



GGA Newsire - June 2009 - 42nd Edition

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Dear Reader,

### Goodbye from Tracey

Well it's finally time to say goodbye before I head off on 12 months maternity leave at the end of this week. I would like to take this opportunity to say an extremely big 'Thank You' to all the growers, researchers and people from industry that I have pestered over the years for their support and encouragement of the GGA project.

Who would have thought that way back in 2002 the GGA would have grown so quickly or so strongly to now support the largest network of grower groups in the country. The GGA is in a strong position with Susan moving up to become the project leader and Megan as the new project officer. I hope that your support will continue over the next few years as the GGA looks forward to new challenges.

I am very excited about beginning a new stage in my life but will be back before you know it in a part-time role with the Future Farm Industries CRC as a member of their adoption team.

Best wishes for a successful season

Tracey.

## GGA News

### Staff changes, new faces

As Tracey farewells the GGA, the turnover of staff is set to bring about exciting new changes to the organisation.

Susan will fill the GGA project leader role, and Megan Meates has joined the team as a project officer, and will work closely with Susan on GGA project activities.

Megan was a rural journalist for the Geraldton Guardian and Countryman and is looking forward to getting out and about the country and meeting researchers, industry partners and growers from the 45 GGA grower group members.

The changes will be overseen by the project's Strategic Advisory Group, consisting of representatives from four grower groups, UWA, the Department of Agriculture and Food, CSIRO, an agronomist and the project supervisors, who ensure the project remains relevant to industry needs.

For more information, visit the [GGA website](#).

### GGA Annual Forum

The GGA Annual Forum, the premier event for networking and interaction between grower groups, researchers and industry, will be held on Friday, 14th August at the Joondalup Resort and Country Club.

While it may seem an age away, we are starting to set the agenda, and invite suggestions on what the event should cover or what issues should be addressed.

This year we plan to make the forum even better, streamlining it into one day, with a networking dinner in the evening. Speakers will include Nigel McGuckian, presenting results from his social research into factors that influence mixed farmers' decision making, from the Grain & Graze project.

For more information or to discuss any ideas further, contact Susan Hall, P: 6488 7937, E: [sahall@fnas.uwa.edu.au](mailto:sahall@fnas.uwa.edu.au).

### Key funding list

A list of all the key funding bodies and grants has been compiled and been added to the resources page of the GGA website. This list details companies, organisations and government departments who offer funding for rural community groups.

For more information, visit the [GGA website](#).

### Rural women in leadership grants for Facey and MIG

The Facey Group and Mingenew Irwin Group have been awarded grants from the Federal Government's \$1 million Rural Women in Leadership program, to help women take on leadership roles in rural and regional Australia.

The Facey Group was awarded up to \$17,500 for their project, which provides women with the skills and confidence to take action in tackling the rapid changes occurring in their communities, environment, industries, services and workplaces.

MIG was awarded up to \$9800 for their women's workshops project, which encourages women to become leaders by focusing on skills such as effective communication, lobbying and advocacy, negotiation and conflict resolution.

For more information, contact Felicity Astbury, Facey Group, P: 9888 1223, E: [eo@faceygroup.asn.au](mailto:eo@faceygroup.asn.au), or Rachel Bagshaw, MIG, P: 9928 1645, E: [r.bagshaw@westnet.com.au](mailto:r.bagshaw@westnet.com.au).

## **First West Midlands trials in the ground**

It's the beginning of a new era at the West Midlands Group, with their first coordinated trials for the region seeded at the Badgingarra Research Station.

In partnership with DAFWA and with the generosity and dedication of local farmers, WMG has seeded various trials including a NxP fertiliser trial, a lupin variety and anthracnose disease trial, an ethanol variety trial, a TT canola variety trial, assessing amelioration options for overcoming water repellence in unproductive pale deep sandy soils and perennial grass trials.

All trial findings taking place in the West Midlands region will be collated and presented at the Crop Updates event in March 2010.

For more information about the WMG trials, [click here](#), or contact Bronwyn Fox, P: 9651 4008 or 0438 924 208, E: [bronwyn@wmggroup.org.au](mailto:bronwyn@wmggroup.org.au).

## **SEPWA trials canola on South Coast**

The South East Premium Wheat Growers Association has moved to trial canola varieties for the first time this year, following a push from their membership to expand their trials program to include the important break crop.

Members have been requesting large scale demonstration trials for a number of years, to gain a better idea of the crop performance in larger trials in their local area.

For more information, contact SEPWA trial coordinator, Bill Sharp, P: 0428 711 375 or visit the [SEPWA website](#).

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## **General News**

### **UWA PhD student probes grower groups**

The role of grower groups in promoting sustainable agricultural production will be investigated as part of a new project undertaken by PhD student Beena Anil at UWA.

The project will focus on the effectiveness of grower groups' in improving farmer knowledge, productivity and community wellbeing, and will involve an analysis of the range of activities being undertaken by the 45 GGA member groups.

The study will provide information on how grower groups can maximize their effectiveness in promoting sustainable agriculture which can then help grower groups better target their activities, and develop policies and plans for their future development.

Beena's PhD project is supervised by Professors Matthew Tonts and Kadambot Siddique at the Institute of Agriculture, UWA. For more information, contact Beena Anil, P: 0412692794, E: [beenadiya@gmail.com](mailto:beenadiya@gmail.com).

## CBH Council seeks members

CBH is seeking Growers Advisory Council members with a passion for agriculture and desire to shape the future of the company into Australia's leading grain business.

All grower shareholders are invited to nominate for the three-year position. A written application outlining relevant skills and experience as well as general suitability will be taken into consideration for the appointment in the council.

Nominations close 5th June. For more information, contact Brianne James, P: 9237 9818 or visit the CBH Group website, [www.cbh.com.au](http://www.cbh.com.au).

## Event organisers wanted

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) are looking for experienced conference or event organisers to help develop, organise and deliver the annual Agribusiness Crop Updates in Perth.

Expression of Interest responses are due the 8th June. For further information [click here](#).

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## Workshop Opportunities

### Perennial Pasture Establishment workshops

Evergreen Farming is running two Perennial Pasture Establishment Workshops, in Dandaragan on Tuesday 23rd June, and Eneabba on Wednesday 24th June.

The workshops will cover species selection, the nine establishment 'must-do's', grazing management needs and visit to a local paddock of successfully established perennial pastures. The workshops run from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

For more information or to register, contact Katherine Johnston or Jen Bairstow, P: 9653 1266.

### Ladies' days: Liebe and SEPWA

Register now to secure your spot at this year's Liebe Women's Field Day on 24th June, to see Carmen Lawrence and other speakers for an enlightening and inspiring day out. For more information or to RSVP, [click here](#) or contact Sophie Carlshausen, P: 9664 2030, E: [sophie@liebegroup.asn.au](mailto:sophie@liebegroup.asn.au).

SEPWA's Ladies' Day is on the 6th August, with Olympic medallist Sonja Johnson and other speakers, followed by a seafood dinner. For more information, [click here](#) or to register, contact Jan Clawson, P: 0407 990 497.

### Sustainable Farm Families program

The Geraldton-based Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health (CUCRH) will be presenting the two-day Sustainable Farm Families workshops in Mingenew and Moora in August.

Sustainable Farm Families addresses the health, well being and safety issues facing farm families by providing free health awareness and education workshops, helping farmers to increase their knowledge of their own health and take practical steps to improve their lives

and their business.

The Mingenew workshops will be held on the 12th and 13th August. RSVP by 20th June to Rachel Bagshaw, P: 9928 1645, E: [r.bagshaw@westnet.com.au](mailto:r.bagshaw@westnet.com.au).

The Moora workshops will run on the 17th and 18th August. RSVP to Jacki Ward, P: 9956 0200, E: [jackiw@cucrh.uwa.edu.au](mailto:jackiw@cucrh.uwa.edu.au).

## **Rural Practice Change Workshop**

Understanding Practice Change by Rural Landholders is the focus of a workshop at the University Club, UWA, on the 8th July.

The workshop will provide key insights from past and current research and make them available in an understandable and useful form, and allow practitioners to present their insights based on practical experience.

Understanding the practice change process is crucial for policy makers, agricultural researchers, extension agents, environmental management bodies, NGOs and agricultural consultants.

Registrations close 19th June. For more information, [click here](#).

## **Better Farm IQ training course schedule: Pre-Harvest 2009**

From Mullewa to Narembeen and 23 other locations in between, Better Farm IQ training courses will get growers up to date on the CBH Group's on-farm quality assurance program.

From the 22nd July to the 10th September, courses run across the agricultural region starting in the northern end. To see specific locations and dates, [click here](#).

For more information, contact the Better Farm IQ Training Department, P: 9416 1359.

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## **Funding Opportunities**

### **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.

Examples of suitable projects include products, processes or services to monitor emissions or power usage, technologies that reduce the energy used by appliances or increase the efficiency of industrial processes and using biotechnology or nanotechnology to address the effects of climate change on humans and the environment.

Applications close 25th June. The small grants support small business, as well as companies controlled by universities and public sector research organisations, through a simpler application form and reduced reporting requirements.

For more information, contact the Climate Ready Hotline, P: 13 28 46 or E: [hotline@ausindustry.gov.au](mailto:hotline@ausindustry.gov.au).

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# 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.

For more information on the EOI process and past EOI's, [click here](#).

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## Calendar of Events

### June 2009

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Wed 24	Liebe Group Women's Field Day	Dalwallinu	Sophie Carlshausen, 9664 2030, <a href="mailto:sophie@liebegroup.asn.au">sophie@liebegroup.asn.au</a>
Thurs 25	Evergreen Northern Field Day	Geraldton	Charlene Hutchinson, 6272 4545, <a href="mailto:admin@agvivo.com.au">admin@agvivo.com.au</a>
Thurs 25	WANTFA Post-seeding Field Walk	Mingenew	Kaye Phillips-Webb, 0427 223 395 <a href="mailto:kaye@wantfa.com.au">kaye@wantfa.com.au</a>

### July 2009

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Wed 8	WANTFA Post-seeding Field Walk	Meckering & Cunderdin	Kaye Phillips-Webb, 0427 223 395 <a href="mailto:kaye@wantfa.com.au">kaye@wantfa.com.au</a>
Mon 13 - Wed 22	SEPWA and Liebe Group Young Growers' Tour	Eastern States	Gemma Walker, 9083 1134, <a href="mailto:eo@sepwa.org.au">eo@sepwa.org.au</a>
Fri 17	Partners in Grain Lamb and Lager Event	Wickepin	Felicity Astbury, 9888 1223, <a href="mailto:eo@faceygroup.asn.au">eo@faceygroup.asn.au</a>
Sat 18	Partners in Grain Beef and Beer Event	Jennacubbine	Julianne Hill, 9838 1997 <a href="mailto:jrhill@agric.wa.gov.au">jrhill@agric.wa.gov.au</a>
Wed 22	Liebe Group's Pizza 'n' Port Night	Pithara	Sophie Carlshausen, 9664 2030, <a href="mailto:sophie@liebegroup.asn.au">sophie@liebegroup.asn.au</a>

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

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