



## **Grower Group Alliance Media Release – Monday 22 August**

### **Local group wins inaugural excellence award**

A group known for their strong community spirit and peer to peer collaborative learning style has received the inaugural Grower Group Alliance Award for Excellence.

Yuna Farm Improvement Group (YFIG) was presented with the award on Friday at the Grower Group Alliance Annual Forum in Scarborough. The award is presented annually to a group that makes a significant contribution to the industry and is excelling in achieving their group vision.

The group was formed in the early 1990's to help address agronomic problems of the time, particularly better crop establishment, and be a contact point for people wanting to conduct trials in the area.

Today the group continues to be a strong contributor to local RD&E through annual updates and field walks, trials and demonstrations and a strong social grower network.

In a town with no pub, this group has become the social drawcard for the region, and has been an important contributor to increasing farming productivity and profitability.

Grower Group Alliance Project Leader Rebecca Wallis said YFIG embody the spirit of small groups of farmers being motivated to collaborate in research, development and extension activities, while operating on a shoestring.

"We are delighted to recognise YFIG with this award. They have no staff and are volunteer run, yet they are still making some big wins on the board. They have proven that their group model based on flexibility is able to meet community needs and build members' skills and capacity to manage profitable and productive farm businesses."

YFIG president Brady Green said the award is a great acknowledgement for their group and their community, particularly in an active year for the group in which they have delivered a number of large events including research updates and field days, creating positive outcomes to members.

"It is a credit to our committee that they are able to understand what our members want and take on the challenge to provide them with relevant local information and a social outlet."

The award is proudly sponsored by the Grain Industry Association of WA (GIWA) in recognition of the economic and social contribution of grower groups to the competitiveness of WA's agrifood sector. The winning group receives a cash prize to go towards improving group capacity, operations and systems.

The Grower Group Alliance Annual Forum was held on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 August at the Rendezvous Scarborough.

The Grower Group Alliance is a funded project connecting grower groups, research organisations and agribusiness in a network across WA. The GGA is funded by Department of Agriculture and Food WA through Royalties for Regions.

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#### **Photo Caption**

**Image 1:** Yuna Farm Improvement Group President Brady Green (left) being presented with the GGA Grower Group Award of Excellence by GIWA Chairman Richard Williams (right). GIWA is the proud sponsor of the award.