



South East Premium Wheat Growers' Association
PO Box 365
Esperance, WA, 6450

Media release

16.6.2017

Grass Patch Field Walk is on July 26 – a key event in the SEPWA calendar

A focus site at Grass Patch will be visited by farmers on July 26 at a winter field walk hosted by South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA).

In its second year, the event is being held to extend information on various trials in the Grass Patch region to validate and share new farming innovations.

The consolidated site was created in 2016 to enable more support for medium to low rainfall farmers in the Esperance Port Zone mallee dealing with hostile soils and fluctuating climatic conditions.

SEPWA President, Greg Curnow said a large crowd at the inaugural 2016 winter field walk took SEPWA and the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) employees organising the day by surprise.

"We had been expecting around 40 - 50 people at the day and we had almost double that number," he said.

"I guess that's a good sign that the SEPWA Executive committee was right in thinking there was a need to have more work done to support more profitable farming systems in the mallee area."

The trials committee that co-ordinates the Grass Patch site comprises DAFWA and SEPWA staff, local agronomists and a group of leading farmers from the region.

The Committee's aim is to provide a single site for research trials and field day extension activities by farmer demonstration to enable faster adoption of technologies.

The July 26 field day will kick off at 1pm, but if you wish to join the bus tour, then you will need to be at Ron and Kerry Longbottom's Swan Lagoon Road farm before 12.30pm.

Trials visited will include topics on: fungicide application; soil (deep ripping); varieties; data accessibility (on-farm); nitrogen application rates and timing; break crops; machinery demonstrations and much more.

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The free event will finish back the Longbottom's property with a sundowner BBQ bonfire at their sheds. Everyone is most welcome!

For more information you can contact SEPWA Executive Officer, Niki Curtis on 9083 1152 or eo@sepwa.org.au or go to the SEPWA website; www.sepwa.org.au.

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