



**GROWER  
GROUP  
ALLIANCE**  
Together we grow

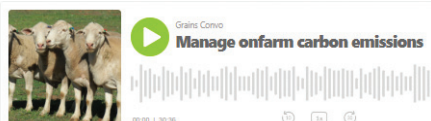
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**Farm WEEKLY**

## RECENT activities

### NEW PODCAST: MANAGE ON-FARM CARBON EMISSIONS

IN our latest grains extension podcast, DPIRD agricultural scientist Mandy Curnow discusses her research on greenhouse gas accounting for mixed farming enterprises. You'll learn how carbon emissions are calculated, and how to create a carbon account for a farming business. Mandy also provides an overview of the work she is undertaking at the Katanning Research Facility to meet a 2030 carbon neutral target. Subscribe to GGA's podcast GRAINS CONVO on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.



### PARTNERING FOR GROWTH COURSE

FIVE delegates from GGA Member Grower Groups were provided a \$600 subsidy to participate in a five-week online training during March / April learning the step-by-step process of forming relationships for business growth. The course was hosted by DPIRD and delivered by renowned instructor Ian Dixon. Groups that opted into the opportunity with a member participant included Western Beef, Noongar Land Enterprise, WA Hemp Producers Co Op, Agricultural Women Wheatbelt East, and Certified Organic Biodynamic Western Australia.

A second opportunity is available for GGA Network groups with a self-paced study cohort starting 1 July with a 50% subsidy of \$388. Enquiries to Kallista Bolton at GGA.

### 'BENCHMARK & BUILD' TOOL FOR GROWER GROUPS

SIX grower groups have assisted GGA to progress the design of a 'Benchmark & Build' tool to measure the functionality, systems, processes, governance and development needs of grower groups supporting them to be strong and sustainable. A digital app is now under construction which GGA aims to launch and demonstrate at its September AGM.



### ADVANCED GOVERNANCE TRAINING OPTIONS A HIT

Participation in GGA's annual Governance training series has seen record numbers in 2022. Sponsored by the CBH group, the series aims to support grower groups and other regional not-for-profit groups to lead with impact, confidence, and compliance. All training options have exceeded the planned maximum intake. A six-week e-course that started in April has 61 participants currently completing the training and over 50 participants in the short courses including a one-day governance workshop run on 30 May, and half-day options of Reading Financial Statements and a Business Models Masterclass on May 31.

## UPCOMING activities

### DROUGHT INNOVATION SCIENCE TO PRACTICE FORUM

Drought resilience and innovation activities were showcased during the annual Future Drought Fund (FDF) Science to Practice Forum, held this week in Merredin from June 7 to 9.

The free event featured the activities of Australia's eight Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs and highlighted innovations that can help farmers and communities to better manage drought risks. The hybrid forum was conducted out of Canberra and live-streamed across Australia.

The South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, which is led by the GGA, hosted an interactive viewing at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Merredin Dryland Research Institute attended by about 30 delegates each day.

This was followed by a tag-along field trip with about 25 people on Thursday, June 9, focusing on Merredin Research Facility trials relating to drought and systems resilience.

A number of WA presenters delivered live sessions during the conference on topics such as WaterSmart Farms: Using desalination to turn a problem into an opportunity, WaterSmart Dams: Making sure you have enough water to get you through the next drought, the Noongar Boodjar Rangers saving seed to heal land and build drought resilience and Smart Farms: A Grower Group's efforts to share data and increase productivity.

View the new SW-WA Hub overview video at [www.gga.org.au/activity/drought-hub](http://www.gga.org.au/activity/drought-hub)



> Merredin grower Andrew Crook, also Chair of the Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group, is among a number of Hub Partners, stakeholders and staff filmed for a video which was showcased at the Future Drought Fund Science to Practice Forum.

### HUB 'KNOWLEDGE NETWORK' UP AND RUNNING

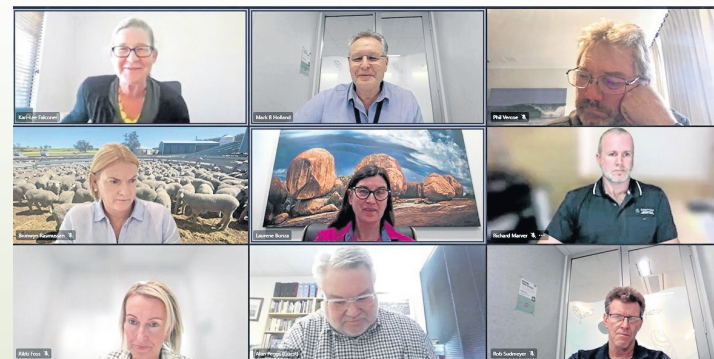
THE SWWA Hub's new 'knowledge network' has started in earnest, with initial meetings for Regional Node Leads and Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) being held in recent weeks.

The Regional Node Leads and RACs were appointed by the SW WA Hub and align with its eight 'Node' locations (Merredin, Esperance, Narrogin, Albany, Manjimup, Bunbury, Geraldton and Carnarvon) and four agro-ecological zones – Mid West and Gascoyne Coastal, Southern Rangelands, Wheatbelt and South West.

They will help the Hub to deliver on its aim of increasing the uptake of drought resilience practices and technologies, and agricultural innovation.

The Mid West and Gascoyne Coastal and Southern Rangelands RACs have had their first meetings, and the Wheatbelt and South West RACs will meet soon. The Regional Node Leads have also met online.

An important early task for the RACs will be to provide feedback on the draft Drought Resilience



> Southern Rangelands Regional Advisory Committee members and SW WA Hub and Grower Group Alliance staff during the committee's online 'kick off' meeting in April.

Situation Analyses which will help the SW WA Hub to identify 'gaps' where new opportunities could enhance outcomes in a hotter, drier climate.

For more information about the Regional Node Leads and Regional Advisory Committees, go to [www.gga.org.au/activity/drought-hub/](http://www.gga.org.au/activity/drought-hub/)

### GROWING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP

GGA is calling for applicants to fill one vacancy available in the 2023 Growing Leaders Scholarship. Sponsored by the CBH Group, recipients gain a place in the renowned 10-month Signature Leaders program with Leadership WA, valued at \$15,500. **Applications close on 31 July** for this intake which will be the sixth year of the scholarship program.

### GGA NETWORK STUDY TOUR

GGA will be hosting a 4-day / 4-night study tour to run 26-29 July through the agriculture area between Perth and Geraldton. The tour will accommodate 20-25 staff or committee from the GGA Network and will visit up to 20 diverse locations during the tour. The tour aims to provide professional development and networking opportunities whilst showcasing innovative, interesting, best practice, progressive or breakthrough agricultural practices. **Enquiries to Kallista Bolton at GGA.**

## R&D PROJECT NEWS (continued on page 25)

### REPORT OUT SOON ON HARVESTER LOSSES

A REPORT is due out soon detailing the extent and source of losses last harvest across a number of species and all port zones as part of the GRDC invested Measuring Harvester Losses in Western Australia project.

The findings are a result of the collaborative work carried out by seven partners involved including DPIRD, Ben White, Primary Sales, and three grower groups; the Facey Group, Stirlings to Coast Farmers and the LIEBE group.

The project aims to establish baseline measures of harvester grain losses, support growers with machinery decisions to mitigate losses, share insights gained from the project and identify continued research needs. More details on the project page at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

Stay abreast of all GGA activities and subscribe to its ag industry newsletter "Newswire" & statewide calendar at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

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R&D PROJECT NEWS (continued from page 24)

LOCAL DROUGHT PROJECTS WORTH \$13M HIT THE GROUND

ATOTAL of 11 Future Drought Fund (FDF)-invested projects worth \$13 million have hit the ground in the SWWA region through the Hub program in the last six months. SWWA Hub director Mark Holland, who was appointed to the role in March after a number of months acting in the role, said the Hub had played a significant role in the success of many of these projects.

The FDF funding includes \$3.6 million for local projects through Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes grants, including the DPIRD-led 'Revitalising the Drought Resilience of WA's Southern Rangelands Phase 2', which has a \$1 million co-contribution from the State Government. Read the full list at <https://bit.ly/39VtbSo>

Local projects were funded through the FDF's Drought Resilience Innovation Grants program, including the \$4 million 'WaterSmart Dams' initiative. Details of recipients are at <https://bit.ly/3wNDiSo>

The SWWA Hub is involved in three of five collaborative Hub projects spanning all eight national Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs. 'Modern soil moisture monitoring to improve irrigation management' will be led by the Hub and involves the Victorian and Northern WA/Northern Territory Hubs.



> SWWA Hub Director Mark Holland.



LEGUMES TRIALS IN THE GROUND

FIVE trials are in the ground for this season as part of the four-year 'Closing the Economic Yield Gap of Grain Legumes in WA' project. Yuna Farm Improvement Group, Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group, Stirlings to Coast Farmers, Mingenew Irwin Group and The Facey Group all have trials underway with another 20 trials to come over the next two years from the combined project partners.

Established as a project with investment by the GRDC, GGA will collaborate with government, agribusiness, researchers, grower groups and growers to address the low adoption of grain legumes in WA farming systems.

This comprehensive project will combine extension, trials,

technical and economic analysis to support growers to access the benefits of legumes in crop rotations moving forward. Follow updates via the GGA project webpage at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

WATERSMART DAMS - MAKING DAMS WORK AGAIN

A NEW two-year project focused on improving dam design, developing knowledge and water planning tools for farmers is underway.

The project will involve 12 core demonstration sites, building farm-based water planning tools, workshops, field days and industry training.

The project will investigate solutions including renovating existing dams, building new dams, and implementing evaporation suppression and run-off technologies.

Jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund (FDF) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), UWA is also a major in-kind contributing partner in the project.

GGA will collaborate with DPIRD and UWA leveraging their existing work and prior investment in this field as well as four grower group partners including **Compass Agricultural Alliance** (Darkan), **Southern Dirt**



(Kojonup), **Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group** (Merredin) and the **Fitzgerald Biosphere Group** (Jerramungup).

Sign up to follow activities and receive updates on the project at the GGA project web page [www.gga.org.au/activity/watersmart-dams/](http://www.gga.org.au/activity/watersmart-dams/)

WELCOME TO GGA NEW MEMBERS

Browse all our members by heading to the 'Grower Groups' tab at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

WA Citrus

WITH over 170 members, WA Citrus is the recent culmination of three WA industry bodies into one. They're champions of sustainable, WA-grown citrus fruit. [www.wacitrus.com.au/](http://www.wacitrus.com.au/)

Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc

WITH over 85 members GNRBA is an autonomous group recognised for its biosecurity expertise. Past projects have included Onion Weed project on Nullarbor; Self Mustering Camel Trap Yard, Ezy2C project AWi, LPMT Training, Biological Control of Cactus. [www.gnrba.com.au](http://www.gnrba.com.au)

WA Future Food Network

THIS forward-thinking organisation aims to support the value-add potential of WA food and beverage industries and is engaged with over 500 producers statewide interested in capacity building and supply chain development. [www.futurefoodnetwork.com.au](http://www.futurefoodnetwork.com.au)

WA Future Food Producer Group

THIS group is the SW producer grower group arm of the WA Future Food Network and supports over 100 south west producers interested in the value-add supply chain.

[www.futurefoodnetwork.com.au/wa-food-producer-group/](http://www.futurefoodnetwork.com.au/wa-food-producer-group/)

Torbay Catchment Group

WITH over 200 members, Torbay Catchment Group is focused on protecting and restoring the health of lands and waterways of its catchment with ag interests in diversified horticulture, grazing and dairy. [www.torbaycatchment.org.au/](http://www.torbaycatchment.org.au/)

Southern Forests Community Landcare

ESTABLISHED in 1989 as Manjimup LCDC, today the group has over 85 members and works to sustain healthy natural capital with agriculture research interests spanning livestock, poultry, pigs, horticulture, agroforestry and soils.

More at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

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 Miling 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 Future Food Producer Group
- WA Hemp Growers' Co-op Ltd
- WA No-Tillage Farmers Assoc (WANTFA)
- WA Regenerative Livestock Producers
- West Midlands Group
- Western Australian Lot Feeders Association
- Western Beef Assoc Inc
- Wheatbelt Integrity Group (WIG)
- 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
- 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)

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.
- Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc
- Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA)
- Julianne Hill
- Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
- Rural Edge
- Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA)
- South West Catchments Council
- Southern Biosecurity Group
- Southern Forests Community Landcare
- Torbay Catchment Group
- TrialCo Pty Ltd
- vegetablesWA
- WA Citrus
- WA Future Food Network
- Western Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC)

NETWORK PARTICIPANTS

- Bugs & Biology
- Carnamah Land Conservation District Committee
- East Wagin Top Crop Group
- Evergreen Farming
- Munglinup Local Farmer Group
- Neridup Soil Conservation Group
- North Mallee Farm Improvement Group
- The Sheeps Back
- Wandering Productivity Group

To connect with your local grower group visit [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)