

2013- 2014

Annual Report



GIWA

Grain Industry Association
of Western Australia

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About GIWA

The Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) was formed in 2008 after an identified need to merge a number of associations, including NACMA WA, Oilseeds WA, the Western Oat Alliance, the Western Region Barley Council and Pulse WA, to form one body which represents the interests of those in the Western Australian grain supply chain.

GIWA's purpose is to grow the value and profitability of the whole Western Australian grain industry through:

- Leadership and industry self-regulation
- Facilitating communication and information exchange
- Providing solutions for grain supply chain issues

GIWA activities are focused through committees, working groups and projects which add value to the WA grain supply chain. In addition GIWA, through its councils host regular communication, information exchange and capacity building workshops and forums.

The industry based projects GIWA currently manages include:

- Crop Updates on behalf of Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) and Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)
- Grain Storage Project on behalf of GRDC
- COGGO Research Fund on behalf of Council of Grain Grower Organisations (COGGO)
- Onfarm Quality Assurance Project on behalf of DAFWA
- Grower Group Alliance (GGA)

For further information about GIWA visit www.giwa.org.au

GIWA Chair's Report

On the eve of hanging up the GIWA chairs hat that I have worn for the past 4 years it's time to reflect on what industry and GIWA has achieved over this period.

The 2013 crop broke many records, largest total harvest, largest Wheat, Barley and Canola harvest and record oil content in canola across the state with the average above 46%.

It has been an extremely busy year for GIWA at all levels. Please take the time to read through the full annual report to see what we have been up to in our Councils, working groups, projects and events. I will touch on just a few of these activities below:

Projects and events:

This year we started to deliver additional services to industry through support from DAFWA and its service agreement that is in place with GIWA. Below are some of the key services that GIWA has provided as part of this agreement:

Monthly crop production forecasts that are a key source of information to the whole of the grain supply chain. A special thanks to Alan Meldrum and the members that phone in each month to contribute to this report.

GIWA was heavily involved in both Australian – China investment conference and a Japan – Australia Investment seminar that were both held in the first quarter of this year. These events gave the industry a great opportunity to showcase potential investment areas as well as lift the profile of the WA Grain Industry internationally.

GIWA continues to be involved with visiting delegations and fielding enquiries from current and potential new markets for WA grains and grain products.

As you will read further in the report we have been very busy with ongoing projects such as the COGGO R&D Fund, GRDC Grain Storage Project, GRDC and DAFWA Agribusiness Crop Updates, development and launch of the AGI Capacity building project and the start of the new Grower Group Alliance project supported by DAFWA.

This year we also signed a "GIWA & AEGIC Memorandum of Understanding" which helps both organisations to work closer together. The basis of the MOU outlines GIWA's role to facilitate industry to the table on WA grain based issues while AEGIC's role is to give the independent expert advice, carry out research into issues and identify solutions that the industry can then deliberate over.

GIWA has been a key player at the table of the newly formed Agrifood Alliance of WA. The Agrifood Alliance is a round table group of all the major state based industry associations that represent WA Agriculture and food. The purpose of the alliance is to discuss and elevate issues that are across the agrifood sector and can be from all or any part of the supply chain. The Alliance was only formed in late 2013 and has already discussed major issues around "red tape", capacity and labour as well as lifting the profile and bridging the gap between producer and consumer.

At a national grain industry level a similar group has been formed called the "Australian Grain Industry Discussion Group". This is made up of National Grain Industry organisations and is also looking at issues from a National level that are across commodity and can be from part or all of the supply chain. Although GIWA doesn't have a direct seat at this table have been sitting there as a representative of the Australian Oilseed Federation (AOF). We can also have a voice through our relationships with key national bodies such as Grain Trade Australia and Pulse Australia. Some issues that have been discussed to date are funding models for industry functions (such as variety classification and market access) as well as input into the National review on grain transport infrastructure.

GIWA has been a lot more prominent in the media in the past year and has also had the opportunity to lift its profile through events that either myself or other GIWA members and staff have been talking at.

Some these include the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) Leadership in Agriculture forum as well as the ABARE Regional Outlook conference held in Albany. The AGI also held several networking events that also continue to help lift the grain industries profile.

I would also like to acknowledge the great work done at a national level by some of the national grain industry players in their contribution to adding value to the WA Grain Industry. Firstly Grain Trade Australia for the co-ordination, development and publishing of the first whole supply chain grain industry code of practice; Grain Industry Market Access Forum (GIMAF) and the one man effort of Tony Russel that has worked closely with industry to maintain; The Australian Oilseed Federation and its CEO Nick Goddard for its work on China and EU market access, trade development support into Asia (namely the technical workshops I was involved in earlier in the year) and the development of a new Australian Oilseed 2025 strategy.

Well done to our Councils and working groups on the great work they have done over the year and the often forgotten hours and passion put in by our members and chairs of these groups that make it all happen.

I would like to make a special mention of a couple of GIWA Executive members. Firstly the two other Executive members that give extra time as part of the GIWA Management team, the Treasurer Greg Kirk and Vice Chair Sean Powell who have done an exceptional job of organisational oversight and guidance. I would also like to thank a couple of key Executive member who are stepping down this year, firstly Gavin Bignell who has a great ability to think very strategically and objectively which is always appreciated at the executive table. And finally Rod Birch who has been instrumental in the initial forming of GIWA. His passion for the whole Grain industry is infectious which always helps to make any meeting or event enjoyable. Rod you're a great man to be around and thanks for your work and support.

I would like to make a very BIG Thanks to GIWA staff not only for this year but the past four years that I have been in the role of GIWA Chair.

The role Johanna Gastevich has played as the Executive Officer has made the chairman's role relatively easy. Her skills in organising events, dealing with the big and small issues without showing stress or falling to pieces is remarkable, thanks Johanna.

Ian Longson has been a rock and a mentor for both myself and GIWA as a statesman giving guidance through many hot issues. He is also able to identify issues and project opportunities that will continue to add value to the industry for many years forward. Thanks Ian and I look forward to having a good glass of red on your boat without having to talk shop (but I am sure we still will).

Shai Dunbar has shone and developed greatly since she joined GIWA a couple of years ago and has performed roles well outside of and above her position description. Thanks a lot Shai.

And finally, our newest team member, Rebecca Wallis. We are extremely happy to have the Grower Group Alliance and Rebecca as part of the GIWA team. Her positive attitude and friendly nature have made her a perfect fit with the team.

Thank you all for your support over the past four year. I wish GIWA and the industry all the best.

Jon Slee
Chair

Executive Officer Report

The bumper harvest made it a very positive year for many. It was pleasing to see that many growers were rewarded with record harvests due to favourable weather conditions and good business management. By the end of the season, the overall industry feeling was very optimistic with many having a renewed (or confirmed) passion for agriculture.

It has been a productive 12 months for GIWA and the Annual Report is an ideal opportunity to showcase our activities and achievements. We also spent some time looking internally and updated our five year Business Plan. This was an opportunity for us to be clear on what we do, ensure we remain relevant and most importantly provide value to our members.

Firstly, our purpose had to be clearly defined. The overarching principle which guides GIWA is that everything we do must work towards growing the value and profitability of the whole Western Australian grain industry. Each business decision made by a Council or GIWA Executive must support this principle and guides the work we do.

GIWA aims to actively fulfill this purpose through:

- Leadership and industry self-regulation
- Facilitating communication and information exchange
- Providing solutions for grain supply chain issues

Achieving our purpose would be impossible if we did not work collaboratively with our members, other peak bodies and individuals in the grains industry. GIWA's most important role is bringing key stakeholders together to discuss the issues which affect the whole grain supply chain. As you read the Annual Report you will see that almost everything GIWA does is in collaboration with others.

The work GIWA is undertaking on behalf of the WA grains industry to help prepare the Grains Strategy 2025+, is a clear example of our ability to effectively collaborate with individuals and organisations across the entire grain supply chain. GIWA has a role to play in bringing key players together to identify strategy actions to guide investments and activities aimed at doubling the value of the WA grains industry over the next decade.

A key role for GIWA is communication and information exchange and the past year the number of events and networking opportunities enabled members to be kept up to date with developments in the industry and to hear presentations on relevant matters to the industry. The 2014 Agribusiness Crop Updates was attended by over 500 industry participants and again demonstrated that it was the premier annual event for the grains industry, and certainly brings all participants together to hear the latest information on R&D, innovation and industry developments.

The WA grains industry does not operate in isolation from the rest of the Australian grains industry. It is a large part of the nation's grains industry and accordingly GIWA has maintained close working relationships with Grain Trade Australia, Grain Producers Australia, Grain Growers Limited, the Grains Research and Development Corporation, Plant Health Australia, Pulse Australia, the Australian Oilseeds Federation, the Grains and Legumes Nutrition Council, Barley Australia, Wheat Quality Australia, the Grains Industry Market Access Forum, the Australian Fodder Industry Association, and the Stock Feed Manufacturers' Association of Australia. GIWA does not set out to duplicate any services or activities by these national bodies but assists them with their activities in WA and contributes advice from a Western Australian perspective, particularly on grain export matters. GIWA then complements the activities of these organisations by focusing on specific issues of importance to industry participants operating in WA.

The next 12 months will be just as busy and will see GIWA focus on servicing its members and engagement with other peak bodies in the grains industry and across the WA agricultural sector. The AGI Council initiative in developing the capacity building project for the grains industry is an example where the WA grains industry will be providing valuable lessons for the entire WA agricultural sector.

I would like to wish GIWA all the best for the next 12 months as later in 2014 I will be embarking on a new opportunity – motherhood! Larissa Taylor will be taking over in my absence. I am sure her enthusiasm and passion for agriculture, with support from the rest of the exceptional GIWA team, will benefit GIWA, our members and the wider industry.

Johanna Gastevich
Executive Officer

Council Reports

AGI Council

The Australian Grain Institute (AGI) Council had a quiet yet productive year in 2013/14. Our main focus has been on developing the Capacity Building project, following the literature review the Council commissioned in early 2013. While rarely specific to the WA grain industry, the literature did state very clearly that: rural workforce numbers across the Australian agricultural sector are declining at a considerable rate; those that are working in the industry will increasingly require more intensive training and skills development and; traditional sources of labour and employment pathways for the industry are changing with fewer students based in rural areas pursuing tertiary education, let alone studies in agricultural based disciplines.

Unfortunately, very few of the efforts to address diminishing workforce capacity cited in the literature has proven effective, with the majority of studies undertaken on behalf of the agricultural sector too broad in their terms of reference with attendant recommendations and actions too expansive in application. The AGI Council now considers that a new, more direct approach is warranted that focuses on WA as the absolute priority. This approach was supported by the other GIWA Councils.

Working with the CBH Grower Advisory Council, the AGI Council commissioned a prefeasibility study and business plan, resulting in a project to address the capacity issue.

The purpose of the project includes:

- Understanding the various drivers/causes for workplace capacity constraints within the Western Australian grain industry;
- Researching and modelling the Western Australian grain industry's future workforce requirements ahead of working with key stakeholders to develop longer term, more strategic planning and resourcing solutions;
- Improving communications to ensure the Western Australian grain industry is seen as a vibrant, exciting and profitable sector in which to work;
- Working with schools and tertiary institutions to encourage students to consider a career in the Western Australian grain industry and ensure there are effective pathways for students (at all levels) to enter the industry;
- Facilitating pathways for prospective workers to enter the industry and for individuals already employed in the industry to transition into new/different roles and;

- Playing a role to ensure that existing workers in the grain industry are appropriately “up-skilled” and that modes of training are developed that are suitable for the Western Australian grain industry.

With the business plan and prefeasibility study supporting the AGI Council approach, the Council then engaged three key stakeholders: the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), CBH Group, and Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA), who have come on board as major supporters. Industry, including tertiary institutions, were approached early June, with many already making a financial commitment to the project, and the Council continues to develop these relationships as the project gets underway. The project will commence in late 2014 with the appointment of a full time executive officer.

The AGI Council also continues to take an interest in networking functions, hosting the popular Agribusiness Crop Updates Breakfast, in 2014 with guest speaker Mick Keogh from the Australian Farm Institute.

Susan Hall
AGI Council Acting-Chair

Council Reports (continued)

Barley Council

The GIWA Barley Council had six council meetings and two open forum meetings during 2013-14. The purpose and role of the council and the forum are as follows.

Barley Council

Purpose

The GIWA Barley Council will ensure any actions that arise during the Barley Forums are completed and outstanding issues resolved. We will also ensure Working Groups and Committees are formed (such as Barley Standards Committee and Variety Rationalisation Working Group), are functioning and are representative of the Barley industry.

Role

- Represent barley on GIWA.
- Communicate barley related information.
- Recommend to GIWA Barley Standards that benefit the whole supply chain.
- Evaluate and provide industry direction on malt barley varieties.
- Identify and promote R, D & E innovation priorities relevant to industry.
- Liaise with Barley Australia and other Regional Barley Councils.

Barley Forum

Purpose

The GIWA Barley Forum is an opportunity to exchange and share information about barley issues influencing and affecting members of the grain supply chain. The Barley Forum will identify issues that need to be actioned and championed by the GIWA Barley Council.

Role

- Communicate and exchange information about barley related issues.
- Identify priorities areas for the GIWA Barley Council to champion.
- Be a reference point for the GIWA Barley Council.

Council Members

The GIWA Barley Council is composed of nine members, each with a proxy. The elected representatives of the GIWA Barley Council in 2014 are:

Grower representative and Chair – Steve Tilbrook (Mt Madden Farmer)

Grower representative – Andy Duncan (Ravensthorpe Farmer)

Grower representative – Mark Adams (South Stirlings Farmer)

Farm consultant representative – Erin Cahill (agVivo)

Breeder representative and Deputy Chair – David Moody (InterGrain)

Marketer representative – Drew Robertson (CBH Group)

Technical export quality representative – Stefan Harasymow (AEGIC)

Research and development representative – Blakely Paynter (DAFWA)

Storage and handling representative – Vince Moroney (CBH Group)

At our council elections held in March, Drew Robertson replaced Tim Giumelli as the marketer representative, Steve Tilbrook was re-elected as a grower representative and Erin Cahill replaced Geoff Fosbery as the farm consultant representative.

Blue Aleurone

In early December an emergency telephone meeting of the GIWA Barley Council was held to discuss the recent evidence of blue aleurone in deliveries of the newly accredited malting variety Henley. The breeder Ian Edwards and Barley Australia's Andrew Gee were invited to join the conversation and review the situation. After Ian and Andrew left the teleconference, the issue was discussed further and the decision was made to write a letter to Barley Australia which contained the following recommendations:

- Feedback received from GIWA Barley Council members and the wider industry suggests that Australia has developed a strong competitive advantage in international markets for being able to deliver aesthetically pleasing bright, white barley.
- The co-mingling of blue aleurone barley with white aleurone could reduce the marketability of Australian feed barley into international markets such as the Middle East and Japan.
- GIWA Barley Council recommends that aleurone colour be part of the criteria by which a variety be considered for acceptance for malt and food accreditation and that only varieties with a white aleurone be accepted.
- GIWA Barley Council recommends that the current Grain Trade Australia (GTA) Standard and GIWA Barley Receival Standards are maintained and that blue aleurone remain a grain defect and that the current limits of nil tolerance for malt barley and 100 per half litre tolerance for feed barley continue.

Barley Australia discussed these recommendations in conjunction with other industry feedback and feedback from the member companies of Barley Australia and made this national recommendation “the presence of this blue aleurone trait means that Henley barley will not be acceptable under current receival standards.”

On the 16th December the Barley Council wrote to all the growers of Henley barley in Western Australia with the outcome of industry discussions on blue aleurone and its impact on Henley barley. The letter, written in partnership with the seed licensee and the breeder, indicated that “Heritage Seeds (the distributor for Henley) will advise all their customers who purchased seed that, commencing with the 2014/15 harvest, Henley will not be accepted at CBH receival points. Heritage will cease all sales of Henley forthwith, and will be notifying their Heritage Broadacre Agents accordingly. Any future market development with Henley will be under a closed loop/identity preserved system, and not through conventional market channels. Contact Elders for more information.”

Subsequent to this industry decision highlighting the general international market sensitivity to coloured aleurone in shochu and feed barley, blue aleurone has since been discovered in samples of Litmus, the new InterGrain variety bred to grow on acid soils.

The GIWA Barley Council believes it is now time for the Australian barley industry to review the tolerance of markets to blue aleurone and decide if there is any value in breeding / releasing varieties that may show a blue aleurone. The following questions need to be discussed - Are these varieties likely to have an agronomic advantage? Are we limiting genetic gain? Can we guarantee to keep them away from discerning markets? Is this an opportunity or a threat? This is an Australia-wide issue not just a WA issue. At this stage we have more questions than answers and some hard decisions will need to be made sooner than later. Barley Australia has agreed to make blue aleurone an important discussion point at their Barley Forum on 18th September 2014.

Developing Markets

A major priority for the GIWA Barley Council is assisting industry with accumulating grain of new varieties for international assessment and ensuring growers are growing the right variety in the right places allowing the trade to be able to accumulate marketable parcels, provide value to the growers and market these to our customers.

At the 2015/16 harvest, eight accredited malting varieties and one food variety will be segregated. The GIWA Barley Council leads an active barley variety recommendations committee that works with the trade and the breeders to make recommendations to growers 18 month out as to the future demand for each malting barley variety that will be segregated in Western Australia. The recommendations are released each year at the Dowerin Field Day and reviewed again before seeding. They are intended to be a guide for growers to help them plan their cropping program in the up-coming cropping season.

Over the last four years a large number of new malting varieties became available. At the moment there are potentially three new malting varieties that might be accredited in 2015 and another one in 2016. All four varieties have the potential to provide agronomic value to Western Australian growers and processing value to our customers. How do we, as an industry, develop pathways to market without many stacks all over the state of WA? One solution the GIWA Barley Council is looking at is the concept of ‘Development Nodes’.

The GIWA Barley Council is working on a proposal in partnership with the breeders and industry to develop Nodes or Areas in the state where a new malting variety will be received at one or two receival sites in the first one to three years of production. This will enable the trade the opportunity to accumulate marketable tonnages for international market development. Obviously the whole industry would need to work together to make this work better than what we have now where growers from across the state like to trial new varieties in their own patch which is a logistical nightmare to the storage and transport system.

Varietal Purity

With the accreditation of Scope CL as a malting variety there was a perceived risk of growers dumping Scope CL barley into Buloke malt barley stacks. Following discussion at a GIWA Barley Council Forum we sent a letter to the breeder of the Scope CL, Agriculture Victoria Services, to see if they would be interested in participating in an industry project that was designed to maintain the integrity of both the Buloke and Scope CL malt barley stacks in Western Australia. SeedNet, the seed licensee, engaged CBH Operations to collect 300 random samples of Buloke and Scope CL barley deliveries from 40 receival sites across WA at the 2013/14 harvest. This sampling regime will be repeated in the 2014/15 harvest and the samples will then be analysed to determine the level of growers' compliance to correctly declare those two varieties. This project complements CBH's existing malt barley variety auditing system and is an example of how two different sectors of the industry are working together to address this important issue for Australia's malt barley industry.

Steve Tilbrook
Barley Council Chair

Council Reports (continued)

Oat Council Report

GIWA Oat Council's vision is to enhance the profitability and sustainability of the WA oat industry.

With that in mind during September 2013 the GIWA Oat Council announced the realignment of the OAT2 grade as a second milling only grade for the WA export and domestic markets. This decision was made with the express purpose of meeting market demand for food grade oats. Feed demand is now almost nonexistent for export markets. The change to the OAT2 grade will provide an improvement in quality and increases growers' chances for better returns on their food grade oats.

The release of the new milling variety WA2332, or Williams, was the factor which enabled the transition to the OAT2 grade for milling only. Williams passed all milling tests and was given a milling classification. It is a high yielding variety with good disease tolerance and together with the recent release of Bannister has provided varieties that out yield all previous releases.

The breeding team based out of South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) with support from the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) have some promising lines in development. The focus of these lines is targeted towards the hay industry with both stand alone and multi-purpose varieties. The aim is to release and name at least one of these at Oat week in 2015.

It can be said that 2013/14 was a frustrating year for hay growers and exporters. Milling oat growers and the oat exporters fared much better. Because of the very wet spring it became obvious of the importance of having a multi-purpose variety that can be used for milling as well as export hay.

September 2013 saw the launch of the inaugural Oat Week in York. Both a forum and field walk were held. It was a great success with over 30 growers attending as well as other oat industry members. A great day, great speakers and good trials to view. The Director General of DAFWA Mr. Rob Delane launched the new variety Williams between showers of rain.

During Oat week celebrations, the Oat Council had the opportunity to tour the Quaker Oats processing facility in Forrestfield. The tour showed how the oats are processed and made in to a consumer product available for export.

In February, oats played a key role in the Agribusiness Crop Updates focus workshops. The session was well attended with good grower feedback.

At the end of March members of the Oat Council visited China on an overseas market visit. Ros Jettner from the Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre (AEGIC) led the group with Rob Loughman (DAFWA), Pamela Zwer (SARDI), Peter McCormack (SARDI) and myself in attendance.

The objective of the visit was to gain a better understanding of the China market and its requirements for milling oats at the present and into the future. Some of the more specific areas examined were oat quality requirements, understanding the future growth and the direction the China oat milling industry is taking (for example, oats into rice and also noodles as well as oat milk). We also looked at opportunities to increase value for growers as well as export tonnages. The trip also established contacts and communications with breeders and researchers with the possibility of an MOU with the potential opportunity to exchange information on breeding or even the possibility of germplasm exchange.

Overall it was an eye opening trip and I felt very confident that our oat industry has a huge opportunity that a lot of other coarse grains don't. Special thanks to GRDC, DAFWA and SARDI for helping fund and support this valuable trip.

For Growers we have compiled a document called "Oat variety and grade fact sheet" this will be updated when required and is designed to help and guide growers with their planting decisions.

Finally I would like to thank Johanna Gastevich as Executive Officer and our Oat Council team [all 20 of them] for their support. We are lucky with oats that we have a product that has a good opportunity to expand and increase as an export grain on the world stage. The challenge in the future may well be the ability to supply this expanding market with milling oats for human consumption and export hay to there feedlots for beef and dairy production.

Will Carrington-Jones
Oat Council Chair

Pulse Council

While the Western Australian pulse industry continues to face challenges, there are highlights which provide confidence that the industry is moving in the right direction. The cause to move lupins from the stockfeed market to the human food market continues to gain momentum. The activities of Lupin Foods Australia, Irwin Valley and Coorow Seeds continue to reposition lupins as a food product. Most prominent amongst these activities was the award won by Lupin Foods Australia at the Gulf Foods Expo in Dubai for its Lupin Flakes product.

The challenge for the GIWA Pulse Council is to provide some substantive support for these activities. Principally among these is to assist the industry to create a Lupin Food receival standard to ensure that lupins entering the food chain maintain the highest possible quality, and are seen to be a premium product.

Season update

The 2013 season was a record for grain production in Western Australia, with a total of 17,000,000 tonnes of all grains produced on-farm.

The 2013 season was highlighted by a long and warm spring which enabled record yields across the entire southern half of the state. Seeding conditions were ideal, except for the east Kwinana zone, with growers reported seeding conditions to be the best for many years, if not the best ever. The WA crop was planted in good time and this formed the basis for the record production.

After a record dry June and July, rainfall for August, September and October was above average in all regions. Additionally spring temperatures were above average with no significant frost reports. The lack of frost was highly significant in the yields recorded in southern districts.

Lupin production totalled 458,000 tonnes and field pea 44,000 tonnes. Yields of lupins were reported at over 4 t/ha in west coastal districts, and averaged 1.87 t/ha across the state. While these yields are very satisfying, the area sown to lupins was low and was very disappointing. Only 242,000 hectares was sown. The continuing high profit potential of canola and the low prices and drought of 2012 were significant factors.

Field pea yields in the Esperance region were disappointing with the disease blackspot pulling yields down to an average of 1.2 t/ha. The area sown fell to 31,000 hectares. Chickpea yields were reported at up to 1.8 t/ha around Mingenew, but the sown area remains small.

Narrow leaf lupin

The lupin area in WA has risen in 2014 with an improved price of around \$300/t giving growers confidence of a profitable yield. However, this improvement still does not match the profit potential when compared to canola.

Work continues to support efforts to place lupin onto the human food market, thereby increasing demand, price and grower profitability.

ϕ Barlock, ϕ Gunyidi and Jenabillup are now the preferred varieties for WA. ϕ Barlock is suited to the west coast where Anthracnose is a threat. Seed sales indicate a strong take up of this variety and it should become a dominant variety within two seasons. ϕ Gunyidi is suited to most of the wheatbelt with good yields and improved pod retention over Mandelup. Jenabillup is preferred for the south coast where Bean Yellow Mosaic Virus can reduce yields in adverse seasons. The variety WALAN 2385 may be released in 2014 or 15 and has the potential to lift lupin production in all regions.

For field pea, the area has declined further to just 31,000 hectares.

Chickpea

Desi chickpea production in Western Australia continues to be at a low level. After raised interest in 2011 with exceptional yields, the very late break to the season and subsequent drought of 2012 caused only a limited area to be planted to chickpea. In 2013 and 2014, the pricing of desi chickpea has been only moderate and insufficient to drive an increase in the sown area.

Three new varieties were released in 2012; ϕ Striker, Neelam and Ambar. A COGGO funded demonstration project commenced in 2013 and will conclude in 2014 to portray the adaptation of these new varieties to Western Australian farming conditions and will show growers the potential that the chickpea industry has.

Field pea

The area of field pea in WA has declined slightly to 31,000 hectares in 2014. Profitability compared to canola is a prime reason, particularly in the Esperance region, while the frost risk is paramount in the Great Southern and the production risk for field pea is regarded as high.

ϕ Twilight and ϕ Gunyah continue to be the preferred field pea varieties for Western Australia. ϕ Wharton has been released for the Esperance region with resistance to Pea Seed-borne Mosaic Virus.

Albus lupin

Amira was released in 2012. High pricing in 2013 has gained grower attention to albus, and it has been enthusiastically adopted by growers in the northern Geraldton zone. It provides better anthracnose resistance than Andromeda, flowers early and yields very close to that of the old variety Kiev Mutant. The area sown to albus lupin in the northern region stands at about 3,000 hectares in 2014 and is set to expand further in coming years.

Rod Birch,
Pulse Council Chair

Council Reports (continued)

Oilseeds Council Report

The 2013-14 Western Australia Canola crop was a new record at 1,796,000 tonnes breaking the previous record set only the year earlier by around 160,000 tonne. Not only was it a record in tonnes delivered but the quality across the state was also exceptional with an average oil of just over 46%. A pat on the back should go out to the whole industry on this achievement from the breeding companies, input suppliers, growers, storage and handling and grain marketers who all did an exceptional job on producing and delivering a high quality crop through to the end user.

In the past year the GIWA Oilseed Council may have appeared fairly quiet from the outside but there has been plenty happening behind the scenes. The Council has come together a couple of times in the past 12 month and reviewed some key issues, identified a few new ones that required attention and run some events as highlighted below:

Better Break Crops – Canola Agronomy updates were held in 5 locations across the South of the state from Condingrup East of Esperance through to Arthur River just south of Perth. These workshops were well received by growers, advisors and a number of industry participants. Some of the key areas that were focussed on included some new research around the time of swathing and its impact on yield and quality, improving black leg and sclerotinia management and identification as well as general nutrition and pest management of the crop.

Canola Breeding – The Oilseed Council was contacted by several WA Grower productions groups along with the WA Farmers Federation who raised concerns about the shift of focus of breeding companies away from breeding Open Pollinated (O.P.) varieties to mainly be focussed on hybrid breeding. Although Hybrid breeding was delivering high yielding varieties the concern was that we are starting to put all our eggs in the on basket.

It was viewed that open pollinated varieties have a place in both low and high rainfall zones and are often used for different reasons (eg low up front cost and hence less financial risk in margins production areas, growers have the ability to retain their own seed for future planting, and in the high rainfall zone growers often have difficulty getting hold of hybrid seed at the last minute if they want to put in an extra paddock or need to re-seed). Generally speaking this was a basket that carried a much higher up-front cost to the grower.

GIWA Oilseed Council took this issue to the Australian Oilseeds Federation (AOF) who in turn organised a forum to thrash out the issue, try to identify if market failure was occurring and to investigate what some solutions may be.

The view of the forum was that the root cause to the demise of O.P. breeding programs was mainly due to the ability to get an acceptable return on investment. It would appear that the adoption and collection of an end point royalty (EPR) system for Canola has to date had limited success on delivering the required return on investment to the breeding company.

Market Access and technical workshops – The GIWA Oilseed Council has remained engaged with both AOF and Grain Industry Market Access Forum (GIMAF) around market access issues for canola. Some of the key issues this season have been the “Free Trade Agreements” with Japan and South Korea, ongoing monitoring and reporting to China that is required for us to maintain access to this market. We have also been involved in an initial workshop with AOF and Australian Grain Export and Innovation Centre (AEGIC) around new requirement from the European Union (EU) for a life cycle assessment in regard to feed stock supply for bio-fuel use.

In March this year I visited Japan, South Korea and Singapore where I was involved in a number of workshops and presentations around the quality of Australian oilseeds (a separate report on this trip can be found in the GIWA Annual Report).

On closing off I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work and support of some key people and organisations that continue to support the development of the WA Oilseed industry. These include GRDC, DAFWA, AOF, GIMAF, AEGIC, Grower Group Alliance and a special mention for the GIWA Staff, Johanna, Ian, Shai and Alan (Pulse Australia).

Jon Slee
Oilseeds Council Chair

Wheat Council Report

If there is a period of time that epitomises the very best of our grains industry then surely it is the result of the 2013/14 season. Not only did we see record production but other milestones such as record shipping, high grain values and excellent farm profitability. There is new found confidence, expectation and drive in our industry on the back of new investment and heightened foreign interest in the ability of the Western Australian industry to meet the increasing demand for food globally. Our wheat industry is well positioned to meet this growing demand and whilst the opportunities abound they must be identified, captured and capitalised upon.

It could be said that there has not been a period in our industry where there has been such a level of interest in Agriculture. There is barely a day that passes that there is not some media reference to agriculture and the “food story” and the result of growing population on food demand and Australia’s potential role. This is all very positive with the resultant net effect on the industry however this potential must be captured and co-ordinated and thus industry wide representation, a place to bring the industry together, is increasingly important. For the grains industry in Western Australia this clearly highlights the importance of GIWA.

From a Wheat Council perspective I would like to thank, on behalf of the wheat industry, the efforts of the members of the Wheat Council. Their commitment of time, their timely communication, their passion for the industry and ultimately their intellectual capacity to meet the challenges and issues is much appreciated.

I would like to note the departure from our council of Mr Richard Vincent and Mr Chris Reichstein both of whom have been long serving members and excellent contributors, we thank them for their contribution. We welcome however two new members in Mr Mark Pontifex and Mr Tom Wake and look forward to their contribution in the coming years.

Wheat council continues to work closely with industry on a number of key issues. Ongoing work from our previous priority areas remain in two key issues;

1. Late Maturing Alpha α -amylase (LMA)

Wheat Council continues to bring industry wide awareness to this issue and has been pivotal in the development of a number of industry forums. The LMA issue has the potential to have significant impact on the industry and is a key issue that must be worked through carefully with the engagement of the entire industry.

2. Noodle Wheat

Wheat Council has been working closely with AEGIC and the wider industry to develop a sustainable model for the noodle wheat industry. The noodle wheat industry has been in steady decline for some years from a production perspective and is at the cross roads in terms of its future. The Japanese Udon noodle market in particular has been a high value market and an important long term valuable trading partner. It is important therefore from a value capture and geopolitical perspective that the wheat industry does as much as it can to preserve this market.

Moving into the next planning period the Wheat Council will continue to advance our ongoing work in those two key areas. Importantly however Wheat Council regularly updates its focused priorities and has identified the following to be worked through;

- **Wheat breeding and its direction**
Conduct a review of wheat breeding and its direction. In consultation with wheat breeding companies and industry the outcome of this review is to ensure that the industry has available to it “fit for purpose” varieties
- **Supply Chain review**
In conjunction with AEGIC review their work into supply chain efficiency and report to industry
- **Industry good functions**
Conduct a review of industry good functions. Identify any gaps and make recommendations to industry
- **WA Grains Industry 2025+ Strategy**
GIWA has been contracted by the WA Department of Agriculture to compile this important strategy document. The grains industry is the most important agricultural industry in Western Australia, accounting for over 50% of the gross farm gate value of agricultural production. The members of the wheat council have contributed substantially to this document which has been a key standing agenda item over several months. We look forward to the completed document, the outcomes and the vision for the pathway forward for our industry.

Sean Powell
Wheat Council Chair

Projects

2014 Agribusiness Crop Updates

In 2014 over 530 key decision makers in the WA grain supply chain attended the Agribusiness Crop Updates. The event was once again held at Crown Perth from the 24th – 25th February, 2014. A record number of growers were in attendance as numbers were boosted through registrations of the Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) and there was greater promotion to growers to attend.

GIWA proudly convened this event on behalf of the two major funders the Grain Research Development Corporation (GRDC) and Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA).

This year, the program focused on the following themes - varieties and agronomy, root diseases, frost management, grain marketing, weed management, plant nutrition, soil acidity, canola disease management, non-wetting soils, cropping systems, farming systems and soil moisture.

The event attracted three international speakers - Professor Hamlyn Jones from the University of Dundee, United Kingdom; Professor Yoshiharu Fuji from the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan; and Dr Neoh Soon Bin, Soon Soon Group, Malaysia. Their perspective on key issues were well received. In addition, over 50 state and national speakers featured in the program.

Targeted focus sessions were held to give attendees the opportunity to workshop specific industry topics. These topics included WA agronomy, growing profit with diversity in rotations, versatile oats, eConnect – towards better data management for grain farms and noodle wheat.

For the first time, Western Australian Members of Parliament were invited to the event. This attracted Members not only from pastoral regions but the metropolitan area. It was pleasing to see that Members have a keen interest in grain issues.

This year, a record number of sponsors supported the event. For the first time, the Council of Grain Growing Organisations (COGGO) were Platinum sponsors of both the Agribusiness and Regional Updates. Commonwealth Bank were first time Premium Sponsors along with continued support from CBH Group and Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre (AEGIC). Supporting Sponsors participating included AGT, Agworld, Alosca Technologies, Back Paddock, Bayer, CIS, CRC Plant Technology, Curtin University, Farnoz, Grain Growers, InterGrain, iPaddock, Latevo, Monsanto. Pacific Seed, Pioneer, Profarmer, Rural Business Development Corporation, Seednet and Syngenta.

The Agribusiness Crop Updates will be held at Crown Perth from the 24th - 25th February 2015.

Capacity Building for the Grains Industry

GIWA's AGI Council has been concerned about the issue of diminishing workforce capacity and the Western Australian grain industry's ability to attract sufficient numbers of suitably trained workers across all parts of the value chain.

Over the past 12 months, the AGI Council has been developing a project that will focus on ensuring that the Western Australian grain industry has enhanced access to sufficient numbers of suitability skilled workers by ensuring the industry collaborates in such a manner to make the process of attracting its future workforce simpler and more effective. The purpose of the project includes:

- Understanding the various drivers/causes for workplace capacity constraints within the Western Australian grain industry
- Researching and modelling the Western Australian grain industry's future workforce requirements ahead of working with key stakeholders to develop longer term more strategic planning and resourcing solutions
- Improving communications to ensure the Western Australian grain industry's is seen as a vibrant, exciting and profitable sector in which to work
- Working with schools and tertiary institutions to encourage students to consider a career in the Western Australian grain industry and ensure there are effective pathways for students (at all levels) to enter the industry
- Facilitating pathways for prospective workers to enter the industry and for individuals already employed in the industry to transition into new/ different roles
- Playing a role to ensure that existing workers in the grain industry are appropriately “up-skilled” and that modes of training are developed that are suitable for the Western Australian grain industry.

Major funders of this project include Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA), CBH Group and Grain Research Development Corporation (GRDC), as well as a number of industry organisations that have committed to financially supporting the project.

The recruitment process to employ an Executive Officer to oversee the project will commence in mid 2014.

Asia Market Tour

In March this year, GIWA Chair, Jon Slee participated in a market tour of Japan and South Korea as well as attended the first “Australian Grain Industry Conference – Singapore”. He wore a number of hats while on tour - he represented the WA Grain industry, participated in Noodle Wheat Technical Workshops in Japan and South Korea and represented the Australian Oilseed Industry during a number of meetings with customers of Australian oilseeds and oilseed products.

Japan

Noodle Wheat Technical Workshop – This workshop was the 3rd technical workshop that GIWA has been involved in with the Japanese Flour Millers Association (JFMA) and the first one to be held in Japan.

Previously the workshops were held around the start of harvest in Perth and have proved to be helpful in discussing the season and looking at what the likely “supply and demand” situation for noodle wheat might be. This has been critical for the review of the blend ratio of APW Vs Noodle wheat that makes up the Udon Noodle blend for Japan. The previous workshops held in Australia had representation for the JFMA staff and several of the major flour milling companies.

Having the workshop in Japan meant that many smaller flour milling companies could attend the workshop and hence the exchange of information could get to a much larger audience. The workshop was also held after harvest which also meant that there could be a lot more discussion around the quality of the current crop.

Oilseed Technical Meeting – meetings were held with several Japanese trading houses as well as small workshops conducted with the Japanese Oilseed Processors Association (JOPA). Some key points discussed with JOPA was the very good quality of the Australian Canola crop around attributes such as low moisture and chlorophyll content which relates to better oil extraction, oil colour and storage stability.

South Korea -

Seoul is a very modern city and at night flying in looks just like a mass of big neon signs and huge flat screen bill boards. The population of Seoul is around the same as the whole of Australia all living in one spot. As you can imagine this means a lot of high rise apartments and a very busy freeway with 6 lanes either direction.

Noodle Wheat Technical Workshop - An interactive workshop was held with the Korean Flour Millers Industry Association (KOFMIA) as it was the first of its kind held with this market. The Korean industry raised some different concerns about quality as well as concerns around data that was being presented by the trade versus that by an industry based organisation. The workshop was well received by the flour millers and a number of site visits post the workshop reinforced the importance of such visits.

A meeting was held with the largest Oilseed processor while in Seoul and quality information was presented on the Australian crop. They had a newly commissioned oilseed processing line that could do canola or soybeans. At the time of the meeting they were only processing soybean as the margins were better. Long discussions were held over the recently announced Australia – South Korea free trade agreement which could mean that processing Australia canola may be an option in the next year. The other change of note was also the reduction in import tariff for Canola oil which would also mean that this may become a bigger opportunity for Australia into the future.

Singapore –

Inaugural Australian Grain Industry Conference Singapore – This conference also had more of a technical and quality focus which was targeted at end users of Australian grains based throughout the Asian region. All the major grains were covered and presentations from each of the major bulk handlers gave a good overall picture of the quality of the Australian crop.

A presentation was given in partnership with Nick Goddard from the Australian Oilseed Federation (AOF) that covered all Australian oilseeds as well as a more focussed session on Canola and the quality attributes that are important to a processor.

A special thanks goes to AEGIC for organising the Japan and South Korea programs, the AOF and GIWA for financial support.

COGGO Research Fund

For the second year, GIWA administered the COGGO Research Fund on behalf of the Council of Grain Growers Organisations (COGGO) in 2013/14.

The COGGO Research Fund invests in projects across the grain supply chain which have a direct benefit to Western Australian grain growers. The focus is on “catalytic” funding of local research and development (R&D) projects that may then be eligible for more substantial funding from the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) or from other funding sources.

The COGGO Research Fund is financed through a voluntary levy collected from Western Australian grain growers with the cooperation of grain acquisition and marketing companies.

GIWA's R&D Committee met in September 2013 to evaluate 41 project proposals and provided recommendations to the COGGO Board who subsequently awarded 10 projects funding for commencement in calendar year 2014. The successful recipients of COGGO Research Funds in 2014 for projects totalling nearly \$600,000 were:

- South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) (\$51,500) - Development of an imidazolineone-tolerant oat breeding line.
- West Midlands Group (\$92,000) - Developing and testing innovative, practical and reliable methods for incorporating lime into acidic sandplain subsoils.
- University of Western Australia (\$100,000) - Implementation of a newly developed fast generation technology for Australian wheat/barley breeding industry
- Synergy Consulting (\$18,880) - To research the use of Residual Herbicides for effective summer weed control and to assist in delaying development of resistance in summer weeds.
- University of Western Australia (\$45,000) - Up-skilling the Western Australian grains industry in disease surveillance for a more productive and biosecure future.
- South East Premium Wheatgrowers Association (SEPWA) (\$35,695) - Virtual field walk - capturing the SEPWA trials in a virtual platform for use by all growers.
- Mingenew-Irwin Group (\$49,500) - State wide implementation of Australia's first Agricultural unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)
- Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (\$30,000) - Development of mobile and web based apps to improve grains industry surveillance and diagnosis for pests and diseases

- Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (\$100,000) - To find out if aphids can cause yield loss in canola under good growing conditions and whether aphid thresholds are applicable.
- Planfarm (\$50,000) - Yield performance of acid/aluminium tolerant wheat varieties against a new acid tolerant barley (WABAR2625) across a range of soil acidity profiles via spatial analysis.

The first project from the 2013 funding round was also completed in this financial year. This project entitled “The impact of gravel on crop management – a desktop study” showed the management of gravelly soils deserves a re-examination from the point of view of their unique properties and their interactions with ecological and management processes. In particular:

- Some WA fertiliser recommendation systems adjust soil test available nutrients down according to gravel percentage and recommend higher fertiliser application rates. These tests do not take account of gravel content on whole soil buffering properties which can improve the efficiency of fertiliser use and cause rates to go down.
- The effectiveness of lime goes up as gravel content increases and so recommended rates should be reduced when gravel content is taken into account, and
- Assuming that gravel is inert to water uptake can be wrong, particularly in the wheatbelt. This can lead to overestimates of water infiltration and the leaching of nutrients.

The COGGO Board approved \$600,000 in funding for a new round of funding for the 2015 calendar year and GIWA commenced planning for this, after seeking advice from the COGGO Board and the GIWA R&D Committee. A call for expressions of interest for new projects was initiated in May with an 18th July, 2014 closing date.

Grower Group Alliance

GIWA has been contracted by the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) to manage the Grower Group Alliance (GGA) project from 2014 – 2018.

The partnership with DAFWA commenced on 1 April 2014, with the Hon Ken Baston, Minister for Agriculture, committing \$1.2 million in funding and support over the next four years. The GGA staff relocated from University of Western Australia (UWA) to GIWA earlier this year, and have settled in well with the GIWA team.

The GGA is a non-profit, farmer driven organisation connecting grower groups, research organisations and agribusiness in a network across Western Australia. The GGA is managed by an advisory committee with representation from grower groups, research organisations and private agribusiness.

The activities of the GGA are highly valued by grower groups, government and the wider industry, and act to add value to the activities of grower groups by maximising the opportunities for collaboration and information sharing. In short the GGA provides a conduit, a meeting point, and information flow at an industry level, which is well utilised in WA and nationally.

The new GGA project will focus on the following key areas;

- Maximising effective communication between grower groups and research, development and extension (RD&E) stakeholders with clear project and partnership outcomes.
- Promoting and fostering best practice research and extension methods and partnership models.
- Maintaining grower group capacity and building towards skills and knowledge self-sufficiency (including governance and succession, attracting and retaining staff and volunteers, engagement, branding and membership).
- Playing an active role in the research ‘space’ by seeking out and brokering efficient and effective RD&E partnerships and projects.
- Building linkages and promoting opportunities across the whole supply chain.

Some of the GGA's key activities include grower group regional meetings, an Executive Officer meeting, a monthly e-newsletter, a well utilised fortnightly industry calendar of events and an Annual Forum.

The 2014 Annual Forum ‘Striving for profitability beyond agronomics’, to be held in August, will focus on building grower group's networks and partnerships in areas beyond on-farm agronomic RD&E. Traditionally grower groups have focussed on undertaking activities with the aim of increasing grower profitability through RD&E that addresses production issues. This agronomic focus will continue to be core activity of grower groups, however there are also some key opportunities to increase profitability of the farm businesses beyond agronomics – through innovation, efficiencies in the business of farming, and opportunities in the supply chain. The Annual Forum attracts 80 – 100 attendees from grower groups, research organisations, agribusiness and government.

To connect with the GGA visit the website www.gga.org.au.



GRDC Grain Storage Project

Under contract from the Grain Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), GIWA conducts grain storage workshops across WA with farmers, advisors and industry. The project constitutes the Western regional GRDC component of a national project running until June 2015.

Matching the project target and the achievements of the previous 12-months of the project, GIWA has conducted 29 Grain storage workshops across regional WA over the past year with nearly 700 attendees.

Workshop locations - WA

Attendees were predominantly mixed advisor and grower groups accounting for 76% of workshops while advanced grower, train the trainer and economics workshops made up the balance.

Workshops are individually tailored for attendees to provide the most applicable and relevant information according to grain storage requirements, expectations and investment.

Typically information covered in workshops includes grain storage hygiene, insect identification, monitoring, aeration, silo pressure testing, fumigation with phosphine and the use of Nitrogen and CO₂, the use of grain bags.

2013-14 has seen the development and introduction of a dedicated economics component for growers. This component investigates storage options with an objective cost-benefit view to enable growers to determine the appropriate level of investment in on-farm storage for maximum return on investment in their farm business.

Growers attending workshops in WA indicated practice changes in their on-farm storage of seed and market-bound grain in a survey questionnaire.

Around 70% of attendees had improved, or planned to improve phosphine application practices while one in five indicated they had installed or better utilised aeration for cooling stored grain as a result of the workshop.

85% of WA workshop participants said that they had improved their grain storage hygiene practices while 63% indicated they had applied economic rationale to their grain storage plans.

In terms of information delivery, growers and advisors indicated a preference for workshops with nearly two in three selecting this option while hardcopy printed information in the form of Fact-sheets and Groundcover articles requested by 71% and 60% of attendees respectfully.

On Farm Quality Assurance

GIWA was commissioned by the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) to examine the need for, and options for, on farm quality assurance (QA) programs for the benefit of Western Australian grains industry.

An initial report was prepared in July 2012, following 12 months of work culminating in a workshop with representatives of the main grain acquisition and marketing companies to ascertain the need for on farm QA for the Australian Grain Industry. The report found that to date domestic and overseas buyers were satisfied with the quality control (and quality guarantee) of the accumulator and marketer, rather than insisting on farmers having an on farm QA program in place. The report recommended a national framework for on farm stewardship and QA programs be developed to avoid duplication and unnecessary cost and confusion in the market place. The need for such a framework was demonstrated when the industry was coming to grips with complying with market access requirements for exporting Canola to Europe in 2012 and 2013.

Following the tabling of this report GIWA participated in discussions with the industry at a national level a meeting of the Grain Stewardship Taskforce (held adjacent to the Australian Grain Industry Conference) in July 2013. The purpose of this Taskforce is to develop national grains production sector stewardship standards to dovetail into the post farm gate Australian Grain Code of Practice developed by Grain Trade Australia. This work will focus on chemical usage and grain storage and will be ongoing through 2014/15.

GIWA also hosted an inaugural meeting adjacent to the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) - 2014 Annual Conference on 18th June, with parties involved in the development of these stewardship standards with all current providers of on farm QA and stewardship programs currently being used for the Australian grains industry (Graincare, CBH On Farm QA, Queensland Grain Best Management Practices and Pepsico) to discuss ways of collaborating and avoid duplication.

A final report on the QA project will be prepared in 2014 for DAFWA and the Western Australian grains industry. The report will recommend no further investment in a State program but encourage the continued collaboration of providers of existing on farm assurance programs to avoid duplication and provide cost effective solutions to meet current and future customer demands for trace back, satisfy market access conditions and ensure compliance of agricultural practices, including access to chemicals and fertilisers.

WA Grains Industry 2025+ Strategy

Under the State Government's "Seizing the Opportunity" initiative the Minister for Agriculture and Food has challenged the agricultural sector and the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) to double the value of the sector over the next decade.

DAFWA invited GIWA to manage this process and engage with the whole grain supply chain to develop a strategic plan for the Western Australian Grains Industry to double the value of the industry by 2025.

Working closely with DAFWA the Strategy will aim to outline for the whole WA grains industry, and for each of the major grain categories (wheat, barley, oilseeds, pulses and oats):

- priority opportunities (also addressing risks and needs) to be pursued;
- desired outcomes in 3-5 years' time and by 2025 for each of these opportunities;
- actions to be taken to achieve the desired outcomes; and
- who (which stakeholder/s) are recommended as best placed to take the determined action.

To date briefings have been provided to WA Farmers, GIWA Councils and other key stakeholders. At these briefings submissions and comments have been invited. In addition, a desktop audit of existing strategic plans of relevant overseas, national and state grain industry participants and stakeholders has been completed.

A series of workshops with a cross section of the WA grains supply chain and interviews with important companies and organisations making up the Western Australian grains industry will be held early in 2014/15 will be used to produce a draft strategic plan. The strategic plan will be reviewed at a whole of industry summit in September 2014. It is planned to have the project finished by October 2014.

GIWA in the news

Over the past 12 months GIWA has featured prominently in the rural press. Here are a few examples:

Mr Robert [unclear] bean crop is in the final stages of production and is currently looking very good. Additionally, there is a strong possibility that current yield forecasts in the US could be increased in coming weeks due to favourable conditions during pod setting.

Grain Industry Association of WA chairman Jon Slee added the EU has had its first rapeseed crop in five years, a million tonnes last year.

Meanwhile,

Mr [unclear] farmer Peter [unclear] expecting average yields this year after the 200mm of rain during the growing season.

But he says the lower crop price will hurt this year's returns.

"We are expecting \$100 per tonne less than last year for canola," he said.

"Combined with lower wheat and other grain prices, this will obviously hurt our bottom line."

Mr [unclear] who runs a 1100 [unclear]

GIWA chairman John Slee was originally a member of GAT's standards committee and said GIWA would be looking to have representation on the committee when nominations open just this year.

He said GIWA was investigating the issue of grain dryer use in malt barley but had no plans at this stage to change standards.

"Really our role is more to educate growers how to do it properly. If they don't the market will reject that," Mr Slee said.

8 Farm Weekly Tuesday, September 12, 2013

August rain lifts crop estimate by 2mt

By AMBER ATKINSON

WESTERN farmers behind in export reporting but existing trends are picking up in final confidence and an impressive spike in WA's crop estimate.

In a latest crop report, the Grains Industry of Western Australia (GIWA) revealed that the production for barley has risen to 1.24 million tonnes, from 1.04 million tonnes in August.

Considering the late position many farmers were up against in June and July, the GIWA's revised national WA crop is "quite remarkable".

Mr [unclear] said the negative impact on the wheat and barley crops is not as severe as it was set for average national crop yields, the report said.

Mr [unclear] said the WA crop is "quite remarkable".

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WEEKLY NEWS

WA production estimates (tonnes)

Port zone	Wheat	Barley	Canola	Oats	Lupins	Field pea	State total
Kwinana	3,746,000	758,000	414,000	247,000	68,000	11,000	5,243,000
Albany	1,539,000	762,000	404,000	159,000	14,000	7,000	2,895,000
Perth	1,026,000	696,000	346,000	4,000	18,000	60,000	2,090,000
Geraldton	1,483,000	89,000	150,000	6,000	219,000	1,000	1,898,000
Totals	7,994,000	2,255,000	1,364,000	426,000	319,000	79,000	12,436,000
2012	6,049,000	2,036,000	1,061,000	437,000	294,000	58,000	10,137,000

GIWA's first good and measure under crops in the southern half and along the west coast means there was potential upside in the current production season.

The GIWA report confirmed that wheat, canola and barley crops were all showing strong yield potential while lupins have yielded very well and canola have good potential.

The major risk for the WA crop, according to GIWA, was from the rain in the Kwinana and Albany regions.

Although given the positive turn around in rainfall this season, experts think that the good times may be coming.

Dr David Stephens from the Australian Export Grains Commission said the current pattern of a westerly stream moving the air is reducing the risk of frost occurrence and looked for a good harvest.

the next fortnight," Dr Stephens said.

"The continuation of the westerly air flow and associated cold fronts should mean a good harvest in September and is a good sign for the crop."

Mr [unclear] said the crop is looking good.

Grower groups build networks

The Grower Group Alliance Annual Forum returned to the calendar last week, with key stakeholders keen to network, develop collaborations, and share their successes and those of their industry partners.

The event kicked off with farmers and group staff touring Murdoch University grains and livestock facilities in Perth.

Youlerville farmer, Facey Group member and Murdoch University researcher Dr Kelly Manton-Pearce co-ordinated the Murdoch visit.

"The university is striving to develop innovative outputs that will improve farm productivity, sustainability and overall profitability and it was important to be able to show farmers the work we are doing, the leading edge technologies we are using," she said.



Dr Kelly Manton-Pearce, Merredin Rebecca Wallis, of GGA and Grayden Lang, of Facey Group. Wideopen.

GIWA lifts harvest est

By BOBBIE HINKLEY

THE Grain Industry Association of WA (GIWA) has voiced its concern about the high percentage of Mace wheat planted and yet to be planted in the Albany port zone this season.

The association's initial planting estimates released in the last few weeks revealed that wheat hectares were expected to grow at the expense of barley this season thanks to better financial returns in the last three years.

As a result, GIWA

Mr [unclear] said the WA crop is "quite remarkable".

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Barley council tours West Midlands, discusses Baudin

Recently, the Grains Industry of WA's Barley Council and its members toured the West Midlands area to see firsthand the production systems for the production of barley in the area, chat with local growers and agronomists about current production issues, visit a number of research trials involving barley and talk about new varieties in the malting barley variety pipeline.

Much of the discussion focused on the future of the popular malting variety Baudin. Baudin is very susceptible to powdery mildew and this year many growers in the West Midlands area have sprayed it up to 3 times with a foliar fungicide to keep powdery mildew at bay. At John Scotney's property, who is the vice-chairman of the West Midlands Group, the group looked at a control of powdery mildew in a 5t/ha Baudin crop with different fungicide treatments.

Results from that trial confirmed Baudin (AgVivo) is a very susceptible variety to powdery mildew and the level of loose smut was high.



Chris Wilkins (Synergy Consulting), Blake Chengdao Li (DAFWA).

Milling quality oats demand on the increase

A new oat variety guide, recently released by the Grains Industry Association of WA, has signalled changes to the traditional OAT2 segregation for the upcoming harvest.

The new guide also coincides with an announcement by the Department of Agriculture and Food that the Williams oat variety will now be accepted as a milling food-grade variety, which, according to DAFWA, could attract a \$5 to \$30 a tonne premium.

The decision to accept Williams as a milling food grade was made at the GIWA Oat Council meeting in March.

Council chairman Will Carrington-Jones said the new guide was designed to inform growers that both the OAT1 and OAT2 segregations would now be milling food grade.

The guide outlines the oat varieties now accepted in both grades.

"The OAT1 stack was always milling food grade, but the OAT2 stack often had food-grade deliveries, including hay varieties," he said.

"The main reason we have done this is to improve the milling quality of the OAT2 segregation."



GIWA Oats Council chairman Will Carrington-Jones says the new oat variety guide will help to improve the quality of the OAT2 segregation.

Sources: Farm Weekly and Countryman

Events

Canola Technology Interactive workshop for Advisers and Growers

GIWA along with the Australian Oilseeds Federation (AOF) as part of the Grain Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) funded Better Break Crop Project recently held a series of Canola Technology interactive workshops in a number of regional locations in Western Australia.

Around 80 growers and industry attended the workshops held in Condingup, Munglinup, Jerramungup, Kendenup and Arthur River during the first week of August.

The workshops featured local agronomists as well as interstate speakers. Angela Van de Wouw from Marcroft Pathology Group, Victoria discussed the impact of blackleg disease on yield and other Canola diseases and Kathi Hertel from the NSW Department of Primary Industries discussed swathings.

Local agronomists' presentations focused on crop establishment, nutrition and the dynamics of agronomy and provided an understanding of the forces behind canola crop development and maximising yields.

Growers who attended gained an understanding of the risks involved at each stage of canola production and how canola profitability can be maximised through implementing sound management practices.

Pita Alexander Sundowner

Pita Alexander gave a thought provoking address in March 2014 at a joint GIWA / Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC) WA sundowner. Pita, started as a specialist farm accountant in New Zealand approximately 35 years ago and is a well-known presenter in the USA and Australia. During his career, Pita has experienced a number of the famous farming "boom and bust" cycles.

One thing that has never wavered over this period is Pita's desire to see farming couples succeed. In his address he presented a number of one line lessons about rules for ensuring a successful farming business into the future and he reminded the audience that timing is everything and farming is definitely going to get more complicated in all sorts of ways. The aim is not to fight change and don't waste time attributing blame.

Productivity improvement in the Grain Industry

The GIWA / AGI Council breakfast held during the 2014 Agribusiness Crop Updates featured Mick Keogh, CEO, Australian Farm Institute. Well over 200 people attended the event that focused on productivity improvements in the grains industry and how we compared with our competitors.

The key message from the presentation was Australian agriculture faces the option of passively allowing the RD&E system to continue its gradual decay ... (and with it national agricultural competitiveness) ... or re-engineer it to create a vigorous new model capable of generating a surge of innovation and productivity growth.

Seeding Success 2014

GIWA's annual Seeding Success workshop had a focus on biosecurity, pests and diseases. The day was facilitated by Bevan Addison from FarmOz who gave an overview of the industry issues over the past 12 months and highlighted considerations for the upcoming season.

Following the event, a memorial for Peter Portmann was held which paid tribute to the work Peter did in the area of Shochu barley. During the sundowner, attendees toasted to Peter's memory over a glass of Shochu.

The health benefits of grains – are lupins the next Super-food and/or Super-medicine?

GIWA and the AGI Council hosted a breakfast in conjunction with the 2013 International Cereal Chemists conference featuring Dr Carolyn Williams, Research Manager, Centre for Food and Genomic Medicine Western Australian Institute for Medical Research.

Dr Williams outlined the health benefits of lupins and discuss its potential medicinal benefits. Lupins are high in protein and dietary fibre, low in fat with a low GI value. Though health benefits are high, further work is required to develop commercially viable (and tasty!) food products to ensure lupins are incorporated into consumers' daily diet. Currently, research is also investigating the potential for lupins to be used as a health medicine.

Western Australia – China Agribusiness Co-operation Conference

China has long had interest in investing in Western Australia. The Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) in partnership with the Departments of State Development, Regional Development, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, the Australia China Business Council (ACBC), InvestWest Agribusiness Alliance and the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Perth held the first Western Australia – China Agribusiness Cooperation Conference on 9th April 2014.

The conference provided a forum for key stakeholders from China and Western Australia to network, gain knowledge and identify key trade and investment opportunities.

GIWA assisted DAFWA in organising industry briefings and site visits over the two days following the conference. These site visits provided a unique opportunity for Chinese investors to see and meet with members of the WA grain industry and identify potential trade and investment opportunities. Overall, 40 Chinese and Australian delegates participated in the field visits.

Site visits included CBH grain handling operations at Kwinana, Forrestfield and Quairading, the CBH Group Metro Grains Centre, Lupin Foods Australia, Joe White Malting, Murdoch University, the plant breeding company InterGrain, a hay plant and grain farms at Northam and Quairading.

GIWA Barley Forums

In spring 2013 the GIWA Barley Council and members of the Western Australian barley supply chain engaged with two grower groups – West Midlands Group and Moora Milling Pasture Improvement Group. Field walks were held with representatives of both groups and they were given an opportunity to provide feedback to the Western Australian barley supply chain on issues affecting them. A Barley Forum was also held which enabled the Barley Council to promote the work it is doing to add value to the barley industry in Western Australia. The GIWA Barley Council strongly believes in engaging with growers as it provides a sounding board for the activities of the council.

In March 2014 the Barley Forum was held at the Metro Grains Centre followed by a visit to the Joe White Malt. Derek Willshee and tour guide Mitch Beezer enabled Barley Forum members to gain further insight and understanding of malt production during the tour of the facility and provided an open and frank account of working in the industry.

Export Hay Grower Update

In early September, GIWA in partnership with the Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA) hosted an Export Hay Grower Update in York.

The Update gave practical advice on how to grow quality hay in the Wheatbelt and also provided timely advice on onfarm safety when working with hay. Featured speakers included Garren Knell, ConsultAg; grower Suzanne Woods and AFIA Board Member Peter Gillett.

Following the Update, the Oat and Hay Trial Field walk was held at David Boyle's Farm. During the walk the new Oat Variety WA2332 was officially launched by Mr Rob Delane.

The day was well supported by industry and sponsors included AEXCO, Bee Jays, Gilmac, Heritage Seeds, Krone and Narakine Hay.



Issues

Williams approved as Milling Oat variety

The new oat variety Williams was classified as a Milling Variety in Western Australia from the 2014-15 season.

In accordance with Commercial Acceptance Protocol for assessment of potential Milling Varieties, Williams was commercially grown in Western Australia and was test milled at Quaker Oats Forrestfield facility.

Tests undertaken by Quaker Oats showed that the Williams variety milled very well, exhibiting good dehulling and flaking characteristics during processing, qualities that will be appreciated by both Australian and overseas millers. The processed oat flakes had suitable textural, aroma and colour characteristics. It also exhibited good nutritional characteristics including high soluble fibre, one of the healthy parts of oats for human nutrition. It is the second major variety released in the last two years with the best disease resistance of all varieties.

Williams was developed by the National Oat Breeding Program.

Introduction of an OAT2 segregation

The GIWA Oat Council endorsed the recommendation of the Oat Variety Rationalisation Working Group for the future realignment of the OAT2 grade as a second milling-only grade for the WA export and domestic markets. The overall aim is to improve the milling quality of current OAT2 segregation that includes out of specification OAT1, minor feed and hay varieties

The transition to an improved OAT2 segregation will assist in meeting market demand and quality requirements for food oats which currently makes up 95% of demand for Western Australian oat production. This in turn will create better value to oat growers in Western Australia

hectolitre weight

The GIWA Wheat Council supported Grain Trade Australia's (GTA) decision to increase the test weight for all milling grades of wheat from 74 kg/hl to 76kg/hl for the 2013/2014 Season.

The GIWA Wheat Council discussed the issue to increase hectolitre weight during its March meeting and endorsed the following:

Supports a national standard for hectolitre weight for wheat being set by GTA as soon as practicable to remove uncertainty in the industry

Supports the adoption of 76kg/hl as the national standard subject to there being no impact on grower receival standards in WA; and subject to this proviso;

Recommends that the 76kg/hl apply as the minimum test weight standard for all milling grades except ASW1 which should remain at 74kg/hl.

International customers demand a minimum test weight of 76 kg/hl and this change maintains Australia's reputation as the preferred supplier of high quality milling wheat.

Growers are able to continue to deliver milling wheat loads at 74 kilograms per hectolitre (kg/hl) while enabling bulk handlers to manage stacks to guarantee a minimum outturn of 76kg/hl to the trade.

GIWA Crop Reports

GIWA produced a monthly Crop Report which sets out planting and production estimates for each port zone. The Crop Reports are available exclusively to GIWA members first.

The major highlight for the 2013 season was the report of a record grain production of 17 million tonnes.

GIWA is appreciative of the support provided by the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) and contributions from Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre (AEGIC) and independent consultants and agronomists in the production of the Crop Report.

China and requirements for Milling Oats

In March, GIWA Oat Council Chair, Will Carrington-Jones was part of a delegation consisting of representatives from the Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre (AEGIC), Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA), Western Australia and the National Oat Breeding Program, SARDI that visited China.

The aim of the tour was to better understand the growth in the China oat market, identify oat quality requirements for new Asian food products and to learn more about the properties of Chinese-grown oats.

Risk of Blue Aleurone in Henley

In December, GIWA advised growers that the recently accredited malting barley variety Henley had a noted risk of blue aleurone (blue kernels). The blue colouring is present in the aleurone of the grain which is the layer immediately below the husk. Blue aleurone, as present in Henley, is genetically controlled but its expression is under environmental influence. This means that the conditions under which it is grown will determine the prominence of blue aleurone within the kernel.

This risk of blue aleurone in Henley was not observed during the malting and brewing evaluation trials but became apparent in the first year of commercial

deliveries of Henley to bulk handling systems across Australia this harvest (2013/14).

In the past, Australia has been committed to supplying Australian and international customers of malt, food and feed grade barley with barley that has a white aleurone. Currently receival standards in Western Australia have nil tolerance for blue aleurone grain in malt barley deliveries and a maximum allowance of 1 in 100 grains in feed barley deliveries.

The GIWA Barley Council will be consulting with the wider industry to review the tolerance of markets to blue aleurone and decide if there is any value in breeding / releasing varieties that may show a blue aleurone. Refer to Barley Council Report for further information.

Agrifood Alliance

The Agrifood Alliance Western Australia (AAWA) was formed in October 2013 and is an industry driven forum for discussion and action on issues relevant to the WA agrifood sector. The purpose of AAWA is to significantly enhance the long term profitability of WA agrifood businesses through sector-wide action.

GIWA is represented on AAWA by Chair, Jon Slee. Other industry sectors represented include fruit, dairy, growers, poultry, eggs, vegetables, wine, sheep and beef. The forum is chaired by John Atkins.

The AAWA deals with issues that are common across all agrifood industries and aims to make a positive change.

AEGIC - GIWA MOU

In November, 2013 GIWA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Australia Export Grain Innovation Centre (AEGIC).

Key collaborative activities include:

- AEGIC using GIWA Councils as a forum to identify industry issues that require further research. An invitation will be extended to AEGIC staff to attend GIWA Commodity Council meetings.
- GIWA and AEGIC working together to organise commodity based forums.
- GIWA and AEGIC working together on projects of mutual interest with Individual Project Agreements as appropriate.
- GIWA and AEGIC meeting on a bi-monthly basis to review key activities and future priorities.

Both GIWA and AEGIC agree to work together towards increasing the international competitiveness of the Australia's export grains industry.

2013/2014 Grain Receival Standards

The 2013/2014 harvest saw the introduction of three changes to receival standards from last season.

Firstly, a new hindmarsh segregation was introduced. In the past, individual trading companies had Hindmarsh stacks but this season saw the introduction of a "common stack". Receivals into this segregation were managed by industry based receival standard rather than one issued by the owner of the stack.

Secondly, a change to the Malt 1 Barley Standard to 20% screenings, which was announced prior to last harvest. There will be no change to the current Malt 2 Barley Standard (which will remain at 35% screenings).

The standard of 20% screenings was a reversion to the original Malt Barley standard that was in existence prior to the deregulation of barley marketing.

The final change was the increase in test weight for all milling grades of wheat from 74 kilograms per hectolitre (kg/hl) to 76kg/h.

Growers were still able to deliver loads down to 74kg/hl and by the use of active stack management trade were guaranteed an outturn of 76kg/hl

GIWA Executive Profiles

Jonathon Slee, Chair and Chair, Oilseeds Council

Jon is the Chairman of the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) and Vice Chairman of the Australian Oilseed Federation (AOF). Jon has been a member of the AOF Executive for more than ten years as well as a key member of the AOF Technical Committee which he has recently taken on the role of Chair. Other industry roles include; three years as a member of Grain Trade Australia (GTA) standards committee and five years sitting on Curtin University Food Science advisory board.

Jon is involved commercially in the grains industry as a part owner and Director of Marketing of "Aus-Oils Pty Ltd", which operates a canola processing plant in Kojonup Western Australia, and the principal consultant for Oilseed and Protein Solutions.

Sean Powell – Deputy Chair and Chair, Wheat Council

Sean Powell has studied and worked in the Western Australian agricultural sector for the past 25 years and has been Managing Director of his family owned company for the past 20 years, based in Quairading. Sean holds and has held several positions both in the private and government sector and has diversified agribusiness interests with business experience beyond the farm gate.

Greg Kirk – Treasurer and Independent Executive Member

Greg Kirk, Managing Director of Planfarm Pty Ltd has been consulting to some of the state's leading grain growers for over twenty years. He has a keen interest in all things agricultural and in particular those unique characteristics that make the top performing farm businesses so successful. His firm provides management consulting, agronomy, grain marketing and property management services for both local and overseas investors across the state. He brings a wealth of agribusiness knowledge and experience to the GIWA committee.

Rod Birch – Chair, GIWA Pulse Council

Rod Birch has spent his working life as a specialist grains grower in the mid-north region of WA. He owns and manages a family operation that has had much experience with multiplication and bulk up of new crop seed varieties with various breeding programs. An Industry accredited Quality Assurance program is in place to cover all production processes on farm.

Rod has held a number of industry positions and involvements throughout his career. He has a passion for agriculture and has always worked towards seeing maximum value captured from our farming systems whilst being a strong believer in robust R&D programs providing future prosperity.

Will Carrington-Jones – Oat Council Chair

Will Carrington-Jones farms south of Kojonup and west of Tambellup on a mixed sheep and grain property. His family moved there in 1957 from the eastern states and started developing the largely bush block. The cropping enterprise grows oats, wheat, canola and silage totalling approx. 1600 hectares.

Will has been a member of the Western Oat Alliance and then GIWA since 2006. He has worked as a grower representative on a number of grain collaborations the most recent being the High Rainfall Project out of Katanning.

Blakely Paynter - Barley Council representative

Blakely Paynter is a Senior Research Officer at the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA). In his current role, Blakely undertakes research and analysis, combines it with data from other sources to develop technical information on the performance of new barley cultivars in response to changes in crop management and environment, technical data to support an improvement in grower profitability when growing barley by examining regionally specific issues that affect barley in the farming system, and tools / guides that assist growers, next users, breeders and the barley supply with decisions affecting barley production in Western Australia.

Susan Hall – AGI Council Representative

Susan Hall is the Project Leader of the Grower Group Alliance and a member of the GRDC Western Panel. She was recently the Chair of HARVEST – Young Agrifood Professionals Network.

Susan is passionate about contributing to the development of a skills base for agriculture and has a keen interest in change management, leadership and capacity skills as well as social entrepreneurship and innovation

Mark Sweetingham – Independent Executive Member

Mark has 30 years of continuous involvement in the Australian grains industry with a strong research and industry development track record. He has internationally recognised expertise in crop protection, crop genetics and plant biosecurity, and broad experience in grain food technology and farming systems. Mark is committed to increasing value to the Western Australian grains industry, in partnership with industry, through research, development, policy and innovation activities. Mark is currently the Acting Executive Director, Grains Directorate, Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA).

Gavin Bignell - Independent Executive Member

Gavin Bignell is originally from a grain and sheep farm in Kojonup, WA. He is now CBH Group's Kwinana Zone Manager, a Director of DailyGrain and a member of a number of industry groups.

He has worked for both grower organisations and grain marketing companies. Gavin holds a Bachelor of Agriculture Science (Hons), a Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and Investment and is a Graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program.

Chris Wilkins – Independent Executive Member

Based in Badgingarra, Chris is an agronomic and agribusiness advisor who joined the GRDC Western Panel in July, 2013. He has 22 years of experience in WA's agricultural industry, including offering farm business, agronomy, farming systems and crop protection advice through his Vision Agribusiness Services company for the past 15 years.

Chris is also a Director of one of the State's leading agricultural consultancy businesses, Synergy Consulting WA, the Chairman of the Council of Grain Grower Organisations Ltd (COGGO) and a member of WA Agriculture Minister Ken Baston's Ministerial Agricultural Advisory Council.

GIWA staff Profiles

Johanna Gastevich – Executive Officer

Johanna Gastevich commenced as the Executive Officer of GIWA in March, 2011. She has worked in the not for profit sector for the majority of her career and has over 10 years senior management experience.

Prior to joining GIWA, Johanna was Associate Director – Engineering Practice at Engineers Australia's national office located in Canberra and previous to this was the Executive Officer of the Australian Council of Built Environment Design Professions (BEDP) Limited located in Melbourne. Johanna was also the inaugural Executive Officer of the Western Australia Sustainable Energy Association (WASEA) which she helped form in 2002.

Johanna has completed a Bachelor of Business in Marketing and Communications.

Larissa Taylor – GIWA Executive Officer (Acting)

Larissa started her career in the corporate sector in agricultural banking and has subsequently worked in executive development, business development, community development and executive officer roles. Originally from a farming community in the Great Southern of WA, Larissa has lived and worked in Canberra, Sydney, Houston, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Perth. Larissa holds a BA (Asian Studies) from ANU and an MBA from the AGSM, UNSW.

Ian Longson – Business Development

Ian Longson is currently providing business development services to GIWA. Prior to June 2009 he was on the Executive team of the Department of Agriculture from 1995 to 2004, finishing up as Director General of the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food for five years from 2004 to 2009.

Prior to joining DAFWA, Ian was senior consultant and manager of the Perth Office of ACIL Consulting (now ACIL Tasman) and has also worked for the Dairy Industry Authority of Western Australia, the Asian Development Bank and early in his career as an extension adviser with the Western Australian Department of Agriculture in the South West.

Ian holds a bachelor degree in Agricultural Science from the University of Western Australia and a master's degree in agricultural marketing from the University of Guelph in Canada.

Shai Dunbar – Office Administration

Shai Dunbar started working part time for GIWA in October 2012 as the Administration Officer. She also works part time with AusChem Training WA as their recently appointed Executive Manager. Shai comes from a farming background, brought up on a Wheat and Sheep farm near Marvel Loch, WA.

Prior to joining GIWA, Shai spent 9 months back on the family farm, previous to this she was working for the Thirsty Camel Group in the head office for WA as Administrator/Retail Support for 5 years. Shai has a Certificate IV in Business Administration, Certificate III in Financial Services (Accounts Clerical) and Certificate IV in Financial Services (Accounting).

Rebecca Wallis – Project Officer, Grower Group Alliance

Rebecca commenced as Project Officer of the GGA in July 2012. Prior to the Grower Group Alliance role she worked for the Department of Agriculture and Food and CSBP. Her current role focusses on working directly with grower groups and key stakeholders to develop a network of information sharing and capacity building, along with coordinating the GGA communications.

Rebecca also sits on the APEN Management Committee as the WA representative and is a committee member of Harvest Young Agrifood Professionals Network.

Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Science (Animal Science) from the University of Western Australia, and graduated in 2010 with 1st class Honours.

Alan Meldrum – Industry Development Manager WA, Pulse Australia

Alan Meldrum commenced as the Industry Development Manager WA for Pulse Australia in 2005. Prior to this spent a number of years working at the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) in various capacities at a number of research stations located throughout WA. In 2004 he joined COGGO Seeds and was appointed the Seed Production Manager.

Alan's current role focuses on supporting the growing interest in desi chickpea in WA and to support the lupin industry with timely extension. Alan also produces the monthly Crop Report for GIWA.





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