

# CHAIR'S WELCOME

## THE YEAR

2020 will go down as a year that tested our ability to work on farm, in business and in our rural communities. COVID-19 had a big impact on the way we interacted with the broad range of people who support a farming business from staff, to agronomists, agents and to take advantage of training and development opportunities.

Despite the challenges, growers, the community, and BCG responded quickly to ensure we stayed connected and continued to deliver results. I am pleased to present the 2020 research results compendium to you. It is packed with articles that reflect our broad research ranging from the third year of nitrogen research trial to new investigations into Spot Form of Net Blotch control in barley, oat hay agronomy outcomes, pulses grown at Pyramid Hill and much more.

For the first time in BCG's history this publication will also be delivered in electronic format. This represents improved usability of the vast amount of research conducted each year at BCG.

As one of the 39 research sites established across the Wimmera, Mallee and north central regions of Victoria, BCG's main research site at Trevor Grogan's property at Curyo looked simply outstanding. It is a credit to the research team for the work they put into making the site so presentable.

## STAFF AND COVID

Thank you to our CEO, Fiona Best, for a terrific year and for supporting the staff to deliver the research, extension, innovation, and finance operations of BCG.

COVID has had an impact on many things this year. However, I would like to acknowledge the staff for how quickly they responded to a new way of working. The 2020 Research and Extension program continued with very little disruption to the overall outcomes but with a high level of adaptation.

Research and Communications Manager, Tom Draffen, and his team did a fantastic job in capturing the main site and sharing research with our members online via the Virtual Main Field Day.

Thank you to all the staff for their exceptional contribution in Research, Extension, Innovation, Finance and Administration this year.

In 2020 we farewelled Pru Cook, Amy Harwood, Angela Mazur, Cathy Schroder and Cameron Taylor. We welcomed Tom Draffen and Janine Batters to the Extension and Communications team and Louisa Ferrier returned from maternity leave. We also have two new Research Agronomists joining our team – Tariq Geradi who joined us at the start of February and James Taylor who will start work for BCG in March.

It is exciting that one of our staff will be taking up the prestigious 2020 Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford. Congratulations Kate Maddern.

In October, it was a pleasure to present the Harm van Rees Award to oilseed disease expert, Steve Marcroft, in acknowledgement of his significant, ongoing work to help growers minimise disease in canola, particularly the impact of blackleg.

## THE BOARD

It was my great pleasure to welcome Dr Ainslie Waldron and Dr James Hunt to the Board in February this year. I'd like to thank the retiring Peter Meyers for his long-standing contribution, particularly in financial management, corporate experience, and governance.

## OUR MEMBERS AND COLLABORATORS

Thank you to our members who provide ideas via our Advisory and Research Committees and for contributing land for research sites.

I'd also like to thank BCG's investors, collaborators and partners, including the philanthropic sector, who make our work possible.

I hope 2021 is a prosperous and productive one for you all.



**John Ferrier**  
Chair