**Presidents Report 2021**

Like many organisations, SANTFA has experienced its share of swings and roundabouts in the past year, with Covid causing plenty of headaches and frustrations. However, it has been rewarding to see new ideas come to fruition, as well as greater efficiencies achieved, over the same period. We warmly welcomed communications specialist Deb Baum and Jennifer Faulkner, from Valley Bookkeeping Services, to the SANTFA team to assist with general communications and administration duties. This will greatly reduce the workload of day-to-day tasks that Board members have been carrying out and allow us, as a Board, to focus instead on our significant project work and the future direction of SANTFA.

The introduction of our Members Portal was a significant achievement this year, giving members easy access to our tremendous archive of information, including past and present newsletters, webinar videos and research and development news. The Portal also provides an opportunity to renew memberships, as well as allowing new members to sign up. Special mention must go to Gareth Scholz for his efforts in getting the Portal up and running and to DEW for providing the funding for this to occur. Already, we have seen our membership numbers building as a result of the streamlined sign-up process, although acknowledge that unforeseen problems with our membership drive earlier this year has had some impact.

Once again, our annual conference fell victim to Covid and has had to be postponed to next February. While this was frustrating for all involved, it did give us the opportunity to run another successful webinar series. The highly informative series covered green nitrogen, soil carbon and nitrogen and human and plant health interaction. All three webinars are already available on the Members Portal for those who were not able to attend or want to view them again. The webinars were put together with the support of our partners, SAGIT and DEW, who agreed to modify existing sponsorship agreements so that we could deliver the three-part series to our members (with the final webinar also being made available to the public). We appreciate the patience our commercial sponsors have shown in the light of our cancelled and postponed face-to-face events and encourage all members to look out for them on our website and social media feeds. SANTFA could not operate without their ongoing generosity and support.

Our R&D arm continued its excellent work, delivering a variety of projects across South Australia and further afield. Some of these successful projects include the flame retardants, seed priming, a new pest control product, intercropping and the Aqua Till system. Updates and results on all our research and development work are shared with members across the newsletter and the portal. R&D manager Greg Butler also provides details of progress and milestones across SANTFA’s social media channels so be sure to follow them to keep up-to-date.

We continue to look for new members to join the Board and would be happy to discuss the role of Board members with anyone interested in putting up their hand. We also encourage you to reach out to farming colleagues who may have lost touch with SANTFA and direct them to our website or a Board member to learn the benefits of rejoining.

I would like to thank all the Board members and the R&D team for their support of my role as president over the past three years. I would like to particularly acknowledge Jamie Phillis, who has been tireless in his role as treasurer over the past few years. Jamie and I are now stepping down from our positions but look forward to continuing to contribute as Board members throughout the coming year. Finally, thank you to all our members for supporting us through these uncertain times. We have worked hard to ensure we deliver value to both you and your farming businesses and we appreciate your commitment to no-till and conservation agriculture.

Thank you