



CTF UP-2-DATE newsletter

April to June highlights

- Topography mapping project for Brigalow Jimbour Floodplains group
- SRDC Precision Ag day in Cairns attended by Don
- RIRDC project on farm mapping software
- Advanced CTF workshop for Clifton TOPCROP group
- New project with Condamine Alliance and Clifton TOPCROP group
- CTF Solutions get involved in Grains BMP
- Two 2m vs 3m CTF webinars

What's happening in the next couple of months?

- Tim and Peta are expecting another baby in the near future
- Topography mapping for the Clifton project
- *NEW tools* for multiple-years yield map interpretation will be available soon
- NSW and Victorian CTF workshops

CTF Solutions gets involved in Grains BMP

CTF Solutions is writing parts of the new Grains BMP (Best Management Practice), being led by QDPI and AgForce Queensland. Initially, input will be in the area of farm mapping and layout, but will hopefully grow to include improving soil water storage, CTF, continuous improvement and sustainability sections. More details to follow. If you have any comments please let us know.

RIRDC project on farm mapping software nears completion

CTF Solutions, in combination with research partner Spatial 3i, is nearing completion of the RIRDC project on software for farm mapping. The project aims to develop a matrix of criteria to help primary producers to decide on an appropriate software program. As part of the project Blue (CTF Solutions) and Bernard (Spatial 3i) have been traveling the country interviewing farmer groups, consultants, extension people, and software companies. The team has also conducted a primary producer survey which has been sent to

thousands of farmers across the country. Results of the survey are being analysed at present. As part of the project, the team has also been evaluating many of the software programs on the market today, including FarmKeeper, iFarm, PAM, SGIS by AGCO, Back Paddock software, Phoenix farms, ArcGIS, MapInfo, Manifold, Farmworks, and GeoPdf. The team was pleasantly surprised by the depth and quality of available software programs, and is now more equipped to aid farmers in selecting the right software to meet their specific needs.

New project with Clifton TOPCROP group

A new project is about to start between Condamine Alliance and Clifton TOPCROP group to help producers in the Clifton area of Southern Queensland to adopt CTF/zero-till. Covering about 7500ha, the 16 farmers aim to get CTF systems operating more widely in the district to increase crop production and profits, reduce impact of farming on the environment, and enhance the natural resources. CTF Solutions began an original project

working with 4 farmers in 2006; with the interest generated from the original project now resulting in the rest of the group becoming involved. CTF Solutions recently ran an **“Advanced CTF workshop”** for the group, and will begin assisting with machinery changes soon. A large part of the new project is the topography mapping, which Blue is currently completing using our RTK GPS. Farm layout and mapping will be combined with agronomic and machinery changes to have CTF systems operating across the district within the next couple of years.



Topography mapping for the Brigalow-Jimbour Floodplains group (BJFP)

CTF Solutions has just completed a small project with BJFP group in Southern Queensland to map topography on 3 farms. Blue completed the mapping, and Tim provided advice about water control across the farms. There have been long-standing issues with water coordination between the properties, and hopefully the changes in layout and water control structures will alleviate these issues.

NSW & Victorian “Advanced CTF workshops”

CTF Solutions is currently negotiating with a range of catchment and farmer groups in NSW and Victoria to deliver **“Advanced CTF workshops”** in the August, September, and October. If your group would like to be included in our ‘road show’ of workshops, then let Tim or Wayne know ASAP. More info can be found on our website: www.ctfsolutions.com.au/.

New staff member and work experience students

CTF Solutions is pleased to have Tasha Wells starting some work with us to alleviate our current GIS burden. CTF Solutions looks forward to Tasha’s wealth of international remote sensing and GIS experience. Also joining us for 6 months is Ben Boughton from UQG. He is working with Don on new ways to calculate water use efficiency, and will also assist Blue with topography mapping and GIS in the short term. Jeremy White from Victorian DPI has also been with us for a fortnight learning GIS and CTF. This has been an investment by CTF Solutions in up-coming scientists.

STOP PRESS..... NLP projects successful

CTF Solutions has been successfully included in 3 NLP projects across Australia. We will be working with growers in Victoria, Tasmania and the Burnett Mary Group on CTF and new technology adoption.

If you need to contact a member of the team directly please see details below. Our website is regularly updated

www.ctfsolutions.com.au

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Caution: watch out for powerlines when operating your GPS!!!

