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Farm WEEKLY

RECENT activities

SW WA HUB SHOWCASES DROUGHT RESILIENCE INNOVATIONS

THE South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub) hosted its inaugural Showcase and Field Tour on December 11-12, 2024 in Perth, bringing together over 90 farmers, grower group staff, researchers, agribusinesses and government agencies. Hub Director Dr Jo Wisdom emphasised WA's unique climate challenges, highlighting the importance of collaboration to enhance resilience. The event featured innovative Future Drought Fund projects, including containment feeding, carbon benchmarking, and virtual fencing, tailored to WA's agricultural needs. The field tour offered hands-on insights into Hub-supported initiatives, reinforcing its commitment to practical, on-ground solutions to accelerate climate resilience across South West WA.



> Leaders from the agricultural industry gathered at the Drought Resilience Showcase and field tour on December 11-12, 2024 in Perth.

FY23-24 ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE

GGA has published its latest annual report highlighting a downstream revenue flowing to GGA members, at a record high of \$10.8 million. This is forward project management fee revenue locked in for groups partnering in current active projects GGA is collaborating in. Each of GGA's member groups were posted a copy prior to Christmas and digital copies can be downloaded via the GGA website at gga.org.au



RECIPIENTS OF GROWING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIPS

GGA and the CBH Group are excited to announce recipients of the 2025 Growing Leaders Scholarships, sponsored by CBH Group and co-ordinated by the GGA. Congratulations to Nicole Batten from Yuna, and Jim Hamilton from Moora, who will embark on a transformative 10-month journey as part of Leadership WA's prestigious Signature Leadership Program starting this month. This program offers a unique opportunity for Nicole and Jim to refine their leadership skills and bring valuable skills back to the grains sector and their communities. Each scholarship, valued at \$16,940, reflects CBH Group's and GGA's commitment to building leadership capacity in regional WA.

Learn more about the scholarship program and previous scholars at: gga.org.au/activity/cbh-growing-leaders-scholarship/



2025 Growing Leaders Scholars



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

GGA KICKS OFF THE YEAR WITH LIFT OFF '25

JUST one week until GGA's first member event of the year - Lift Off '25. Designed to prepare groups for the year ahead, Lift Off '25 provides GGA member groups operational updates, an opportunity to strengthen relationships across the GGA network and provides access to technical capacity building. This year's program includes; valuable content from exploring the global innovation system to stakeholder mapping and meeting GGA staff with social elements blended in. Whether you're refining your group's own operational strategy, learning how to navigate staffing challenges, or connecting with professional peers, Lift Off '25 provides the ideal activation experience for the year ahead. Subsidised tickets available via the GGA website: gga.org.au/activity/lift-off-25/



GGA TO DEVELOP REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

GGA has received more than 20 Expression Of Interest (EOI) forms from members to engage in stakeholder consultations to guide the development of a new Regenerative Agriculture Program. Additionally, many early EOIs have been received from industry. Regenerative agriculture ranks among the networks top research priorities, with more than a third of GGA member groups listing it as an area of interest. This work falls under the broader theme of sustainability, recognised by the GGA Board as one of three strategic focus areas, alongside climate resilience and water. Stakeholder consultation will take place until the end of March to inform priorities for the program and a series of interconnected projects to develop. GGA members and those in the wider industry interested in being involved are invited to lodge a EOI by scanning the QR code.



DR JO WISDOM APPOINTED AS DROUGHT HUB DIRECTOR

THE South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub) welcomes Dr Jo Wisdom as its new Director, effective January 1, 2025. Dr Wisdom, who joined GGA in 2022 as innovation manager, succeeds Mark Holland. She brings extensive experience in research, project management and stakeholder engagement to lead the SW WA Hub's mission into its next chapter. Funded by the Australian government's Future Drought Fund and led by GGA, the SW WA Hub supports farmers, industries, and communities in building resilience to drought and climate variability.



> Dr Jo Wisdom, newly appointed Director of the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, brings extensive experience in agricultural innovation and leadership to the role.

TOP 'DRY SEASON RESOURCES' PODCAST EPISODES OF 2024

THE SW WA Hub's Dry Season Resources podcast delivered practical advice for farmers in 2024, with the most popular episodes including Financial Literacy for Young Farmers, Improving Early Crop Establishment, and Land Access Options Amid Rising Land Prices. Released fortnightly, the podcast features insights from farmers, researchers, and other industry experts to help prepare for dry seasons. Episodes are available on all major podcast platforms and on the SW WA Hub website: hub.gga.org.au/podcast/ or scan the QR code.



SUBSCRIBE TO 'CARBON COPY' NEWSLETTER

KEEPING up-to-date with the latest agricultural carbon news, events and workshops just got a little easier. Readers can now subscribe to GGA's monthly carbon newsletter, 'Carbon Copy'.

Read the latest activities from the national industry-led Carbon Farming Outreach Program, gain connections with the grower group partners, trainers, and agricultural carbon experts making the program possible across each State, and the Northern Territory. 'Carbon Copy' will also periodically dive into resources, tips, myth busters and further reading opportunities to help producers and advisers begin or continue their carbon journeys. Scan the QR Code to subscribe for free.



GGA BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

THE Grower Group Alliance Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Erin Gorter as its new Board Chair and Marie Fowler as Vice Chair, from December 10, 2024. Erin Gorter succeeds Peter Roberts, who has served as Chair for the past five years and will continue his valued work with the GGA as an Independent Director on the Board. The leadership change is part of the Board's ongoing succession management strategy, aimed at ensuring the continued renewal and effectiveness of GGA, to collaborate within the Australian agriculture ecosystem for stronger connections between Western Australian grower groups, researchers, funding bodies and industry. GGA extends its heartfelt thanks to Peter Roberts, for exceptional leadership and looks forward to his continued involvement in shaping the future of GGA alongside Erin and Marie, and other existing Board Members: Independent Director (Appointed) Graham Smith and Member Directors (elected) Audrey Bird, Chris Wyhoon, Nick Eyres and (vacancy appointed Director) Peter Callaghan.



> The Grower Group Alliance Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Erin Gorter (left), as its new Board Chair and Marie Fowler as Vice Chair (right).

R&D PROJECT NEWS

'PROPAGATE' BRINGS GLOBAL AGTECH INNOVATION TO WA

A NEW innovation program, PropaGATE, aims to tackle critical agricultural challenges in Western Australia by connecting local farmers and agribusinesses with global agtech solutions. Its first challenge focuses on wastewater in the brewing industry, which generates up to five litres of wastewater for every litre of beer brewed. Led by Beanstalk Agtech and funded by FIPWA and the SW WA Hub through the Future Drought Fund, PropaGATE employs a challenge-driven approach to innovation, scouting global technology tailored to local needs. Innovators who can deliver cost-effective, sustainable technologies for treating wastewater in the brewing industry are invited to apply to join the program and help future-proof WA agriculture. Applications close on February 28. Learn more at beanstalkagtech.com/propagate



PRE-SEEDING FROST PLANNING WORKSHOPS EOI NOW OPEN

AS part of a GRDC investment into Frost Management Extension led by GGA, both 'post frost event' pop-up walks and 'pre-seeding' frost planning workshops are available to run in regional locations on demand. Farmers attending these workshops can develop a personal frost management plan with guidance from experts in the room and access the latest in frost management strategies and research. Groups and individuals can lodge an Expression of Interest to host or attend a free local event by visiting the Project Page 'NGN- Frost Management Workshops and Field Days' at gga.org.au

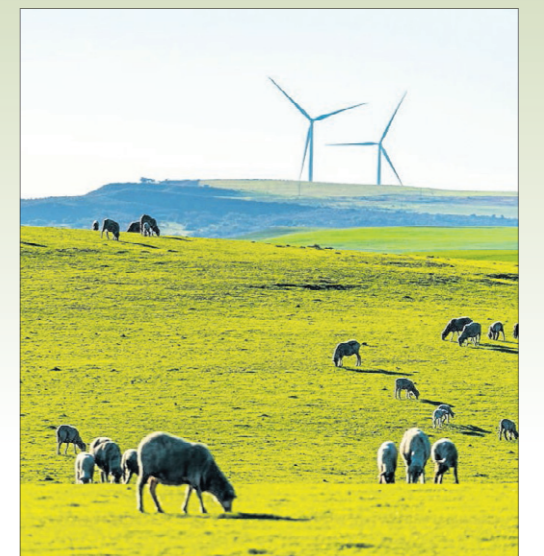
TUNE INTO 130 YEARS OF WA LEGUME GROWING EXPERIENCE

INSIGHTS from experienced Western Australian legume growers that advocate for legumes in their farming system, are sharing their insights in a new podcast series 'Legume Leaders', supported by GRDC. Six farmers associated with grower groups located from Yuna through to Esperance have taken part in the seven-part podcast series. Together they have over 130 years of knowledge and expertise successfully growing legumes including, lentils, lupins, chickpeas, faba beans, vetch and field peas. The podcast series is part of the Closing the Economic Yield Gap of Grain Legumes in WA project, led by GGA, in collaboration with thirteen grower groups across the WA Wheatbelt. To listen to the podcast series, see the GGA Project Page or scan the QR code. gga.org.au



RENEWABLE ENERGY IN WA FARMING: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

A SURVEY of 40 growers has shed light on the opportunities and challenges of integrating wind turbines projects in WA farming systems. Growers revealed financial motivations like debt reduction and succession planning, but raised concerns about strained neighbour relations, construction impacts, and skepticism of environmental benefits. Growers emphasised the benefits of a collative approach to negotiations highlighting room for better terms and fairer outcomes. Growers also called for detailed and accessible resources to guide decisions. Led by Farmanco and supported by the SW WA Hub through the Future Drought Fund, the project now moves into its second phase, focusing on economic, social, and environmental analyses to evaluate the viability of integrating renewable energy production in agricultural businesses.



NEW WEBPAGE LAUNCHED TO DRIVE CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE IN AUSTRALIA

GGA has launched a new project webpage to showcase the recently announced four-year nation-wide project Ripple Effect. The project is designed to improve water security, biodiversity and climate resilience for Australian farmers. Funded by a \$5 million grant from the Australian government's Natural Heritage Trust Climate-Smart Agriculture program, the Ripple Effect project will leverage cutting-edge water management practices to boost agricultural productivity, sustainability, and carbon reduction efforts. The Ripple Effect project represents a collaborative effort led by the GGA, in partnership with key academic and research institutions. In addition, all eight national Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs will support the project, to engage with grower group networks representing producers to drive the adoption of innovations in water security and quality, biodiversity and emissions reduction. Visit the new Ripple Effect Project Page, under 'Brokered Projects' to keep up-to-date at gga.org.au



WELCOME TO GGA NEW MEMBERS

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

WELCOME to our new GGA member group Western Dairy, who joined the network in 2024. Western Dairy provide the continued sustainable development of the WA Dairy Industry farm sector through targeted, relevant and timely provision of R, D, E & A services, bringing a wealth of knowledge to the network.

GGA NETWORK

GROWER GROUP MEMBERS [voting]

- 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
- Great Southern Wine Producers Association
- Hills Orchard Improvement Group
- Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
- LIEBE Group
- Lower South West Grower Group
- Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)
- Mingenev 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)
- Regen WA
- Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPA)
- 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 [non-voting]

- 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 [non-voting]

- 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
- Leschenault Biosecurity Group
- Northern Biosecurity Group
- Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Inc
- Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
- Peel-Harvey Catchment Council Inc (PHCC)
- Rural Edge
- South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc
- 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)
- Western Dairy
- Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management
- Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC)
- Wines of WA
- Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

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

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

Follow GGA on LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter) & Facebook



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