

AGENDA



Rylington Park Committee Meeting
to be held at Shire of Boyup Brook at
10.00am on 9 March 2023

Attendance

Cr Richard F Walker – Shire President
Cr Helen C O’Connell
Cr Charles A D Caldwell
Cr Kevin J Moir
Cr Darren E King
Mr James Johnston
Mr Andy McElroy
Mr Joshua Stretch

Dr Kerry Brown
Ms Kristy Gillan
Mr Alec Smith

Mr Athanasios (Arthur) Kyron
Mrs Carolyn Mallett
Mr Marc Deas
Mrs Erlanda Deas
Mrs Maggie Le Grange

Apologies

Order of business:

1. **Previous Minutes**

Committee Recommendation

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Rylington Park Committee held on 2 February 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record.

2. **Report from Marc and Erlanda Deas**

Rylington Park

Rylington Park – February 2023

Sheep

- White Suffolk rams were taken out
- Bought MMM mineral lick and feeding it to sheep

Cropping

- Recommended changes were made to the crop plan
- Busy organising lime, fertiliser and pasture seed
- Dan Glover (CSBP) did soil sampling

Schools / Events

- Owner Classer course – 2 students came from Boyup Brook
- Fox control workshop organised by BBG
- Provided accommodation during the Boyup Brook Red Card fox shoot
- Busy with shearing school
- Ladies day organisation is well underway. We have sponsorship from the Boyup Brook Co-Op, Boyup Brook Ag Supplies, Talison Lithium, the Southwest Development Commission and various others putting things into the goodie bags.

I need 2 “volunteers” to man the gate, ticking off names, welcoming the ladies, giving out tickets and goodie bags. Ideas for donating money to:

- bowls club needs new carpet; put towards sporting clubs;
- ComHat is in the process of installing their new youth centre donga – they can use the money to kit it out.

We are hoping for ECU involvement. Jane Kelsbie will attend the day and the new agricultural minister, Jacky Jarvis, was also invited.

General

- Finished bunding and shelving in chemical shed
- Lining was put into concrete water tank
- Made sand pad for Flexi N tank
- Busy fixing seeder – parts ordered
- Budget review items were sent in
- Dam in paddock 44 will be cleaned with excavator and dead trees pushed over while machine is here

- Feeding all sheep
- Spraying thistles and pulling melons

What lies ahead

- Flexi N tank will be delivered
- Plumber will dig drench to bury water pipes and install shower at chemical shed
- Shearing schools & ladies day
- Feeding sheep grain & hay
- Checking sheep for fly strike
- Take merino rams out.
- Fencing
- Spraying summer weeds
- Fixing seeder and clearing paddocks for seeding
- Fixing and replacing water troughs

Calendar

- 27 February – 3 March novice shearing school
- 24 March Storm in a Teacup
- 1-5 May novice shearing school

Attachment: Shearing School Financials

3. General Business

3.1 Potential Research Projects for discussion

- Potential research projects proposed by the Boyup Brook Agricultural Supplies (information emailed to committee members last week)
- Potential research projects proposed by Andy McElroy (were sent to ECU in 2022, however, there hasn't been any interest from researchers at present)
- Potential research project proposed by Greening Australia (rehabilitating creek line and establishing a native plant seed bank).

4. Rylington Park Future Trial Plans (Compiled by Alec Smith)

As discussed, my position puts me across different areas of Agriculture. I am primarily the Senior Agronomist at Kojonup Ag Supplies, and a Partner in the business. We also own and run the store in Boyup Brook, Boyup Brook Ag Supplies.

In addition to my Agronomy work I am helping David Lane coordinate the trial work that we perform at Rylington Park. This trial work at Rylington has been running successfully for several years, with fantastic grower attendance and interaction all through the year. Wearing another hat, I am also the Vice Chairperson of Southern Dirt Incorporated, a not-for-profit organisation based in Kojonup that organises trial work and grower extension across the Great Southern.

The reason for my discussion with you, as stated, is to see if any of the proposed trial work that we are looking at over the course of the next few years aligns with your research focus, or available resources at Rylington.

I see a fantastic opportunity for Rylington Park, on the back of its collaboration with ECU, to tap into some of the benefits of the recent Federally Drought Fund. This fund, as you know, is aimed at improving resilience in farming communities, and is backed by a significant contribution from the Federal Government totalling \$8 million dollars over four years.

Looking at some of the successful applicants on the East Coast, I can see good reason why effective research and extension work in our area would be a prime opportunity.

Name of person/organisation	Region	Legislative Purpose	Description	Payment Amount (GST exclusive)	Payment Date (GST exclusive)	Total Amount Paid as at 30 June 2022 (GST exclusive)	Total Amount Payable (GST exclusive)
University of New England	New South Wales	s21(1)(c) - Carrying out a project that is directed towards achieving	Drought Resilience Innovation Grants Program - Innovation Grant	\$1,897,111.38	30/06/2022	\$1,897,111.38	\$3,000,000.00
				\$538,731.78	31/03/2023		
				\$564,156.84	31/03/2024		

figure 1. Taken from the attached file "fdf-funding-information-innovation-grants.pdf" The context that UNE used was "Using a co-learning approach to increase the adoption of deep-rooted legumes and conserved forage as key drought resilient strategies for Northern Australian grazing systems." The aim is to achieve drought resilience by overcoming the knowledge gaps.

Listed below is some of the plans we have going forward for the next few years - most of which I have pitched to the Future Drought Fund.

- Soil amelioration. Obviously, there is a plethora of data in Wheatbelt to support amelioration to provide a bigger bucket by maximising rooting depth, reduce stratification of minerals, reduce non-wetting, clay dispersal, and frost mitigation. We have not broadly embraced it as we are not forced to. However, preliminary evidence shows 500kg yield gain on canola and 1t on cereals post Grizzly amelioration to 300mm.

Alternatively, Mouldboard Plows could be used. We have both a Grizzly "Tiny"460 and a Gregoire Besson 8 row Mouldboard plow available. We would run an EM38 survey first to determine depth of topsoil, then ameliorate in March/April. Alternatively, a spade/seeder could be used. Continued rotation would clarify long-term economic benefits. Incorporate a green manure in October would be another option to include biomass to depth to improve hostile subsoils. Monitoring with Soil Moisture probes would show increased utilisation of soil moisture.

- Deeper sowing. This could be implemented using existing systems, just duplicating replications to show benefits and risks. Deeper sowing offers more sowing options, mitigating less consistent or less significant opening rains. Showcase long coleoptile wheat material, as well as demonstrating the hybrid vigour of, say, 160,000 seed count/kg canola sown at 5cm.
- Manipulating fertiliser strategies to offset moisture stress - specifically foliar K in addition to standard K treatments. Higher tissue concentrations of Potassium allow better water regulation, both through osmoregulation, stomatal closure as well as uptake potential. 2% tissue concentration (Dry Matter) is a luxury level we never attain, we could get to 1.5% via foliar spray of KNO3 prior to flowering. This would apply to all crops, improving WUE and yield potential, as well as reducing fertiliser inefficiency.

- Harvest timing for cutting hay and Silage crops to optimise value of MJ/ME/KG, fodder conservation is an important part of Drought preparation. Silage is a better option for \$/MJ if on farm management solutions allows, newer technology is putting silage in grain bags. <https://versacorporation.com/> This allows effective, efficient fodder conservation on farm that ensures fodder is preserved for Drought conditions.
- Successful demonstration of integration of deep-rooted perennial pasture legumes into existing farm rotations. In conjunction with improved fodder conservation strategies, this will allow Farmers to see the short-, medium- and long-term benefits. Both economic (as well as environmental) analysis would be of benefit to local growers, again using modern agronomy. This would entail a complete Agronomy package, follow up with soil moisture monitoring, pasture management and best practice fodder conservation.
- A novel idea for Australian Canola producers is the use of in crop Plant Growth Regulators (PGR's) to optimise harvest index - leading to more efficient fertiliser usage, reduced evapotranspiration, improve WUE. In this space, Paclobutrazol (PBZ) leads to increased concentrations of Abscissic Acid (ABA) giving stress protection against salinity, ozone, heat, chilling and freezing. ABA increase is a result of Gibberellic Acid blocking, resulting in better water regulation in the plant. Additionally, Cytokinins (CT) are destroyed during heat /stress events, and it takes weeks to return to normal hormone levels. We could manipulate stress with rainout shelter during flowering, while applying PBZ + CT treatments. Additional benefit to these treatments is that exogenous hormone applications are classified as Biological Chemical Treatments by the APVMA, so it's a bit easier to satisfy MRL/crop safety issues.
- Another novel idea utilising PGR's is to investigate their role in altering flowering timing in Winter cereals. Certain PGR's have been shown to hasten crop maturity, with specific application at specific time. It is environment and Variety specific, so need ground truthing. For instance, next year we will be planting Winter wheats such as Illabo, Wedgetail, Accroc and the Slow-Spring Denison. Sowing date will be 15th April, then manipulated to bring flowering forward by two or three weeks. This would allow us to access the longer growing season benefit of early sown cereals (remembering root growth of 12mm/day) whilst being able to "dial in" our preferred flowering window. This has the potential to be a game changer for all wheat growers, with a novel usage pattern of PGR's that could be applied from Merredin to Manjimup. Mitigation of frost, heat stress as well as optimising WUE.

5. **Southern Electronics Group Annual Camp – 20-21 May 2023** (Compiled by Darren King)

The Southern Electronics Group (www.hamradio.org.au) of which I'm a member, are planning our second annual camp and radio weekend.

Last year we held the event at Mayanup sports ground, but the venue is not available for the weekend we would like to hold our event.

I have discussed using Rylington Park for the event with Crs Walker and O'Connell and they were both positive, but of course the approvals must come from you.

The event last year had 25 total participants, with 16 camping for the weekend. These people are all mature age Ham Radio operators, and we put this weekend on to bring them together to share their interest in Radio where they can set up and operate.

The feedback I have is that this year will attract at least that number, perhaps up to double depending on weather conditions.

If we are permitted, we would like to use the accommodation building and the kitchen, with others using their own caravans.

Information provided by Shire of Boyup Brook Staff

Cost of Dormitories is \$33.00 per person per night.

Camping is \$33.00 per site for the weekend.

6. Next meeting will be held on

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7. Closure

There being no further business the Shire President, Cr Walker thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at