

Diversity is the hallmark of this year's SANTFA conference, with topics including pasture cropping, cover cropping, eco farming and soil ecology, robotics and drones, international perspectives on no-till, succession and generational farming and crop insurance.

Register now to be part of this year's exciting event and hear:

- Peter Johnson, an award-winning Canadian agronomist with a passion for cereals, no-till and social media.
- Colin Seis, the NSW farmer who developed pasture cropping.
- Ohio professor and ECO Agriculture advocate Jim Hoorman.
- Agronomist and AHRI team member Peter Newman on weed control to tackle herbicide resistance.
- Eyre Peninsula growers Graeme and Tristan Baldock on succession planning and generational farming.

registration by Feb 9  
*Early Bird*



*Barossa Arts & Convention Centre  
Magnolia Road, Tanunda*



# PROGRAM

7:45–8:15	Registration
8:15–8:25	Welcome: Tom Robinson, SANTFA President
8:25–8:35	Opening address: Richard Konzag, GRDC Southern Panel member
8:35–9:35	James Hoorman ~ ECO Farming: improving soil ecology and nutrient recycling
9:35–10:35	Peter Newman ~ The future – diverse weed control
10:35–11:00	Morning Tea
11:00–12:00	Peter Johnson ~ Making no-till work!
12:00–12:40	Lunch
12:40–1:40	Graham & Tristan Baldock ~ Generational farming
1:40–2:25	Forum 1 A. Robin Schaeffer ~ Using weather forecasting B. Geronimo Watson & Bill Crabtree ~ Wheat breeding & genetic technology, Suppression of biotech innovations – can we change this? C. John Rochecouste ~ Crop Insurance in plain English
2:25–2:50	Afternoon tea
2:50–3:50	Forum 2 A. Alan Sundermeier ~ Predicting future soil productivity after long-term no-till B. Ed Scott, Michael Eyres & Peter Kitschke ~ Liquid nutrition and soil use efficiency C. Salah Sakkarieh ~ Robotics in agriculture, Andrew Bate ~ Robotics for Australian agriculture, Joe Koch ~ Applied PA in the Upper North, combining UAV images and field data to get results
4:00–5:00	Colin Seis ~ Perennial cover cropping
5:00–5:50	Q&A panel session with available speakers
5:50–6:00	Closing comments: Tom Robinson, SANTFA President
6:00–6:30	Drinks

# ROBOTS TO ECO FARMING

Topics from robots and biotechnology to no-till technology and integrated weed management, plus forays into cover cropping Australian and US style, weather forecasting, crop insurance and succession make this year's conference an event not to be missed.

ECO Farming advocate **JAMES HOORMAN** is an Assistant Professor and Extension Educator with Ohio State University Extension.

Jim specialises in cover crops, soil health and water quality and advocates ECO Farming to improve soil productivity and nutrient efficiency and increase crop production while protecting the environment.

ECO Farmers work with natural ecological processes, using farming practices and technologies to improve the soil and enhance crop production by enabling plants and microbial systems to augment man-made inputs while providing agro-ecosystem services including clean air, clean water and healthy soil.

And that requires live plants with extensive root systems to efficiently feed soil microbes and improve soil structure, creating a healthy, dynamic ecosystem that enhances soil productivity for crop production.

WA agronomist **PETER NEWMAN**, communications leader with the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI), will explore weed control options in a cropping environment in which a herbicide is no longer the answer to every weed control problem.

Until recently growers didn't need great crop rotation, crop competition or even a good spray knockdown, he says, because when weeds emerged they sprayed them and they went away.

Herbicide resistance has changed the game but Peter is confident growers can operate profitably and maintain high levels of cropping provided they adopt an aggressive mind-set, use diverse weed control methods, make every effort to continually erode the seed bank and recognise that not every solution comes in a drum or a gene.

He will discuss WA growers' experiences with weed control methods such as harvest-time weed seed elimination and crop competition, how diverse weed control methods can be integrated into cropping systems and how to avoid glyphosate resistance or manage resistant weed populations.

**PETER JOHNSON** is a Canadian agronomist and extension specialist with a passion for cereals, no-till and social media.

A soil and crop specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Peter specialises in cereal crops, production systems, fertility management, conservation tillage and site-specific management.

Peter sees no-till as an integrated system, with management starting from harvest of the previous crop and the potential for even a small change to dramatically impact the end result.

He will address practical aspects of no-till including equipment options, modifications, adaptations, rotations, cover crops, fertility, weed control, insects, plant populations and growth implications.

**GRAEME** and **TRISTAN BALDOCK**, who farm at Buckleboo, will draw on their personal experiences and perspectives to explore issues around succession and 'generational farming'.

The father and son work together in the family business, which has been through multiple re-structures in the past 40 years or so and there is much to be learnt from their observations on succession planning, managing the transition from one generation to the next and the consequent role changes.

They will address aspects of the process that saw Tristan become an integral working part of the family business, how the decisions taken were implemented and their impacts in the family and the business.

**COLIN SEIS** owns and runs 'Winona', an 800ha property in the central tablelands of NSW, where he grows about 200ha of cereal crops a year and runs 4,000 fine wool Merino sheep and a major Kelpie stud.

Over the past 25 years Colin has developed methods to regenerate farms and the landscape while producing profitable, productive crops and livestock. The best-known of these methods is 'pasture cropping', in which cereal crops are sown into native perennial pastures.

Colin will outline the principles behind pasture cropping, how to get started with the concept and how to manage the interaction between permanent native pasture and cereal crops to maximise productivity and profitability.

Loxton farmer **ROBIN SCHAEFER**, a Nuffield Scholar, is General Manager of the collaborative farming business Bulla Burra, which manages 13,000ha of land, cropping 9,000ha of wheat, canola, barley, chickpeas and lentils a year.

Robin will draw on findings from his 2012 scholarship research into weather forecasting and his experience with forecasts and decision-making on Bulla Burra to look at how to get greater value from weather forecasts when making farm management decisions.

He suggests growers improve their understanding of weather forecasting and the strengths and weaknesses of the different methods and models, and source forecasts from multiple sources, rather than relying on one forecaster.

**GERÓNIMO WATSON** is the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Bioceres, an integrated biotechnology group with a focus on seed biotech, molecular farming technologies and bio-energy solutions.

His presentation on the potential of the HB4 trait being introduced by Bioceres and its partners to increase the reliability and yield potential of crops grown in saline soils and dry conditions will be part of the forum session on biotechnology.

No-till pioneer, advocate and consultant and WA farmer **BILL CRABTREE** will team with Gerónimo to discuss why Australia has not fully embraced bio technology, the implications of that and what can be done about it.

Bill will discuss the experiences of WA growers using GM technology, compare illustrative gross margins for GM and non-GM crops and discuss the flow-on effect of GM crops on weed control.

**JEAN-FRANCOIS (JOHN) ROCHECOUSTE** is an Industry Research Fellow in Agribusiness at the Australian Centre for Sustainable Business Development at the University of Southern Queensland and honorary Executive Officer of Conservation Agriculture Australia.

John will discuss ways of protecting farm businesses from bankruptcy due to crop loss, why previous attempts at multi-peril crop insurance in Australia have failed and the risk new crop insurance schemes tailored specifically for Australia might also fail.

Insurance needs to be part of an overall risk strategy, he says, but growers cannot rely on insurance alone to offset a crop loss and crop insurance limited to 'hail' and 'fire' events is inadequate to protect a farm's business risk.

**ALAN SUNDERMEIER**, an Ohio State University Extension Educator involved in sustainable agriculture research and education, will present results from a 50-year tillage comparison trial that show long-term no-till can be successful and suggest soil productivity can be improved by adopting no-till practices.

In the on-going trial, comparing the performance of three different crop rotations on no-till and ploughed soils, recent yields from continuous corn on continuous no-till were 42 bushels an acre more than from continuous corn on ploughed soil.

**SALAH SUKKARIEH**, Professor of Robotics and Intelligent Systems at the University of Sydney and Director of Research and Innovation at the Australian Centre for Field Robotics, is an international expert in field robotic systems.

Salah will illustrate the potential of robotics in rural production and how they can be used to obtain important information relevant to yield, crop structure and locating invasive species.

**ANDREW BATE** is a Queensland farmer who is also a foundation director of SwarmFarm Robotics.

Andrew is working on a technology to 'unshackle' farming from large, complicated machinery; substituting 'swarms' of small autonomous machines that are simpler, more versatile and can do the same tasks with greater precision.

**ED SCOTT** and **MICHAEL EYRES**, from Injekta Field Systems, and Jamestown farmer **PETER KITSCHKE** will explore issues around the use of fluid injection technology to improve soil function, enhance the performance of farming systems and increase crop productivity.

This exploration will centre on Peter's experiences with Injekta, fluid delivery and the management strategies he has implemented to improve soil and crop performance and the resilience and sustainability of his cropping system.

Upper North farmer **JOE KOCH** is using Precision Agriculture (PA) to improve efficiency and productivity on his properties at Booleroo Centre and Georgetown, with crop and paddock monitoring using sensors on an un-manned aerial vehicle (UAV) his latest PA tool.

Joe will discuss his experiences with PA and UAV sensing, how he is using the data from the aerial images obtained using the UAV technology and some results from on-farm trials monitored using the UAV-mounted sensors.

# REGISTRATION FORM

**TAX INVOICE** ABN: 85 250 602 181

Please keep a copy of this form for your records. A receipt will only be forwarded on request.

SANTFA Member (name) .....

Please list names of attendees below, including registering member.

Attendee 1 .....

Attendee 2 .....

Attendee 3 .....

Attendee 4 .....

Note: No refunds, but transfers permitted.

Do you agree for SANTFA to pass on your contact detail to SAGIT for the purpose of receiving research results in the future. **Yes** or **No** (please circle)

## FORUM SELECTIONS

Please circle one selection per person (A or B) for each Forum session.

Attendee 1	Forum 1	A	B	C	Forum 2	A	B	C
Attendee 2	Forum 1	A	B	C	Forum 2	A	B	C
Attendee 3	Forum 1	A	B	C	Forum 2	A	B	C
Attendee 4	Forum 1	A	B	C	Forum 2	A	B	C

## REGISTRATION & PAYMENT DETAILS

Note the pre-conference BBQ buffet at the Weintal Hotel/Motel at 6.30 pm on Thursday, February 26.

Please insert the relevant number of registrations in each box

	Cost	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Member, family & employee registration(s)	\$180	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-member registration(s)*	\$340	.....
<b>Sub-total</b> .....		\$.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Bird rebate – save \$30 (subtract \$30 for each registration paid before Feb 9)		.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Rate – \$15 extra (add \$15 for each registration paid after Feb 16)		.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-conference buffet	\$30	.....
<b>Total payment due</b> .....		\$.....

## PAYMENT METHOD

- Cheque (make payable to SANTFA)
- EFT (use your surname as a reference)  
BSB: 105 030 Acc no: 043 080 540 Acc name: SA No-tillage farmers
- Credit card     VISA     Mastercard

Name on credit card ..... Expiry Date ..... / .....

Card Number

Total Amount \$ ..... Signature .....

Please complete the above information and post or fax registration and payment to SANTFA, PO Box 923, Clare, SA 5453 or fax (08) 8842 1875.

For further enquiries contact Leighton Pearce at SANTFA on 0427 688 028 or admin@santfa.com.au



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