



Future Farm News

Newsletter of the Future Farm Industries CRC

February 2009

In this issue ...

CRC briefing for the Eyre Peninsula NRM Region

Dinner celebrates Saltland Genie success

Harvester engineer announced

Head Office News

PhD students get media trained

Applications now due for AW Howard Memorial Trust Grants

New Weed Risk Research Officer

Grower Group Scholarships granted

Fresh Science 2009 nominations now open

2009 Banksia Environmental Awards now open

Coming Events



CRC briefing for the Eyre Peninsula NRM Region

A regional FFI CRC briefing will take place on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula (EP) early next month. Sponsored by the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board, SARDI and the Department of Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation, this workshop will showcase current projects and new collaborative opportunities within FFI CRC including:

- Enrich fodder shrub trials including the Elbow Hill site, in collaboration with the EP Board (SARDI)
- New resilient perennial forage legumes (SARDI)
- Adoption constraints of lucerne on the EP (SARDI)
- The Saltland Knowledge Exchange - what is it and what can it do for you

Dinner celebrates Saltland Genie™ success



Warren Mason receives a token of appreciation from Ed Barrett-Lennard and colleagues for his contributions to developing the Saltland Genie and SGSL program.

A celebratory dinner in Albury this month officially recognised the contributions made by the *Saltland Genie™* reference group in making the website.

Held at the Lake Hume Resort, the dinner brought together former Saltland Genie Reference Group members Warren Mason (RPC Solutions), Gabrielle Sheehan (Currie Communication), Renelle Jeffrey (AWI), Ed Barrett-Lennard (DAFWA), Bruce Munday (Clear Connections), Nick Edwards (SARDI) and Karen Trapani (Lcubed).

Part of the evening's proceedings was an acknowledgement to Warren Mason for his efforts in overseeing the development of the *Saltland Genie* and as leader of the *Sustainable Grazing on Salt Land (SGSL)* Program in the former CRC Salinity. In appreciation of his contribution, Warren was presented with a framed *2007 CRCA Awards* agenda signed by everyone from the former SGSL and CRC Salinity members at the awards dinner.

The *2007 CRCA Awards Night* represented an important milestone for SGSL Project which took out the *Excellence in Innovation* award. After receiving his gift, Warren made

(SARDI).

This workshop coincides with an Advisory Board of Agriculture's workshop on Responding to Climate Variability at the local level.

NRM Board staff, farmer groups, land managers, consultants, agronomists and NRM advisors interested in new technologies are encouraged to attend. The workshop is free and lunch will be provided.

When: 3 March 2009

Where: Cleve Golf Club, Cleve

Other Briefings will be held in Adelaide (Plant Research Centre Urrbrae) on 13 March and in Kingscote, Kangaroo Island, on 30 March.

Register online [here](#).

Please note the Northern and Yorke NRM Regional Briefing scheduled for 27 February at the Farm Shed, Kadina has been cancelled.

For more information email [Anna](#).



Head Office News



Mark Stickells(left) enjoys a farewell drink with CRC Board Member Michael Poole(right).

- Mark Stickells finished up as the CRC's Commercial Director on the 24 February with a farewell gathering at University of Western Australia (UWA) Club. Mark leaves the UWA after 14 years of employment to become the CEO of the [WA Energy Research Alliance](#)
- CEO Kevin Goss has recently presented a paper at the [Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society \(AARES\) 53rd Annual Conference](#) at Cairns, Queensland, on Friday 13 February entitled *Future Farming Industries of*

special mention to the late Kim Mitchell whose enthusiasm and inspiration helped create the *Saltland Genie*.

Early audit figures for the *Saltland Genie* indicate that the site has already been a great success with more than 100 hits on the site per week.



Harvester engineer announced

[Biosystems Engineering](#) has been appointed by FFI CRC to undertake design and manufacture of the first prototype mallee harvester as part of the CRC's *Woody Crop Harvesting Systems* project.

The appointment of Biosystems Engineering is part of a \$1.5 million Low Emission Energy Development (LEED) funding agreement with the Western Australian Government to develop a fully commercial mallee harvester.

Discussions are already underway with a global agricultural machinery manufacturer to provide assistance in the design and production of harvester parts.

As part of this agreement, the CRC is currently seeking private partners to provide additional investment in the development and commercialisation of the harvester. For more information, read the [Investors Needed to launch WA's Oil Mallee Industry brochure](#).



PhD students get media trained



Confident FFI CRC PhD student Tom Giles answering questions at a recent CRC media training workshop.

PhD students now have a better insight into how the media operates thanks to a series of media training workshops held this month.

As part of these workshops, students were taught how to make their research more appealing to the media after been given helpful tips by former journalists. They were

Australia

- The first FFI CRC Board meeting of the year was held in Adelaide on 16 and 17 of February, that featured a strategic review workshop on the first day and a board business meeting on the following day
- Last week a Head Office delegation visited the recently appointed Agribusiness Director, Scott Glyde, at the CRC's new satellite office located at Charles Sturt University (CSU) Wagga Wagga campus. While at Wagga Wagga, Kevin Goss also met with CRC Participant representatives, Deirdre Lemerle (CSU), Len Banks (Department Environment and Climate Change NSW) and Rob Young (Department of Primary Industries NSW).



New Weed Risk Research Officer

Dr Heather Clarke, from the WA-based Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture, will replace Dr Lynley Stone as the CRC's Weed Risk Research Officer until the end of the year while Lynley goes on maternity leave.

During her secondment, Heather will be based at the WA Department of Environment and Conservation. During that time **Heather** can be contacted on (08) 9334 0313.



Grower Group Scholarships granted

University of Western Australia fourth-year agricultural science students, Tristan Cornwall and Nadine Hollamby, have been awarded the *2009 Grower Group Alliance Student Scholarships*.

Aimed at creating closer partnerships between undergraduate students and grower groups, the two scholarships are awarded annually on the basis of the applicant's honours research project idea, its ability to be linked with a grower group and its relevance to current agricultural industry needs.

Tristan's project will screen some registered herbicides applied immediately before sowing, for

then interviewed about their research to get some firsthand experience in dealing with the media.

Many thanks to Education Manager Daryll Richardson, Currie Communications and the UWA Science Communications Branch in organising these successful workshops.



Applications now due for AW Howard Memorial Trust Grants

The AW Howard Memorial Trust is currently seeking applications for research scholarships and travel grants.

The Trust annually awards three grants relating to pasture research:

- Up to \$3500 annually on **travel grants** to assist scientists undertaking overseas study tours and participating in international conferences
- **Research fellowships** in the form of top up postgraduate stipends of \$5000 per annum up to three years
- **Grants-in-aid** up to \$5000 to Australian organisations, associations, communities or persons that seek financial aid for projects relating to pasture research.

The AW Howard Memorial Trust was established by the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science (now AIAST) in 1964 to commemorate the unique contribution of Amos Howard in the use of subterranean clover as a pasture plant in Australia.

The Trust aims to encourage and promote research and investigation in the fields of natural science and social science, including economics which relate to the development, management and use of pastures.

Applications close 26 March 2009.



Fresh Science 2009 nominations now open

If you're an early-career scientist (less than five years out of completing a PhD) with some recent peer-reviewed results and think you can tell an interesting story about it, then you may want to consider nominating for *Fresh Science 2009*.

use with low disturbance disc seeders, to establish crop safety and weed control efficacy, in collaboration with the Western Australian No-Till Farming Association (WANTFA). Nadine's project will focus on a new salt-tolerant wheat created by crossing bread wheats with sea barleygrass, comparing a new amphiploid to current wheat varieties, as part of the CRC's *Salt-tolerant cereal* project.

For more information, contact [Susan Hall](#) on (08) 6488 7937.



Fresh Science 2009 will be held in Melbourne either the last week in May or the first week of June 2009 – check their [website](#) to confirm details.

Fresh Science is a national competition that identifies new and interesting research being done by early-career scientists around the country and releases their stories to the media.

Nominations close 5pm Thursday 19 March 2009.

2009 Banksia Environmental Awards

Nominations are open for *the 2009 Banksia Environmental Awards* – Australia's most prestigious awards, which includes the *Mercedes-Benz Australian Environmental Research Award*.

The *Mercedes-Benz Australian Environmental Research Award* is given for significant contribution to understanding, or resolving local or global environmental problems through research. There is also an opportunity to apply for a *Brian Robinson Fellowship* with up to \$30,000 awarded for entrants under the age of 35 who are seeking funding in the field of sustainability.

Banksia has a range of other awards categories that can be viewed on their [website](#). To find out more telephone: (03) 9699 5070 or email owen@banksiafdn.com.

The Banksia Environmental Foundation was established in 1989 as a national not-for-profit organisation to promote environmental excellence and sustainability through its Awards program and other associated events.



Coming Events

National Outlook Conference

3-4 March 2009, Canberra, ACT

Further information: www.abareconomics.com/outlook

Climate 21 Conference

27 March 2009, Perth, WA

Email: cllewellyn@agric.wa.gov.au

Further information: www.agric.wa.gov.au/content/lwe/cli/Climate21Brochure.pdf

WA Farmers Annual Conference

25-27 March 2009, Perth, WA

Email: chrismarris@wafarmers.org.au

The NSW Sustainable Development Conference 2009

1-2 April 2009 Dockside Convention Centre, Sydney, NSW

Email: scott.mckinnon@halledit.com.au

Further information: www.halledit.com.au/nswsdc

2009 CRCA Conference

May 2009, Canberra, ACT

Email: ceo@crca.asn.au

Further information: www.crca.asn.au

National Farmers' Federation National Congress

22-23 June 2009, Brisbane Qld

Email: nff2009@consec.com.au

Further information: www.congress.nff.org.au

2009 APEN Conference

11-13 November 2009, Busselton, WA

Further information: www.apen.org.au

You are receiving this email because you asked to be subscribed or are some way involved with Future Farm Industries CRC. To unsubscribe or provide feedback email: greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au