

IREC Irrigation Technology Subcommittee Report 2007

Irrigation technology in horticultural was the focus of the horticultural farm walk held at Anthony Pastro's Yenda property in September 2006. Presentations by NSW Department of Primary Industries' Viticulturist Shayne Hackett and CSIRO researcher John Hornbuckle on current research findings relevant to the viticulture and horticulture industry provided attendees with some strategies to manage the plantings in water limited conditions. Attendees also had the opportunity to see the range of equipment used in the current crop water use research followed by a visit to one of Murrumbidgee Irrigation's Integrated Horticultural Supply scheme pump sheds.

Following the successful horticultural farm walk, the ITSC ran a half day broadacre bus trip to Whitton in February. Over 70 people attended the field day and had an opportunity to see some of the recently developed technologies for improving water management on broadacre properties. Key technologies explained by guest speakers from across NSW included field evaluation and monitoring equipment, software designed to improve farm water management and evaporation mitigation products for storage dams. The day wrapped up with a visit to a newly developed irrigation layout which utilises level furrows in a bay layout.

Monica Molloy vacated the position of secretary following her departure from the Murrumbidgee Horticultural Council. Monica made an excellent contribution to the committee which is greatly appreciated. In March this year I stepped down as Chair following my acceptance of a postgraduate position with the CRC for Irrigation futures and subsequent leave from NSW Department of Primary Industries. I will be researching design, evaluation and management options for Bankless Channel Irrigation Systems. Iva Quarisa, in her capacity as Deputy Chair, has been acting as chair preceding the ITSC AGM.

The challenges of the drought and the resultant low water allocation heighten the importance and need for irrigation technology and its implementation. The committee will continue to showcase available technology and provide forums for technology advances to be communicated during the coming year.

Michael Grabham
Immediate past ITSC Chair