



GGA Regional Meeting - Katanning
22nd February 2016

Facey Group

Sarah Hyde & Georgia Oliver

2015 Review

- Strategic plan has been the focus, with the committee to drive the change and focus of the group (focusing on members)

2016 Outlook

- Now the plan is in place, staff will be working on policy and procedures.
- The group has recently taken on WALRC secretariat, and also approached by MLA to work on a Dorper project
- New strategy includes forming sub-groups to work on the business side of farming. This is still in the early stages, and there is potential to collaborate with other groups.
- Projects continuing – Frost, lime incorporation, summer pastures, weather station demonstration through e-connected project.

Southern DIRT

Tracey Hodgkins

2015 Review

- New into EO role

2016 Outlook

- Focus on building the base of the organisation, starting with working through board governance skills, looking into changing the constitution to charity and gaining professional advice
- Need to develop a process for induction of new members while also working with and engaging current members and board.
- Reviewing the strategic plan
- Building a business plan to work around marketing, communications
- Building a CRM – board are currently listing contacts and relationships, to be able to form a map of relationships
- Rebuild website – engagement plan around this and make sure it is member driven
- Full review of events – e.g. cropping challenge – could incorporate other groups? Also techspo – hoping to work with tourism and others to bring this together
- Review of services we provide – how do we sustain ourselves behind the scenes?
- Effectively using and engaging our volunteers



Corrigin Farm Improvement Group

Veronika Crouch

2015 Review

- Have our first sponsors on board, now need committee to decide what relationship they want to have with their sponsors and how this will work
- Strategic plan completed in December 2015 – focused on what the members want, is it realistic, and putting this into a 5 year plan. The group now has some solid direction.

2016 Outlook

- Celebrating 35 years of CFG. Looking into ways we can celebrate with our members. Hoping to host a social event and invite previous members and everyone who has been involved in the group
- Sub committees were put together last year (events, projects and finance sub-groups) – this should streamline how we work in 2016
- Trying to get committee down to 14
- Would like to see more clear guidelines from funding bodies – more direction about what they are looking for.

West Arthur Trials Group

Michelle Gooding

2015 Review

- There was a focus on social events – crop updates, field days, field walks
- Branched out and worked with Women in Farming Enterprises (WIFE) to try to encourage more women to come along and support the groups field walks etc.
- Currently feeling like the group is in a bit of a holding pattern due to changes in how funding is working. Hard to find collaborative partners and getting trials completed
- WATG is a small group and can't afford to fund own research staff. Now there is less funding in CSIRO and DAFWA as well, which adds more challenges.

2016 Outlook

- Continue working with CSIRO GPS tracking on sheep, and also lamb survival initiative
- Continue with trials from last year – alternate products to overcome non-wetting soils, and legume nitrogen contribution trials
- Looking forward – start to think about how can we collaborate with Southern DIRT and other partnerships/ structural change to fit the new funding models etc
- Strategic planning required – group needs new direction to achieve its vision.



Stirlings to Coast Farmers

Christine Kershaw & John Blake

2015 Review

- Exciting to have new EO on board and currently in the process of forming working groups within the committee

2016 Outlook

- Plan to do strategic plan early in 2016
- S2C Farmers switched on group with a lot of success in science and research. Strategy will define what next for the group – how it will grow, what it will look like etc.
- Ensuring governance is in place– HR procedures are now finalised, fixing up constitution, getting the right people etc. Once all this is in place we can look at what else we need to do to make the group sustainable – will we need to change the structure/business model? Look into what can generate income – social enterprise, sponsorship and membership base.
- Also looking at some significant projects down the track.
- Projects – 7 externally funded projects and a number of projects in submission.
- Recruiting new R&D Coordinator - need a succession plan as John moves out of this role
- Working with GRDC tender board as to future projects – working on adverse seasons, climate variability

Gillamii Centre

Helen Parsons

2015 Review

- The group is about 22 years old – in 2015 the group decided they wanted to change of focus from nature conservation to sustainable agriculture
- Currently have a committee of nine, but interest has waned in the committee and members, with S2C and Southern DIRT groups crossing into the region.
- The group has only just started to have a paid membership base – now 15 paid members, but battling to get people onto the committee

2016 Outlook

- The challenge for the group will be to figure out how to make the group relevant – what can we actually deliver to our members? Very diverse ideas on the committee – want to maintain group, want to grow, but what is the need?
- EO is a new job – still figuring out how to operate as a grower group
- Much of the funding is coming from fencing and re-vegetation streams, and this is traditionally what the group is known for, however the aim is to move away from this space
- 2016 projects include lamb survival, soil health workshop, non-wetting soils etc. Lots of challenges ahead!