

2003 AGM - Information forum part 1

Transcript of 2003 AWI Annual General Meeting

Information forum - Dr Kevin Bell - AWI Program Overview

Kevin Bell:

Don't know about other people but I'm certainly very happy that it's in Perth because it's a lot less travelling and it's a great opportunity for you mostly Western Australians to come here and be here for an annual general meeting of your organisation.

AWI - you'll hear people talk about what we're doing and it's what you're doing. I mean this organisation, as I've said before, is there to use responsibly, productively, profitably, your living. It exists for that reason, so it has to have a staff and it has to be guided, but the ultimate guidance comes from you and I'm speaking to shareholders. So, please take that responsibility seriously. We like to see old people, young people, woolgrowers with a passion and, hopefully today will be worth your while coming to know what the organisation's doing. We want to hear what you want it to do, so thank you for coming again, and welcome.

I'm going to just chair this morning's session. This morning is really AWI trying in the best way possible to get out the message of what is being done with your dollars. Now, you may have heard it before. It's a chance to hear it again. To ask questions of the people that are directing these programs because we desperately want to do what you see as the main issues affecting your profitability. So, it's a good morning. It's interesting. You'll be very impressed with the staff that will be presenting to you because they are guiding the sort of work that you really commissioned them to do when you directed the formation of the strategic plan. So, thank you for that.

Each member will speak for a brief period. Now, at the end of that time there will be time for questions and comments, so please give them time to finish and at the end of each person's talk there will be a question time. There are two microphones that we'll use just in the middle of the hall. Please just go to that microphone and there'll be someone there will help you. The sound is very good. You'll be clearly heard. To make it easy for it let's just hear your name and where you're from because we'd like to know that because we can follow up on things and it's interesting for everybody, so that would be good.

You'll see the program; you've all got it. Morning tea will be halfway through the morning so, you know, if you can last till then that's good. I'll just say now and probably say it again: you probably have already registered, but shareholders, before the AGM at 2.00pm this afternoon, please register at the table outside.

Okay. That's enough from me. We're here to hear from the staff about the research that's being done and, as you know, those who know me know that I'm pretty passionate about research and this morning before I came here I

got a few faxes and was on the phone to a couple of farmers before 7.00am and just the things that were being talked about, the questions they were asking and what we were talking about, all of it was the fruits of research. It was about head counts and pastures and weaning and shearing, but it's research. Without research that had been done decades ago or is still being done those questions would not have been dealt with and the farming business would have not have been as well off.

So, research is the life blood of the industry and to start off I'm going to introduce Dr Paul Swan, who is I suppose the program manager for the on-farm one, the thing that's probably closest to each of us, the things we see every day on the farm. So, Paul, if you wouldn't mind coming up and I'll leave you in Paul's hands and this is research, a snapshot, if you like, of what's happening in research that you'll see the benefit of and be able to use on farm. Thank you, Paul.