

# Crop Science Society of SA



Date: 26/7/2023

Meeting commenced 7:30 pm

**Present:** C Butler, D Petersen, J Rose, S Schmitt, N Wittwer, C Butler, R Wheeler, D Keetch,  
Online attendees : D Stephenson, A Pfitzner, J Bruce, D Crawford.

**Apologies :** None

<b>Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Previous AGM minutes read by S Schmitt, moved N Wittwer, accepted J Rose</li></ul>
<b>Correspondence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>
<b>Business Arising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>
<b>General Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presidents report given by D Petersen transcript below,</li></ul> <p>CSSSA AGM 2023</p> <p>It is with gratitude and pleasure that I present this annual report as my final term as President of the Crop Science Society comes to an end. As we reflect on the previous year, I am confident that we have continued to deliver on our objective of closing the knowledge gaps between applied and academic fields of agriculture.</p> <p>Over the past year, the Society has maintained a strong emphasis on fostering synergy and collaboration within the cropping industry. We facilitated the SARDI root disease workshop for the Mid-North, while also partnering on a project with funding from the SA Drought Hub that demonstrates new bread wheat germplasm with potential for improved osmotic adjustment and performance under water limited environments. The willingness of presenters to embrace virtual presentations also enabled the Society to engage with some of the nation's leading researchers on topics ranging from nitrogen management to hyper yielding crop research and machine learning for weed control.</p> <p>Our regional technical forum with the Northern Sustainable Soils Group created a mutually beneficial platform for increased visibility, while also improving membership engagement beyond those that can attend meetings at Roseworthy. This served as the perfect opportunity to present Sam Trengove with the inaugural John Both Memorial Award for his significant contributions to crop protection and sustained excellence in field crop research.</p> <p>The Society once again nurtured education initiatives to encourage student development and participation. The Society hosted a BBQ lunch on the October crop walk to help the second-year agronomy students develop professional connections and gain insights from members. This event was clearly impactful and was strong evidence of building the next generation of crop science members, as 22 students joined the membership. The Society also contributed a quarter page advert in the 2023 AIA Student Compendium. The 2023 edition of the Compendium featured 230 entries with the shared goal of linking students of agriculture with industry. The Society has also committed to sponsoring the Adelaide Show Grains and Fodder competition for the Junior Grain Class to generate interest in the grains industry.</p>

The Society elevated its commitment to advancements in weed management by sponsoring the Northern post-conference tour of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Australasian Weeds Conference. As many would be aware, the Weed Management Society of South Australia was a hosting partner of this conference and have previously donated significant funds to our Society. Consequently, investment in this space was also important to recognise the financial stability that been forged through this generous contribution.

As we review technical forum attendance, it is clear there has been reductions in virtual and physical participation. As a Society, we are committed to addressing these trends and finding creative solutions to ensure inclusivity and meaningful participation for our members in the future. In contrast, we have observed a 5% increase in the average open rate of the newsletter, while there has been a minor decline in the unique clicks to access the embedded content. These patterns of engagement are a clear reflection of the immense value that our membership derives from the newsletter, which is largely the product of Judy Rathjen procuring and formatting relevant articles. I would like to offer Judy a special note of appreciation for her tireless work in this area over many years.

Although easy to overlook and underappreciate, investment in AgCommunicators since 2019 has strengthened the backbone of this Society and will undoubtedly shape future improvements in membership experience. AgCommunicators has supported the development and distribution of newsletters, website updates and membership administration. Over the past 12 months, AgCommunicators also assisted the Society with transitioning to Square for online membership payments. Our next step is to collaborate with AgCommunicators for digital content creation and external promotion. I would like to acknowledge Anita from AgCommunicators for her communication and administration support of the Society.

I am pleased to report that our number of paid members has remained relatively stable, with only a small reduction compared to the previous financial year. I would like to acknowledge our Treasurer Craig Davis for his efforts in recouping unpaid membership, which totalled \$440. While the slight decrease in overall membership prompts us to explore opportunities for growth and improvement, the active involvement of our current members continues to be the foundation of the Society's success.

Lastly, I would also like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the committee. Their generous contributions have extended beyond the governance and development needs of the Society, which is reflected through our many successes over the past year.

I am deeply grateful for the support from our members and cherish the privilege I had of being president of this Society. As we transition to new leadership, I am excited to witness the Society's continued evolution and accomplishments.

- President's report accepted, moved C Butler, accepted N Wittwer
- Reviewing technical forum attendance there has been a reduction in attendance in person and online, average attendance 17 people, down 40% and 45% year on year with respect to in person and online attendance. 5% increase in the open rate of the newsletter. Newsletter still highly valued.
- Ag Communicators relationship has been good,
- Paid members have remained stable

<p><b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b></p>	<p>Treasurers Report – Presented by Dan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profit of \$952</li> <li>• Increasing membership to \$50 has improved the financial viability of the society.</li> <li>• Quite a lot of money spent of promotion and sponsorship</li> <li>• Net cash position increased slightly with the term deposit. Craig Davis will explore alternative rates with the Term Deposit?</li> <li>• Books yet to be audited, Craig received a quote of \$500 to audit the books.</li> <li>• Profit and loss presented to members.</li> <li>• C Butler has found out w</li> </ul> <p>Dan moved that the treasurers report be accepted as true and accurate of the society's finances for the 22/23 period on behalf of C Davis, second C Butler. D Petersen moved that the recommendations provided by the treasurer be accepted by the membership, second J Rose.</p> <p>Signatories to remain as Craig Davis, Neil Wittwer and Anthony Pfitzner moved D Petersen, Second C Butler</p> <p>No life membership nominations  No nominations for the John Both memorial award – some suggestions include Michael Moodie, Bazz Head, Brian Hughes  No applications for the Duncan Correll award.</p>
<p><b>Any other business</b></p>	<p><u>Election of Office Bearers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ President D Peterson thanked all committee members &amp; the executive for their contribution to the CSSSA whilst in term.</li> </ul> <p>C Butler then chaired the meeting for the process of election of office bearers.</p> <p>Positions for 2023/2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President: Jade Rose Nominated D Keetch Elected unopposed</li> <li>• Vice President: David Keetch Nominated D. Peterson Elected unopposed</li> <li>• Secretary: Stefan Schmitt Nominated N Wittwer Elected unopposed</li> <li>• Treasurer: Craig Davis Nominated D Petersen Elected unopposed</li> <li>• Public Officer: Peter Smith Nominated D Keetch Elected unopposed</li> <li>• Committee nominated as it stands by S Schmitt, all positions declared accommodated C Butler</li> </ul> <p>AGM concluded 7:55pm</p>
<p><b>Next meeting</b></p>	<p>Tuesday 29th of August 2023</p>