

Brigalow Bites

Edition 5 Friday 4 July 2025

It's been a little while since the last Brigalow Bites newsletter and in that time winter crops went in, started to grow, some were forced to swim and failed, while others found snorkels and struggled through. The decision to replant is a complex one and I'd love to hear how you make that decision at our upcoming July field walk or August meeting.

I am excited to say that on 22nd May, Neil and I signed a document that outlines my commitment to supporting BFG. I am very lucky to work with a fantastic committee and member group and loved receiving cheery waves from many of you at FarmFest (while I was helping my friends at Stafford Welding). I hope everyone knows that I am employed to deliver what your farming businesses need, so feedback is very welcome. My email and phone number will always be at the bottom of every correspondence, and I don't bite (much).



UPCOMING FIELD WALK – FRIDAY 25TH JULY

Feedback from the April meeting encouraged us to consider opportunities for more interaction and discussion.

With this in mind, we have scheduled a field walk to look at **long coleoptile wheat research and barley lodging trials**, followed by an agronomy session on **Friday 25th July**.

Meet at Neil's at 2:00pm, after which we'll head to Russell Taylor's. *BYO chair and drinks*. Click the following link to RSVP [I'm coming to tip-toe in the Trial Plots](#)

RECENT VISIT BY RISKWi\$E GROUP

RiskWi\$e is a national initiative supported by GRDC and led by CSIRO that aims to help growers understand the risk/reward tradeoff in on-farm decision making. The team at QDPI are our local contacts to RiskWi\$e and many of you will have heard Jayne talk of the trials they have at Schostakowskis', Wegeners' and Cronins' looking at nitrogen management.

Last week the RiskWi\$e team met in Toowoomba after which Jayne and Henry organized a whirlwind tour of the Northern and Western Downs. Late Wednesday afternoon, a bus with around 40 people called into Neil's paddock, then shed for a quick chat with Neil, Wade, Russell Taylor and Rob. The group then travelled to Chinchilla where Russell Wood gave a rundown on the district and Neil and I spoke about BFG. I had people compliment Cathy and Anthea for their willingness to share details of their role in the farming business – perhaps

there's an opportunity for us to explore this further. Jake Hamilton and Ben Taylor from the Western Downs Group hosted the bus trip on Thursday.

Many of the RiskWi\$e team were from WA, SA & Victoria so needless to say, they were envious of our ability to grow multiple crops in two growing seasons. They did admit this brought complexity to rotational planning and operational logistics. But more importantly, they expressed concern that the constant workload gave little time for recharging the batteries, reflection and analysis.

Thank you to everyone who participated and to Jayne and Henry for allowing us to tell the story of BFG. The following links provide more information about RiskWi\$e.

<https://grdc.com.au/research/partnerships-and-initiatives/strategic-partnerships/riskwise>

<https://research.csiro.au/riskwise/>

FULL DAY MEETING – FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST

Planning for the full day meeting on the 15th August is well underway. Based around the theme of De-risking the Summer Crop, we have a fantastic morning lineup already committed including Tina Tuckey (Pacific Seeds), Chris Rutland (Pioneer), Paul McIntosh (WeedSmart/Pulse Australia), Henry Baskerville & Andrew Erbacher (QDPI). In the afternoon, we'll be treated to in-paddock demonstrations of planting equipment from PSSAg, Boss Agriculture and RBE Precision Ag along with agronomy input from Chris Gillam of Pacific Seeds. More information to come but lock the date into your calendars now.

WINTER CROP TRIALS

Don't forget to let me know if you have any trials on your property (be they planned or accidental) – please.

FOOTPRINT SURVEY FOR MEMBERS

In the next couple of days, I will send an email to financial members asking for information regarding the nature and scale of your farming business. Capturing this information will allow us to understand the size and productivity of the membership base and to promote the group on its worth. Please keep an eye out for this email and please respond. Responses are confidential, deidentified and only amalgamated data will be used to describe the group. And there will be a reward for participating!

UPCOMING EVENTS – JEEPERS THERE’S A LOT ON...

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Contact</i>
16 July	GRDC NGN – Developing control strategies for key problem weeds in Southeast QLD Consultative Meeting	3:00 – 5:00pm Russell Tavern, Dalby Event link	Brendan Burton 0428 712 004 BrendanBurton@mcagoondi.com.au
25 July	BFG Winter field walk and agronomy discussion session	Meet at Neil’s at 2:00pm, then on to Russell Taylor’s	Vicki Green 0408 759 395
5 August	GRDC Research Update	9:00am – 3:10pm Dalby Events Centre Event link	Erica McKay 02 9482 4930 erica@icanrural.com.au
12 August	GRDC Spray Safe & Save Spray Day	8:45am – 3:00pm The Base, Chinchilla Event link	Cath Sullivan 0437 455 818 spraysafesave@outlook.com
15 August	BFG All-day Meeting	8:30am – 5:00pm Inverai Hall	Vicki Green 0408 759 395
28 August	GRDC National Grower Network Forum - Jandowae	1:00 – 5:00pm Event link	Alan Umbers 0428 432 557 alan@umbers.com.au
3 September	GRDC Harvester Set Up Workshop	8:30am – 2:30pm ‘Wy Wurry’ 701 Avenue Rd, Hopeland Event link	Chris Sims 0493 119 157 chris.sims@farmlink.com.au
21 November	BFG Meeting & AGM		Vicki Green 0408 759 395