

# IREC UPDATE



**2026 Annual IREC Field Day was a machinery demo day with more than 35 pieces of machinery and tractors. PHOTO: Steve Collis**

## IREC Machinery Demo Day a huge success

The annual IREC Field Day morphed into a Machinery Demo Day this year. Held 26 February, at the IREC Field Station at Whitton, the day was a great opportunity for farmers to see a range of tractors and implements in action and see the final soil conditions.

There were implements and machines worth more than \$30 million on display and working in the field. One of the coups for the day was seeing the first [JD Disc Ripper](#) in the country working in the paddock.

For those who were not able to attend, you can check out video clips from the whole day on the [IREC YouTube channel!](#)

Many thanks to the machinery dealers for making the effort to bring out a great range of machinery and all the those who made the time to attend.



**Soybean trial site at Coleambally  
PHOTO: Sarah McCaskie**

## RiskWi\$e project comes to an end

For the past 5 years IREC has been part of the GRDC-funded [RiskWi\\$e](#) project, a National Risk Management Initiative (NRMI) seeking to understand and improve the risk-reward outcomes for Australian grain growers by supporting grower on-farm decision-making.

IREC undertook trials and demonstrations, mainly associated with the 'Nitrogen decisions' theme of the project. The field work looked at the use of green urea and legacy nitrogen. The results are on the [IREC website](#). A 'Seed treatments and foliar fungicides for stripe rust management' trial was run at the Southern Growers trial site in Finley as part of the 'Sowing decisions' theme of the project. Read up on the results on page 29 of this edition.

## IREC Events 2026 — Save the dates!

### 26 February – IREC Machinery Demo Day

@ IREC Field Station, Stotts Road, Whitton NSW

### Horticultural Masterclass Series @ IREC

24 March, 14 April, 21 April | Group 1  
28 April, 5 May, 12 May | Group 2  
29 April, 6 May, 13 May | Group 3  
30 April, 7 May, 14 May | Group 4

### 3 June – Women in Irrigated Ag Conference

@ Whitton Malt House

11 August 2026 – Cool Soil Initiative Pit & Dinner  
25 August 2026 – IREC Research Update & AGM

### 27, 28 & 29 Oct – Rural Women's Day Events

@ Griffith, Coleambally & Hillston

Enquiries: 0491 380 399 | [irec@irec.org.au](mailto:irec@irec.org.au)

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## Action packed calendar for IREC in 2026

IREC has packed its calendar this year with a range of events for broadacre croppers and horticulturalists.

The Horticultural Masterclass Workshop series starts in Autumn, with guest presenter Robert Hoogers. Attendees will learn about soil and water interactions, assessing irrigation systems performance and irrigation scheduling.

The Women in Irrigated Ag Conference in June will include topics such as water 101, ag tech and artificial intelligence (AI), financial literacy and WHS/HR. All topics have practical relevance to farm businesses.

August is the IREC Irrigation Update and AGM. As well as research highlights, the agenda includes a presentation on farm succession and tax implications.

October will see Rural Women's Day events.

The year will be rounded out with the celebration of the latest presentation of an IREC Lifetime Achievement Award in November. 🌅

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