

IREC IRRIGATION RESEARCH UPDATE AND AGM

The annual IREC Irrigation Research Update was held in Griffith in late August.

MANY attendees came specifically to hear the keynote address given by Georgiena Ryan from Regional Business Lawyers on *Family Farming Succession and Tax Implications*.

Georgiena reminded us that as capital gains tax (CGT) was introduced in 1985, 'it is not the only taxation cost to be considered in farm succession transfers, but that it is the most expensive one'.

This session was of particular interest as 'agricultural land has appreciated at a faster rate than most other asset classes over the past 10 years'. Whilst this has been good for the balance sheet and business equity, it has also increased the size of the capital gains problem.

Georgiena gave a great summary of small business capital gains tax concessions, restructure and rollover relief, stamp duty and transfers under wills. You can access her paper and presentation from the IREC website.

Other speakers at this year's event were:

- Kathi Hertel NSW DPIRD – Irrigated canola National Variety Trial results
- Peter Matthews NSW DPIRD – Irrigated wheat National Variety Trial results
- Max Findlay Sefton Agronomics and Southern Growers – Pre-emergent trial in wheat
- Dr Alice Melland USQ & Cool Soil Initiative – Green urea trials in soft wheat

Following the research update was the 2026 Annual General Meeting of IREC. The meeting provided an ideal opportunity to recap the great work that IREC is doing. It was very pleasing to report an improvement in all quantitative metrics to measure growth of IREC over the past year, including an increase in the number of members from 584 to 604, an increase in visitors to the IREC Field Station from 80 to 130, and an increase in followers across all IREC social media platforms (Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube).

Much of this was a result of the range of hugely successful events IREC held over the past 12 months, including the 3 Women in Leadership workshops (47 attendees), Machinery Demo Day (85), 6 Horticultural Master class workshop series (60), 6 Carbon Farming and Common-Sense workshops (100) and most recently the Women in Irrigated Ag Conference (118).

We are very fortunate to have Will Houghton join the IREC Executive Committee as the new Vice Chair. Will has been an active supporter of IREC and participant in programs such as the Cool Soil Initiative. We look forward to hearing new ideas and the unique perspective he will bring to IREC. Dallas Stott will remain on the IREC General Member Committee and Field Station working group. 🌈

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Georgiena Ryan provided a summary of small business capital gains tax concessions, restructure and rollover relief, stamp duty and transfers under wills.



Peter Matthews provided an update on the irrigated wheat sites in the National Variety Trial program.