

# FACEY CONNECT

LEADING, INSPIRING, SUPPORTING AND CHALLENGING  
OUR LOCAL FARMING COMMUNITY



**WINTER 2023**



**Women In Ag  
2023**

**Soil  
Your  
Undies!!**

**Knee Deep  
In Sheep  
Event**

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## Major Sponsors



The Facey Group would like to acknowledge and thank our valued sponsors Advanta Seeds, Agrimaster, Australian Grain Technologies, Bailiwick Legal, CSBP, Elders Insurance, Elders Wickepin, Ewen Rural Supplies, Farm Weekly, FMC, Grain Growers, Planfarm, and Tincurrin Rural Services.

# A Final Note from Our CEO

This is my final report as CEO - after 2 & 1/2 wonderful years in the role. I have been offered a new role and will start on the 1st of August.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead Facey Group. I have learnt an incredible amount and had the honour to build a hardworking and dedicated team passionate about supporting agriculture in our region. Facey Group, our projects, and its people have meant so much to me. I am proud to have been a member of the Facey Group team. In particular, I would like to thank Bronwyn Dew who has been my treasured and respected partner at Facey Group. I will miss our daily chats, brainstorming and lots of laughs.

Many thanks to the committee also for your support and trusting me to lead the group. The group has grown significantly, and the committee has backed the staff every second. The group is at an exciting time with a strong portfolio of projects and an amazing team. We have a huge array of projects and many new projects in the pipeline for next year. We even have some exciting announcements yet to come! The group is in the very best hands with Bronwyn, Tina, Maree, Rheannon, Katrina, Kaitlyn and Claire.

We have also welcomed Claire Wilcocks to the team. Claire has a degree in Criminology with Majors in Criminal Behaviour and Counterterrorism and is now studying a Bachelor of Environmental Management and Sustainability - very cool!!! Claire is based down near Kukerin. Claire joins us as an Agricultural and NRM Project Coordinator. Welcome Claire!

Later this year we are saying goodbye to our wonderful NRM and Fire Coordinator Claudia Hadlow. Claudia has done an amazing job supporting our community and leading some of our NRM projects. We are so grateful to Claudia for all her work and wish her all the best.

We recently held our annual Women in Agriculture event. Was a huge success with amazing speakers and lots to learn. Thanks to our sponsors of the event CSBP. We have lots of photos and a report further in this newsletter. [Check it out HERE](#)

On the 11th August, we are co-hosting a livestock event with WALRC. The event will have a lot of information on electronic tags, which will soon be mandatory. We encourage all sheep producers to attend. See further details on this exciting event in this newsletter. We will also be hosting more pop-up field walks this season. Keep an eye out for them and I hope you will get the opportunity to view our many trials sites.

Thanks to everyone for your support and well wishes to you all.  
Kelly



*Dr Kelly Pearce, Facey Group Chief Executive Officer*



# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2023

## AUGUST

Bailiwick Legal Succession Workshop, Session 3: Estate Planning	Thursday, 10th August 10:00am - 1:00pm	Wickepin Community Centre
Knee Deep In Sheep Event	Friday, 11th August 2:00pm - 5:30pm	Wickepin

## SEPTEMBER

Rural Edge Succession Planning Workshop	Tuesday, 5th September	Wickepin Community Centre
GRDC Harvest Forum	Tuesday, 12th September	Hyden
GRDC Harvest Forum	Wednesday, 13th September	Dunn Rock
GRDC Harvest Forum	Thursday, 14th September	Nyabing
GRDC Harvest Forum	Friday, 15th September	Beverley
GRDC Harvest Forum	Friday, 22nd September	Cunderdin



# AgREC Update

## Project Updates



By Tina Astbury, Kaitlyn Anderson & Claire Willcocks  
Agricultural Project Coordinator Team

The AGREC team has expanded again and welcomes Claire Wilcocks to support us with natural resource management projects. Claire is originally from Perth but now lives with her partner and two dogs on their farm in Kukerin.

She is working at Facey Group part-time while she completes her final year of a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management and Sustainability from Murdoch University. She has a passion for the environment and sustainability and is looking forward to learning more about the agricultural industry, the challenges it faces, and working towards ways of overcoming them.

Claire is thrilled to join the Facey Group team and hit the ground running, jumping straight into fieldwork and trial research.



Since the trials are all in the ground and busy growing, we have been kept busy with emergence counts, weeds assessments, and plant tissue sampling. While in the office we have been busy completing write-ups from last year's trials with a view to being able to publish the trial book soon. We have some updates on projects from this year below.

*Photo L: Claire's first day*

## Plant-based Solutions to Improve Soil Performance

### Key messages

- Innovative farming system approaches in deep sandy soils using plant-based solutions, such as perennial legumes and legumes intercropping, are being investigated in terms of soil carbon and stabilisation and biomass production. This is being compared to mechanical procedures, including deep ripping and clay incorporation.
- Perennials teamed up with soil amelioration practices are an innovative cropping option to improve health on deep sandy soils and increase the soil carbon content compared to conventional deep ripping and soil clay incorporation.
- Deep-rooted legume perennials may improve soil health through increased soil biomass and nutrient cycling and boost soil fertility facilitating changes to the rhizosphere on deeper soil levels.

# AgREC Update Cont.

The Plant-based solution to Improve Soil Performance project co-funded by DPIRD and Soil CRC led by Murdoch University is looking at new approaches, such as using perennial legumes, ley-farming, and innovative cropping system options that could ameliorate deep sands by raising soil organic matter and improving soil performance. The project is in its 2nd year of trials and has 2 sites established, one in Bullaring and one at Harrismith.

In 2022 a significant increase in grain crop biomass and grain yield was observed at the Harrismith site, which could make perennial legumes an economically viable option to manage infertile sandy soil and increase efficiency by minimising external inputs. Additional benefits include potential summer grazing options, substrate stabilisation through the summer period, and soil health improvements of infertile sandy patches, which are currently an agronomical management issue for farmers. A full trials report of the 2022 growing season will be included in this year's trials book.

This project continues in 2023. The Bullaring site is looking at multiple different farming systems while the Harrismith site continues to investigate the benefits of *Lebeckia ambigua*, a South African rangeland legume.

After receiving over 50mm of rain at the end of March, the Bullaring site was seeded in on the 21st of April with a further 9.5mls of rain on the 25th to help with the establishment. The Bullaring site has 7 different cropping systems over 28 plots including a new French Serradella Fran20.



Fran20 was also sown with new acid-tolerant rhizobia, this combination has shown some great nodulation formation and promising ground cover. The Fran20 plots will be mechanically grazed during spring and left over the summer to measure the benefits of this plant. The species acts as a ground cover which will reduce wind erosion and its root system may promote soil health and increase soil carbon.





# AgREC Update Cont.

The clay ameliorant treatment which incorporated 150t/ha of clay is also showing promising results with an increase in biomass compared to lupins that were sown without any amelioration treatment.



*Photo Left – Lupin and Clay treatment.*

*Photo Right – Lupin with no ameliorant treatment*



The Harrismith site was sown on the 24th of May with minimal rainfall prior to seeding with no follow-up rain until the 1st of June. With the dry May and a cold June and July the cereal crop has emerged, but in-season measurements are yet to be completed.

## Soft Wheat Trials

The soft wheat trials were sown on the 8th of April. Gary Lang and his team put in extra effort to ensure the trial was well-organised and sown consistently. The trial is right next door to the National Variety Trials and the remainder of the paddock is sown to Rockstar. InterGrain has supplied three varieties that are pre-release and are expected to perform well against the commonly sown varieties of Rockstar and Sceptre. AGT also provided a variety that is not yet released to the public and it will be interesting to see how this performs. These new varieties are also being compared to Bullaring, a traditional soft wheat variety, that was grown more widely in this area in the past.

## Mouse Surveillance Update

Early season mouse surveillance was conducted in one big busy day and then collected early the next morning. We can happily report that few burrows were observed and very few of the cards were chewed so mouse numbers in the ten sites we checked were low. This might be because they have all moved into our homes!

The state-wide summary of this information is collated by Farmanco and distributed through GDRC and is not yet available. We will keep you updated.



# AgREC Update Cont.



South-West WA  
Drought Resilience Adoption  
and Innovation Hub



## Long Coleoptile Fieldwalk and Sundowner

The Future Drought Fund and CSIRO are working with Facey Group and 5 other grower groups to compare the establishment, yield, and grain quality of a range of long coleoptile wheat, legumes, and oats at two different seeding depths. Summit Fertilizers and Facey group hosted a field walk on Friday the 14th of July where we were lucky enough to hear from Dr. Sarah Rich, the lead scientist with this project.



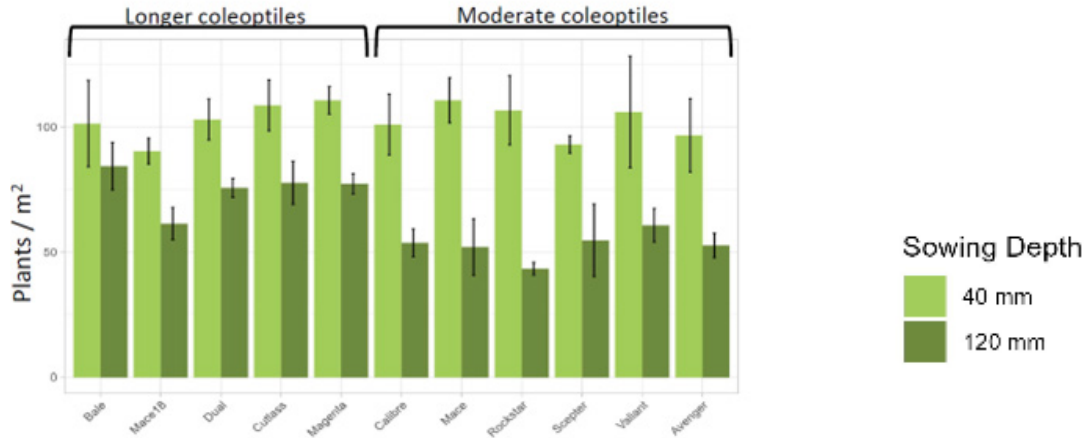
She provided results already gleaned from this trial regarding establishment rates between varieties when deep sown compared to conventional sowing depths. She hoped that using commercially available seed and sowing at depths of 120mm would give producers information they could use in upcoming seeding programs. Deeper sowing is likely to be beneficial in order to utilise stored moisture such as sowing early or sowing during a patchy break to the season. It can be an advantage if furrow infill is an issue or sowing into soft or ameliorated soils. Modern elite wheats tend to have shorter coleoptiles (40-70mm) but recent breeding has extended coeloptile length. Colder temperatures and seed size and quality can also influence the length of the coleoptile.

At the Facey Group site varieties with coleoptile lengths of greater than 100mm have emerged between 70-80% when sown at 120mm compared to shallow sown (aside from Mace18). Whereas varieties with shorter coleoptiles have 40-50% emergence compared to shallow sown.



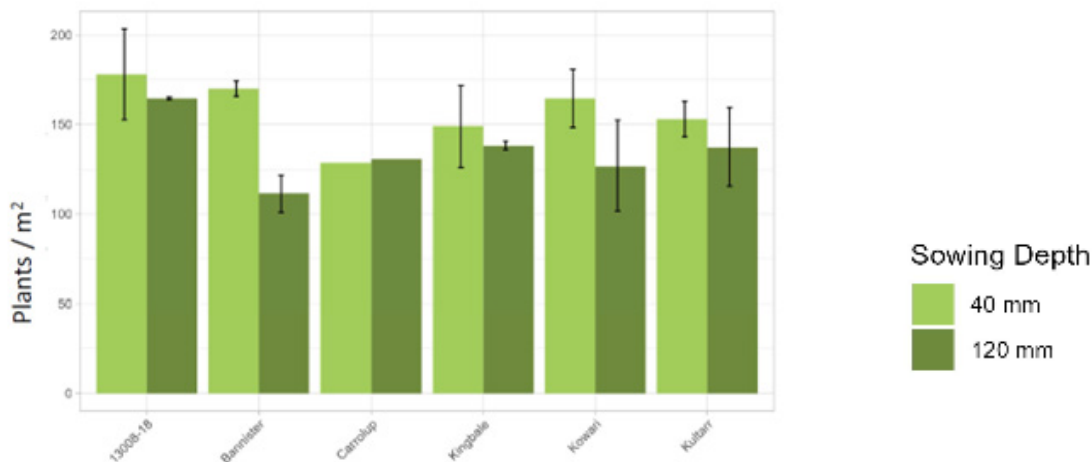
# AgREC Update Cont.

## Plant Emergence at 6 weeks in Wheat Varieties- Facey Group Site



UWA student Angelia Tanu and InterGrain oats breeder Dr. Alan Rattay also demonstrated results from deep sowing oats. Oats are interesting to compare when sown deeper as they have a larger seed and coleoptile plus a mesocotyl that supports them from emerging at depth. All the oat varieties trialed at the Facey Group site have a total coleoptile and mesocotyl length of more than 100mm. The varieties trialed had emergence of 80-90% compared to shallow sown varieties.

## Plant Emergence at 6 weeks in Oat Varieties- Facey Group Site



Dr. Sarah Rich also showed us how beneficial pulses might be when sown deeper with a trial that looks at peas, chickpeas, lentils, and vetch. Due to the larger seed size of pulses, they typically emerged at densities of at least 90% of the shallow sown crops.

Thanks to Summit Fertilizers for providing refreshments, it was a great way to end the week.

# AgREC Update Cont.



## Wheatbelt NRM Saltbush Carbon Project

Planting for the Saltbush Carbon Project has been completed at both trial site locations. The trial consists of two trials replicated on 2 farms. One trial will determine if there is a difference between Saltbush varieties to sequester carbon. The other trial examines the differences between the density in planting of saltbush in their effectiveness of sequestering carbon, and if mounding or non-mounding saltbush influences carbon storage.



The species trial consists of saltbush species- Anameka, Amnicola, Semibaccata and Old Man. Each row was mounded, and the saltbush species have been planted by Facey Group staff at a spacing of 2.5m between plants. The species trial had plots where only that species was planted in that plot and plots where a randomised mixture of species was planted.

The mounding and density trials are combined into the same trial plots aiming to determine if higher-density planting will increase carbon sequestration. The species of saltbush that was chosen for this aspect of the trial was Anameka, which is a specially selected variety of drought-tolerant native shrub. Anameka can provide key nutrients for livestock and can grow well on most landscapes. Previous studies show that high-density saltbush planting does not increase carbon sequestration. To test this, saltbush was planted 1m, 2m, 4m, and 8m apart. Determining if saltbush densities have no positive relationship with carbon sequestration will result in lower costs of establishment for landowners in the future.





## CSIRO Long Coleoptile Project: 6-Week Post-Sowing Questions

13th June 2023 interview with CSIRO Scientist Dr. Sarah Rich on improving sowing opportunities for increased farm resilience in a changing climate funded by the Future Drought Fund.

By Tina Astbury, Senior Agricultural Project Coordinator



The Future Drought Fund and CSIRO are working with Facey Group and 5 other grower groups to compare the establishment, yield, and grain quality of a range of long coleoptile wheat, legumes, and oats at two different seeding depths. The varieties include top-performing wheats for the area as well as selected long coleoptile breeds.

### **Are there any varieties you are excited to see emerging today 6 weeks after they were sown?**

Bale and Calibre as they are both long coleoptile breeds that are recently released. Bale has a longer season whereas Dual is a mid-season wheat. The Mace/Mace18 lines are interesting as they are genetically identical aside from Mace18 having the Rht18 gene which increases the coleoptile length. It has also been interesting to see how the varieties Magenta and Yipti have emerged from deeper sowing given they are older varieties.



### **How are the other sites going as part of this project?**

3 trials went in within a week of each other and they still have plants emerging. On this site at the six-week stage, most of the plants have emerged. The last 2 sites were sown last week in drier areas on heavy soils so it will be interesting to see how the different coleoptile lengths handle the heavier soil conditions. In general coleoptile length is better in warmer conditions and in lighter sandy soils so later sown trials on heavier soils will certainly look different to this trial.

### **Can you tell us anything more about the range of oat varieties in this trial?**

Including oats in this trial was part of a student project. It has been very interesting to see them emerge well from deeper sowing. In greenhouse testing, they were coming up from 20 cm! Oats do have variable coleoptile lengths and their emergence is also dependent on the length of the mesocotyl which helps the plant emerge through the soil before the formation of the first leaf. Oats could be a great choice for early sowing options into moisture.

### **What do you think will be the main outcomes of this trial?**

Because this trial is part of several farm trials, we have really good information about how long coleoptile varieties perform in different soil types and it does seem they struggle a bit more on heavier



loams. We want people to get interested in the upcoming varieties. To have a better understanding of the advantages of sowing deeper and when it is a good management fit, plus understand how important the variety choice is.

### **Any final words?**

I've done computer models on where soil moisture sits in the profile depending on soil type and rainfall patterns and in WA there is often a deep sowing opportunity early in the season. With deeper soil moisture and a variety that is bred for a longer coleoptile, there is good evidence we can increase the capacity of the crop to get started early or in dry conditions. As part of a current GRDC investment, the agronomy of deep sown wheats is being researched and financial modelling undertaken on the costs and benefits of deep sowing in terms of increased fuel costs, and wear and tear on machinery. I'm looking forward to meeting growers at some upcoming pop-up field walks and answering any questions they might have.



# Member NEWS

## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE EVENT 2023

The 2023 Facey Group Women in Agriculture event was held on Wednesday, 19th July 2023 and was a brilliant day with inspirational speakers, fantastic company, amazing food, and so much to learn.

A huge thank you to our amazing speakers. They certainly took us on quite a ride!

We heard from famous author and Yealering local, Anthea Hodgson, about the fall of Singapore during World War II and the incredible bravery of the war nurses.

Next from Meredith Guthrie, a Weather Scientist from DPIRD about how long and short term weather patterns are modelled. Dry conditions are expected in our area over the coming months, so fingers crossed we continue to have a good season.

With Holly McFarlane from Dalwallinu, we explored the evolution of motherhood and how it impacts our lives. Holly has certainly encouraged us to step up within our farm business and do more to understand the finances.

We got to play soil scientists with Jenni Clausen who is the Regional Soils Coordinator with the Drought Hub. Jenny also gifted all our participants a pair of white cotton undies. We are all encouraged to bury these undies to get a good idea of the condition and health of our soil. We're hoping that all ladies who attended the event will dig and bury their undies and share their results with us all through #soilyourundies #FaceyGroup.

Tara Whitney shared her amazing story from being a spy to now running a really successful business. One of Tara's key messages was to make sure everyone thinks about their story, and how you tell your narrative will be how the world views you and your journey. Always be conscious of your story and make it positive.

We were extremely really lucky to have the WA Finalist for the Agrifutures Women's Award at our event. Thank you to Kate Mitchell for sharing your story and no doubt your advocacy and resources will save lives.

All attending got up and moving with Boyd Rae from Active Farmers and were inspired to look for opportunities to get moving, particularly in a group environment to create a sense of community and improve our mental health. It would be wonderful to see some more Active Farmers groups in our region.

The last session was very interactive with Jane Coffey and Julie Richardson from Curtin University. Thanks to all who contributed- it was a great interactive session. A lot of discussion really resonated with many in the audience.

Many thanks to our sponsors, particularly CSBP who sponsored the day and provided a wonderful MC in Nichola Cassidy. We would also like to thank all our other major and minor sponsors with the support of our group in general.

Huge thanks also to Rheannon and Bronwyn and the rest of the team at Facey Group for pulling together an incredible event.

And a final thanks must go to the Facey Group Women in Agriculture Committee of Skye, Pip, Sarah, Christine, Claire and Georgia for pulling together an amazing collection of speakers and theme for the day. We look forward to working on the 2024 event with you.

# Member NEWS

## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE EVENT 2023





# Member NEWS

## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE EVENT 2023







# SOIL YOUR UNDIES!

FACEY GROUP



Shaping the Future

## in the name of soil health

Do your own fun soil science experiment to see how healthy your soil is!

Ladies come join in the fun following our WIA session and get involved by collecting a pair of white cotton undies from the Facey Group Office then follow the below steps:

1. Dig a shallow hole, 5cm deep and large enough to lay your undies on the bottom.
2. Lay your undies onto the bottom of the hole and bury them with the removed topsoil.
3. Mark the burial site with a flag so you'll be able to find it again.

Scan the QR Code to Register your Name, Phone Number and Location of your Undies or visit this website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G6LNFK5>



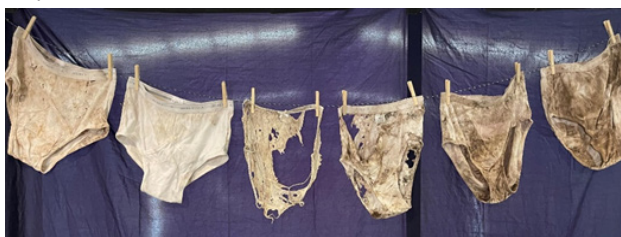
We will leave them for a minimum of two months – likely longer with our current soil temperature. Dig up your undies and check the level of decomposition.

If there's not much left of the undies you have good biological activity, which indicates healthy soil. These same soil organisms can break down plant materials in much the same way.

Post a photo of your results on Twitter with the hashtags; #SoilYourUndies #FaceyGroup

A Ladies Field Walk to uncover several buried briefs and discuss the soil health results will be happening later in the year so we could be visiting your specimens to unearth them.

If you have any queries or wish to register your interest for the Field Walk, please contact Maree Dougall, Innovation Coordinator, Facey Group on 0448 103 747.



Picture L: Local examples of undie degradations in various systems following two months.

Picture R: A pair of Facey Group undies in their soily grave!



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
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South-West WA  
Drought Resilience Adoption  
and Innovation Hub

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund



# Future Drought Fund - SW Drought HUB

By Kaitlyn Anderson - Facey Group Agricultural Project Coordinator

## Wheatbelt Zone Update



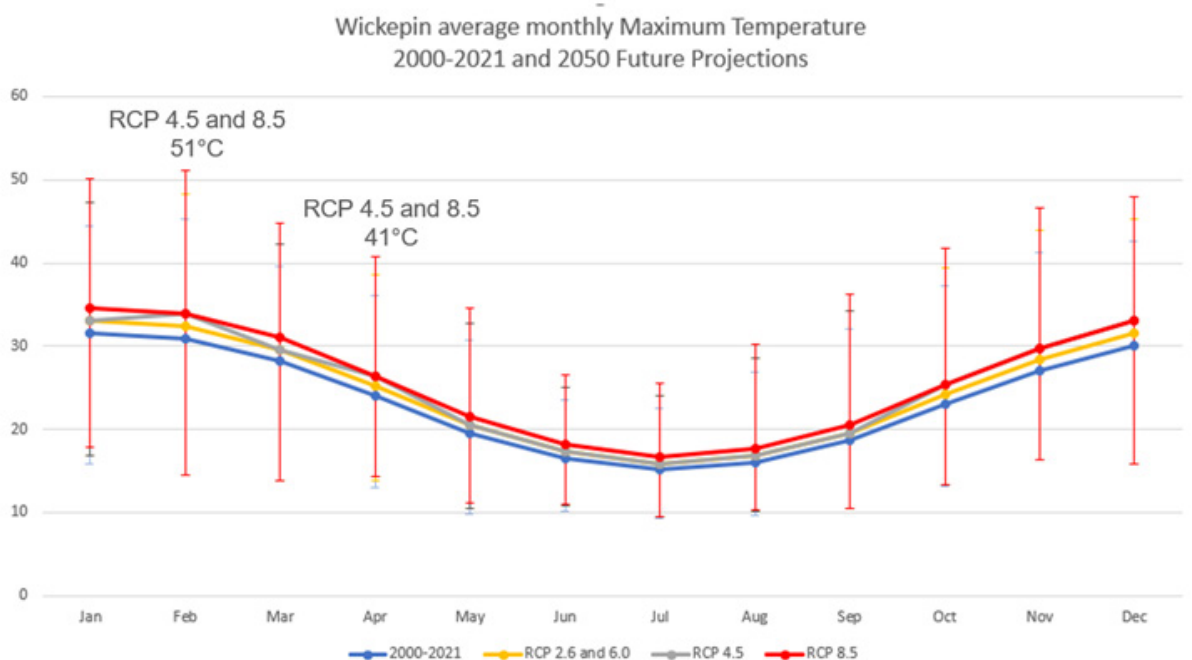
South-West WA  
Drought Resilience Adopter  
and Innovation Hub

The Wheatbelt Drought Hub has been busy visiting farmers to better understand how they have naturally adapted to the changing climate. In the last few months, former Node Lead Maree Dougall, Facey Group Innovation Coordinator, has been handing over the reins of the Lead Node role to Kaitlyn Anderson and Tina Astbury to make time for other projects. Kaitlyn and Tina are looking forward to taking on the role and continuing to help enhance drought and climate-resilient practices, accelerate innovation and adoption set to transform the way farmers and communities prepare for and respond to drought. We would like to thank Maree for all the hard work she has put into while being the Node Lead.

### Meredith Guthrie- The Seasonal Outlook

Meredith Guthrie is passionate about projecting the future climate for the WA area and guests at the Facey Group Women in Ag event got an insight into what may be around the corner. After a dry May and a wetter than expected in June, it is predicted that Wickepin will stay dry for the rest of the year. However, with a great start to the season, Meredith is confident that Wickepin shouldn't have too much to worry about for the rest of this growing season.

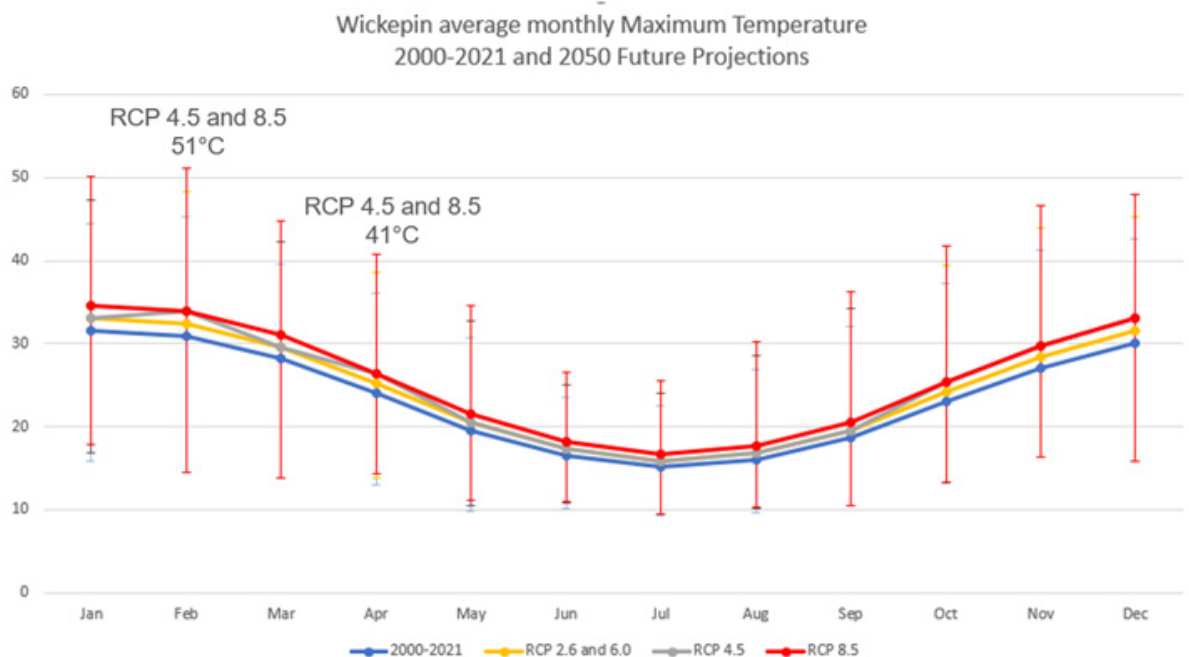
With that said, climate change is nothing new and the climate is continuing to change with dryer and hotter seasons projected for the future. If emissions targets for greenhouse gasses aren't met, Wickepin can expect to reach extreme maximum temperatures reaching 51 degrees in summer and 41 degrees in Spring!



Projected temperature for the Wickepin area in correlation to emission targets. RCP 2.6, emissions more than halved by 2050, net-zero by 2070. RCP 4.5 Emissions slightly lower by 2050, net zero not achieved by 2100. RCP 6.0 Emissions higher by 2050, net zero not achieved by 2100. RCP 8.5 Emissions double by 2050, net zero not achieved by 2100.

# Facey Group Regional Node Update Cont.

With many of the models continuing to have a trend of hotter temperatures, models for rainfall are more variable with a possible 15% increase or 15% decrease in rainfall.



Projected rainfall for the Wickepin area in correlation to emission targets. RCP 4.5 Emissions slightly lower by 2050, net zero not achieved by 2100. RCP 6.0 Emissions higher by 2050, net zero not achieved by 2100. RCP 8.5 Emissions double by 2050, net zero not achieved by 2100.

The area has been experiencing this trend of drier and hotter seasons since the 1970s and farmers have been constantly adapting to these climate changes. Although the last 3 years have been considerably good seasons, things will always be drying and getting hotter.

If you are looking at ways to get drought and climate information specific to your farm, there are online Future Drought Fund tools available.

Assess your farm's resilience with the Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool (DR.SAT) [here](#).

To see the potential impact of climate variability on your farm, visit Climate Services for Agriculture [here](#).

Further climate projections for the southwest division can also be found on the DPRID website [here](#).

## Jen Clausen – Tools to Understand Soil and Their Management



Jen Clausen is working with the SoilsWest (Murdoch University) as the Regional Soil Coordinator for the Grower Group Alliance Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, covering the southwest WA region. Her role is to help farmers best utilise the tools and resources that are available to understand soil and its management. Jen led guests at the Women in Ag event through an interactive soil test demonstration looking at hydrophobic soil and the pH of different soil types.

Following work completed by Cotton Info, several cotton undies were buried in various farming systems months before the event to discover the difference in



# Facey Group Regional Node Update Cont.

degradation of the undies and therefore soil health and activity. All of the attendees were then tasked with taking home a pair of undies to complete the activity in their own soil which in a few months time we will exhume to discover the results during a Ladies Field Walk planned in the next few months.

## Other Drought Hub News

### Express your interest in a Hub Study Tour

Are you a grower interested in viewing new approaches to soil and water productivity, different ways of unlocking plant potential and examples of efficient input use? Then express your interest in a South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation (SW WA Hub) study tour to South Australia - from September 17 to 22. More [here](#).

### Online climate tools available

Two online FDF tools are providing farmers with drought and climate information specific to their farms. Assess your farm's resilience with the Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool (DR.SAT) [here](#). To see the potential impact of climate variability on your farm, visit Climate Services for Agriculture [here](#).

### Access programs and services

The Australian Government has consolidated drought resources to make it easy to find services and support that are available. You do not need to be in hardship to be eligible for initiatives such as Farm Management Deposit Schemes. Access resources [here](#).

### 2023 Science to Practice Forum – Recordings Now Live!

Recordings are now live from the Future Drought Fund's 2023 Science to Practice Forum held back in June. The Forum showcased the innovative tools and practices Australian farmers, communities, researchers and decision-makers are using to respond to a changing climate and build drought resilience. This year's 3-day forum was hosted by Pip Courtney from ABC TV's Landline and you can watch all the sessions from the program, including featured speakers, presentations, panel talks and video content, at any time [here](#).

- Day 1 – Research and Development
- First Nations Farming Advocate and Researcher Joshua Gilbert on Seeds and Soil Health: Innovating at scale, global connections for drought resilience, the commercialisation of drought resilience products and services.
- Day 2 – Farmers, Producers and Agricultural Advisors
- Australian Farmer of the Year Michael Taylor on Rehydrating landscapes, planning for profitability and productivity, tools for change, lived experiences and lessons learned.
- Day 3 – Community and Policy
- Queensland's first regional Chief Entrepreneur Julia Spicer on Relationships for resilience, engaging First Nations farmers, overcoming barriers to change, mental health heroes.

## Plug into Facey Group Weather Station Network Expansion

The Facey Group is calling for interested growers who are interested in plugging into the weather station network that has been operational around Yealering for the last 12 months giving growers real-time data for farm decisions and operations.

This project titled Facilitating the adoption of a hyperlocal weather station network to improve on-farm decision-making is supported by funding from AgriFutures Australia. A key project outcome is to turn high-resolution local and landscape-scale climate, rainfall, and soil moisture data quality into practical and relevant insights to support farm input and crop /pasture rotation decision-making through the connection of weather stations across the district.

With the West Australian-owned and based supplier Origo whose principles are to provide high-resolution data and work with farmers to provide information relevant for every part of the season and for long-term planning, also the collected data is always owned by the customer the Facey Group will extend our network established around Yealering to the wider district.



Figure 1. Yealering six metre station.

The Facey Group will set up a network of weather stations at trial and demonstration sites which will increase the resolution of our current network expanding it across the wider membership base and allowing the simpler integration of further stations set up by growers themselves. Invested members will be able to log into the online platform to view the network and all the live data across the region.

Origo has agreed that Facey Group members will receive, as a start, 10% discount on the cost of the products purchased. Higher volumes will be given additional discounts. There are no financial 'kick-backs' are received by Facey Group Inc.

There is the choice of two weather station heights as follows:

- XPS-2M a standard paddock weather station is 2 metres tall. Capabilities include rainfall, soil moisture, temp, humidity, and wind measurements
- XPS-6M stands at 6 metres tall paddock weather station. Capabilities include all that of XPS-2M plus additional sensor inputs, it can sense temperature and humidity at three levels, to provide information on frost severity and inversion layers.

Growers are encouraged to contact Maree at the Facey Group office to speak about the project and how to get involved. Email: [innovation@faceygroup.org.au](mailto:innovation@faceygroup.org.au) Mobile: 0448 103 747



# Study tour reveals big differences between frost strategies

In the pursuit of an improved understanding of frost risk management strategies, 14 Western Australian growers journeyed across South Australia and Victoria on a three-day frost study tour last September

By Claire Crawford

Yield loss due to frost is a major issue in WA, with the costs estimated at up to \$400 million annually. As part of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) approach to frost education, a frost study tour of SA and Victoria took place in September 2022.

Originally conceptualised by DPIRD senior frost researcher Dr Ben Biddulph, the tour was led by DPIRD researchers Dr Brenton Leske and Dr Amanuel Bekuma, in collaboration with the Grower Group Alliance (GGA) and with GRDC support.

Fourteen WA growers from three grower groups located in the central wheatbelt, Great Southern and Esperance regions began their study tour in Adelaide on 6 September. With them were DPIRD's Dr Leske and Dr Bekuma, along with two GGA staff and a member of the GRDC Western Panel.

"It is always helpful to have a look outside of your own patch to see what other growers around Australia are doing, to see if there's any learnings or ideas there, or networks to be developed," Dr Leske says.

From Adelaide, the study tour made its way across SA's Mid North and Mallee, and Victoria's Mallee and Wimmera regions, departing from Melbourne on 9 September.

They learned about the latest frost research during visits to the University of Adelaide, the Frost Learning Centre at Clare in SA and the main Birchip Cropping Group trial site. They also met Kenton Parker, formerly from Field Applied Research (FAR). FAR is the lead research organisation for the latest national frost project.

They also met fellow growers across these regions, learning how these growers manage frost risk in their business. This included the Mitchell family at Farrell Flat, SA, Jock McNeil at Paruna, SA, Wade and Chad Nicholls at Pinnaroo, SA, Mick Pole at Walpeup, Victoria, and Adam Campbell at Corack, Victoria. There were also chances to network at two formal grower dinners held during the tour.

## AN INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE

Facey Group president Geoff Poultney, who is a grain grower and Merino farmer located 40 kilometres east of Pingelly, WA, saw the study tour as a great opportunity to visit farming areas he had not seen before.

"Even though I know there is no silver bullet to prevent frost, I saw it as a chance to see and learn what tactics our eastern cousins are using," Mr Poultney says.

"As expected, I learned there are definitely no silver bullets, but instead that it's important to be honest with yourself and know which areas of your farm are at the most risk of frost and manage them accordingly. The big takeaway is that there is no cure for frost in the short term, so it is up to each farmer to manage their own risk the best they can."

Mr Poultney noted that frost tended to be a bit easier to prepare for in the areas they visited, as the growers they met on the tour reported more-frequent, and therefore more-predictable, frost events.

"The thing that stuck in my mind the most is that the farmers know they are going to get frosted every year on their red zones, because on average they have two minus 4°C frost events every year during flowering. So these areas are always cut for hay. Whereas, here,

we average a minus 4°C event every five years, so we tend to roll the dice a bit more. It can mean major financial and emotional stress."

He also noted how the consistent domestic demand for hay provided an extra element of security. "The growers said that they know somewhere in Queensland always has a drought every second year, so they have storage sheds for hay that they know will sell. So I feel their decisions on frost management tend to be easier."

Mr Poultney found that there were many things to enjoy and learn on the study tour.

"It was an extremely well-organised tour, and it was great to see different country. Talking to eastern state farmers was invaluable. The company was outstanding – everyone got on so well. I particularly enjoyed seeing the hyper-yielding site at Inverleigh," he says.

## BACK-UP PLANS

Like Mr Poultney, Dr Leske feels that the biggest takeaway from the study tour is that, due to a strong domestic hay market, Victorian and SA growers have more back-up options for when a crop becomes frost-damaged.

"Frost is quite a big concern for growers in WA, and a big reason for that became apparent on the tour: the lack of salvage options," says Dr Leske.

These alternative options mean that SA and Victorian growers have a different approach to frost risk management, the study tour showed. A lot of the growers are able to still put high inputs on crops at risk of lower levels of frosting in order to achieve greater biomass and grain yield as, if the grain falls through, there are still opportunities to earn back on those inputs by making hay instead.

While WA does have hay markets, Dr Leske says, the domestic market is small and at capacity. There is also an export market, but it also has limited capacity and frost-damaged hay rarely meets the quality standard for export.

"Unfortunately, one of the big issues is just the much-smaller population in WA compared to areas near Melbourne and Sydney. The domestic demand for things like dairy is high there, so it drives the demand for hay," he says.

This means there is no quick fix, Dr Leske says. It will require change on an industry level to find other value-adding options that provide WA growers with a back-up plan. "One option that I have been seeing at the GRDC Updates is that there are companies who are looking into using stubble residue to produce hydrogen energy. So there could be some potential opportunities appearing already."

The frost study tour allowed growers to learn more about frost risk, grow networks to share ideas, and provide their insights on frost research and what new areas of research should be considered.

Dr Leske feels the study tour was a valuable experience and would be worth running again if there is enough interest. "We are keen to have a reciprocal tour where SA and Victorian growers come to WA to meet our growers and learn from them." □

## GRDC Code GGA2206-003AWX

**More information:** Brenton Leske, Brenton.leske@dpird.wa.gov.au, grdc.com.au/research/partnering-in-rde-investment/tenders/other-opportunities/sponsorship-grower-and-advisor-study-tours

WA growers at a Birchip Cropping Group trial site during their frost management tour of SA and Victoria.

"FROST IS QUITE A BIG CONCERN FOR GROWERS IN WA, AND A BIG REASON FOR THAT BECAME APPARENT ON THE TOUR: THE LACK OF SALVAGE OPTIONS."

— DR BRENTON LESKE



DPIRD researcher Dr Brenton Leske.

Photo: DPIRD



Photo: Felicity Pittchard



# CBH Grass Roots Leadership Workshop

By Bronwyn Dew - Facey Group Business Manager



Recently, I had the privilege of attending the CBH Grass Roots Leadership Workshop in Goomalling.

The workshop was facilitated by AIM/UWA and held over 4 days. I was lucky enough to attend under the CBH Grass Roots Scholarship program along with 15 others.

The sessions were very lively and included plenty of time for discussion. Some of the topics we covered over the four days included driving behaviour (in self and in others), growth mindset, emotional intelligence, exploring personality types, developing resilience in the workplace, personal values, trust, communication, active listening, dealing with conflict, conflict handling styles and welcoming change. It was interesting to see how different personality traits affect the way people work and behave, and how to best manage those different personality types. We had plenty of discussion within the group and threw a lot of great ideas around the room. The course was mostly attended by farmers who were wanting tips and tricks to assist with managing staff and we all agreed it was a fantastic workshop.

While the workshop ran over 4 days, it was split into two sessions of two days each session, which allowed farmers to attend without being off farm for too many days at a time.

CBH provided dinner each evening giving plenty of time to network with others attending the workshop. The workshop was very thought-provoking and certainly made us all consider how our thoughts and values affect our actions when leading.

I would like to thank CBH for the wonderful opportunity and encourage anyone who deals with people (yes, that is all of us!!) to apply to attend this course in the future. It was so worthwhile.



## CBH Grass Roots Leadership Workshop





# Saltland Genie's web-based app gives farmers a new tech hub to manage salinity

By Claudia Hadlow - Facey Group NRM Coordinator

The Saltland Genie web-based app, developed in conjunction with the Great Southern-based natural resource management group, Gillamii Centre, brings together eight decision support tools to help landholders implement solutions on their salt-affected land.

The Saltland Genie new online tool to help with the rehabilitation of salt-affected land makes resources readily available for farmers to rehabilitate and improve the productivity of salt-affected land. There are details on suitable plant species for salt-affected land, farmer case studies and a water salinity calculator to determine safe drinking water requirements for sheep and cattle.

“The website collates 30 years of producer and science-driven results, bringing together decision-making tools and on-farm experiences to help find practical management options to overcome salinity.”

The Minister for Agriculture and Food, Jackie Jarvis said dryland salinity was a critical issue on farms, reducing the growth of pastures and crops and affecting the biodiversity, water resources and remnant vegetation.

“Western Australia has 70% of Australia's dryland salinity-affected land. In the southwest, 18 million hectares of the 25 million hectares originally covered by native vegetation have been cleared. Of this, about 10% (1.8 million hectares) is now salt affected to some degree. Salinity has significantly affected over 80% of waterways in the southwest including divertible water resources (i.e. surface water that has the potential for domestic or commercial supply).”

Source: *Water facts 15 Water and Rivers Commission June 2000*

“The lost agricultural productivity from salinity damage is estimated to be worth at least \$519 million per year. Even though climate change has resulted in reduced annual rainfall, saline water tables have risen in many areas, meaning that dryland salinisation is a threat to about 2.8 to 4.5 million hectares of low-lying or valley-floor soils.”

Reference: *Australian Bureau of Statistics 2002, Salinity on Australian farms 2002, Bulletin 4615, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.*

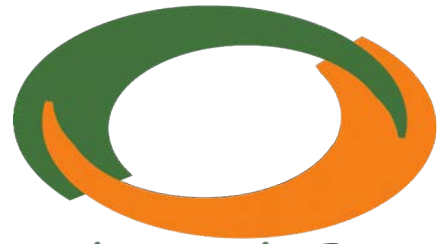
The Saltland Genie project is supported with funding from the WA Government's State NRM Program and is available from <https://www.saltlandgenie.com/>



*Oldman and river saltbush have been sown in alternate rows in a "block planting" at Ongerup. The paddock was cropped previously except for the severe bare salt. After noticing reduced yields around the bare area an assessment revealed a larger portion needed to be treated. The decision was made to sow first with tall wheatgrass and then machine plant the moderate to high areas with saltbush. Once complete, the area was fenced and stock introduced. (©2010 Arjen Ryder)*

Bailiwick Legal.

FACEY GROUP



*Shaping the Future*

# Succession Planning Workshop

**Thursday**

**10th August 2023**

**10:00am - 1:00pm**

**Wickepin Community Centre**



**SESSION 3  
TOPIC:  
ESTATE  
PLANNING**

**Lunch Included**

**Members FREE | Non Members \$20**

**Scan QR code  
to Register:**







Scan to  
Register



# Knee Deep In Sheep

## Friday, 11th August 2023

### Wickepin Community Centre

2:00pm - Registrations

2:15pm - Welcome

2:30pm - Future of the Lamb Market

3:15pm - MLA Confinement Feeding & Deferred Grazing Project Update

3:30pm - Ewe Nutrition During Late Pregnancy: *What to do when pastures don't match requirements*

4:20pm - EID Panel Session: *The Ins & Outs of EID's*

5.15 Lamb & Lager Sundowner

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# Harvester Set-Up Workshops



MEASURING HARVEST LOSS - HARVEST WEED SEED CONTROL - HARVEST FIRE PREVENTION

WEST REGION  
SEPTEMBER 2023



Grain growers and industry stakeholders are invited to participate in one of a series of 2023 GRDC Harvester Workshops to be held in the lead-up to harvest 2023.

Hear from industry experts and local growers on the integration of harvest weed seed control (HWSC) options, harvester fire prevention, accurate measurement/management of harvest losses and harvest storage.

These workshops hosted by Facey Group will bring together harvester specialists, industry experts and researchers to discuss preventable harvester grain losses and how to measure these, improvements in efficiency and output, methods of harvest weed seed control (HWSC), the prevention of harvester fires and calibrating harvester technology.

## HYDEN

Tuesday 12th Sept

8:30am - 3:30pm

Register: [trybooking.com/CHVDE](https://trybooking.com/CHVDE)

Address on registration.

## DUNN ROCK

Wednesday 13th Sept

8:30am - 3:30pm

Register: [trybooking.com/CHVDG](https://trybooking.com/CHVDG)

Address on registration.

## NYABING

Thursday 14th Sept

8:30am - 3:30pm

Register: [trybooking.com/CHVDM](https://trybooking.com/CHVDM)

Address on registration.

## BEVERLEY

Friday 15th Sept

8:30am - 3:30pm

Register: [trybooking.com/CHVDP](https://trybooking.com/CHVDP)

Address on registration.

## CUNDERDIN

Friday 22nd Sept

8:30am - 3:30pm

Register: [trybooking.com/CHVDU](https://trybooking.com/CHVDU)

Address on registration.

## FORUM LEADERS

**Peter Broley**

Primary Sales Australia

**Ben White**

Kondinin Group

**Brett Aspher**

Indepenant

**Kassie van der Westerhuizen**

Harvest Specialist

**Peter Newman**

Planfarm

**Murray Skayman**

Harvest Specialist

*Alongside demonstrations by industry representatives and manufacturers. Events FREE & catering provided.*





# Industry NEWS

## **MLA partners with AgriProve in research project to identify how soil carbon can contribute to industry's carbon neutral by 2030 target (CN30)**

AgriProve's evidence-based approach to soil carbon has been recognised by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) with a six-year research Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) grant to explore how sequestering carbon in soils can impact the carbon intensity of a livestock enterprise.

The \$150,000 grant will support the Australian red meat industry in transitioning to carbon neutral by 2030 through growing understanding of how soil carbon impacts carbon intensity and farmgate revenue for landholders. [Read full article HERE](#)

## **Harvest losses in the 2022/23 season exceed acceptable thresholds**

Research measuring the scale of grain and profit lost during the 2022/23 harvest found Western Australian growers left an estimated \$320 million of grain in paddocks from front and other machine losses across cereal, canola and grain legume crops. This second phase of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) investment Measuring Harvester Losses in the Western Region project, co-ordinated and led by the Grower Group Alliance (GGA), aimed to work with growers to maximise harvester throughput capacity with acceptable losses. [Read full article HERE](#)

## **National Farm Safety Week kicks off**

NATIONAL Farm Safety Week is under way with the launch of the annual Safer Farms Report. The report highlights the 2022 injury and fatality statistics as well as the first six months of 2023.

Agriculture continues to rank as one of the most dangerous Australian industries to work in.

The Safer Farms Report unpacks the statistics and highlights tools and resources available to farmers through the Farmsafe Australia website, Farmsafe member organisations and collaborative partners.

[Read full article HERE](#)

## **Extension of Tag Incentive Payment Scheme**

Following a successful pilot of the Tag Incentive Payment (TIP) scheme and funding received via the 2023-24 State Budget, the 2023 TIP scheme has been extended.

[Read full details HERE](#)

## **Safety Champs program promotes farm safety for children**

BASF Australia has joined forces with AgLink Australia to launch a free Safety Champs program to promote child safety on farms.

Ahead of National Farm Safety Week which starts 17 July, the program includes BASF Safety Champs packs which are supported by AgLink Australia members Farmer Johns, TGT, McGregor Gourlay, Pursehouse Rural, AGnVET Rural and AgriShop and contain fun and educational farm safety-themed activities.

The packs are designed to assist parents and caregivers to discuss the importance of farm safety with their kids.

The Safety Champs packs, which come in a re-usable drawstring bag, are targeted at 5-10-year-olds and include:

- A Safety Champs program introductory letter
- Child-sized safety vest
- Noise reducing earmuffs, which meet Australian safety standards
- Printable safety themed activities
- An 'Our Farm Safety Pledge' for families to complete together
- An official Safety Champs certificate

[Read full article HERE](#)

## **National HYC awards roadshow kicks off with WA and VIC growers recognised as champions for hyper yielding crops**

Now in its third year, the GRDC's HyperYielding Crops Awards recognise the efforts and achievements of growers nationally who excel in cultivating high yielding crops, through making effective agronomic decisions according to their location and environment.

Previously the HYC Awards have recognised only high yielding wheat crops, however in 2022, barley was introduced into the awards programme across WA, VIC with and SA.

Taking out two HYC Awards for highest wheat and barley yields in WA was Perillup grower Kieran Allison. Mr Allison's award-winning DS Bennett wheat crop recorded a 7.98t/ha yield whilst his award-winning RGT Planet barley crop yielded 8.93t/ha.

[Read full article HERE](#)



# Industry NEWS Cont.

## Eye in the sky informs pasture management

Seeing the complete picture of what's happening across your property's feedbase to better plan for profitable pasture has become easier with the Australian Feedbase Monitor (AFM).

Since the AFM was launched last year by MLA and Cibo Labs, more than 1,900 accounts have been created by producers around Australia.

Based on satellite-fed data, the AFM objectively measures pasture growth, biomass and ground cover using a 30-day rolling average. This enables producers to make informed decisions about the state of their pasture.

The tool is free for MLA members who have linked their Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) accounts to their myMLA dashboard, or can be accessed by non-members via Cibo Labs' paid subscription service. [Read full article HERE](#)

## Merinos still dominate Australia's breeding ewe flock

Australia's breeding ewe flock – and subsequently the 2023 lamb cohort – is still primarily built on Merino genetics, particularly for producers with more than 5,000 sheep.

The May wave of the Sheep Producer Intentions Survey provided unique insights into the genetic makeup of the nation's breeding ewes by breed, as well as producers' flock sizes.

Nearly 2,000 sheep and wool producers from across Australia were surveyed in order to measure breeding intentions, sentiment, breeding ewe breed demographics and similar information for wethers.

[Read full article HERE](#)

## Increased biosecurity risk from vehicles leads to delivery delays

NEW VEHICLE delivery delays are frustrating but a big part of the extra time taken to get vehicles from ships and ports to dealers is thanks to increased biosecurity threats.

CSIRO says over the past few months, thousands of new cars have been sitting on ships waiting to be offloaded at ports around Australia.

The delay has been caused by a backlog in vehicles waiting to be thoroughly cleaned and checked for biosecurity risk materials, including pests like the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) and weeds.

[Read full article HERE](#)

## Australia's sheep flock to reach largest size in over 15 years

The Australian sheepmeat industry is set for another bumper year in 2023 as the national sheep flock grows to its highest level since 2007 at 78.75m head, according to the latest Sheep Industry Projections update from Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA).

Driving this increase are optimal breeding conditions nationwide, a genetically superior flock, improved lambing percentages and medium-term industry confidence at the farm gate level.

Growth is forecast across all states, with larger improvements in flock numbers expected from South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania. The key sheep producing states of New South Wales and Victoria are also forecast to lift numbers, although not as significantly as other states. [Read full article HERE](#)

## 'CBOT wheat prices spike overnight on escalation of Black Sea conflict'

CBOT (Chicago Board of Trade) wheat prices soared eight per cent overnight, after Ukrainian ports were hit by Russian missiles and Russia's Ministry of Defence warned that all vessels travelling to Ukraine's Black Sea ports will be considered as potential carriers of military cargo.

This was the highest trading level of CBOT wheat since a spike in mid-June and previously in February this year, Rabobank senior grains analyst Dennis Voznesenski said. "As of this morning New Zealand time, CBOT wheat is trading at 725USc/bu (or NZD423/tonne)," he said. [Read full article HERE](#)

## ABARES report examines agriculture's extensive sustainability credentials

New analysis released today by ABARES examines Australian Agriculture's extensive sustainability credentials—and the importance of demonstrating them to consumers and investors in the future.

ABARES Executive Director Dr Jared Greenville said Australian agriculture can demonstrate strong sustainability credentials using global indicators when local context is taken into account.

"Compared to other significant agricultural producers, Australian farmers use less fertiliser, have better nutrient balances on their land and use more sustainable cropping practices," Dr Greenville said. [Read full article HERE](#)

# Opportunities ...

## Agribusiness Australia Scholarship Encouraging young Australians to choose a career in agribusiness ...

Each year, Agribusiness Australia awards a scholarship to encourage young Australians to undertake tertiary education in agriculture. The 2023 Agribusiness Australia Scholarship will open for applications from eligible secondary school students across Australia in June.

Scholarship will be open to receive applications: **Monday 5 June 2023**  
Application Submission Deadline:  
**5pm Thursday 27 July 2023**

Students who are studying to enter university in 2024 to study an ag degree or a degree or full-time tertiary education where they intend to establish a career in ag, are welcome to apply.

Visit their website for full details -

<https://www.agribusiness.asn.au/agri-information/agribusiness-australia-scholarship>



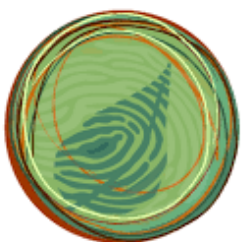
PROMOTING  
AGRIBUSINESS  
IN AUSTRALIA

## Wheatbelt NRM Bushfire Recovery Support Enters Stage Two

Round Two offers grants of up to \$15,000 to replant, infill plant and/or fence remnant vegetation that is too badly damaged from fire to re-generate without support.

Successful applicants are required to match project funds for the same dollar value in cash and or in-kind.

If you received funding in Round One, applicants are reminded that funding across both rounds is limited to a maximum of \$15,000 ex gst per farming entity.



wheatbelt  
natural resource  
management

Kidsafe WA Child Injury Prevention Symposium 2023:

## Growing Up Safely on Farms

9<sup>th</sup> August 2023  
9:30am - 3:30pm  
Northam Country Club, 6401  
Ballardong Noongar Country

Visit: [www.kidsafewa.com.au/farmsymposium](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au/farmsymposium)  
Contact: [kristen@kidsafewa.com.au](mailto:kristen@kidsafewa.com.au) | (08) 6244 4887

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# Opportunities ...



## Online Webinars

Tuesday 8 August – Managing foliar diseases in oats and an update on crown-rot in cereals

Tuesday 15 August – Zonal approaches to managing frost risk

Monday 28 August – Managing soil acidity – Identifying pH stratification to guide lime rates, acid soil management strategies and cropping programs

Tuesday 29 August – Managing acid soils – better performing pulses and making money from new acid tolerant rhizobia strains

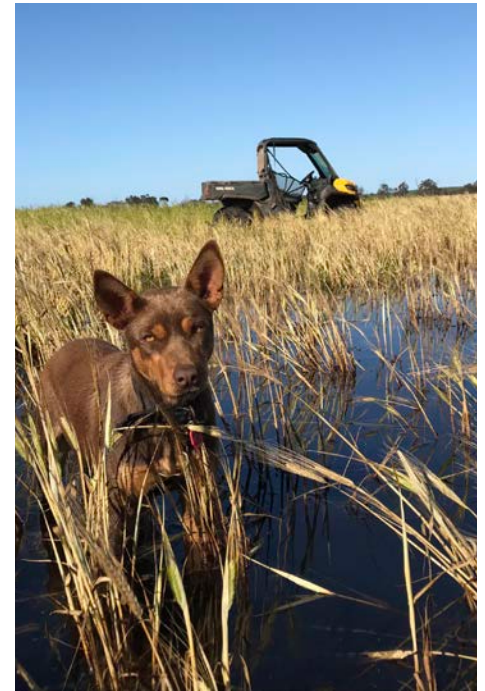


GRDC Farm  
Business Updates

**Communicating your workplace expectations  
with employees - the induction roadmap**

Denise McLennan, *Denise McLennan Consulting*

**Wednesday 2 August**



Images entered in 2021 photo comp (from Top L: G Haddrick, H Hill, D James, H Wyatt, H Hill.

**FACEY GROUP**



*Shaping the Future*

# 2023 PHOTO COMPETITION

## THE RULES

### FARMING & FAMILY

### MONTHLY WINNERS

recieve a \$25 Coles/Myer Voucher & will feature in our 2024 calendar.

- Photos are to be submitted via email to: [comms@faceygroup.org.au](mailto:comms@faceygroup.org.au)
- 2 photos per month may be entered into the competition per person.
- Judging will be completed by a member of the Facey Group Committee and a Facey Group staff member.
- Entry into the competition includes permission for the Facey Group to use images in future publications and media.
- **Competition will run from 1st Dec 22 till 30th Nov 23**
- Camera, mobile phone and drone images all welcome.
- Winners will be announced monthly via social media.

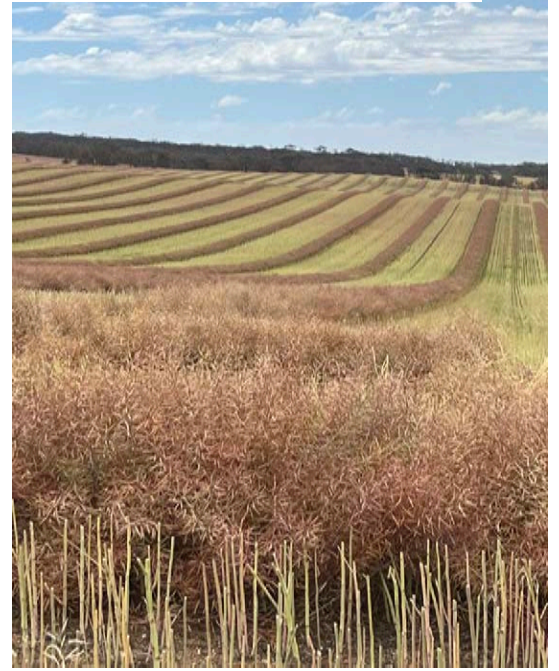
**ENTRIES CLOSE LAST DAY OF EACH MONTH**



# Some of the amazing photos submitted so far ...



*Andrew Ninyett*



*Stacey Shepherd*



*Sarah Poultney*



*Debbie Cristinelli*

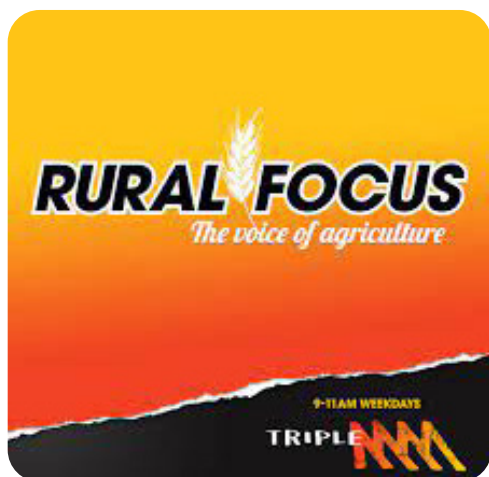


*Justine Tyson*



*Justine Tyson*

# Podcasts of the Month



## Rural Focus - The Voice of Agriculture Closing the Economic Yield Gap of Legumes in WA

Rural Focus is a unique program in commercial radio: it provides the most comprehensive coverage of agricultural and agribusiness issues affecting the rural communities in regional Western Australia.

Listen as host Tom chats with Daniel Kidd from Grower Group Alliance to get an update on the Grain Legume Project, of which Facey Group is proud to be a big part of. [Listen HERE](#)



## Shock and War: Iraq 20 Years On BBC Radio 4

Why did the US want regime change in Iraq? Was it really about the threat of terrorists getting hold of weapons of mass destruction after the September 11th 2001 attacks, or was the desire much deeper? And what was the British government's reaction?

[Listen HERE](#)



## Ockham's Razor Episode - Soil Your Undies!

What do your undies have to do with the health of Australian soils?

Dr Oliver Knox is a researcher in cotton farming and soil health -- and he wants you to give you a challenge.

Guest:

Dr Oliver Knox

Senior Lecturer, School of Environmental and Rural Science, University of New England

[Listen HERE](#)



# NEWS from Our Partners

## Can canola captivate – global canola production forecast

The global canola season of 2022/23 is soon coming to an end. As global production rose by 18 per cent from the previous year to a massive record level, and global ending stocks are expected to recover further, providing a bit of a buffer for any potential yield issues.

RaboResearch general manager Australia and New Zealand Stefan Vogel said farmers had to watch canola prices slide dramatically from last year's highs. "But the ICE canola contract showed signs of recovery in the first half of June, and we'll take a look at the fundamentals for the new season to evaluate if that's for good reason," he said.



*Stefan Vogel, RaboResearch General Manager Aus/NZ*

Mr Vogel said global canola production is forecast to fall slightly short of last year's record, but not by much. "The expected reductions from Australia's record crop last season will be largely offset by higher production in the EU and Canada. But with the available inventories, the supply is even stronger than last season."

"Canada – the world's largest exporter – is finishing canola planting and farmers are marginally increasing area," he said. "For now, the crop forecast developed by local authorities is based on trend yields and that might be a bit optimistic given that about half of the crop area – especially in the western parts of the country – are facing dry seasonal conditions." But it's early days, Mr Vogel said, and if all goes as planned, Canada might harvest over 20 million tonnes of canola, a seven per cent increase from last year and their best crop in five years. "This would allow Canada to export slightly more canola than last season, but still well below the levels seen from 2015 to 2020."

Mr Vogel said Canada's statistics office admits that the assumption for domestic processing does not yet include any of the four new Canadian canola processing plants being operational. "And for every plant that starts up during the season, 0.5 to one million tonnes of additional canola could be used. In summary, with dry conditions, low inventories and a potential to see stronger domestic use, the world's leading exporter might show some price-supportive surprises in the year ahead," he said.

The EU's crop is forecast to rise further by about three per cent from last year, even so the 2022 crop already was the best in five years, Mr Vogel noted. "The EU is the world's leading importer and the better the local crop, the lower the import needs. The two major canola-producing countries in the EU – France and Germany – both expanded their area. Crops will soon be ready for harvest. Both countries have been dry, but not to the extent that would cut the EU's production dramatically."

# NEWS from Our Partners

## Can canola captivate – global canola production forecast CONT.

“Ukraine and Russia are both expected to produce similar volumes to last year’s excellent canola crop,” Mr Vogel said. “Ukraine’s canola will soon be ready for harvest, and it is largely grown in the western half of the country, away from the frontlines and the recently destroyed dam. Therefore, it is unlikely that the Ukrainian production will decline much from the forecast volumes.”

But can Ukraine export canola and grains out of the country through their ports will be the question as the negotiations about the renewal of the grain deal are slow and cumbersome, Mr Vogel said. “Russia is putting lots of pressure on the West to lift sanctions and threatens to not extend the deal.”

To find out more about Rabobank, contact Rabobank’s Narrogin team on (08) 9890 0600 or subscribe to RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness Australia & New Zealand on your podcast app.

Rabobank Australia & New Zealand Group is a part of the international Rabobank Group, the world’s leading specialist in food and agribusiness banking. Rabobank has more than 120 years’ experience providing customised banking and finance solutions to businesses involved in all aspects of food and agribusiness. Rabobank is structured as a cooperative and operates in 38 countries, servicing the needs of more than nine million clients worldwide through a network of more than 1000 offices and branches. Rabobank Australia & New Zealand Group is one of Australasia’s leading agricultural lenders and a significant provider of business and corporate banking and financial services to the region’s food and agribusiness sector. The bank has 90 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand.



# *Rabobank*





## Boots Off Log On! Podcast

With Host, David Egerton-Warburton,  
Joint CEO at Agrimaster.

Welcome to "Boots Off Log On!" the podcast where we delve into all things farm business. Whether you're a seasoned generational farmer or forging your own path in the agriculture industry, this is the podcast for you.

We focus on all aspects of agribusiness, covering topics ranging from finance and management to compliance, innovations, heartwarming personal stories, and the triumphs of all who have been where you are.

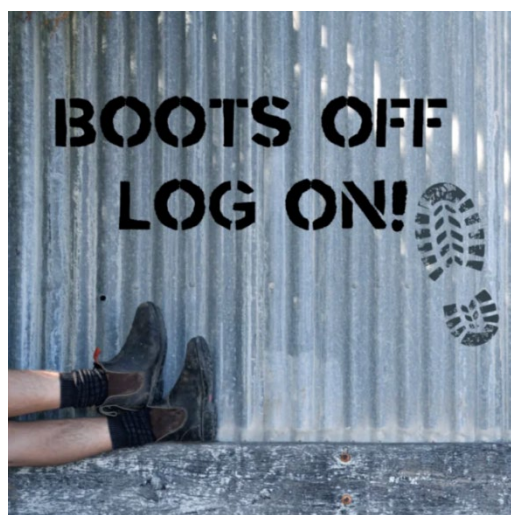
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***We highlight the beauty of being a part of the Australian Ag Industry.***

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Our podcast features an impressive lineup of renowned figures in the agricultural industry, sharing their valuable insights and expertise.

From CEOs like Trevor Whittington of WAFarmers. To trailblazing



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***\*Valid for new Agrimaster Standard customers until 25 August 2023.***



# NEWS from Our Partners

## New trial site for Summit with range of variables

As part of Summit Fertilizers commitment to trial research and ongoing support of the Facey Group, we have again this year put in a trial, located north-east of Wickepin. The trial is situated next to the NVT, giving growers a few trials to look at in proximity. The Summit trial focuses on rates of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium.

With higher production rates it is becoming more important to replace what we are taking out of the paddock. Therefore, Summit focussed the trial on looking at the different rates of Phosphorus that might be needed and trying to find the best economical rate to help yield and the bottom line for growers.

Summit have also put in a Sulphate of Potash trial looking at the safety of this at higher rates down the tube with the seed. With higher rates being used, it is important to see how far we can push the envelope before the crop is affected. It will be interesting to see what the benefits are and how they will impact on next year's crop.

The last trial at the site put in was for Nitrogen and types of Nitrogen. Summit put in five different types of Nitrogen, applied on the site, to show what the results are. There is a slow-release product in the trial to compare with the other types traditionally used in general farming systems.

For more information, contact your local Area Manager, David Hull on 0477 923 684.



*Photo L: Summit Fertilizers Trial with Facey Group located north-east of Wickepin.*

# NEWS from Our Partners

## Observing Harvest Withholding Periods Broadacre Grain Crops



### ***What is a harvest withholding period (WHP) for grain crops?***

The minimum amount of time that must elapse between the application of a pesticide and the harvesting of a crop. You MUST NOT harvest a crop before the withholding period has expired.

### ***What is the purpose of a WHP?***

To ensure that the maximum residue limit (MRL) is not exceeded in the harvested grain or in the forage.

### ***Do all crop protection products have a withholding period?***

Yes. All insecticides, fungicides and herbicides will have a specific WHP listed on the label.

### ***Where can I find this information?***

WHPs are always stated under the 'Table of Directions for Use' on the product label and in some cases also within the Table of Directions for Use. See figure 1.

### ***Are WHPs the only factor that can affect MRLs?***

No. It is important to comply with all instructions on the label, particularly the rate of application, number of applications permitted and crop application timing.

### ***What does NOT REQUIRED WHEN USED AS DIRECTED mean?***

That the time that will elapse from the application timing stipulated in the Directions for Use table is sufficient to ensure an MRL is not exceeded in the harvested grain. Eg Some products may state: Do NOT apply after flag leaf emergence, or similar.

### ***What about the grazing WHP?***

Grazing WHPs refer to grazing whole plant residues whereas harvest refers only to the harvested part of the plant (grain). There are separate MRLs for the fodder component and the grain component. Grazing WHPs should be observed before allowing stock into treated areas.

*\*\*Consult your agronomist if unsure about the harvest or grazing WHP for any particular product*

Article by Steven Tilbrook, Agronomy – Senior Specialist, CBH Group.

For further information visit: [Understanding pesticide labels | Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority \(apvma.gov.au\)](#)



# NEWS from Our Partners

## Observing Harvest Withholding Periods Broadacre Grain Crops - CONT.

**Table 1: Withholding periods of some crop protection products**

Active Ingredient	Trade Name	Crop	Harvest WHP	Critical Comments
paraquat	Gramoxone, Paraquat 250	Lupins	7 days	
glyphosate	Roundup UltraMAX	barley	7 days	
		wheat	5 days	
		canola	Not required when used as directed	Apply after 20% see colour change
tebuconazole + prothioconazole	Prosaro	Canola	Not required when used as directed	Apply Prosaro between 20 and 50 flowering.
		Cereals	5 weeks	
azoxystrobin + cyproconazole	Amistar Xtra	Barley, wheat	6 weeks	
bixafen + prothioconazole	Aviator Xpro	Barley, wheat	Not required when used as directed	Do NOT apply after Z45
		Canola		Do Not apply after 50% flower(full blo
chlorpyrifos	Lorsban	Cereals	10 days	
alpha-cypermethrin	Alpha Duo, Dominex Duo	Canola	21 Days	
		Cereals	7 Days	
		Lupins, field peas, faba beans	28 Days	
sulfoxaflor	Transform	Canola	Not required when used as directed	Do NOT apply after flowering



## The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021

On the 1 July 2023, the new *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021* (WA) came into force. The new Act makes extensive amendments to the existing *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, including the introduction of the four-tier activity approval process, the due diligence assessment (DDA), and the Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services (LACHS). Under the new legislation greater onus is placed on landowners and proponents in WA to undertake a DDA to identify Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) and to avoid and minimise any harm to ACH. Below is a summary of the key changes landowners and proponents should be aware of.

### What is Aboriginal Cultural Heritage?

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) means the tangible and intangible elements that are important to the Aboriginal people of the State. ACH includes an Aboriginal Place, an Aboriginal object, a cultural landscape and Aboriginal ancestral remains.

### Waterways

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage may be present on, in or surrounding the waterways on your property. If a landowner or proponent intends to undertake ground disturbing activities that impact a waterway, then they will be required to undertake a due diligence assessment. For the purposes of the Act, Regulations and Guidelines, a waterway includes the following:

- (a) *a river, creek, brook or other naturally flowing stream of water, whether or not it flows permanently;*
- (b) *a lake, salt lake, claypan, lagoon, marsh or swamp;*
- (c) *a floodplain, estuary or inlet;*
- (d) *an artificial waterway as defined in the Planning and Development Act 2005 section 4(1).*

### Activity Tiers

Under the Act, a four-tier approval process has been introduced for activities that may cause harm to ACH. The four-tier approval process is applicable to landowners and proponents, who are intending to carry out ground disturbing activities that may harm ACH. The four activities include exempt, tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 activities.

### Due Diligence Assessment

The landowners of exempt, tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 activities will all be required to undertake a search of the ACH Directory to determine if there is ACH or a Protected Area registered on their land. Landowners and proponents wishing to undertake tier one, two or three activities will then be required to undertake a due diligence assessment to determine if their activities will cause a risk of harm to ACH.

### ACH Directory

The Directory is a tool that will assist landowners and proponents with undertaking a DDA. The Directory contains prescribed information about ACH that is located throughout the State. This includes information about ACH previously recorded on the Register of Aboriginal Sites throughout



the administration of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, as well as records of new ACH as they are submitted.

## **LACHS**

LACHS have been introduced under the new legislation to assist landowners and proponents during a DDA. A person or entity with comprehensive knowledge of the local Aboriginal community in an area, of the State, such as a native title representative body, can apply to be designated as the LACHS for that area. Once appointed a LACHS is responsible for providing advice to landowners and proponents about ACH, engaging with proponents and other local knowledge holders and facilitating and making ACH management plans, amongst other things. A proponent intending to carry out a Tier 2 or Tier 3 activity that is the subject of a Plan will be required to consult with the LACHS for their area.

## **Permits**

If a tier 2 activity cannot be carried out so as to avoid harm to ACH, then the proponent must make an application to the ACH Council to obtain a Permit. Similarly, if a tier 3 activity cannot be carried out so as to avoid harm to ACH then the proponent will be required to develop an ACH Management Plan with each interested Aboriginal party.

## **Stop Activity and Prohibition Orders**

If a landowner or proponent is carrying out an approved tier 2 or tier 3 activity and ACH is being harmed or there is an imminent risk of harm being caused to ACH then the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, may give a stop activity order to a person to stop the activity. The Minister also has the power, upon the recommendation of the ACH Council, to give a prohibition order to a person carrying out a tier 2 or tier 3 activity, if harm or imminent risk of harm to ACH is caused by their activity. If ACH has been harmed the Minister may, upon the recommendation of the ACH Council, issue a remediation order.

If you would like more information about the Act or Aboriginal cultural heritage in general, please contact Bailiwick Legal on (08) 9321 5451 or by email at [office@bailiwicklegal.com.au](mailto:office@bailiwicklegal.com.au).

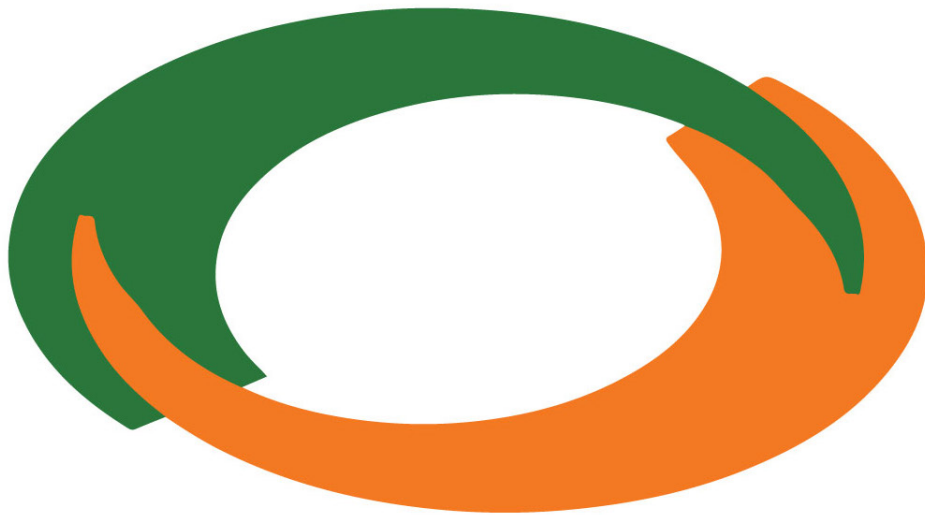
*By Matilda Lloyd (Solicitor)*

For further information about our legal services, please visit our website:

<https://www.bailiwicklegal.com.au>

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