GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE 2026

Quambatook Bowling Club
29 River Street, Quambatook

Wednesday 22 July 2026

Registration:
9.00 am to 1.00 pm followed by lunch
(doors open at 8.30 am for a 9.00 am start)

Cost:
Free

Morning tea, lunch and proceedings included.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Discuss the latest farm-ready information to improve profit with researchers, agronomists and growers at the Quambatook GRDC Grains Research Update.

Topics:

- Evolution of clethodim resistance, and what can we do?
  Peter Boutsalis, University of Adelaide and Plant Science Consulting
- Industry panel – pushing pulses for better crops in the southern Mallee
  Audrey Delahunty (Agriculture Victoria), Claire Pickles (BCG) and Matt Bissett (ExceedAg)
- Protect your most perishable asset – latest tips on grain storage
  Chris Warrick, Primary Business
- Risk and reward of N fertiliser decision-making strategies - insights from a national network of RiskWi$e field experiments
  Yolanda Plowman, BCG
- Seasonal climate outlook: what is driving this season?
  Dale Grey, Agriculture Victoria

GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE 2026

Evolution of clethodim resistance, and what can we do?

Are you leaning on clethodim as an option?? Trouble is brewing as ryegrass is increasingly resistant to this chemical, especially where pulses and canola are grown regularly. Peter will explain how ryegrass develops resistance to clethodim, how widespread it is now, and why current rotations are accelerating the problem. He will outline what resistance looks like in the paddock, discuss remaining chemical options, non-chemical strategies. The session will focus on practical steps growers can take to slow resistance development and protect future ryegrass weed control options.

Industry panel – pushing pulses for better crops in the southern Mallee

Pulse crops are bring pushed into more unfamiliar environments as growers look to diversify rotations and manage weeds, disease and nitrogen. This panel brings together local research and hands-on agronomic experience to discuss the opportunities and challenges of growing pulses in the southern Mallee. Panel members will share insights into crop selection, agronomy, seasonal risk and paddock suitability, as well as lessons learned from recent seasons. The discussion will focus on what has worked, what hasn't, and what growers should consider when contemplating a new pulse or expanding their current program.

Protect your most perishable asset – latest tips on grain storage

Grain storage is an evolving space. Chris will cover the latest understanding around best on-farm grain storage, focusing on practical and proven management. Topics will include the main risks to stored grain such as insects, moisture, temperature and poor sealing, along with obtaining airtight storage and correct phosphine fumigation. The session will emphasise preparation, monitoring and early intervention, helping growers protect grain quality and avoid costly mistakes.

Risk and reward of N fertiliser decision-making strategies - insights from a national network of RiskWi$e field experiments

Nitrogen decisions remain one of the hardest calls in cropping, especially under rising input costs and variable seasons. This session draws on findings from the GRDC-funded RiskWi$e project, which has compared different decision-making approaches across a national network of trials. Yolanda will focus on how nitrogen decisions can be made 'more right more often' by using consistent decision systems rather than chasing perfect rates each year. The presentation will explore balancing profit and risk, and using indicators such as grain protein and nitrogen balance to review decisions over time.

Seasonal climate outlook: what is driving this season?

Dale will explain the key climate drivers shaping the current season and what they could mean for rainfall, temperature and risk. He will unpack what the forecasts are really telling us, and just as importantly, what they aren't, highlighting where confidence is strong and where uncertainty remains. The session will focus on how growers can use climate outlooks alongside local conditions to better manage seasonal risk and support more informed, timely decisions.

GRDC
GRAINS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION