

NEWSWIRE

GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE

October 2008

34th Edition

The Grower Group Alliance *NewsWire* provides information about activities, training, field days and funding opportunities for the benefit of broadacre grower groups.

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GGA NEWS

Field Days and Follow-Ups

The GGA has been on the road throughout September attending as many member group field days as possible. It was good to see such great attendances, interesting trial programs and a wide variety of presenters.

All the field days we had the pleasure of attending were well-run and well-attended, and a credit to the groups involved. The GGA will be producing 'Tips and Tricks: How to hold a successful field day, Edition two', including the best aspects of all these events, so look out for this on the website and in future editions of *NewsWire*.

Carbon Mythbusters

During September, the GGA Carbon Mythbusters Roadshow was rolled out across the state, with soil expert Clive Kirkby from CSIRO and Charles Sturt University, NSW who presented at five grower group spring field days and one breakfast for agribusiness in Perth.

Improving soil health is consistently ranked as one of the top five issues faced by farmers in surveys of grower group members. In reaction to this, the GGA organised its second Researcher Roadshow, to improve the quality of information provided to WA farmers about soil carbon, in particular, exploding some of the misinformation or 'myths' surrounding soil carbon and its impact on soil health.

For more information on the Carbon Mythbusters Roadshow or to see Clive's presentation, [click here](#). The GGA will be in touch with grower groups regarding the collection of WA soils for testing by Clive in the coming weeks.

Strategic Advisory Group

The GGA Strategic Advisory Group met for the second time this year on Friday 26th September to discuss the progress and future activities of the GGA project. New activities to look out for in the next 12 months include: regional meetings between groups, profiles of our research partners loaded onto the GGA website, mentoring in trial design for groups and improvements in GGA communication.

Sharing Successes

The GGA will be organising a day to share successes on Friday 14th November in Perth, for grower group committee or staff members. The aim of the day is to share successes and lessons from 2008 and discuss goals and plans for 2009, and also to provide an opportunity to discuss grower group issues with those in similar situations.

All groups are welcome to attend. To share your success or add a question to the agenda, contact Susan Hall, P: 6488 7937, E: sahall@fnas.uwa.edu.au.

The GGA is also coordinating a visit to three grower groups in the northern agricultural region at the end of October. We have four spaces left on this trip, so if you are interested in joining the tour, contact Susan.

GGA Scholarship

In 2009, the GGA will be offering two scholarships to 4th-year students undertaking an honours project. The aim of the scholarship is to encourage new partnerships between grower groups, students and researchers.

The GGA is calling for applications from current 3rd year students who wish to undertake their 4th year project in conjunction with a grower group in WA. There is a total of \$2000 for each scholarship, with \$1000 for the student and \$1000 to cover field research expenses.

Applications must be received by Friday 21st November, 2008. For more information or an application form, [click here](#) or contact Susan Hall, P: 6488 7937, E: sahall@fnas.uwa.edu.au.

GENERAL NEWS

Ryegrass Rolls Out

South Coast livestock producers now have access to a new management tool that will assist them to better manage their ryegrass pastures, with SEPWA officially launching their new publication, 'Pasture Phase Farming – more than a passing phase'.

The publication will provide farmers with information and local case studies which will assist with better overall management of ryegrass pastures and help improve soil stability and weed control for the following cropping phase.

To receive a copy, or for more information, visit the [SEPWA website](#) or contact Kelly Guest, P: 9083 1141, E: kelly@sepwa.org.au.

Skeleton Weed Review

Grower groups are invited to lodge a submission to the independent review of the future direction of the Skeleton Weed Program.

Any growers or groups wishing to have their say about the program should do so before Monday 20th October. For more information, [click here](#) or contact Dalene Cronjé, P: 9081 3111, E: dcronje@agric.wa.gov.au.

Carbon Workshop Website

Presentations from the GRDC workshop into 'If soil carbon is included in emissions trading, how will it work?' are now available on the [GRDC website](#).

The workshop explored how emissions trading might work with some examples of existing voluntary schemes, the capacity of cropping soils to sequester more carbon, how to measure soil carbon, which soil carbon fractions are the most important, and how to take advantage of all the benefits of soil carbon.

NACC Events

The Northern Agricultural Catchment Council (NACC) is holding a series of events, including a photo exhibition, water and farmers' market workshops, the AGM and the "Protect, Prepare, Repair" forum from Thursday 9th to Friday 10th October.

Information on all the events can be found on the [NACC website](#). For more information or to register, contact Jackie Gill, P: 9964 9774, P: ctc@nacc.com.au.

IAST Seminar

The WA Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IAST) is hosting a seminar on Thursday 9th October at the Claremont Yacht Club, discussing developments in agriculture and NRM. Professor Tony O'Donnell, the new Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at UWA and Professor David Pannell, Federation Fellow at UWA, will present from 5pm and the seminar is followed by light refreshments.

For more information, [click here](#), or contact Natalie Moore, P: 08 9368 3333, E: nmoore@agric.wa.gov.au or Kelly Pearce, P: 0417 964 473, E: k.pearce@murdoch.edu.au.

Crop Updates Call

The Crop Updates Steering Committee is calling for papers for the 2009 Agribusiness Crop Updates Conference, to be held in Perth from the 24th to 25th February.

All stakeholders involved in grains research and development are invited to contribute to the event, with representatives presenting grower group research strongly encouraged.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Steve Penny, P: 9821 3333, E: spenny@agric.wa.gov.au.

Regional Women Required

Rural and regional women are invited to nominate for positions on the Rural, Remote and Regional (RRR) Women's network reference group, to recognise and promote contribution they make to their communities and provide strategic direction to the RRR Network.

Women with interests and good network contacts in the areas of health, education, small business, agribusiness, local government, indigenous affairs, multicultural affairs, and an awareness of issues impacting on rural women and their families, are encouraged to apply.

Nominations close 31st October. For more information, [click here](#) or contact Kerry Regan, P: 9368 3182, E: kregan@agric.wa.gov.au.

International Plant Breeding at UWA

The International Centre for Plant Breeding Education and Research has been established at The University of Western Australia and will play a vital role in addressing the looming global shortage in plant breeding expertise.

The new centre will provide much needed integrated expertise in genetics, biotechnology and plant breeding and forms part of UWA's Institute of Agriculture. It will offer a four-year undergraduate science degree in genetics and breeding and an undergraduate degree in agricultural science, with a component of genetics and breeding. For more information, [visit the website](#) or call 6488 1903.

COGGO Wheat Variety Launch

COGGO and AGT have launched two new wheat varieties, Mace, a Wyalkatchem with derivative preliminary APW classification due to be finalised in April 2009, and Fang, a mid-to-late variety with excellent rust resistance and a preliminary classification of APW,

For more information, [click here](#) or contact AGT, P: 9072 1722 or COGGO Seeds, P: 9363 3400.

WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

Free WACOSS Regional Workshops

The WA Council of Social Services are running free training workshops and a mentoring scheme in the Wheatbelt and South West, with workshops scheduled in Merredin, Muckinbudin, Northam, Boyup Brook, Collie and Nannup during October.

The Regional Community Leadership and Development Program provides an excellent opportunity for people who are working in the community services or not-for-profit sector to enhance their skills and to strengthen the regional community services network.

For more information, visit the [WACOSS website](#) or contact Lynn MacLaren, P: 9420 7232, E: lynn.maclaren@wacoss.org.au.

Succession Workshop at Wickepin

The Facey Group is holding a succession planning workshop on Wednesday 22nd October, which aims to provide participants with the tools to identify and communicate where their business is and the areas to be addressed to create an achievable succession plan.

Register your interest by Monday 13th October. For more information, contact Carmen Bayley, P: 988 1223, E: admin@faceygroup.asn.au.

Opportunities and challenges for agriculture in a future low carbon world'

The UWA Institute of Agriculture is holding a free lecture, 'Opportunities and challenges for agriculture in a future low carbon world', on Monday 27th October.

Presented by Steve Waller, the director of the Office of Climate Change, the lecture will explore the barriers to opportunities and how they can be overcome, along with policy implications, new skills and capabilities, and research and development implications.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Erika von Kaschke, P: 6488 3756, E: Erika.vonKaschke@uwa.edu.au.

Global Food Security Seminar

The Department of Agriculture and Food are holding a seminar looking at global food security issues, as discussed at the Global Environmental Change and Food Security Conference in April of this year, on Wednesday 5th November from 3.30pm in Northam.

For more information or to register your interest, contact Natalie Hogg, P: 9690 2000, E: nhogg@agric.wa.gov.au.

Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Workshop

The unique Myers Briggs Type Indicator workshop is being held in Perth from the 21st to 22nd October. The workshop can help improve a business, organisation or individuals by focusing on organisational leadership and ways of communicating and interacting with colleagues.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Colin Holt, P: 0418 902 204, E: col@arid.com.au.

Community Practice and Governance

Accredited courses and half and full-day seminars, designed specifically for the staff, volunteers, board/committee members and supporters of community organisations, are now available through the Australian Institute of Community Practice and Governance.

Current opportunities include the Certificate IV in Business (Governance), held in Perth from the 28th to 31st October, and the Intensive Winning Grants Seminars, on the 16th October. For more information, [click here](#).

Membership Workshops

Internationally renowned membership speaker, Sue Froggatt, is presenting 50 great member recruitment ideas in Perth at a half-day on the 27th November.

The workshop will present ideas on how to make a big impact on your member recruitment, including essential tactics for recruitment marketing; how to encourage prospects to join the organisation; and strategies for recruitment growth.

The workshop costs \$299, with bookings made before the 10th October to receiving 10% off. For more information or to register, [click here](#), P: 1300 852 303, E: info@membershipsolutions.net.au.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Soil Biology PhD Scholarships

The soil biology group at UWA is seeking a student with at least 2A Honours to undertake a PhD research project, beginning in March 2009.

The project will provide an opportunity to train within the research and mining sectors and travel to collaborating partners at the University of Wales in the UK. Topics include microbial ecology, restoration ecology, ecosystem processes, biogeochemistry and microscopy. The stipend is \$26,669 pa tax free.

Applications close 28th February 2009. For more information, [click here](#) or contact Dr Natasha Banning, P: 6488 3969, E: natasha.banning@uwa.edu.au or Dr Daniel Murphy, P: 08 6488 7083, E: daniel.murphy@uwa.edu.au.

Future Farm Industries Scholarships

Applications are now open for the Future Farm Industries CRC postgraduate scholarships commencing in 2009.

Up to 10 scholarships are available, addressing a number of PhD topics that will compliment existing research projects and research program objectives. The list of topics can be [found here](#).

Application forms can be [downloaded here](#). For more information, or to apply, contact Daryll Richardson, P: 07 5446 6094, E: drichardson@agaveeducation.com.au.

Biodiesel Research Grant

Case IH has launched a \$10,000 Biodiesel Research Grant program to help foster research, development and practical trials in this emerging field.

Biodiesels will be an important part of the solution to the fuels crisis in years to come, and the grant will explore better ways to create and use environmentally-friendly biodiesels made from renewable raw materials.

The grant program is open to individuals or organisations completing research or trials into any aspect of the biodiesel industry, including developing new fuel production techniques, establishing standards and guidelines or creating storage solutions.

Applications close 31st October. For more information, [click here](#) or contact David Thompson, P: 02 9673 7711.

Climate Ready Funding Program

Climate Ready provides grants from \$50,000 to \$5 million on a matching funding basis to support projects that address the effects of climate change.

Project topics may include water recycling; technologies that reduce the energy used by appliances; increased efficiency of industrial processes, products or services to monitor emissions or power usage and systems for businesses or consumers to compare the carbon footprints of different activities.

Applications for the second round of funding close on 4th December. For more information, visit the [AusIndustry website](#), or contact the AusIndustry hotline, P: 13 28 46, E: hotline@ausindustry.gov.au.

Helping Hands Grants Program

Helping Hands, a program to assist small rural communities, is offering grants of up to \$50 000 to not-for-profit organisations with projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities living in small rural and remote locations in Australia, supported by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.

Preference will be given to projects that support, among others, community infrastructure, capacity building, access to training and the environment. Applications close 27th October. For more information, contact Jo Mason, P: 03 5430 2304, E: info@frrr.org.au.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The EOI process gives researchers and other potential grower group partners, such as agribusiness, a simple way to outline upcoming research projects, trials or workshop opportunities they wish to offer grower groups.

More details on the following EOI's can be found on the [GGA website](#).

Soil Workshops

Groups are invited to participate in two soil workshops developed by Glen McDonald from DAFWA in conjunction with Wal Anderson, Bill Bowden, Paul Blackwell and Tim Overheu.

The first is 'Rain to grain', focusing on how to make the most of the rain that falls and the effect of management. It will evaluate environmental effects, soil constraints and management effects and identify efficiency of management, comparing this across paddocks and years.

The second workshop, 'Visual soil assessment', will investigate new methods for assessing physical soil health and complement current soil testing for nutrients.

For more information on the workshops, visit [the GGA website](#) or contact Glenn McDonald, P: 9821 3333, E: gmcdonal@agric.wa.gov.au.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To view the full Grower Group Alliance Calendar of Events, go to the [GGA website](#).

October 2008

Tues 14	Badgingarra Research Station Field Day	Badgingarra	Rebecca Anders, 9651 0540 randers@agric.wa.gov.au
Wed 15 1pm	Newdegate Research Station Field Day	Newdegate	Ross Ramm, 9871 1633 rgramm@agric.wa.gov.au
Thurs 16	Facey Group Grain Marketing Workshop - One for the Ladies	Wickepin	Carmen Bayley 9888 1223 admin@faceygroup.asn.au
Thurs 16	GSARI Field Day	Katanning	Steve Bell, 9821 3121 sbell@agric.wa.gov.au
Tues 21	Mount Barker Research Station Agricultural Field Day	Mount Barker	Greg Bunker, 9851 1427 gbunker@agric.wa.gov.au
Wed 22	Facey Group Succession Planning Workshop	Wickepin	Carmen Bayley 9888 1223 admin@faceygroup.asn.au
Thurs 23	Mount Barker Research Station Schools Field Day	Mount Barker	Greg Bunker, 9851 1427 gbunker@agric.wa.gov.au

FAST FORWARD

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