Espereance Regional Breakfast
Guest speaker at this year’s second Esperance Regional Breakfast was Mr Bill (Chub) Witham from Goldfields Esperance Regional Development Commission who presented an overview of interest in biofuels in the region. A clear message from the meeting was there are opportunities for biodiesel but growers need to sort out their markets and supply first. One grower group in the region has begun a feasibility study into biodiesel and a number of multi-national companies were investigating establishing a large processing plant for biodiesel in the region.

Ninghan Field Day’s Big Success
Over 70 farmers attended the Ninghan Farm Focus Group’s Field Day, viewing two trial sites south and north of Mukinbudin which included a seeding system trial where 10 different farmer seeders were compared for crop establishment and trifluralin tolerance. For a brief outline of the day go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/2987/NinghanGrp09-06.pdf

Kellerberrin Discovers Plant Available Water
CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems successfully ran an informative day for the Kellerberrin Demonstration Group on Wednesday 4th October looking at plant available water capacity by examining three soil pits on Kit Leake’s Maley Rd property. Interestingly, the pits which were all within a 500 m radius showed a range of soil types and varied constraints to plant available water. For more information go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1531/CSIRO_Kellerberrin_Day_9_October_2006__2__.pdf

Yuna Group Fishing Competition big success
The inaugural Yuna Farm Improvement Group and Northern Agri Group fishing competition was held on Friday 6th October, with the support of Rabo Bank and the Geraldton community. Over 150 people attended the competition which had prizes for both boat and beach fishing. The group celebrated a day away from their farms and dry season in what may become an annual event according to John Warr, Yuna Group president. For more information visit http://www.lfgn.org.au/groups/northern/yuna or contact John on 08 99201070.

Soil Health Receives New Extension Support
Avon Catchment Council (ACC) together with South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team (SCRIPT) welcome Jessica Sheppard who recently commenced as Soil Health Extension Officer.
Jessica will be collating key research data and project learning’s from a range of ACC, SCRIPT and GRDC soil related projects. Working specifically in the Avon and South Coast regions, Jessica will be able to offer grower groups much needed information relating to their farming system. To get in contact with Jessica email jessica.sheppard@uwa.edu.au

Barley Yield and Screening Calculators
Grain yield is determined tiller number per square metre, the number of grains per ear and the average weight of the grains in the head. Each barley variety has a different mechanism for obtaining their yield. For example, Baudin barley crops have more tillers per square metre, fewer grains per ear and lighter grains than Gairdner barley crops growing under the same conditions,
but the two varieties may have a similar grain yield. For more information contact Blakely
Paynter, Senior Research Officer - Barley and Oats, DAFWA (08) 9690 2115

Outback Youth Infront Survey - all young people (18-35) from rural, regional and remote
Australia
This Survey is part of a research project that is being conducted by Firestarter on behalf of the
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and The Australian Outback
Development Consortium Ltd - Coordinators of the Year of the Outback. More information go to
http://www.outbackinfront.com/

The Survey will be on the site until October 14, 2006. We encourage all young people living and
working in rural, remote, regional Australia to take part - let us know your views on what it is like
to be a young person working and living in these parts of Australia.

Weeds Australia Web Update
The Weeds Australia web site has been updated to enable searching of their weed identification
tool by NRM region. You can go directly to your respective state jump off pages at WA -
http://www.weeds.org.au/wamap-nrm.htm#map

This tool is built on the WEEDeck identification cards - for details of which see

Grant Application Assistance
Some useful tips are included on this website

Is Your Group Looking for a New Old Computer – Check with CLICK
CLiCK is a community project which helps students, people who can not afford computers, and
non-profit organisations obtain computers free of charge. Many people and organisations
upgrade their computers on a continual basis and CLiCK recycles these computers.
CLiCK have now supplied computers to all four corners of our great country, if you know anyone
who is in need of assistance or would like to contribute in anyway or to donate please feel free to
contact us
CLiCK Website: http://click.regionalstudents.org

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
Study Scholarships
Students planning to undertake vocational study in 2007 with the intention of working in the
Australian grains industry are encouraged to apply for the GRDC’s one year Agricultural Training
Award (ATA) scholarships.

Each scholarship is valued at $3000. Applications for full time study, at a recognised
vocational education and training provider institution, close on Friday, October 27, 2006.

ATA application forms can be accessed at http://www.grdc.com.au/researchers/forms.htm or
contact Sonia Yanni, 02 6272 5525.

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal has been established as a partnership between
philanthropy, governments and business to stimulate rural and regional renewal in Australia. The
Foundation’s objective is “to promote for the public benefit rural and regional renewal,
regeneration and development in Australia in social, economic, environmental, and cultural
areas”.

The Foundation provides grants of up to $10,000 to help fund projects which stimulate the

**Rural and Regional Skill Shortages Incentive**
The Rural and Regional Skill Shortages Incentive aims to boost training in rural and regional Australia and provides a special commencement incentive of $1,000 for an employer in rural or regional Australia who employs an Australian apprentice in an eligible national skills needs area at the Certificate III, IV or selected higher qualification. For more information go to http://www.newapprenticeships.gov.au/employer/incentives.asp or call tollfree: 1800 639 629

**RIRDC Travel/Conference Funding**
RIRDC recognises that communications is an essential component of the process of R&D and technology transfer and has allocated funds each year to support travel to conferences and workshops where it can be shown to be of benefit to industries under RIRDC’s charter.

Applications will be accepted throughout the year, but must be accepted at least three months prior to the planned travel date. Travel funded will generally be limited to a cumulative value of $10,000 per applicant each financial year.

For more information go to http://www.rirdc.gov.au/researchpriorities/applicationguidelines.html#_Ref457721329

**RIRDC Scholarship Funding Opportunity**
For more information contact Jane Fisher on 02 6271 6498 or email: jane.fisher@rirdc.gov.au

**Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund, Landcare Australia – Applications accepted year round**
Landcare Australia and Bundaberg Rum fund community groups tackling water quality problems to improve the health of our rivers and waterways. Landcare Australia and Bundaberg Rum assess proposals based on environmental and community merits and grant applications must address water quality issues within the local area. Between $1,100 and $5,500 is available per grant. For more information go to http://www.landcareonline.com/partner.asp?partnerid=18 or contact David Hehir, phone 1800 151 105 or email david@landcareaustralia.com.au

**WORKSHOP AND PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES**

**One Day Succession Planning Workshop**
Family farms can face a bigger risk to long-term viability than climate or cash flow: a lack of planning for succession of the family business in a timely and collaborative way can unravel years of hard work and dreams. The aim of Succession Planning is to open up communication so a shared plan can be built to provide certainly and confidence in the future for all family members. For more information on how your group can organize a one day workshop with Peter Cooke from Agknowledge go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=7974

**On Farm Trials Planning Workshop – 20 October**
For more information contact Paul Carmody on 0427 997 878 or email lfgn@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

**Wide Row Spacing Field Research Workshop – EOI's by 31 October**
Any grower group interested in establishing a site with wide rows as opposed to normal row spacing in wheat are asked to express their interest in a project being hosted by DAFWA. To download the Expression of Interest form go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=8068

**Degradable Polyethylene Films for Agricultural Applications – EOI's by 15 November**
Four grower groups are being sought for participation in field trials to access the performance of photodegradable films on wheat crop yields and quality and soil moisture conservation. Dr Bronwyn Laycock from the CRC Polymers will coordinate the field trial and is also available to be a guest speaker at a group field day. For more information http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=8077

“Soil Health” Forum – EOIs by 24 November
Expressions of interest are being sought from groups in the Avon and South Coast regions who would like to hold a One Day Regional “Soil Health” Forum which will provide their members with the latest information and advice on optimizing soil health and how soil management fits into the farming system. For more information go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=8067 or contact Jessica Sheppard the ACC Soil Health Extension Officer on 08 6488 3756.

“Harvesting Dollars from Saltland” Meeting – Wednesday 25 October
For many years, saline land has been regarded as a great curse afflicting many areas of WA. But new research by the CRC Salinity is indicating that using the right techniques, saltland can actually become the most productive and profitable part of a farm.

The CRC is showcasing these latest practical research results to users. Replies for catering are needed by Friday 20 October, and should be directed to Greg Madson on 6488 2505 or gmadson@fnas.uwa.edu.au.

Everyone is welcome and there is no charge to attend. For a full programme or further information please contact WA Node Manager Richard George on 0404 819 532 or Elizabeth Wheeler on 6488 8553.

High Moisture Handling Workshop – Speeding up your harvest program – EOIs by
Just about all farmers across WA have, at some stage experienced a delay in harvest due to grain moisture levels. This workshop is aimed at helping growers understand the opportunities available to manage high moisture grain during their harvest program to protect crop yields and overall grain quality. For more information go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=8088

Group Governance DVD
Highlights from the GGA Group Governance workshop held in August this year is available to groups courtesy of LFGN and GGA. The DVD features a presentation from Nigel McGukian, RGMC on how to manage your groups and provide effective governance to sustain the group. If you would like a copy please contact Lisa Mayer (08 6488 7987) for a free copy.

GROUP TOURS & ACTIVITIES
Ravensthorpe and Surrounding Districts Tour to SA
Jerdacuttup Top Crop and Pasture Group this year, won funding for a five day tour to SA for 22 farmers from Ravensthorpe and surrounding districts. For a complete and comprehensive report on the tour go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1719/Ravensthorpe_and_Districts_Farmers_Travel_to_South_Australia.pdf or contact Julianne Hill on 9838 1997.

RAIN Field Day Tests Raised Beds and Raised Seeded Beds
Greg Hamilton, DAFWA presented the theory behind raised seeded beds on duplex soils to improve the plant root availability to explore the soil profile. The group also visited SEPWA wheat variety trials as well as a Summit fertilizer trial. For more information on this day go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1719/RAIN_Field_Day_2006_-_NLP_Demo_of_DSCT_RB.pdf

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Wallatin Wildlife and Landcare Inc. Catchment Demonstration Initiative - Open Day and Bus Tour on Wednesday 18th October 2006, at Kellerberrin/Doodlakine
See demonstrations of Lucerne, Groundwater Siphons, Deep Drainage, Groundwater pumping, Creekline riffles in the Wallatin and O’Brien Catchments as well as learn about Salinity Risk.

No charge for this event, Lunch provided. RSVP before the 13th October 2006 as places are limited. For more information contact Glenice Batchelor, Project Manager, 90454 006 or email clc@kellerberrin.wa.gov.au

Farmsafe WA Alliance – Annual General Meeting – 18th October
Commencing at 11.45 am at The Rose & Crown Hotel, Guildford. Please contact Michelle Darrington on 9354 4118 or farmsafe_eo@westnet.com.au

Beyond Biofuels Tuesday 24 October, Observation City, Perth
Conference looking at how we can add value to biofuels and their byproducts. The use of byproducts from biofuels remains one of the main challenges of the industry. For more details contact John Duff & Associates 08 9475 0753 or follow the link.

Pod to Plate - Wednesday, 25 October 2006
Mobile Workshop
- Increase canola supply chain efficiency and productivity
- Increase knowledge of other sectors in the supply chain & how each can assist the others.
- Increase the benefits of QA, traceability & IdP to all sectors
- Promote the Oilseeds Industry Develop new opportunities.
Limited to 45 places
Start 8:15 am at CBWA: Finish ~9:30 pm at CBWA
CBWA is at 1 Underwood Avenue Shenton Park. Enter carpark with signs.
Contact: Charlene Kolman or John Duff on 08 9475 0753 or email adminjd@consultag.com.au or fax to 08 9475 0322

Bioenergy Australia Conference 6th – 12th December Fremantle
More details from www.bioenergy. etc..

Check through the GGA Calendar of Events http://www.lfgn.org.au/calendar

CONTACT US
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