

2019 IREC EO Report

The past year has seen IREC cement its reputation as well as build our relationships with other grower groups through collaboration on various research projects. We continue to work towards providing high 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:

IREC had 568 financial members for the 2018/19 financial year. The partnership arrangement with Coleambally Irrigation (CICL) contributed greatly to these strong numbers.

IREC Farmers' Newsletter (FNL):

FNL editor Lucy Kealy has facilitated the production and edited two top quality editions of the IREC Farmers' Newsletter. The Spring Edition 200 had 9 articles while Autumn Edition 201 had 8 articles. I would like to thank all those involved with the production of the Newsletter: the authors who contribute pertinent and inspiring content, Lucy and Leysa for outstanding work with editing and design, and finally our advertisers-thank you!

Website & Social Media:

Total Website visits since September 2016 is 16,472. In 2018/19 IREC Website had 4,772 visits. The IREC Homepage is the most visited page (1,490), Farmers' Newsletter the second most visited page (477) and research page the 3rd most visited page (188). A number of pages vie for 4th including Members Section (160), Contacts (158) & Gallery (156).

Twitter followers: 860 (up from 600), Facebook page Likes: 334 (up from 200). Followers: 338 (199 last year).

IREC Field Station:

The Field Station hosted over 290 visitors from July 1- June 30. Visitors attended the IREC Annual Field Day in January, Irrigation Layouts Bus trip (December), CRDC Board (February) and the Machinery Demo Day held in May.

The automation and update of the recycle dam/pump site is now complete. The removal of 15ha of sub-surface drip is complete and conversion to Automated Pipe Through-the-Bank layout (funded through GRDC Infrastructure grant) is ongoing. There is 18ha of wheat planted in the Middle Block. The 14ha of West Block will be planted to cotton to enable various research projects to continue.

Projects:

IREC Projects for this year were:

- CRDC - Automated recycle pump & upgraded storage at IREC Field Station is now COMPLETE
- GRDC - Automated pipe through the bank irrigation layout is ongoing but delayed
- CRDC - Soil moisture probe project variation- \$ used to purchase water for 2019/20 cotton crop
- National Landcare Program - Ag Technology Project is ongoing
- CRDC - Grass roots grant for Northern Tour (complete) and Spray Drift (ongoing through the formation of SOS Riverina).

IREC Events:

The main IREC events for 2018/19 were:

- IREC Major Field Day, IREC Field Station (75)
- Ag Technology Northern Tour, visiting Fletchers International, Farms Goondiwindi (19)
- Machinery Demonstration Day, IREC Field Station (100)
- My Data Management workshop (15)

Thanks to our event partners and funders especially Southern Cotton, I-Ag, Riverina LLS, Key Water, Queensland Cotton/Olam, CottonInfo, Summit Ag, Codemo Machinery Services, Guidolin Agrimac, Hutcheon & Pearce, and Serafin Ag Pro. Your cooperation has assisted us to run valuable events which are relevant and affordable.

A huge thanks to IREC Chair Rob Houghton. Without your steadfast and tireless leadership IREC would not be in the position we are today. A special thanks to Hayley and the Executive Committee- Kieran, Bernie Walsh, Graeme Lindsay and Gillian- your guidance and involvement keeps us on the right track.

Iva Quarisa