



Office Use Only

Project Code	
Project Type	

GROWER GROUP FINAL REPORT 2017

Applicants must read the *SAGIT Group Allocation Guidelines 2017* prior to completing this form. These guidelines can be downloaded from www.sagit.com.au

Final reports must be emailed to admin@sagit.com.au as a Microsoft Word document in the format shown **within 2 months** after the completion of the Project Term.

PROJECT CODE	: UNFS316G
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EVENT TITLE	(10 words maximum)
Upskilling women of the Upper North in sustainable and productive farming principles	

EVENT DURATION

*These dates **must** be the same as those stated in the Funding Agreement*

Event Start date	1/6/2016	
Event End date	1/9/2017	
SAGIT Funding Request	20017/18	\$

EVENT SUPERVISOR DETAILS

The project supervisor is the person responsible for the overall project

Title:	First Name:	Surname:
Mrs	Ruth	Sommerville

ADMINISTRATION CONTACT DETAILS

The Administration Contact is the person responsible for all administrative matters relating to the project

Title:	First Name:	Surname:
Mrs	Ruth	Sommerville
Organisation:		
Upper North Farming Systems		
Mailing address:		
Telephone:	Facsimile:	Mobile:
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EVENT REPORT

Provide clear description of the following:

Executive Summary (200 words maximum)

A few paragraphs covering what was achieved, written in a manner that is easily understood and relevant to SA growers. Report on the attendance at the event, relevant photos could also be attached. A number of key dot points should be included which can be used in SAGIT communication programs

Ladies on the Land has approached the end of the Upskilling Women in the Upper North in Sustainable and Productive Farming Principles. Our group is pleased to report that five very successful workshops have been delivered over the 16/17 financial year.

The first two workshops held on 21st June and 16th August were based around Agronomy and delivered by Lou Flohr – female agronomist from Lameroo. These were held at the Booleroo Community Centre and had 22 and 11 attendees respectively. Attendees came from a great area around the Mid North from Hoyleton to Orroroo and included women from both farming backgrounds and women working in the agriculture industry looking to learn more. All had varying levels of agronomy knowledge. Lou created a Facebook Page where all the attendees were encouraged to choose a ‘focus paddock’, a paddock on their farm that they have been monitoring and watching its growth and development. Many had brought plant samples from their paddocks, some even had digital AgWorld records which gives a detailed summary of what has been sprayed and spread on their crops. Everyone was able to use the Zadok growth stage chart to identify what growth stage their crop was at. Lou then went through and explained the theory of crop rotations and why we include them in the farming system. There are many advantages and examples of how legume and other break crops such as pasture, canola or even hay can benefit a farmer’s bottom line. After a hearty lunch, the group ventured out to local paddocks of canola and peas belonging to Todd Orrock, Booleroo Centre, here they identified different weed species and discussed the crop rotation history of each paddock. They also used a pH kit to determine the soil type of each field, and discussed the implication of soil pH on crop choice. A visit to local agronomy business ‘Northern Ag’ brought a discussion about chemical groups and how they are used in a tank mix. Lou gave everyone advice on understanding chemical groups by reading labels and where to find information on how to use them.

The second two workshops were delivered by Judy Wilkinson and were based around succession planning and communication. James Hillcoat from Rural Directions also delivered a session in the first workshop based around ‘grain marketing’. These topics were identified as important when the women were surveyed at the completion of the agronomy workshops. The first workshop was held on the 18th of October and the second on the 31st of January. In the first workshop Judy covered topics such as entering and exiting farming businesses, roles for women in the farming business and common issues that can arise when farming with family members. These conversations revealed that nearly all of the women in the group had had some challenges in their farming businesses and could benefit from some third party advisory skills. Most went away feeling

enlightened and positive about how they may be able to make some changes to move their business forward and make it a better working environment for all involved.

The fifth workshop, held on the 15th June 2017 including two different topics – Native Vegetation on the farming property, and Safe Ag Systems. The guest speakers for this workshop were Anne Brown, from Greening Australia and Caroline Graham from Safe AG Systems. Anne, who works for Greening Australia is a wealth of knowledge and gave an informative talk on what native species to grow on your property and how to use trees and shrubs to your advantage for stock or soil amelioration. Anne has offered her expertise to the group in the future and can offer information on farm vegetation planning.

Caroline Graham informed us of our new obligations for Workplace Health and Safety for us as farm business owners. While initially daunting, there are systems that can be set up, such as a cloud based system to ensure records are sufficient and farming properties are as safe as they can be. Caroline's talk was a huge eye opener for many women who have not yet set up Workplace Health and Safety policies in their businesses.

A free crèche for young children has been made available in the town for all workshops and has been utilised by both local women and by women outside of the area. It has been fed back in surveys that this was a very useful service and meant that more women could attend. On all occasions however, there have been some mothers who have brought very young babies along to the workshops and this was embraced by guest speakers and all other attendees. The creation of an inclusive environment where women could come along and comfortably learn new skills, meet likeminded women, or even just to share their experiences and hardships is something our group is incredibly proud of. The guest speakers Lou Flohr, James Hillcoat, Judy Wilkinson, Anne Brown and Caroline Graham have clearly allowed for a free flow of dialogue and the overwhelming feedback was that they 'made ag information really understandable'. It has also been really positive to see the feedback from farmers in the area whose partners attended the agronomy workshops, one said 'my wife and I have worked and farmed together for fifteen years and for the first time ever we had a conversation about crop rotations and chemical mixes, it has been really valuable learning to bring back to our business.'

The Ladies on the Land Upskilling Women Workshops have been an overwhelming success. They have given women real practical skills and knowledge to take back to their own farming enterprises. Over forty women in total attended the Upskilling Women workshops. Many are now connected via our Facebook page which has grown from 3800 followers to 6176 or via our Twitter Page. Some feedback from attendees:

- Male farmers thanking the group – some had never before had a conversation with their wife or partner about cropping or agronomy and found this very positive
- Women commented that they had new connections with other women in the district – a common interest in farming
- The way that the women were able to share their experiences in a non-threatening environment cannot be understated
- Information was delivered in a way that would actually be remembered, it was pitched at the right level and could easily be applied straight to their farms

- Women felt inspired and could now see an active pathway in making positive changes to the running of their own farming businesses
- There were several women who have taken skills and inspiration from our workshops and changed the structure and operation of their farming business to become more efficient and have a better succession plan pathway

Overall Performance

A concise statement indicating the extent to which the objectives were achieved, a list of personnel who participated in the Event including co-operators, and any difficulties encountered and the reasons for these difficulties.

The workshop series has achieved all of the desired objectives as the women

- Jessica Koch – Facilitator of the events and reporting on Social Media, also responsible for reporting back to SAGIT
- Ruth Sommerville, Mary Timms & Hannah Mikajlo represented the UNFS group at various expos
- Kaitlyn Woolford ran the Creche at Booleroo Centre Clubrooms
- Lou Flohr, Judy Wilkinson, James Hillcoat, Anne Brown & Caroline Graham were the speakers
- Administration and advertising was predominantly carried out by Mary Timms and Ruth Sommerville

There were no notable issues to overcome, Jessica was on maternity leave between workshop 4 & 5, Mary & Hannah were able to assist her in organizing workshop 5.

Application / Communication of Results

A concise statement describing activities undertaken to communicate the results of the event to the grains industry. This should include:

- *Main findings of the event in a dot point form suitable for use in communications to farmers;*
- *Publications and extension articles delivered as part of the project*

Note that SAGIT may directly extend information from Final reports to growers. If applicable, attach a list of published material.

Continual updates on the workshops were published in our monthly newsletter – 140 members. Highlights from the events were posted on the UNFS Facebook page (400 followers) and Ladies on the Land (6176 followers) Facebook Page. Jessica presented to a group of interested industry professionals in Jamestown, reporting on the success of the Ladies on the Land workshops and what these have offered to local women from a networking perspective and a skills perspective. This was very well received and Jess was applauded on the initiative. Practice change will not be measured directly, but will be captured in our annual review held with the UNFS Operations Committee. SAGIT was acknowledged at every possible opportunity both verbally and in logo format in our advertising and reporting.

POSSIBLE FUTURE EVENTS

Provide possible future plans of your Group arising from the project including potential for further work and partnerships.

Ladies on the Land would like to continue to provide these learning opportunities for women of the Upper North. This plan may include a bus trip to the Clare Valley visiting two keynote speakers. Linda Eldredge, a Nuffield Scholar based in Clare, will present on change, growth and agribusiness skills. Following this the group will visit Jim & Katherine Maitland's property at Hart to hear about 'diversification and value-adding to your grain business'. Alternatively, we may pursue Linda Eldredge as a guest speaker at a workshop in Booleroo Centre, speaking on 'building a resilient farming business'.

AUTHORISATION

Name: Jessica Koch

Position: Ladies on the Land Hub Representative

Signature: Jessica Koch

Date:25/07/2017

Submit report via email to admin@sagit.com.au as a Microsoft Word document in the format shown ***within 2 months*** after the completion of the Project Term.