



GGA Newsire - February 2010 - 49th Edition

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Dear Megan,

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

## GGA News

### GGA Comes to You

Grower group staff and committee are invited to discuss plans for 2010; 2009 achievements; and group issues at regional meetings through March and April. Following record turnouts at last year's meetings, these meetings will continue the opportunity for sharing ideas and boosting relationships with other groups.

DATE	LOCATION	DETAILS
16 March	Merredin	12.00 - 3.00, lunch included (following Merredin Crop Updates)
17 March	Corrigin	9.00 - 11.30, breakfast included, following Corrigin Crop Updates)

22 March	Geraldton	12.00 - 3.00, lunch included
23 March	Moora	9.00 - 12.00, morning tea included
25 March	Katanning	1.00 - 3.30, lunch included (following Katanning Crop Updates)
April	Esperance	TBC, followed by SEPWA Wine & Pasta Night

## Support to attend WANTFA Conference

Interested in seeing the latest and greatest in no-till technology? The GGA is offering five grower group staff or committee \$200 each towards registration to attend the WANTFA conference at the Vines Resort on the 10th and 11th of March.

To receive support, contact Susan Hall, P: 6488 7937, E: [sahall@fnas.uwa.edu.au](mailto:sahall@fnas.uwa.edu.au), by Friday 19th February. To see the WANTFA conference program, [click here](#).

## Planning to visit other group events?

With a number of grower group events happening in February and March, the GGA is offering organisational and funding support to visit other groups across WA.

Trials reviews, harvest debriefs and Crop Updates are all ready for your group to experience - see the calendar at the end of *Newswire* for a full list of grower group events.

If your group has plans to go visit another group, contact Megan Meates, P: 6488 3410, E: [megan.meates@uwa.edu.au](mailto:megan.meates@uwa.edu.au).

## Woolworths Grants

The Bodallin Catchment Group, Liebe Group and WANTFA have all been successful in securing grants from the Woolworths Sustainable Farming Program.

These grants are aimed at supporting farmers to develop or implement good ideas to improve the sustainability of farming practices.

NEFF has also been successful in receiving \$150,000 from Woolworths through Landcare Australia to investigate, 'Farming on the edge – reducing risk and maximising the potential of low rainfall systems in the North East agricultural area of WA'.

To view the list of successful recipients of the Woolworths Sustainable Farming Program, [click here](#). To read what the Bodallin Catchment Group plan to do with their funding, [click here](#).

## Evaluation course success

To help develop evaluation and program logic skills of group staff members, the GGA ran the Agribusiness Training Program Planning for Evaluation course with 10 grower group staff members during January.

With so many project applications requiring a well structured program logic behind it, this course not only introduced attendees to the logic, but also to setting up results ladders, matching suitable evaluation methods to the project and designing key evaluation questions.

The GGA have previously attended the course and put program logic into practice with the GGA project and Grain & Graze. If you have any queries regarding program logic or evaluation, the GGA staff are always happy to help.

Should you have ideas for other training opportunities that the GGA can provide, please contact Megan Meates, P: 6488 3410, E: [megan.meates@uwa.edu.au](mailto:megan.meates@uwa.edu.au).

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## General News

### CfOC 2010-2011 Business Plan

The Caring for Our Country [Business Plan for 2010-2011](#) was released earlier this month, with key issues for WA identified as soil acidification and soil loss through wind and water erosion. To address these and other issues, \$15 million is allocated to Sustainable Farm Practices.

Sustainable practices projects are due 15th April and must contribute to one of three targets: improving management practices, landscape scale conservation and improving knowledge and skills. Proposals of \$20,000 to \$300,000 are invited through an open call, while proposals of more than \$300,000 are invited through an expressions of interest (EoI).

Projects must fit targets and maps identified through the plan, with a preference for proposals involving partnerships.

For further information about the 2010-11 business plan, P: 1800 552 008, E: [business.planning@nrm.gov.au](mailto:business.planning@nrm.gov.au) or contact Sustainable Farm Practices Facilitator Michael Grasby, P: 9387 7315, E: [michael.grasby@nrm.gov.au](mailto:michael.grasby@nrm.gov.au).

The GGA is also happy to help with project applications, program logic or with any queries about the plan, P: 6488 7937, E: [sahall@fnas.uwa.edu.au](mailto:sahall@fnas.uwa.edu.au).

### Weedseeker spraying trials in NAR

As part of NEFF's GRDC agribusiness trial extension network project, Crop Circle Consulting will be spraying the first trials for the project, weedseeker herbicide options on summer weeds, in Mullewa during February.

The trials consist of 20 treatments over three major summer weed species, with the results available after the ratings have been finished.

Grant Thompson of Crop Circle Consulting has put together a calculator that helps growers to decide when it is cost effective to employ a weedseeker sprayer rather than boomspraying.

To see the calculator, [click here](#), or for more information on the trials, contact Grant Thompson, P: 9921 1344, E: [grant@cropcircleconsulting.com.au](mailto:grant@cropcircleconsulting.com.au).

### Grains Council of Australia seeks restructure comment

The Grains Council of Australia is seeking comment on its operation plan outlining a possible restructure for the organisation, with the aim to be a more representative body for the grains industry.

Farmers and grower groups are encouraged to have their say in national grower representation. To see the plan documents, [click here](#). To comment, contact Alan Umbers, P: 0428 432557, E: [alan@grainscouncil.com](mailto:alan@grainscouncil.com).

### NACC rabbit control incentives

NACC is offering farmers incentives to assist in controlling rabbit populations, aiming to integrate best practice rabbit control including rabbit baiting, warren fumigation and rabbit-proof fencing.

Incentives, funded via Caring for Our Country, will be offered in accordance to set guidelines and minimum site criteria to ensure significant outcomes are achieved.

For more information, contact Stanley Yokwe P: 9964 9774, E: [lf@nacc.com.au](mailto:lf@nacc.com.au) or [click here](#).

## **New soil acidity guide**

Soil Acidity, a Guide for WA Farmers and Consultants is a new publication recently released as part of the Wheatbelt NRM soil acidity project, optimising soil pH for sustainable farm practices.

Jointly delivered by DAFWA and Precision SoilTech, the guide is written for WA farmers and consultants managing soil acidity and is underpinned by more than 25 years of research. To download this publication, [click here](#).

## **Future Farm CRC website**

The Future Farm CRC has launched a new website, with information on CRC research projects overviews and PhD project summaries amongst its new features.

The CRC has also begun developing a searchable online resource library of more than 300 PDFs and other file types on perennial plant based farming systems and the plant-based management of salinity. To see the new website, visit [www.futurefarmcrc.com.au](http://www.futurefarmcrc.com.au).

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## **Workshop Opportunities**

### **Malcolm Bartholomaeus talks grain markets**

Partners in Grain is hosting grain market analyst Malcolm Bartholomaeus, who specialises in analysing the market and developing marketing strategies, at three grower groups and the Partners in Grain Annual Dinner during February.

A tour of the New Norcia bakery will precede PinG's Malcolm Bartholomaeus presentation and annual dinner on the 24th February, with founding director and baker Kingsley Sullivan presenting. For more information on this event, [click here](#).

Malcolm will then head north, presenting to the Moora Miling Pasture Improvement Group and the West Midlands Group on 25th February, followed by NEFF in Geraldton on 26th February. For more information on these grower group events, [click here](#).

To register, contact the relevant grower group or Julianne Hill, P: 9780 6136 or E: [julianne.hill@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:julianne.hill@agric.wa.gov.au).

### **Farming landscapes for the future**

An interactive tool that helps users to develop new farm enterprise combinations for the future is being presented at a series of workshops in February and March.

The free workshops will allow participants to test a range of production and climate scenarios on their own farm, for instance, exploring options of annual and perennial enterprises under a changing climate.

For dates and venues or to register, [click here](#) or contact Tom Sweeny, P: 9690 2154, E: [thomas.sweeny@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:thomas.sweeny@agric.wa.gov.au).

## Farm Computer Workshops

Following on from the popular Farm Office Workshops, Partners in Grain are hosting a series of Computer Farm Office Workshops to help streamline farm offices during February and March.

The workshops will give tips about electronic filing, backing up and dealing with power surges, creating favourites, virus software, QA records and more.

Date	Venue
15 February	Jerramungup Telecentre
16 February	Ravensthorpe Telecentre
17 February	Esperance DAFWA
18 February	Gibson Soak
19 February	Scaddan Country Club
2 March	Williams Telecentre
3 March	Narrogin
4 March	Katanning DAFWA
5 March	Hyden Telecentre

To register, [click here](#) or contact Julianne Hill, P: 9780 6136, E: [julianne.hill@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:julianne.hill@agric.wa.gov.au).

## Crop Updates dates

Kicking off the 2010 Crop Updates season is the Agribusiness Crop Updates, taking place 25th and 26th February at Burswood. The rest of the dates are in March - see below where your nearest Crop Updates will be.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Wed 3	Liebe Group Crop Updates	Buntine Hall	Chris O'Callaghan, 9664 2030, <a href="mailto:Chris@liebegroup.asn.au">Chris@liebegroup.asn.au</a>
Thurs 4	Mingenew-Irwin Group Crop Updates	Port Dennison	Rachel Bagshaw, 9928 1645, <a href="mailto:r.bagshaw@westnet.com.au">r.bagshaw@westnet.com.au</a>
	Ravensthorpe Crop Updates	Ravensthorpe	Rodger Walker, 9838 1018, <a href="mailto:rodgerwalker@westnet.com.au">rodgerwalker@westnet.com.au</a>
Fri 5	Geraldton Crop Updates	Geraldton	Naomi Simpson, 9956 8542 <a href="mailto:naomi.simpson@agric.wa.gov.au">naomi.simpson@agric.wa.gov.au</a>
Tues 16 7.30am	Merredin Crop Updates	Merredin	Tim Scanlon, 9081 3115 <a href="mailto:timothy.scanlon@agric.wa.gov.au">timothy.scanlon@agric.wa.gov.au</a>
Tues 16 1pm	Hyden Crop Updates	Hyden	Vanessa Stone, 9865 1205 <a href="mailto:vanessa.stone@agric.wa.gov.au">vanessa.stone@agric.wa.gov.au</a>
Wed 17	West Midlands Group Crop Updates	Dandaragan	Jane Roberts, 9651 4008, <a href="mailto:jane@wmg.org.au">jane@wmg.org.au</a>
	Esperance Crop Updates	Esperance	Esperance District Office, 9083 1111
Wed 17 12pm	Corrigin Crop Updates	Corrigin	Cindy Parsons, 9881 0201 <a href="mailto:cindy.parsons@agric.wa.gov.au">cindy.parsons@agric.wa.gov.au</a>
Thurs 18 9am	Pingelly Crop Updates	Pingelly	Cindy Parsons, 9881 0201 <a href="mailto:cindy.parsons@agric.wa.gov.au">cindy.parsons@agric.wa.gov.au</a>
Thurs 18 12.30pm	Northam Crop Updates	Northam	Tom Sweeny, 9690 2154 <a href="mailto:thomas.sweeny@agric.wa.gov.au">thomas.sweeny@agric.wa.gov.au</a>
Tues 23	Stirlings to Coast Farmers Crop Updates	Mount Barker	Heather Adams, 9854 1051, <a href="mailto:heatheradams@activ8.net.au">heatheradams@activ8.net.au</a>
Thurs 25	Katanning Crop Updates	Katanning	Keith Ohlsen, 9821 3333 <a href="mailto:keith.ohlsen@agric.wa.gov.au">keith.ohlsen@agric.wa.gov.au</a>

## National Landcare Conference

The National Landcare Forum is set to recognise the significant contribution the community has made over the last 20 years, held in Adelaide, 23rd to 25th March, bringing together landcare and community groups, regional bodies and industry and government representatives from across Australia.

Delegates will have the opportunity to learn about the latest research developments in NRM and sustainable agriculture and to also develop new networks and new skills.

For more information, [click here](#) or to register, P: 3210 1646 or E: Email: [events@hievents.com.au](mailto:events@hievents.com.au)

## Funding Opportunities

### Caring for Our Country

See General News for the details.

### GRDC IDAs

Up to \$15000 is available through the GRDC Industry Development Awards (IDAs), targeted at groups of grain growers for study tours or other forms of training. The IDA's aim is to develop new information that will contribute to building a sustainable and profitable grains industry.

Applications close Friday 26th February 2010. To apply for an IDA, [click here](#), or for more information, [click here](#).

### Wheatbelt NRM SCIP Funding

Round two of the Soil Conservation Incentives Program is now open, with up to \$50,000 available to farmer groups and individuals to demonstrate management practices helping to control wind erosion.

The three main themes for funding include integrating tree crops into farm systems; recommended grazing management practices; and recommended cropping management practices.

Applicants are encouraged to work in groups to share their experiences and encourage the adoption of farming practices that reduce wind erosion to their local community.

Applications are due 15th March 2010. For more information, contact Dan Ferguson on P: 9690 2259, E: [dferguson@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:dferguson@wheatbeltnrm.org.au). To download an application form, [click here](#).

### Wheatbelt NRM community small grants

Wheatbelt NRM's small grants incentive scheme, Community Small Grants, is designed to support activities that improve the community's participation and awareness of NRM, with up to \$15,000 available to community groups.

Examples of suitable activities include, environmental education initiatives/lectures, flora and fauna surveys, tree planting, bushland management, recycling, water harvesting, water conservation and cultural NRM activity.

Applications close 26th March. For more information contact Carla Swift, P: 0428 777 287,

E: [cswift@wheatbeltnrm.org.au](mailto:cswift@wheatbeltnrm.org.au) or for an application form, [click here](#).

## Expressions of Interest

### Ryegrass integrated management workshop

WAHRI is looking for grower groups interested in hosting half-day IWM workshops throughout 2010. The workshops will provide participants with an opportunity to develop and test long term weed management strategies, particularly regarding the management of the problematic weed ryegrass.

For more information, [click here](#). Interested grower groups should register their interest to Neree Martinez, P: 6488 7872, E: [neree.martinez@uwa.edu.au](mailto:neree.martinez@uwa.edu.au).

### Balance update days

Balance™, from Custom Composts, is a new pelletised input for cereal crop production designed to increase the efficiency of applied fertiliser by supporting soil biology and allowing nutrients to cycle more effectively.

Expected to be released commercially in 2011, Custom Composts will host a series of morning sessions held throughout the wheatbelt to share the results of field trials and hear the experiences of growers using Balance over the past seven years.

For more information on the Expression of Interest, [click here](#). Grower groups interested in attending a half day presentation are invited to contact David Sharp, P: 0419 904 001, E: [david.sharp@customcomposts.com.au](mailto:david.sharp@customcomposts.com.au).

## Calendar

### February 2010

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Thurs 11	Mingenew-Irwin Group Trials Review	Mingenew	Rachel Bagshaw, 9928 1645, <a href="mailto:r.bagshaw@westnet.com.au">r.bagshaw@westnet.com.au</a>
Mon 15	<a href="#">Facey Group Growing Potential Workshop: Introduction to Board Meetings and Governance</a>	Wickepin	Felicity Astbury, 9888 1223, <a href="mailto:eo@faceygroup.asn.au">eo@faceygroup.asn.au</a>
Wed 24	Partners in Grain Annual Meeting, New Norcia Bakery Tour and Dinner	Perth	Julianne Hill, 9780 6136, <a href="mailto:julianne.hill@agric.wa.gov.au">julianne.hill@agric.wa.gov.au</a>
Thurs 25 - Fri 26	<a href="#">Agribusiness Crop Updates</a>	Burswood	Charlene Hutchinson, 6272 4567, <a href="mailto:admin@agvivo.com.au">admin@agvivo.com.au</a>

### March 2010

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Thurs 4	Facey Group Trials Presentation Evening	Wickepin	Carmen Bayley, 9888 1223, <a href="mailto:admin@faceygroup.asn.au">admin@faceygroup.asn.au</a>
Fri 5	SEPWA Harvest Debrief, AGM and Annual Grain Growers' Dinner	Esperance	Gemma Walker, 9083 1134, <a href="mailto:eo@sepwa.org.au">eo@sepwa.org.au</a>
Wed 10 - Thurs 11	WANTFA Annual Conference	Vines Resort, Swan Valley	Kaye Phillips-Webb, 0427 223 395, <a href="mailto:kaye@wantfa.com.au">kaye@wantfa.com.au</a>
Tues 23	Wheatbelt NRM Sub-catchment	Wongan	Carla Swift, 0428 777 287

	Community Forum	Hills	<a href="mailto:cswift@wheatbeltnrm.org.au">cswift@wheatbeltnrm.org.au</a>
Fri 26	West Midlands Group: Women, Well Being & Wine Forum	Dandaragan	Jane Roberts, 9651 4008, <a href="mailto:jane@wmg.org.au">jane@wmg.org.au</a>
Wed 31	Saltland Pastures Association & Wallatin Wildlife and Landcare CDI Open Day	Kellerberrin	Linda Vernon, 0427 902 126 <a href="mailto:saltland.pastures@bigpond.com">saltland.pastures@bigpond.com</a>

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

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