

Future Farm News

Newsletter of the Future Farm Industries CRC

March 2009

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Focus on Perennials saltbush special



FFI CRC researcher Dr Hayley Norman's (CSIRO) work with WA farmer Tony York on saltbush features in the latest edition of Focus on Perennials

The **March** edition of *Focus on Perennials* is now online.

This edition focuses on the research efforts underway in the CRC to make salt-affected land a productive part of a farming systems. It features articles about the potential of saltbush on non-saline land, the salt-tolerant pasture plant *Melilotus siculus* and a FFI CRC PhD student's project looking into the potential livestock health

EverGraze® releases new Split Joining Action fact sheet



Split joining reduces risks of ewe management and provides options to deal with season variability

EverGraze has just developed a new **EverGraze Action - Split Joining reduces risk and provides options fact sheet**.

This new fact sheet explains what 'Split joining' is and how it can provide new farm management options. Put simply, split joining involves mating a proportion of a Merino flock to terminal sires in summer to provide prime lambs born in mid winter. The remainder of the flock is then joined to Merino rams in autumn for spring lambing.

For more information, go to the *EverGraze* website www.evergraze.com.au.



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New Biodiversity Benefits of Oil Mallees fact sheet

benefits of saltbush digestion.

Copies of *Focus on Perennials* can be downloaded from the [FFI CRC website](#) or call (08) 6488 8559 to have a copy posted out.



Head Office News



This month has been one of change and consolidation for the CRC with three new appointments including the new Commercial Manager, Peter Zurzolo (above). Peter comes to the CRC with highly relevant commercialisation experience within the agricultural sector which includes managing the infrastructure expansion of Cooperative Bulk Handling's (CBH) activities in South East Asia. Please welcome Peter to the CRC.

Another recent appointment is Tracey Gianatti who will assist the Agribusiness Director, Scott Glyde, with adoption management. Tracey will work at the CRC on a part time basis until June before going on 12 months maternity leave. Tracey is also the Project Leader for the WA-based [Growers Group Alliance](#) - a non-profit, farmer driven organisation that connects grower groups, research organisations and agribusinesses. She is well known amongst WA farming groups and is the WA Coordinator for Australasia Pacific Extension Network (APEN) and is one the GRDC Western Panel, and is a valuable addition to the CRC Team.

Tim Hollier has also been appointed as the Adoption Manager for Victoria replacing Austin Brown. Based at Vic DPI, Rutherglen, Tim will provide support to the CRC's adoption activities in Victoria.



New look CRCA logo



Biodiversity Benefits of Oil Mallees (above) is the first fact sheet to be produced by FFI CRC.

It highlights the on-farm benefits of having increased biodiversity on rural properties. These benefits include:

- Better pest control through increased numbers of native predators
- Additional livestock shelter and soil protection
- More wildlife habitat.

These benefits were identified during a three-year study of the oil mallee farming systems in the central wheatbelt area of WA.

Dr Patrick Smith (CSIRO) the FFI CRC researcher that led the study will present a public lecture on the biodiversity benefits of Oil Mallees at the CSIRO Centre for Environment and Life Sciences (CELS) located 65 Brockway Rd, Floreat on 22 April (TBC). It's free to attend, so email sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au to confirm attendance.

Copies of the fact sheet can be downloaded [here](#).



Parsons give personal insights into saltland productivity



Award winning South Australian farmers, Wolford and Marie Parsons (pictured above), will speak about how they turned saline land into a productive part of their farm at the FFI CRC Head Office, UWA, on Thursday, 2 April.

The Parsons are purveyors in saltland restoration having been involved in the battle against salinity for more than 40 years. In that time, they have turned their 630 hectare 'The Springs' farm into a property with abundant feed and livestock with more habitat for native animals and plants.



The Cooperative Research Centres Association (CRCA) has redesigned its logo to coincide with its 18th birthday.

CRCA CEO Michael Hartmann said the new logo was designed to reflect the association's dynamism and modern outlook through a iconic example of Australian innovation.

"The design was inspired by a knot used in the wiring of bush fences where the number eight knot is used to join two lengths of wire - the greater the tension in the wire, the stronger the joint," Mr Hartmann said.

"The knot symbolises the strength of collaboration and the elegance of science while harking back to the innovative spirit of rural Australia."

As part of the CRCA's 18th birthday celebrations, former Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, who was behind the inception of the CRC model in 1991, will present a speech at the forthcoming **CRCA Conference** on 26-28 May in Canberra.



Through the use of saltbush, puccinellia and tall wheatgrass, the Parsons were able to add marginal salt-affected land back into their whole-of-farm system, turning previously unprofitable parts of the farm into working assets.

Their efforts were rewarded in 2007 when the Commonwealth Government awarded Wolford and Marie the 18th McKell Medal for excellence in natural resource management.

As part of their presentation, Wolford and Marie will provide personal insights into how they changed their farm over four decades through the targeted and effective use of perennials and considered farm planning.

The presentation is free.

When: Thursday 2 April 2009

Where: 4pm, FFI CRC/CLIMA Seminar Room, UWA (located in the FFI CRC wing of the FNAS building).

RSVP: sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au (please note spaces are limited to around 30 people).



Friendly farmers needed for Farm Day

Farmers are needed to host city families on the weekend of 30-31 May to help *Farm Day* bridge the urban-rural divide.

Farm Day founder Deb Bain said she knows there are many farmers who will be unable to participate this year due to severe hardships across Australia.

"We also know there are farmers doing extraordinary things to manage their businesses in these challenging times," Deb said.

"So it's never been more important to show city people what we can do and get them in contact with the farming community."

For more information visit the [Farm Day 2009 Website](#), or call 1300 3670 36.



Coming Events

2nd Climate Change at Work conference

3 April 2009, Sydney, NSW

Email: k.treacy@econ.usyd.edu.au

Further information: www.wrc.org.au

Agribusiness Training Strategic Extension Planning Course

29 April - 1 May 2009, Bentley, WA
Email: blacey@agric.wa.gov.au

2009 CRCA Conference

May 2009, Canberra, ACT
Email: ceo@crca.asn.au
Further information: www.crca.asn.au

The NSW Sustainable Development Conference 2009

12-13 May 2009, Dockside Convention Centre, Sydney, NSW
Email: scott.mckinnon@halledit.com.au
Further information: www.halledit.com.au/nswsdc

National Farmers' Federation National Congress

22-23 June 2009, Brisbane, Qld
Email: nff2009@consec.com.au
Further information: www.congress.nff.org.au

19th Annual Combined Biological Sciences Meeting

28 August 2009, Perth, WA
Further information: www.cbsm.uwa.edu.au/welcome

Yorke Peninsula Field Days

September 29, 30 and 1 October 2009, Paskeville, SA
Email: ypfd@netyp.com.au
Further information: www.ypfielddays.com.au

2009 APEN Conference

11-13 November 2009, Busselton, WA
Further information: www.apen.org.au

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