

FACEY CONNECT

LEADING, INSPIRING, SUPPORTING AND CHALLENGING
OUR LOCAL FARMING COMMUNITY



AUTUMN 2025



**2025 FACEY
GROUP TRIALS
NIGHT**

**WANDERING THE
WHEATBELT**

**NAVIGATING
FARM SUCCESSION
IN A CHANGING
LANDSCAPE**

Image Source: @gregcrichtonphoto / Instagram

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The Facey Group would like to acknowledge and thank our valued sponsors Agrimaster, Australian Grain Technologies, Australian Wool Innovation, Bailiwick Legal, CRISP Wireless, CSBP, Elders Insurance, Elders Wickepin, Ewen Rural Supplies, FMC, GrainGrowers, Great Southern Fuels, Origo.Farm, Patmore Feeds, Planfarm, and Tincurrin Rural Services.

A Note from the CEO

Embracing Change and Looking Ahead

As we move through the ever-changing landscape of our industry and daily operations, I've been reflecting on the true constant in life: change. Throughout my time at Facey Group, I've experienced many shifts, from completing long-term projects to starting new and exciting initiatives and roles. 2025 promises to be no different, filled with opportunities, new faces, and evolving projects that I look forward to sharing with you.

One of the most significant transitions we're navigating is bidding farewell to two incredible team members within our organisation. I want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude for Bronwyn Dew's dedication and expertise during her time as Deputy CEO. Her experience and generosity in her role have been invaluable, and I will undoubtedly miss her calm, wise advice. Additionally, Maree Dougall left Facey Group in February to pursue other opportunities. The Facey Group team wish her all the



Tina Astbury, Facey Group Chief Executive Officer

best in the next chapter of her journey. As we say goodbye to these respected team members, we will also welcome new faces to Facey Group. We are excited to see how their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm help shape our future and continue driving our organisation's success.

Exciting Upcoming Events at Facey Group

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to host several key events and workshops. These gatherings offer great opportunities for learning, networking, and collaboration within the agricultural community.

- **GRDC Seeder Set Up Workshop & Boekemans Farming Autonomy Introduction** — On Thursday, March 20th, we'll dive into the practical side of modern farming with the GRDC Seeder Set Up Workshop, followed by an introduction to Farming Autonomy. This event promises to provide valuable insights into the future of agriculture and the tools that will shape it.
- **Drought-Proofing Roadshow** — Then Wednesday, March 26th, Facey Group along with SW NRM and Southern Dirt, will be in Dumbleyung for the Drought-Proofing Roadshow, where attendees will gain knowledge and strategies to ensure their operations are more resilient to drought. This will also view the trial desalination plant and present findings from the WaterSmart Dams project.

You can find more details and sign up to attend off the included flyers within this newsletter.

Pre-Seeding Preparation & Season Transitions

As we transition into a new season, Facey Group is gearing up for the busy period of pre-seeding preparation. Producers are also making plans, crunching stubble, claying, getting ready for burning, spreading potash, fertilising pastures, and seeding pastures. It's a time of immense activity but also an opportunity to set the foundation for the growing season ahead.

At Facey Group, we understand the challenges that come with this critical period. We want to take this opportunity to wish all producers a safe and successful seeding season. May it be a time of growth, opportunity, and prosperous harvests.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, we look forward to working alongside you to achieve new successes in 2025.



Image above: Tina Astbury, Facey Group CEO, presenting on our various projects at the 2025 Trails Review Event.

Seeder Setup Workshops



MAXIMISING SEEDING SUCCESS IN-PADDOCK WORKSHOP

MARCH 2025



WICKEPIN

VENUE: Yealering-Pingelly Rd
32°35'08.5"S 117°26'58.1"E



20th March

9.00am - 1.30pm

Lunch & Refreshments
Provided

Effective crop establishment is critical for a successful season.

Join local agronomist Clint Mullan and machinery expert (Brett Asphar) in conversations to sharpen your skills and make the most of your seeding tools and decisions. This GRDC interactive workshop is hosted by Facey Group.

This workshop is designed for grain growers and industry professionals seeking to improve their seeding practices.

Participants will gain practical knowledge from both industry specialists and local experts, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience tailored to your needs.

Join Us: Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your seeding strategies and **set your season up for success.**

Workshop Topics:
Optimal Seed and Fertiliser Placement for your local soils.

Hands-On insight for your Aircart Calibration and Distribution Testing.

Seeder Bar Set-Up Fundamentals, Maintenance and Trouble Shooting Tips.

Register Here:



FARMING AUTONOMY INTRODUCTION

20 March 2025 | Yealering 6372 WA



You are invited to attend a **Farming Autonomy Introduction Afternoon**, after the **GRDC Seeder Setup Workshop** (in the morning) with **Boekeman Machinery**.

Come along and learn about how to prepare for autonomy in farming for the immediate future.

This event is free of charge and will be led by Boekeman Machinery's Precision Farming Specialists, who will provide insights into current & future developments related to autonomy.

The event aims to engage local growers with emerging autonomous technologies to enhance farming practices and provide a roadmap for successful adoption of autonomous technologies and tasks.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- **Step-by-step guide for implementation of autonomous tasks leading to autonomy**
- **An interactive readiness assessment through discussions**
- **Demonstrations showcase cutting-edge tools such as VRT, telematics, and Starlink technologies**
- **Growers to share challenges and ideas, contributing to valuable insights**

EVENT DETAILS

Morlup Farm, 6372

Thursday 20th March 2025

Hosts: Boekeman Machinery

Time: 1.30pm – 4.00pm, Afternoon Tea Provided

Directions: Yealering-Pingelly Rd

Google Maps QR:

32°35'08.5"S 117°26'58.1"E



FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information or to RSVP, contact Conor Mc Guckian 0438 905 875 or events@boekemans.com.au

Grain Automate is a Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) initiative on behalf of Australian grain growers aimed at accelerating the adoption of machine automation, autonomy and digital technologies in the Australian grains industry. R&D investment in this workshop does not indicate commercial endorsement by GRDC.



Register Here:



Drought-Proofing Roadshow

*Smart Dams
Desal*

and other tips

Dumbleyung

March 26: 2-5pm

Kojonup

March 27: 8am-12pm



FREE EVENT

Scan to register for
Dumbleyung event



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Future
Drought
Fund



**GROWER
GROUP
ALLIANCE**
Together we grow



South-West WA
Drought Resilience Adoption
and Innovation Hub



South
West
NRM



FACEY GROUP
Shaping the Future



Southern Dirt

South West NRM is the Bunbury Node of the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub and receives funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

A Message from our President

By Sam Horley - Facey Group President

Reflecting on Achievements and Looking Ahead

As we step into a new year, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude and acknowledge the hard work and dedication that have been the core of the Facey Group's success.

First, we thank Geoff Poultney for his outstanding leadership over the past two years as our President. His commitment, vision, and tireless efforts have been pivotal in navigating our challenges. I'm grateful that Geoff will be taking on a supporting role as Vice President, where we're sure his experience and insight will continue to be invaluable to me, and to the Facey Group.

A special thank you goes to our dedicated staff, who worked tirelessly last year with a large trial program and extra events for members. They demonstrated grit and resilience in a changing landscape with new staff having to rapidly understand projects, commence fieldwork and deliver events, reports and presentations over the winter months. Their commitment ensures the group thrives, and I am excited to see them continue to build towards a cohesive team.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish Bron a very happy and well-deserved retirement. Her contributions to the Facey Group have been immeasurable, and her legacy will remain an integral part of the foundation we continue to build upon. We thank her for everything she has done and wish her all the best in this new chapter.

Looking ahead, we must keep the Committee focused on our core role: supporting research and development for the Facey Group and its members. Our CEO, Tina, and I met in January to discuss how Facey Group reviews and organises research opportunities. The committee will continue to discuss R&D at each committee meeting. It will commence this year with an overview of the various opportunities within agriculture to ensure our group's priorities are well understood. We remain dedicated to seeing how our efforts can propel the group into the future, ensuring that we stay at the cutting edge of agricultural innovation.

Speaking of the future, we're particularly excited about the new technologies rapidly shaping how we farm. From AI-powered big-data solutions to advances in machinery, it's an exciting time to be involved in agriculture. The transition away from fossil fuels and other carbon-heavy agricultural inputs presents modern agriculture with multiple serious challenges, such as the shift toward electric and hydrogen-powered equipment and less carbon-intensive fertiliser options. As we look to the future, we'll keep a close eye on these developments and their implications on our practices.

This, of course leads us to one of our key goals, to engage with younger members and attract new talent to the Facey Group. The future of agriculture lies in their hands, and we are committed to ensuring our group is appealing and accessible to the next generation of farmers. In 2025, the Facey Group Committee will review the strategic plan; we must ensure it includes the younger generation of farmers, so we all benefit from the input and energy they bring to the table.

We are grateful for the strong foundation we've built together and excited about the future. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to another year of growth, innovation, and success.



AgREC Update

By Franco Renteria & Ravi Parmar - Facey Group AgREC Team



As we wrap up another successful year, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our stakeholders and the Facey Group team for their dedication and hard work in completing last year's trials and preparing the 2024 Trials Book for our members.

After the Christmas break, our AgREC team jumped straight into report writing for the previous season's trials. While collected over 600 hand cuts and threshing seeds with our tiny machine might seem like a challenge, we all agreed it's still easier than writing reports! A big shout-out to the entire Facey Group team for ensuring the Trials Book was completed on time and delivered at Trials Night.

We also want to thank all our stakeholders for their support as we have now finalised paddocks for nearly all trials for the upcoming season. With the new season fast approaching, there's still work to be done, getting our trial seeder ready, conducting pre-seeding soil sampling, and drafting trial protocols for next year.

AGM Event

The Facey Group Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Wednesday, 18th December, was a great success, bringing together members and their families for a pre-Christmas catch-up. The event featured a special presentation by Roberto Rocha from The University of Western Australia, who shared insights into his work on Earth Observation, Remote Sensing, and Agricultural Applications. His research, focusing on drones, satellite imagery, and learning how this drones can be useful in farming, aims to revolutionise precision crop management and scalable weed mapping. Following his presentation, attendees, including children and parents, had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on drone workshop led by Roberto's company, Squadron. The evening concluded with an exciting drone light show, offering a glimpse into the future of ag-tech innovation.



Pictures 1: (From Left to Right) Kids learning to fly drones; Roberto presenting his work; Drone show at the Community Centre in Wickepin.



Picture 2: A heartfelt farewell as the team honors Bronwyn Dew on her retirement, celebrating her dedication and contributions.

The AGM was also a moment of reflection and gratitude, with outgoing President Geoff Poultney acknowledging the dedicated Facey Group staff and committee members for their contributions. Special thanks were extended to Bronwyn Dew for her years of service, playing a crucial role in the group's growth, infrastructure improvements, and ongoing success. As Geoff handed over the presidency, he highlighted the importance of engaging the next generation of farmers to ensure Facey Group remains relevant and innovative. With a strong team and

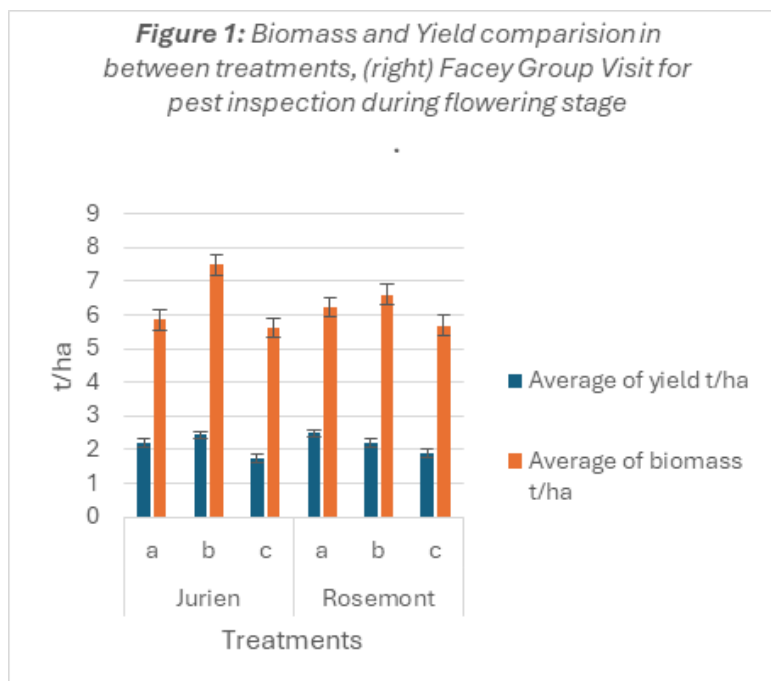
AgREC Update Cont.

passionate members, the group looks forward to another year of research, collaboration, and community-driven progress.

Project Updates

De-Risking Seeding Program: Comparing Lupin Varieties & Wetter Application

Lupins are a vital break crop in WA's Wheatbelt, enhancing soil health and fixing nitrogen. This trial assessed the performance of Rosemont (newly released from Australian Grain Technologies (AGT) and known for soft finish) and Jurien (well established in the region) lupin varieties, particularly under various sowing conditions with and without soil wetters.



Key Findings:

- Wetter application did not significantly impact overall yield due to early-season rainfall.
- Jurien and Rosemont showed similar biomass and yield production.
- Rosemont observed during our Spring Field Day showed slightly late flowering than Jurien by around a week
- Both varieties showed similar nodulation and disease resistance, with Jurien suiting drier conditions and Rosemont excelling in softer finishes.

Takeaway:

Rosemont is well-suited for our region and performs well even with later maturity. It also exhibited slightly larger nodules and higher nodulation, indicating better nitrogen fixation potential. If the opportunity arises, it would be beneficial to observe its impact on next year's crop rotation yield in similar plots to further understand its long-term benefits.

AgREC Update Cont.

RiskWiŞe: Nitrogen Strategy for N-Banking

Nitrogen is one of the highest costs and risks in wheat and canola production. This trial tested different nitrogen (N) management strategies, comparing traditional budgeting to a more dynamic approach, Nitrogen Sequence Targets (NST), to optimise profitability and reduce environmental losses.

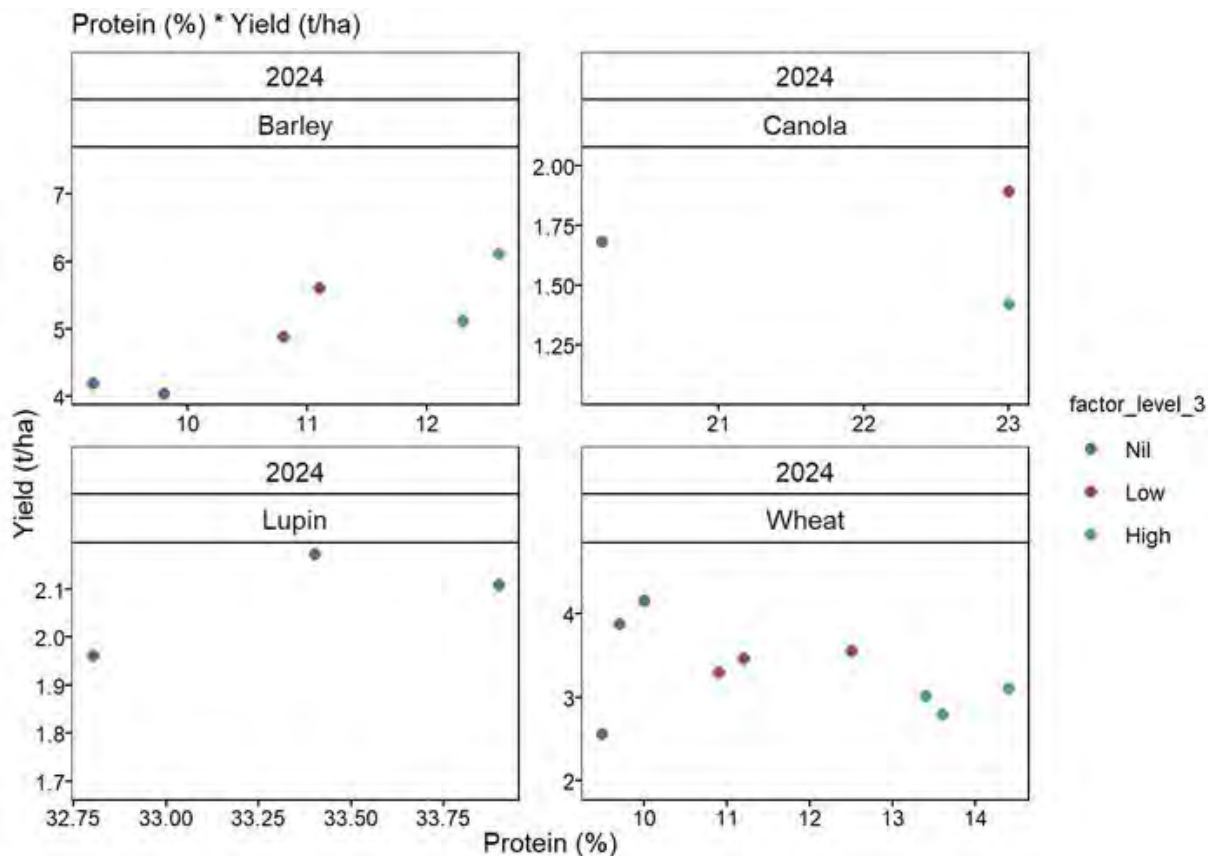


Figure 1: (above) Yield and protein % comparison for all crops. Note grain quality analysis was conducted on collated samples providing different sample numbers in each crop (Image on right) trial site view during grain filling stage.



Key Findings:

- Barley showed the highest relation of yield and protein with N application.
- Canola had stable yields, benefiting from moderate N inputs but showing no extra gains at higher rates.
- Wheat showed a risk of haying off at high N rates, reducing yield despite higher protein.
- Over-applying N increased residual soil nitrogen but did not always translate to higher profits, particularly in wheat and canola.

Takeaway:

Balancing N rates to crop demand is key. Too much N in wheat reduces yield, while barley and canola benefit from moderate rates. Long-term planning through rotation and soil testing in trial can be helpful to gives more information about how to optimise N inputs and profitability.

AgREC Update Cont.

Soil CRC: Deep Ripping, Clay Amendment & Crop Sequence for Soil Health

Improving soil moisture retention, carbon levels, and productivity is critical for sustainable cropping. This trial, now in its third year, evaluated deep ripping, clay amendments, and diverse crop rotations to enhance soil health in WA's variable climate.



Picture 1: (Left) Professor Richard Bell from Murdoch University examines soil from the clay application treatment. (Right) Living Farm conducts trial harvesting using a small plot harvester.

Key Findings:

- Clay amendment improved soil water retention but didn't significantly boost yields in a dry finish.
- Deep ripping increased early-season moisture but also led to higher evaporation losses.
- Serradella and mixed cropping boosted phosphorus levels, improving long-term soil fertility.
- Long dry spell and oats damage by chemical spray limited yield potential, highlighting the need for integrated moisture and chemical spraying management.

Takeaway:

While clay incorporation and deep ripping can improve soil structure and moisture storage, long-term benefits depend on seasonal conditions. Diverse rotations (e.g., lupins, vetch, and serradella) help build soil fertility for future crops.

AgREC Update Cont.

What's New Ahead:

Tackling Soil Water Repellence with Innovation and Practical Solutions

We are excited to launch this project in collaboration with Murdoch University as a crucial step toward addressing Soil Water Repellence (SWR) in our region. This initiative will explore how different crops and pastures influence SWR severity, consider seasonal variability, and assess the long-term impact of crop rotations. By working closely with GRDC, growers, and industry experts, we aim to deliver both scientific insights and practical solutions. A key focus is developing a decision-support tool to help farmers manage SWR effectively, using data on soil conditions, environmental factors, and historical contributions. Additionally, we will evaluate the cost-benefit of SWR management strategies, validate findings through real-world case studies, and assess both short- and long-term mitigation approaches. Further, Murdoch University will investigate current wetter chemistries, explore biological solutions, and build a business case for future innovations. This project represents an exciting opportunity to translate cutting-edge research into tangible on-farm benefits, ensuring a more sustainable and resilient agricultural future.

Breaking New Ground: Innovative Soil Technologies to Overcome Soil Constraints

We're also launching a project to trial Innovative Soil Technologies (ISTs) to tackle key soil constraints like poor structure, acidity, and water and nutrient inefficiencies, which cost Australian growers \$1.9 billion annually as per Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) and GRDC. By testing practical, science-backed solutions, we aim to improve soil health, boost yields, and increase profitability.

Starting in 2025, we'll work with growers to trial five IST categories, including advanced soil amendments, enhanced-efficiency fertilisers, and nano-structured treatments. The project will involve on-farm trials, baseline soil testing, and cost-benefit analysis to develop real-world solutions that fit existing farm practices. Research suggests ISTs could increase yields by 14.5% and deliver a \$7.15 return for every \$1 invested.

This is a great opportunity for our region to be involved in shaping the future of soil management and farm sustainability. Stay tuned for ways to participate!



Images Above: Dr. Daniel Kidd, GGA & the Facey Group team presenting on our various projects at the 2025 Trials Night.

AgREC NEWS

By Ravi Parmar, Facey Group Agricultural Research & Extension Coordinator



Facey Group Trials Night 2025 – A Night of Insights and Innovation

On Thursday, 6th March, the Wickepin Community Centre was buzzing with excitement as farmers, researchers, and industry professionals gathered for the 2025 Facey Group Trials Night and Pre-Seeding Catch Up. The event provided a valuable platform to review key trial findings from 2024 and explore research initiatives. Attendees engaged with leading experts, shared experiences, and discussed the latest advancements in sustainable farming.

Diving into the Night's Highlights

Rabobank Presentation – Navigating the Global Wheat Market

The evening commenced with an insightful presentation by Theo Saroukos from Rabobank, who discussed global wheat market trends and commodity risk management. His talk focused on the challenges and opportunities for Australian grain producers in an increasingly volatile market. Attendees gained key takeaways on making informed financial and strategic decisions in grain marketing.



Image Above: Dr. Daniel Kidd, GGA & Tina Astbury, Facey Group CEO presenting on the RiskWi\$e project.

A Review of the Facey Group 2024 Trials Season – Evidence-Based Decision Making

Following Rabobank's presentation, the Facey Group AgREC team took the stage to present an overview of our trial work. Covering everything from nitrogen efficiency to time-of-sowing strategies, the team highlighted how data-driven research is helping local growers optimise productivity and manage risks. Facey Group's participation in the GRDC-funded RiskWi\$e initiative was a focal point, emphasising the importance of evidence-based nitrogen management.

Dr. Daniel Kidd – RiskWi\$e and Grain Legumes

A special thanks was extended to Dr. Daniel Kidd from Grower Group Alliance (GGA) for his presentation on the RiskWi\$e project and an overview of grain legume research. He shed light on nitrogen decision-making strategies, highlighting how legumes can contribute to soil fertility while addressing economic and environmental sustainability.

Confinement Feeding Discussion Panel

A highlight of the evening was the farmer panel discussion on confinement feeding and deferred grazing, hosted by Joe Gebbels, Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA). Panellists, including Audrey Bird (Windorah Farms), Sandra Fowler (Rapanui Farms), and Tom Wittwer (Wittwer Farms), shared their experiences with confinement feeding systems, discussing cost efficiencies and management strategies. The session generated great interest, with many farmers considering how to integrate these practices into their own operations.



Image Above: Confinement Feeding Panel - Joe Gebbels (MLA), Audrey Bird (Windorah Farms), Sandra Fowler (Rapanui Farms), & Tom Wittwer (Wittwer Farms).

AgREC NEWS

By Ravi Parmar, Facey Group Agricultural Research & Extension Coordinator



Facey Group Trials Night 2025 – A Night of Insights and Innovation | Cont.



Nick Eyres – Nitrogen Use Efficiency and Soil Health

Consultant Nick Eyres provided a compelling discussion on nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) and soil health. His insights addressed the limitations of dryland agriculture, nitrogen losses in production systems, and the potential role of legumes in nitrogen banking. The data from his ongoing trials reinforced the need for improved soil management techniques to enhance productivity.

Image Left: Consultant Nick Eyres taking questions on nitrogen use & soil health.

Managing the Risk of Harvester Fires

To conclude the presentations, Mike Wainwright from Argos Fire Safety discussed the increasing threat of harvester fires and best practices for prevention. The presentation outlined key fire risk factors, such as machinery size, fuel storage, and high-pressure systems, while emphasising the importance of fire suppression systems, routine maintenance, and proper operator training. The discussion underscored the serious financial and safety risks posed by harvester fires, making prevention a priority for all growers.



Image Above: Tina Astbury, Facey Group CEO & Mike Wainwright, Argos Fire Safety Founder.

Networking and Looking Ahead

The event wrapped up with a sundowner session, where attendees exchanged ideas and forged new connections over refreshments. The strong turnout and positive engagement reaffirmed the importance of industry collaboration in addressing key farming challenges.

With another successful Trials Presentation Night behind us, Facey Group look forward to implementing new research insights and continuing to support growers in their pursuit of more profitable and sustainable farming practices. Stay tuned for updates on our 2025 trial projects and ongoing industry developments.



AgREC NEWS

By Tina Astbury - Facey Group CEO



GGA's Lift Off '25: A Successful Start to the Year

The Grower Group Alliance's (GGA) Lift Off '25 event, held from 11:15 AM on Thursday, 13 February to 1:30 PM on Friday, 14 February 2025, at the Aloft Hotel in Rivervale, WA, is always a valuable event for the Facey Group team to build networks and collaborate with our fellow grower groups.

The event started with an informative introduction on the global innovation ecosystem. Currently, innovation within agriculture is siloed within industries, and GGA's 'PropaGATE' and 'Reach' initiatives have exciting opportunities to better link technologies to end users. These innovation programs through GGA will support the Facey Group in identifying opportunities and ensuring start-ups and technology companies better understand the needs of producers.

The session after lunch threw the spotlight on the invaluable opportunity to connect with the GGA network. Members had five minutes to introduce their groups and identify potential collaboration partners. With the diverse GGA community, this rapid-fire exchange was an excellent icebreaker and laid the groundwork for future partnerships. Capacity building was also a key focus, with a session dedicated to stakeholder mapping. This session supports Facey Group's strategic planning process by providing us with a way to plan effective engagement to the wide range of groups we work with.

The next session provided information from Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) about funding opportunities. The GRDC National Grower Network (NGN) process has demonstrated as an effective method to deliver short-term localised producer solutions, and this will continue to be a potential funding pathway for Facey Group. MLA are also expanding its Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) program. The afternoon ended on a relaxed note with the Poolside Sundowner, a casual yet productive opportunity to meet GGA staff.



Networking, Collaboration, and Insights at the Dinner

The evening networking dinner was a highlight, as attendees gathered for a three-course meal and some light-hearted fun. As the conversations flowed, participants played the "truth or lie" game, which fostered laughter and deepened connections. The dinner also featured a speaker spotlight from Bonnie Jupp from RegenWA, who shared her experience as a panellist at the United Nations COP16 conference in Saudi Arabia. Her talk provided an inspiring glimpse into the global challenges and solutions for environmental issues. Day two of Lift Off started early with themed networking breakfasts. The CEOs were treated to important but somewhat dry ATO changes and their impact on not-for-profit groups. I heard the laughter at the communications and project officer breakfast as they discussed ways to better support their shared professional community.

After breakfast, attendees participated in an engaging session outlining GGA's 2025 Capacity Building Program, revealing the results from the annual survey and the top priorities for training and development in the year ahead. The focus shifted to a technical skills session on communications planning using Airtable,

AgREC NEWS

By Tina Astbury - Facey Group CEO



GGA's Lift Off '25: A Successful Start to the Year | Cont.

a popular tool for streamlining operations. While this tool seems useful, Facey Group has made substantial progress in integrating our team with the use of the Monday and Teamup programs and plan to continue with them.

One of the most anticipated segments was the “New Projects Showcase,” where nine member groups took turns presenting their ongoing projects. Our very own Franco Renteria, AgREC, explained how Facey Group’s upcoming Drought Hub Weather Station program will build and extend our weather station network for the benefit of all producers.

A unique feature of the event was the Member Feedback Session, where attendees had the opportunity to provide input on how GGA could improve its operations and better serve the network. To wrap up, the HR Roundtable discussion delved into essential topics such as recruiting, retaining, and possibly sharing staff within the GGA network.

Key Takeaways

Thanks to Franco, Katrina, and Maree from the Facey Group team, who took the time to learn and engage at Lift Off '25. This event helps us start the year with a clear vision and renewed energy. The connections made and knowledge gained at Lift Off will support the Facey Group team in working with other grower groups, working together, helping each other, and driving forward their shared goals for 2025 and beyond.



AgREC NEWS

By Tina Astbury - Facey Group CEO



BRUCE ROCK FARM BUSINESS UPDATE 2025: A Day of Insight and Innovation for Farmers

I was lucky enough to attend the Bruce Rock Farm Business Update 2025, hosted by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) held on March 10, 2025. The day provided a packed day of learning, networking, and hands-on insights.

We started the day with a coffee van, which is always nice after a morning drive. Then Gemma Walker from Hamilton Downs's presentation, "**Leading Farmers for a Better Future**," focused on leadership within the agricultural industry and the importance of farmers leading the charge in innovation and sustainable practices. She included some exercises intended to help you reflect on how your values shape the behaviours within your organisation. Her message resonated with me and I hope it inspired others to take a proactive approach to challenges and lead by example in their communities.

Next, Dr. Jane Foster, an expert in emotional resilience training, led a session on "**Positive, Productive Communication Language Techniques**." Dr Foster offered a range of simple strategies to help you better understand your emotional responses and support yourself during stressful times. She emphasised the importance of clear, positive communication within farming teams and with external partners. She shared valuable, simple tools to enhance emotional resilience in communication, helping farmers maintain strong relationships even during stressful times.

Nic McGregor of Agvise led the session after a welcoming morning tea. He presented on "**Financial Planning: Making the Numbers Work**." McGregor broke down the complexities of financial management for farmers, offering practical advice on budgeting, managing cash flow, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability. His discussion about operating surplus led to questions about how to effectively invest off-farm. His session provided the tools necessary for farmers to make informed decisions in an increasingly volatile economic environment.

Then, Ashley Herbert from Agrarian took the stage to discuss the power of strategic thinking. In his "**Strategic Thinking Leads to Positive Planning**" session, Herbert encouraged farmers to step back and assess the bigger picture. He explained how strategic thinking can lead to more resilient and successful farming operations. He provided a simple example of a farm strategic plan and how that can be used to create an annual operating plan.

The afternoon kicked off with a session by Tristan Wardley of RM Consulting Group, focusing on "**Farming and Risk Management – Navigating the Uncertainty**." Wardley addressed the unpredictable nature of the agricultural sector, offering strategies for managing risk and adapting to changing circumstances. His interactive session equipped farmers with some tools they can use to handle uncertainty, whether it's financial, environmental, or market-related.

Finally, Ben White from Kondinin Group took a closer look at farming machinery with his session titled "**Optimising Machinery Investment: Repair or Replace?**" Ben discussed the pros and cons of repairing versus replacing machinery, helping farmers make informed decisions that align with their financial goals and operational needs. His insights were particularly valuable in the current climate of rising costs and technological advancements in machinery.

I left the event with many ideas for supporting Facey Group and myself with planning, team building, and resilience.

AgREC NEWS

By Tina Astbury - Facey Group CEO



2025 Perth GRDC Grains Research Update – Key Presenters

The 2025 Perth Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) Grains Research Update kicked off on February 24th with an action-packed day that brought together experts, researchers, and industry leaders to discuss the latest trends, research, and innovations in the Australian grains sector. There is always a full schedule of key research within Western Australia and beyond, and I recommend that any interested Facey Group member tag along with the team next year.

Highlights from the first day included John Ackerman from Grains Australia, who provided a comprehensive overview of “Grain Matters: Market Access in a Changing World,” setting the stage for in-depth discussions on market dynamics and global shifts. The key message was that while the world is becoming somewhat unstable, food security is crucial, and producers who can provide reliable grains can provide stability.

Then, Ben Kelly from John Deere provided an overview of the rise of technology within farming equipment and saw the linking of robotics, connectivity, sensors, automation, and data as leveraging significant improvements soon. Facey Group, along with Boekemans Farm Machinery, is involved in preparing the next generation of producers for these changes through our upcoming “Farming Autonomy Introduction” held near Yealering on the 20th of March.

While I could not attend every session, some highlights included Facey Group member and Nuffield Scholar Ashley Weisse discussing the pressures on food companies from consumers and other forces, as well as how to build a fact-based marketing story that differentiates your product.

Facey Group used the opportunity to contact London-based researcher George Marangos-Gilks of Messium, who is working with satellite imaging to determine real-time nitrogen requirements in wheat crops. Facey Group will host a trial paddock this year to track outcomes for the medium rainfall zone with this novel technology. It was also an honour to see John Kirkegaard from CSIRO present on his NSW farming systems trials. He compared canola-wheat-barley rotations with more diverse rotations that included legumes and found that while soil constraints, pricing and weather can cause variability, there were benefits to the legacy effect of legumes.

I was also better able to understand the differences between the DPIRD FlowerPower tool and the new flowering calculator being developed by CSIRO. This tool is available as a prototype at <https://cropflowering.com.au/> and integrates Agricultural Production Systems Simulator (APSIM) models and genetic information rather than in-field observations to fast-track optimal flowering date information for new varieties. They are open to feedback, so try it out and let CSIRO know what you think!

The day also included meaningful discussions around sustainability. Kate McCormack from DPIRD delivered an engaging session on greenhouse gas emissions from grains, exploring current status and future directions. Rosemary Richards from Sustainable Grains Australia followed with insights into the increasing momentum behind sustainability accreditation and the development of market signals. Day two began with Dr. Raj Khosla from Kansas State University presenting “Farming the Data: A New Paradigm in Precision Agriculture.” His projects explore how data can transform agricultural practices, offering a glimpse into the future of farming through precision technologies.

AgREC NEWS

By Tina Astbury - Facey Group CEO



2025 Perth GRDC Grains Research Update – Key Presenters | Cont.

Then Dion Nicol from DPIRD gave an insightful review of new wheat varieties and tipped Vortex, Tomahawk and Rottnest as new varieties to watch. While Blakely Paynter said that while Maximus barley is performing well and accounting for about 64% of barley sown, more diversity would be great, and there are clusters of similar performing varieties. Herbicide choices determine barley crop decisions, but tipped Beast, Cyclops, Laperouse and Neo CL as potentially great performers.

The second day concluded with another exciting plenary session from Dr Chad Jennings of Almanac on “From Data to Decisions: The Power of Geospatial Analytics and Generative AI in AgTech.” who showed how artificial intelligence will transform producers’ capacity to access and interpret information while in the paddock. Once again, we left the conference with renewed vigour and excitement to work in such a dynamic space with many committed researchers. We are already looking forward to attending next year and again encourage any interested Facey Group members to join us at this incredibly relevant and informative event.



Image Above: Gary Lang, GRDC Western Panel Chair & Facey Group member, presenting at the GRDC Grains Research Updates

Project UPDATE

By Franco Renteria, Facey Group Agricultural Research & Extension Coordinator



A Community Approach to Building Resilience and Profit with Saltbush Forage Systems

What We Learned

In 2023, Facey Group, in partnership with CSIRO and supported by the Federal Government's Future Drought Fund, successfully launched a large-scale project focused on improving the resilience of saline land. The project, which established a commercial-scale plantation of Anameka™ saltbush and annual legumes, is already showing promise in addressing some of our region's most pressing farming challenges—drought and feed shortages. Anameka™ saltbush, known for delivering up to 20% higher economic returns than traditional saltbush varieties, has proven to be an invaluable resource for increasing productivity during dry years. Alongside it, self-regenerating legumes like Biserrula and Serradella have demonstrated remarkable results, boosting seasonal feed supply by more than 60% in low-rainfall areas.

The 2023 season saw a high success rate in establishing these forage systems, with two demonstration sites—Stratherne and Boundain—set to be ready for grazing by Autumn 2024. These results are already shedding light on the potential benefits of this innovative system for both profitability and environmental resilience. With these findings, we are well on our way to helping farmers not only combat dryland salinity but also improve farm productivity in our region's challenging conditions.

The Community of Practice: A New Initiative to Shape the Future of Farming

EVERGREEN FARMING LEGACY PROJECT

Building on the success of this project, Facey Group is excited to announce the launch of the Community of Practice—a new initiative designed to address the challenges of saline land in our region. This collaborative platform brings together farmers with saline land or existing saltbush plantations to explore, test, and refine innovative forage systems. Through this initiative, growers can share knowledge and insights, experiment with cutting-edge forage solutions, and access expert advice and the latest research to enhance farm resilience. By focusing on developing drought-tolerant farming systems, the Community of Practice aims to increase forage production, improve environmental sustainability, and ultimately boost farm profitability, offering practical, on-the-ground solutions to some of the toughest challenges faced by farmers in low-rainfall areas.

The goal is clear: enhance drought resilience, increase forage production, and boost farm profitability by utilising Anameka™ saltbush and innovative legumes. Over the next two years, we will host hands-on events, provide regular updates through newsletters, and conduct site assessments to monitor progress and share key findings. This initiative aims to create more drought-tolerant farming systems, increasing feed supply while offering practical solutions to help farms adapt to variable climatic conditions.

Through this collaboration, we seek to explore new methods for improving farmland's productivity and resilience. We look forward to bringing the farming community together to shape the future of agriculture in the Facey Group region. Keep an eye out for correspondence providing more details on how to get involved and join us in making a lasting impact.



Figure 1: Saltbush and tall wheat understory system

Project UPDATE

By Dr. Richard Harper, Murdoch University

Innovative Approaches to Carbon Sequestration and Land Rehabilitation

Since its establishment in 2001, a pioneering project with Dr. Richard Harper and Dr. Stanley Sochacki at Murdoch University has focused on leveraging carbon and bioenergy investment to address the challenges posed by salt-affected land. The project encompasses a diverse range of activities aimed at understanding and improving land management practices. Recent findings from various trials conducted as part of this initiative shed light on the effectiveness of different tree species and planting strategies in promoting carbon sequestration and restoring ecological balance.

1. Saltbush and Eucalyptus Trial

A significant trial was conducted near a large salt scald on 10 Mile Road, involving the planting of *Eucalyptus occidentalis* and saltbush at various densities. The primary objective was to measure carbon sequestration in these species. Key conclusions drawn from the study include:

- Carbon sequestration rates were approximately 2 tons of CO₂ per hectare per year for saltbush and 8 tons of CO₂ per hectare per year for eucalyptus trees.
- Interestingly, lower planting densities yielded comparable carbon results over time, indicating that more sparse plantings can still effectively sequester carbon.
- The use of large mounds proved beneficial for enhancing saltbush growth and survival.
- For future trials, a recommendation was made to utilize straight-stemmed trees, which may offer the potential for sawlog production after 40 to 50 years. Notably, local seeds were used for this trial, adding to its sustainability credentials.
- The possibility of employing site engineering techniques to tackle hypersaline areas was also suggested, indicating a need for innovative approaches to challenging environments.

2. Upper Catchment Tree Planting

In another trial focused on the upper catchment area, researchers sought to explore whether planting trees could help control salinity levels. This trial utilized *Pinus pinaster* alongside a range of eucalyptus species. The outcomes indicated:

- There was no observed effect of tree planting on hydrology, raising questions about the effectiveness of this approach in salinity management.
- Thinning was identified as a necessary step for *Pinus pinaster* and other species to promote healthier growth.
- Preliminary findings suggest that trees, when considered for carbon sequestration and timber production, may not be competitive with traditional cropping methods. Further calculations are needed to assess the viability of trees in agricultural systems.

3. Woodland Eucalypts for Carbon Sequestration

The project also involved the establishment of various wheatbelt woodland species in designated plots to evaluate their potential for carbon sequestration. Initial results have been mixed, but a more comprehensive understanding is expected upon remeasurement of all plots.

An exciting development in the project involved collaboration with a group of Japanese researchers who have initiated various experiments on-site. Although the specifics of these trials remain somewhat unclear, they encompass a range of species and establishment techniques aimed at enhancing our understanding of effective planting strategies.

Project UPDATE

By Dr. Richard Harper, Murdoch University

Innovative Approaches to Carbon Sequestration and Land Rehabilitation | Cont.

4. Additional Planting Initiatives

The project has roots in earlier carbon offsetting initiatives, such as the 1999 BP/CALM project, which included contributions from local landholders like the Martin's. One notable outcome has been the successful growth of pines on sandy soils, which presents promising potential for bioenergy production and long-term sawlog yield. Further quantification of these benefits is planned to assess their overall value.

This summarises some ongoing research and findings aimed at using carbon investment as a tool for land rehabilitation and ecological restoration in the Facey Group region. These trials formed foundational information for the current Future Carbon Project where Facey Group is collaborating with Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management to quantify carbon sequestration of saltbush plantings. As these trials continue to evolve, they hold the potential to provide valuable insights into sustainable land management practices in salt-affected regions.



Images above: Dr Stanley Sochacki assessing historic saltbush planting near the 10 Mile Road.

Project UPDATE

By Franco Renteria, Facey Group Agricultural Research & Extension Coordinator



Unlocking the Carbon Sequestration Potential of Saltbush in Wickepin

The Carbon Sequestration Project, led by Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (WNRM) and supported by the Grower Group Alliance and Murdoch University, is funded by DPIRD's Western Australian Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program and the Future Carbon Scheme. Our goal is simple: to see how much carbon saltbush can capture. In mid-2024, Murdoch University teams unrooted saltbush plants from 30 sites across the Wheatbelt, including 10 right here in Wickepin.

Using detailed measurements of plant size and weight, the researchers estimated the carbon storage at each site across WA. Early results suggest that the most effective carbon capture occurs at densities between 500 and 1,000 shrubs per hectare. While these figures provide an interesting takeaway, it's important to note that the lack of replicated plots and standardised grazing practices at every site may introduce some variability (Figure 1).

At Ken Martin's Oldman Saltbush site in East Wickepin, the Facey Group supported Murdoch University's sampling efforts (Figure 2). There, with planting densities of 500 and 2,000 shrubs per hectare, Martin's 23-year-old saltbushes captured 30–43 tCO₂ per hectare over 25 years, averaging 1.2–1.7 tCO₂ per year (Figure 3).

Ongoing work continues as new sites are established in our region in 2023. With the full support of WNRM, these sites are set to contrast these promising findings and further evaluate saltbush's carbon benefits. The Facey Group remains at the forefront, gathering valuable data on saltbush carbon benefits to help farmers tap into carbon credits and diversify farm incomes.

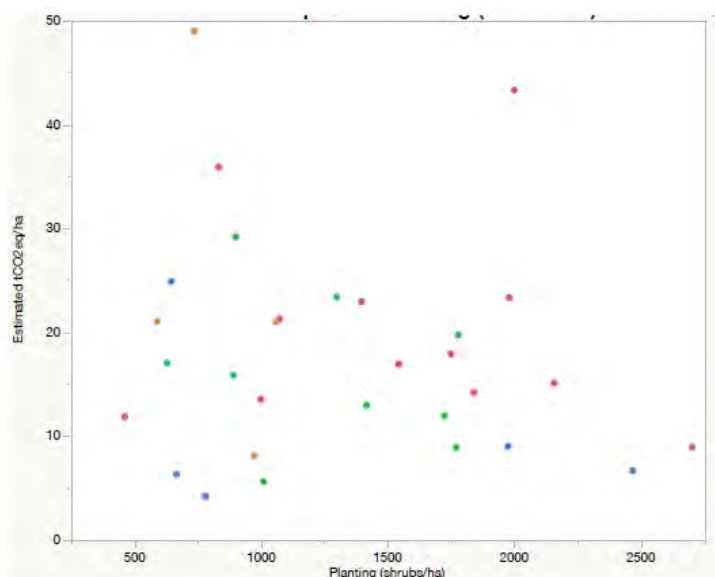


Figure 1. Carbon sequestration levels by planting densities across all sites.

Picture 1. Murdoch team transporting a saltbush from Martin site on the 04th of September.

Project UPDATE

By Franco Renteria, Facey Group Agricultural Research & Extension Coordinator

Unlocking the Carbon Sequestration Potential of Saltbush in Wickepin | Cont.

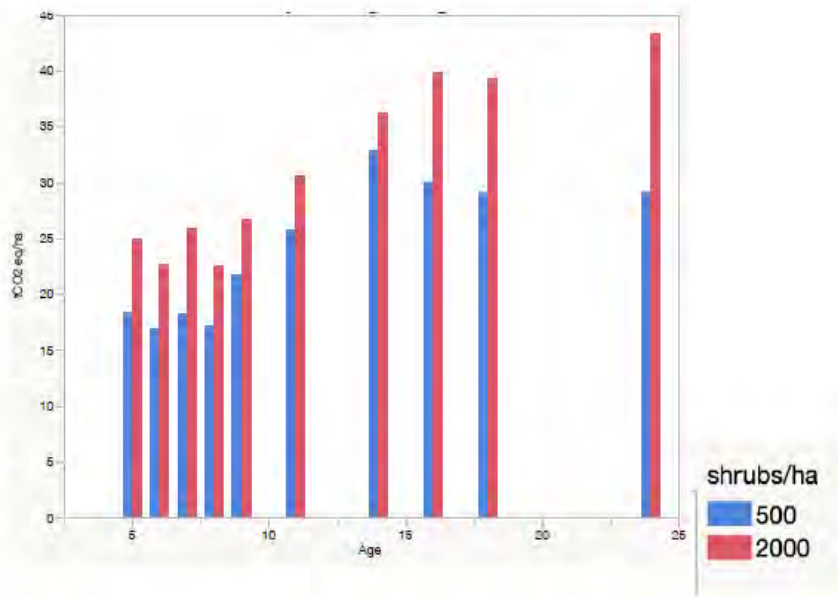


Figure 3. Carbon sequestration of Oldman Saltbush at Wickepin site over 23 years for two planting densities (500 and 2000 shrubs/ha).

Member NEWS



By Mel Grieve, Facey Group Administration & Events Coordinator

Wandering the Wheatbelt: A Journey of Learning, Connection & Indulgence

The Wander the Wheatbelt Ladies Bus Tour was a whirlwind of learning, networking, and indulgence. More than just a tour, it provided an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at some of WA's most innovative agricultural operations and industry leaders while fostering meaningful connections among women in agriculture.

Exploring Sustainable Farming at Rapanui Farm

The journey began at Rapanui Farm, where we delved into their deferred grazing systems, gaining insights into how strategic pasture management enhances productivity and sustainability. Sandra and Noel, the passionate duo behind the farm, have implemented a combination of smaller and larger paddocks to maximise efficiency. Despite challenges in the sheep market, Sandra remains optimistic, focusing on the "one percenters" that make sheep production viable long-term. She highlighted key strategies, such as culling unproductive ewes through preg scanning and lamb marking, and emphasised the importance of incorporating good roughage into confinement feedlots. Their feeding regime—a lupin-barley mix or pellets paired with hay or straw—ensures smooth transitions between confinement and pasture.



A Paddock-to-Plate Culinary Experience

Next, we indulged in a paddock-to-plate experience at Coogee Common, where a farm-fresh meal was complemented by a guided walk through their flourishing garden, showcasing the beauty and benefits of locally grown produce.



Unlocking the Science of Soil Nutrition

The afternoon took us to Summit Fertilizers in Kwinana, where we toured their cutting-edge facility and explored the science behind soil nutrition and crop enhancement. Summit's innovative approach includes their full-service fertiliser solutions and in-site portal, a valuable tool for storing soil and plant testing data. Their partnership with CropX, a global leader in real-time nutrient analysis, has led to advancements like N Shield, a product designed to protect urea from volatilisation and improve nitrogen efficiency.



Member NEWS

By Mel Grieve, Facey Group Administration & Events Coordinator

Wandering the Wheatbelt: A Journey of Learning, Connection & Indulgence | Cont.

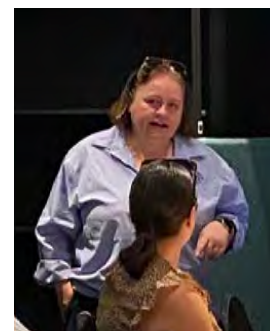
An Evening of Luxury and Entertainment

After a packed day of learning, we unwound with a luxurious stay at Crown Perth, enjoying a gourmet meal before being captivated by the spectacular performance of Jesus Christ Superstar.



Insights from the Grower Group Alliance

Friday morning began with an insightful breakfast presentation by Alison Lacey of the Grower Group Alliance (GGA), who highlighted the role of the GGA and the Dry Season Response Outreach Program. Supported by the WA Government, this initiative helps farmers navigate prolonged dry conditions by funding regional events, networking opportunities, and knowledge-sharing activities. Alison underscored the importance of peer support and direct access to industry experts, ensuring that growers have the resources and resilience to adapt to challenging seasons.



Navigating Work Health and Safety in Agriculture

A key session featured Danielle McNamee of ProcessWorx, who provided essential guidance on Work Health and Safety (WHS) compliance in agriculture. With the introduction of WA's Work Health and Safety Act 2020, Danielle emphasised proactive steps for safeguarding farm businesses, including:

- Developing tailored WHS policies and procedures.
- Identifying and managing workplace hazards.
- Providing staff training and induction programs.
- Keeping accurate records to demonstrate compliance.

ProcessWorx equips farms with practical tools and expert advice to create safer workplaces while maintaining productivity.



Behind the Scenes of WA's Grain Industry

The tour continued with exclusive visits to two key grain industry facilities:

- **Metro Grain Centre (MGC):** WA's largest grain receival, storage, and export hub, where we witnessed the meticulous handling and preparation of grain for international markets. With 96 silos holding 204,000 tonnes, the facility operates nearly 22 hours a day, ensuring efficient export logistics. Notably, dust collected during processing is repurposed as cattle feed, minimising waste.



Member NEWS

By Mel Grieve, Facey Group Administration & Events Coordinator

Wandering the Wheatbelt: A Journey of Learning, Connection & Indulgence | Cont.

- **Australian Grain Centre:** A hub for grain quality testing and research, where we explored rigorous compliance testing for chemical residues, GM and non-GM canola classification, and wheat quality assessment using falling number testing—an essential process for determining grain grading and marketability.



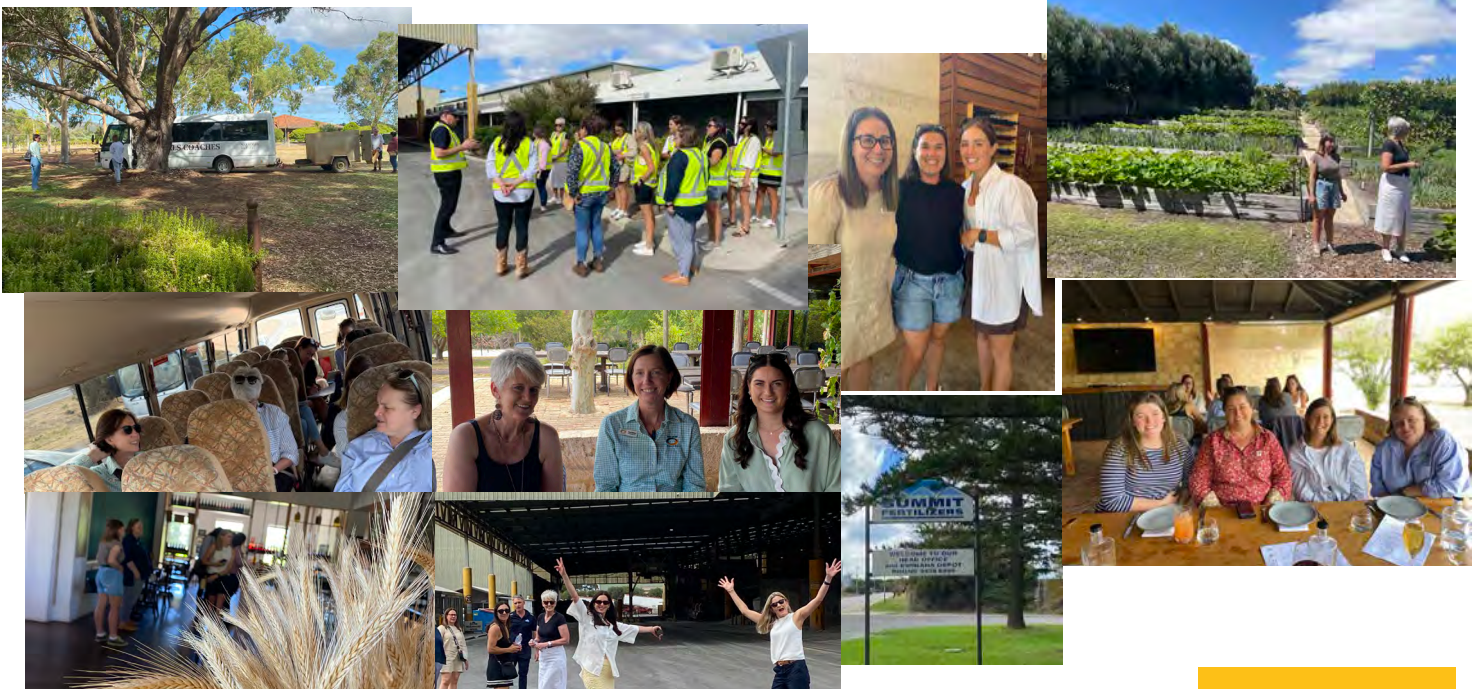
Strength in Community and Connection

Beyond the technical insights, the tour underscored the strength of women in agriculture, fostering invaluable connections, shared experiences, and new perspectives. Conversations flowed as we tackled industry challenges and solutions, reinforcing the power of collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

A Journey to Remember

The tour wasn't just about education—it was about great company, incredible food, and unforgettable experiences. From paddock-to-plate dining to industry-leading site visits, every moment celebrated the resilience and innovation of the Wheatbelt.

Thank you to all the amazing women who joined us on this journey—your passion and dedication to agriculture are truly inspiring!



Member NEWS

By Tina Astbury, Facey Group Chief Executive Officer



Celebrating Excellence in Agriculture: The 2024 Progressive Agriculture Award

The Facey Group, in partnership with the Shire of Wickepin, is proud to acknowledge the significant contributions of individuals and families in the agricultural industry who demonstrate dedication to sustainability and the rural community. As part of the Shire of Wickepin's Australia Day Awards at Yealering on the 26th of January, the Progressive Agriculture Award celebrates these efforts, and this year, Facey Group is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 award: **Daniel and Danelle Bird**.



Facey Group, on behalf of the committee, presented Daniel Bird with the commemorative pin and shed sign at the recent Trial Presentation Evening. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to them both for this well-deserved recognition.

The Facey Group committee unanimously endorsed the Birds, commending them for their ongoing excellence in agriculture. Their dedication to sustainable practices and intergenerational approach to farming are exemplary. As highlighted in their nomination, the

Bird family has built a cohesive and progressive farming enterprise where each family member plays a crucial role.

Daniel and Danelle collaborate on their farm's strategy, with Danelle focusing on essential areas such as human resources, safety, and financial management. One of their standout achievements is their successful approach to succession planning, which ensures that all family members are considered, and that the long-term future of the farming enterprise is secure.

Daniel's work, particularly in soils, soil chemistry, and plant health, demonstrates his commitment to improving plant resilience and sustainability. He has implemented stubble retention systems to enhance organic matter in cropping systems, worked with legumes and pastures for organic nitrogen inputs, and created effective weed breaks. Through his crop rotation and fertiliser practices, Daniel aims to optimise plant nutrition and reduce the use of fungicides and pesticides, thereby supporting the long-term health of the farm's ecosystem.



Daniel and Danelle share a strong commitment to research and development, as seen in their active participation in Facey Group trials and collaboration on on-farm research with other organisations. This proactive approach to adapting to changing conditions helps ensure the farm's ongoing success.

The Facey Group and the Wickepin community are grateful for the Birds' continuous contribution to sustainable farming practices and their role in shaping the future of agriculture in the region. Congratulations again to Daniel and Danelle, and thank you for your dedication to the Facey Group and the broader community.

Facey Group look forward to celebrating more success stories and advancements in agriculture as we continue to support the efforts of families like the Birds.

Member NEWS

By Peter Cooke, AgKnowledge



Navigating Farm Succession in a Changing Landscape

Succession planning has always been a complex and emotional process for farming families, and the recent surge in land prices has added an extra layer of challenge. With rural property values at record highs, decisions around transferring farm assets to the next generation require careful thought and strategic planning.

Experts working with Western Australian farming families emphasise the importance of a proactive approach. Establishing a clear direction for both the farm business and the family ensures long-term success as the enterprise evolves and transitions to new leadership.

The Role of Succession Planning in Farm Management

AgKnowledge, a Western Australian-based consultancy, views succession planning as an essential tool for any farming business. Just like financial management or operational planning, it should be introduced early and revisited regularly as family and business dynamics shift.

“As family members step into management roles and the next generation emerges, succession options should be discussed openly,” says Nicol Taylor, Principal of AgKnowledge. “This allows all family members to explore opportunities and have a stake in shaping the future.”

Addressing the Challenges of Rising Land Values

The rising value of rural properties presents both opportunities and potential roadblocks for succession planning. On one hand, high land values create significant wealth within families. On the other, they can make it difficult to balance fairness among farming and non-farming siblings.

Structuring land holdings strategically can create opportunities for all family members. Separating property ownership from the farm business itself, for example, can open doors for future flexibility and equity distribution. Land assets may also be leveraged to provide financial support for retiring parents or to assist non-farming siblings in advancing their own careers or home ownership goals.

For example, a portion of the farm’s land value could serve as collateral for a business loan, enabling a non-farming sibling to start their own enterprise. Providing financial support at an earlier stage of life can be far more beneficial than waiting for an inheritance later in life, when personal and professional milestones have already passed.

Building a Strong Foundation for the Future

Successful succession planning hinges on early, open, and transparent communication. Ensuring all family members—both farming and non-farming—are involved in the discussion from the outset helps create a shared vision and minimizes future conflicts.

Ownership structures also play a crucial role in long-term success. Seeking advice from accountants, property experts, and tax specialists well in advance can ensure flexibility for future property transfers and business growth.

Member NEWS

By Peter Cooke, AgKnowledge

Navigating Farm Succession in a Changing Landscape | Cont.

Take the Next Step: Succession Planning Workshop

To support farming families in their succession planning journey, Facey Group will be hosting a two-day Succession Planning Workshop on August 11-12, 2025. This event will provide attendees with the tools and strategies to incorporate succession planning into their farm business, ensuring both the family and the enterprise thrive in the years ahead.

What will you gain from the workshop?

- Practical ideas and tools to kickstart the succession planning process.
- A roadmap with clear steps and tasks to guide your family's journey.
- Insights from other farming families who have successfully navigated succession.
- A personalized action plan to keep your succession strategy on track.

By the end of the workshop, you'll have a clearer vision of your farm's future. The key, however, is to engage all family members and advisors to refine and implement your plan. A strong succession plan isn't just about transferring assets—it's about building a future where both the farm and the family can flourish.

About AgKnowledge

Founded in 1997, AgKnowledge specializes in providing management advice to agribusinesses and farming enterprises across Australia. With over 70 years of combined experience, principals Peter Cooke and Nicol Taylor offer expertise in strategic planning, policy development, and business growth.

AgKnowledge takes a fresh approach to succession planning by helping families define shared objectives and measure progress against a collective vision for the future. Their goal is to facilitate open communication, ensuring all family members feel heard and valued.

The principles guiding their work—**independence, dignity, and respect**—ensure that succession planning leads to peace of mind and a harmonious transition, where family remains the top priority.

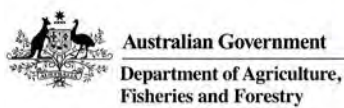
Full details of the upcoming Succession Planning Workshop will be released in the near future.

To secure your family's future today and register your interest in attending this event, please email admin@faceygroup.org.au

Future Drought Fund - SW Drought HUB



By Franco Renteria - Facey Group Agricultural Research & Extension Coordinator



South-West WA
Drought Resilience Adoption
and Innovation Hub

Beneath the Surface of the Drought Resilience Hub: Expectations, Innovations, and Impact

Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs

The Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs, an initiative of the Future Drought Fund, are making significant strides in strengthening the resilience of communities across rural Australia. With a funding commitment of \$28 million over two years (2024-2025), the hubs are continuing their essential work, fostering innovation and connecting regional communities to drought-resistant practices and technologies. This funding builds on ongoing efforts, with \$104 million set aside across Australia for future support from 2026, pending a review that will shape the program's next phase.

Strategically located in key areas, the hubs play a vital role in helping communities prepare for drought and climate variability. By linking local communities to experts, innovations, and effective agricultural practices, the hubs help address the specific challenges faced in each region. Through collaboration among researchers, natural resource managers, local groups, and First Nations communities, they develop drought-resilient solutions tailored to each area's unique needs.

The South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

As our regional Hub, it focuses on fostering agricultural innovation and supporting communities as they prepare for future drought challenges. It serves as a model for how the Drought Hubs work to translate scientific knowledge into practical, on-the-ground solutions.

By delivering region-specific resources, such as dry season libraries, podcasts, and videos, the Hub equips communities with the tools they need to navigate drought conditions. In addition to providing valuable resources, the Hub hosts training programs, workshops, and study tours that bring together experts and stakeholders from across the region. This promotes knowledge sharing and strengthens the collective capacity of local communities to adopt innovative solutions.

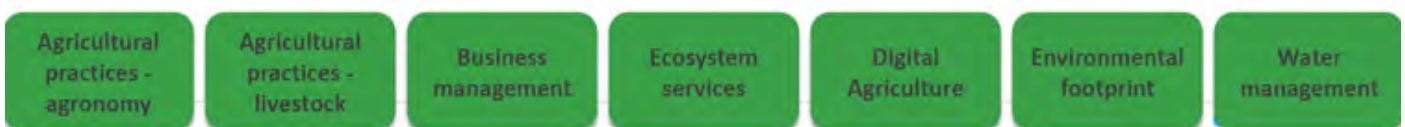


Figure 2. Local Priorities of the South-West Region

Through partnerships with grower groups like Facey Group, SEPWA, and South-West NRM, the Hub ensures that local priorities are addressed, including agronomy, livestock management, digital agriculture, environmental impact, and water management. The collaborative approach not only enhances drought resilience but also drives agricultural sustainability for years to come.

Key achievements include the development of a library of dry season resources, podcasts, and videos, as well as the delivery of training programs, study tours, and workshops. The Hub also engages the community through media channels like newsletters and social platforms, contributes to industry conferences, and

Future Drought Fund - SW Drought HUB Update Cont.

Beneath the Surface of the Drought Resilience Hub: Expectations, Innovations, and Impact | Cont.

facilitates collaborative programs such as the WA Agriculture Colleges Climate Innovation Challenge and the Science to Practice Forum.

Looking Ahead

As the Drought Hub program moves forward, it steps confidently toward key goals through to 2026, with further funding expected from 2026 to 2032. A mid-term review is underway, and the Statement of Expectations will be released in early 2025.

In the next two years, the focus will be on developing regional projects that meet local needs, fostering collaboration among grower groups, and supporting demonstration projects. This will strengthen drought resilience, boost partnerships, and enhance knowledge sharing to improve sustainability.

An exciting opportunity lies in the continued development of our “Interconnected Weather Station Network for the South Eastern Wheatbelt” project, supported by the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub. Contact us if you would like your weather station to be part of the grid that will provide key weather indicators to improve farming decisions in our region. With our ongoing partnerships, Facey Group is committed to driving lasting change, helping communities build resilience and prepare for the challenges of drought and climate variability, and ensuring a sustainable agricultural future.

Upcoming Grants

- **Scaling Success: Long-Term Trials of Drought Resilient Farming Practices Program - Round 2**
\$37 million is available for projects over the next three years (2025/26) to scale up successful drought-resilient farming practices funded by the Future Drought Fund.
- **Innovation Challenges Pilot**
\$20 million will be available for innovative projects over three years (2025/26) to support the development of new, cutting-edge solutions for drought resilience.

Resources:

[Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs](#)
[Future Drought Fund Initiatives](#)

Future Drought Fund - SW Drought HUB Update Cont.

Navigating the Future with the Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool (DR.SAT)

Farming requires finding ways to make informed, data-driven decisions that improve the resilience of their properties against the challenges of drought and climate change. The Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool (DR.SAT) was developed to help with just that. This free online tool was co-designed with farmers and agricultural advisors, bringing together satellite data, climate projections, and practical resources to support decision-making across various farm management areas.

What DR.SAT Offers & Its Benefits

DR.SAT is a comprehensive platform that gives farmers access to satellite imagery, climate projections, and self-assessment questionnaires. It focuses on key areas like financial, personal, social, and environmental resilience, offering valuable insights into property management, land conditions, feed, water, livestock, finances, and personnel.

Farmers can also monitor the health of their land with 3D terrain and vegetation cover data and even test the tool before committing by trying out the features without creating an account. Plus, it can track changes on your land through time, providing comparisons back to 2017, and offer projections for how climate conditions will evolve by 2030 and 2050.

How to Use DR.SAT & Where to Access It

To get started, visit drsats.com.au and set up a free account. The tool will guide you through choosing your property's location, identifying the commodities you produce, and selecting the topics you want to explore. Once set up, you can dive right in—begin with the 'Bird's Eye View' to access satellite imagery and key data summaries for your farm.

Pros of Using DR.SAT

- Free access to a wealth of information, including satellite data, climate projections, and resilience assessments.
- A clean, intuitive design that allows you to easily add multiple properties and view data in tables.
- It helps identify hidden risks that might affect pasture growth, livestock performance, and overall land management.
- Direct links to additional resources like business planning, marketing, and health and well-being management.

Things to Consider

While DR.SAT is incredibly valuable, there are a few things to keep in mind:

- The platform contains a lot of content, which can be overwhelming at first, so setting aside time to learn the features is crucial.
- The tool may not always be directly relevant to every region, particularly for northern Australian producers.
- Some users may have concerns about sharing personal data on a government-hosted website despite the robust privacy protections in place.

The Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool is a powerful resource for building a more resilient, sustainable farming operation. As you explore the tool, you'll gain the insights needed to manage your land and livestock with confidence, prepare for future weather challenges, and make better decisions for your business and well-being.

Resources:

[Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool](#)

Future Drought Fund - SW Drought HUB Update Cont.

Seasonal Climate Outlook – Climate At Your Fingertips

Farming is all about planning, and the Seasonal Climate Outlook (SCO) is here to help. This monthly update from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) provides forecasts for the South West Land Division (SWLD), using national and international climate models to give you the best available insights into the season ahead.

The SCO tracks key climate indicators like El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and the Southern Annular Mode (SAM), alongside local sea surface temperatures and pressure systems. By drawing insights from multiple global models, it supports more informed decisions on seeding, stocking, and risk management.

March 2025 Update

Since January, rainfall has been below average across most of the SWLD. Tamar, an area close to Albany, recorded the highest total (49 mm), followed by Manypeaks (43 mm), with most areas receiving only 10–15 mm. The outlook for autumn (March–May) suggests a neutral chance (40–60%) of exceeding median rainfall, meaning a wide range of outcomes remains possible. However, for April–June, models lean toward above-average rainfall, though long-term forecasts remain uncertain.

Recent Conditions

- Temperatures remain warmer than normal.
- Below-average rainfall, with little impact from Tropical Cyclones Zelia (14 Feb) and Bianca (23 Feb).
- ENSO and IOD are neutral, making seasonal forecasts less predictable.
- The 'autumn predictability barrier' reduces model accuracy beyond May.

Stay informed, use the SCO to guide your decisions, and keep an eye on our newsletter for regular updates.

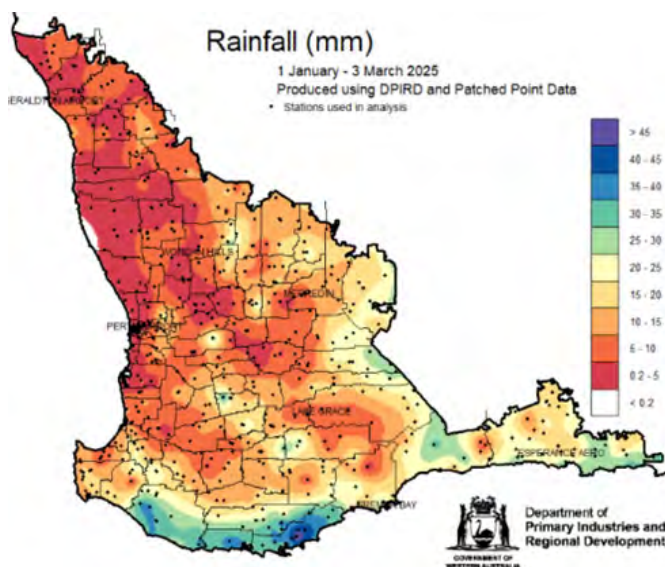


Figure 2. Total Rainfall (mm) totals for 1 January to 3 March 2025 in the South West Land Division. Tamar, near Albany in the south west forecast district had the highest rainfall with 49 mm.

Resources:

[Seasonal Climate Outlook March 2025](#)

Industry NEWS

By Caroline De Vaney, Media Liaison Officer, Office of the WorkSafe Commissioner

WorkSafe Implements Recommendations of Inquiry

In April 2023, the recommendations of the independent inquiry into safety in the agriculture industry, initiated by the WorkSafe Commissioner, were released. These recommendations were the result of written submissions, research and discussions between the independent inquirer, Ms Pamela Scott, and workers, employers and others across the WA agriculture sector.

The farming community told WorkSafe what actions it would like to see, and the department has since been progressing the resulting recommendations. The following is a brief rundown on what has been achieved over the past 20 months.

It was recommended that WorkSafe collect better work health and safety statistics for the agriculture sector. Specific statistical coding is now being used for the sector, and the 2019/20 to 2023/24 Agricultural Industry Fatality Report is currently being finalised. The report will provide insights into the risks and the incident types that caused fatal injuries.

WorkSafe has appointed specialist agricultural industry inspectors, working to provide advice and education to farmers on how to keep their farms safe and to ensure compliance with work health and safety laws.

An Agriculture Communication Strategy has been implemented involving WorkSafe's attendance at events such as field days, the updating of publications and alerts, an agriculture web page and the First Steps to Farm Safety Guide publication. The strategy aims to help farmers identify hazards and put into place practicable ways to manage risks.

The Work Health and Safety Commission considered developing specific agricultural codes of practice but decided to instead integrate agricultural examples into existing codes as they are updated.


WorkSafe inspectors have visited a number of machinery and equipment manufacturers and dealers to discuss the supply of safe products and their duties under the work health and safety laws.

The safety aspects that contributed to fatalities or serious injuries are published periodically in safety alerts. Before they are released to the public, careful consideration is given to their potential impact on the workers involved and their families, the impact on investigations or prosecutions and the anticipated work health and safety benefits.

In August and September 2024, the agricultural inspectors conducted a program of proactive educational visits to farms in the Narrogin area with the aim of providing farmers with information on how to make their farms safer. The farms will be revisited after 12 months to check on progress. The Narrogin area was the first to be chosen for visits, and farmers in other regions will also get the opportunity to discuss safety on their farms with an inspector. Inspectors have generally been well received, with farmers welcoming the educational approach.

Agricultural inspectors also conduct inspections of farms following incidents or to address high risk sectors and may issue compliance notices where improvements are required. Compliance notices do not have any fine associated with them.

The [First Steps to Farm Safety Guide](#) can be downloaded [HERE](#) via the WorkSafe website.



What if there was a way to improve the viability of your farming business through an understanding of its resilience?

Support a CCDM PhD research project

The Centre for Crop and Disease Management (CCDM) is developing a model to express organisational resilience, and how it determines the viability of Australian farming businesses, under Curtin University human ethics approval HRE2023-0613.

There are many ways to characterise resilience, this research defines it as, *the ability of a system to survive, adapt and grow in the face of turbulent change* (Fiksel, 2006).

A framework of 15 farm level organisational resilience capabilities was developed from input obtained from 24 industry experts in 2024.

The next step is the creation of an assessment model, ready for use at the farm level, requiring the relative importance of the resilience capabilities to be determined.

What you can do to help?

Your assistance is requested via participation in an on-line survey taking approximately 15 minutes. You can find the survey at: <https://tinyurl.com/4cp8w29c> or via the QR code below.



What is in it for you?

Our research has identified some strong feelings around the term resilience, however, if there was a better understanding of farm level resilience, this knowledge could be used to support informed decision-making to prepare for disruptions before their full effects were felt.

Such insights could also demonstrate, for example, how a loss of production diversity might impact on the overall viability of a farming business.

Armed with credible data, farmers would be better able to engage in policy debates to challenge unrealistic perceptions of their capacity to absorb the loss of markets, lines of business, and the like.



Get involved and find out more:

Michael McDonald

 michael.mcdonald@postgrad.curtin.edu.au

 Centre for Crop and Disease Management

 Curtin Biometry and Agricultural Data Analytics

 Curtin University

Industry NEWS

Broken promises: farmers cut off with 3G shutdown

FARMERS living on the fringe of mobile coverage areas have been cut off with the shutdown of the 3G network, with some users in 'guaranteed' coverage areas also reporting serious issues with connectivity. In this month's Kondinin Group Research Report engineers, Ben White and Josh Giumelli, investigate current connectivity issues, including those associated with the 3G network closure, and a range of solutions.

In the report they said, despite assurances of equivalent phone coverage under 4G networks, users- and particularly those in fringe coverage areas- now have unreliable or non-existent service. Read full article [HERE](#)

eID enhances farm productivity

Victorian sheep producer Sammy Mitchell's proactive approach to incorporating electronic identification (eID) technology and modern infrastructure is improving the efficiency and effectiveness of her farm management.

By leveraging data-driven insights, Sammy is well-positioned to enhance productivity, make informed decisions and continue advancing her family's farming legacy.

Read full article [HERE](#)

No tariffs in place: Australian red meat maintains presence in US market

While speculation abounds about possible tariffs, Meat & Livestock Australia continues to support red meat exports to the United States.

As of writing, no sanctions have been placed on the trade of Australian red meat to the US, and any media commentary on this matter remains speculative.

Meat & Livestock Australia is working closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, including taking part in regular briefings.

Read full article [HERE](#)

Relive the best of evokeAG. 2025

Recordings of our Elders Plenary sessions from Day 1 and Day 2 - panel discussions, keynotes, Q&A's and more - are now live on our YouTube channel.

[Watch Now](#)

How Coles is shifting the dial on sustainability from farm to fork

Supermarket retailer Coles is shifting the dial on sustainability, not just within its own business but by working with farmers to develop more profitable and environmentally friendly food production.

With more than 1,800 stores, millions of customers and engagement with more than 8,000 suppliers, Coles is seizing opportunities to improve environmental outcomes from farm to fork.

As General Manager Sustainability at Coles Group, Brooke Donnelly leads teams to drive circular economy activities, climate, energy and nature initiatives, and sustainability reporting.

"It's not just about what Coles needs to do, it's about how we can be part of something that helps other people also step forward at the same time," she said.

Read full article [HERE](#)

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- Applications close **16 May 2025**

Laura Bennett
2024 scholar

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Industry NEWS

What are tariffs, and why is Donald Trump placing them on Australian exports to the US?

Donald Trump loves a one-liner, and saying “tariff” is the “most beautiful word” in the dictionary has become a go-to for the United States’s president.

He turned to tariffs in his first term, and he says he’s using them again in his second to get a better deal from countries the US does business with.

Canada was one of Trump’s early tariff targets, and tit-for-tat retaliatory measures on both sides have escalated into an all-out trade war, which outgoing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sees lasting for the “foreseeable future”.

China, which has also been hit with new tariffs, responded with a warning that it’s ready for “a tariff war, a trade war or any other type of war”, which it will “fight till the end”.

Now, Australia is in the firing line. It faces tariffs on aluminium and steel exports, a significant hit to Australian manufacturers.

Read full article [HERE](#)

Is Artificial Intelligence helping grow more grain? A perspective on AI applied to agriculture

Artificial Intelligence (AI) interest and speculation seem to be ever-growing across all industries.

Key points discussed:

AI offers potential improvement for broadacre agriculture but might not be the panacea that is described.

Growers and agronomists are encouraged to engage with researchers to find opportunities for AI to deliver enhanced decision-making.

AI-enabled agriculture requires a digital environment that needs building.

Read full article [HERE](#)

National survey shows glyphosate resistance is on the rise

The latest Australia-wide survey of weeds has painted a concerning picture about increased herbicide resistance among weeds, particularly annual ryegrass

Australia’s latest multi-agency weeds survey has revealed a significant increase in annual ryegrass resistance to glyphosate.

Research leader Dr John Broster from Charles Sturt University says the Australia-wide 2020-21 survey results are significant because 16 per cent of annual ryegrass populations are now confirmed glyphosate-resistant.

Read full article [HERE](#)

Drone technology impresses at field days

SOME of the latest drone technology won the Wimmera Machinery Field Days (WMFD) Ag Business Innovation Award at Horsham, Victoria.

Displayed by Droneland Australia, the DJI Dock 2 system is a compact and portable unit that can be placed on site and operated remotely. More [HERE](#)



WOOL HARVESTING INDUSTRY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY MARCH 15
7AM - 2PM
BOYUP BROOK

With trainers:

- Ben Frewen
- Roxanne King

Wool Harvesting Ambassadors will be there to assist trainers and demo the AWI Raceway Delivery System.

AWI on hand to talk to growers and answer questions

FOR EXPERIENCED SHEARERS, WOOL HANDLERS AND WOOL GROWERS

Location: Rhodes Pastoral, Gate number 2514, Boyup Arthur Road, Boyup Brook

RSVP for catering
https://bit.ly/AWI_March15

 SHEARER & WOOL HANDLER TRAINING



Podcasts of the Month



We Hunted Down a Mystery Killer in the Outback What It Was Like Podcast

It was June 1987 and an unknown person had murdered five campers in Australia’s remote northwest.

In this episode, we speak with Bob Brown, the former leader of Western Australia’s Tactical Response Group. Bob and his team were flown into the Kimberley region to find and arrest the murderer. But, as you’ll hear, things didn’t go exactly as planned.

[Listen HERE](#)



Should I Spit? Secrets We Keep Podcast

Each season, Secrets We Keep investigates a different Australian secret.

Season 5, Should I Spit? is the origin story of the multibillion dollar consumer DNA industry. From police hoping to solve cold murder cases, to one of the most powerful churches in the world, everyone seems to want a piece of what makes you, you.

[Listen HERE](#)



Why Trump and Turnbull are beefing over tariffs Politics Now Podcast

As the deadline for US tariffs on steel and aluminium looms, President Donald Trump and former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull have exchanged barbs.

Mr Turnbull has suggested the “chaos” of the Trump Administration was a “gift to China” — while the US President has labelled Mr Turnbull a “weak and ineffective leader”. So, will the exchange impact Australia’s chances of carving out a tariff exemption?

Patricia Karvelas and Tom Crowley break it all down on Politics Now.

[Listen HERE](#)

NEWS from Our Partners

Oilseeds in the tight grip of geopolitics

Canola and its derivatives, meal and oil, are facing significant geopolitical impacts that also influence global price dynamics.

RaboResearch general manager Australia and New Zealand Stefan Vogel said the reality is that geopolitics and trade restrictions impact global canola markets. “In mid-2024, the EU put high import duties on oilseeds and by-products from Russia and Belarus due to the involvement of those countries in the war in Ukraine. This has since prevented EU imports of canola meal from Russia and Belarus, shutting down a trade flow which, in previous years, exceeded 0.5 million tonnes per year,” he said.

Mr Vogel said while the impact of this on Australian canola producers and exporters has been small, the next wave of geopolitically-motivated disruptions to oilseeds trade may arrive soon and this one might change the global dynamics of canola’s trade flow significantly.

“Canada, the world’s largest producer and exporter of canola, faces heavy canola import duty threats from its key export destination, China, following Canada’s introduction of duties on the imports of Chinese electric vehicles,” he said.

And while Canada is set to have reduced canola export potential this year – with Statistics Canada this month estimating the country’s 2024 canola production to fall below 17.8 million tonnes, the second lowest annual production in a decade and seven per cent down on last year – it will still have an estimated seven million tonnes this season that needs to find a home in global markets.

“And while such Chinese import duties are not yet agreed and implemented,” Mr Vogel said, “Chinese canola importers and buyers are already reluctant to buy Canadian canola”.

“In 2023 and for most of 2024, China was home to well over 60 per cent of Canada’s canola exports. So, rerouting the approximately four million tonnes of Canadian canola that went to China per year would also be felt in Australia as this amount is almost equivalent to Australia’s expected total canola export volumes this season and about 30 per cent larger than those of the world’s third largest canola exporter, Ukraine.”

The Rabobank analyst said in past years when China reduced its canola import volumes, Canada traditionally shipped more aggressively into other key markets in the world, such as its number two canola export destination, Japan – a market where Australia has regained market share over the past three years.

Looking to the years 2017-2021 though, Mr Vogel said, Canada supplied over 90 per cent of Japan’s canola import needs, and such high Canadian market share might be repeated if Canada needs to reallocate canola exports that can no longer go to China.



Stefan Vogel, General Manager - RaboResearch



Rabobank

NEWS from Our Partners

Oilseeds in the tight grip of geopolitics | Cont.

“The picture is not much different in Canada’s number three and four canola export destination markets of Mexico and United Arab Emirates, where Canada traditionally supplied the vast majority of canola, and it is only in recent years that Australia has gained market share,” he said.

“Counting the volumes, Canada might be able to gain about one million tonnes of additional canola exports going into each of those countries and Australia canola exports would feel the competition.”

However, Mr Vogel said those major destinations might not be able to absorb all the excess volumes from Canada’s rerouting of Chinese canola flows. And this would likely encourage Canada to also more aggressively move canola into the EU, Australia’s primary canola export destination.

“One might be inclined to think that Australia could easily replace Canada in filling some of the canola volumes into China, but, since 2020, Australian canola imports into China have been hindered due to blackleg disease. China’s best option to replace the canola shortfall might instead be to increase its imports of other oilseeds and vegetable oils, including soybean and palm oil,” he said.

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



Rabobank



Facey Group's "Women Wander in the Wheatbelt" tour of the Summit Fertilizers Kwinana Depot, getting a tour of the fertilizer bays and UAN storage facility.

2025 Season

2025 Products for the Growing Season

As discussed in previous editions of Facey Connect, a major focus of Summit's investment in agriculture has been the development of Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizers (EEF), with 5 products becoming central to our EEF Range.

N-Shield Range: Insurance policy that pays An Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizer product range designed to minimise nitrogen losses, maximise grower profitability and reduce carbon emission.

BiOWiSH Range: Generating Yield
An Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizer product range utilising bacteria, designed to improve nutrient uptake from fertilizer and enhance plant root biomass and other beneficial bacteria.

H₂Optimise: Better compatibility with UAN
Next generation Soil Wetter, moisture retention agent and humectant in one easy to handle product. No need to dilute, mixes easily with UAN and nitrification inhibitors.

For more information or trial results from across our Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizer Range, please contact your Local Area Manager, David Hull.

2025 Trial Planning

Our Field Research team has been busy preparing for the 2025 season with trials planned across the state, focusing on the quality of the trials, refining trial designs and focusing on product development to ensure that Summit's new products are performing as well as possible for the Western Australian agricultural region.

Across the state, the team will be centring trials around new biological enhanced efficiency fertilizer product, BiOWiSH following the preliminary program of 2024, which showed promising results in certain trials. As well as continuing testing on the N-Shield EEF range particularly around the application of coating rates and continued testing of H₂Optimise across any trial sites where there are potential non-wetting issues.

Across the Facey Group's region, the team will be conducting a BiOWiSH trial, comparing against district practice, as well as a NxP and H₂Optimise trial.

For more information around Trials, please contact your Local Area Manager, David Hull on 0477 923 684

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NEWS from Our Partners

Join the CBH Growers' Advisory Council!!

CBH is looking for three new members to join its Growers' Advisory Council (GAC) this year.

The GAC is made up of 16 grower members appointed for a single four-year term, with representation across the five electoral districts of CBH.

Councillors meet four times a year in person and engage with CBH management at forums and events throughout the year.

Growers interested in joining the GAC will need to address the selection criteria provided on CBH's website and provide five grower referees.

Applications close Sunday, 23 March 2025.

Successful candidates will begin their term in July and are selected through an interview process, undertaken by a panel comprising of Directors and representatives from the GAC and CBH management. For more information and to apply, visit cbhgroup.co/GAC





Don't keep your farm accounts for tax

David Egerton-Warburton, Joint-CEO from [Agrimaster](#)



You are limiting the financial success of your farm business due to your bookkeeping mindset.

Maintaining good accounting records or any bookkeeping is generally regarded by many as more of a chore than something that can benefit your business.


Because the role of tax compliance is attached to your bookkeeping, and because this is compulsory and offers no direct benefit to your business, we can learn to resent it. The problem with this bookkeeping mindset is that you inadvertently lose all the actual value of bookkeeping for your business.

Financial record-keeping should not be just for your accounting and tax department; it should be a gift for you and your business.

The best way to think of your bookkeeping is to imagine that there is no tax compliance involved and that you are keeping your books purely for cash flow management, business intelligence, reporting, and analysis.

Business intelligence, reporting, and analysis are the core purposes of the Agrimaster accounting system. Like all suitable accounting systems, it manages tax well, yet it wasn't the core focus of its design. It was developed with the help of farmers and their advisors to help you optimise your farm business by maximising your business returns.

Good farm financial management software ensures that your day-to-day bookkeeping activities create a set of historical data specific to your farm business that you can trust.



You can then use this data to track your actual performance against your forecast and analyse your business at critical intervals to improve each year.

Regarding tax, there are two crucial things to remember:

1. Ensuring that you enter accurate data and have supporting invoices to back up that data in case of an audit
2. Calculating your tax liability correctly

Any good farm management accounting platform should handle all this in the setup, so it's automatic in your general ledger and your cash flow budgets. Therefore, when entering your accounting records, the tax obligations are essentially on autopilot, freeing up your mind to focus on your farm business.

As a result, the time you spend recording your accounting data can be redirected to focus on improving the data captured and gaining insights for your business.

“Financial record-keeping should not be just for your accounting and tax department; it should be a gift for you and your business.”

Tax record-keeping is essential! Because if we don't pay it, we could end up in jail. However, I strongly encourage you not to approach your bookkeeping role with a tax-focused mindset.

You will change your relationship with bookkeeping once you update your bookkeeping mindset and view your farm financial record-keeping as a business intelligence and insights tool. It will no longer feel like a chore, as you can now see how it will benefit you and your business.

Find out why Aussie farmers use Agrimaster – [Sign up for a 30-day free trial.](#)



Looking for farm insurance?

Insure our way,
the local way.



Insurance

All kinds of insurance. One kind of service.

As specialists in farm insurance, we can provide a cover that suits your needs.

With a rich history supporting rural and regional Australians, our insurance is uniquely designed to suit your local conditions and circumstances. This means we can make sure your assets are covered, and that you only pay for what you need. You can even pay by the month at no extra charge*.

Our farm insurance options include:

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- ✓ Farm property
- ✓ Farm liability
- ✓ Farm vehicle
- ✓ Crop
- ✓ Stud stock

At Elders Insurance we'll make the effort to come to you, no matter how remote. While other insurance companies may think that's going too far for a customer, we don't think we can go far enough.

Want to find cover that's right for you?

Call Elders Insurance Narrogin today.

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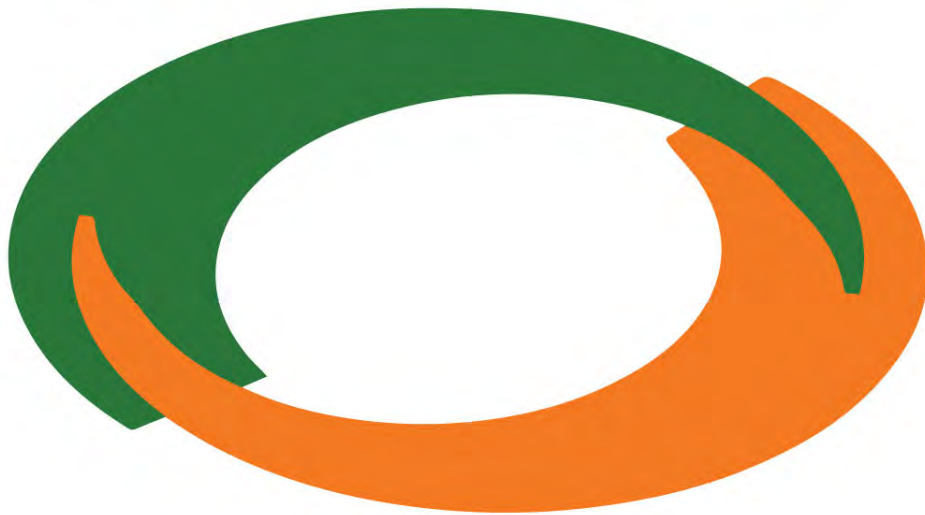
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Insurance

FACEY GROUP



Shaping the Future



'Facey Connect' Editor

Katrina Gray,
Communications & Engagement Coordinator