

GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE 2026



Waikerie Hotel Motel
2 McCoy St, Waikerie, SA

Thursday 5 February 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 leading growers at the Waikerie GRDC Grains Research Update.

Topics:

- **Balancing productivity with risk**
– from a growers' perspective
Barry Mudge, Port Germein grower
- **Gazania incidence and impact on cropping**
Ali Bajwa, La Trobe University
- **Cracking the nitrogen decision nut**
– new insights from multiple trials and results
Corinne Celestina, University of Melbourne
- **Protecting your most perishable asset**
– latest updates on grain storage
Chris Warrick, Primary Business
- **Aiming to minimize frost and heat 'hits' on yield**
A new tool to help on-farm decision making
Julianne Lilley, CSIRO

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2026

Balancing productivity with risk – from a growers' perspective

Barry manages the family mixed farming property near Port Germein in the Upper North.

After completing agricultural and economics training at Roseworthy Agricultural College and the University of New England, he was employed for 12 years as a Rural Officer with the Commonwealth Development Bank before returning to manage the family property.

In this presentation, Barry will demonstrate the structured approach to risk and decision making he has utilised to improve profitability and resilience in low rainfall mixed farming systems.



Gazania incidence and impact on cropping

Gazania has increased in its distribution across South Australia. This presentation will cover what has been found through the National Grower Network project – investigating Gazania incidence and its impact on grain cropping in the Southern region.

Topics include the results of two year roadside and in-paddock surveys, Gazania seed biology, germination triggers and chemical control options.



Cracking the nitrogen decision nut – new insights from multiple trials and results

The GRDC RiskWise project has conducted more than 30 field experiments across the country in 2025, comparing the risk and reward of different nitrogen management strategies.

Do you make your nitrogen decisions with more analytics (slow-thinking) or less (fast-thinking)? This presentation will cover how to get nitrogen decisions more right more often and the importance of reviewing decision-making systems.



Protecting your most perishable asset – latest updates on grain storage

Chris has spent many years helping farmers set up and manage best practice grain storage systems. In this presentation Chris will discuss phosphine fumigation essentials and where to access support, training and resources.



Aiming to minimize frost and heat 'hits' on yield A new tool to help on-farm decision making

Flowering time is critical to mitigate risks associated with frost and hot, dry finishes. Hear Julianne discuss the Crop Flowering Calculator to assist sowing and variety management decisions.

