



GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE
Together we grow

Supported by media partner
Farm WEEKLY

RECENT **activities**

HUB STUDY TOUR

SOUTH West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub team members Kellie-Jane Pritchard and Julianne Hill led a cohort of 12, comprising farmers, researchers, consultants, and Hub staff as part of an 'exchange experience' with the South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub. The tour examined agtech, glasshouse and field trials that showcased innovative research. Co-designed between the SW WA Hub and the SA Hub the tour highlighted a range of options that could be applied on-farm to help manage variable seasons.



> South West WA Hub Study Tour cohort on Day 3 of the exchange experience in South Australia

DRY SEASON RESPONSE

THE South West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub has curated a collection of dry season resources in response to a more variable, drier climate. The information will aid decision-making to help those who are experiencing a dry season. The valuable resources comprise information from livestock, grains and horticulture industries, and are updated on an as-needed basis. A full library of resources can be found on the Hub website under the resources tab. A podcast is under development to highlight other growers' and experts' tips and tricks for dry season response.



> Photo: Angie Roe

FARMANCO ROUND 2 'IN-KIND PROGRAM' RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

FOUR GGA network groups have been successful in Round 2 of a 'Farmanco in-kind program' aimed to activate initiatives that provide value to their members that require external skills and resources to mobilise. The four successful groups include; Gascoyne Catchments Group, Southern Dirt, the Gillamii Centre and Dumbleyung Land Conservation District Committee. Details of their projects can be found on the GGA website. The initiative forms part of a 3-year partnership with Farmanco that sees \$17,500 in in-kind services made available to the GGA network each year.

SOUTH-WEST WA DROUGHT HUBTEAM OPENS CAREER PATHWAYS

MORE than 40 of Murdoch University's third-year animal science students attended two extension and adoption learning sessions with the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub team last month. The sessions shed light on alternative career pathways among a cohort of students who largely had their eyes set on veterinary. Facey Group project officer Kaitlyn Anderson attended the session sharing her experience working within a grower group. This session had students connecting the dots between study and careers in the agricultural extension space. Grower groups interested in taking students for placement are encouraged to contact Julianne Hill at the Hub.



> Hub Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Manager and Adoption Officer Theo Nabben (left), Associate Lecturer for the Centre for Animal Production and Health, Food Futures Institute at Murdoch University Dr Emma Dunston-Clarke, and Hub Adoption Manager Julianne Hill

NEW FACES JOIN GGA BOARD

SOUTH East Premium Wheat Growers Association's (SEPWA) Marie Fowler, and Facey Group's Audrey Bird were voted in by members to fill two Member Director vacancies on the GGA Board. Chris Wyhoon from WA Regenerative Livestock Producers (WARLP) was also ratified by members to continue serving on the Board, until the AGM in 2024, following his casual appointment to a Member Director vacancy in March this year.



> Chris Wyhoon (left), Audrey Bird and Marie Fowler.

GGA CHAIRS SUMMIT & UPDATES - 21 & 22 SEPTEMBER

SUPPORTING connection and exchange between leaders within the GGA network, GGA hosted its second GGA network Chairs Summit on September 21 and 22, especially for Chairs of GGA voting groups. Comprising a networking dinner followed by an extensive operational updates session prior to the AGM, a highlight of the dinner was a small update provided by each Chair on their group's current scope, priorities, and challenges. Twelve groups were able to attend the dinner and 16 attended the pre-AGM GGA operational updates session.



> Chairs Summit networking dinner.

GGA FORUM23

GGA delivered its flagship event Forum23 on July 27 and 28 at Joondalup Resort. Held biennially, GGA Forum builds vital cross-industry links and forges opportunities for the GGA network groups to engage with industry to shape the future of agriculture. The event was well attended with 110 delegates at the Thursday evening Welcome Cocktail Party, and 165 delegates at the Friday conference day.



GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE
FORUM23
WHERE TODAY'S AG LEADERS CONNECT WITH TOMORROW'S



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

AUSTRALIAN MARKETING INSTITUTE TRAINING REBATES

GGA is offering up to ten GGA member delegates a \$100 total rebate on completion of any of three recommended Australian Marketing Institute professional development opportunities in 2023. Dates for the next recommended training topics include 8 November 2023 – Content and Copywriting and 23 November 2023 – Email Marketing. Enquiries to Kallista Bolton at GGA.



EVOKEAG SPECIAL TICKET RATES



GGA has arranged two special ticket rate coupon codes with AgriFutures to support attendance by the GGA network community at **evokeAG** to be held in Perth next February 20-21. A flat rate of \$990 for GGA member group staff will be offered (RRP \$1,320) and member groups will be able to offer their producer (farmer) members a flat rate of \$550 (RRP \$770). Contact Kallista Bolton at GGA for details.

LIFT OFF24

GGA will be running its internal network event Lift Off on Monday February 19, 2024 in a condensed 1-day side event to evokeAG on February 20-21. In its third year, Lift Off is a training retreat exclusive to the Grower Group Alliance network, building capacity and connections for the year ahead. Whilst over for evokeAG, AgriFutures senior representatives will present a session at Lift Off24 sharing what AgriFutures' role is and what programs and initiatives are accessible to the GGA network. Enquiries to Kallista Bolton at GGA.



BEST PRACTICE GRAIN STORAGE WORKSHOPS - BOOK NOW

GRAINS Research and Development Corporation grain storage extension expert Ben White is taking workshop bookings through harvest to go over best practice grain storage with you and your group. Presentations cover pests, moisture, seed storage, and temporary storage. Additionally, a pre-harvest pressure test of silos can be requested allowing growers to fumigate with confidence. Lodge a booking request form here via the extension web page.

R&D PROJECT NEWS

140 YEARS OF GROWING EXPERIENCE

A COHORT of experienced grain legume growers located from Yuna to Esperance is sharing insights and challenges through GGA's new 'Legume Leaders' peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing component of the GRDC investment into 'Closing the Economic Yield Gap of Grain Legumes in WA' project. To date, the five experienced growers featured share a collective 140 years of grain legume growing experience between them. A podcast is under development to capture their insights. The larger project combines extension activities, trials, technical and economic analysis to support growers adopting legumes in crop rotations while positioning growers to engage in the market as demand emerges. Read more on the project page via the GGA website.



RISKWI\$E LAUNCH

A NEW \$30m GRDC national investment led by CSIRO is working to improve the risk and reward outcomes for all Australian grain growers by supporting their capacity for on-farm decision making. The GGA is collaborating in the project, leading a WA cohort of 8 grower group project partners including, **Stirlings to Coast Farmers, South-East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA), Facey Group, Corrigin Farm Improvement Group (CFG), Western Australian No-Tillage Farmers Association (WANTFA), Liebe Group, West Midlands Group (WMG), and Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG)** over the five-year duration of the project. Read more about how this project is de-risking on-farm decisions via the GGA project web page.



TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS PROGRAM GRANTS UNDER REVIEW

IN early September the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub opened a small grants program to its Hub Consortia Partners for up to \$1m for transformational projects. These projects lead to improved drought resilience within Western Australia's agricultural systems. The grant round has closed and submissions are being assessed by an independent panel. Recommended submissions will be invited to prepare a more detailed full submission later this month. The initiative is being led by the SW WA Hub with funding from the Future Drought Fund. Successful projects will be announced in December.



WA FARM DATA SHARING PROJECT UPDATE - FIRST DATA SET RECEIVED FROM FARMER

DPIRD's **WA Farm Data Sharing (WAFDSX)** modelling team has been rigorously testing the project's model and data transfer infrastructure with real data provided to them by a South Coast grower partner. DPIRD developers are testing the model and hope to present a final report with GGA, AxisTech, and Curtin University to the farmer in Esperance this month. Read the full article in the updates on the GGA project web page.



WELCOME TO GGA NEW MEMBERS

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

Welcome to new GGA Associate Grower Group member, the Lower Blackwood LCDC. Established in 1991, and with 15 projects currently underway, the group works with farmers, land managers, local government, businesses and traditional owners to promote sustainable & productive agriculture.



Lower Blackwood Catchment
Land Conservation District Committee

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
- Future Food Producers Group
- Gascoyne Catchments Group
- Gillamii Centre
- Hills Orchard Improvement Group
- Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
- LIEBE Group
- Lower South West Grower Group
- Merredin & Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)
- Mingenew Irwin Group
- 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)
- Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA)
- South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA)
- Southern Dirt Incorporated
- Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance
- Stirlings to Coast Farmers
- Sweeter Banana Co-operative
- Three Springs Farm Innovation Network (3FIN)
- Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
- Turf Growers Association of Western Australia (Inc.)
- WA Hemp Growers' Co-op Ltd
- WA No-Tillage Farmers Association (WANTFA)
- WA Regenerative Livestock Producers
- West Midlands Group
- Western Australian Lot Feeders Association
- Western Beef Association Inc
- Wheatbelt Integrity Group (WIG)
- Women in Farming Inc
- Yuna Farm Improvement Group

ASSOCIATE GROWER GROUP MEMBERS

- Broomehill Cropping Group
- Bruce Rock Land Conservation District Committee
- Dumbleyung Land Conservation District Committee
- Holt Rock Group
- Lakes Grower Group
- Lakes Information & Farming Technology (LIFT)
- Living Farm Grower Group
- Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee (LCDC)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- AgZero 2030
- Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC WA)
- Bee Industry Council WA (BICWA)
- Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc
- Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association
- Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group
- Gascoyne Food Council Inc
- Gate 2 Plate Inc.
- Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc
- Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA)
- Julianne Hill
- Northern Biosecurity Group Inc.
- Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
- RegenWA
- Rural Edge
- South West NRM
- Southern Biosecurity Group
- Southern Forests Community Landcare
- Southern Forests Food Council
- Torbay Catchment Group
- TrialCo Pty Ltd
- vegetablesWA
- WA Citrus
- WA Future Food Network
- Wagin Woodanilling Landcare Zone
- Western Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC)
- Wines of WA

NETWORK PARTICIPANTS

- East Wagin Top Crop Group
- Neridup Soil Conservation Group
- North Mallee Farm Improvement Group
- Wandering Productivity Group

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