

## **Spring 2016 IPM Update**

### **Agronomist Hotline now available to Farmers**

Many agronomists in our local area have been making use of the 'agronomist hotline'. This provides them with direct access to IPM Technologies staff for assistance with any bug issues that arise in the paddock. The IPM Technologies staff can help with such things as identification, feeding habits, having confidence in 'softer' control methods and much more.

IPM Technologies staff have kindly opened this hotline up to any farmers who are members of UHLMG (until end of 2016). So if you are a member with a bug question and would like to contact a member of the IPM Technologies staff directly please do. Email: [info@ipmtechnologies.com.au](mailto:info@ipmtechnologies.com.au) Mob: Angelica—0466 112 343, Paul—0419 891 575 or Jessica—0408 308 809.

### **Heliothis monitoring started in September**

Heliothis moth traps have been set up to help monitor spring flights into our local area. Traps have been set at Campbells Bridge and Great Western to monitor northerly flights. This may give us some early indication of flights about to enter our region. Traps within our immediate area are at Maroona School, Tatyoon Shop, Nick & Andi Armytage's property at Willaura and at Hammond Road, Yalla-Y-Poora. Results of the counts will be reported to UHLMG members on a weekly basis.

### **Seed dressings—planning for the future**

Concern has been raised by some in our IPM group about neonicotinoid insecticide seed dressings commonly used in our area as antifeed for aphids and RLEM control. This group of seed dressings is raising some toxicity concerns and they are likely to have their use challenged in the future. Earlier this month a few farmers and agronomists caught up with Paul and Angelica to float some ideas on how reliance on these seed dressings could possibly be reduced. Some options discussed were other insecticides currently used in horticulture, as well as greater use of cultural options. Fiprinol another insecticide seed dressing commonly used in this area to control earwigs also came under much discussion. We will keep members informed of any future developments.