



GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE
Together we grow

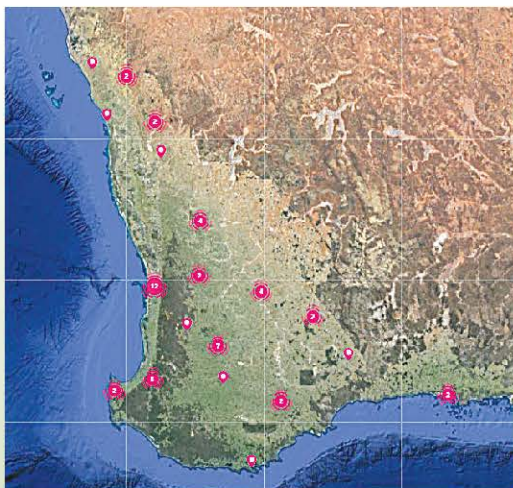
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GOVERNANCE E-COURSE TRAINING A SUCCESS

A total of 55 participants, including 22 from the GGA Network, have completed free online training covering the topic of governance for not-for-profit groups via a recently released GGA online e-course. Delivered in a self-paced format of six modules over six months, the content was geared towards grower groups but was also relevant to local community groups. The course was made available with sponsorship support from the CBH Group as part of a trio of free GGA governance training options also including a governance podcast series and workshops. It is intended that the e-course will be repeated in 2022.

Meanwhile, the six-part governance podcast 'Let's talk governance' designed for new grower group committee members and staff, and requiring immediate training, is available as another free resource at any time. Find it under the 'Activities' tab on gga.org.au



> Map of recent 'Governance e-course' participants, showing a wide regional spread.

WA FARM DATA SHARING PROJECT

It is hoped an early adopter community of 10 farmers will grow to 30 working alongside the project team in the new WA Farm Data Sharing project that was launched in October.

The project team, led by DPIRD, GGA, Curtin University, and the Food Agility Cooperative Research Centre, will build a data exchange system and model using whole-of-farm liming strategies as a test case.

This framework has the potential to be used in the future as the basis for other whole-farm models to inform decisions such as machinery purchases, infrastructure investments, agtech integration and genetics.

In addition to helping farmers make more confident decisions, these reports can also be presented to banks or insurers to increase the confidence in loans, negotiate improved interest rates or offer more realistic valuations of farmland.

Get in touch with the GGA if you'd like to join our early adopter community and receive a customised liming strategy.

'GOOD TO GREAT' PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP

On August 20, the GGA ran a 'Good to Great' public speaking workshop with renowned agricultural professional Esther Jones. A total of 26 delegates registered for a hands-on participatory learning experience, with half of the attendees being from grower groups and half from industry.

The workshop covered the 'anatomy' of a good speech; how to communicate with impact and influence; and elements of polished delivery, including PowerPoint presentations.

It was ideal for anyone who needs to do public speaking or to communicate a message.

In a fun, supportive environment, many of the participants had the opportunity to take the stage to practice the skills and techniques they learned during the day. More details are available under the 'Activities' tab on gga.org.au



> A total of 26 delegates, including 13 from grower groups, boosted their public speaking skills at a workshop in August.



> Farm Data project early adopter participant Joel Andrew (left) of Mt Burdett with Dr Adam Sparks from DPIRD.

POP-UP FIELD WALKS

GGA recently helped to co-ordinate pop-up field walks that delivered frost damage identification skills and management advice to 103 people in frost-impacted areas. Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG) hosted walks at field days at Nungarin and Bencubbin, delivered by DPIRD researcher Ben Biddulph and agronomists from Combined Agronomic Services and ConsultAg.

An additional 45 people attended a field day at Moorine Rock, hosted by the Far Eastern Agricultural Research Group (FEAR).

The pop-up walks were part of a GRDC-invested frost project being led by the GGA, with grower group partnerships being key to the facilitation process. More details are available under the 'Activities' tab at gga.org.au



> Growers at the MADFIG pop-up field walk.

DROUGHT REVIEW AND CONSULTATION KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR HUB

The GGA and the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SWWA Hub) have welcomed a recent Australian Government announcement that the eight Australian Hubs will be provided with \$20 million in additional funding.

Hubs will evolve beyond targeting drought to being focused on agricultural innovation more broadly, with priorities including exports, climate resilience, biosecurity and digital agriculture.



The expanded remit does not impact the recently appointed SWWA Hub team's

objective of providing networks for researchers, farmers and community groups to work together to enhance drought resilient practices – that remains a core focus.

With this purpose top-of-mind, a drought resilience and innovation situation review is underway that will help the SWWA Hub to identify 'gaps' where new opportunities could enhance outcomes in a hotter, drier climate. Consultation is also occurring with Partners and stakeholders.

A report with the findings for the region's four agro-ecological zones will be available around the time of the New Year and input can be made into January.

Early in 2022, a workshop will be held with as many of its 52 Partners as possible, and key stakeholders, to discuss the review's findings and to obtain further feedback.

The SWWA Hub team, led by Hub Director Tom Davidson, can be contacted via swwadroughthub@gga.org.au or find out more under 'Brokered Programs' at gga.org.au

NEW DIRECTORS APPOINTED TO GGA BOARD

Greg Curnow (SEPWA nominee) was elected as a new director on the GGA Board at the August 31 annual general meeting (AGM), and current director Kelly Pearce (Facey Group nominee) was elected for another two-year term.

The GGA annual report released at the AGM details GGA's activities over the last year, including 35 percent growth in membership, delivery of a dozen capacity building activities and collaboration with the agricultural industry on research and development projects valued at about \$28.9 million.

The annual report is available under the 'About Us' tab on gga.org.au



SheepLinks FEED365 Project

A newly launched project, Sheeplinks FEED365, aims to redesign livestock forage systems for grazing all-year round in Mediterranean environments.

The GGA is collaborating with DPIRD on the FEED365 Project, which is co-funded by DPIRD and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA).

Research commenced at the DPIRD Katanning Research Facility and will expand to grower groups in a participatory research process including on-farm demonstration sites. Successful groups will receive up to \$20,000 per year over three years to host the trials.

The first project field day was held on October 13 at the Katanning Research Station. Small trial plots and larger grazing trials were on display, with a range of shrubs, perennial and annual grasses and legumes. More details are available under 'Activities' at gga.org.au



> Participants at the first Sheeplinks FEED365 field day at the Katanning Research Station.

GRAINS PODCAST

The GGA is collaborating with DPIRD to promote its many grains extension resources, including new grains podcasts. The podcast series focusses on areas of crop protection research and aims to delve deeper into some of the research projects that target weeds, pests and diseases. The first four podcasts looked at 'Native budworm', 'Managing sclerotinia' and 'Turnip yellows virus and its vector the Green peach aphid' and 'Australian Plague Locusts and Grasshoppers'. Find the podcasts under 'Resources' at gga.org.au.

HR RESOURCES FOR GROWER GROUPS

Grower groups are benefiting from a suite of human resources (HR) information and support provided to the GGA Network by ProcessWorx under a new sponsorship agreement.

A total of 26 HR templates, covering areas such as position description, expense claim, timesheets and contracts, have been issued to GGA member grower groups, which can be branded for their own purposes. Coming soon will be a subsidised 'HR Health Check' consultation which will review individual group's current processes, deliver a recommendations report and provide up to 20 minutes of HR helpline support per annum. More details are available under the 'Resources' tab on gga.org.au

WELCOME TO GGA NEW MEMBERS

Browse all our members by heading to the 'Grower Groups' tab at gga.org.au

Bee Industry Council WA (BICWA)

Established in 2015, the Bee Industry Council of Western Australia Ltd (BICWA) represents all facets of the beekeeping industry from hobbyists through to large commercial beekeeping enterprises. It comprises about 4000 beekeepers with 48,600 hives and an industry production valued between \$30 million to \$50 million each year.

Broomehill Cropping Group

Established in 1989 as an informal group of about 23 local growers that connect over aligned interests, priorities and topical issues, group members arrange activities, discussion and extension according to their specific interests, often with the assistance of local agronomists.

Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association

The CWBA is a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) and has a key role in assisting about 50 landholders to control declared pests in the Shires of Koorda, Dalwallinu, and Perenjori. The group was formed in response to escalating wild dog attacks on livestock in the area.

Compass Agricultural Alliance

Founded 55 years ago in Darkan, the group hosts field days, provides about 65 members with access to farm management consultancy advice and runs a renowned bi-annual study tour.

Dumbleyung Land Conservation District Committee

Landcare and sustainable agriculture is the priority for this engaged group of about 50 farming, industry, community and shire representatives.

Gascoyne Food Council Inc

This group which supports post-farmgate food marketing and branding for more than 200 producers has a vision to grow the value and profile of the horticulture, pastoral and fishing produce of the Gascoyne region from a 'production focus' delivering \$150 million to a 'market focus' delivering more than \$200m each year.

Southern Biosecurity Group

Supporting 300 members, the group's vision is to manage the impact of declared pest species so that they have minimal impact on the agricultural industry, landscapes and biodiversity values within the Ravensthorpe Shire.

Its work encourages a consistent, integrated and co-operative approach to the management of declared priority pest species across all land types.

Sweeter Banana Co-operative

The co-op comprises 17 banana growers and was created to support access to markets; deliver better returns; create a brand; and improve the quality and consistency of product. On the back of a number of production practice innovations, the progressive group is now engaged in some regenerative agriculture trials.

Turf Growers Association of Western Australia

The group was established in 1992 as an association comprising 14 turf growers and allied businesses. Turf growers fall under the umbrella of agriculture and share many common challenges with food-producing farmers such as drought resilience, water efficiency, soil health and pest/pathogen management.

vegetablesWA

vegetablesWA has been providing relevant services to vegetable growers in WA for more than 70 years and has well established networks across the industry. The focus is to support WA vegetable growers to remain profitable and sustainable, by providing user-defined activities focused on targeted and measurable practice change.

WA Regenerative Livestock Producers

Comprising 25 livestock producers, the group is open to producers working with cattle, sheep, goats, pigs or poultry who wish to incorporate more sustainable production techniques and methodologies into their farming system. Aims are to improve soils, water, pasture, landscape function, biodiversity, system health while improving seasonal resilience; economic returns on a 'whole farm level'; stronger community, food security, and integrity products for consumers.

GGA NETWORK

GROWER GROUP MEMBERS

Agricultural Women Wheatbelt East (AWWE)
 Association for Sheep Husbandry Excellence Evaluation & Production Inc (ASHEEP)
 Certified Organic Biodynamic Western Australia Inc (COBWA)
 Compass Agricultural Alliance
 Corrigin Farm Improvement Group
 Esperance Zone Innovation Group (EZI)
 Facey Group
 Far Eastern Agricultural Research Group (FEAR)
 Fitzgerald Biosphere Group
 Gascoyne Catchments Group
 Gillamii Centre
 Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
 Liebe Group Inc (LIEBE)
 Lower South West 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
 Noongar Land Enterprise Group
 North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources
 Northern Agri Group
 Nyabing Farm Improvement Group
 O'Connor Research Group
 Oil Mallee Association of Australia
 Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN)
 South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA)
 Southern Dirt Incorporated
 Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance
 Stirlings to Coast Farmers
 Sweeter Banana Co-operative
 Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
 Turf Growers Association of Western Australia (Inc.)
 WA Hemp Growers' Co-op Ltd
 WA No-Tillage Farming Assoc (WANTFA)
 WA Regenerative Livestock Producers
 West Midlands Group
 Western Australian Lot Feeders Association
 Western Beef Assoc Inc
 Women in Farming Inc
 Yuna Farm Improvement Group

ASSOCIATE GROUP MEMBERS

Broomehill Cropping Group
 Bruce Rock Land Conservation District Committee
 Dumbleyung Land Conservation District Committee
 Holt Rock Group
 Jerdacuttup Top Crop and Pasture Improvement Group
 Kellerberrin Demonstration Group
 Lakes Grower Group
 Lakes Information & Farming Technology (LIFT)
 Living Farm Grower Group
 Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance Pty Ltd (NACRA)
 Three Springs Farm Innovation Network (3FIN)

NETWORK PARTICIPANTS

Bugs & Biology
 Carnamah Land Conservation District Committee
 East Wagin Top Crop Group
 Evergreen Farming
 Future Food Network
 Munglinup Local Farmer Group
 Neridup Soil Conservation Group
 North Mallee Farm Improvement Group
 Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA)
 Southern Forests Community Landcare Inc
 The Sheeps Back
 Wandering Productivity Group
 Wheatbelt Integrity Group (WIG)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

AgZero 2030
 Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC WA)
 Bee Industry Council WA (BICWA)
 Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association
 Gascoyne Food Council Inc
 Gate 2 Plate Inc.
 Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA)
 Julianne Hill
 Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
 Rural Edge
 South West Catchments Council
 Southern Biosecurity Group
 vegetablesWA
 Western Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC)

To connect with your local grower group visit gga.org.au