



# e-news

FEB 2008

## WELCOME FROM THE CEO

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Welcome to the February edition of E-News.

Already into the second month of the year and FFI CRC is now fine tuning research project proposals in readiness for the project submission deadline on 14 March. This process has involved taking direction from the Board and discussion the Management Committee to gain clarity about the nature of the proposed suite of research projects.

During the last few weeks preparations were also made for a nation-wide awareness campaign that Currie Communications will soon embark on about the CRC. The campaign will officially begin on 28 February at the Rural Press Club of Victoria where I will be speaking about FFI CRC and how our research will help Australian farmers adapt to climate change.

Other news to report includes:

- \* The FFI CRC Board of Directors met at Orange, NSW, which coincided with a new EverGraze trial site field day at Panuara located 30km south of the town (see Adoption & Commercialisation).
- \* The Second International Salinity Forum is rapidly approaching. A large contingent of people associated with CRC Salinity and FFI CRC, including more than 40 PhD students, will be presenting papers or posters. The Forum will also feature the official launch of the *Saltland Prospects* publication. For further information visit: [www.internationalsalinityforum.org](http://www.internationalsalinityforum.org)
- \* The March edition (Volume 48, Issue 4) of the Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture will be a Special Issue volume entitled *Sustainable Pastures in Marginal Environments*. This edition will exclusively feature papers written by FFI CRC researchers profiling the research results to come from of key CRC Salinity projects.

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## BUSINESS MATTERS



*FFI CRC Research Contracts Manager Julia Wilson.*

### **Research contracts**

There have been many changes in Head Office with the transition from CRC Salinity to FFI CRC, including the arrival of a number of new faces. One of these new faces that have joined the fold more recently is part-time Research Contracts Manager, Julia Wilson, who replaced Sam Dymond.

### ***Contract management***

Julia is currently working on commissioning Transitional Projects. To date, four projects have been commissioned and the rest should be completed by the end of March. Salary and operational payments to Program Leaders are currently being arranged with invoice requests expected to be sent before the end of March.

### ***Project reporting***

Project funding arrangements have changed with the transition from CRC Salinity to Future Farm Industries CRC. All FFI CRC projects are now managed by the FFI CRC Head Office in Perth. As such, all project reporting is now done through Head Office, this includes progress and milestone reports for external funding bodies. This keeps Head Office informed of your project's progress or any project changes and makes it easier to adjust our records. The new reporting process for FFI CRC projects is under development. However, the reporting process is still under development. Head office will soon inform you of these requirements and ensure that you have ample warning of the deadline. The Centric database is currently being developed to make this process easier for program and project leaders.

### ***New project development***

The new project template, associated instructions/guidelines and the assessment criteria have been updated with feedback taken from the Management Committee. The full project proposal template will be sent out on 18 February with an expected submission date of 14 March.

### ***In-kind reporting***

In-kind summary reports, that capture in-kind staff stated in the Project Summary, will be sent to Project Leaders during the next few weeks. Please ensure these lists are up to date and return them to Julia as soon as possible. In order to comply with the Participant's Agreement, in-kind contribution calculations of staff must be placed into one of four categories (further details will be sent with in-kind summary).

If you have any project related queries about in-kind, contract and project administration and/or finance, please contact Julia Wilson on (08) 6488 1846 or email: [julia.wilson@futurefarmcrc.com.au](mailto:julia.wilson@futurefarmcrc.com.au)

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## ADOPTION & COMMERCIALISATION

### Sowing the seeds of Adoption & Commercialisation



*FFI CRC Directors, senior scientists, advisers and producers engaging in the launch of the EverGraze native pasture site at Orange on 13 February.*



*FFI CRC Executive Assistant Sarah Colombera with A&C Manager, John Powell, in front of his new, flashy red commodore ute at EverGraze's Panuara field site.*

Engaging scientists, advisers and end users in project planning, start-up and ongoing operation is a fundamental principle of Adoption & Commercialisation (A&C) in FFI CRC projects. Building on the EverGraze experience, and other successful rural R&D Programs including, Adoption Manager John Powell and Node Managers Dave Bicknell (WA) Anna Dutliewicz (SA), Austin Brown (Vic) and Peter Regan (NSW) have continued to work with Program and Project Leaders to bed down A&C arrangements in new projects commencing in 2008-09.

A&C arrangements in new projects are focused on delivering the adoption and commercialisation outputs and milestones committed to in the CRC's Business Plan.

Several different types of new projects are being developed, for example:

- Farming systems
- Agronomy
- New plants
- Catchment decision tools

- o Mallee harvester

A&C arrangements being built into new projects include some or all of the following activities, with varying levels of emphasis depending on the type of project:

**A: user engagement**

This section of new project proposals covers the 'input side' of research, ie arrangements for directly engaging a subset of users, possibly hundreds, depending on the project, in planning and operation of the project. This participatory approach to research planning and operation seeks to ensure high rates of research adoption outputs by taking account the influences affecting users' adoption decisions, providing users with knowledge and products that have high relative advantage over existing technologies, and by making it easier for users to trial the knowledge and products.

**B: adoption & training**

This new project proposal section covers the first part of the 'output side' of research, ie arrangements for delivery of the research knowledge or products to a wider range of users (possibly some thousands) than those engaged directly in the operation of the research project. Adoption & training activities are 'harvest and delivery' activities and events that package research knowledge and products into extension and training materials and courses. Those materials are then directly delivered to a wide range of users through personal contact at workshops, field days, non-accredited and accredited training etc.

**C: wider communication**

This section of new project proposals covers remaining input and output aspects of the research such as increasing awareness about research progress and outputs amongst the many thousands of people interested in CRC's activities, who may not be directly participating in the research under A. above or in personal-contact harvest and delivery activities and events under B. above.

**D: commercialisation plan**

Commercialisation activities will focus on improving adoption performance which could include:

- o Packaging technologies into integrated, branded products amenable to marketing with other services
- o Training next users in using the packaged and branded products.

In addition to consulting with the Adoption Manager and Node Managers, Program and Project Leaders are also discussing the detail of proposed training, communication and commercialisation arrangements with Scott Glyde (Program Leader, Education & Training), Greg Lawrence (Communication Manager), and Mark Stickells (Commercial Director).

For further information contact:

John Powell (02) 6226 5298; [jpowell@optimalicm.net.au](mailto:jpowell@optimalicm.net.au)

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## NODE ACTIVITIES

### **SA Node**



The Profitable Perennials in the Landscape Forum (as shown above) was held in Cummins on Tuesday, 12 February. The forum was well attended by farmers, Landmark and NRM Board reps and Rural Solutions SA. Many thanks to all the speakers and for the very interesting panel discussion at the end of the day facilitated by SARDI's Jim Egan.

Stay tuned for a more detailed review of the Cummins and Minlaton forums in the next issue of E-News.

For further information contact:

\* Anna Dutkiewicz: (08) 8303 9735; [Dutkiewicz.Anna@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:Dutkiewicz.Anna@saugov.sa.gov.au)

### **WA Node**

For further information contact:

\* David Bicknell: (08) 9881 0222; [dbicknell@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:dbicknell@agric.wa.gov.au)

### **VIC Node**

For further information contact:

\* Austin Brown: (03) 9742 8728; [Austin.Brown@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Austin.Brown@dpi.vic.gov.au)

### **NSW Node**

For further information contact:

\* Peter Regan: (02) 6391 3185; [peter.i.regan@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:peter.i.regan@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

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## COMMUNICATION

### ***SALT Magazine now out***

The first FFI CRC edition of *SALT Magazine* has just been released. Unlike *Focus on Perennials*, *SALT Magazine* features a selection of in-depth case studies about farmers who have used perennial plants to reduce the impacts of salinity.

Articles featured in this edition are:

- \* [Prospects for profit from saltland](#)
- \* [Perennials a key to achieving the impossible](#)
- \* [Pasture cropping reaps financial and environmental benefits](#)
- \* [Saltland management yields high-quality results](#)
- \* [Lamb on Mallee menu](#)
- \* [Gaining ground with subtropical grasses](#)
- \* [Salt trial reaps rewards in Great Southern](#)

The complete magazine can be downloaded here:

<http://www.futurefarmcrc.com.au/documents/SALTIssue17.pdf>

### ***Focus and SALT Magazines backlog***

FFI CRC Head Office has a large collection of old and recent copies of *Focus on Perennials* and *SALT Magazines*. Copies that we would like to get rid of, so if you're short of some FFI CRC and CRC Salinity publications in your reception area or library, contact the Communications Branch and ask for some copies to be posted out.

### ***What's new on the web?***

The WA Science Network has recently published an article about SGSL's work on the dietary impact of saltbush on sheep. In particular, the article focuses on the work done by FFI CRC researcher Hayley Norman (CSIRO) into vitamin E levels in sheep.

- \* The WA Science Network article can be viewed here: [http://www.sciencewa.net.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2012&Itemid=587](http://www.sciencewa.net.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2012&Itemid=587)

For further information contact:

\* Greg Lawrence: (08) 6488 7353; [greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au](mailto:greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au)

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## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### ***P1 Future Livestock Production***

For further information about Future Livestock Production contact

\* Joe Jacobs: (03) 5561 9946; [joe.jacobs@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:joe.jacobs@dpi.vic.gov.au)

### ***P2 Future Cropping Systems***

For further information contact

\* Alison Bowman: (02) 6938 1628; [alison.bowman@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.bowman@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

### ***P3 New Woody Crop Industries***

For further information contact

\* Mike Bennell: (08) 8303 9674; [bennell.mike@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:bennell.mike@saugov.sa.gov.au)

### **P4 Farming Saline Landscapes**

For further information contact

\* Ed Barrett-Lennard: (08) 9368 3441; [egbarrettlennard@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:egbarrettlennard@agric.wa.gov.au)

### **P5 Biodiversity & Water**

For further information contact

\* Ken Wallace: (08) 9334 0341; [ken.wallace@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:ken.wallace@dec.wa.gov.au)

### **P6 Economic, Social & Policy Analysis**

For further information contact

\* Bill Malcolm: (03) 8344-5015; [b.malcolm@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:b.malcolm@unimelb.edu.au)

### **P7 Education & Training**

\* For more information about our new postgraduates contact the Education Manager, Daryll Richardson. [drichardson@agaveeducation.com.au](mailto:drichardson@agaveeducation.com.au)

For further information about Education & Training contact

\* Scott Glyde: (02) 6933 2385; [sglyde@csu.edu.au](mailto:sglyde@csu.edu.au)

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## SNIPPETS

### **FFI CRC Receptionist appointed Equity Officer**



*Greg Madson at the FFI CRC launch in July 2007.*

FFI CRC Head Office Receptionist Greg Madson has been appointed by the University of Western Australia (UWA) as an Equity and Diversity Adviser for 2008.

Equity and Diversity Advisers play two important roles within UWA. They are the first line of advice and referral for staff and students who may have a query or wish to raise an issue. Secondly, they act as an 'ambassador' for equity and diversity issues within their organisational unit, in this case FFI CRC.

Congratulation to Greg on his appointment!

## Oil Mallee Conference

The Oil Mallee Association will hold its National Oil Mallee Conference at the Vines Resort, Perth, on the 14 March. The conference will discuss such hot topics as carbon sequestration, bio-energy and sustainable farming from integrated mallee farming systems.

For more information, conference program details or to register contact:

Phone: 1800 625 51; [info@oilmallee.com.au](mailto:info@oilmallee.com.au) or visit: [www.oilmallee.com.au](http://www.oilmallee.com.au)

## Australian Museum Eureka Prizes



### Eureka Prizes

Presented annually by the Australian Museum, the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes reward excellence in the categories of Research & Innovation; Science Leadership; School Science; and Science Communication & Journalism.

This year there are the brand new categories of:

- Action Against Climate Change (School Science)
- Taxonomic Research (Research & Innovation)
- Research in support of Defence or National Security (Research & Innovation)

For further information about the prizes and how to enter, go to:

[www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka) or email [eureka@austrim.gov.au](mailto:eureka@austrim.gov.au)

FFI CRC welcomes and supports any nominations made by staff through their associated agencies.

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## COMING EVENTS

### FFI CRC Participants meeting

**23 April, Melbourne**

email: [sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au](mailto:sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au)

### FFI CRC Management Committee meeting (teleconference)

**3 March**

email: [sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au](mailto:sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au)

### FFI CRC Board meeting

**23 May, Sydney**

email: [sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au](mailto:sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au)

### National Oil Mallee Conference

**14-15 March 2008, Perth**

email: [info@oilmallee.com.au](mailto:info@oilmallee.com.au)

**Science meets Parliament**

18-19 March 2008, Canberra

**WA Farmers Annual Conference**

26-28 March, Perth

email: [ChrisMarris@wafarmers.org.au](mailto:ChrisMarris@wafarmers.org.au)

**2nd International Salinity Forum**

31 March - 3 April 2008, Adelaide

[www.internationalsalinityforum.org](http://www.internationalsalinityforum.org)

**21st International Grassland Congress and 8th International Rangelands Conference**

29 June - 5 July 2008, Huhot, China

[www.rangelandcongress.com](http://www.rangelandcongress.com)

**14th Australian Society of Agronomy Conference**

21-25 September 2008, Adelaide

[www.agronomy.org.au/2008](http://www.agronomy.org.au/2008)

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Feedback is always welcome [greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au](mailto:greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au)