



FUTURE FARM
INDUSTRIES CRC

e-news

June 2008

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Welcome from the CEO

A standout feature of our CRC is the strong commitment to having a 'Paths to Adoption' for our key farming systems and perennial plant technologies from day one. This requires leadership, coordination, resources and good internal relationships with R&D, and education and training.

I'm really pleased to announce we now have an adoption manager in each State (David Bicknell, Anna Dutkeiwicz, Austin Brown and Peter Regan) reporting to a National Adoption Manager (John Powell). This Perennial Connections team will do just that – connect projects to paths to adoption for the life of the CRC.

It's important we all understand and benefit from these changes. This will be helped by John Powell's other task – to draft an *Adoption & Commercialisation* (A&C) strategy for the Board of Directors consideration on 19-20 August.

I invite all people in the CRC to support the adoption managers in their new roles.

* Kevin Goss: (08) 6488 2555; kevin.goss@futurefarmcrc.com.au

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Business matters

We are currently working with Centric to implement effort reporting. This means some participant administration contacts, Program Leaders and project leaders will start receiving emails from our new system. Your patience is appreciated as we set up the system, and any queries can be directed to Christina and Julia.

The CRC survived its first stage audit from KMPG in May. The second visit will take place in August when we've prepared our annual financial statements.

Julia has recently contacted all project leaders to obtain a progress or final report and begin the process for commissioning the new suite of foundation projects in 2008-09.

Christina Sanderson returned in late May from a two week holiday in Phuket, refreshed and ready to tackle year-end.

Julia Wilson recently completed a 'green' procurement program as a part of her commitment to ensuring that the CRC's office is sustainable.

* For more information about CRC business activities email:
julia.wilson@futurefarmcrc.com.au or
christina.sanderson@futurefarmcrc.com.au

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Adoption & Commercialisation

Node Managers become Adoption Managers

Following a recent meeting in Melbourne and subsequent approval by CEO, **Kevin Goss**, 'Node Managers' are now known as 'Adoption Managers'.

National Adoption Manager **John Powell**, Commercial Director **Mark Stickells**, Landmark's National Farm Services Manager **Bruce Cairns**, and the then State Node Managers **Dave Bicknell**, **Anna Dutkiewicz**, **Austin Brown** and **Peter Regan** met in Melbourne on 4-5 June.

The main business of the meeting was to consider progressing development of an *Adoption and Commercialisation (A&C) Strategy* as directed by the Board at its meeting on 20 May. Also on the agenda was a *Regional Partnerships Strategy* to foster research and adoption partnerships with regional NRM organisations and industry groups. The *Regional Partnerships Strategy* will be part of the overall *A&C Strategy*.

Development of the *Regional Partnerships Strategy* was proposed by CRC representatives and agreed by the Adoption and Commercialisation Consultative Panel in Perth last April.

During the discussions in Melbourne, it became apparent that the title 'Node Managers' (as they were called in CRC Salinity) did not truly reflect the roles and responsibilities of these positions in the FFI CRC.

In the FFI CRC Node Managers report to Adoption Manager **John Powell**, and lead and coordinate adoption activities in their respective regions, which may transcend State boundaries. They have a valuable mix of skills in extension and research. Their previous role in coordinating and reporting on in-kind contributions to research projects within State Nodes is now covered by FFI CRC Participants' reporting arrangements.

After considerable deliberation, the Node Managers decided that they should be referred to as 'Adoption Managers' with John Powell as the National Adoption Manager.



Dave Bicknell, Adoption Manager WA, zooms into the CRC adoption activities at Tammin recently!

Perennial Connections Team established

The Melbourne meeting also formalised the Perennial Connections Team to further develop and implement the *A&C Strategy* and its subsidiary strategies and actions. Until now, this group has been loosely referred to as the A&C team.

The Perennial Connections Team comprises:

- * **John Powell**, National Adoption Manager (Leader)
- * **Kevin Goss**, CEO
- * **Mike Ewing**, Research Director
- * **Mark Stickells**, Commercial Director and Company Secretary
- * **Greg Lawrence**, Communication Manager
- * **Dave Bicknell**, Adoption Manager, WA
- * **Anna Dutkiewicz**, Adoption Manager, SA
- * **Austin Brown**, Adoption Manager, Vic
- * **Peter Regan**, Adoption Manager, NSW.

For further information contact:

- * John Powell: (02) 6226 5298; jpowell@optimalicm.net.au

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Adoption activities

SA

As part of implementing the CRC's *A&C Strategy*, a series of regional engagement briefings are being planned for the State.

The briefings will outline new CRC research and invite feedback and participation from a range of 'next users'.

Participation will most likely take the form of offering trial sites, monitoring of trials, and serving on reference panels, seeking training, organising local events, and planning adoption strategies.

For further information contact:

- * Anna Dutkiewicz: (08) 8303 9735; Dutkiewicz.Anna@saugov.sa.gov.au

WA

For further information contact:

- * David Bicknell: (08) 9881 0222; dbicknell@agric.wa.gov.au

VIC

For further information about the Victorian Node contact:

- * Austin Brown: (03) 9742 8728; Austin.Brown@dpi.vic.gov.au

NSW

For further information contact:

- * Peter Regan: (02) 6391 3185; peter.j.regan@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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Communication

Future Farm magazine now out



The first edition of the CRC's new-look Future Farm Magazine comes out this month

Future Farm Magazine (known as *Future Farm*), follows on from the legacy of *SALT Magazine* by profiling the personal stories of farmers who have successfully incorporated perennials into their enterprises to improve productivity and reduce salinity.

* Copies of the magazine will soon be available for download from:
<http://www.futurefarmcrc.com.au/publications.html>

CRC PhD research into native shrub antibiotic potential hits the news

Research by **Peter Hutton**, a recent University of Western Australia PhD graduate funded by the CRC has been generating some media interest of late. His research has shown chemicals in native shrubs could replace antibiotics included in grain feed to reduce lactic acidosis in sheep.

* <http://theland.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/wool/general/native-plants-could-cure-sheep-stomach-aches-from-grain/784760.aspx>

For further information about the CRC's ongoing communication activities contact:

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

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Program activities

P1 Future Livestock Production

For further information contact:

* Joe Jacobs: (03) 5561 9946; 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

P3 New Woody Crop Industries

Rick Giles (DEC WA) is making excellent progress in setting up the challenging *FP16 Woody Crop Harvest System* project. We are in advanced discussions with at least one mechanical engineering firm and subject to winning a major external funding grant, we should have a 'go' decision by 30 June.

Bertram Ostendorf (U Adel) and Mike Bennell (DWLBC SA) are working on a revised Phase 1 plan to scope the *FP14 Woody Crop Spatial Productivity* project. This project will assess the feasibility of large-scale woody biomass production and/or carbon bio-sequestration in medium-low rainfall environments and their integration with the other major enterprises on the farm.

John Bartle's (DEC WA) *New Industries and Marketing* Continuing project has reported successful trial manufacture of panel board blended with mallee wood chips.

Expressions of interest for Program 3 Leader closed last Monday. I look forward to announcing a decision by 27 June.

For further information contact:

* Kevin Goss: (08) 6488 2555; kevin.goss@futurefarmcrc.com.au

P4 Farming Saline Landscapes

For further information contact:

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

P5 Biodiversity & Water

For further information contact:

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

P6 Economic, Social & Policy Analysis

For further information contact:

* David Pannell: (08) 6488 4735; david.pannell@uwa.edu.au

P7 Education & Training



NSW EverTrain members give their SA colleagues a helping hand

In May, NSW DPI Advisory Officers **Damien Doyle** and **Tania Midgley** met with SA *EverTrain* project members to support the development of a locally relevant salinity training program by sharing their training knowledge, experience and resources.

NSW DPI has delivered accredited salinity training across NSW since 2003.

For two days, the *EverTrain* team (pictured above) discussed how the NSW training and assessment framework can be adapted to SA and toured some of the SA-based CRC research sites including the *Enrich* site at Monarto.

NSW DPI, in their role as the *EverTrain* National Assessment Team, will continue to assist their South Australian counterparts, including getting them ready to train up Landmark agronomists and NRM board staff in late August.

Participants:

- * **Andrew Harding** – Senior Soil and Land Management Consultant, Rural Solutions SA
- * **Leighton Pearce** – SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board
- * **Tania Midgley** – Advisory Officer (Salinity) NSW Department of Primary Industries
- * **Damien Doyle** – Advisory Officer (Salinity) NSW Department of Primary Industries
- * **Anna Dutkiewicz** – Senior Project Officer NRM (Salinity) Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation; SA Node Manager, Future Farm Industries CRC

For further information about Education & Training contact:

- * Scott Glyde: (02) 6933 2385; sglyde@csu.edu.au

For more information about CRC postgraduate students and activities, contact the Education Manager:

- * Daryll Richardson: (07) 5446 6094; drichardson@agaveeducation.com.au

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Snippets

Calling young innovators



If you are a young scientist wanting to explore an emerging scientific issue or create a new industry innovation, then fill out an application for the 2008 Australian Agricultural Industries Young Innovators and Scientists Awards.

Created by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, award winners can receive up to \$20,000 each to undertake a 12-month project related to agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food and natural resource management industries. One winner will also be recommended to receive the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Award, valued at an additional \$30,000, to advance their research outcomes and career aspirations.

To apply, download an application and return it to the Bureau of Rural Sciences by Monday 14 July 2008.

* For more information about the awards and to download an application, go here: <http://www.daff.gov.au/brs/science-awards>

John's efforts in developing a weed-risk protocol recognised by CRC



John Virtue (left) receives his CRC Salinity Award of Appreciation from CRC Weed CEO, **Rachel McFadyen** (centre), and FFI CRC Researcher, **Lynley Stone** (right), at a recent CRC Weed meeting in Cairns

Recently recognised by the CRC has been the outstanding contributions made by weed ecologist, **John Virtue** (CRC Weed), in the development of an environmental weed risk management strategy for the former CRC for

Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity (CRC Salinity).

John's involvement in developing the strategy began in the early project development stages within CRC Salinity, which included being a panel member for the interview process that employed the still-resident project scientist, **Lynley Stone**.

"Since my appointment, John has continued to provide input right through to the implementation phase of the strategy," Lynley said.

"He has been generous with his time and provided a wealth of knowledge to the development of the CRC's weed-risk assessment, including participating on a technical committee that oversaw weed risk-assessment quality."

The *Weed Risk Protocol* developed by CRC Salinity is still used by FFI CRC researchers to assess the environmental weed risk of species being considered for inclusion in new dryland forage systems.

The CRC would especially like to acknowledge John's vital contribution for the past four years and welcome him in his continuing role as a weed risk technical committee member for the new CRC.

Thank you John.

Innovation Generation – a conference for young agribusiness professionals



Innovation Generation is a conference targeted at young professionals (18-35) aimed at providing them with an opportunity to learn about important issues they face in agriculture today and the future.

Presented by Grains Growers Association (GGA), Innovation Generation will be held in Griffith, NSW from 16-18 July 2008.

Conference speakers include:

- * Nestlé Australia Limited - consumer trends
- * Shane Azzi, Supply Chain Manager - Mars Petcare Company
- * Christine Campbell, Executive Chairman - Twynam Agricultural Group
- * Masaaki Nagasawa, Managing Director - Hakubaku - Japanese noodle company
- * Mel Taylor, Operations and Marketing Manager - National Grower Register (NGR)
- * Michael Romano, Compliance Manager - Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)
- * Geoff Honey - National Australian Commodities and Marketing Association (NACMA)
- * Dougal Hunter, Market Development Executive - Agricultural Derivatives ASX Ltd
- * Haydn Kuchel, Senior Wheat Breeder - Australian Grain Technologies (AGT).

For more information visit: www.graingrowers.com.au

CRC PhD research profiled at UWA Institute of Agriculture showcase

Two CRC PhD students recently gave feature presentations at UWA's Institute of Agriculture Postgraduate showcase.

Natasha Teakle and **Richard Bennett** were one of eight presenters showcased by the Institute to demonstrate its commitment in fostering innovative agricultural research.

At the showcase, Richard provided an overview on his research into assessing the potential of native legumes in the genus *Cullen* to be included in new grazing systems. Natasha provided an overview of her research into finding the genes responsible for the salt and waterlogging tolerance exhibited by the narrow-leaved bird's foot trefoil or *Lotuis tenuis*.

Other presentations given on the day covered such topics as grainbelt drainage and on-farm animal welfare.

* For more information about the Institute, visit their website at: www.ioa.uwa.edu.au

Head office has tree planting day on the Cottesloe coast



The CRC Head Office crew down at Cottesloe Beach

Team building was the order of the day as CRC Head Office staff gave the Cottesloe Coastal Care Association a helping hand by planting around 200 trees along a part of the Cottesloe coastal strip known as Dutch Inn.

The bright and sunny Perth winter day saw the team, who are more familiar working with a computer or a photocopier, don a pair of gloves, grab a bucket or pick up a shovel and plant a variety of hardy native plants suited to the harsh coastal environment.

Controlling the enthusiasm was Cottesloe Coastcare Association's Sue Freeth who made sure the team was trained up with the right tree planting skills. However, **Mike Ewing's** hole digging abilities soon became apparent as he set about effortlessly creating wide, bowl-shaped holes ready to capture rain for the young plants. Mike also just happens to be Chair of the Cottesloe Coastcare Association Management Committee.

After a few solid hours of laughter and toil in the soil, the head office team then enjoyed a hearty lunch at the nearby John Street Cafe.

* For more detailed overview of the day, and photos, check out the

Association's recent blog entry at:

<http://cottesloecoastcare.blogspot.com/2008/06/future-farm-feature.html>

Greg's Street Story coming up on Radio National

Head Office receptionist Greg Madson will feature in Radio National's 'Street Stories' series of documentaries next Sunday 29 June. After that date, the documentary will be available for download from here:

www.abc.net.au/rn/streetstories/default.htm

UN delegate also a CRC researcher



CRC researcher **Amir Abadi** (pictured above), familiar to many of us for his contributions to the former CRC Salinity in assessing the economic viability of agroforestry and other woody industries, visited the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York as an Australian Delegate for the International Baha'i Community.

The Community is one of the representatives of the UN's global network of Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) which interact with the UN Secretariat and its programs, funds and agencies to help formulate its information dissemination, awareness raising and education policies.

Australia has a large Baha'i faith community with many of its members originating from Iran.

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Coming Events

21st International Grassland Congress and 8th International Rangelands Conference

29 June - 5 July 2008, Huhot, China

www.rangelandcongress.com

Australian Farming – Does it have a future? Does it Matter?

7 July 2008, Social Science Lecture Theatre, UWA

Email: ias@admin.uwa.edu.au

2nd Annual Climate Change Summit 2008

23-24 July, Dockside, Darling Harbour Sydney

Email: glenfrost@frocomm.com.au

Further information: <http://www.climatechangesummit.com.au>

FFI CRC Board Meeting

20 August, Perth

Email: sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au

13th International Lupin Conference

14-18 September 2008, Fremantle, WA

Email: conference@lupin.org

Further information: www.lupins.org

14th Australian Society of Agronomy Conference

21-25 September 2008, Adelaide

www.agronomy.org.au/2008

STIPA Native Grasses Association Inc 2008 Conference

9 -11 November 2008, Horsham Town Hall, Victoria

Email: vivienne.stipa@bigpond.com

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Feedback is always welcome: greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au