



Breeder's

WEEK / 2026



Australian Crop
Breeders Ltd



GRDC
GRAINS RESEARCH
& DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

Tuesday 4 August 2026

TIME	TOPIC
8:30am	ACB activities update
9:30am	IP Australia update
10:00am	Morning tea
10:30am	International Keynote Speaker
11:30am	Followed by Panel discussion

TIME	TOPIC
12:30pm	Lunch
2:00pm	VTE Session
4:00pm	Afternoon tea
4:30pm	VTE Session

Wednesday 5 August 2026

WHEAT – APOLLO ROOM 1

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
8:30am	RustHapSelect	Lee Hickey	UQ
8:50am	High value resistance genes	Kathy Dibley	CSIRO
9:10am	Increasing resistance conferred by the wheat durable Lr34 multi-pathogen adult plant resistance gene	Mick Ayliffe	CSIRO
9:30am	Optimising genetic control of wheat rusts through high value resistance gene combinations	Laura Ziems	USYD
9:50am	Rust Phenomics and Late Sown Stem Rust Nurseries	Karanjeet Sandhu	USYD
10:10am	GRDC ACRCP next investment update	Shiwangni Rao	GRDC
10:30am	Morning tea		
11:30am	Staying ahead of wheat powdery mildew: informing better breeding decisions	Grace Fang	CCDM
11:45am	Identifying novel and optimal combinations of resistance genes to Septoria tritici blotch (STB)	Andrew Milgate	NSW DPIRD
12:00pm	Friends and Foes – Co-infection and Polymicrobial Interactions in Wheat	Kar-Chun Tan	CCDM
12:15pm	Are we on the right way of crown rot tolerance breeding	Cong Zhao	USYD
12:25pm	Introduction to biosecurity and preparedness for wheat blast project	Brad Baxter	NSW DPIRD
12:35pm	How the Vixen got its stripes: GWAS for multiple wheat disease resistances	Nick Fradgley	USYD
12:45pm	Question/discussion	Britt Kalmeier	AGT

BARLEY/OATS – APOLLO ROOM 2

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
8:30am	RustHapSelect	Lee Hickey	UQ
8:50am	High value resistance genes	Kathy Dibley	CSIRO
9:10am	Increasing resistance conferred by the wheat durable Lr34 multi-pathogen adult plant resistance gene	Mick Ayliffe	CSIRO
9:30am	Optimising genetic control of wheat rusts through high value resistance gene combinations	Laura Ziems	USYD
9:50am	Rust Phenomics and Late Sown Stem Rust Nurseries	Karanjeet Sandhu	USYD
10:10am	GRDC ACRCP next investment update	Shiwangni Rao	GRDC
10:30am	Morning tea		
11:30am	Malting barley market trends	Chris Carter	Grains Australia
12:10pm	Genetic characterisation and predictive SNP marker development for effective barley leaf rust resistance genes	Peter Dracatos	LaTrobe
12:35pm	Forget the Haystack, Just Find-It: Precision Breeding in Oats	Jan Gottlieb	Traitomic

RICE – PHOENIX ROOM

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
8:30am	AgriFutures Australia Update	Samantha Beresford	AgriFutures Australia
8:45am	Rice blast preparedness for the NSW rice industry	Ben Ovenden	NSW DPIRD
9:00am	Future Proofing the Australian Rice Industry: Disease Tolerance for Subtropical/Tropical Australia	Shona Wood	UQ
9:30am	Climate-Smart Black Rice: Breeding for Resilience and Quality	Szabolcs Lehoczki-Krsjak	SCU
10:00am	Supporting agronomy and breeding with physiology and modelling	Alex Wu	QAAFI
10:30am	Morning tea		
11:30am	Genetic improvement of lodging resistance in Australian rice	Chang Nguyen	UQ
12:00pm	Pre-breeding for cold tolerance and intermittent irrigation adaptation for high water productivity rice	Ricky Vinarao	UQ
12:30pm	Root Traits Associated with Water-Use Efficiency in the Australian Rice Diversity Panel	Renee De Boer	Swinburne
12:45pm	Leaf Traits Associated with Water-Use Efficiency in the Australian Rice Diversity Panel	Yvonne Fernando	Swinburne

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
1:00pm	Lunch (Industry Standard Phenology Classifications for grain crops – James Hunt)		
2:30pm	Global wheat market signals	Chris Carter	Grains Australia
3:20pm	Size matters: modifying spike architecture to enhance grain yield in bread wheat	Guilherme V. Yoshikawa	Adelaide University
3:30pm	Genome-wide association mapping of stomatal traits in a wheat diversity panel	Phetdalaphone Pathoumthong	Adelaide University
3:40pm	Improved GxE modelling for predicting cross performance in unobserved environments	Mitchell Eglinton	UQ
4:00pm	Afternoon tea		
4:30pm	Improving physiological understanding and crop yield of early sown wheat genotypes under constrained environments	Jordan Bathgate	CSU/NSW DPIRD
4:50pm	Combining non-destructive phenotyping tools to understand cultivar differences in wheat water-use patterns	Raul Gimenez	UQ
5:10pm	Sustainable & scalable strategy for improving crop establishment under dry sowing	Sunita Ramesh & Nick Booth	Flinders

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
1:00pm	Lunch (Industry Standard Phenology Classifications for grain crops – James Hunt)		
2:30pm	FastStack toolkit for barley net blotch resistance breeding – where are we now?	Eric Dinglasan	UQ
3:15pm	Developing a robust screening pipeline for barley head-loss	Matthew Tucker	Adelaide Uni
3:40pm	Expanding barley genetic diversity for new horizons in stress tolerance	Scott Boden	Adelaide Uni
4:00pm	Afternoon tea		
4:30pm	Barley leaf rust fungicide insensitivity & barley grass stripe rust evolution	Mumta Chhetri	USYD
5:00pm	Molecular basis of NFNB and SFNB fungicide insensitivity: Detection, evolution and industry implications	Fran Lopez-Ruiz	CCDM
5:30pm	Why has Australia become a hot spot for fungicide insensitivity evolution?	Mumta Chhetri & Fran Lopez-Ruiz & Hari Dadu	USYD,CCDM, SARDI

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
1:00pm	Lunch		
2:30pm	Strigolactones: Opportunities for Australian rice	Phil Brewer	La Trobe
2:50pm	C4 Rice: progress and perspectives	Florence Danila	ANU
3:10pm	Developing the Next Generation Low Glycaemic Index Rice in Australia	Vito Butardo	Swinburne
3:30pm	Variation of Fatty Acid Composition in Australian Rice: Varietal and Location Effects	Ashfak Ahmed Sabuz	CSU
3:45pm	Cold Plasma as a Post Harvest Tool: Gas Dependent Modifications of Brown Rice Quality Characteristics	Rianita Pramitasari	UQ



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PULSES – APOLLO ROOM 3

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
8:30am	Global pulse market signals	Chris Carter	Grains Australia
9:00am	Leveraging Australian multi-environment pulse data for industry impact	Cassandra Walker	DEECA
9:30am	Resistance screening for BGM in lentils and chickpeas	Rob Lee & Dharushana Thanabalasingam	CCDM & DEECA
9:50am	Pulse Disease Management and Program Update	Josh Fanning	DEECA
10:10am	Genetic resistance to Ascochyta blight in lentil	Lars Kamphuis	CCDM
10:30am	Morning tea		
11:30am	An overview of pulse pathology: SA perspective	Hari Dadu	SARDI
11:50am	Priority viruses in winter pulse crops and potential for resistance breeding	Joop Van Leur	NSW DPIRD
12:10pm	Impact of Sclerotinia white mould on pulse crops in eastern Australia	Kurt Lindbeck	NSW DPIRD
12:30pm	Ascochyta blight in chickpea – genetic insights and exploiting exotic resistance	Janine Croser	SARDI
12:45pm	Ascochyta blight in chickpea – resistance allele stacking	Sukhjiwan Kaur	DEECA

CANOLA – PRIVATE DINING ROOM (Ground floor)

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
8:30am	Update on quantitative blackleg resistance in Australia	Susie Sprague	CSIRO
9:00am	From Identification to Application: Characterisation of Major Blackleg R Genes	Shu Mohd Saad	UWA
9:30am	Methods and resources for sclerotinia stem rot resistance in canola	Mark Derbyshire	CCDM
10:00am	Turnip yellow virus - incidence, diagnostics, resistance/tolerance sources, vector management	Ben Congdon	WA DPIRD
10:30am	Morning tea		
11:30am	Long Hypocotyl Canola and Brassica B genome projects	Matt Nelson	CSIRO
12:00pm	Next-Generation Solutions for Canola Breeding: Better Utilising Diverse Data to Support Decisions for Improved Adaptation and Productivity	Shannon Dillon	CSIRO
12:30pm	Driving oilseed innovation: From science to market in a low-carbon future	Rosemary Richards	AOF

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
1:00pm	Lunch (Industry Standard Phenology Classifications for grain crops – James Hunt)		
2:30pm	Use of interspecific chickpea hybrids to address chilling tolerance	Amanuel Bekuma & Alem Gebre	WA DPIRD, DEECA
3:00pm	Improving heat tolerance in lentil	Irene Van den Berg	DEECA
3:20pm	Translating chickpea acid tolerance outputs into breeding programs – beyond QTL	Yong Jia & Zibei Lin	Murdoch & DEECA
4:00pm	Afternoon tea		
4:30pm	Where to from here for pulse pre-breeding?	Panel	
5:20pm	PulseBase: one-stop shop for genomics and pre-breeding research for pulses improvement.	Rajeev Varshney	Murdoch
5:40pm	GAIN X across genetic islands to unlock wild beneficial alleles for breeding impact and adaptive resilience	Judith Lichtenzveig	UWA

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
1:00pm	Lunch (Industry Standard Phenology Classifications for grain crops – James Hunt)		
2:30pm	Source to Sink project update	Harsh Raman	NSW DPIRD
3:00pm	Acid soil tolerance project update	Harsh Raman	NSW DPIRD
3:30pm	Gene-editing and pod shatter in canola	Mary Ma	ANU
4:00pm	Afternoon tea		
4:30pm	Gene-editing in canola and carinata – blackleg, oil content and photosynthesis	Tony Millar	ANU

Thursday 6 August 2026

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
8:30am	GRDC Update	Francis Ogbonnaya	GRDC
8:45am	Synbio bioplatfroms	Matthew Tucker	Adelaide Uni
9:00am	Advances in ensemble-based genomic prediction	Mark Cooper	UQ
9:30am	AI-enabled optimisation of pre-breeding genetic diversity for crop improvement	Meredith McNeil	CSIRO
10:00am	Morning tea		
10:30am	GRDC investment Genetic Technologies	Jess Hyles	GRDC
11:00am	The Australian Rice Management Dashboard	James Brinkhoff	UNE
11:30am	Sustainability and innovation: Navigating market drivers and access	Rosemary Richards	GTA
12:00pm	Promoting safe & considerate conduct in the applied agricultural research industry and broader agricultural community.	Alan Harris	Trialsafe

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION
12:30pm	Lunch		
2:00pm	Introduction to Australasian Plant Breeding Association (APBA)	Sukhjiwan Kaur	DEECA
2:10pm	AGG Strategic Partnership – Digital tools	Kerrie Forrest & Gabriel Keeble-Gagnere	DEECA
3:30pm	Student Showcase – Future of new breeding technologies and industry capability (with refreshments included)	Tony Millar and Stuart Roy	ARC Training Centre for Future Crops Development

4 – 6 AUGUST 2026

MANTRA LEGENDS SURFERS PARADISE, GOLD COAST

