



**GROWER
GROUP
ALLIANCE**
Together we grow

Supported by media partner

Farm WEEKLY

RECENT activities

3-YEAR TRAINING PROGRAM FOR GROWER GROUP PROJECT OFFICERS LAUNCHES

ON February 19, 10 GGA network staff participated in the opening of GGA's new three-year professional development program for Research and Project Officers that will build technical capability while cultivating a supportive professional community of practice.

A program co-design process resulted in four components

- Part 1 – Independent learning ~ a comprehensive onboarding and basic training series for new hires
- Part 2 – Group learning ~ continuous learning series comprising a blend of group learning opportunities via in-person or online events through the year
- Part 3 – 'Community of Practice' within the GGA network.
- Part 4 – Private optional mentoring for existing Research or Project Officers

LIFT OFF [X EVOKEAG '24] SIDE EVENT BUILDS INTER-GROUP LINKS

MORE than 20 local WA grower groups were joined by a NSW grower group, a SA grower group network, along with a grower group from Israel at the 'grower group exchange' experience during GGA's Lift Off event on Monday, February 19 which featured as a lead in side-event to evokeAG being held in Perth. Delegates built valuable new links and gained important operational updates from leaders from AgriFutures, Landcare Farming, GRDC, MLA and GGA teams. From Tuesday a delegation of more than 50 people from the GGA network attended evokeAG supported by discounted tickets negotiated by GGA for members. GGA also had a visible presence engaging with national and international delegates with an exhibition stand.



> Some of the GGA network delegation attending evokeAG held in Perth in February.

HUB STUDY TOUR SHOWCASES INNOVATIVE DROUGHT SOLUTIONS

A GROUP of 28, including key staff from the eight Drought Hubs and local and international evokeAG delegates, joined a two-day study tour organised by the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub) through the Wheatbelt and South West regions of Western Australia.

The tour showcased some of the complexities and challenges around water management in the south-west of WA

and how farmers are addressing these through projects initiated by the SW WA Hub.

The tour facilitated fruitful discussions, ideas sharing, and the establishment of cross-hub relationships, laying the groundwork for future collaborations and knowledge exchange.



> Drought Hub study tour cohort at Cape Mentelle winery.

DROUGHT HUBS JOIN FORCES AT AGRIFOOD TECH CONFERENCE

THE eight Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs attended the evokeAG conference held in Perth on 20 and 21 February.

EvokeAG delegates had the opportunity to learn about the diverse initiatives undertaken by the Northern Australian, Tropical North Queensland, Southern Queensland Northern NSW, Southern NSW, South Australian, Tasmanian, Victorian and South-West WA Hubs at their joint exhibitor booth.

The Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs are funded by the Australian Government's \$5 billion Future Drought Fund program and aim to improve the drought resilience and preparedness of local farmers and their communities and foster agricultural innovation.



> Drought Hub booth at the evokeAG conference.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

MORE THAN 20 PRIORITY ACTIVITIES TO FEATURE IN 2024 CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

ALMOST 50% of the GGA members returned their priorities via the GGA annual member survey which is used to inform the selection of activities included in GGA's 2024 Capacity Building program. More than 20 high ranking priority training activities will be offered during the year, plus a series of briefing sessions around valuable new resources. The draft program can be viewed on the GGA website - some dates may be subject to change.

EXTENSION AND ADOPTION TRAINING SERIES RETURNS

Following on from the successful 2023 series, the South-West WA Drought team will deliver a six-part training program on extension and adoption between April 10 and May 15. The full program includes two face-to-face workshops and four online workshops. Participants will learn how to develop an extension planning framework and gain skills in event planning, monitoring and evaluation, facilitation, and more.

To find out more and to register, visit <https://hub.gga.org.au/events-and-opportunities/events/>



R&D PROJECT NEWS

GGA TO LEAD NATIONAL CARBON FARMING OUTREACH PROGRAM

GGA has won a major tender to lead a two-year, nationwide carbon farming outreach program collaborating with 40 farming and land management groups from all states and the Northern Territory. Grower groups will provide training, partnering with farm advisory service providers to deliver trusted, reliable advice to an estimated 3,500+ farming enterprises. Key activities delivered will include 160 carbon farming related workshops to be delivered across Australia, based on DCCEEW train-the-trainer program. 130 trainers comprising staff from 50 grower groups and up to 80 industry professionals will complete the 'train the trainer' program, which will enable ongoing knowledge sharing. More project details on the GGA website

TEN INNOVATION PROJECTS TACKLE IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITABILITY

Ten industry-focused innovation projects, led by the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub), have come to completion.

In 2022, the Australian Government provided the SW WA Hub with \$2.5 million to enable it to expand its remit beyond drought under the Agricultural Innovation Hubs Program.

A total of 10 exciting and diverse projects were rolled out, with focus areas ranging from paddock-level carbon benchmarking, through to drone-mounted grazing monitoring for the southern rangelands and improved vineyard floor management.

Stay abreast of all GGA activities and subscribe to its ag industry newsletter "Newswire" & Statewide calendar at gga.org.au

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R&D PROJECT NEWS (cont.)

NEW 'DRY SEASON' PODCAST HELPS FARMERS PREPARE FOR DROUGHT

THE SW WA Hub recently launched the Dry Season Resources podcast, its newest resource to help farmers prepare for and respond to dry seasons. The podcast features interviews with farmers and industry experts on managing dry season responses, ranging from early planning to tactical decision-making as the season changes throughout the year and setting up for the following season. The podcast is available to listen on the SW WA Hub website (hub.gga.org.au) and through all podcast applications, such as Spotify and Apple Podcasts.



GGA AND CSIRO'S EMERGE PROGRAM BRIDGES GAP FROM PRODUCER TO DEVELOPER



THE Emerge program, a pre-incubator initiative led by GGA in collaboration with Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, has helped producer recipients forge a pathway into the innovation ecosystem, making the jump from producer to developer more accessible. Participants say the grants increased their confidence to engage in innovation and take empowered steps to progress their ideas. The program involved a small grants round to facilitate development of ideas, helping WA farmers prosper in hotter and more variable climates and build resilience to more frequent seasonal droughts.

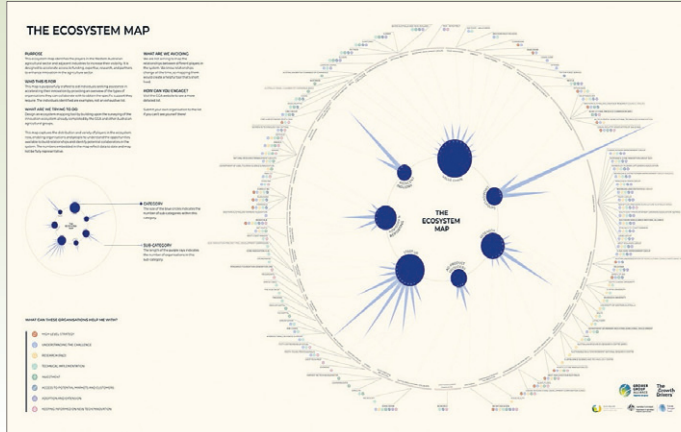
GROWER GROUP OUTREACH PLANNED IN APRIL FOR THE GGA AGRIFUTURES WATER QUALITY TESTING PROJECT

EXCITING progress continues for the GGA AgriFutures Water Quality Testing Project. Throughout April, Jo Wisdom and Lucy Tomassini will be engaging with various grower groups, spanning diverse agro-ecological zones to build awareness about testing on-farm water quality. Monitoring water quality can lead to productivity gains through increasing potential water supply, optimising input use, timely decision-making, and improved market access. We look forward to working with producers to build confidence and familiarity with on-farm water quality testing technology.



JOIN GGA'S INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM DATABASE FOR ENHANCED VISIBILITY AND COLLABORATION

GGA has been mapping key players in the Western Australian agricultural innovation system and adjacent industries to increase their visibility, fostering targeted collaboration and facilitating tailored strategies. From farmers, to researchers, to policymakers, each piece contributes to our innovation puzzle. Are you seeking to engage with the agricultural innovation ecosystem? Our database has been categorised to facilitate purposeful connection. Scan the QR code to join our database for enhanced visibility and collaboration opportunities.



100 GRAIN LEGUMES GROWERS AND COUNTING MAKE INPUT VIA PROJECT SURVEY

GGA is working with project partners to further understand legume adoption across WA. Thirteen grower groups are working within the 'Closing the Economic Yield Gap of Grain Legumes in WA' project. They are combining extension, trials, technical and economic analysis to support growers to access the benefits of legumes in this GRDC-invested project. Over 100 growers have already made input - with more replies being sought. Share your thoughts on grain legumes via the QR code



X-HUB PROJECT DEVELOPS COST-EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR BETTER RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Six Drought Hubs collaborated nationally in an 18-month project with the combined objective of using digital technology to monitor and assess ground cover and forage availability to better manage rangeland condition across seasons. At a local level, the SW WA Hub and Contour Consulting, in partnership with Yerilla station, located 145km north of Kalgoorlie, trialled and developed a methodology for an aerial photography-based tool to assist pastoralists make proactive stocking decisions across their landscape. The team combined 'off the shelf' drone technology with remote sensing and traditional on-ground photographic and in-person assessments.



> Richard Marver (Contour Consulting) and pastoralists.

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 Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC) as well as two sub groups it leads, the Wilson Inlet Grower Group (WIGG) and the Owingup Kent Grower Group. Their combined footprint is through the Plantagenet, Denmark and Albany area. WICC was established more than 40 years ago and comprises more than 1800 stakeholders with 285 farming enterprises within. Its focus is on sustainable agricultural practices, while protecting biodiversity and waterways in the catchment area of the Wilson Inlet. Many of its members are interested in building capacity around regenerative agriculture.

GGA NETWORK

GROWER GROUP MEMBERS

- Agricultural Women Wheatbelt East (AWWE)
- ASHEEP & BEEF
- 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 and 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
- 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 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
- Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance Pty Ltd (NACRA)
- Owingup Kent Grower Group
- Wilson Inlet Grower Group (WIGG)

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
- Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA)
- Julianne Hill
- Northern Biosecurity Group
- 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)
- Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC)
- 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