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In this issue ...

[FFI CRC appoints Agribusiness Director](#)

[FFI CRC Regional Engagement begins in SA 2009](#)

[Mark moves on](#)

[EverGraze puts native pastures to the test at Panuara](#)

[Old Man Saltbush takes root in Argentina](#)

[Presenters wanted for WA Changing Environments Conference](#)

[Latest copies of *Future Farm* and *Focus on Perennials* now out](#)

[Coming Events](#)



[FFI CRC Regional Engagement begins in SA 2009](#)

The FFI CRC Perennial Connection Team in SA, which consists of Anna Dutkiewicz and Trevor Dooley, have organised a series of Regional Briefings in SA (at Cleve, Kadina, Murray Bridge, Naracoorte and Adelaide) as an 'exposition' of the FFI CRC research projects and provide key stakeholders (the Regional Advisor Networks) with opportunities to engage with the CRC in SA.

The FFI CRC briefings will be held in conjunction with in the Ag Bureau workshop on 'Responding to Climate Variability at the Local Level', organised by Craig Liddicoat, Rural Solutions SA, tel: (08) 8303 9342. This workshop will be held in the morning at the same venue, with the FFI CRC briefing to follow after lunch.

FFI CRC SA Regional Briefing Schedule

FFI CRC appoints Agribusiness Director



Scott Glyde (above) has been appointed as the FFI CRC Agribusiness Director, a new executive position that will oversee the Centre's national adoption, education and training activities.

In the newly created position, Scott will remain at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga with the CRC increasing its on-campus presence where possible. He will start in his new role on 2 February.

Scott's appointment highlights the importance the CRC places on adoption and training in achieving effective research uptake. Being located at Wagga Wagga will go a long way to creating a greater CRC presence in the eastern states.

Scott will continue in his complementary role as Education and Training Program Leader for the CRC.

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EverGrazeTM puts

Region	Venue	Date 2009
SE	Naracoorte Town Hall	Feb 10
SA MDB	Function room, Murray Bridge Race Course	Feb 24
N&Y	Kadina - The Farm Shed	Feb 27
EP	Cleve Golf Club	March 3
KI/AMLR	Adelaide, Waite Plant Research Centre	March 13

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Mark moves on

Next month will see the departure of the CRC's Commercial Director, Mark Stickells, to take up the position as CEO for the WA Energy Research Alliance - an organisation with a research and education focus within the State's petroleum sector.

Mark first came to the then Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity in 2001. Since then he has played a crucial role in overseeing the commercial and business functions of both CRCs. In particular, he has made an outstanding contribution to the business case and establishment of FFI CRC, and more recently as Company Secretary.

Mark's undoubted qualities as a business leader are highly respected by his colleagues the CRC's participants and directors. This was recognised with the accolade of the 2007 40 under 40 business award.

Mark will be missed by many who have worked with him at the CRC over the years and we wish him all the success in his new position.

native pastures to the test at Panuara



Native pastures were put to the test at the recent Panuara EverGraze Field Day.

Visitors recently had a glimpse at the early stages of research into the effects of different grazing intensities on native perennial pastures as part of an *EverGraze* Field Day at Panuara Proof Site in the Central tablelands of NSW.

About 65 people attended the day, which began with a pasture identification exercise entitled 'Paddock Plants,' where visitors learnt how to recognise desirable and undesirable native perennial species. This was followed by an opportunity to view the different treatments featured at the Proof Site – high, medium and low intensity grazing systems.

Despite the site being very young with only limited results to date, producers were still keen to see and discuss the likely impacts of different grazing systems on native pastures. *EverGraze* researchers also provided a demonstration that simulated rainfall impact on the pasture surface to show how one natural resource impact can be measured at the site.

For further information about the Panuara Proof Site contact [Luke Beange](#).



Old Man Saltbush Takes Root in Argentina

Interest in Australia's iconic shrub, Old Man Saltbush, has spread to the deserts of Argentina.

During a recent visit, FFI CRC pasture researcher Dr Jason Emms (SARDI) had the opportunity to view extensive testing of the shrubs in the Monte Desert region.



Presenters wanted for WA Changing Environments Conference

The WA-based Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) is currently looking for presenters on a range of topics to address the conference theme, *Changing Environments*, within the four areas of environment, economics, culture and society.

The Conference will be held from 27-30 October in Geraldton and will feature:

- * Plenary sessions (up to 40 minutes) – on any subject which fits the theme
- * The 'Can We Help' Panel – technical and broad based useful knowledge
- * A 'Poster Parade' - an avenue of posters will feature projects across the State that will be complemented by short presentations from the project managers.

For more information contact [Jackie Gill](#)

Dr Emms said the Argentine Institute of Agricultural Technology had been seriously testing the shrub and comparing its performance against cactus in the dry and arid areas of the Monte Desert region as forage for goats.

“Argentines face similar issues to Australian graziers - a shortage of feed quality and quantity at the end of the dry season, and Old Man Saltbush, is a means to fill that gap,” he said.

“For many years we looked to Europe to find answers for pasture varieties, but we are now making a concerted effort to develop our indigenous pasture resources.”

Dr Emms said the shrub had already been grown in South Africa and Chile for years. Now Argentine interest offers the opportunity for collaborative research with the CRC.

SARDI, through the FFI CRC's *EnrichTM* Project, is developing knowledge on the productive potential of many saltbush species and there is enormous opportunity in these well-adapted local species.



Latest copies of Future Farm and Focus on Perennials now out

The December editions of [Focus on Perennials](#) and [Future Farm](#) magazines are now out. Digital copies of both magazines, in their entirety or as individual articles, can be downloaded from the CRC's [Publications webpage](#). Alternatively, you can email [Greg Lawrence](#) to have copies mailed out.



Coming Events

AARES 53rd Conference

11-13 February 2009, Cairns, Qld

Salinity Exchange Conference

19-20 February 2009, Albury, NSW

Further information: www.murray.cma.nsw.gov.au

National Outlook Conference

3-4 March 2009, Canberra, ACT

Further information: www.abareconomics.com/outlook

2009 WANTFA Conference
4 March 2009, Swan Valley, WA
Email: kaye@wantfa.com.au

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

2009 APEN Conference
9-12 November 2009, Busselton, WA
Further information: www.apen.org.au

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