



**PADDOCK POTENTIAL OF NATIVE GRASSES Information Day 22 March 2012
 Survey Results**

The Paddock Potential of Native Grasses Information Day aimed to inform participants about the opportunities and benefits of native pasture species to agricultural productivity and for conservation. Thirty four of the thirty five attendees completed the evaluation survey. A summary of the results is as follows.

Background

Questions 1-6

The majority of attendees were males (62%) with the over 60 age group (42%), and property owners/managers (87%) well represented. Lamb and wool producers comprised over half the participants followed by beef and grain.

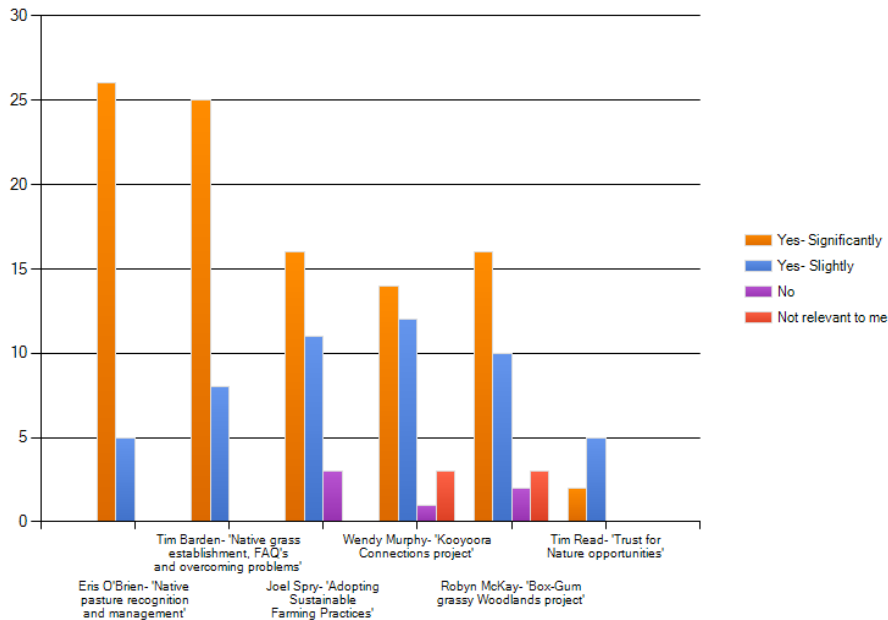
Improvement

Question 7-8

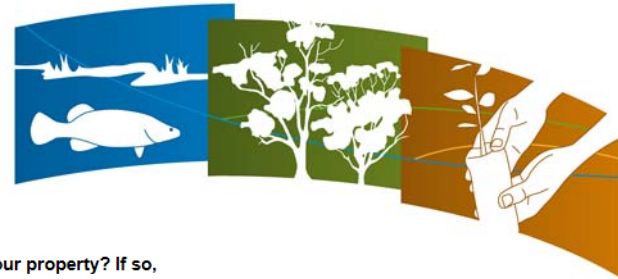
Feedback from the presentations was very positive, with a significant number responding that they have improved knowledge as a result of the day, and that they had learned something that they would implement such as:

- “retain native grasses and support their growth and spread rather than consider them noxious weeds”
- “interested to try combining native pastures with Lucerne as a means of permanent sustainable pasture for sheep grazing”
- “inter row plant native grasses in tree plots for ‘Green Haystacks’”

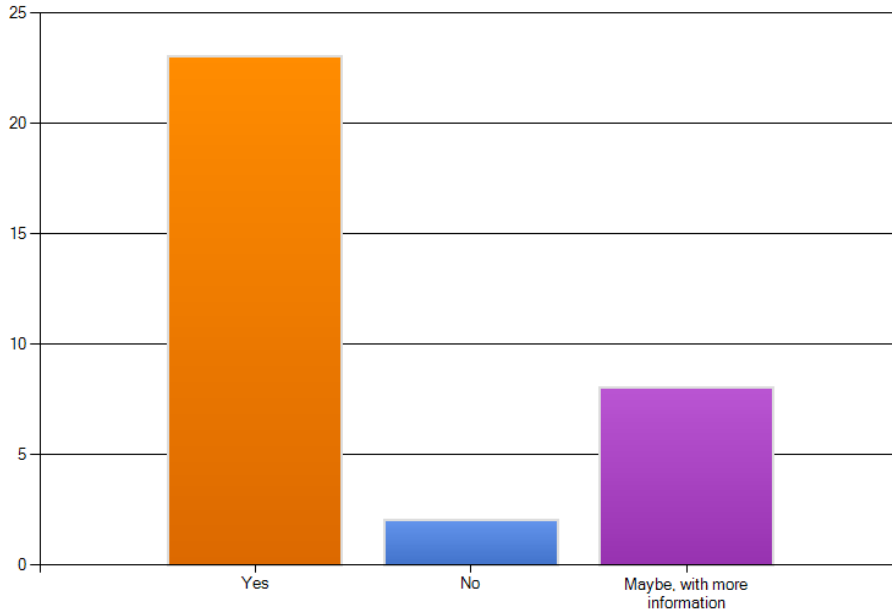
Has today's presentations improved your knowledge and understanding of the respective topics?



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As a result of attending today's field day, will you do anything differently on your property? If so, please describe what you will do differently?



Question 9

What extra information could have been provided at today's forum to assist with your decision making?

- "Local trial sites to determine what happen in our environment"
- "Costing of native seeds and their availability"
- "Would have liked a soil health angle - once you get a soil test how to interpret that to cater to native perennials. What conditions are best etc. Grazing management - really interested in how to manage existing native pastures"
- "More on native grass identification"

Question 10

Participants were generally satisfied with the format and length of time for each speaker (up to 45 minutes). Where suggestions for improvement were made, the central theme was for local speakers, local relevance and local networking.

- "I thought today's event was well run and informative without being overloaded with too much info"
- "Field days at Eris' property"
- "Maybe acknowledge more nearby farmers who have committed to more naturally symbiotically aligned practices to enable more local networking"

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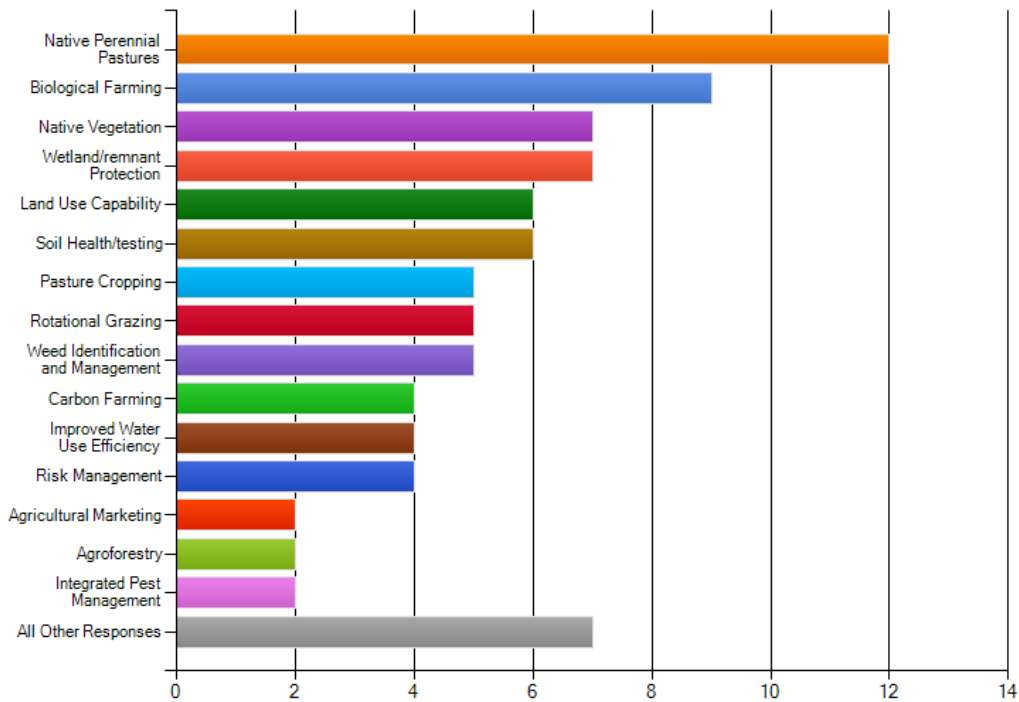
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Future Events

Question 11

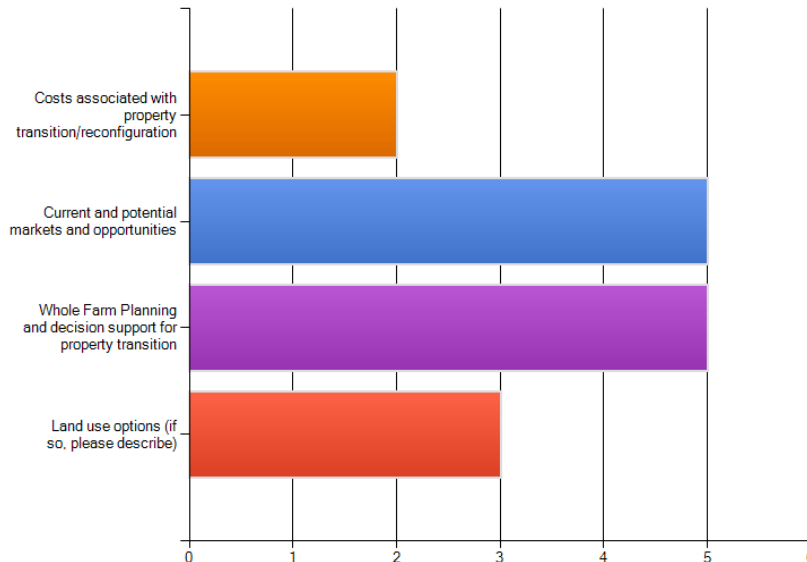
Native perennial pastures and biological farming were indicated as the two most preferred topics for future events. We are listening; consequently two events scheduled in late May for Boort and Yandoit will explore these topics.

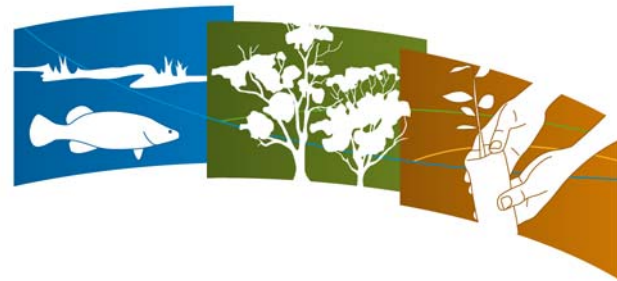
What are your THREE most preferred topics that you would like to learn more about? Please tick.



Question 12

Furthermore, if your property is considering its future in irrigation would you be interested in participating in information sessions on any of the following topics?





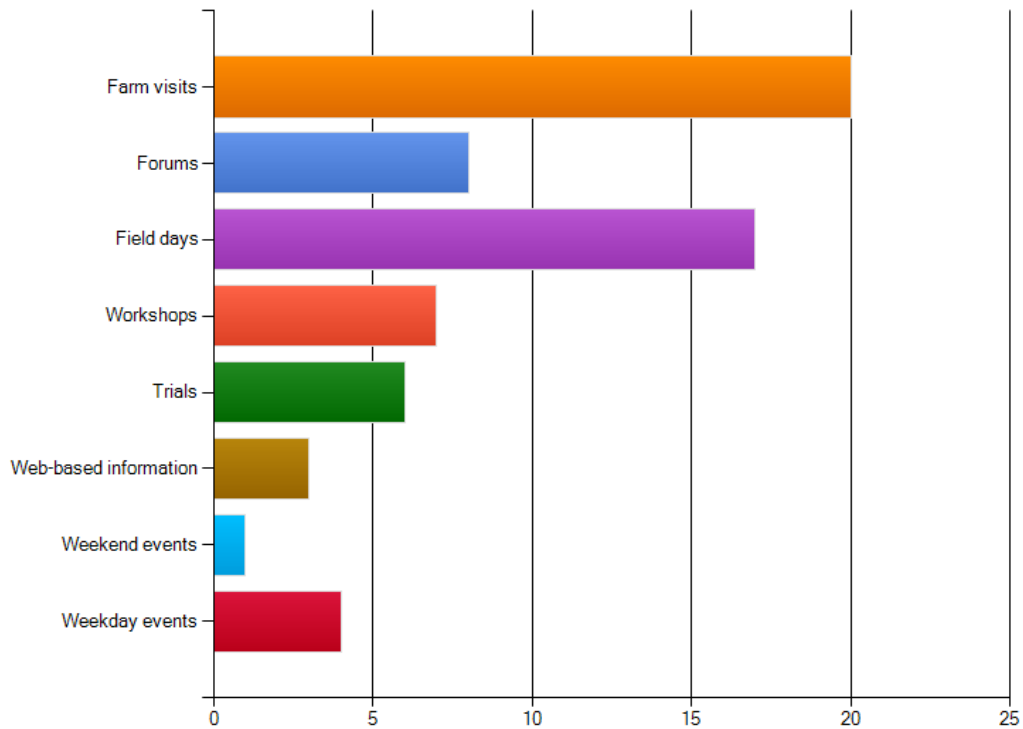
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Question 13

Farm visits and field days were by far the most popular type of events for the future to learn more about productive farming.

“Always observing different ways to farm in our business. Can’t do all on my own, so learn from experience of like minded people”

What type of events would you prefer to attend to learn more about productive farming?



Promotion

Question 14

More than half of the participants knew about the event via direct email or flyer from the North Central CMA, as a result of providing their details at previous events. Word-of-mouth and the North CMA’s Landcare newsletter ‘Groundcover’ were the next most common ways that participants found out about the event.