



AUSTRALIAN GRAIN HARVESTERS ASSOCIATION INC

We harvest with pride Australia wide

January 2010 newsletter.

Well I hope everyone had a very happy Christmas and wish you all a prosperous new year, a bit more prosperous than the one that has just passed. The stories of crop yield & losses is very disappointing to say the least. In central & southwest NSW crop averages were very poor. Frost damage in the central area of NSW accounted for more than people first thought. Some pockets did better than others but what is disappointing people most is the price of grain. All the sharks that wanted the end of the single desk got their wish but are beginning to wonder what happened to the price rise of the golden grain everyone was so promoting. Victoria is winding down a very slow & wet harvest at present, grain quality is low due to constant wet weather.

COST QUESTION

I have had numerous calls from people asking how much should they charge for contract harvesting, most of whom are not members. If you are paying off a header & have not worked out what it is costing you to own, operate & maintain it than you had better sell it soon. The problem at the moment is finance is very easy to get because if it is not then sales will drop & machinery companies do not want that to happen

The other question is from the farmer who wants me to explain to them how can a contractor charge me \$500 / hour for a class 8 machine, well we have all worked it out & that's why he does not buy a machine.

2010 BI ANNUAL

Well this looks like it will be hosted by Neil & Margie Ferguson at Echuca on the mighty Murray River. Date is the 24 & 25th of February. On Wednesday we will be attempting to have a casual drive around to a couple of the machinery importers down there. Meeting will be on Thursday with a dinner cruise in the evening on MV Mary Ann, then out of there Friday. This is the most convenient time to have the meeting in Echuca as February is a busy month for them.

MEETING INFO ATTACHED.

RTA

I am still trying to get to the bottom of the uproar over the harvesters that were booked travelling through Hay at the beginning of harvest. I have spoken to the RTA & they are going to get back to me and will hopefully attend the Bi Annual meeting.

We need to have this clarified to get everybody doing the right thing to be compliant in the future with their movements. Farmers seem to be the main offenders travelling on PP rego.

Cheers for now & I look forward to seeing some people at Echuca

AGHA Sec Mick Crowe

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