

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

This is where I would usually write 'welcome to the 38th annual Hart Field Day', but with a global pandemic (COVID-19) and government restrictions on large group gatherings, it's not to be.

This was a difficult decision for our board to make as we know farmers and industry really value the opportunity to be on site and hear from the experts face-to-face. We are aware this is the best environment to learn and share so you can be assured it was not made without considerable debate and review of our options.

It also has a flow on effect to our local suppliers and community groups that provide huge support in the running of this event, but we're very much looking forward to working with them all again in 2021.

Having said that, we are confident we have found a range of alternative ways to share our trial site and research with you.

This publication, the annual Hart Field Day Guide, will still provide you with written information to support each trial featured, as well as a site map and trial layouts.

In addition, we're conducting two mini events; 'Managing Weeds' on September 15, and 'Managing Varieties' on October 20. While limited in the number of growers that can attend, we'll have a film crew on-site so presentations can be shared online for all those that can't be there in person. We'll also be sharing some additional presentations via podcast.

The Hart site will be open (by appointment only) for small group and individual visitors. Our trial layouts will still be signed and will feature a QR code – simply scan it and information specific to that trial will pop straight up on your device. We'll have hard copies available as well. Please make sure you book before visiting.

After a very dry July, but excellent rainfall in August (please refer to 'The 2020 Season at Hart' on page 16 for more details), the Hart site is looking fantastic. Rainfall isn't the only influencing factor though; it also takes an incredible amount of planning and work to present the large number of trials we have on-site to a high standard and I'd like to especially thank our research staff; Rebekah Allen, Brianna Guidera and Sarah Noack, and Patrick Thomas and the team from SARDI Clare, for their efforts in a particularly difficult year.

I'd like to say thank you to all our researchers and presenters who have happily shared their knowledge, experience and time by providing a detailed report. A number of them are also presenting at either our mini events or via virtual delivery – their contribution provides you with the professional and independent analysis you've come to expect.

Harts' sponsors continue to amaze us with their commitment to supporting our group. Even in these particularly difficult times they have remained loyal and continue to back us despite the Hart Field Day not going ahead this year. Partnerships between growers and industry are vital to the ongoing profitability and sustainability of farming enterprises and their financial contribution also



allows us to offer our resources and Hart events at no or very low cost to growers. They're all very approachable and keen to support you, so please make sure you give them the opportunity to help sustain and grow your business too.

I'd also like to thank Hart's funding partners and collaborators. Working with such well respected partners allows us to provide you with access to a wider range of high quality research that would not otherwise be possible and we look forward to continuing those relationships.

As many of you will know, our Research & Extension Manager, Sarah Noack, took maternity leave at the end of February before she and husband Kym welcomed baby Ella to their family at the end of March. I'd like to thank Sarah for her meticulous preparation in making sure the transition for our new R&E Manager, Rebekah Allen, was as seamless as possible. Bek was the perfect candidate and came to us after working with Kalyx in the South East. She quickly gained an understanding of the on and off-site field trials and our relationships with collaborating researchers, growers and other partners which is no mean feat. Bek remains with us full time, while Sarah has returned in a part-time capacity and we're looking forward to working with both into the future.

We continue to offer our Regional Internship in Applied Grains Research to an outstanding Ag Science graduate; our fifth intern, Brianna Guidera, also joined us in February and has proved herself to be more than capable of meeting the demands of the role. While Bri is involved in all trial work at Hart, her two focus projects, Soil and Plant Testing and National Hay Agronomy, provide her with the chance to work more independently and she's certainly grabbed that opportunity with both hands. We'd like to thank SAGIT & SARDI for their ongoing commitment to supporting this program.

Both Bek and Bri have fit in to the Hart team exceptionally well and we're really pleased to have them on our team. I'd also like to acknowledge their resilience - imagine moving to a new town, starting a new job, then heading into lockdown!



Our board remains stable, with only one change following our AGM in April. Justin Wundke retired after seventeen years with the group. He has volunteered an enormous number of hours over that time, including as a past chairman and member of our sponsorship committee. We would usually make a special presentation at the Field Day for someone who has provided this level of contribution and service, but obviously that can't happen this year. So on behalf of our membership and past and present board members, thank you for your absolute dedication to Hart, Justin.

Our newest board member, Glen Wilkinson, is no stranger to Hart and was elected at our AGM in April. He farms at Snowtown and provides a valuable new perspective as we continue to plan for both the short and longer term. We're really pleased to have him on the board and thank him for nominating.

I'd like to close out the list of thanks (last but definitely not least) by acknowledging the dedication and professionalism of the Hart board. This year has presented its fair share of challenges and they have willingly committed the extra time required. I am proud to be a part of this group look forward to a (hopefully) smoother road next year!

As always, we welcome your feedback so please get in touch if there's anything you'd like to suggest.

And finally, thank you all for your continued support of Hart. Your membership is usually renewed when you register at the Field Day, but despite that not going ahead this year, we encourage you to maintain it (or re-join) so please watch out for that invitation very soon.

Have a great harvest!

Ryan Wood

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