GROUP 4  Leader: Michael Renton

How can I be involved effectively with Plant Production Systems Program related activities at UWA?

“Mix of youth and experience”

1) How can I effectively contribute to the activities of the Plant Production Systems (PPS) Program?
   a) Media releases
   b) Contributions to Newsletters
   c) New projects and involving the right people
   d) Hub for collaboration
   e) Training/sharing skills
   f) Supervising students
   g) Database of research expertise and skills
   h) Teaching undergraduates (guest lectures) with latest technologies
   i) Networks for collaboration (people, funding)

2) How can my established networks add value to this group?
   a) Multidisciplinary projects – more funding
   b) Access to skills/funding/students
   c) Other sources of expertise
   d) Capacity building
   e) Cross pollinating
   f) Care and respect for peoples contacts
   g) Building trust (in both directions)

3) How can the PPS Program and Institute of Agriculture (IOA) activities assist me in my role and future aspirations at UWA?
   a) State-wide/national significance – getting funding for large projects e.g. Climate Change, Free Air CO2 Enrichment
   b) Feedback from institute about – national/international funding, collaboration, students and what are the key issues
   c) Set up ARC Centre (expertise and collaboration)
   d) Showcase our research
   e) Increase community spirit – social aspects: institute wide morning teas and sundowners and invite farmers (reality check)
   f) Set up farmer database to inform scientists
   g) Information flow – farmers ↔ researchers
   h) Promote the university/researchers – be a face to he public and raise the profile
   i) Find us philanthropist/Alumni/farmers to provide funding
   j) Use examples of high profile human nutrition research to showcase agriculture in WA
   k) Sponsor someone to write the history of the Institute of Agriculture – good publicity
l) Make agriculture sexy
m) More anthropocentric research – use climate change to promote money for agricultural researchers, increase propaganda
n) Tackle national issues such as environmental issues
o) Bring in catchment councils with farmer groups for long term collaboration
p) Continuity and corporate memory

4) Do you believe we need IOA and its PPS Program? What can it do for me?
Yes, but at what cost?