

Cittgroups Australia 2001 - 2005

Judith Damiani
Australian Citrus Growers
Inc

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CT01015

CITTgroups Australia

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Collaborating Institutions:

Australian Citrus Growers
Murray Valley Citrus Board
Citrus Growers of South Australia
Riverina Citrus
New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
John Owen-Turner Pty Ltd
Northern Territory Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development
Western Australian Fruit Growers' Association Citrus Council
Western Australian Department of Agriculture
Northern Territory Horticulture Association
Growcom

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Media summary

CITTgroups (Citrus Information Technology Transfer Groups) Australia are regional grower groups that meet regularly to facilitate information exchange in an informal environment as part of the national citrus communications strategy.

The project is funded through the national citrus levy – research and development, which is managed by Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL).

Citrus industry personnel (researchers, extension officers, commercial providers, marketers, exporters, grower organisations and boards, and growers) contribute to the project through presentations, meetings and tours.

CITTgroups Australia is managed by the Australian Citrus Growers (ACG) Communication Manager and operates in the major citrus production areas through part-time coordinators: Riverland, Murray Valley, Riverina, NSW North and Central Coast, Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.

The CITTgroups Australia program is a critical component of the citrus industry's communication strategy and complements other communication initiatives such as the Australian Citrus News, ACG website, Citrus Growing Manual, Communications Manager role, ACG Annual Conferences and National Citrus Liaison Meeting.



Left: Steven Falivene, NSW DPI Extension Officer, explains crop forecasting to Riverina growers.

During the lifetime of the CT01015 CITTgroups Australia project:

- Approximately 6,299 people attended a CITTgroups Australia activity.
- 280 CITTgroups Australia activities were conducted.
- The main topics at CITTgroups Australia activities were:
 - Pruning
 - Pests and Diseases
 - Nutrition
 - Irrigation (and fertigation)
 - Communication (of projects)
 - Fruit size and crop load
 - Spraying and Chemicals
 - Phenology
 - Varieties
 - Orchard Management

The CITTgroups Australia project links directly to the citrus industry advisory committee (IAC) Strategic Plan through Outcome 5. Market information and research results applied by the citrus industry. However, because of the variety and complexity of information delivered by the CITTgroups Australia project, all IAC outcomes are dealt with throughout the range of grower activities.

These groups are considered, throughout the citrus industry, to be effective in facilitating the communication of research and development outcomes and in bringing about change in production practices on-farm (Yencken 1997, Bessen 1999).

In 2001 an evaluation of the impact of CITTgroups Australia on the awareness and uptake of new technologies and information by citrus growers was undertaken by Amabel Fulton, Rural Development Services. The results demonstrated a high level of impact of CITTgroups Australia on grower awareness and uptake of technology, 92% surveyed cited an example of what they had learned at a CITTgroups Australia meeting and 78% cited changes made as a result of learning.

The results also demonstrated a high level of impact of CITTgroups Australia on grower awareness and uptake of research and development outcomes, 86% surveyed cited at least one research project and 100% demonstrated knowledge of new varieties (Fulton 2001).

The CT01015 CITTgroups Australia project was reviewed in 2004 by key stakeholders including representatives from CITTgroups Australia Steering Committees, ACG member organisations, researchers, extension officers, commercial providers, growers and CITTgroups Australia coordinators. This review raised issues and created actions to be implemented in the new CITTgroups Australia project, including, regional and national planning, regional steering committees and national project branding.

Introduction

The CITTgroups Australia project this report refers to has been carried out for three years, the complete program has now been conducted in Australia for 18 years.

CITTgroups Australia was first introduced to Australian citrus growers in the Riverland region of South Australia in 1987 by David Ingerson after recognising the need for grower driven groups that discussed common problems and helped one another.

The concept was that the groups be informal, small and that they meet regularly or on an 'as needs' basis, in non threatening surroundings that encourage free discussion between growers on any problems or successes they have in any aspect of growing their business (Feutrill 1999).

The success of the initial Riverland groups lead to an expansion of the program into the Murray Valley and Riverina growing areas.

In 1993 a national CITTgroups Australia coordinator was appointed with national levy program funding who worked primarily in the Riverland, Murray Valley, and Riverina areas with occasional meetings in Coastal NSW, Queensland, NT and WA.

From 1995 the CITTgroups Australia program developed further with the appointment of part-time regional coordinators in Riverland, Murray Valley, Riverina, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

In 1998 the national coordinator position was lost when the incumbent took a position elsewhere. Australian Citrus Growers (ACG) have since provided national administrative support to the program.

During 2003 NSW Northern and Central Coast also joined CITTgroups Australia with a part time regional coordinator and contact.

Currently the CITTgroups Australia project is conducted in the Riverland, Murray Valley, Riverina, NSW Northern and Central Coast, Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Technology transfer

The CITTgroups Australia program is intended to deliver technology transfer in a group setting with a one-on-one advantage. International and local researchers, extension officers and commercial providers are invited to present research, production and marketing information.

The program is integrated with other citrus industry communication strategies, coordinators contribute to the Australian Citrus News (ACN), ACG website, regional newsletters and websites, media releases, ACG annual conferences, and the communications network.

CITTgroups Australia activities are advertised via email, fax, websites, regional newsletters, Australian Citrus News, SMS text, radio, television and local newspapers. Activities are often followed up with articles to newsletters and local media, and reported to citrus organisations. This part of information extension through the project is important to ensure technology transfer is achieved through a variety of mediums.

CITTgroups Australia coordinators conduct bimonthly teleconferences and an annual face-to-face meeting. These meetings allow the coordinators to be updated on regional activities, seasonal information, industry issues and an avenue to provide input into industry solutions. This is an essential part of the project in ensuring the coordinators have an opportunity to exchange information and ideas as well as contributing to the running of the project.

***Right:
Riverland citrus
growers attend
a CITTgroups
Australia
meeting on an
orchard.***



Activities

Various activities take place at CITTgroups Australia meetings, these are coordinated regionally and occasionally regions get together to hold meetings.

Activities:

Presentations – held on farms, government departments, regional organisation offices or research centres

Informal meetings and group discussions

Field walks

Bus tours / farm tours

Market visits

Processor visits

Packing shed visits

Forums

Conferences

Group discussions

CITTgroups Australia activities are aimed to provide a safe learning environment that growers can easily access, gain information, and provides an opportunity for input into the industry.



Left: WA citrus growers inspect fruit in a supermarket during a CITTgroups Australia tour.

Strategy and methodology

Each region has a part-time coordinator funded through the national levy program and supported by regional agencies. The role of the coordinator is to organise meetings, provide information, coordinate speakers, create regional CITTgroups Australia plans and contribute to the national CITTgroups Australia plan.

The meetings take place in various locations as required. Activities also vary according to the needs of the local growers, from presentations to farm tours and conferences to research centre visits.

The operation of the CITTgroups Australia program varies slightly between regions but generally follow the above model. The exception is the Central Burnett region (Gayndah and Munduberra) in Queensland, where local growers requested that the resource be used to provide organisational and secretarial support to the Central Burnett Horticultural Committee, which acts as a local research and development (R&D) committee rather than a technology transfer forum.

A CITTgroups Australia national coordinator, based in ACG, collects and collates activity reports and budgets, organises bimonthly coordinator teleconferences, and reports to the funding body HAL.

One of the contributing success factors in the project is the networking between coordinators and conducting an open communication policy between regions.

The CITTgroups Australia program is a critical component of the citrus industry's communication strategy and complements other communication initiatives such as the Australian Citrus News, ACG website, Citrus Growing Manual, Communications Manager role, ACG Annual Conferences and National Citrus Liaison Meeting.

Objective

By providing national resources to the CITTgroups Australia project the industry aims to promote the adoption of new technologies and the uptake of research and development (R&D) outcomes through improved communication between growers and also between regional and national citrus industry personnel.

Structure

ACG manages the project nationally, through the ACG Communications Manager, and reports to HAL:

- Project Manager: collects and distributes activity reports, organises teleconferences and annual meetings for the coordinators, reports milestones to HAL, develops the national plan, collates reviews and completes final report, collates information and submits proposal
- Office Manager: collects and distributes funding to regional coordinators, reports on financials

Part-time regional coordinators direct the project regionally, reports to ACG:

- Organises regional activities: meetings, presentations and study tours
- Manages regional budgets and plans.
- Completes activity reports and regional evaluations
- Contributes to national teleconferences and annual meeting
- Contributes articles regarding CITTgroups Australia activities to *Australian Citrus News* (ACN)

Riverland

Position combined with industry development officer (IDO) in regional grower organisation, Citrus Growers of South Australia, 1.5 days per week.

Murray Valley

Position combined with IDO in statutory board, Murray Valley Citrus Board, 1.5 days per week.

Riverina

Position combined with Executive Director role in statutory board, Riverina Citrus, 1.5 days per week.

NSW Central and North Coast

Position combined with extension officer role in NSW Department of Primary Industries, 0.5 days per week. The North Coast also has a local contact who organises regional activities, 0.3 days per week.

Queensland

Position held by consultant employed by regional grower organisation, Growcom, 1.25 days per week.

Northern Territory

Position combined with extension officer in NT Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development, 0.75 days per week.

Western Australia

Position combined with IDO position in grower organisation, WA Fruit Growers Association Citrus Council and extension officer in WA Dept of Agriculture, 0.75 days per week.

Budgets

Regional CITTgroups Australia coordinators are allocated a budget to cover salary, operating and travel expenses. This budget differs between the coordinators depending on size of area, amount of growers and production and working situation.

Allocation of part-time 'days per week' have been based on tonnage amounts from the regional area, this budget covers salary, travel and operations.

Regional budgets for the duration of the CT01015 CITTgroups Australia project:

Riverland	\$133,220
Riverina	\$134,220
Murray Valley	\$133,220
NSW Central Coast	\$28,460
NSW North Coast	\$19,930
Queensland	\$113,700
Northern Territory	\$66,590
Western Australia	\$70,770

The national budget allows for:

- Project manager travelling to visit all CITTgroups Australia regions
- Operating costs of national administration
- General training of coordinators
- Special projects which includes national planning, international guests, research national tours and publication printing
- Evaluation and development of project

National budget for the duration of the CT01015 CITTgroups Australia project:

Travel	\$21,150
Operating	\$10,600
Training	\$14,000
Other (contingency)	\$40,000
Other (kickstart)	\$1,000
Evaluation	\$20,000

Communication and reporting

Communication between the coordinators is extremely important as identified in the Bessen report (1999). This communication provides networking opportunities, planning, and is imperative in the coordination of presentations by specialist speakers, particularly international visitors, around the regions. To facilitate such communication, bi-monthly national teleconferences are held to provide a venue for coordinators to report activities and discuss upcoming opportunities and issues.

The coordinators and Project Manager (ACG Communication Manager) are resourced to meet in person at least once per year. An annual face-to-face meeting is held in a citrus growing region, this meeting also provides an opportunity for coordinators to gain an insight into the different growing regions and to discuss issues and solutions.

When possible the coordinators also take advantage of other industry events to get together, such as the ACG Annual Conference, National Citrus Liaison Meeting, National Citrus Field Day, Breeding and Evaluation Meeting or other meetings. In addition, Horticulture Australia is now holding an annual one or two day Industry Development Officer seminar to which all CITTgroups Australia coordinators are invited.

The coordinators are required to submit activity reports and six monthly expense reports to allow the preparation of milestone reports by the Project Manager.

CITTgroups Australia activities are reported on through regional publications as each coordinator sees fit: CGSA News, Cit Rep (MVCB), Riverina Citnews, Coastal Fruitgrowers' Newsletter, WA Fruitgrowers News, and NTHA News. Each coordinator is also requested to provide two reports per year on CITTgroups Australia activities in their region for the *Australian Citrus News*.



Left: CITTgroups Australia Kununurra plan for meetings in the coming year.

Evaluation and measurement of outcomes – impact and adoption

2001 Evaluation

Anecdotal evidence and continued grower participation in CITTgroups Australia, suggests the project is an effective means of technology. To investigate impacts on grower practices the CT015015 CITTgroups Australia project was evaluated in 2001 by Amabel Fulton, Rural Development Services.

The evaluation focussed on impacts, rather than activities, and was undertaken through focus group methods that involved regional coordinators. The aim was to gauge the impact of CITTgroups Australia, and to develop ways of increasing the impact to thereby ensure a high return on citrus grower levy investment.

The final report, 'Evaluation of the impact of CITTgroups on the awareness and uptake of new technologies and information by citrus growers', focussed on differences between participants and non-participants of CITTgroups in regard to:

- Awareness and uptake of information coming from levy funded R&D and marketing projects.
- Awareness and uptake of other new technologies and information.
- Rate of uptake of new technology.
- Perceptions of CITTgroups as an effective forum for information exchange.

The evaluation involved a series of focus groups and telephone interviews with 52 CITTgroups Australia participants and 31 non-participants in the major citrus growing regions of Australia.

A high level of impact of CITTgroups Australia was demonstrated on grower awareness and uptake of technology. The vast majority (78%) of CITTgroups Australia participants were able to give an example of what they had learned at a CITTgroups Australia activity and changes they had made to their production practices as a result. Results showed that 92% of growers learn at CITTgroups Australia activities, and 78% make changes to their practices as a result of this learning. CITTgroups Australia participants are better informed about citrus research and are adopting more 'best-practices' than non-participants.

A survey of best practices was based on the 'Citrus Practices for Profit Kit' developed with growers in the Murray Valley region. This indicated participants were using a greater number of best-practices than non-participants. Fifty four percent of participants reported implementing at least half of the 16 best-practices nominated in the survey. Only 32% of non-participants reported undertaking these best-practices. In all but one topic (chemical thinning), a higher proportion of CITTgroups Australia participants were undertaking the best-practice than were non-participants.

Overall participants perceived CITTgroups Australia to be a useful mechanism for learning about citrus practices and research. Non-participants also recognized the potential of CITTgroups Australia, but saw factors such as subject matter, quality of speakers, distance and timing as weaknesses of the groups.

For each region, growers had specific recommendations about which topics should be addressed, and how. The evaluation recommended these ideas be considered by CITTgroups Australia coordinators. Another recommendation was the need to improve communication to growers of R&D activities and outcomes by:

- Improving quantity and quality of R&D publications
- Improving linkages between coordinators and researchers
- Training of researchers in adult learning to ensure effective communication with growers.

Increasing grower involvement in the identification of R&D priorities at the local level was also recommended. The Central Burnett Horticultural Committee was an outstanding example of how growers could influence and benefit from government research activities.

It was also recommended that the program address non-participant perceptions of CITTgroups Australia through promotion of the benefits and one-on-one discussions with non-participants. For future evaluations, the authors recommended the CITTgroups Australia coordinators lead this process, giving them first hand knowledge and understanding of the impact of their activities.

Summary Table: Differences between CITTgroups Australia participants and non-participants

	Participants	Non-participants
Sample size (N)	52	31
Average number of activities participated in	10 – 20	1 – 5
Average years growing citrus	23	21
Range of age (average age)	22 – 75 (47)	29 – 66 (47)
Grower awareness and uptake of technology		
% learning at a Cittgroup	92	Not applicable
% changing as a result of a Cittgroup	78	
Grower awareness and uptake of R&D		
% knowing about at least one research project	86	28
% knowing about more than one research project	60	21
% changing as a result of research	33	9
% knowing about new varieties	100	62
% finding about new varieties at Cittgroups	70	14
Range of best practices adopted (out of 16)	4-14	2-12
Average number of best practices adopted	8.8	6.6

Recommendations

Develop clear program objectives

1. *The current CITTgroups Australia program has no clearly defined outcomes in terms of what levels of adoption of best-practice and knowledge of R&D programs it is aiming to achieve, with which growers and in what time frame, at either the national or regional levels. Such a focus should be developed to provide a defined basis for the planning of CITTgroups Australia activities.*

Improve quality of R&D project communication

2. *The current model of CITTgroups Australia should be built on for the future of the program, with an increased emphasis on the development of multiple strategies for ensuring growers are well informed about citrus R&D activities and outcomes. These strategies should include an improvement in the quantity and quality of publications on R&D, improved linkages between coordinators and researchers, training of researchers in adult learning and increased grower involvement in the identification of grower R&D priorities at the local level.*

Coordinators consider suggested improvements

3. *The improvements suggested in the regional summaries should be considered by the coordinators in terms of their relevance to their particular region, and used in the development of improvements to the current system.*

Address non-participant perceptions

4. *Strategies should be implemented to address non-participant perceptions of CITTgroups Australia. These could include overall promotion of the benefits (through the media, grower liaison officers, packing sheds, and industry associations) and one-on-one discussion with non-participants.*

Develop a peer-reviewed internal evaluation program

5. *The CITTgroups Australia coordinators work with an evaluation expert (if required) to develop a framework for reporting on the knowledge and practice impacts of the CITTgroups Australia program and to develop a corresponding evaluation plan. Data collection and analysis would be undertaken by the coordinators and brought together in the form of an annual report of program outcomes. The report would be peer reviewed by an evaluation expert.*

The information gained from this evaluation has provided feedback to the industry and was utilised to fine-tune the operation of the project, in particular, regional evaluation of activities.

Contact ACG on P 03 5023 633 E admin@australiancitrusgrowers.com for a full copy of the report.

2004 Review

The project was also reviewed in 2004 by key stakeholders including representatives from CITTgroups Australia Steering Committees, ACG member organisations, researchers, extension officers, commercial providers, growers and CITTgroups Australia coordinators.

CITTgroups Australia Review and Future Directions Workshop

This evaluation workshop was attended by ACG members and CITTgroups Australia steering committees to review the CT01015 program and make recommendations for future directions.

The main issues and resolutions the group discussed are:

- Funding – look at funding in each region, collect information of funding issues and coordinator's predictive budget. ACG to monitor funds from HAL, advocate for quicker turn around times (though this seems to have improved).
- Management committees – create recommended guidelines for setting up and operating a management committee. Create a National CITTgroups Australia Management Committee, ensure CITTgroups Australia activities are reported to industry through the ACG conference.
- Identification – create branding for CITTgroups Australia, common strategy to bring the project together.
- Commercialisation (sponsors) – create guidelines for CITTgroups Australia usage of sponsors.
- Attendance – create regional plans (with allowances for change), create national plan that can be published (with a disclaimer).
- Learning levels – plan with coordinators how addressing learning levels can be achieved.
- Speakers – involve researchers in planning activities; contribute to the communication aspect of research proposals.
- Communication – develop coordinator kits, including citrus project updates, milestones and final reports.

Cittgroups Australia Review – Guideline Questions

This questionnaire was sent out to researchers, extension officers, sponsors and people involved in CITTgroups Australia on a regular basis to provide feedback on the CT01015 project. A number of responses were collected and spilt into main issues to be analysed by the CITTgroups Australia coordinators in preparing for the final report and writing of the new proposal.

The main issues highlighted were:

- Attendance – promote activities extensively to encourage attendance, ensure timing is appropriate and topics are relevant.
- Communication – links formed between the various communication tools and avenues which exist in the citrus industry need to be fostered and recognised. Links between coordinators in particular are essential to the success of CITTgroups Australia.
- Speakers – ensure speakers are relevant and appropriate. Speakers also need to understand their audience and base information / presentations to best suit the audience’s learning style.
- Uptake – further evaluation is needed to ensure uptake of information is progressing and change occurs.
- Planning – regional and national plans need to be created so that researchers and extension officers are aware of the activities. This can promote greater organisation within the project and ensure the program is effectively utilised. Activities should be planned around a production calendar to make sure activities are conducted in appropriate time frames. Future planning is essential to the progressment of the project.
- Sponsors – used to encourage attendance and build networks with commercial providers.
- Structure – the extension environment in the citrus industry has been decreasing for a number of years. CITTgroups Australia coordinators and IDOs are filling this role – these two positions need to be joined.
- Benefits – the project has been highly successful, coordinators provide a point of call for growers and researchers. CITTgroups Australia is one communication tool that partners with others in industry, the project offers a face-to-face technology transfer style.
- Future Directions – maintain and develop networks throughout the citrus industry, create higher learning groups, consider national planning of activities.
- Budget – ensure funding is sustainable and appropriate to the region.
- Identity – brand CITTgroups Australia as a national project that is administered by ACG.
- Topics – develop activities orientated meetings (eg budding training, spray trials), provide relevant information, work with researchers at project proposal stage to ensure CITTgroups Australia is a part of the extension / communication of project outcomes.
- Overall – CITTgroups Australia coordinators should work independently to an extent, report back to ACG and ensure networks are effective.

CITTgroups Australia Coordinators Meeting

CITTgroups Australia coordinators met to discuss the outcomes and information from the workshop and questionnaire. The group discussed the various issues and developed solutions.

- Regional Budgets – All coordinators to review regional funding and day per week allocation, consider travel, operation and salary. Submit revised budget for the new project, covering four years, with short explanation. ACG will continue to put pressure on HAL for quick turnaround times on payments. Milestones payments cover the period of six months to come, the initial payment occurs at the start of the project.
- Planning – Coordinators to plan the ‘theme’ for the 12 months, seek an expert to launch the theme throughout all regions, and then follow up with regional knowledge. Coordinators to put together regional 12 month plan, in consultation with research project milestones and national theme.
- ACG coordination – further communication needed to ensure project information is delivered to coordinators.
- Attendance – Highlight the benefits for attending the meeting, rather than the features of the day. Promote CITTgroups Australia in a positive light. Highlight in final report that CITTgroups Australia is one extension tool and not meant to solve all communication issues, works in with other communication strategies.
- Learning levels – There is a role to play for more advanced activities, this is a regional issue and will be dealt as such.
- Commercial providers – Liaise with commercial providers to encourage attendance and information delivery.
- Evaluation – Coordinators currently evaluate meetings where appropriate, this will continue with a major evaluation at the end of the new project. Need to relook at the coordinators’ evaluation information supplied to ACG and develop an easier reporting process.
- Activities – All citrus industry personnel are encouraged to contact regional coordinators on regional issues and suggestions/ideas for future meetings. Proposals for meetings should be submitted to the regional coordinator.
- Sponsorship – to remain at the regional discretion.
- Steering committees – All regions are to have steering committees in the new project. Once a year, via teleconference, the chairperson from each committee will meet to act as an information base.

Discussion and recommendations

The future of the CITTgroups Australia program lies in its ability to appeal to and meet the needs of growers. Its strength lies in its current flexibility in that it can operate differently in each region, allowing it to respond to growers' needs under differing growing conditions, marketing requirements, local industry structures and grower profiles.

The CT01015 project was completed on 31 June 2005, a new project proposal was submitted to HAL to seek further funding, which was successful. CITTgroups Australia continues to be an essential part of the citrus industry's communication strategy, linking with all other communication tools and avenues.

Acknowledgments

CITTgroups Australia would like to thank all those individuals and organisations who have supported this project with presentations, tours, participation, information, resources and sponsorship.

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APPENDIX 1

Riverland CITTgroup Activities 2001 - 2005

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2001	12 & 13 Aug	Port Adelaide	Adelaide produce markets, Woolworths distribution centre, South Australia coolstores, loading of wild lotus bound for the US	All growers commented how beneficial it was and that it was a valuable exercise.	25
2001	4 & 7 Sep	Mypolonga Waikerie	Nutrition for tree health and optimum fruit size	General feedback since Tienie visited has been extremely positive. Many growers have commented that it has given them a whole new outlook on nutrition and their nutrition programs. Many growers have requested the notes from the sessions and are keen to implement some of his recommendations	51
2001	7-Sep	Murtho	Open Hydroponics system	The numbers attending this session was enough feedback to suggest that the OHS and Tienie's visit had created a significant amount of interest. The opportunity to get onto a property such as Andrews was another reason I am sure that many people attended the field day.	110
2001	25 & 26 Sep	Renmark Loxton Waikerie Cadell	Pruning Calcium Spraying for Albedo breakdown control	Good feedback by those present on the day. Andy can talk a leg off a chair and therefore gets very good discussion going amongst growers.	94
2001	11 & 12 Oct	Berri Ramco	Copper spraying and International Citrus Congress report	Pete's talk was useful however not over timely for this time of year however there was some really good questions asked. Peter Gallasch's presentation was quite short and to the point, however it was well received but he didn't really focus that much on the congress. Considering how big the congress was I thought his presentation could have been quite a bit more in depth on issues related to us instead of focusing on topics like mechanical harvesting which has proven to have no value to us in the near future. There was quite a bit of discussion at the Waikerie meeting on the lack of research money after peter kept making the point how various projects had ceased due to lack of funding. Once again it came out that he had done research on various practices but yet industry doesn't know of the results which frustrates many growers.	37

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2001	12 & 13 Dec	Renmark Loxton Waikerie	Mechanical thinning by shaking Imperial mandarin survey GA applications Thrips research	Good feedback that the information was effective and interesting and also I have had feedback that growers have taken up the shaking option for thinning as a real alternative. Note- Some of the growers that have done this are extremely conservative!!	67
2002	20 & 21 Feb	Loxton Renmark Waikerie	Nutrition - Leaf and soil analysis and Snail ID		55
2002	1-May	Waikerie Lyrup	Interpretation of leaf and soil analysis and new variety trial	I spoke to a number of growers afterwards who said that they found the Leaf and Soil interpretation side of the meetings very worthwhile, more so than the varieties.	54
2002	8-May	Loxton	Thinning has it worked		20
2002	22, 23 & 24 May	Waikerie/Cadell II Loxton Renmark	Riversun 2002 Export season overview and Biosolids, United Water		57
2002	22, 23 & 24 Oct	Renmark Loxton Waikerie Cadell Mypolonga	Tree phenology and growth stages Thrips research	"Will certainly influence my management" "By looking at the tree and looking at their growth cycles instead of following calendar dates is important to think about." "We need more detail on this- a class room or workshop situation would be great"	105
2002	9 & 10 Dec	Waikerie Renmark	Measuring crop loads, GA, spraying and spray efficiency demonstration	"Time well spent, varied information/local knowledge spread, and other technologies also introduced." "A very informative session, good range of topics- Well presented"	55
2003	11 & 12 Mar	Renmark Waikerie Loxton	Website introduction, water use efficiency and introduction to the National Plantings Database	Evaluation forms all indicated a high level of satisfaction with this round of meetings. The information that is contained on the web I believe is exceptional and no grower, should not know about it. They will not always have a use for the information but it is a brilliant resource that more people will access over time.	41
2003	11-Apr	Waikerie Berri	Dr Juan Pons	"Best ever activity I have attended" "Very Pertinent subject" " Excellent- great to have such an educated speaker"	27
2003	11 & 12 Jun	Loxton Waikerie Renmark	Riversun USA season overview and Crop manipulation practices for 2004	"Good Job-Very relevant meeting"	104

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2003	1 & 4 Sep	Bourke Menindee Jamesville	Riverland CITTgroup trip to Bourke	A great four days had by all. The trip went exceptionally well and everybody who attended seemed to get a lot out of it. It wasn't pure booze up (as can be the case with these sort of things sometimes) with everybody generally well behaved and at times overawed by what we saw.	23
2003	13-Aug	Renmark	Orchard management with reduced water allocation and understanding your Enviroscan data	Feedback from everyone was very positive. Those going on the trip to Bourke were left very excited about what they were going to see. Evaluation forms indicate an exceptionally high level of satisfaction even for a lunch time meeting (may have helped that it rained).	60
2003	8-Oct	Loxton Waikerie	Topworking, thrips and breeding program	No direct comments, but certainly in discussion afterwards at the Waikerie meeting it was felt that Steve Sykes talked for far too long and "lost" everybody with the content of his presentation. The breeding program is important but 1 hour 45 mins is long time to listen to Steve and Alan. They didn't really achieve what they wanted and that was too get feedback from growers, but because they talked for so long we were short of time and growers had lost interest and they were really there to see the topworking.	25
2004	29 Jan & 10 Mar	Tony Swanbury's Steve Gibbs	Loxton Navigator Group Weed control Soil management and plant nutrition Varieties and rootstocks Irrigation management Canopy management Crop regulation Pest & disease management Orchard design	"This group has renewed my enthusiasm in citrus"	62
2004	29-Mar	Loxton	CITTgroup orchard visit and presentation Soil management and plant nutrition Varieties and rootstocks Irrigation management Canopy management Crop regulation R&D projects Orchard design	Next Day- from a grower- "I m all fired up now- I've just been into my irrigation designer and I m converting at least two properties to drip after what I saw last night."	35

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2004	5-Apr	Waikerie	Meeting and Field Walk Soil management and plant nutrition Varieties and rootstocks Irrigation management Canopy management Crop regulation Pest & disease management Orchard design	None in particular but I think they were all pretty happy.	17
2004	25-May	Waikerie	Field visit to Waikerie district by Loxton navigator group Weed control Soil management and plant nutrition Varieties and rootstocks Irrigation management Canopy management Orchard design	All of the guys that attended commented that they got a lot out of the day. One comment by a grower went along the following lines. “ Today confirmed to me that it doesn’t matter whether you do it by flashy fertigation or nutrition, but the important thing to do, what ever you do, is, – do it right”	6
2004	9 & 10 Jun	Loxton Waikerie Renmark	Riversun, LBAM and Ralex	“Good to see grower funded levies going into some research that is practical and might be applied” “ The best presentation and information that I have seem from Riversun yet”	88
2004	15 & 16 Jul	Renmark Ramco	South African Citrus Consultant - Japie Kruger Soil management and plant nutrition Irrigation management Canopy management Orchard design	Feedback from participants seemed generally very positive with growers appreciating Japie's down to earth and practical approach to a subject which is still the flavour of the day . Japie didn't try to baffle the growers with science and tried to keep it a simple as possible and he also tried to keep everything in perspective when it came to dollars as well as ease of management.	70

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2004	16-Aug	Hort House	Loxton Navigator Group Soil management and plant nutrition Irrigation management	Not a lot of comments made as they didn't hang around, as there was no drinks or a BBQ afterwards. I haven't had the chance to talk to any of the members individually since then either. Some participant's did make comments on Japie Kruger, however which were very positive. One that sticks in my mind is- "since Japie has been here we now realise that there are much simpler and cost effective ways for the smaller grower to implement some of these fertigation and irrigation systems than what we were previously being told before hand, by some of our other local providers who were leading us up a much more expensive and harder to understand path."	13
2004	8-Sep	Loxton	Loxton Navigator group meeting	There wasn't a lot of feedback at this meeting as numbers were down and there seemed to bit of a general lack of enthusiasm.	8
2004	20-Sep	Loxton	Drip conversion	"This meeting was great. One of the best I have been to" How do you decide what topics we are going to cover?	25
2004	7-Dec	Renmark	Fertigation Systems and ISC Congress, Morocco report	I was a little disappointed in the Renmark meeting as the numbers were down on what I may have expected. The wether was terrible though and it was wet and uncomfortable so that may have put a few off. It was also disappointing in that not many came back to listen to Peter's presentation: Young Nick Darby from Yandilla Park did a good job explaining what was happening in the systems and their designs which I think growers appreciated. Rick Edmonds was also very open about what he was trying to achieve and the costs of what he has done.	12

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2004	8-Dec	Waikerie	Navel Pack Our competition winning orchard	<p>This was a good session that I really enjoyed. This group all get on well together and are mostly your traditional average to large family citrus growers, trying to do a good job of it.</p> <p>Peter's presentation got better the third time around, and there was a good level of discussion on the growth regulator work that he is doing as well as nutrition, Fertigation and irrigation.</p> <p>I explained the concept of matching CITTgroup meetings to the various growth stages of the year and this seemed to be well received so hopefully in the New Year we can make this happen.</p> <p>The walk through the trees at Mikes, Ramco property was good as everybody was pretty impressed with the fruit size once again for this year and Mike wasn't scared to hide what he was doing.</p> <p>There was a good level of discussion and questions on the property as well.</p> <p>We also looked at a patch of Navelina on Swingle which has a problem with dying out as well. It was good to bring this up amongst a group of growers as all sorts of issues and incompatibilities raised their heads that various growers in the group had had.</p>	17
2005	8-Feb	Loxton	Navigator Group	<p>This was my first CITTgroup type activity for the year and the first Navigator group meeting for quite some time. It was probably one of the best meetings that the group has had. I took the chance to sit them down and ask if they thought the previous 12 months had been worthwhile and if they wished to continue.</p> <p>Overwhelmingly they said yes to both questions which was good. I also gave them bit of a serve , letting them know that if they did want to keep going then they would have to show a little more commitment and ownership, which they accepted.</p> <p>After looking at two separate navel blocks and measuring some fruit and putting the sizes into the FSP model, we had a general discussion about what they still wan to look at this year. This was my only frustration in that they reeled off about 17 different areas of interest, but yet they couldn't define a project that they were all keen to run with.</p> <p>If I had let them though they would have talked amongst themselves all night on all subjects of citrus growing especially, the old favourite of nutrition and Fertigation.</p>	12

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2005	6-Apr	Loxton	Navigator Group	I had a bit of general feedback from the group in that they really enjoyed the night and found both Anthony and the general discussion excellent. One young lad commented to me a few days later how after a few beers everybody really opened up and that there were debates going on everywhere in relation to citrus growing and marketing.	12
2005	11-Apr	Waikerie	Field walk and presentations	Haven't got much feedback yet but a few guys as they walked out commented that they thought it was a worthwhile session	23 - 30
2005	20-Apr	Paringa	Field walk and nutrition survey project presentation	Steve's project was interesting and that he had often thought that there must be a better way of seeing what is going on in the plant and soil rather than just conducting a leaf analysis every few years.	18
2005	18-May	Loxton	SARDI trial field walk	This meeting was the meeting you have to have when there really isn't a lot to see (it is written into the projects milestones that there will be CITTgroup meeting held at the site.). This is the second year of the two year project, with the first year being quite a good demo trial on Solara south, Unfortunately the trial site had to be shifted this year as the previous site did not set enough fruit for this site to be utilised. It was disappointing that by the time this was realised the timing for a number of the applications had passed. I was very pleased with the attendance at this meeting but not as many as normal perhaps hung around afterwards, but it was generally a reasonable result for a meeting that I thought may have been a total flop.	20
2005	1, 2 & 3 Jun	Renmark Cadell Loxton	Pre-season marketing meeting	A good overview and nice to hear of the work that is being done at a level which we as growers don't appreciate	55

TOTALS	
Attendance number	1480
Meetings	55

APPENDIX 1

Murray Valley CITTgroup Activities 2001 - 2005

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2001	11-Jan		GA		40
2001	1-Feb		GA and Copper		15
2001	14-Aug	MVCB	Water monitoring devices - grower opinion		10
2001	4, 10 & 12 Sep	Boundary Bend Trentham Cliffs Colignan	Sprayer coverage using UV dye Spray coverage on pruned trees Sprayer calibration Management of topworked trees	Grower feedback was very positive and said that the farm walks were very informative and gave the growers greater awareness of the importance of sprayer coverage and pruning.	43
2001	14-Aug		Water monitoring devices - grower opinion		8
2001	9 & 10 Oct	Colignan Dareton	Copper Fungicides Citrus in Japan	Neither topic had any substantial information that was suitable to all growers. The copper fungicide re-iterated why growers are doing what they are doing. It did assist with identification of greasy spot. The mandarin information was useful in terms of information for marketing. The management practices were very labour intensive and therefore difficult to translate into use in Australia.	29
2001	16-Oct	Colignan Dareton	Growing quality mandarins		33
2001	1-Nov	Barham	Pest awareness	Great time to show when is the best time to monitor and what to look for.	15
2001	30-Nov	Boundary Bend	Pest awareness	I always wondered exactly how I was meant to monitor for pests, now I know. Seeing the pests alive in jars assisted to know what I was looking for on the field.	13
2001	4-Dec	Barham	Citrus Physiology and Pruning	Extremely worthwhile as he justified the way and reason why I was already pruning the citrus trees. Good to have a different view of the management techniques for citrus.	15
2002	10 & 11 Jan	Coomealla Iraak	Hand thinning for quality Preliminary ethryl trial results Pro-Gibb GA for skin quality		13
2002	14-Jan	Barham	Hand thinning for quality Preliminary ethryl trial results Pro-Gibb GA for skin quality		

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2002	12, 13 & 14 Mar	Mourquong Iraak Boundary Bend Barham	Results of 2000 - 2001 Benchmarking project CT01024	A very worthwhile study. I can see how I fit within the industry. It has made me a better manager of my property. More growers should be involved in the benchmarking. The information has been gathered for 6 years and should be gathered for at least another 4. In regard one of the venues, "You can see why this grower is in the higher range after walking around his property" How do we compare to other industries.	40
2002	30-May	Dareton	Early Navel and Mandarin Variety Farm Walk	John Bailey – Very worthwhile and informative meeting.	45
2002	14 & 27 Jun	Iraak Barham	Crop Regulation Trial Results	Important information that needs to be absorbed and then trialed by growers. This walk is to late for growers wishing to apply GA as the most optimum time is in the first week of June in Sunraysia. (Cittgroup was for awareness, and not timed specific. Although the label recommendation will probably recommend application at bud break which would be towards the end of June, early July.)	44
2002	July 17 & 18	Curlwaa Nangiloc	Bridal Creeper Biological Control	Extremely important to demonstrate biological control as I don't want to use chemicals in our orchard. It is good to see research being undertaken to save us money in the fight against weeds.	30
2002	28-Aug	MVCB	LBAM mating control and Extenday reflective matting	Extremely good meeting as we would not find out about this pest information without Cittgroups. Not only in this meeting, but also over the past 5 years. Great to preview the new technology.	21
2002	24-Oct	Barham	Sprayer calibration	Extremely interesting meeting, particularly seeing the spray coverage inside the tree with the water sensitive paper.	15
2002	7-Nov	MVCB	Spanish Crop Regulants	When will these products be available in Australia. How soon can I get my hands on these products. Interesting how they explained the phenological stages where the chemical has an effect on the trees. Very Good talk raising some interesting topics. I hope it doesn't end up costing too much. Language difficulties made knowledge transfer difficult Very worthwhile, as many benefits of this product become immediately obvious to me. Get it registered in Australia!	50

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2002	5-Dec	MVCB	Maximum Residue Levels	Interesting to see that 95% of tests revealed no chemical residues at all. It makes you wonder just what some growers are doing	28
2003	10-Feb	MVCB	Blood Orange Growers Awareness Meeting	Excellent meeting, a lot of information. I am going home to remove my Blood orange trees that don't produce a suitable color and replant with new varieties that suit the market	44
2003	9 & 10 Apr	Barham MVCB	Citrus Physiology and Crop Regulation	To much information, could be simplified, but overall was good to have experts on these subjects Requires more time to absorb. Big topic so these 2 hours a most worthwhile introduction. Dr Pons obviously most informed. Well done on CITTgroup program to capture specialist when available. A lot to go over in a short time however I found it very worthwhile, well done. I had no knowledge of, or opinion, on this before CITTgroup. I found it to be very informative. Excellent Presentation	20
2003	15-Apr	Dareton	Ryan Navel Growers Meeting	Good to get things brought out in the open. Excellent to obtain other growers opinions.	15
2003	22-May	Nangiloc	Crop Regulation Management Tools		70
2003	27 & 28 May	Sunraysia	Barham Growers Best Practice Bus Trip	Next time could you take us to some bad orchards so that I don't feel depressed	14
2003	19-Jun	Renmark	Riverland New Variety Bus Trip	Extremely good day. First session was difficult to understand at grower level.	41
2003	8-Jul	Cobram	Fruit Sizing Trials & Citrus Best Practices	It is good to hear what is happening in other regions. Excellent range of topics We all want to know what to plant. I realise this is the most difficult problem, but forecasting of oversupply in future markets is valuable. Need to transfer information to different districts. Getting Growers together.	23
2003	9-Jul	Cobram	Orchard Management	Need more information on irrigation requirements for tree size, crop size and related values. All presentations were very good. I find the CITTgroup meetings most informative, and helpful and they assist me greatly.	13
2003	6 Aug	MVCB	Citrus Variety Experts	Should be more growers here. Very interesting presentation on niche marketing. Very knowledgeable people. Limited production base compared to Australia.	12

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2003	11 & 12 Aug	Ellerslie Nangiloc	Orchard Management with reduced water allocation	Good to hear experience from people who have recently gone through the problems in Australian conditions. Went a bit long, but gave a good overview of what they went through.	53
2003	22 Sep		Tom Mullholland - USA Varieties Specialist		12
2003	20 & 21 Oct	Ellerslie Gol Gol Nangiloc	Pest awareness and Latest Citrus Research	Excellent presentations updating us the research that is being undertaken.	45
2003	22-Oct	Boundary Bend Barham	Pest awareness and Latest Citrus Research	Cittgroup meetings are very important to us to keep informed on the latest research and management techniques for citrus.	19
2003	1,2 & 3 Dec	Colignan Dareton Barham	Crop Regulation, Rind Quality, Fruit Sizing		62
2004	3, 4, 5 & 6 May	Ellerslie Dareton Gol Gol MVCB Nangiloc Barham	Fruit Sizing Trials, Afourer Mandarin, Harvest 2004 Season Update	Simple & to the point. Good Good to get breakfast supplied. Always learning Excellent morning Excellent Management tool Enjoyed all the information presented and is useful for me to pass on to packers and growers around the district. Was very well presented with full explanation of citrus production. Cittgroups are very important – please continue same. All of	85
2004	19 & 20 May	Dareton Nangiloc	Ralex Trial Results, Citrus Projects funded, 2004 USA Export Review	Good Presentation, Very open Riversun presentation. Timely The presentation of Riversun Overview. Ralex information I might be getting things right	25
2004	13-Jul	Barham	GA Trial Inspection Walk, South Africa Fertigation Methods and Season Update		10
2004	14 & 15 Jul	Nangiloc, Curlwaa	South African Fertigation and Season Update		60
2004	19 Jul	MVCB	Israel Citrus Researcher		35
2004	15 Sep	MVCB	Japanese maturity testing, pest awareness and control		10
2004	16 Sep	MVCB	Chemical use get it right - Victoria	Great information, really highlighted the risks involved and the need to record everything	30

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2004	20 Oct	Barham	Varietal research, topworking budding and grafting demonstration	Excellent information, Keep up the good work. Great hands on demonstration. Cittgroups are the only way we learn in this region. Good to get a researchers opinion on these varieties	13
2004	23 Nov	Nangiloc Dareton	Citrus Phenology and the 3F's Flushing, flowering and fruiting	Good revision of phenology & checklist of best practice management practices. Very large subject so had to cover many aspects throughout each stage. Would like to have better understanding of optimum nutrient uptake and timing.	22
2004	14 Dec	Barham	Introduction to Fertigation Systems	Barham Cittgroups are always very well attended with only one known grower not attending the meeting due to other commitments. Presentation was summary of the Fertigation seminar conducted in Mildura on the 10th of November 2004. It was a lot of information for a cittgroup meeting, but growers stayed focused and were really interested.	12
2005	12 Apr	Riverland	Best practice and fruit sizing trials	Excellent day. Nearly put too much into the day. Growers attending responses were very positive. A couple of negative comments re the direction of Cittgroups at grass level growers. I believe these comments were from well informed growers that may not have got a lot of information from the day. Unfortunately Peter Gallasch was sick and unable to present, reducing the amount of information presented.	23
2005	3 May	Dareton Colignan	Trial Results and Season Outlook	Excellent presentations. Ken Bevington gives a great overview of seasonal effects on the fruit. Numbers were lower than expected, may be several reason for this. Notices had excellent coverage through radio, television and newspaper media releases. May have to investigate further the SMS system used by Riverina and South Australia.	35
2005	3 May	Boundary Bend	Trial Results and Season Outlook	Great to be informed of the options available before the season starts. Ken's season outlook presentation and interaction with attendees is excellent. Would recommend this presentation for other districts.	3
2005	18 May	Barham	Trial Results and Season Outlook	Great to be informed of the options available before the season starts. Ken's season outlook presentation and interaction with attendees is excellent. Would recommend this presentation for other districts.	16

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2005	30-Jun	Dareton	Varietal and Rootstock Trials	Well attended with a good listening audience with interest in the above topics Other chance issues were brought up at question time that can be followed upon at future workshops: methods to control pollination to limit seeds in mandarin varieties and GA sprays and their timing to control both quantity and quality of fruit.	34

TOTALS	
Attendance number	1363
Meetings	74

APPENDIX 1

Riverina CITTgroup Activities 2001 - 2005

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2001	31-Jan	Griffith	Maximising packouts for the Riverina		15
2001	8-Mar	Yoogali	Riverina Packhouse CITTgroup		25
2001	28-Mar	Narromine	Farm visits and inspections		17
2001	14-May		Rosemont Hillston Variety CITTgroup, snail and LBAM update	This was a very informal and successful cittgroup. Growers spoke about the varieties most of the hour trip home and were very happy in the sense that they actually saw the fruit on the tree rather than reading about it.	19
2001	5-Sep	Yanco Hanwood	Improving fruit quality		70
2001	11-Sep	Wamoon	Focus groups, fruit fly update, common orange trial update and composting soil conditioner	Very informative meeting	27
2001	16-Oct	Wamoon	Orchard crop insurance and fruit fly update	All growers who attended this cittgroup seemed to like it.	25
2001	12 & 13 Nov	Dareton MFC	Citrus fruit size	Growers who attended this Field Day were very impressed.	46
2001	20-Nov	Michael Nardi's orchard	Liquid engineering and red copper	Growers major concern with the Red Copper through their experiences was the staining of fruit and equipment. Growers were very interested in the Liquid Engineering presentation as machinery maintenance is very important. One interesting comment was that on most occasions sales reps and cittgroups target machinery sales and updates but not maintenance.	23
2001	17-Dec	Mick Nardi's Orchard	ProGibb, Ralex and Ethrel	Growers are still not confident with Ethrel® it is a very temperamental product. Growers feel that when it's the appropriate timing to apply this chemical, it is too early to make a decision to thin. Ralex® again, another product where the application has to be made up to 6 months earlier that fruit set is decided.	25
2001	18-Dec	Domenic Mancini and Joe Pasin	ProGibb, Ralex and Ethrel	Growers are still not confident with Ethrel® it is a very temperamental product. Growers feel that when it's the appropriate timing to apply this chemical, it is too early to make a decision to thin. Ralex® again, another product where the application has to be made up to 6 months earlier that fruit set is decided.	26

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2002	15-Jan	Domenic Mercuri	John Deere Tractors, Chemical Storage on-farm, South Africa and water sale	Growers were like kids with their new toy, jumping in out of tractors, starting them, driving them, pulling them apart and all sorts of things. They were very disappointed about continually being told to do more and more (chemical storage).	32
2002	26-Mar	Frank Nardi	Tractors, Interlink pumps and sprays	Growers expressed their happiness for the simple reason that they were able to see this equipment in operation and at the same time were able to ask as many questions as they liked.	24
2002	29 & 30 Apr	Bourke	Pests and Diseases	Growers enjoyed the trip overall. Comments were as follows: very informal (good), wasn't rushed, everyone got on well within the group, that Bourke fruit is not as good as what everyone is praising it to be and growers would like to see more of these trips organised through Cittgroups.	43
2002	21-May	NSW Ag, Joe Pasin and Rosemont Citrus (Hillston)	Citrus varieties	Growers once again were very happy that this was very informal wasn't rushed and they got to see and taste a lot of varieties they wouldn't have seen otherwise.	52
2002	21-May	Tony Tavella	Ag Nutri Products and Guidolin Engineering	Some growers showed interest in trying this product and having the sprayers present they both went hand in hand.	41
2002	13-Aug	Griffith	Weed (biological) control (bridal creeper)	This is a weed is a big concern and is present in isolated areas. The proposed control is only new and could take up to 10 years to see it really work if it does at all and unfortunately growers wanted an overnight fix. Overall, thought it was an issue that wasn't covered and overlooked in the past and it was good that we done it.	25
2002	27 & 28 Sep	Griffith Leeton	Enviromist - weed control	This was a case off being more efficient and affective when applying weed sprays and the growers felt the equipment was very good, the problem was that it was also expensive.	30
2002	5 & 6 Oct	Leeton Griffith	Underground trickle system Rind Breakdown project		
2003	13-Jan	Yoogali	GA, Spray vat calibration Ralex	Informative and refreshing	30
2003	25-Mar	Yoogali	Riverina Packhouse Cittgroup	Information was very informative and a Cittgroup on the same lines should be performed each year. The group was asked if they were happy with the information and format, they all replied that were very happy.	30
2003	10-Apr	Leeton	ACG Conference Cittgroup		47
2003	12, 13, 14 & 15 May	Sunraysia Riverland	Sunraysia and Riverland Tour	Every person on the trip thoroughly enjoyed this Cittgroup.	42

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2003	15-Jul	Griffith Corbie Hill Wamoon	Fruit Sizing in Dry Conditions and Tree Phenology		44
2004	10-Feb	Wamoon	MIA Ethrel Trial	Information was well received.	17
2004	16-Mar	Stanbridge	Wamoon CITTgroup, Dr Mo - LBAM	Dr Mo's Light Brown Apple Moth information is always well received.	11
2004	16-Mar	Yoogali	Riverina Packhouse CITTgroup, Packer Returns, Communication, Crop Forecast and Grower Levies	All information was well received.	22
2004	14-Sep	Griffith	Horticulture in Japan	Those growers in attendance found Darren's report with regard to his time in Japan informative. Key issues of interest included main varieties of citrus (mandarins) grown in Japan, and the infra red system used to determine the Brix acid ratio.	4
2004	19-Aug	Yanco	Breeding, Evaluation and Orchard Tour	Most growers commented that the talks were very informative and covered relevant subjects. A high percentage of growers in attendance commented positively on the variety trial, and the application of crop regulating sprays such as Ralex and GA, as well as the updated information on research projects.	30
2004	9 & 10 Nov	Mildura	Fertigation Systems Workshop	There were a variety of presenters on the day, starting from the down to earth 10 hectare grower to the more corporate 100 hectare grower. This seminar, I thought was very good and addressed a variety of growers, not just a small group. Growers showed a great deal of interest in the fertigation seminar, as well as a trip taken to Sunraysia Nursery to see budding, potting etc.	12
2004	24 & 25 Nov	Leeton Griffith	Citrus Phenology with Andy Krajewski	Growers found Andy Krajewski presentation very educational, in particular the information presented on the management of growth stages, and the timing of relevant farm practices	65
2005	22 & 23 Mar	Pacific Fresh Packhouse & Golden Circle	Nutrition Analysis	All information was well received. In particular, the timing of nutrient application, and the latest information on Ralex.	35
2005	23-Mar	Yoogali	Packhouse CITTgroup	Always a well attended CITTgroup, where packers are able to receive the Annual Crop Forecast, so as to assist in planning for the coming year. Information regarding the post harvest handling of citrus presented by Perter Taverner was well received.	18

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
TOTALS					
Attendance number					972
Meetings					44

APPENDIX 1

NSW Coastal CITTgroup Activities 2001 - 2005

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2003	19-Nov	Braz orchards	Fungal Diseases Copper Spray Oils Post Harvest Treatments	"great day, should be more", "well organised with great speakers", "most enjoyable, good discussion and presentation", "felt Nerida was out of her depth with pink disease".	16
2003	21-Nov	Mangrove Mountain	Fungal Diseases Copper Spray Oils Post Harvest Treatments	Generally positive	45
2004	27-Jul	Kulnura	Seminar and Farm Walk covering Ralex trials, lemon variety & rootstock trials and new varieties.	The growers who attended thought the information was interesting.	20
2004	28-Jul	J&W Graham's Orchard	Ralex Trials and New Varieties	Most participants were impressed with the information presented. Interest was shown in new varieties coming available and their performance Organic growers were a little sceptical of Ralex, but appreciated concept. All were impressed with Graeme's and Tahir's willingness to answer question. Finger lime growers showed interest but felt subjects were not pertinent to their operation.	22
2004	28-Nov	Gosford	Phenology and Pruning Update	Very interesting talk & discussion. Manual pruning seems very important for my farm. I've still got a lot to learn. Excellent presentation, well communicated. So much to learn, so little time to learn. Very informative and well organised.	16
2005	20 & 21 Jan	Braz orchards	Phenology and Canopy Management	"info very valuable, "very worthwhile, essential to good tree management", very informative would like to see many more", "comprehensive overview of citrus management".. "very willing and animated presenter".	16
2005	24-May	Alstonville	Citrus Nutrition Workshop	Excellent, needs follow up in 12 months. Very well presented, great format- easy to understand. A good session, good audience participation. It would be good to follow up this session. Very informative. Very informative I learnt a lot. Interesting topic, good presenter, useful discussion, enjoyable day. Very helpful and informative. Good effort, well presented. Found it very helpful in wading through the interaction of certain nutrients	15

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
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TOTALS					
Attendance number					150
Meetings					8

APPENDIX 1

Queensland CITTgroup Activities 2001 - 2005

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2001	14-Mar	Gayndah		It is thought that perhaps I should have a mailout questionnaire to each of the growers to whom I send the reports and minutes. On this subject I'd appreciate some feed back from all you CTG guys who are so experienced in evaluation. Eg, 1. Is it the best evaluation? How long a questionnaire?	20
2001	30-Mar	Cullum's Farm	Farm walks, varieties, limes aurorer, borers, fruit size, fruit fly baiting, lemon rootstocks, fungicides and foliar nutrition, boron, Golden Circle requirements	No special forms filled out. BUT. 1. Arranged for the next Day in October and also, 2. Asked for a visit to Insectry (IPM B4B) and Orchards and packing sheds in CB to look at pressure washers..	13
2001	25-May	Gayndah Mundubbera	Packing shed procedures, machinery and processes. Marketing, QA, IPM insect rearing procedures and benefits of IPM	Not one of the growers did not say how much they enjoyed the exercise. Most mentioned a particular phase of the different operations from which they could take away a lesson. Maybe Nathalie could organise a few digital cameras for us. Mine gave up the ghost at the critical time.	15
2001	6-Aug	Caamano property	Cittgroup function for new attendees. P.c control, rootstocks, watrering, chemicals. Pest Control, spraying equipment, coverage, volumes, Registration of Applaud. Publications, web sites. Nutrition. Fruit Thinning. New varieties, to suit the area and to avoid clashes with southern areas, red grapefruit and maturity times. Auscitrus, newsletter and function. Irrigation, Water Use Efficiency Program, Applications etc. Planting densities diff varieties. IPM and Pressure Washers.	Didn't try any formal evaluation. They want a Session in February and one in August again. They want more time spent in the area.	28
2001	8-Aug	Schneider property	Marketing. Approved Suppliers Program, Labour availability. Tree Die-back. Grapes diseases. Fungicide Sprays and blemish. Water Use Efficiency Program. New varieties. Postharvest treatments. Grading machinery. Scale control. Green ant control.	Didn't try any. Maybe next time? This group are happy with what ever assistance they can receive. They are in a even bigger bind than the Mareeba growers. They are "doing it hard". Pleased that Mareeba are back on stream because the Towers usually, only has a visit when they do.	8
2001	6-Sep	Gayndah	All things research, new projects, other problems	Have not tried to evaluate this Activity, but Amabel suggests I try with a post out reply paid questionnaire.	27
2001	12-Sep	Quebec	Topworking citrus. From wo to go. There were trees done in 1998, 2000, three, two and one week ago, prepared and unprepared trees.	Didn't try. I expected about 50, told Sthil to cater for 60 but ended up with >100.	100

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2001	12-Sep	Gayndah	This will be part of the project by Nerida, looking at finding mild strains of CTV for the protection of Navels (oranges) against OSP in Queensland.	We shall wait and see the results.	
2001	9-Oct	M Benhams Orchard	M Benhams Orchard	All budded stumps were inspected, tape taken off and assessed. Recorded. Results emailed to Nerida and Murray.	
2001	19-Oct	Lex Mullin's orchard	Review of past activities Air blast equipment Applaud Publications Calcium, soil, uptake, applications Field pest recognition Topworking and demo	There are a number of things I have to follow up on from this gathering. Have already sent an email to Peter Tavener to add to his mailing list. Why are most of these growers still not receiving the ACN????????	9
2001	24-Oct	Gayndah	Citrus fruit thinning, chemical and hand	1. The 13 points have been printed and will be circulated to all orchards in the Burnett. 2. The variation in practices is quite large. 3. All the points have not been scientifically proven, but the growers who advanced the items have great credibility, and each point was pulled to pieces and put back together by all the other growers. 4. The inter row area in mature Imperials was not wide enough for the throng. It was about 35 in the sun, and fruit loads and position were a continual reference. No one expected so many.	73
2001	25-Oct	Gayndah	Florida's diseases, Alternaria, Greasy Spot, Scab and Melanose	These guys are always welcome and always good to listen to, and there is always something new to challenge accepted procedures and practices, and what you think you know.	43

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2002	20-Feb	Mareeba	<p>What is CITTgroups. How funded. Need Evaluation(got it verbally)</p> <p>Publications. Field Day Booklet & Video. ACN. JOT's video on Topworking.</p> <p>Topworking in the field & Planting Densities & Pruning & Tree height management.</p> <p>Calcium plus general nutrition, when & how much. Plus may other subjects.</p>	<p>On changes which resulted directly from CITTgroup sessions, the following were offered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A business has successfully jumped into IPM with the local Pest Scout. • After poor results in spraying, a change from double sided to single sided spraying. • A change from a non oscillating to an oscillating boom. • A change in herbicide practice and with an additional chemical.(Volume & Basta) • After visiting a red GF patch last August, called in someone to look at his to see if all was ok, and it was. <p>Once again, the discussion amongst the growers was stimulating, and I'm certain with a great deal of information flow coming from it, passing around. Probably one of the great strengths of this sort of exercise. Mareeba have always decided on no agenda, and to me this seems to work very well.</p>	20
2002	22-Feb	Charters Towers	<p>Trickle Degreening & Room calibrations.</p> <p>IPM. Oil sprays.</p> <p>Densities and Canopy management.</p> <p>Varieties.</p> <p>Casual Labour. Freight. Marketing and the differenced between Coles & Woollies.</p> <p>Yields, thinning and densities again.</p> <p>Packing shed machinery requirements, costs, availability brands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An adoption of IPM with Aphytis ordered for several releases. • Change to another oil ad more applications of less concentrations for scale. • Pruning out trees for fruit right through the tree. • Adoption of better degreening methods. Could say this was immediate adoption. 	7
2002	15-Mar	Mundubbera Gayndah	<p>As per agenda. Reports/updates on Projects. Discussions.</p> <p>New Project proposals</p>	<p>There was discussion on every one of the above subjects.</p> <p>Project for the ongoing search for new pesticides was given approval for a VC, after it was knocked back by HAL. And yet all of Australia will benefit when these new chemicals are found.</p> <p>One can be forgiven for thinking HAL has a down on QLD, particularly when the Stats gathering Project has been submitted for \$1m. If there are no ideal chemicals all the planting stats in the world won't help. Gayndah Fruitgrowers were not in favour of large expenditure on Arial photography. Funds would be better utilized on other projects. All growers here have accurate planting stats.(not the sentiments of the writer)</p>	15

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2002	22-Mar	Palmwoods	Pruning Lemons Lumpy skin on lemons. Massive flower drop, no pollination Dead & dying trees. Rootstocks, Benton, Sour Orange. Redscale, Oil sprays, Buprafesin. Source of Red scale. IPM.	We are still not getting the ACN!! Since the last meeting, the Palmwoods group requested a demo of a new concept air blast machine. One grower has purchased the attachment for mounting on his old tank. Second grower couldn't find a suitable secondhand tank soon enough so purchased a sylvan.	15
2002	15-Aug	Mutchilba	Interstate Movement ICA15. Importations/AQIS/PHA doubts Demo, results of no pruning Limes. Fruit Piercing Moth Descaling Units	Apart from the good return of Evaluation sheets, there was vigorous discussion on all the above subjects, with few not having an input. My opinion is that a great deal of information is spread around in this manner. No one was put off by another's comments or ideas.	24
2002	18-Aug	Charters Towers	Topworking		2
2002	4-Sep	Gayndah	RS/Interstock/Scion Trial :Dry Imperials Project Partial Rootzone Drying project VCProject Thinning 3 PGRs FF Baits Update: AWM Project: Vertimec for FF bait: Spray/Fungicide Trial: FF bait application trials Panoptine Drench Observations. Crop Forecasting Project	Each subject and different items within each Project were discussed at great length. It is important to note that each and every item concerns funding, and particularly where it is coming from. Seven of the Projects will be funded by VCs which continues to be a concern to the Queensland Industry, when large projects such as Rind Quality and Crop Forecasting projects are given the green light. Neither of these Projects are of great interest or value to the Queensland Industry. They are not on the list of priorities.	28
2002	8-Nov	Palmwoods	Group at Nambour Xport pH & Mn toxicity Taylor Lee/ Seedless Murcott Heat stress tree shutdown. Lge tree vs sm tree fruit quality.Limes Ethrel and new agents. Gall wasp mgmt.Sprays. pruning.	Want to hold the next gathering in March/April. One of the group will arrange with a grower in Gayndah for a visit by the group to his orchards. When will the next Citrus insights be published. Some got it others didn't. Want this form of summary because don't get a Final Report. Would also like to get the Auscitrus newsletter. There was good feed back about the Video from the Field day. Two growers reported on the use of Calcium when & how much during the last season and results. This is directly related to discussions on the subject 12 months ago so it is some evaluation of previous events.	12

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2002	13-Nov	Mareeba	Moisture/fruitdrop Need for Probes/tensios etc. Setup Densities, soil type, nutrition Pruning vs no pruning	Managing the canopy of lime trees in the tropics is a major problem. There is a wide variety of orchard type amongst the group. New, established, small, large part time etc etc. So there was a wide variation in the methods and types of canopy management practices. This developed a great deal of discussion on the hows, whys etc. Obviously a primary concern.	30
2003	20-Jan	Mareeba	Reminder L & S sample time Feb Some discussion on various Ca sources and irrigation with it. This was a big subject. As above this subject has many variables Broad mite and chemicals available. PH Insecticide dips. Rogor/Fenthion Any need for Research into 6 & 7. Lots of discussion on all Levies. Publications. AQIS and acceptable risk.	Hooora. Almost everyone now receiving ACN. Lots not receiving the QFVG newsletter Mandelicious! We will handle that again. Of the 13 orchards represented, there would have been 10 different approaches to canopy management and crop regulation. There are 3 different climatic zones represented. This issue is a nightmare. Pat O'Farrell will send out a questionnaire for their views on what research they want in this area. Discussion on all types of levies, the new QFVG & citrus group. HAL levies. National Levy, so that everyone pays. Not resolved.	16
2003	21-Feb	Mundubbera Gayndah	Spanish experience Tree size/open trees Thinning PBR	Strangely, there was less questioning than I expected from growers. There are probably good reasons for this. Luis whilst a whiz in all things breeding, is focused solidly on seedless clementines. Other hybrids he used were only for breeding. Seedlessness is the paramount factor. Other varieties such as Fortune and Ellendale, pollinate the clementine and cause seeds and that is a NO NO. Hence there was not a great deal available on other available mandarin varieties suited to our environment.	18
2003	3 & 4 Mar	CB Tour Mundubbera	Marketing Crop regulation Pest & disease management R&D projects These subjects were covered by all the Presenters, with many topics. This Reporting Format does not suit this type of activity.		75

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2003	28-Mar	Gayndah	Packing, sizing, cartons, agents Fertigation Range, harvesting handling Big subject, lemons, Murcotts Big subject all varieties. Big subject, oils and IPM Discussion, degreening	Thoroughly enlightening for the Palmwoods growers who are on the smaller scale of orchard. Thesed growers left at 5.30 am on the day. We all met at Ban Ban, drove in convoy to the first orchard, where Judy supplied morning tea, on to the second orchard to see the first of the Imperials being packed, lunch in town then back to the first orchard to see how he does his lemon pruning. There never seemed to be a time when there was not pertinent discussion on citrus. Bevan volunteered to come down to Gatton (part of the Palmwoods group) after the Imperial season to give some tips on lemon pruning. Gratefully accepted and early June was nominated with a specific day to be arranged.	9
2003	16-Feb		Breeding Prog. Local Hybrids Trials 356TPA FF, RScale, Mites, Aa, BS DataBase	All growers took part in presentations with discussion or questions, since all these presentations are Research projects which have a great impact on the mandarin industry. Growers want the current activities, two reporting sessions per year to continue, since it presents a unique opportunity for access to researchers. It was also requested that the practice of sending out the presentations on disk be continued, along with the latest Final Reports and those more relevant to Queensland.	45
2003	27-Jun	Palmwoods	Soil management and plant nutrition Canopy management Pest & disease management Harvest and post-harvest management	To the question (Satisfaction) ' What did you like most about today's event ' 10 responses were : Learning new methods. Great presentation. Talking to other growers. Mixing with other growers. Meeting and discussing with other growers. Better methods of pruning. Lunch. Hands on demo. Exchange with other growers. New information.	15
2003	15-Aug	Mareeba	Irrigation management Crop regulation Pest & disease management R&D projects	From the questions during the meeting, during smoko and during the farm walk all(most) were pleased with the event and were satisfied with the event, didn't want to change anything, and the large smoko was magnificent. There was agitation on the non registration of Confidor for leaf miner. There was discussion on the things we discussed during our Teleconference. It was pointed out that everyone should be free with their planting stats for us to have sufficient known area of young trees for Bayer to go ahead with rego.	29

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2003	7-Oct	Gayndah	Varieties and rootstocks Crop regulation Pest & disease management R&D projects	All growers took part in presentations with discussion or questions, since all these presentations are Research projects which have a great impact on the mandarin industry. Growers want the current activities, two reporting sessions per year to continue, since it presents a unique opportunity for access to researchers.	29
2004	16-Feb	Gayndah	Breeding Prog. Local Hybrids Trials 356TPA FF,RScale,Mites,Aa,BS DataBase	All growers took part in presentations with discussion or questions, since all these presentations are Research projects which have a great impact on the mandarin industry. Growers want the current activities, two reporting sessions per year to continue, since it presents a unique opportunity for access to researchers. It was also requested that the practice of sending out the presentations on disk be continued, along with the latest Final Reports and those more relevant to Queensland.	45
2004	25 & 26 Feb	Iacutone Property	Soil management and plant nutrition Irrigation management Crop regulation Pest & disease management Harvest and post-harvest management R&D projects	The field section of the day and a half elicited the greatest response. Cropping control as in getting fruit to set and irrigation management were the major topics. Con Iacutone demonstrated his water monitoring device. Growers were particularly impressed with the exceptionally small data logger card, smaller than a cigarette pack and half as thin, to download the data for later loading onto his computer. Other field discussions were topworking to red grapefruit, and skin thickness, and crop regulation with limes. Info transfer is a problem. Not everyone has a computer. They decided to supply MTCs to DPI and the local guy Chris Jones (graciously) agreed to burn a disk as required from the disk I will send him.	16
2004	26-Mar	Palmwoods	Water logging, soil type, location Mites,IPM, QFF, Fruit Piercing Moth Thinning, sunburn, Cittgroup Situation.	Asked if they thought the group was becoming a little stale was greeted with just the opposite. "If I learn just one little thing (1 Boron appln. And 1 blemish/mites) here, attending is worth it" (2 growers) "The day at our place (Gatton) last year, and JOT's follow up saved our citrus enterprise. We will keep coming whether it is one or both of us." "I now visit Gayndah to talk to Bevan Young for advice." Other growers echoed the sentiment.	9
2004	21 & 23 Sep	Central Burnett Emerald	Phenology, nutrition, fertigation, crop regulation	Much of the comment during the day and the comments in the E sheets indicated that most were Satisfied or Very Satisfied. Oddly enough there were 2 Undecided.	42

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2004	11-Oct	Central Burnett	QCG AGM and R&D Forum	Questions and discussions as Researchers delivered updates/results. Very positive. Evaluation results presented. Decided to try for Japie if he is available.	83
2004	26-Oct	Mareeba	Just everything: Fruit piercing moth, canker, new products, phenology	Ken's presentation was thought to be just great. Whilst much of the work can be related to the mandarins and lemons grown in the area, there was a lot of discussion on how to relate nutrition and timing (up to end of stage 1.) to Limes which at the moment have marketable fruit, and all sizes of fruit back to flowers. Little and often (like sex then ribald comments) is probably the go. Group asked for another meeting in February.	16
2004	28-Oct	Palmwoods	Just everything: Fruit piercing moth, canker, new products, phenology	Ken's presentation was thought to be just great. Whilst much of the work can be related to the mandarins and lemons grown in the area, there was a lot of discussion on how to relate nutrition and timing (up to end of stage 1.) to Limes which at the moment have marketable fruit, and all sizes of fruit back to flowers. Group asked for another meeting in February/March.	10
2004	22 & 23 Nov	Binjour	Irrigation and fertigation	Very little feed back to me personally, but judging by the discussions he had with growers during Smoko 45 mins and after the event another hour (about) I'd have to say his reception was pretty positive. Discussions continued 12 – 1 with another group of growers. (a good day)	26
2005	4 & 5 Apr	Burnett	Packingshed Sanitation	Not a great deal as statements to me BUT, Q&A during the presentations made it obvious that they were there to learn, and did so. For some it was a brushup on procedures while for others it was new stuff.	26
2005	27-Apr	Palmwoods	Sanitation plus everything else	Apart from showing appreciation for the visit, there were no other comments on sanitation, and all indicated that their next visit was due in Sept Oct, (would JOT be available?)at a time and venue to be collectively decided.	8

TOTALS	
Attendance number	1006
Meetings	44

APPENDIX 1

Northern Territory CITTgroup Activities 2001 - 2005

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2002	3-Oct	Benger's Property	Crop management techniques		
2002	14-Dec	Robert's Property	Benchmarking current farm practices		20
2003	6-Mar	WE Pack Shed	Packhouse demonstration	The feedback was most encouraging concerning the benefits of CITTgroup activities for the future.	24
2003	10 & 31 May	Katherine Darwin	IPM Workshop	Both workshops were well received by the growers. The importance of regular monitoring was the main concept taken up by both groups.	33
2003	4-Oct	The Fruit Tree Factory	Planting and water management field day	On the whole the group did not give written feedback except for one grower who wrote: "This was the most successful field day he had attended for many years." However over lunch the majority of the group commented that they had learnt a lot and were going back home to dig around their trees to check whether enough irrigation was being applied. Most thought that they were under watering. HOORAY!!	34
2004	5-Jun	Eupene's Property	NTCG Mandarin Planting Day	The newer growers were very satisfied with this "hands on day", where as the more experienced growers were only satisfied with the day, but strangely appeared to have learnt something new and were willing to change some practices in their orchards.	12
2004	31 Jul & 1 Aug	Katherine Kununurra	Orchard Happenings	The majority of growers commented on the understanding of the different growth stages and how they impacted on the insect and disease problems. All thought the day was of great value and look forward to the next CITTgroup activity.	25
2005	21-Mar	NTHA Office	Making Limes Productive	The general consensus was that this evening was great, disturbing, informative and thought provoking	12
2005	14, 15 & 17 Jun	Darwin Katherine Kununurra	Fertigation systems and effective delivery workshop	There are 3 different groups of growers that attended these workshops and as such focussed on different aspects of the workshop Darwin growers were more interested in the establishment of a fertigation system. Katherine growers were interested in the different systems including open hydroponics. Kununurra growers were in interested in acid trimming. All growers learnt something new and most were going to change or at least look at their irrigations systems.	29

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
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TOTALS					
Attendance number					189
Meetings					13

APPENDIX 1

Western Australia CITTgroup Activities 2001 - 2005

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2001	7-Mar	Burekup	Orchard spray equipment Pruning equipment, chainsaw attachment for brushcutter Windbreaks QA Options	Enthusiastic response to field demonstrations. Positive questions relating to cost and suitability for local conditions.	28
2001	8-Mar	Bindoon	QA Options		35
2001	29-Mar	Swan Valley	An introduction to Freshcare		6
2001	4-Apr	Harvey	Organic Carbon for soil conditioning Medfly Area Baiting Scheme Approved supplier requirements for Pergoliti's SQF accreditation	No formal evaluation. Enthusiastic response re: cost and benefits (many positive questions) Continued support for scheme No questions, just a note of thanks from the chair for delivering such a clear and concise message.	21
2001	28 Apr - 3 May	Renmark Sunraysia	ACG Conference Tour - Renmark, SA		19
2001	28-May	Gingin Chittering	Varieties and Rootstocks Fruit ready for harvest	Very good general verbal feedback. 21 evaluation sheets distributed, 20 returned All positive, received some good information re: timing and short notification	34
2001	4 & 5 July	Harvey Bindoon	Post harvest/packhouse	No formal evaluation. Enthusiastic response. Positive questions relating to local conditions.	60
2001	4-Sep	Chittering	Irrigating with poor quality water Irrigating in times of critical water shortages	Formal evaluation included a range of information relevant to Dept. the dry season response (see attached.) 15/23 responded. Q6, 13 said information was 'just right' and 2 said a little too technical Q7, 10 said '1. Learned a lot of new/ useful stuff' 1 said '2' and 4 said 'Some new/useful stuff'	23
2001	11 & 12 Sep	Gingin	Principles and Practices of Selective Pruning	No formal evaluation. Enthusiastic response. Positive questions relating to local conditions	80
2001	21 Oct & 1 Nov	Chittering	Citrus Fungal Diseases		34

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2001	28-Nov	Canning Vale	GA to Reduce Watermark on Imperial Mandarins Fruit Damage in Citrus in the South West Morning Tea - view displays Redfleshed Grapefruit Research at Carnarvon Gingin, Variety and Rootstock Results Medfly Area Wide Control Lunch ACG Conference Tour, Renmark SA Citrus in the North West, an overview Afternoon tea - view displays IPM in Citrus, the next step Highlights of 2001 – lessons learnt Planning for the future - updating the strategic plan	Formal evaluation 14 respondents Q1. 9 full time growers and 5 Grower/Packers Q2. 1 x Fairly useful, 5 x Useful, 7 x Very useful Q3. 1 x A little simple, 12 x Just right, 1 x A little technical Q4. 7 said they would make a practice change as based on the days information. Q5. 8 x every 12 months and 2 x As the need arises Various positive personal comments.	20
2001	12-Dec	Serpentine	FarmBiz Insurance & Risk Management WACIG AGM IPM presentation IPM Orchard Walk Skills Recognition Rebuilding the business	No Formal Evaluation Very positive comments re: business focus e.g. training, risk management - "...this is the sort of stuff we need..."	30
2002	7-Feb	Bindoon	Albedo breakdown, general nutrition, rootstock observations in the orchard	Formal evaluation (see attached.) 25 respondents Q1. 23 said Thursday afternoon was a good time, 4 said it was not?? Q2. Other suitable times 4 said weekday mornings, 16 weekday afternoons, 13 weekday evenings, 2 Saturday and 1 anytime. Q3. (easy to understand?), 1 x too simple, 1 x a little too simple, 16 x just right, 7 x a little too technical, none said it was too technical. Q4. (new/useful?) 3 x '1 Learned a lot of new/useful stuff', 3 x '2', 16 x '3 Some new/useful stuff', 2 x '4', None said 'all old stuff' There were many positive responses to 'what they liked', 'what they'd change' and a number of suggestions for other themes. Including "...I'm a beginner, everything is useful..."	>40
2002	11 Apr & 1 May	Harvey	Spray calibration and citrus activity update		48
2002	20 & 21 Aug	Gingin Wokalup	AusCitrus role in variety improvement. Local demonstration site report		57

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2002	6-Nov	Bacich Orchard	Thrip monitoring and IPM strategies	Good to have specialist on site. Need more of this	20
2002	17-Nov	Gascoyne	Grapefruit in a tropical environment		27
2002	5-Dec	Canning Vale	Understanding the supply chain EMS/EurepGap implications for us		20
2003	5 & 19 Mar		Calendar Development and orchard walk	This process (calendar development) was instigated by growers/improvement group members in Harvey and supported by WACIG. There was a very enthusiastic response from the Harvey group with lively discussion on what should be included. Less enthusiasm from Bindoon. A very positive interaction in the orchard at Bindoon. Useful discussion on a range of cultural practices (see table above) highlighting the value in 'basic' CITTgroup activity.	41
2003	2-Apr	Harvey	Beneficial insect release and insect ID	Very casual affair. Perhaps a little too casual for some participants. Two different evaluation sheets were handed out. One to one half of the group, one to the other half. (see attached) Didn't seem to make much difference in the result, however more negative comment came from the participants with the landscape version (not quantified). Questions were treated with a degree of suspicion eg "are these trick questions?", "who wrote this shit Gav?" "Shouldn't have to think about it for five minutes" (I have names for these quotes if needed)	19
2003	27 & 28 May	Gingin Harvey	New variety update and orchard walk	At the West Gingin meeting, Sonya Broughton also presented information on IPM. Dinner at the Gingin Hotel after was good, but made it a late night. At Harvey the walk was separate to the presentations and shared the bill with a commercial sponsor, got a bit messy.	70
2003	15 & 17 Sep	Gingin Harvey	Pest and disease management	Very interesting speaker. Surprisingly big turnout at West Gingin. Best response was to Carl's opinion about rind blemish on fruit brought in by grower.	48
2003	8-Oct	Clay Roses	Water quality and planting statistics	Appreciated the specific, local and informal nature of the gathering – traditional CITTgroup style.	7

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2003	21 & 22 Oct	Bindoon Burekup	IPM with James Altman Biological Services SA	<p>Extremely well received. James has a relaxed style that put the growers at ease and his obvious wealth of knowledge kept them captivated. One key to this was the relevance of his presentation. Our practice of showing visitors around local orchards prior to their presentation, provides them with reference points to show that they understand our conditions and how their knowledge relates to our situation.</p> <p>While James had some new information to share, it was particularly significant that he was able to reinforce the messages that we (Sonya Broughton, David Cousins, Gavin Foord) have been giving through-out this IPM awareness campaign.</p>	35
2003	19-Nov	Canning Vale Harvey	WACIG Field Day AGM and bus tour to Harvey	Very positive response from participants. The program provided plenty of time for questions and interaction between participants. I was concerned that there was too much 'fat' built into the program, but the group appreciated not being "rushed around all day".	30
2004	25 & 26 Feb	Harvey Chittering	February Cittgroups 2004 plan, ACG Conference report, Leaf analysis and nutrition reminder	There was some lively feedback on nutrition options and an undertaking from the WACIG committee to provide information on a range of approaches to nutrition. No formal evaluation as the topics were more of general interest and a planning nature.	41
2004	10-May	Carnarvon	Canopy management of Grapefruit in a tropical environment	<p>This was a follow-up visit. As with previous report, taking time to get to know local growers and conditions helped to ensure that the information was relevant.</p> <p>Excellent interaction with the group and practical demonstration of techniques.</p>	12
2004	12 & 13 May	Harvey Bindoon	Snail controls, monitoring and identification	<p>Angela presented information in a 'grower friendly' manor. Taking time to get to know local growers and conditions helped to ensure that the information was relevant.</p> <p>Excellent interaction with the group and practical demonstration of techniques.</p>	46
2004	30-Jun	Kununurra	<p>Season Review</p> <p>Information from the Markets, Facilitated session to determine priorities</p> <p>Latest results from Trials at Kununurra</p> <p>Information on a range of projects including the Retail Development Project and linking with the NT for Cittgroup activities</p>	While numbers were a little disappointing, what they lacked in numbers, they made up for in enthusiasm and some positive actions were agreed to.	13

Year	Date	Venue	Topic	Feedback	No. attendees
2004	5 & 6 Jul	Chittering Harvey	Season Review Soil management and plant nutrition (fertigation) Irrigation management	While Japie is not the most dynamic speaker we have had at CITTgroups, he had the groups captivated. The purpose of the exercise was to raise awareness of developments in fertigation overseas and to highlight the benefits of a program combining careful nutrition and irrigation monitoring and scheduling. I believe that this outcome has been achieved.	47
2004	6-Aug	Canning Vale	Nutrition Seminar	No formal evaluation, but numerous very positive responses, emails phone calls and personal comments on the day. "best day ever" was one response.	60
2004	19 & 26 Aug	Harvey Bindoon	Citrus Canker Update and On-Farm Biosecurity		26
2004	6 & 7 Sep	Gingin Wokalup	Citrus Breeding and Evaluation Update	Steve Syke's presentation on the National Citrus Scion Breeding Program was excellent. We asked Steve to limit his presentation to 40 minutes, which he timed perfectly and delivered in a fashion that was both informative and interesting!!! Kevin Lacey's presentation on evaluation work in WA was also very good	27
2005	5 & 6 Apr	Chittering Harvey	WA Citrus Production Calendar Launch, Soil Health and The use of Ralex	All were well received. Soil Health presentation from Nerida covered a range of issues briefly but very well presented. Tahir's presentation was more specific, providing 'results so far'. Some of the participants were frustrated that they were presented with information, not definitive answers eg. "...we have plenty of info, but lack the info for action..." Chittering participant.	46
2005	27-Apr	Carnavon	Citrus Phenology and Canopy Management - Andy Kraje	Very well received. Very disappointing numbers.	9

TOTALS	
Attendance number	1139
Meetings	50