter followers: 600, Facebook page followers: 200.

IREC Farmers' Newsletter:

Lucy Kealy has again coordinated the production of two top quality editions of the IREC Farmers' Newsletter. Edition 198 was the spring edition with 10 articles and Edition 199, released in the autumn, had 8 articles. I thank all those involved with the production of the Newsletter- the authors who contribute stimulating and relevant content, Lucy and Leysa for superb work with editing and design and finally our advertisers- thank you.

Projects:

The Rural R&D for Profit Federally funded Maximising On-farm Irrigation Profitability (Max) project wound-up in June. Other projects IREC were involved with this year include:

- GRDC - Automated Pipe Through the Bank irrigation layout
- CRDC - Automate recycle pump site at IREC Field Station & Soil moisture probe project
- RLLS - Innovation Tour & Workshop grant

IREC Field Station:

IREC now has an additional 20ha of land at Whitton under the permissive occupancy lease, which brings the IREC Field Station area to 60ha. The Field Station hosted approximately 200 visitors, the majority of these attending the IREC major research field day held in January and the Machinery Demo Day held in May.

The automation and update of the recycle pump site was delayed until after the final cotton irrigation and is nearing completion with addition funding obtained from CRDC. The removal of the remaining sub-surface drip and conversion to Automated Pipe Through the Bank layout (funded through GRDC Infrastructure grant) was also delayed due to poor soil conditions.

IREC Events:

The main IREC events for 2017/18 were:

- IREC Major Field Day, IREC Field Station (110)
- Max Northern Tour, visiting Keytah, Cubbie Station (24)
- Post Picking Machinery Demonstration Day, IREC Field Station (45)
- Business & Technology Forum (55)
- Riverina Vegetable Innovation Field Day (75)
- CSD Variety Trial field Walk, Coleambally Demonstration Farm (35)
- Revolution Ag Drone demonstration, Coleambally Demonstration Farm (35)
- GRDC Update, Yanco (30)

Thanks to our event partners and funders: Southern Valleys Cotton Growers Association, Rice Extension, CSD, Codemo Machinery Services, Guidolin Agrimac, Hutcheon & Pearce, Intersales, JJ Farm Equipment, Serafin Ag Pro, Nufarm, Key Water, Snowy Hydro, SunRice, Agrinet, Rabobank, CBA, Independent Precision Ag, Agritech Solutions, Riverina Agriconsultants, RLLS and Revolution Ag. Your cooperation enabled us to run relevant, quality and affordable events.

Finally, thanks to Rob Houghton for another year of dedicated, motivating leadership, with invaluable support from Kieran, Hayley and the IREC Executive committee. It is a real team effort and IREC continues to make steady progress because of all.

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