



GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE
Together we grow

Supported by media partner



GGA FORUM 2021 – FRIDAY, JULY 23

SAVE the date for GGA's 18th Annual Forum on Friday 23rd July.

Forum is GGA's flagship network building conference.

In 2021, the event will return to a face-to-face program open to the whole industry and be held at the Aloft Hotel, Rivervale.

The main conference content on Friday 23 July will be flanked by valuable social and industry networking elements including a not to be missed Gala Cocktail event "with a twist" on Thursday evening 22 July, a networking luncheon and closing sundowner during the Friday program with an optional – add on Saturday 24 tag-along Field Trip and lunch.

Aligning with the vision for 2021 is new sponsor Rural Bank, which has come on board to support delivery of the event to the Grower Group Network.

Rural Bank joins long standing sponsor the CBH Group. Watch GGA website for registration details gga.org.au



GROWING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP VALUED AT \$15,000

GGA is calling for applications for two scholarships valued at \$15,000 each, sponsored by CBH to encourage growers to take on leadership positions in the grain industry.

The Growing Leaders Scholarships place two future leaders into the Leadership WA 10-month Signature Leadership Program, which includes participants from across WA industries and sectors.

Applications for the 2022 scholarships open on 1 May, and are open to anyone involved in or aligned with grain growing enterprises in WA, with demonstrated grower group and community involvement.

Details at gga.org.au



Two CBH sponsored Growing Leaders Scholarships valued at \$15,000 open May 1 for applications at gga.org.au

RECENT projects

FROST KNOWLEDGE BUILDS

A successful series of Pre-seeding Frost Workshops run through the Wheatbelt in March have concluded.

The regional roadshow series was a collaboration between GGA and seven grower groups with investment from the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

Seven workshops were well attended by 116 grain growers and consultants.

Some workshops were located in non-traditional frost areas to accommodate growers experiencing more intense and frequent frosts extending north, south and west of traditional frosty regions of the Wheatbelt.

Growers self rated average scores of over 8.2/10 for 'their understanding of opportunities to mitigate the impact of frost on their profits' and 7.9/10 for 'confidence to implement strategies to reduce the impact of frost on their profits in future years'.

More details at gga.org.au



PROJECT MANAGEMENT SKILLS

THE Project Management Skills of WA grower groups have spiked after 24 delegates from the WA agricultural industry undertook 3 days of study towards a Diploma of Project Management run by GGA at the Muresk Institute over the last week in March.

For certification, delegates now have 8 weeks to prepare a real life case study based on a project they are managing.

Weekly tutorial support will be provided through the competency assessment.

Of the participants, 17 were from groups within the GGA Network delivering R,D&E, capacity building events or land remediation type projects.

Seven participants were from the wider industry.

All enjoyed the networking opportunity and have come away with newly formed, valuable cross sector professional links.



GGA UPDATE BREAKFAST

GGA Provided an update to key stakeholders over breakfast event on Monday 22 February.

The GGA Board shared the first look at its updated strategy through to 2025 and the staff provided outlined pipeline activities.

The event was attended by 63 guests including DPIRD key personnel and key industry stakeholders and with 27 grower groups represented in the room and more tuning in via Zoom.

GGA Chair, Peter Roberts shared the updated

vision of the GGA, "to shape the future with a producer-led system of innovation, adoption and collaboration"

Full strategic plan at gga.org.au



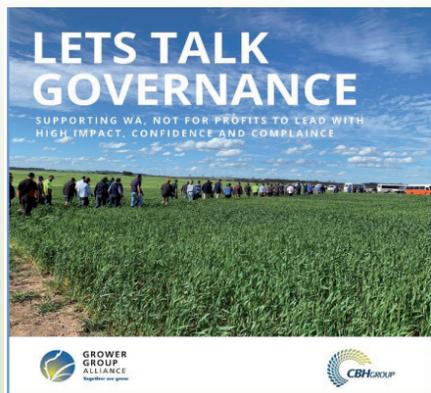
CURRENT projects

FREE GOVERNANCE TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

WITH the sponsorship support of CBH Group, GGA has launched a trio of Governance training options to the Grower Group network and wider community groups alike; a Podcast was launched in January, an e-course launches in April and two face to face workshops will run in June.

Research has shown that not-for-profit community groups run by volunteer Committees or Boards that have sound governance make for stronger, more successful regional communities.

GGA's Six Episode podcast "LetsTalk Governance" is ideal for new recruits to



committees that need immediate training support and is good as a refresher course for those that have done some training previously.

A new Governance training e-course launching April 15 will deliver 6 Modules of content spaced in 3 weekly cycles through to September and is ideal for those that are very regionally bound. GGA's regular annual face to face workshops run this year in Perth on June 18 and in Esperance on June 25.

Whilst targeting grower groups, the CBH sponsorship allows for all the training options to be extended to the

wider community to participate in such as sporting clubs, school groups etc as part of the CBH Community Investment Program.

SOILBORNE PATHOGEN PROJECT COUNTDOWN

WITH seeding approaching, planning for 2021 demonstration sites for the Soilborne Pathogen Project is in full swing. GGA and six local WA grower groups are collaborating with the GRDC, Farmlink Research and Birchip Cropping Group on this exciting national R&D project to uncover new solutions for pathogens. The demonstration sites will trial a range of management solutions, and growers will be able to visit the sites as part of field days or workshops later this year. The final technical meetings with host growers are underway with DPIRD pathologists Dominic Wright, Daniel Huberli & Sarah Collins discussing the live plant and DNA-based soil testing results and the range of management options. Some of the treatments suggested for common pathogens Crown rot and Rhizoctonia include early sowing, in-furrow or coated fertiliser chemicals, break crop or fallow, interrow sowing, and ripping to 10-15 cm before sowing.



GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE TO LEAD DROUGHT RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION HUB FOR SOUTH WEST WA

THE farmer-led organisation, Grower Group Alliance (GGA), will lead an \$8 Million Australian Government investment for South West Western Australia (SWWA) that will transform the way producers and communities prepare for and respond to drought.

The SWWA Hub will develop farmer-centred drought innovation and adoption practices over four years with more than 40 partners who have provided co-contributions of over \$12 Million.

The GGA is the only non university organisation to be awarded the lead role out of all 8 hubs across Australia.

The core site will be at Merredin Dryland Research Institute with nodes at Carnarvon, Geraldton, Northam, Bunbury, Manjimup, Albany, Katanning and Esperance.

Key industries will include grain, livestock, dairy, horticulture and viticulture.

Grower Group Alliance Chairman, Peter Roberts said the hub will encourage innovation, adoption and entrepreneurship which will better position WA in the global agricultural innovation landscape.

More information at gga.org.au

NEW WEBSITE FOR GGA

AFTER 4 months in development GGA has launched a new website. The website showcases all the Grower Groups from around WA involved with the GGA Network, the R,D&E Brokered Programs GGA collaborates with grower groups on and the GGA Capacity Building program delivered to support groups with professional development.

Phase 2 of the launch will be a closed GGA Member login section housing premium member support tools and resources.

Browse the new site at gga.org.au



GGA Website screenshot featuring a Mingenew Irwin Group Trial on the home page.

NORTHERN GROWER GROUPS SUPPORT CYCLONE RECOVERY

Grower Groups in the Northern Wheatbelt have been integral in the response and recovery process of Cyclone Seroja which significantly impacted hundreds of farming properties on Sunday, April 11.

Groups in the Northern Agricultural Region including Yuna Farm Improvement Group, Mingenew Irwin Group, Northern Agri Group, Mullewa Dryland Farmers Initiative and Morawa Farm Improvement Group were working to record

and collate the impact to growers in their regions.

Hundreds, if not thousands of power poles on the ground with wires left hanging, along with decimated infrastructure such as fences, sheds and houses has left grain growers in chaos at the start of seeding and looming animal welfare concerns.

The groups have been working with the response units in a co-ordinated effort to speed up the recovery which started slowly due to lack of resources, communication and the breadth of the destruction.

WELCOME TO GGA NEW MEMBERS *(Approved by the GGA Board on March 22, 2021)*

THE GGA network comprises more than 60 Grower Groups from all over WA, across all sectors of agriculture all operating with different levels of purpose and scale. New member groups strengthen the farmer-led GGA network, contributing valued diversity, producer expertise and stakeholder visibility.

Gascoyne Catchments Group

Gascoyne Catchments Group was formed in 2009. The group operates in the livestock sector with 50 farm enterprise members. This progressive group aims to develop an ecologically sustainable, profitable and respected pastoral industry. A very active group with 5-10 events per year, the group is focussed around rehydration, rehabilitation and sustainability and is currently working on funded projects with MLA & the Federal Government.

www.gascoynecatchments.com.au

Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance

Following the recent incorporation the SRPA was reclassified to a full voting Grower Group Member.

Three Springs Catchment Group

This is a new Grower Group initiated by local farmers pursuing a pure grower group function. Engagement from around 30 farmers along to initial meetings which is consolidating. The local Shire will also provide administration support its in first year assisting the group toward independent incorporation.

Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group

Formed in 1939, Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group (MMPIG), is the oldest WA Gower Group. MMPIG is a farmer driven group that aims to promote best-practice farming to ensure agricultural sustainability for a profitable future in the region. MMPIG does this through the dissemination of the latest farming information at local field days, the sharing of information at practical workshops and meetings and by encouraging social interaction at entertaining and informative events www.mmpig.org.au

GGA NETWORK



- Agricultural Women
- Wheatbelt East (AWWE)
- Association for Sheep Husbandry Excellence
- Evaluation & Production Inc (ASHEEP)
- 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)
- Fitzgerald Biosphere Group
- Gascoyne 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
- Lower South West Grower Group
- Merredin & Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)
- Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG)
- Moora Miling 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
- O'Connor Research 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)
- Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance
- Stirlings to Coast Farmers
- The Sheep's Back
- Three Springs Grower Group
- Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
- WA Hemp Growers' Co-op Ltd
- WA No-Tillage Farming Assoc (WANTFA)
- Wandering Productivity Group (in formation)
- West Midlands Group
- Western Australian Lot Feeders Association
- Western Beef Assoc Inc
- Wheatbelt Integrity Group (WIG)
- Women in Farming Enterprises (WIFE)
- Yuna Farm Improvement Group

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC)
- Gate 2 Plate Inc.
- Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA)
- Julianne Hill
- Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
- Rural Edge

TO CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL GROWER GROUP VISIT gga.org.au

DPIRD - GGA collaboration

GGA is supported by DPIRD in a 4 year collaboration agreement through to 2023 valued at \$4.38 million which 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 WA grower group network to drive stronger collaborations between DPIRD, grower groups and the wider industry.



STRENGTH IN COLLABORATION

THE GGA TEAM



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