

# Cropping Update

## Trials Presentation Evening 2010 From the EO, Felicity Astbury



March 04th 2010 was a landmark day for Wickepin as the Facey Group hosted the Hon. Terry Redman Minister for Agriculture and Food at our Trials Presentation Night. Once again this event was well attended with about 100 growers and farmers gathering to discuss the trials conducted in our region last season and the future of agriculture with our two guest speakers.

Minister Redman discussed the proposed shakeup of the Department of Ag and Food, future initiatives for improved production and his view on research and development of the industry. Minister Redman said that "grower groups are an important conduit to industry" as a response from audience questions regarding grower group roles into the future. The night was full of reports and presentations of the majority of trials hosted by the Facey Group. Once again key highlights included the DAFWA Frost trial, GM - a farmer's perspective and the Facey Group's Rotations for Profit results. The rotation demonstration will be seeded for its 7<sup>th</sup> year and will again be on show at the annual Spring Field Day.

Mick Keogh Executive Director Australian Farm Institute easily entertained as the keynote speaker, discussing the strategic opportunities for Australian agriculture moving forward and taking into account climate change, world population growth and international trends in agriculture. It appears that things are not all doom and gloom. We look forward to another year of trials and demonstrations that will be able to help farmers make better decisions with the hope of increasing their profits and ensuring their future sustainability.

Thanks must be extended to our local sponsors especially our latest major sponsors Syngenta Crop Protection who join Rabo Bank, Summit Fertilizers and the Shire of Wickepin, represented by its councilors, as we proudly show cased Wickepin as a forward thinking and pro-active area.

### Photographs

Top: Facey Group President Clinton Hemley, Executive Officer Felicity Astbury and the Hon. Terry Redman.  
Middle: With Syngenta Territory Sales Manager Brian Staines.  
Photographs courtesy of Nicole Baxter

Bottom: Dr Ben Biddulph, DAFWA



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