



**GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE**  
Together we grow

Supported by media partner



## OUR history

Established by grower groups **for** grower groups almost 20 years ago, today the Grower Group Alliance is a thriving WA state-wide network of about 60 farmer-led local groups,

from Kununurra in the north west all the way down to Esperance in the south east. Across the network, the groups have a diverse collective membership of about 4000 farm

enterprises operating in all sectors of the agriculture industry at all different levels of scale and purpose.

## OUR purpose

GGA's vision is to shape the future with a producer led system of innovation adoption and collaboration.

The GGA has three key areas of operation:

**Capacity Building** via delivering a range of professional development opportunities for Grower

Groups aiming to hone their function and impact.

**Program Brokering** for Research, Development and Extension (R, D & E) in the agriculture industry collaborating with grower groups as well as national and state ag industry players.

**Leadership** through partnerships with the agriculture industry to lead network scale projects as well as advocating for the value of Grower Groups, driving for opportunities to support their community impact.

## OUR structure

GGA is a grower group owned and driven incorporated Association with a grower group membership base, steered by a board of eight (Peter Roberts, Erin Gorter, Graham Smith, Nicole Batten, Dr Nathan Craig, Dr Kelly Manton-Pearce, Chris Reichstein and Debbie Gillam) and managed by a team of six staff (Niki Curtis, Kallista Bolton, Mark Holland, Tanya Kilminster, Michelle Condy and Alison Maughan).

## OUR board



PETER ROBERTS  
*Chair*



ERIN GORTER  
*Vice Chair*



GRAHAM SMITH



NICOLE BATTEN



DR NATHAN CRAIG



DR KELLY MANTON-PEARCE



CHRIS REICHSTEIN



DEBBIE GILLAM

## DPIRD-GGA collaboration

2019 was a watershed year for GGA as it entered into a multi million dollar, performance based, four year collaboration with Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The Team WA approach aims to increase the amount of research and innovation that is demand driven, farmer-led via grower groups and based on the WA context and environment.

The initiative will capitalise on DPIRD's research capability and the GGA Network to drive stronger

collaborations between DPIRD, grower groups and the wider industry.

Supporting grower groups with capacity building remains core business for GGA but the DPIRD collaboration has seen the GGA team empowered with an expansion from two to six staff.

Three DPIRD staff have been allocated to GGA for a newly formed R, D & E team and one appointed as financial controller as the GGA gears up to handle large network scale projects.

Meanwhile the original GGA team has also

undergone renewal.

The high impact duo of CEO Annabelle Bushell and Chair Kevin Goss who spearheaded the \$4.38m DPIRD-GGA Collaboration, have been succeeded in September 2020, by industry shakers Niki Curtis (CEO) & Peter Roberts (Chair).

The core GGA team was revitalised with marketing recruit Kallista Bolton in March 2020 in the role of Stakeholder & Communications Manager, succeeding the strong groundwork of Megan Cechner.



NIKI CURTIS  
*Chief Executive Officer*



KALLISTA BOLTON  
*Stakeholder & Communications Manager*



MARK HOLLAND  
*Program Broker*



TANYA KILMINSTER  
*Program Broker*



MICHELLE CONDY  
*Engagement & Innovation Officer*



ALISON MAUGHAN  
*Finance & Administration Manager*



**STRENGTH IN COLLABORATION**

## CURRENT projects

### NATIONAL EXTENSION TRAINING PROGRAM

Western Australian participants have jumped at the opportunity for capacity building, filling 18 of the 24 places available in the first cohort of an Australia wide three year extension skills training program aimed at grower groups. Running from Feb - Oct in 2021, 13 WA Grower Groups are included in the WA cohort reflecting the high quality of Grower Groups in the

west and commitment to capacity building and delivering increased value to their member stakeholders.

With support from GGA in WA, the program is managed by the Ag Excellence Alliance funded by the Australian Government under the National Landcare Program 2 Smart Farms – Capacity Building program. GGA is providing recruiting.

NATIONAL GROWER GROUP COLLECTIVE

BUILDING AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SKILLS PROGRAM

JOIN OTHER GROWER GROUP PROJECT OFFICERS FROM ACROSS AUSTRALIA TO BUILD YOUR EXTENSION SKILLS AND NETWORKS.



CURRENT **projects** CONTINUED**STRATEGIC PLANNING SUPPORT**

GGA is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from Grower Groups in need of a strategic plan to be written or updated. Many groups are wanting to build their capacity, refine their purpose and functions through a facilitated updated strategic planning process. To be considered in this planning stage, groups should email EOI to Kallista Bolton.

**"LET'S TALK GOVERNANCE" PODCAST**

GGA has recorded a six episode Governance Podcast especially for Grower Groups airing in January, February & March, 2021. The series features Peter Fitzpatrick, renowned Governance instructor and is designed to assist not for profit groups to lead with impact, confidence and compliance. The series is produced with the sponsorship of key GGA supporter the CBH Group as part of its commitment to regional communities.

**HANDS ON PRECISION AGRICULTURE TRAINING PROGRAM 2020-2022**

GGA will act as the WA co-ordinator collaborating with nine Grower Groups to provide 18 workshops over the next two years as part of the Hands On Precision Agriculture Training Program which is a national, GRDC funded project.

Driven by issues raised by growers, the workshops are designed to impart knowledge in a 'hands-on' manner, provide grain growers with introductory precision agriculture training enabling use of PA equipment and data improving speed and accuracy of decision making, reduced production costs and increased farm profitability.

The first workshops will be in February 2021, dates and venues can be found in the GGA Calendar [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

**FROST NOW AND IN THE FUTURE**

GGA will collaborate with Grower Groups on a \$110,000 project to extend and apply the outcomes of previous R&D investments relating to frost and share and build knowledge to inform grower and advisor decisions.

A priority is growers inexperienced with frost and under prepared to manage the effects on their profitability.

A series of Pre Seeding workshops will run in March 2021 in collaboration with eight groups focussed on sharing the latest practices and products to mitigate frost events and guide on frost response strategies.

**DROUGHT RESILIENCE ADOPTION AND INNOVATION HUBS**

Following consultation with a significant number of groups and potential partners, the Grower Group Alliance (GGA) will make an application to the Federal Government to lead the South West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub consortium.

This multi million dollar, multi year, multi stakeholder project has the potential to be a national game changer in the way extension and adoption is collaboratively delivered into the Australian agricultural community.

Details of the program can be found on the Future Drought Fund website. Contact GGA's Mark Holland for more information on collaborating.

**DIPLOMA OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT 2021**

Five places remain for a GGA organised fully accredited Diploma of Project Management to run next March.

Ideal for grower group trials project managers, delivery will be a blended format of online study ahead of a three day residential live in workshop hosted at the Muresk Institute, Northam on 24, 25, 26 March 2021.

The accreditation assessment module will follow post workshop. Priced at \$1,490 per person inclusive of course materials, instruction, accreditation project, accommodation and all meals whilst at Muresk. EOI to Kallista Bolton.

**GGA NETWORK**

Agricultural Women Wheatbelt East (AWWE)  
Bruce Rock Land Conservation District Committee  
Bugs & Biology  
Carnamah LCDC  
Certified Organic Biodynamic Western Australia Inc (COBWA)  
Compass Agricultural Alliance  
Corrigin Farm Improvement Group  
Dumbleyung Landcare Group  
East Wagin Top Crop Group  
Esperance Zone Innovations (EZI)  
Evergreen Farming  
Facey Group  
Far East Agricultural Region (FEAR) (Bodallin Catchment Group)  
Gascoyne Food Council Inc  
Gillamii Centre  
Holt Rock Group  
Jerdacuttup Top Crop and Pasture Improvement Group  
Kellerberrin Demonstration Group  
Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association  
Lakes Grower Group  
Lakes Information & Farming Technology (LIFT)  
Liebe Group Inc (LIEBE)  
Living Farm Grower Group  
Merredin & Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)  
Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG)  
Moora Milling Pasture Improvement Group  
Morawa Farm Improvement Group  
Mortlock Ag Focus Group  
Mullewa Dryland Farmers Initiative  
Munglinup Local Farmer Group  
Neridup Soil Conservation Group  
Noongar Land Enterprise Group  
North Mallee Farm Improvement Group  
North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources  
Northern Agri Group  
Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance Pty Ltd (NACRA)  
Nyabing Farm Improvement Group  
Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN)  
Sandstone Sustainability & Development Group  
Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA)  
South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA)  
Southern Dirt Incorporated  
Southern Forests Community Landcare (formerly Warren Catchments Council)  
Stirlings to Coast Farmers  
The Sheeps Back  
Toodyay Agricultural Alliance  
WA Hemp Growers' Co-op Ltd  
WA No-Tillage Farming Assoc (WANTFA)  
Wandering Productivity Group  
West Midlands Group  
Western Beef Assoc Inc  
Women in Farming Enterprises (WIFE)  
Yuna Farm Improvement Group

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**  
Gate 2 Plate Inc.  
Julianne Hill (GRDC Western Grower Network Co-ordinator)  
Rural Edge

**WELCOME TO GGA NEW MEMBERS**

(Approved by the GGA Board on December 8, 2020)

**O'Connor Research Group**

Newly formed in 2020 operating in the Cunderdin, Meckering, Tammin areas with a vision to empower the expansion and growth of local producers through research and innovation. Pipeline plans for trials in 2021.

**Lower South West Grower Group (formerly Scott River)**

Established 20 years ago, today the group is focussed on opportunities for its local producers, attracting R&D to progress the industry in a sustainable manner. Revitalised group currently engaged in a MLA trial, lobbying for local producers infrastructure and capacity building.

**Fitzgerald Biosphere Group**

Established in 2012, has a mixed focus being the lead NRM and grower group in the shire. Actively engaged with researchers, state and national industry groups to enhance local production & NRM issues.

**Western Australian Lot Feeders Association**

Established in the 70's the statewide group drives promotion, value and advancement of the grain-fed cattle industry in WA. Facilitates extension by all the major industry groups in the production space, environmental sustainability and social licence.

**Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance**

Newly formed group in 2020 with the mission of building a healthy, revitalised rangeland environment that supports a diverse and productive pastoral industry through innovation and collaboration. Aiming to engage up to 250 pastoralists over 21 shires with the potential for major positive impact in the region.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS****Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC)**

Longstanding leading professional association providing representation, fellowship and resources for agricultural consultants working in WA. Provides an extensive directory to find a local consultant.

**Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA)**

GIWA is a whole value chain industry association with the purpose of supporting an effective and efficient export-oriented WA grain industry. Facilitates communication, capacity building and supply chain solutions.

**Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group**

Established in 2014, the group exists to see the impacts of priority pests reduced to an acceptable level for local stakeholders operating in dairy, livestock, horticulture, viticulture, orchards and equine.

TO CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL  
GROWER GROUP VISIT [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)