



2011-12 Annual Report



Identify issues,
develop policy and
communicate solutions
for the WA grain
supply chain



GIWA
Grain Industry Association
of Western Australia



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Introduction

The Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) was formed in 2008 and aims to represent the interests of those in the grain supply chain. Our key focus is to provide industry leadership, improve communications and nurture capacity building within the industry.

The voice for the WA grains industry:

- Industry leadership
- Self-regulation
- Communicating information across the supply chain
- Capacity Building
- Assist trade development and promotion

The 2011/2012 Annual Report highlights GIWA's activities over the past 12 months.



Chairman's Report

The Western Australian Grain Industry continues to face new challenges every year and it needs to continue to adapt to meet production challenges as well as the changing requirements of the market place.

GIWA's role within the WA Grain Industry also continues to evolve and is focused on helping the industry find solutions to the changing environment we operate in. As you read the reports from our Council's as well as the details on our activities for the past year you will see many examples of how GIWA is assisting the WA Grain Supply chain to capture value and remain sustainable. I will touch on a couple of these initiatives below:

- **Seeding Success** – The Seeding Success workshop is now an annual event that is held in November and targeted at Agricultural consultants. The main focus of the 2011 workshop was to review the season and discuss issues that had arisen and identify what needs to be done prior to next seasons planting's to make growers better prepared. We had a guest speaker from Germany that presented details about the EU Sustainability certification that is required for WA Canola to meet the requirements of this market.
- **Crop Updates** – The 2012 Crop Updates received excellent feedback from those who attended and was a credit to all those involved in putting the program together. GIWA has now been appointed as the conference organisers for the next three years which is a great reward for the effort put in over the past 3 years. The new contract has also expanded GIWA's role to assist in co-ordinating the regional grower updates in WA.
- **WA Grain Standards Review** – This is one of the most challenging roles the industry has to work through as there is often varied views across the industry on the importance of the different attributes that are used to measure the quality of a product. GIWA's role is to try and take all of these views into account and to get industry agreement on a set of standards that best meet the requirements of the market place as well as maximise returns back to the WA grain industry. The main issue under review this season was screening's in Malt Barley. The compromise of only changing Malt 1 level back to its pre-deregulation level of 20% is a result that breeders, growers, domestic processors and the exporters should all be able to manage.
- **Council Issues Survey & WA Grains Summit (hosted by GIWA)** – During the first half of 2012 GIWA conducted a survey of each of its Council's to try and identify key issues that the WA Gain Industry is currently facing as well as those perceived to be important into the future. The feedback from the Councils then formed the basis for the 2012 WA Grains Summit that brought together industry leaders from across the WA grain industry supply chains as well as representatives from a number of national bodies. During the coming year GIWA will be working through the large list of issues both from an internal perspective, to identify what should be the focus of GIWA. We will also work with other parts of the WA and national grains industry on the other issues raised that fall outside of GIWA's core business.

During 2012 GIWA also went through the process of finding a new home that made long term strategic and commercial sense. For those who have not yet visited GIWA's new home at Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC) please do so, the door is always open.

The 2012/13 year is already giving us plenty of new challenges and I am personally looking forward to getting on with the business of finding some of the solutions for the ever changing world.

All the best for the coming harvest,

Jon Slee
GIWA Chair



Executive Officer's Report

I am sure I am not alone when I say the past 12 months have gone by so quickly. It was an extended harvest for many and this current season has once again proved challenging. But, what always amazes me is that no matter what the challenge, the grains industry shows great resilience and seeks opportunities during these tough times.

GIWA is always grateful to the many volunteers who take the time to support the activities of GIWA and our Councils. It is too difficult to calculate the thousands of volunteer hours per year which are dedicated to GIWA and the grains industry. However, your time ensures we are working on the issues of most concern and importance to the grain industry. If you would like to get involved, I would encourage you to start attending our events or seek further information about the work undertaken by our Councils. GIWA's strength lies in its membership.

There have been many highlights over the past 12 months – many of which are summarised in this Annual Report. GIWA is still a relatively young Association and is still finding its way in the mix of much larger and vocal industry groups. What makes GIWA different is that we represent all sectors within the grain supply chain. It is always pleasing to see sitting around the table the whole supply chain – though we may not always get consensus, we make sure that all those representing their sector have a say.

Our focus over the next 12 months is ensuring that all sectors continue to have their say and to improve our communication to members. These days there is so much information out there that it can be challenging having your message heard.

Over the next 12 months GIWA will be working on a number of exciting projects. We have once again been selected to co-ordinate the Agribusiness Crop Updates for the next three years. In addition, GIWA will be providing assistance to Grower Groups managing Regional Updates.

GIWA will also be assisting the COGGO Board in selecting projects to receive funding from the COGGO Research and Development Fund. GIWA will also be providing support for the on farm storage project which will see a number of GRDC funded workshops held for growers and advisors relating to the selection and operation of grain storage facilities.

On a final note, I would like to thank the GIWA Executive and my colleagues Ian Longson and Alan Meldrum for their support and guidance over the past 12 months. It is so rewarding and an honour to be part of such an innovative industry.

Johanna Gastevich
Executive officer



Council Reports

GIWA Barley Council

I'll start with a Quote which almost sums up the 2011/12 season.
Peter Reading was CEO at GPWA in 2001 and he lived by the following Quote;

*"There is a certain amount of Beer consumed in the World,
It requires a certain amount of Malt Barley to Brew,
When there is enough Malt in the World to fill that Market,
The price of Good Quality Malt has only a Feed Value."*

Peter Reading,

Last year the price premium for Malt in WA ranged from \$100 + to \$0 as the world Malt market was satisfied.

Of course 10 years ago with a single desk for Barley in Western Australia and all Barley sold through a pooling system, there was always a premium for Malt but it was never more than \$20 a tonne as it was averaged across the total Barley crop.

Today's environment means the price offered should reflect the true value, Even though tomorrow may be different.

I don't have the solutions to such dramatic fluctuations but I do believe there is a benefit of the industry working together.

GIWA Barley Council, as it is now known, represents members of the total barley chain from pre-breeders to brewers and most of us are occasional end users.

To compete with the Canadians in the Premium Beer market we need varieties like Baudin and Buloke, but as growers know they are not the best performers agronomically. Bass may fit into this market and though it has better disease control than Baudin we are still awaiting customer feedback.

Varieties like Gairdner and Vlamingh, are not preferred Malt varieties but can be marketed as Malt especially in years of short supply.

We now have Hindmarsh as a food variety but though it didn't pass Barley Australia Accreditation as Malt it is highly possible there may be a market in China as a cheaper quality Malt. Less than 3% of beer in China is classified as Premium.

We thank Blakely Paynter and the team for setting variety Rationalisation recommendations for the 2013 season and we have several varieties coming through the accreditation process now. These could create some challenges in finding storage space into the future. Full details are available on GIWA website, www.giwa.org.au.

GIWA Barley Council Standards committee made a recommendation that Screenings levels of Malt 1 from the 2013/14 season should revert to 80% retained over a 2.5 mm screen as it commonly was before deregulation of barley marketing in 2007. Malt 2 Standards are to be retained at 35% screenings.

We have tried for several years to encourage growers to become involved in the Barley Council. The Council has visited centres such as Corrigin, Southern Dirt, Minganew-Irwin, Holt Rock Group, Northam and the list goes on, for our Spring meetings. SEPWA has been well represented for many years now and I appreciate the interest from Stirlings to Coast and hope it continues now we have visited this Spring.

From pre-breeders to brewers with growers right in the middle, we have an industry working together that produces an exciting product.

Steve Tilbrook
Chair

Council Reports

GIWA Pulse Council

2011 was a very kind season for most of the WA grain belt. Rainfall exceeded decile 8 in the Geraldton port zone, and averaged decile 6 to 8 elsewhere. The exception was the Esperance Port zone which had a below average season. Consequently, lupin, chickpea and field pea yields in the Geraldton zone were exceptional. Over 3 t/ha was common with some approaching 4 t/ha. Field pea in the Esperance zone averaged only 1 t/ha.

2012 by contrast has been very poor to the 30th June 2012. All regions are dry or had a late break with widespread rain finally arriving on June 9. This will have a severe impact on pulse production. The lupin crop is likely to achieve only 300,000 tonnes, with a smaller planted area than 2011. The Field pea area has declined in the Esperance area and production will fall despite the strong early seasonal conditions.

In both cases, canola is providing stronger gross margin potential and growers are switching to canola accordingly. This is aided by the easy ability to plant large areas of canola without a bulk up phase as is needed for pulses. Chickpea production will decline with many growers choosing not to plant as the planting window closed for many before the break to the season in early June. Profitability of lupins is poor and the price needs to improve markedly to increase the planted area to any substantial degree. Market support for chickpea remains very strong and growers can consider chickpea as a cash crop with a comparable gross margin to canola.

Strong efforts continue to be made to find food markets for lupins by companies within Western Australia. Irwin Valley Flour, Coorow Seeds and CBH Grain are investigating market opportunities in various countries with food products made with lupin.

This is the great white hope for the lupin industry, but it doesn't come without challenges. Acceptance of the suitability of lupin as a food product in its own right or as a superior product to Soybean is going to take more time. The GIWA Pulse Council supports these endeavours and acknowledges the strong support provided by DAFWA through the Australia Export Grain Innovation Centre (AEGIC). The other challenge is highlighted by this year's poor rainfall in the northern wheatbelt where 80% of WA's lupins are grown.

Australian Sweet lupin

PBA Gunyidi will be available in good supply for the 2013 season. It replaces Mandelup where growers are experiencing unacceptable yield loss where harvest is unavoidably delayed. The Lupin breeding program, led by Bevan Buirchell, continues to deliver improved varieties with significant yield advantages. WALAN2333 and WALAN2325 are set for release within the next two years and will deliver yield and pod loss improvement across a wide area of the state.

Chickpea

Desi chickpea production should improve in WA with the spring release of three desi chickpea varieties with around 8% more yield. PBA Striker, Neelam and Ambar provide good variety choice to suit a range of environments, principally in the northern wheatbelt.

The Indian market continues to demand Australian chickpea with strong price support despite the prospects of record production on the east coast.

Field pea

PBA Twilight and PBA Gunyah continue to be the varieties of choice for growers. Markets are looking at a thin supply from Canada which will support current prices through 2013. The short term outlook looks to be positive for field pea.

Albus lupin

Finally, Amira (WALAB2014) will finally be released. Seed supplies may be limited somewhat with the current dry season limiting yields from seed paddocks. Act early to obtain seed of this variety which promises performance close to that with Kiev Mutant and adequate Anthracnose resistance to protect yield.

The Pulse Council will be working to define the needs of the pulse industry and investigate how they can be addressed. Best practice agronomy has been addressed with Pulse Australia conducting workshops for chickpeas in March and next year for lupin, chickpea and canola growers. The Pulse Council will be encouraging the younger pulse growers to attend. Many may not have direct experience of pulse production since returning to the farm, and will benefit from the workshops to be able to capitalise on the benefits that pulses provide to the rotation and the farm bottom line.

Rod Birch Chair



Council Reports

Oilseeds Council

The GIWA Oilseeds Council has been active on making sure several issues raised in WA are sitting very high on the National agenda and action list of the Australian Oilseed Federation (AOF).

Europe has become a very important market for Western Australian canola in the past couple of years and the requirements for oilseeds products to meet the requirements of this market are changing annually under the EU Renewable Energies Directive.

As part of the 2011 Seeding Success workshop we held several sector workshops with trade and the AOF on the requirements of EU Sustainability certification. A key action from these workshops was for the AOF to develop some generic information to assist growers in filling out the paper work required. This advice is available on the AOF website.

GIWA Oilseed Council also partnered with the AOF in hosting a Canola Supply Chain Academy in WA where we had 15 delegates from the oilseed industry supply chain attend the two day course.

Through the GIWA council survey and the Grain Summit the GIWA Oilseed Council has also identified a number of other issues such as herbicide management that are being picked up by AOF. Nick Goddard, AOF Executive Officer presented at the GIWA Oilseed & Pulse sundowner prior to the GIWA summit on the priorities and projects that the AOF is currently working on.

Jon Slee
Chair

Council Reports

Trade Council

In 2011 Matt Sherriff was appointed Chair of the Trade Council and Trent Smoker was appointed as Deputy Chair. The Trade Council has been actively involved in many issues throughout the year and has engaged the industry to ensure the WA supply chains remains globally efficient, with the aim of creating a competitive market place for Western Australian grain – ultimately maximising returns to growers.

The industry has had to adapt to many recent changes, including the introduction of the port auction system, optimisation, dealing with the smallest and largest crops on record in the space of two years and combating newly emerging competitors on the world market.

The Trade Council has worked closely with CBH Operations to improve shipping and quality management and provide feedback from growers on segregation requirements, resulting from seasonal changes. In addition the Council has been actively involved in promoting WA grain through trade visits from Japan, Korea and ASEAN countries and providing growers with feedback on quality requirements to remain competitive, particularly in globally oversupplied barley markets – where delivery standards have not reflected the requirements of the market place. Educating growers on market developments and end user quality requirements has been a key focus for the council with forums held throughout the state at various grower group events and field days, including a session on EU sustainability requirements at last year's Seeding Success agronomists' forum.

The GIWA Trade Council works across all of the commodity councils to ensure effective communication of any issues which have the potential to reduce WA growers' market access or the reputation of WA grain internationally.

Matt Sherriff
Chair



GIWA Wheat Council

Over the past 12 months the GIWA Wheat Council has had a strong focus on the noodle wheat (ANW) in Western Australia for the Japanese and Korean markets. The Wheat Council participated in the Japanese Flour Millers Association (JFMA) and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Noodle Wheat Technical Workshop in November 2011 which was a great success for the industry. This workshop maintains contact between the Japanese and West Australian wheat industries.

The Wheat Council nominated two representatives to participate on the Noodle Grower Incentive Scheme working group supported by DAFWA. The purpose of these Working Groups is to consider how to address MAFF's request for a more stable supply of quality wheat for the Japanese noodle market. The Council is now working with DAFWA to form a Noodle Wheat Grower Reference Committee to help foster the WA noodle wheat industry and return greater value to wheat growers.

The Wheat Council has also been invited to be the reference group for the WA wheat agronomy research project. The Council continues its watching brief on issues such as quality optimisation, noodle wheat, genetic modification and wheat classification.

Narelle Moore
Chair



Council Reports

Oat Council

The GIWA Oat Council has once again provided excellent cross industry support during 2011/12.

On the back of a wonderful harvest, albeit a bit trying with untimely rain in most areas, it was pleasing to see the quality oats WA is renowned for once again becoming available.

The same could not be said for hay production, with the 2011 hay production proving to be the worst season in 30 years due to continuing rain events across all hay growing regions making it all but impossible to produce quality hay.

2012 has seen the release of Bannister as the latest provisional milling variety with further milling trials and bulk up occurring at diverse locations. Our hope is that Bannister will provide a suitable replacement for current milling varieties as well as feed varieties; A true dual purpose oat giving greater market access and flexibility and increasing supply.

Off label use of chemicals in oats continues to create issues, particularly in relation to treflan and diuron. With further testing and submissions to APVMA we are hopeful of gaining some form of registration in the near future.

The national breeding program continues to serve our industry very well with a number of exciting lines coming through the CVT stage at present. I congratulate Dr Pamela Zwer and her team at SARDI as well as the people from Western Node based at DAFWA South Perth.

The health aspect of oats is being closely investigated. The goal of this being to create or link to existing websites that can direct consumers to the outstanding attributes that oats have and how they can aid their diet.

Our journey with GIWA continues to be very rewarding, and I congratulate Jon Slee as Chair and Johanna Gasteovich as Executive Officer on their professionalism in developing the grains industry of Western Australia.

Andrew Roberts
Chair



GIWA Projects

2012 Agribusiness Crop Updates

The 2012 WA Agribusiness Crop Updates was held at the Pan Pacific Hotel Perth from the 28th - 29th February, 2012. Crop Updates is co-ordinated by GIWA on behalf of Grains Research Development Corporation (GRDC) and Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA). Over 450 people attended and the two day program featured a mix of state, national and international speakers covering a range of technical and management topics.

The program featured a number of new additions including the introduction of a concurrent session featuring student presentations, a repeat of popular presentations and a number of industry based workshops on Day Two.

Many networking opportunities were included in the program with a Welcome Reception (hosted by DAFWA) held the evening prior to the event and a networking cocktail function with an optional dinner held.

This year we were honoured to have international speaker Mike Dwyer from the US Department of Agriculture to speak on factors affecting global agricultural markets over the next 10 years. Other keynote speakers included Tony Fischer, CSIRO Fellow who discussed how Australia can keep ahead as a competitive grain exporter and Geoff Fosbery along with a number of fellow agricultural consultants who gave a review of management issues for the coming season.

In total, over 50 speakers presented on a variety of topics including Crop Diseases, Weed Management, Agronomy, New Products, Varieties, Environment, Pastures in Cropping Systems, as well as Supply Chain focussed sessions on the first day.

Special thanks must also go to CBH and Grain Growers Limited who were premium sponsors of the event along with supporting sponsors: Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre, Australian Grain Technologies, Agworld, Back Paddock, Canola Breeders, Curtin University, Emerald, Intergrain, Monsanto, National Variety Trials, Nuseed, Pacific Seeds, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Seedmark and Seednet.

All papers and presentations are available on the DAFWA and GRDC websites, with the full Proceedings available on the GIWA website.

GIWA is again proud to have been selected to co-ordinate the Agribusiness Crop Updates and be involved with the co-ordination of the Regional Crop Updates from 2013 – 2015. In 2013, the WA Agribusiness Crop Updates will be held from 25th – 26th February, 2013 at CROWN Perth.



GIWA Projects

COGGO Research Fund

GIWA was commissioned by the Council of Grain Grower Organisations (COGGO) to develop the 'COGGO Research Fund Project' with the aim of investing in projects across the grain supply chain which would have a direct benefit to Western Australian grain growers. This followed a decision by COGGO to outsource the management of its new research investment portfolio and to broaden the scope of its investments from its previous focus on long term plant breeding projects. The COGGO Research Fund is financed through the COGGO voluntary levy collected from Western Australian grain growers with the cooperation of grain acquisition and marketing companies.

GIWA's R&D Committee was charged with overseeing the development of the process and assisting in the evaluation of the research proposals for funding by COGGO and in April 2012 signed off on the proposed application and evaluation process for use in choosing which projects would be recommended for funding from the COGGO Research Fund.

Under the proposed approach the COGGO Board will determine the level of funding and any priority research areas for the year ahead. COGGO will then call for project proposals each July and successful proponents would receive funding from January in the following year.

In June 2012 the COGGO Board confirmed they wished to proceed to commence calling for proposals in 2012/13 with the first successful proponents to receive funding from the new COGGO Research Fund as from 1 January 2013. The COGGO Board also confirmed that they would like GIWA to manage this process.

The project also involves setting up mechanisms with all the major grain acquisition, aggregation and marketing companies operating in Western Australia to streamline the collection of the voluntary levy from COGGO members.

The fund is intended to complement rather than compete with other organisations investing in research, development and extension. Favourable consideration will be given to projects seeking 'seed' funding for initial experiments or proof of concept, that may later be eligible for more extensive R&D and extension support.



GIWA Projects

On Farm Quality Assurance

GIWA has been commissioned by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food to examine options for on farm quality assurance (QA) programs in Western Australia.

Horticultural and livestock producers are very familiar with on farm QA systems and any producers providing products direct to supermarket chains will be familiar with mandatory on farm QA programs as part of the contract to supply. Globally, in the grains industry on farm QA programs are the norm in the EU, but elsewhere most buyers appear to be satisfied with the quality control (and quality guarantee) of the accumulator and shipper, rather than concerning themselves with traceback to the farm and insisting on individual farms having on farm QA systems.

The most prolific on farm QA program operating on any scale in Australia is the CBH QA program, previously known as the Better Farm IQ program. This program is state of the art for the grains industry and offers customers quality assured product, HACCP certification and traceability. At its peak in 2009 it accounted for 60% (approximately 6 million tonnes) of the grain delivered into the CBH storage and handling system. However, since incentives provided by CBH were removed for the 2011 harvest the number of Western Australian growers using this second party audited program has dropped to just over 40% of the grain delivered into the CBH storage and handling system.

Work on this project in 2011/12 consisted of reviewing the available on farm QA and stewardship programs that were in use, or could be used by Western Australian grain growers, and interviewing the major grain acquisition and marketing companies to establish their views on the need for on farm QA.

All the major grain marketing companies acknowledge that there are increasing signs that in the future customers will demand trace back and on farm QA programs. The most recent demonstration of this in Western Australia has been the requirements needed to satisfy export of canola to Europe. This required the implementation in a very short period of the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification Scheme (ISCC) or the Biomass, Biofuels Sustainability Voluntary Scheme (2BSVs) to prove WA canola sold from the 2011 harvest to the European Union for biofuel production is being produced and transported sustainably.

Whilst the widely held belief of growers is that if buyers want on farm QA they should be prepared to pay a premium for it, there is a growing realisation that on the other hand it is a 'ticket to the game' to ensure access to particular markets.

However, without positive pre-competitive collective action from the industry, the likelihood of adopting one universal on farm QA program for the whole of Australia is considered highly unlikely. This would leave the industry, and particularly growers, having to face the complexity and cost of complying with multiple QA programs and multiple audits.

A draft report was prepared on the current experiences and attitudes towards the need for on farm QA programs by the major grain accumulators and exporters operating in Western Australia and the options which could be considered to address the trend towards the need for demonstration of on farm compliance with customer's QA requirements.

This report will be discussed at a discussion forum to be held adjacent the Australian Grains Industry Conference in Melbourne in July 2012. Following this forum it is proposed to develop an action plan to complete this project and produce a report for further consideration by the WA Grains Industry.

Partnerships

Merging of GIWA and AGI

In March 2010, a MOU was signed between the Australian Grain Institute (AGI) and the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA). The intent of the MOU was to identify common opportunities between both associations and to explore the benefits of a formal strategic alignment.

Both GIWA and AGI see the importance of building industry capacity and for providing a forum where industry is able to network and share ideas. It is believed that members and the greater industry would benefit greatly if both organisations work together rather than independently.

It is proposed an AGI Council forms under the GIWA umbrella and will focus on capacity building, networking events and pre-competitive information sharing across the grains industry. AGI members will vote on the proposed merger at the next AGM.

Once again GIWA and AGI have been working together to deliver a number of industry networking and information sharing events to members within the grains industry. The following summarises events held:

Malt! Brew! Bake! – July, 2011

AGI, GIWA and Harvest held an interactive workshop with members and invited guests about the processes behind malting, brewing and baking. The two resident brewers from Monk in Fremantle, Steve Brockman and Paul Wyman presented at the brewing station and the Founding Director from the New Norcia Bakery Company presented at the baking station.

Those attending not only learnt about the processes behind brewing and baking but were also able to sample (and enjoy) the end product.

The impacts of climate change on the grain industry – August, 2011

Professor Ray Wills, CEO of Sustainable Energy Association, presented on how climate change is affecting Australia's agricultural sector and what the introduction of a carbon tax means to all participants in the grain supply chain.

Climate change affects those in the grain supply chain – whether it be grain breeders developing drought tolerant grain varieties; consultants and growers considering their planting programs based on projected climate conditions; providers of grain transport, storage and handling services dealing with increased costs; and, of course grain marketers need to consider the resulting supply and demand issues on national and international markets.

Impact of China's future growth on food demand and grain imports – February, 2012

Held in conjunction with the 2013 WA Agribusiness Crop Update, about 150 people attended this breakfast featuring Mr Duncan Calder, President, Australia China Business Council (WA) who discussed China's food security issues and challenges and identified how Australia and China can cooperate to achieve a win-win outcome.

Capacity Building

Capacity building is such an important and yet overwhelming issue for the grain industry to address. The increasing demand for skilled labour and the decreasing number of students undertaking agricultural studies is a major concern. With other industry sectors, such as mining, competing for human resources, we need to be savvy in our approach to attracting and retaining more students and workers in the grains industry.

It is time for action and to progress to the next stage of actively seeking ways to build industry capacity. The issue is how do we create a self-funding model which facilitates capacity building within the grains industry?

It is also important to acknowledge the capacity building projects currently undertaken by other organisations such as Grain Growers Limited and GRDC and ensure that new projects complement existing projects.

GIWA and AGI have been working closely with industry stakeholders to map a way forward to build and implement a comprehensive and sustainable capacity building model for the WA grain industry. Building industry capacity will be a key focus in 2013 and beyond.

Information and Updates

Seeding Success 2011

The GIWA Seeding Success workshop was held on the 9th November, 2011. The morning session focussed on the problems experienced by growers in 2011 and potential flow on issues for 2012. There was plenty of discussion about the plethora of diseases affecting crops this year including powdery mildew in barley, yellow spot in wheat, sclerotinia and blackleg in canola as well as the increased incidents of Anthracnose in Lupins. Pests and weed problems were also covered with resistance build-up to glyphosate and insecticides an increasing concern.

The aim was to identify existing known information that could be used to provide immediate solutions for growers experiencing these problems and to identify areas that needed follow up investigation and research in order to mitigate against these problems in future seasons. There was also discussion about the need to accurately assess fertiliser needs for 2012 crops based on the high nutrient off take in most 2011 crops and key chemical use, grain quality and storage issues to watch out for to ensure the continued reputation of Western Australia as a preferred source of grain by importing countries.

The afternoon focused on new varieties which are to be commercially released for the 2012 season and included a briefing on the new sustainability requirements for canola exports to Europe.

GIWA would like to acknowledge the support of the two main sponsors for this event: InterGrain and Canola Breeders.

Annual Review of WA grain receival standards

The annual review of Western Australian grain receival standards has been completed with well over 100 submissions received for consideration. The focus was on barley receival standards, with all other standards being left unchanged.

GIWA ratified a change to the Malt 1 Barley Standard to 20% screenings for the 2013/2014 season, with no change to the current Malt 2 Barley Standard (which will remain at 35% screenings). It is important to note that this change applies to crops planted in the 2013 season.

The standard of 20% screenings is a reversion to the original Malt Barley standard that was in existence prior to the deregulation of barley marketing. The standard was relaxed to deal with a seasonal issue and was not adjusted back after that season.

The original request was for a shift in the screening levels for Malt 1 Barley Standard down to 15% and down to 30% for Malt 2 Barley Standard. Feedback from the submissions received during the review, as well as further analysis of past seasons receival data, found that shifting to 15% screenings for the Malt 1 Barley Standard would have had a large impact on growers of malt barley as well as the domestic malting Industry. It was also concluded that the reduction in the screening level for the Malt 2 Barley Standard did not add value to the industry and hence this change was not supported by GIWA.

Other proposed changes, such as increasing the hectolitre weights and altering the protein window for Malt Barley did not demonstrate that any extra value could be captured for the industry and these changes were not supported by GIWA.

There is still the provision in place to manage in season risks by introducing new segregations if and when required.

GIWA also ratified a change in the method used to determine screenings by moving the number of screen shakes from 20 to 40 for all Barley receivals.

In years with high screenings, using the 20 shakes methodology was not delivering as accurate a result as that achieved by moving to 40 shakes in the test procedure. The basic principle on any test method is to use the most accurate measure available at receival point. This change will be implemented for crops delivered in this coming harvest. It is important to note that this is a change to improve the accuracy of the results and is not a change in the receival standards for barley.

GIWA plays an important role in the industry's self-regulation of grain standards which are designed to ensure the value of the industry continues to grow. Any changes to receival standards are designed to result in a net positive gain to growers.

AOF Supply Chain Academy

The Australian Oilseeds Federation (AOF) Supply Chain Academy was held in Perth in November 2011 and was supported by GIWA. The two day program is aimed at developing leadership skills and promoting professional development of participants from across the supply chain. The Supply Chain Training Program is intended to give industry participants an understanding of the Oilseeds business at all parts of the supply chain.



Information and Updates

Noodle Wheat Workshop

On the 8th November, 2011 GIWA invited a delegation from the Japan Flour Millers Association (JFMA) and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of JAPAN (MAFF) to attend a Noodle Wheat Technical Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to provide JFMA and MAFF with information on the upcoming WA harvest, to review how WA noodle wheat has been performing from our different production areas and to discuss variety performance.

Members of the GIWA Wheat Council and Trade Council attended the day long workshop and aided in promoting WA as a long term supplier of superior quality noodle wheat for the Japanese market.

EU Sustainability Requirements for Australian Canola workshop

On the 9th November, 2012 Andreas Feige, Managing Director, International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) Germany spoke to a number of GIWA trade members to clarify the expectations of ISCC on audit processes in Australia for canola exports to the EU. The aim was to identify how Industry and Government can address these expectations with minimum imposition to our growers and the trade.

The EU has recognised ISCC as one of seven voluntary schemes for the certification of sustainable biomass and liquid bioenergy being sold in the EU.

GIWA Trade Council Lawn Bowls Competition

The GIWA Trade Council hosted a successful social lawn bowls competition after their Trade Council Meeting in early February 2011. Members enjoyed an afternoon of friendly competition and a BBQ. Congratulations to the winning team on the day Crawford Taylor (Rabobank), Courtney Rose (GrainCorp) and Reece Curwen (MarketAg).



Executive Profiles

Jon Slee – Chair and Chair, GIWA Oilseeds Council

Jon is part owner of Aus-Oils and principal consultant for Oilseed and Protein Solutions and was previously the National Marketing Manager for Riverland Oilseeds. He is the Vice Chair of the Australian Oilseeds Federation (AOF) and is currently on the Federal committee for AOF. He is chair of the GIWA Working Group on Receival Standards.

He has worked in many roles in the grain industry giving him excellent knowledge of the grain industry in Australia.

Steve Tilbrook – Deputy Chair and Chair, GIWA Barley Council

Steve farms at Mt Madden in WA, 480Km South East from Perth and 240 Km North West of Esperance. He is a former Director of CBH for 9 years, is a member of Grain Growers Limited's Agricultural Reference Group of Australia and on the executive of the South Eastern Premium Wheatgrowers Association.

Steve has an ability to provide a practical reasoned approach to problem solving gained from experience in agriculture and a range of businesses. He also has experience in succession planning and is passionate about agriculture and keeping Australian farmers at the forefront of technology.

Crawford Taylor – Treasurer and Independent Executive Member

Crawford Taylor is currently the State Manager for Rabobank in Western Australia which includes a staff of 50 located in 10 branches throughout WA predominantly within the wheatbelt.

Rabobank is a global leader in food and agricultural banking with operations in over 40 countries and has a co-operative structure. Crawford completed a Degree in Agribusiness from Muresk and is from a farming background at Tambellup in the Great Southern.

Andrew Roberts – Chair, GIWA Oat Council

Andrew Roberts is a 5th generation grazier on the 'Kayanaba' property located in Dandaragan. He is CEO of Kayanaba Grazing Co which is a large (5540Ha) beef and prime lamb enterprise with oats, lupins and hay making to supplement the grazing enterprises.

His industry interests have seen him on the WA Grains Bio-security Council 2003 to present, a Western Oat Alliance Founding Member, and President 2007- 2010, and commenced on the Grains Industry WA Executive in 2009.

Executive Profiles

Dr Narelle Moore – Chair, GIWA Wheat Council

Dr Narelle Moore is the Technical Marketing Manager for CBH Grain, part of the CBH Group. Narelle's role involves overseeing the quality and technical aspects of all of the crops CBH Grain markets across Australia. Narelle manages a team of technical specialists in each of the commodities to ensure customers receive the quality that meets their end-product requirements. This role also involves a large amount of industry participation including representation on the Wheat Classification Council. Narelle is also currently a member of the GRDC Western Panel.

Narelle has been working for the CBH Group for 7 years in grain quality with a focus for the last 4 years specifically on wheat. Narelle completed her Bachelor of Agricultural Science and PhD at the University of Queensland where she majored in genetics and wheat breeding.

Rod Birch – Chair, GIWA Pulse Council

Rod Birch has spent his working life as a specialist grains grower in the mid-north region of WA. He owns and manages a family operation that has had much experience with multiplication and bulk up of new crop seed varieties with various breeding programs. An Industry accredited Quality Assurance program is in place to cover all production processes on farm.

Rod has held a number of industry positions and involvements throughout his career. He has a passion for agriculture and has always worked towards seeing maximum value captured from our farming systems whilst being a strong believer in robust R&D programs providing future prosperity.

Matthew Sherriff – Chair, GIWA Trade Council

Following graduation with an honours degree in agricultural science from the University of Tasmania, Matt commenced his career in agriculture working in horticultural crops on the north west coast of Tasmania as a contract researcher. Moving to Western Australia permanently in 2002, he focussed on broadacre cereals research before taking on a crop protection marketing role based out of Singapore. With responsibility for the field crops portfolio Matt travelled extensively throughout India, China and South East Asia for four years before taking up a commodity managers position with GrainCorp in late 2009.

Peter Metcalfe – Independent Executive Member

Peter has been with the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia for more than 20 years in a range of roles. He is currently the Executive Director for Grains in the Department.

He has led the way in the Department to ensure the projects and programs focus on the whole supply chain and has been at the forefront of the introduction of GM crops into WA.

He has been a major driver in the planning and establishment of the Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre recently announced by the State Government.

David Fienberg – Independent Executive Member

David Fienberg has over 30 years' experience with the grain industry in many different roles within the CBH Group and now heads up Australasian Lupin Processing, focusing on lupins for human food.

David joined the GIWA Executive in 2008 as the Inaugural Chair of the Wheat Council and quickly built a team to review and bring changes to this important area and to raise the level of awareness across the industry, following export de-regulation.

David's involvement is now focussed on Capacity Building, Scholarships and Networking for the grain industry through an agreement with the Australian Grain Institute to join GIWA.

Greg Kirk – Independent Executive Member

Greg Kirk, Managing Director of Planfarm Pty Ltd has been consulting to some of the state's leading grain growers for over twenty years. He has a keen interest in all things agricultural and in particular those unique characteristics that make the top performing farm businesses so successful. His firm provides management consulting, agronomy, grain marketing and property management services for both local and overseas investors across the state. He brings a wealth of agribusiness knowledge and experience to the GIWA committee.



Staff

Johanna Gastevich – Executive Officer

Johanna Gastevich commenced as the Executive Officer of GIWA in March, 2011. She has worked in the not for profit sector for the majority of her career and has over 10 years senior management experience.

Prior to joining GIWA, Johanna was Associate Director – Engineering Practice at Engineers Australia’s national office located in Canberra and previous to this was the Executive Officer of the Australian Council of Built Environment Design Professions (BEDP) Limited located in Melbourne. Johanna was also the inaugural Executive Officer of the Western Australia Sustainable Energy Association (WASEA) which she helped form in 2002.

Johanna has completed a Bachelor of Business in Marketing and Communications.

Ian Longson – Policy and Business Development

Ian Longson is currently providing policy and business development services to GIWA. Prior to June 2009 he was on the Executive team of the Department of Agriculture from 1995 to 2004, finishing up as Director General of the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food for five years from 2004 to 2009.

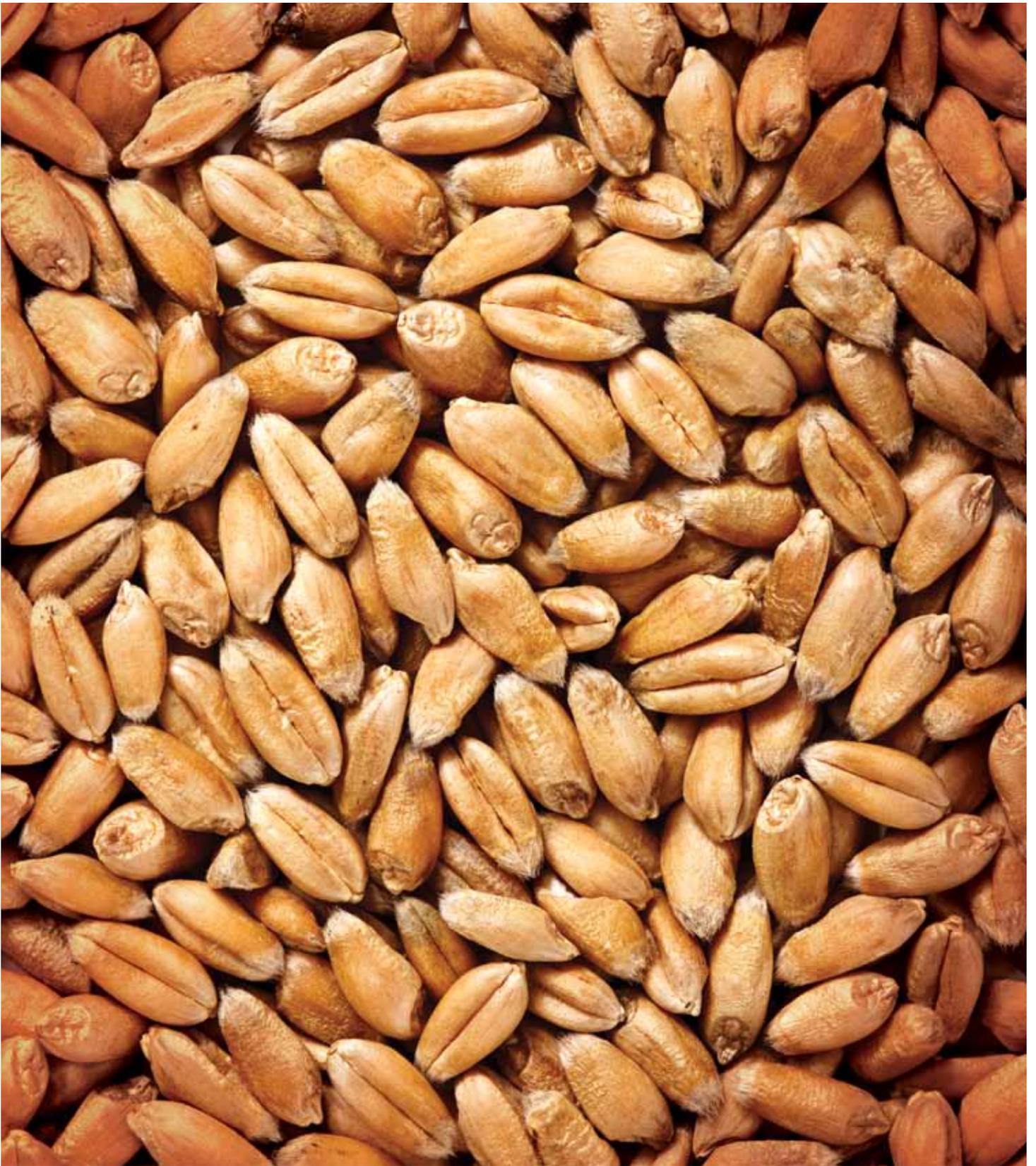
Prior to joining DAFWA, Ian was senior consultant and manager of the Perth Office of ACIL Consulting (now ACIL Tasman) and has also worked for the Dairy Industry Authority of Western Australia, the Asian Development Bank and early in his career as an extension adviser with the Western Australian Department of Agriculture in the South West.

Ian holds a bachelor degree in Agricultural Science from the University of Western Australia and a master’s degree in agricultural marketing from the University of Guelph in Canada.

Alan Meldrum – Industry Development Manager WA, Pulse Australia

Alan Meldrum commenced as the Industry Development Manager WA for Pulse Australia in 2005. Prior to this spent a number of years working at the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) in various capacities at a number of research stations located throughout WA. In 2004 he joined COGGO Seeds and was appointed the Seed Production Manager.

Alan’s current role focuses on supporting the growing interest in desi chickpea in WA and to support the lupin industry with timely extension. Alan also produces the monthly Crop Report for GIWA.



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