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GGA Newswire - April 2009 - 40th Edition

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Dear Reader,

GGA NEWS

Regional Meetings

The GGA wanted to start off 2009 by catching up with as many groups as possible, so we hit the road in March, taking in Geraldton, Broomehill, Esperance, Corrigin, Moora and Merredin. It was great to see so many grower groups represented, and your help in setting GGA priorities for this year is very useful.

On the back of a successful 2008 for many groups, it sounds like 2009 will be bigger and better, with many new projects and ideas. There are also a lot of groups interested in visiting other groups throughout the year, and the GGA is happy to provide assistance for your group where we can.

The GGA also has a few plans up our sleeve, including training options for group committee and staff. Meeting minutes will be sent to all groups and other attendees next week.

Grain & Graze 2

The Grain & Graze 2 scoping process is continuing, with initial feedback for the WA proposal being positive. All groups involved in the Australia-wide scoping process met with the GRDC and MLA in Melbourne in late March. We are now working together to identify synergies between regions and opportunities to collaborate. It is envisaged the successful projects will begin in late May. See the next issue of *Newswire* for more information.

Group Reports

In order to provide the most up-to-date information to other groups, potential partners and researchers, the GGA continuously updates grower group pages on our website. This is your chance to showcase what your group has achieved or planning.

Let us know what your group has been up to in the past 12 months by filling in the group profile form, and emailing or faxing it back to us. This is not supposed to be a lengthy process – a few lines to let us know you are still alive and kicking is enough! To access the profile form, [click here](#).

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GENERAL NEWS

Farmers Needed for Farm Day

Farmers are needed to host city families on Farm Day, on 30th and 31st May. Farm Day aims to bridge the divide between city and country families, to inform city families about farming, and allow them to experience life on the land.

In 2008, there were not enough farmers to host all the city families who wanted to take part. This year, it is expected that demand will be even greater, so more farmers are needed to host city families for a day. For more information, P: 1300 367 036, or visit <http://www.farmday.com.au/>.

New PinG Reference Group members

Partners in Grain have recently appointed four new members to the WA Reference Group at their annual meeting in Perth in February. New members include Carnamah farmer Bruce White, Badgingarra farmer Alison Cooke, Liebe Group Executive Officer Sophie Carlshausen and Kojonup farmer Benn Webb.

For more information on Partners in Grain, visit www.partnersingrain.org.au or contact Julianne Hill, P: 9838 1997, E: jrhill@agric.wa.gov.au.

Lupin Essentials

Pulse Australia has released Lupin Essentials, packed full of information on this vital part of the cropping rotation on sandplain soils in Western Australia, and particularly in the Northern Agricultural region.

The information aims to get the agronomic package right to produce a profitable yield, by establishing a healthy crop, compete with weeds and resist disease. For more information, contact Alan Meldrum, P: 0427 384760, E: pulse.alan@bigpond.com, or [click here](#).

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WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

Demystifying Precision Agriculture

Growers are invited to a Demystifying Precision Agriculture workshop at the Wubin Combined Sports Club on Tuesday 7th April, hosted by the Liebe Group.

The workshop will provide growers with information on how precision agriculture operates, the operational and nutritional aspects and uncover some of the jargon. It is part of a collaborative GRDC project led by Roger Mandel from Curtin University and Roger Lawes from the CSIRO.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Lara Swift, P: 9964 2030, E: lara@liebegroup.asn.au.

Grains Seminar Series

DAFWA invites grains industry members to learn more about grains industry issues and research at their monthly seminars.

Each will have two speakers, covering an industry issue and a research focus, and be followed by a networking sundowner.

The first two seminars are:

Date	Venue	Speaker	Topic
30 April	Soil carbon - the science and the myths Emissions trading and its potential impact on landuse competition	Fran Hoyle Ross Kingwell	Blind Association of WA, Victoria Park
21 May	DAFWA lupin, checkpea, barley and field pea breeding programs - where they're headed and why	DAFWA Plant Breeders	DAFWA Theatrette

For a full list of 2009 seminars, [click here](#). For more information, contact Janet Paterson, P: 9368 3189, E: jpaterson@agric.wa.gov.au.

Myers Briggs Type Indicator Workshop

Learn how and why you and others behave at a Myers Briggs Type Indicator workshop with renowned facilitator Veronique Boulangier.

The two-day workshop, held on 19th-20th May, will determine personality type, and how this affects how we work and live. For more information [click here](#) or contact Colin Holt, P: 0418 902 204.

Community Group Workshops

WA Council of Social Services (WACOSS) are running a series of workshops targeted at community groups in the Great Southern in April and May.

Date	Topic	Location
9 April	Developing Management & Leadership Skills	Gnowangerup
7 May	Governance Principles for No-For-Profit Groups	Katanning
8 May	Writing Successful Grant Applications	Nyabing
26 May	Sponsorship & Fundraising	Jerramungup

For more information, contact Lee Collis, P: 9420 7222, E: lee@wacoss.org.au or visit <http://www.wacoss.org.au/>.

Dandaragan Farm Forestry Tour

The West Midlands Group is hosting a free bus tour looking at on-farm forestry options, on Thursday 9th April.

The tour will focus on farm forestry options that utilise native species such as sandalwood, oil mallees, broombush, and eucalypt species and will visit three plantations.

RSVPs are essential. For more information, contact Jane Claringbold, P: 9651 4008, E: jane@wmgroup.org.au.

Upper Great Southern Oil Mallee Update

On farm benefits of oil mallees and the latest on industry development such as bio-energy, harvesting techniques and carbon sequestration will be showcased at the Upper Great Southern Oil Mallee Update and Farm Tour on Thursday 9th April.

The tour begins at 9am and there is no charge. RSVPs are essential. For more information, [click here](#) or contact Danielle Perrie, P: 9861 2222, M: 0428 231 506, E: wwlandcare@agric.wa.gov.au.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Woolworths Agricultural Business Scholarship

Young farmers can expand their horizons and learn to think outside the box with an Agricultural Business Scholarship with Woolworths, in conjunction with the University of Western Sydney and the Royal Agricultural Society.

Participants will learn from some of the country's leading experts in business management. The course is practical as well as theoretical, providing the opportunity to apply best practice ideas to real life experiences.

Applicants must be between 20 and 30 years old and currently employed in the agricultural or horticultural industry, or in the second or further year of study in an agricultural or horticultural faculty at a registered tertiary institution.

Applications close on May 15. For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

FarmTraining WA & FarmReady

FarmTraining WA has fully committed their funds to courses that have already occurred or are registered with FarmTraining to be run over the next three months, and therefore no further state subsidies will be available for non-indigenous courses that are not already approved by FarmTraining WA.

Trainers should now consider registering their courses with the Commonwealth FarmReady program. For more information, contact Denise Hamilton, P: 9368 3136, E: dhamilton@agric.wa.gov.au, or visit <http://www.farmready.gov.au/>.

Next Gen Farmers

The Australia's Farming Future initiative, the Next Gen Farmers program, offers support for projects to improve the leadership and representative capacity of young people entering or involved in primary industries, particularly challenges and opportunities as a result of a changing climate.

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to support activities that aim to build and share

knowledge and experience, increase access to planning tools and resources, develop leadership and management skills and build networks among rural, regional and remote Australians.

Applications close 9th April. For more information, [click here](#) or contact Australia's Farming Future Hotline, P: 1800 638746.

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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Fodder Beet for Salt Affected Areas

Primary Consulting Services is seeking grower groups to host trial sites for fodder beet to evaluate its persistence and productivity in saline affected areas of the Western Australian wheatbelt.

The grower group would establish sites of about one hectare that would be regularly measured for plant establishment and production over an expected period of up to two years. Results would encourage the development of the crop in potential situations where it would benefit farmers and the landscape.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Ken Sharpe, P: 9758 2591, E: kensultation@activ8.net.au.

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. For more information or to view past opportunities, visit the [GGA website](#).

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

April 2009

Apr 20 - 21	AgriFood Awareness Australia Gene Technology Workshop	Esperance	Nadja Moritz, 02 6273 9535, NadjaMoritz@afaa.com.au
Apr 22 - 23	AgriFood Awareness Australia Gene Technology Workshop	Geraldton	Nadja Moritz, 02 6273 9535, NadjaMoritz@afaa.com.au
Apr 29 - May 1	Agribusiness Training Strategic Extension Planning Course	Bentley	Brigette Lacey, 9690 2128, blacey@agric.wa.gov.au

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Fast Forward

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