

# CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

## Welcome to the Members only 2018 BCG Season Research Results Compendium.

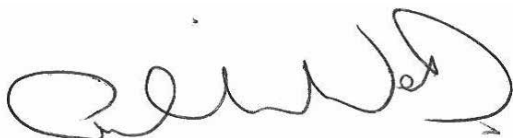
As usual it is packed full of relevant scientific research results compiled by our BCG staff from research conducted mostly on farmer properties in the Victorian Mallee and Wimmera. This year we had approximately 11,000 trial plots plus paddock scale assessments spread across a 230km radius from Birchip. Our reach is growing, and this is reflected in the research presented in this compendium from sites from as far afield as Ouyen and Longerenong.

Although the pressures of harvest were not as extreme as last year, the busy time for BCG's operations staff who were not just harvesting, but sampling, testing and measuring, ran particularly smoothly this season. Our new research laboratory, funded by a Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) Infrastructure Grant, our share farming paddock and BCG member contributions, was formally opened in July by GRDC Managing Director Dr Steve Jefferies and by November it was a hive of activity and efficiency.

In this compendium you will find articles on projects that BCG have been working on for some years such as the National Paddock Survey, controlled traffic and plant establishment. Unfortunately, our work on frost is as relevant this year as ever. Also, in the mix is work that reflects the changing practices and priorities of farming including articles on improving how we get the most out of our break crops (can we still call them a break crop when they now constitute such a large percentage of paddocks?), early sowing of wheat and managing the juggling act of chemical use with different crop types.

Congratulations to the BCG team on, once again, putting together an excellent array of research results while the rest of us have been enjoying a summer break. The ability of the team to produce useful and applicable results in such a challenging season is particularly commendable and reflects the experience and knowledge we have at BCG in terms of trial site choice, management and scientific rigour.

Finally, please take the time to read through the many articles in this compendium and don't forget to keep it on the bookshelf for future reference.



**Caroline Welsh**  
Chair