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GGA Newswire - September 2014

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Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>

Across the GGA Desk

Congratulations to all grower groups, and our industry partners, for what was another fantastic spring field day season.

With the GRDC Investment Plan released recently, it's a timely reminder of the assistance available through the GGA in developing ideas, research questions and proposals; linking groups, researchers and partners; and providing feedback on proposals. Scroll down for more information on the investment plan, and contact the GGA to see how we can help you.

Groups will soon be receiving their copy of the GGA Annual Forum proceedings booklet, along with a newly developed document outlining the roles and responsibilities of the GGA. We are looking for endorsement from you, our grower group members, to ensure that these are the activities and outcomes you want to see delivered from the GGA. Keep an eye on your mailbox, and contact the office to discuss this further.

GGA News

Spring Field Day wrap up

The GGA has visited nine field days since the last edition of Newswire, starting in the north and working our way down to Esperance. The target this year was to get out to more of the smaller groups to see what support the GGA can provide them.

A beautiful spring day at WANTFA kicked off the field days, where the group tried out a new format, splitting up into groups and rotating through the different trial sites. Trials on show included variety trials, time of sowing, lime incorporation and much more.

The Mingenew-Irwin Group attracted a large crowd of close to 250, with highlights being guest speak Kim Hughes, a soil amelioration panel session with local growers sharing their stories on how they improve their soil and Peter Newman concluding the day talking about the management practices he would implement if he was a Mingenew farmer.

The Holt Rock Group held a formal dinner on Tuesday 9th Sept to celebrate 28 years and honored five life members (another big celebration after Hyden won the grand final a few days earlier!). The field day covered wheat varieties, wide row lupins, N management strategies and canola sustainability audit and provided a great platform for discussion facilitated by local consultants. The highlight of the day was a tour of the Kerrigan Valley Beef feedlot.

The new Merredin group MADFIG hopped on a bus and went to tour a corporate farming enterprise, Warrakiri Cropping - see spotlight for more information.

Nyabing Farm Improvement Group, with a group of 45 attendees, focused on pastures in their morning session, visiting an MLA trial site north of town. Presentations were given over lunch (voted best of the field days!) and the afternoon was spent looking at trials on pH, soil health, sub soil constraints and nutrition.

Stirlings to Coast field day kicked off with a glyphosate sustainability trial and magnificent views of the Stirling Ranges. The group again broke attendance records as their trials program continues to grow, covering variety and agronomy trials, drones and their use in a farming enterprise and an impressive MLA broad scale pasture trial.

The final week saw the GGA head to Esperance to attend the Cascade, North Mallee and Neridup field days. SEPWA variety trials continue to be highly valued by growers in the port zone, showcased at all the regional events.

Although it was impossible to make it to every field day, there were reports of high attendance, innovative programs, and strong enthusiasm from other groups. For those we missed, keep the GGA informed about your next event and we will aim get out and find out what your group is up to.

It's a privilege for the GGA to attend group events and important for us to keep up to date with what groups are doing, their research priorities and need for support - this leads to a strong network and helps the GGA facilitate linkages for collaboration in the future.



GGA Annual Forum presentations online

Missed the forum, didn't get to the third concurrent, or just wanted to relive the best moments? The GGA Annual Forum presentations are now available online! Visit www.gga.org.au to check it out.

Corrigin Farm Improvement Group seeks group coordinator

The Corrigin Farm Improvement Group (CFIG) is seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic group coordinator to manage the general operations of the organisation.

As a group coordinator you will be at the forefront of agricultural on-farm research and development in the Corrigin district. You will work closely with the CFIG management

committee and industry stakeholders to deliver agricultural R&D programs, projects and activities in the Corrigin and surrounding areas. Part-time or full-time applications are encouraged and flexible working conditions can be arranged.

For a copy of the job description click [here](#), or contact Danielle England on (08) 9881 5431 or danielle@aginnovate.com.au or on the CFGI website www.cfig.asn.au

General News

Crop Updates Paper EOIs open

Topics and speakers are now being sought to deliver research results to WA grain growers at the 2015 WA Crop Updates, held from Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th of February, with Regional Crop Updates held during March 2015.

To view the application form or to submit an Expression of Interest click [here](#). Grower groups are strongly encouraged to share their research at Crop Updates, and assistance can be sought from the GGA in developing papers. Applications close **Friday 24 October**.

Grain growers to benefit from R4R high-tech project

The State Government has invested \$10 million from the Royalties for Regions program in a high-tech project to help Western Australian grain growers produce more profitable crops - the e-Connected Grainbelt.

The project is designed to provide WA grain growers with more timely, accurate and relevant information to make informed management decisions, and will seek to establish the e-Connected Grainbelt Network, an open data exchange system to harness and combine a range of information, such as paddock records, weather observations, weather forecasts, financial updates and research outcomes. For more information [click here](#).

Two new members join the GRDC Western Panel

The GRDC has appointed two new members to its western regional panel, Darrin Lee from Mingenew and Gemma Walker from Esperance.

Darrin Lee is managing partner of a family farming business located 15km north-east of Mingenew in WA's Northern Agricultural Region. He is also represented on the CBH Group's Growers Advisory Council and is a Mingenew Irwin Group board member.

Gemma Walker has extensive experience in broadacre cropping and livestock systems gained through managing the tri-state Mallee Sustainable Farming and her hands-on involvement in her family farm near Munglinup.

For more information [click here](#).

WA grower awarded Nuffield Scholarship

Stirlings to Coast member and South Stirlings grower Reece Curwen has been awarded a prestigious Nuffield scholarship, supported by the GRDC, at the 2014 Nuffield Australia National Conference in Launceston.

Nuffield scholarships support young, innovative growers to become future leaders of our industry and are an integral part of the GRDC's investment into capacity building for the grains industry.

Mr Curwen will use his scholarship to investigate the dynamics between broadacre farming and the management systems used to maximise productivity, particularly through the ability to manage scale, as staff, plant and finance demands pose challenges for those managing large properties.

As cropping manager of his family's 9500 hectare broadacre mixed farming property, he is responsible for a 6500ha cropping program, including canola, barley and wheat. In addition, the enterprise includes 10,000 ewes.

Diversity Era

AHRI is delivering Diversity Era, FREE online training in "more crop, less weeds" for a limited time, available to anyone with an internet connection.

Diversity Era was created by AHRI to bring to experts to you, so that we can better understand herbicide resistance and achieve "more crop, less weeds" through diversity.

Over the next couple of months, AHRI will release FREE training before Diversity Era officially launches in 2015, so to stay in loop before the launch date, or to get involved, [click here](#), or contact Brogan Micallef, T: 6488 3189, E: brogan.micallef@uwa.edu.au.

Nominate Now! RIRDC Rural Women's Award

With WA women leading at a national level over the past three years, nominations are sought for the 2015 RIRDC Rural Women's Award, with applications closing 30th October.

The peak national award recognises Australia's most inspirational rural women, providing financial assistance, mentoring and access to a nation-wide network of business and community leaders for the selected winners.

State winners receive a \$10,000 financial bursary to implement their award vision, with the national winner and runner-up receiving a further \$10,000 bursary awarded to support their professional development and contribution to primary industries. For more information [click here](#).

Investment in the Future of Agriculture

The 'investing in the sustainable agricultural resource use' report is a companion to DAFWA's sustainability report card released last year. The report card looked at 10 key natural resource issues affecting agriculture, including soil acidity, dryland salinity, soil compaction, water repellence, wind and water erosion and soil carbon. For more information click [here](#).

Regional Cropping Solutions Network Annual Report

The GRDC Regional Cropping Solutions Groups, comprising growers and industry across the five WA port zones, feed and develop key priorities for their region, to shape future GRDC investment.

For an overview of the investments made by the RCSN's and their current priorities, download the latest RCSN report, available [here](#).

Ag Trial Sites

NRM WA is developing a new website - AgTrialSites.com - to showcase trials happening across WA. The site aims to enhanced sharing of knowledge, systems and practices between regional natural resource management organisations and increased collaboration and knowledge sharing with growers, production and landcare groups and the agricultural R&D industry.

This is a prototype website demonstrating the AgTrialSites concept and NRM WA would welcome feedback! Please note all the trial sites in WA are currently still in the process of being included.

Workshop Opportunities

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
No field days this month			

Weedsmart Webinars

Weedsmart are hosting a two-part webinar series to address new options available to farmers in managing the weed seed bank as well as strategies to help promote the long term sustainability of herbicides.

AAAC Outlook - support available

Grower group staff can access a \$100 subsidy to attend the AAAC Outlook, Friday 28 November.

Outlook is the premier event for

- *Webinar 1: Grazing chaff dumps - Wednesday 8 October* Andrew Boulton, York grower, and Peter Newman, Leader of Communications, Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative, will discuss the benefits of grazing chaff dumps versus burning.
- *Webinar 2: Diverting weed seeds onto permanent tramlines - Wednesday 15 October* Peter Newman and Esperance grower Mark Wandel, will talk about the latest practice of diverting weed seeds on to permanent tramlines.

consultants and agronomists, and more information can be found [here](#). To register your interest in receiving the subsidy, contact Rebecca Wallis, E: rwallis@gga.org.au.

For more information or to register [click here](#).

Funding Opportunities

GRDC External Investment Plan 2015-16

The GRDC Investment Plan, available at www.grdc.com.au, offers a number of opportunities for grower groups to apply or collaborate on.

The GGA are currently working with researchers, grower groups and other potential partners to make links where required and assistance is available to all groups in developing their projects and applications.

Of particular interest to grower groups is the Regional Cropping Solution Network Fast Track Projects, which offer multiple opportunities for grower groups to link with industry partners to investigate an issue or activity that has been identified as a priority in each of the five port zones by the RCSN groups. GRDC will invest up to \$130,000 in each port zone, with tenders for a single project ranging from \$1,000-\$40,000. Projects must provide an answer or outcome within 12 months, have a strong focus on extension and strong collaboration with industry. Projects can deliver across multiple port zones.

The GGA can work with groups to assist in developing projects, making connections, editing applications and with any other aspects of the project and tender process. This FREE service is available to all GGA grower groups - make sure you utilise it to your advantage!
Applications close Tuesday 29 October.

Regional Crop Updates EOI

Grower groups are invited to apply to host a Regional Crop Updates event in 2015.

GIWA is once again the event organiser of the 2015 WA Agribusiness Crop Updates in Perth and will provide assistance, in conjunction with the GGA, GRDC and DAFWA for the Regional Crop Updates.

GRDC will provide some funds (total value \$20,000) to selected grower groups (about 10) for organising Regional Crop Updates. In addition GIWA, GGA and DAFWA will assist grower groups with in-kind support to help source speakers, promote the event, and facilitate access to papers submitted for 2015 Crop Updates in WA.

If your group would like to hold a Crop Updates event in 2015, you will be required to submit an Expression of Interest to the Crop Updates Steering Committee for consideration. To access the EOI [click here](#). For more information contact Larissa Taylor, T: 6262 2128, E: ltaylor@giwa.org.au. EOIs close Friday 31 October.

The GGA is available to assist groups in developing their EOI, contact Rebecca Wallis, T: 6180 5759, E: rwallis@gga.org.au.

Landcare 25th Anniversary Grants

Grants are now open in the 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants, with Australian communities able to share in \$5 million worth of funding aimed at helping restore local environments.

Forming part of the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, grants of between \$5000 and \$20,000 will be available to local groups to enhance their natural resources and engage with their communities.

For more information [click here](#). Applications close **Monday 20 October**.

SCNRM Southern Incentives Grant Round 5

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available to farmers and community groups to complete conservation works on private property.

This current round aims to protect, restore and enhance native vegetation within the Forest to Fitzgerald macro corridor (Walpole to Jerramungup) by implementing on-ground works.

For more information [click here](#). Applications close **Monday 13 October**.

GRDC Industry Development Award

GRDC Conference Awards and Industry Development Awards are currently open, specifically targeted at grain growers or groups working directly with growers for study tours, travel or other forms of training.

The aim is to develop new skills, build relationships and acquire new information that will contribute to building a sustainable and profitable grains industry. Grants of up to \$15 000 are available, and applications close **Wednesday 29 October**.

For more information [visit the website](#), or contact Tom McCue, T: (02) 6166 4500, E: tom.mccue@grdc.com.au. For support in developing your applications contact the GGA.

Calendar of Events

To view the full GGA Calendar of Events [click here](#), or subscribe to the fortnightly email [click here](#).

Grower Group Spotlight

North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources

2014 Young Farmer Tour

The 2014 Young Farmer Tour ran for four days from the 26th to the 29th of August and visited the Perth and Dowerin regions. The trip took a lot of planning and was run by the North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources Resources NRM officer Marnie Vaux and Katanning Landcare's Andrea Salmond.

Those on tour experienced a variety of industry visits such as AEGIC, Primaries Wool, the Australian Wool Testing Authority and Wellards, as well as having some down time touring the Fremantle Prison and dinner at the Little Creatures Brewery.

The tour also attended this year's Dowerin Field Days, where they completed the Young Farmers Tour Amazing Race around the field day and also had some time to check out the field days casually.

The tour was a huge success and planning for the 2015 tour will commence soon! For more

information on the tour, click [here](#).



Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)

Understanding decision making in a corporate farming structure

On the 11th of September, 22 growers along with members of the Kellerberrin Demonstration Group attended a field tour of Marwarra property east of Merredin, managed by Tony Murfit. The tour was focused around liming, weed control and the farming business model.

The group attended trials on the property focused on liming and the ways to maximize the returns made from liming as well as the impacts on soil pH and subsoil acidity. The group then learnt about Marwarra's rotations for weed control, where it was seen that a fallow, canola, cereal rotation was in place. It was concluded that the fallowing achieved a better control on weeds, especially ryegrass.

The discussion around the corporate farming business model included agronomy, rotations, decision making and highlighted the importance of maintaining a professional and focused approach.

MADFIG are a relatively new group, however they have achieved a good thinking atmosphere and provide opportunities for discussion between growers. The MADFIG group is open to any growers in the Merredin and surrounding region that wish to join.

For more information on the field tour, click [here](#).



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

If you found this newsletter helpful, please feel free to send it on to your friends and fellow community groups in your area.

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rwallis@gga.org.au

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The Grower Group Alliance is funded by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA.

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