



GGA Regional Meeting – Lake King 21st March 2016

Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN)

Elisa Spengler

2015 Review

- Positives included informal committee meetings – worked well, and attracted people of all ages.
- Members are happy and value the smaller things, like e-news etc., appreciate keeping things simple and doing what we do well – we don't want to get to big.

2016 Outlook

- Tasmanian study tour a success, however need to be mindful of social calendars in small communities. Next study tour in two years.
- Strategic planning in the next 12 months.
- Lunch & learn to be held 3 x per year – need to look at partnering/collaborating with people like WIFE and EFOM.
- Regional Biosecurity Group – huge job, have had some hiccups, strategic plan and branding done, but still exploring the model.
- Learnings and future aims – Keep things fun and fresh to attract members, ensure family and kids can get involved, prioritising community, involve/engage the younger growers etc.

Women In Farming Enterprises (WIFE)

Anna-Lisa Newman

2015 Review

- Organisation is growing - getting systems up and running, developing a funding model and distributing sponsorship proposal.
- Successfully have five sponsors supporting the group in 2016.
- Increased branch numbers from 5 to 7.
- Committee of WIFE Inc. expanding with reps from each branch becoming involved.
- 2015 Seminar – Very well received. Included succession panel, speaker on change (Dennis Hoiberg) – making change, adjusting to the change process and what people go through. Other sessions/ discussions on data and technology, self-care and human capital – the value of people on farms.

2016 Outlook

- Utilising Citrix technology – linking branches together, online webinars etc.
- Website has been updated
- Implemented shared services (MYOB) across all branches to provide a consistent accounting. An accountant provides support and auditing to each branch treasurer.
- Collaboration is key to success in 2016.



SEPWA

Alice Butler

2015 Review

- Role of SEPWA has evolved post fires in November, taking on a more mental health/community support focus, particularly due to organisations and funding bodies proving funds to help rebuild the community. Using SEPWA as the vehicle for this has proven to a great initiative.
- One post fire event was an upskilling event with agronomists and consultants to help them to deal with situations and events.
- Maggie Dent presented a dealing with change workshop, then a "Secret Men's Business" workshop, partnered with Regional Men's Health. Very successful with 80-90 men attending.
- John Burn in Esperance in late March to look at landscaping opportunities and trying to tap into regional grants to help rebuild the Scaddan hall and surrounding area.

2016 Outlook

- SEPWA will work with local Grass Patch growers to develop a research hub within the region (like an EDRS on that soil type).
- DIY PA project finishes at end of 2016. Currently 60-70 growers away from completing project extension targets.
- Variety trials – sending samples to InterFlour, and now barley samples to InterMalt. Aim to get feedback about grain quality etc. and ultimately see markets seeking more Esperance Port Zone grain

Holt Rock Group

Kirsty Smith (email update)

2016 Outlook

- Succession meeting coming up
- Continuing collaboration with Centre for Crop and Disease Management.
- Maintaining early seeding using summer rainfall trial
- Focus on farm profits and gross margins - looking at a study tour/trip to focus on this, looking at how the top farms manage their businesses.
- Continuing to include case studies on grower member businesses on each field walk.