June 2007, 20th Edition
The LFGN Newswire provides information about a range of local group activities, training, field days and funding opportunities for the benefit of local farmer groups. You are welcome to forward this Newswire to others who may be interested and encourage them to join the email list by emailing admin@lfgn.org.au. Visit www.lfgn.org.au for previous editions of Newswire.

NEW GROWER GROUP NETWORK LAUNCH IN JULY 2007
The Local Farmer Group Network and Grower Group Alliance projects will be consolidated into one project next month. The new Grower Group Network project is funded by GRDC to run from July 2007 to June 2010. Tracey Gianatti has been appointed Project Manager and will be supported by a Development Officer and an Administrator. Newswire continues on a monthly basis, with a much broader grower group focus. Please continue to forward your contributions.

KATANNING REGIONAL LFGN BREAKFAST MEETING – 10TH JULY
The regional breakfast meeting for the Great Southern was held on 1st May and attended by six group representatives. Agreeing to the need for an alliance of local groups in the Great Southern to be formed was a significant outcome from this meeting. The next meeting is planned for 10 July 2007.

GREENHILLS GROUP TO TEST NEW CANOLA
The Greenhills Production Group from York, visited UWA in April. Ten members of the group were invited by the Canola Breeders of WA to view laboratory work which involves development of molecular and tissue culture including the important double haploid tissue culture.

As a result of the meeting with CBWA, a Greenhills Group member agreed to a five hectare trial plot on his property of a new release Canola variety (Panami). This demonstration plot and the resulting data will be used to provide local advice on growing Canola varieties in the York area. Sixty per cent of the Greenhills Group are already growing Canola.

For more information on Canola or to organize a tour of the CBWA facility for your group, contact Milton Sanders on msanders@cyllene.uwa.edu.au or visit www.cbwa.net.au/CBWA/about.html

GROWING SEASON OUTLOOK
The June Growing Season Outlook is now available on the DAFWA climate web page

- ENSO state is neutral
- DAFWA’s ESS indicates a high chance of a La Niña developing
- June to August and June to October rainfall outlook for WA is average, with slightly above average for southern regions
- The north eastern wheat-belt of WA remains at most risk of below average rainfall for winter
- June to August and June to October rainfall outlook for eastern Australia is average to above average
EXPRESSN OF INTEREST FOR RIRDC ADVISORY COMMITTEES
The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) is seeking expressions of interest for a register to be used to fill future vacancies on RIRDC's Advisory Committees.

Whilst there are no specific vacancies at present, applicants will be included in a register of prospective committee members. Existing members of advisory committees may wish to be considered for different areas.

If you are interested in applying to any of the other areas of RIRDC please visit our website at http://www.rirdc.gov.au/eoi-for-advcomm.html for further information and instructions on how to apply.

SOIL HEALTH NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION
The Soil Health Extension Newsletter is now available on the Soil Quality Website www.soilquality.org.au, just click on the ‘Newsletter’ tab to open.

If you would like to find out more information about soil quality and regular information updates available through this project, please contact Jessica Sheppard on (08) 6488 3756 or jessica.sheppard@uwa.edu.au.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

2007 NUFFIELD SCHOLARSHIPS DUE 30 JUNE 2007
Nuffield scholars are granted access to the world’s best agricultural production, management and marketing systems whilst graining a global perspective on politics, cultures and the challenges of world agriculture.

Winners receive a scholarship valued at $25,000 and spend 16 weeks in various international destinations investigating agricultural marketing, trade and environmental issues and experiencing the region's social and cultural aspects.

For more information or to download an application form go to www.nuffield.com.au or phone Jim Geltch on 02 6964 6600.

ADVANCING AGRICULTURE – AGFUND APPLICATIONS DUE 16 JULY 2007
The Australian Government’s new AgFund has been set up to help primary producers manage change and improve profitability. AgFund will match funding from local producer groups of up to $50,000 to support projects that help producers tackle industry issues at the local level.

The program targets primary producer groups with an emphasis on industry resilience and development by supporting the following:-
- improve information and communication throughout the supply chain
- improve business management
- encourage innovation adoption; and
- develop leadership skills and networks
In this first round, projects which contribute to drought mitigation, preparation or recovery will be given particular consideration. For more information visit the website or contact Mike Grasby, Australian Government NRM Facilitator (08) 9333 6804 or email Michael.Grasby@csiro.au

**NIDP IN-MARKET EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIP – DUE 19 JULY 2007**

Scholarships of $12,500 are available to help managers or emerging managers from small-to-medium sized agribusiness work for 3 months to 1 year to:

- define opportunities for their product, service or technology
- fully participate in alliances
- build relationships with potential customers
- undertake business- or sector-specific courses
- gain experience in new areas of business and markets, and
- seek expert advice.

Recipients develop their own program of in-market visits and research and select courses suited to their needs. For more information on this opportunity go to the website

**FARM WATER GRANTS SCHEME - ONGOING**

Western Australian farmers are to benefit from grants totalling more than $3 million under the latest round of the State Government’s Farm Water Grant Scheme.

The scheme provides financial assistance of up to $20,000 per applicant to plan and implement a range of approved on farm water supply works and water conservation activities to overcome existing water supply deficiencies. Grants are provided to develop new water sources for domestic livestock and crop spray requirements.

The grants are available to help plan and make on-farm water supply improvements such as new dams and catchments, rainwater tanks and bore installation. The February 2007 round resulted in the approval of 210 grants totalling almost $3.4 million.

A new round of the grants scheme will be opened early in the new financial year. For more information go to [http://www.water.wa.gov.au](http://www.water.wa.gov.au) or telephone 1800 780 300.

**AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (ARLP) – DUE 31 JULY 2007**

Applications are now open for Course 15 of the Australian Rural Leadership Program. The course is hands on and demanding, it comprises some 60 days conducted over an 18 month period and involves a combination of workshops, discussions and outdoor activity, both interstate and overseas. The Program is known for its focus on experiential learning methods. Download the application.

For further information please see the website or contact the Foundation 02 62810680 email info@arlp.net.au

**AUSTRALIA POST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS – ROUND 2 APPLICATIONS DUE 14 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Improve your community’s environment and way of life. Your group’s ‘wish list’ may include undertaking a strategic project to care for the environment. Up to $3,300 is available for landcare projects through Australia Post. For more information go to


**WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES**
More details on the following workshops can be found on the LFGN website at http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities

PUBLIC SPEAKING FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS – EOI BY 30 JUNE
Would you like to improve your public speaking and communication skills? Learn how to plan and deliver a talk with high impact and low anxiety! Tom Murrell is a business educator, speech coach and author. His experience as a rural journalist and ABC executive will provide valuable tips to workshop participants.

This workshop can be run regionally, where numbers are good. For more information contact Tom 9388 6888 or tom@8mmedia.com

FARMING FOR SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS – 26 JULY 2007
The WA Farmers Federation is hosting a workshop in Kellerberrin, to discuss methods of delivering quality produce that will develop into a point of difference in the market place.

This free workshop, is being held at "The Prev", Cnr George and Wilson Streets, Kellerberrin from 9.30 am to 3.00 pm and includes a complimentary morning tea and lunch. Chance to win a laptop.

For more information contact Cheryl Wong (08) 9486 2106 or cherylwong@wafarmers.org.au or go to www.wafarmers.org.au

NEW ANNUAL LEGUMES FOR MEDIUM & LOW RAINFALL OPPORTUNITY
WA team for Pastures Australia Initiative are looking to work with local farmer groups to overcome the constraints to adoption of new annual pasture legumes in the medium and low rainfall mixed farming zone of southern Australia.

Funded under the Pastures Australia Initiative (GRDC, AWI, MLA) for three years, they are calling for expressions of interest from Local Farmer Groups for testing of these new legume species. For EOI details visit http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities

CLIMATE WEATHER WORKSHOP – MANAGING SEASONAL VARIABILITY – JULY 2007
The AcCLIMATise managing seasonal variability workshops are designed to provide farmers with a better understanding of WA weather systems, climate, soils and yield forecasting tools and how each can be integrated into a versatile management approach that allows for better management of season risk. Cameron Weeks, from Planfarm, Len van Burgel, Bureau of Meteorology and Adrian Redmond will together with various DAFWA staff provide workshops through the wheatbelt in July. Northam 9th, Merredin 10th, Hyden 11th, Katanning (am) 12th, Kojonup (pm) 12th, Mt Barker 13th, Salmon Gums (am) 17th, Esperance (pm) 17th, Calingri (am) 19th, Miling (pm) 19th Three Springs 20th.

For more information and venue contact Lisa Sherriff 08 9690 2000 or email lsherriff@agric.wa.gov.au.

SUBSOILS TEAM CONTINUE UNDERLYING TRUTH
DAFWA and UWA representatives, together with LFGN were instrumental in providing an excellent series of workshops over the last two years. Now Local Farmer Groups will have the opportunity to tap into these workshops once again. The Subsoil Constraints research team are rolling out another series of soil pit days. Over 120 soils pits have been dug across the wheatbelt in the last two years which have provided researchers with some interesting trends but more are needed. For an opportunity to participate in these workshops go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities

GRAIN MARKETING WORKSHOPS – 2007
Groups interested in improving their grain marketing skills can still register for a regional workshop in during July – August 2007. Workshops held so far have been well attended and participants impressed with the workshop format and style. Associate Professor Dennis Wise from Muresk, is an experienced grain market analyst who will host up to 10 courses throughout the West Australian grainbelt for farmer groups. For more information contact Fabiola Cousins, 08 9690 1530 or email F.Cousins@curtin.edu.au or go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities

SUCCESSION PLANNING WORKSHOPS – JUNE, JULY 2007
Introductory workshop explaining the complexities of farm transfer are being offered by the Kondinin Group. Dates are as follows:
Dowerin June 12, Northam June 13, Wagin June 26, Narrogin June 27, Albany July 10, Kojonup July 11, Moora July 24, Gingin July 25. 50% Farmbis subsidy available.

For more information 1800 657 509, training@kondinin.com.au or go to www.kondinin.com.au/training

FARMING FOR SURVIVAL AND SUCCESS WORKSHOPS - 2007
WAFarmers with industry partners are offering a series of workshops which are geared towards keeping your farming enterprise ahead of the game and sustainably tuned to developing market demands. A whole-of-farm approach helps to optimise returns over the whole farming enterprise, using land in a way that can be sustained profitably. It considers the total assets of the farm: soil, water, trees, stock, pastures, crops and wildlife, as well as available labour and financial constraints and how to make the best use of them. The workshops offer producers an opportunity to discuss and provide information on: Market drivers/signals – what’s happening now and how it relates to your farm; Benefits – what’s in it for me? Recognition for what you are already doing. One workshop has been schedule for Wallatin Production Group at Kellerberrin on 26th July 2007. For more information visit our website for a copy of the EOI or contact Cheryl Wong, EMS Project facilitator, WA Farmers 9486 2100 or email cherylwong@wafarmers.org.au Closing date 2 July 2007

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SEPT 2007
Western Australia Council of Social Science (WACOSS) and MODAL, one of Perth’s leading management and organisational development companies, have joined together to provide this cutting edge, nationally accredited community management and leadership development program (CMLDP). CMLDP is a management course designed to meet the demands placed on managers and coordinators in the community service sector. This course blends interactive learning, workplace projects, selected guest speakers and cutting edge models of management and leadership. For and information package training@wacoss.org.au or visit the web. Applications Close Friday 27th July 2007, The 2 day course commencing in September 2007.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
To view the GGA Calendar of Events go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/calendar/months

NORTH MALLEE CROP WALK 27 JUNE
Contact Andrew Longmire for further information 0428 382848.

WEST RIVER FIELD WALK 1.00 PM ON 27 JUNE
Contact Julianne Hill on 08 98381997 or email jrhill@agric.wa.gov.au

MT MADDEN FIELD WALK 9.00 AM ON 28JUNE
Meet at Neil and Deb McAllisters big shed, Hayes Rd Mt Madden
Present: Luke Marquis (FarmWorks adviser and agronomist), Svetlana Micic (Dept of Ag insects), Kith Jayasena (Dept Ag cereal diseases), Murray Whittington (CBH QA)
BBQ lunch

JERDACUTT TOP CROP AND PASTURE WALK 2.00 PM ON 28 JUNE
Meet at John and Kerry Smeetons
Present: John Holmes or Simon Teakle (United Farmers/Ravensthorpe Agencies agronomists), Neil Ballard (Ballards Seeds) – look at pasture trials; Svetlana Micic (Dept Ag insects), Kith Jayasena (Dept Ag cereal disease), Murray Whittington (CBH QA)
Drinks and BBQ to finish at West Point shearing shed, supplied by Ravensthorpe Agencies.

WANTFA POST SEEDING FIELD WALK – 3 JULY
The Honourable Kim Chance will be attending the technology demonstration site, 4km west of Meckering on the Great Eastern Hwy to support WANTFA’s trial work and view the highlights.
For more information go to www.wantfa.com.au

GRAINS WEST EXPO 2007, PERTH, 26-27 JULY 2007
The Expo will be kick started with an exciting panel session titled “beyond the rear view mirror”. Panel guest speakers include Gordon Davis CEO of AWB, Robert Green of Cargill Australia, Alick Osborne Louis Dreyfus Australia and Josh Roberts Grain Pool WA. Early bird offer closes 22 June. FarmBis will subsidise growers 50% for the cost of the workshop. Two representatives from LFGN or GGA will receive a further incentive to attend. Download program or contact John Duff or Charlene Kolman on 08 9475 0753 for further information.

‘GROWER GROUP NETWORK’ FORUM, PERTH 15-16 AUGUST 2007
The amalgamation of the LFGN and GGA will be celebrated at the first whole network forum to be held in Perth in August 2007. Two farmers from each of the GGA and LFGN groups will be asked to attend this event which will provide an opportunity to network with researchers and industry representatives as well as other groups. Make a note in the diary now. For more information contact Lisa Mayer on 08 6488 7937 or lisa.mayer@uwa.edu.au

WHEATBELT WOMEN’S DAY, 14 AUGUST 2007
Guest speaker Leanne Preston Wild Child Lady will talk about creating her own business. To be held at Bruce Rock Golf Club, entry $30 includes three course meal and wine tasting. For more information contact Lara Currie (08) 9061 1660 brucecurrie@bigpond.com

BEAUMONT BETTER FARMING GROUP TECHNOLOGY DAY, CONDINGUP, 15 AUGUST 2007
Contact John Hyatt Ph 9078 7000 or email jtdhyatt@bigpond.com. The day will have guest speakers on PA and associated technology.

NORTHERN AGRI GROUP SPRING FIELD DAY, BINNU 21 AUGUST 2007
Contact Rohan Ford Ph 99331045 or email nookanderri@bigpond.com

13TH AUSTRALIAN BARLEY TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM, FREMANTLE 26 – 30 AUGUST 2007
This event comes to WA once every 10 years. Growers are encouraged to attend and take the opportunity to network with Australia’s principal barley researchers and breeders, maltsters brewers and barley marketers.

Combining a comprehensive and informative program, the event also involves a significant networking and social element not least including a Beer Degustation Evening - “Ales and Tales” hosted by celebrated brewer Chuck Hahn of “Hahn Premium” and “Hahn Premium Light” fame -
where participants get to match different styles of beer with quality West Australian regional produce and discover new food/beverage combinations to tickle their taste buds.

For further information, go to http://www.promaco.com.au/2007/abts/ and select 'registration information' to download a registration form or call Linda Price on 0429 919 797 or email linda.price@barleyaustralia.com.au

ARAB CONFERENCE IN GERALDTON, 10 – 14 SEPTEMBER, 2007
Australia Research Assembly of Brassica is coming to Western Australia this year. This is a biennial conference for researchers, consultants and growers with a particular interest in the latest canola and mustard research and development. The Conference is being hosted by Oilseeds WA and the Department of Agriculture & Food. A field trip will include some of the grower group trials which will be established for the event. Grower groups are encouraged to participate in the field tour if not the entire conference. Go to the website for more information.

SOIL PIT DAY, KATANNING, 17 SEPTEMBER 2007
Sub Soil Constraints team will be running a soil pit day being hosted by the Katanning Landcare Group. For more information contact is Ella Maesepp 08 9821 4327 or landcarekat@westnet.com.au

NINGHAN FARM FOCUS GROUP SPRING FIELD DAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2007,
Contact Ryan Lamond 0428 50-1855 or email ryanlamond79@hotmail.com Otherwise contact Luke Sprigg 0428 470041

JERDACUTTUP TOPCROP AND PASTURE GROUP SPRING FIELD DAY - 20 SEPTEMBER, JERDACUTTUP
Contact Julie Ann Hill Ph 08 983811997 or email jrhill@agric.wa.gov.au

RAIN SPRING FIELD DAY, RAVENSTORPE - 19 SEPTEMBER 2007
Contact Jenny Chambers Ph 08 98381018 or email rlcdc@wn.com.au