

**BALAKLAVA GOLF CLUB
WEDNESDAY 13TH AUGUST 2008**

Theme:

“Reducing input costs without reducing profitability – putting science behind the decisions”

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| 8.55 | Welcome | <i>SAFF</i> | 5 |
| 9.00 | World grain markets | <i>Ron Storey, independent grains industry analyst</i> | 30+10 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current prices – how long will they last? • What are the key indicators for change? • Taking a position – without risk • What new national marketing regulations will mean to Mid North farmers | | |
| 9.40 | Phosphorus – putting science behind your decisions | <i>Sean Mason, Uni of Adel</i> | 30+10 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the new test to determine cost effective P rates • How much P is just enough? • Matching inputs to crop removal • Free P from mineralisation – how much and how to release it • Implications of reduced P rates long term • Minimum P rates without reducing yields | | |
| 10.20 | GRDC at the cutting edge | <i>Andy Barr/Richard Konzag GRDC Southern Panel</i> | 10 |
| 10.30 | <i>Break</i> | | 30 |
| 11.00 | Nitrogen | <i>Mick Faulkner, consultant</i> | 40 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing pulse crops to provide free N (how much N and for how long) • Incorporating a green (brown) manure crop into an intensive rotation – is it cost effective? • Returning to medic pasture/livestock in a phase crop rotation – cost effective? • Increasing OM to provide more mineral N • Best bet strategies for post seeding N this season • Yield profit – is it a good guide? | | |

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| 11.40 | Variable rate – is it a cost effective tool for Mid North farmers? | <i>Peter Treloar, precision ag consultant</i> | 40 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is soil mapping really necessary? • What can yield maps tell us? • Best nutrition strategies for different soil types | | |
| 12.20 | Marketing matters | <i>ABB</i> | 10 |
| 12.30 | <i>Lunch</i> | | 60 |
| 1.30 | Strategies for coping with a dry spring and other climate change implications | <i>Panel session including</i> | 45 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What significant changes made already? • Are you cutting costs (fertiliser, chemicals etc)? • Changing livestock / cropping ratio • Reducing crop rotation intensity • Managing TOS – dry sowing • Increasing OM to retain soil moisture | <i>Craig Turner, Lochiel Richard Wilson, Whitwater</i> | |
| 2.15 | Strategy to reduce chemical weed costs | <i>Chris Preston, Uni of Adel</i> | 30+15 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New chemicals • Herbicide resistance | | |
| 3.00 | Seasonal issues including Flagship barley, storing seed for sowing | <i>Panel</i> | 30 |
| 3.30 | <i>Close</i> | | |