



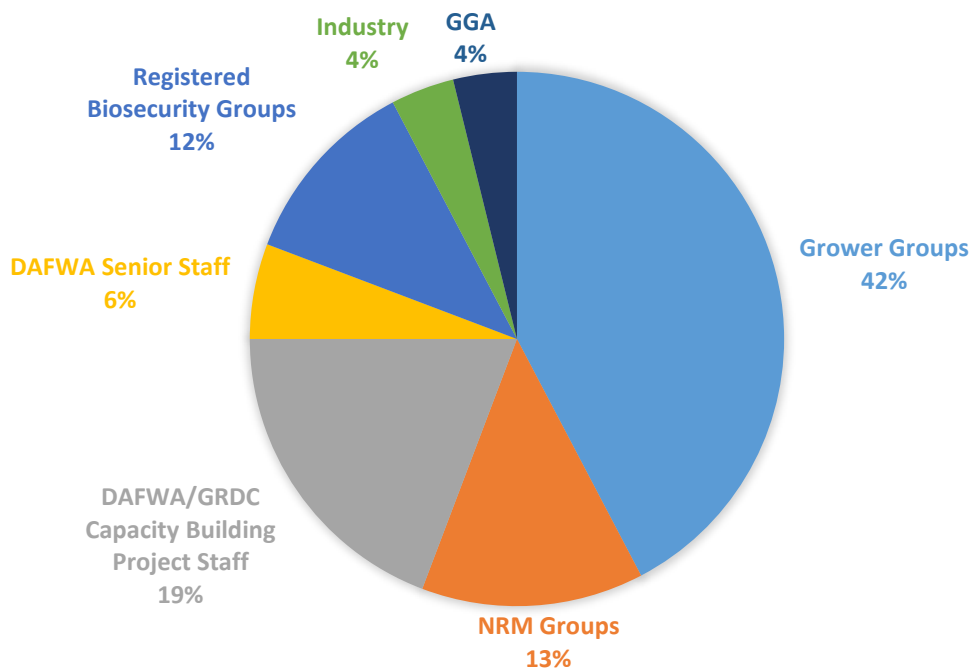
## 2017 GGA REGIONAL MEETINGS REPORT

### Summary of 2017 GGA Regional Meetings

**Total meetings held: 4**

**Total attendance across all meetings: 52**

**Breakdown of attendance:**



The 2017 GGA Regional Meetings were carried out in Merredin, Katanning, Ravensthorpe and Geraldton during February and March. The meetings consisted of the annual GGA update and sharing of stories from participants (grower groups and others), as well as an interactive workshop designed by the GGA to enable groups to improve collaboration by sharing their skills & capabilities, their governance tips and their communications & operational tools.

[Click here](#) to view the GGA update given at each meeting.

The meetings were also a chance for key stakeholders such as GRDC, MLA and Regional Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) to present important information to groups regarding regional issues, RD&E developments and other industry news.

## Merredin

**Date:** Wednesday 15 February 2017

**Location:** DAFWA Merredin

**Attendance:** 12

**Attendance breakdown:**

Grower Groups	DAFWA	NRM/Landcare	Registered Biosecurity Groups (RBG's)	Industry
MADFIG Corrigin FIG WANTFA AWWE	Kylie Chambers Jenni Clausen Stacey Hansch	Wheatbelt NRM Bruce Rock NRM	Eastern Wheatbelt BG Glenice Batchelor	Julianne Hill (RCSN)

### Key issues raised:

During the sharing and discussion section of the meeting, key issues raised at the Merredin meeting included:

- The DAFWA/GRDC Regional Capacity Program – how it aims to engage with groups in the regions and how groups can utilise these people to help with trials and more
- Turnover of staff in groups and industry – opportunity to re-engage
- Uncertainty of funding environment and what opportunities are available to groups
- Groups are overwhelmed with operational tasks – not enough time to work on the things that will help them grow. This includes committees/boards who get bogged down with operational tasks due to lack of capacity, leaving no time for strategic areas
- Groups struggle with volunteer committees (capacity issue) – how can they start to transition to skills based boards?
- Many groups have set up sub-committees to help with operational issues, while main committee should focus on strategy
- With high staff turnover in groups, it is important to have exit and transition plans
- Groups could do with help with CRM development, website development/maintenance etc.

Some training ideas the groups came up with included:

- Operational tools and improving efficiency – E.g. Using and setting up Dropbox and cloud sharing programs, effective outlook/email management, rules of group communications (who needs to get what, response times etc.)
- Finance tools & systems – exploring Xero vs Agrimaster

### Workshop output:

[Click here](#) to view the collation of skills & capabilities, operational & communication tools, and governance tips and tricks from the Merredin meeting.

## Katanning

**Date:** Wednesday 15 March 2017

**Location:** DAFWA Katanning

**Attendance:** 16

**Attendance breakdown:**

<b>Grower Groups</b>	<b>DAFWA</b>	<b>NRM/Landcare</b>	<b>Registered Biosecurity Groups (RBG's)</b>	<b>Industry</b>
Nyabing FIG Stirlings to Coast Facey Group Gillamii Centre	Alice Butler Bec Swift Emma Clarke Keith Ohlsen	SWCC SCNRM Kent/Lake Grace NRM	Wagin/Woodi BG Glenice Batchelor	Julianne Hill (RCSN)

### **Key issues raised:**

During the sharing and discussion section of the meeting, key issues raised at the Katanning meeting included:

- Groups are interested in collaborating – knowing what other groups are doing and how they can get involved in each other's' programs
- Lots of new staff and expansion of groups in this area (SCF, Southern Dirt)
- GRDC/DAFWA capacity building program in full swing and interested in working closely with groups
- Frost was a huge challenge last year for the region – socially and economically
- Work into frost mitigation continues
- Reduction in capacity for NRM groups – looking to work more closely with grower groups and increase effectiveness in the region
- Lots happening in sheep industry – SIBI project, LEM project etc. DAFWA looking to engage more effectively with groups and get ideas from growers into DAFWA projects
- Focus on innovation in the livestock sector
- TECHSPO coming in September 2017 (Southern Dirt)
- Interest in Simon Cook and work on big data
- Emergency response and crisis management – the role of government, RDC's groups etc. after natural disasters (mental health included).

### **Workshop output:**

[Click here](#) to view the collation of skills & capabilities, operational & communication tools, and governance tips and tricks from the Katanning meeting.

## Ravensthorpe

**Date:** Monday 20 March 2017

**Location:** The Red Room

**Attendance:** 11

**Attendance breakdown:**

<b>Grower Groups</b>	<b>DAFWA</b>	<b>NRM/Landcare</b>	<b>Registered Biosecurity Groups (RBG's)</b>	<b>Industry</b>
RAIN ASHEEP Holt Rock Lakes GG	Edwina Cockburn Jolie Delroy	RAIN Landcare Jerdacuttup TopCrop & Pasture Group	RAIN Barry Davies	Julianne Hill (RCSN) Erin Gorter (WALRC)

### **Key issues raised:**

During the sharing and discussion section of the meeting, key issues raised at the Ravensthorpe meeting included:

- Knowing and utilising the right people at DAFWA
- Understanding and engaging with the new GRDC/DAFWA Capacity Building team
- Getting a regional "snapshot" – what is happening, who is doing what, what has worked in the past and where do we need to be?
- The role of groups, DAFWA etc. in emergency response after natural disasters – particularly following the role RAIN has played in the absence of DAFWA service in the area. How can we support groups in this role?
- Mental health in the community – using grower group workshops to get people together (the social value of groups)
- Has been difficult for smaller groups to apply for funding through RfR etc. – need to identify new opportunities
- Smaller groups also struggling with writing applications
- GRDC/DAFWA Capacity Building team are being trained in many areas to help support groups (report writing, public speaking, trial design, statistics etc.) to build leadership in regions.

### **Workshop output:**

[Click here](#) to view the collation of skills & capabilities, operational & communication tools, and governance tips and tricks from the Ravensthorpe meeting.

## Geraldton

**Date:** Thursday 30 March 2017

**Location:** DAFWA Geraldton

**Attendance:** 8

**Attendance breakdown:**

<b>Grower Groups</b>	<b>DAFWA</b>	<b>NRM/Landcare</b>	<b>Registered Biosecurity Groups (RBG's)</b>	<b>Industry</b>
MIG Liebe Group NAG	Christine Zaicou-Kunesch Adrian Rossi	NACC	Henry Brockman	Julianne Hill (RCSN)

### **Key issues raised:**

During the sharing and discussion section of the meeting, key issues raised at the Geraldton meeting included:

- Capacity and ability of different parts of the industry to communicate science
- Establishing a good framework for groups, RCSNs, GGA and others to work together
- Groups in this region going through lots of changes (MIG, Liebe etc.) in staff and direction
- Collaboration with other groups, funding organisations and research partners is essential
- Diverse range of farming systems throughout the region
- Good engagement between grower groups and NRM groups
- There are lots of small groups in the region who are very successful – running good events and providing support for members, partnering with other groups and researchers (e.g. Yuna, NAG)
- People in groups are always juggling many balls – volunteers are stretched to capacity

### **Workshop output:**

[Click here](#) to view the collation of skills & capabilities, operational & communication tools, and governance tips and tricks from the Geraldton meeting.