

## 2020 GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE



**Wednesday, 11th March 2020**

**Albany Zone - Jerramungup Sports Centre**

Hosted by:

**Fitzgerald Biosphere Group**

**[www.giwa.org.au/2020researchupdates](http://www.giwa.org.au/2020researchupdates)**

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 **@GRDCWest #GRDCUpdates**

**[grdc.com.au](http://grdc.com.au)**

*More information on page 3*

## Survey of vertebrate and invertebrate pests and beneficials harbouring in harvest weed-seed control systems

FBG has been contracted to take part in a larger DPIRD project surveying insect and mouse activity in various harvest weed-seed control systems (GRDC Project DAW1904-009RTX – Survey of vertebrate and invertebrate pests and beneficials harbouring in harvest weed-seed control systems).

As grain growers look increasingly to use harvest weed-seed control systems that collect chaff and with a trend away from burning, this project aims to investigate whether this retention has unintended impacts. The focus is on surveying invertebrate pests and mice in unburnt chaff lines, tramlines and chaff dumps.

Lead researcher, Svetlana Micic (DPIRD Albany) discusses the project in more detail in a GRDC podcast (dated

27/11/2019):

[https://grdc.com.au/search?query=!allitems&personal=false&form=search&collection=grdc-multi&profile=default&smeta\\_error\\_not\\_found&sort=off&f.Type%7Cctype=Audio](https://grdc.com.au/search?query=!allitems&personal=false&form=search&collection=grdc-multi&profile=default&smeta_error_not_found&sort=off&f.Type%7Cctype=Audio)

Anecdotally, there has been an observed increase in insect activity – this project aims to provide more rigour and support for this supposition. Preliminary surveys suggest that geographical location of a paddock can have an effect on abundance and composition of insect populations in unburnt chaff. The type of chaff also looks to be influential.

FBG will be undertaking surveys using pitfall traps and chaff inspections of 4 paddocks through the Shire in April and August this year. We have identified a couple of sites, but if this is of particular interest to you and your business, please contact Maddy Wylie on 0421 645 410 or [soilprojects@fbg.org.au](mailto:soilprojects@fbg.org.au).

DPIRD Contact: Svetlana Micic (Mo: 0427 772 051; EM: [svetlana.micic@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:svetlana.micic@dpird.wa.gov.au))



Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

## Community water sources

Most people will be aware that Water Deficiency declarations are now in place in Jerramungup North and Jerramungup East. Shire of Jerramungup Works Manager, Murray Flett, advised us on Monday 24th February that a 250,000l water tank has now been set up at the Needilup Pavillion and will be commissioned within a week.

The Cowalellup Rd bore was commissioned today.

The Gairdner Dam is sitting at between 15-20% capacity. If/when it runs dry, people can cart from the Devils Creek Rd bore.

A map of community water sources is available on the FBG's Facebook page.

We also encourage farmers to continue applying for the National On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme. A reminder that this scheme is operating on a first in best dressed basis and that you can apply multiple times within a financial year. Each farming business can claim up to \$25,000 in rebates throughout the course of the scheme.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.water.wa.gov.au/planning-for-the-future/rural-water-support/on-farm-emergency->

**2020 FOOD FOR THOUGHT FESTIVAL IS COMING TO BREMER BAY**

**LONG TABLE DINNER**

**Celebrating Jerramungup's Food System Innovators Friday 20th March Bremer Bay Sports Club 6pm - late**

**Fervor are known for harnessing fresh ingredients, with a focus on locally sourced produce, and presenting it in a unique location to create an unforgettable dining experience. Crafted with passion and prepared before your eyes, Fervor bring out the taste and excitement of the region with each dish served. An Australian experience unlike anything you can imagine.**

Join Fervor and Food for Thought for a 4 course degustation menu celebrating the region's food system innovators, share life on the land stories, see cross connection of Noongar and non indigenous farming communities and be inspired!  
<https://www.foodforthoughtfestival.com/2020-program/>

# GRDC Grains Research Updates – Albany Zone 11 March 2020

By now, most of you will hopefully be aware that FBG is hosting the 2020 GRDC Grains Research Updates for the Albany Port Zone.

A number of our Board and Advisory members have been busy putting together a topical and interesting program, with some high calibre speakers and researchers now locked in.

We would like to highlight that the event will be FREE for FBG members. If you can RSVP by registering in the emails being sent around or replying to [soilprojects@fbg.org.au](mailto:soilprojects@fbg.org.au).

Non-members, please register via GIWA: <https://bit.ly/38W4qA6>

We urge everyone to support this event and to make the most of a program focused on this region and the problems and issues faced by our local farmers.

## XAG Australia

Many of the speakers will also be presenting at the GRDC Grains Research Updates in Perth. However, one of our presenting teams - Charles Chow and John Troughton from XAG Australia - will be travelling from Sydney to discuss some exciting emerging ag tech. XAG came to the FBG's attention recently because of their work developing and trialing spray drone fleets: 'swarms' of five drones, each carrying up to 15 kg of herbicide, capable of spot spraying weeds. The potential benefits, including vastly reduced chemical and spray water use and zero soil compaction, peaked our interest.

The drones are capable of refueling themselves from a base station. XAG says currently, the accuracy of green on brown weed identification using their artificial intelligence capabilities is around 80-90% and green on green is between 50-60% depending on weed species. Charles said the company is heavily investing in weed identification using artificial intelligence at the moment and higher levels of accuracy are about a year away. The swarm drones can also be used for other farm chores, which Charles and John will elaborate on at the Updates.

To read more visit <https://www.farmonline.com.au/story/6298399/chinese-drones-swarm-across-weedy-farms/>

## Charles Chow

Charles (Left) is the founder of XAG Australia and is a former global sales and marketing director for XAG HQ in China.

## Dr John Troughton

Dr Troughton (right) has more than 25 years of development expertise in Conformance and Performance Management Systems.



*Below: XAG Charles Chow demonstrating the spray drone.*



## One Paddock Challenge 2020

We would like to acknowledge two new supporters of FBG – Lawson Grains and Viridis Ag.

We look forward to getting stuck into the One Paddock Challenge 2020 project in coming weeks as we seek to showcase and share farming practices across our region.

This project aims to focus on trials that increase resilience in farming systems in the face of climate variability by:

- Trialling and introducing new agronomy practices into the region
- Improving on existing practices
- Demonstrating proven research in a local context.

Examples may include crop evaluation, sowing time trials, new variety trials, fungicide trials, timing of application trials, etc.

We aim to increase communication of these practices across the membership area by holding pop up visits and crop tours throughout the season.

Watch this space!

If you have any queries regarding this project, or wish to participate, please contact Maddy Wylie on 0421 645 410 or [soilprojects@fbg.org.au](mailto:soilprojects@fbg.org.au)



LAWSON  
GRAINS



## Fauna Recovery in the Fitz-Stirling Landscape

Predation by foxes and feral cats is having significant adverse impact on populations of native fauna across our landscape. Bush Heritage Australia is delighted that after several years of research and planning, it has secured Lotterywest funding for an ambitious five-year project implementing integrated control of foxes, feral cats and rabbits across multiple tenures in the central Fitz-Stirling landscape. Control will be implemented across about 37,000 hectares that include the Corackerup and Peniup Nature Reserves, Bush Heritage's Chereninup Reserve, and private farmland whose owners agree to be involved. Consultation is in train, with the Fitzgerald Biosphere Group playing a key role in landholder liaison, and a community workshop will be held in late May at Bush Heritage's Michael Tichbon Field Station on Red Moort Reserve on Monjebup Road to outline the project and answer questions.

The 'Fauna Recovery in the Fitz-Stirling Landscape' project will break new ground in several ways. A coordinated effort across different tenures is key to implementing effective control at landscape scale, and is a significant challenge. Two part-time staff will be

employed to meet this challenge, ensuring that the support already expressed for the project is sustained, all landholders are kept fully informed, and any issues that arise are addressed in a timely manner. But perhaps the most notable feature of the project's design is the comprehensive monitoring that will accompany the control program to quantify its benefit to native fauna. Key indicators that will be monitored are Tamar and Black-gloved Wallaby occupancy, total biomass of small vertebrates (mammals and reptiles) recorded in pitfall traps, and frequency of detection of Chuditch. Taking foxes and feral cats out of our landscapes is a good thing, but increasing our populations of native fauna is even better, and we need to be sure that the one is leading to the other. With Lotterywest support, Bush Heritage is excited to have the opportunity to collaborate with other agencies and with our neighbours to implement a cutting-edge project that will deliver multiple benefits to all involved. 'Plan the work, work the plan' is Bush Heritage's maxim for success, and the organisation looks forward to lots of discussion through the next 12 months as operational planning is finalised, all necessary licences and approvals are obtained, and the logistics are put in place to start work on the ground in autumn 2021.



## Community Leadership and Governance Training Program

Building a stronger Community by bringing leadership and governance training to the region.

### TOPICS COVERED:

- Assessing if good governance is in place,
- Roles and responsibilities of boards/ committees and positions,
  - Effective stakeholder engagement,
  - Oversight and monitoring of finances, and
  - Running effective and successful meetings.

### JERRAMUNGUP

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 9.30am to 3.00pm, Jerramungup CRC

### REGISTER AT

<https://communityleadershipgovernancetraining-jerramungup.eventbrite.com.au>

Training materials, morning tea, lunch and refreshments provided.

### Childcare available through:

Jerramungup Occasional Childcare Centre.

Phone 0498 351 047,

For further information:

Johanna Tomlinson, 0429 960 810 or

Elmari du Plessis, 0423 354 883.



FBG 2020

# CAT STERILISATION CLINIC

T U E S D A Y 7 T H A P R I L

To register you cat please visit [www.fbg.org.au](http://www.fbg.org.au)

or email [communications@fbg.org.au](mailto:communications@fbg.org.au) for more information.



## FBG STAFF

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## FBG BOARD

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**Mick Lester**  
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**David Turner**  
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**Rex Parsons**  
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## FBG ADVISORY

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Craig Hall  
Hannah Iffla  
Jolene Daniel  
Laura Wishart  
Michael Swarbrick  
Mitchell Bell  
Nathan Brown  
Nathan McQuoid  
Rachel Bibby  
Ron Masters (DPRID)  
Rick Carpenter  
Sabine Lawrence (Rabobank)  
Stuart Bee  
Tina Parsons




**REGISTER TODAY**  
**2020 FITZY FOX SHOOT**  
 JERRAMUNGUP & BREMER BAY  
 FRIDAY 20TH MARCH  
 Tally count and breakfast to follow  
 at 6am Saturday 21st  
 To register go to—  
[www.fbg.org.au](http://www.fbg.org.au)





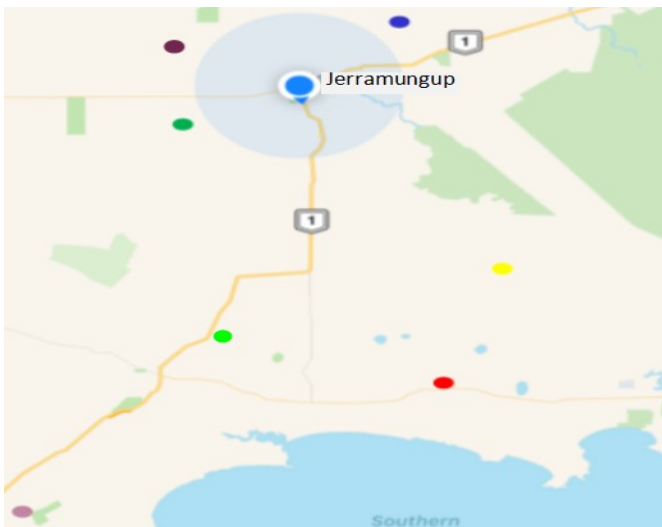
## Lease wanted for land to grow natives for honey production

Honey For life (HFL) are investigating leasing approximately 300ha in one location for intensive honey production based on our local Leptospermum shrubs which naturally occur in the FBG area and the upper Great Southern.

Well drained deeper soils and gravels are preferred, ex blue gum land will be considered, with standard lease rates payable (25 year lease). The plan is to establish a 1ha trial this year and if successful, a rapid scale up to 300ha in 2021.

Please Contact Geoff Woodall (0427449644) if you're interested.

## Jerramungup district rainfall



Location		Nov	Dec	Total 2019	Jan	Total YTD
Jerramungup		6.2	1.6	292.4	2.1	2.1
Needilup Nth		5.5	0	26.5	0	0.0
Needilup Sth		7	0	257.0	0	0.0
Jacup		2.5	0	243.5	1	1.0
Bremer Rd		10	0	379.0	10	10
Gairdner		8.5	1	283.0	5.5	5.5
Boxwood		4	1	262.5	2	2.0
Mettler		8.2	2.6	408.0	10.7	10.7

## MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR CALENDAR

### UPCOMING FBG EVENTS

- Community Leadership and Governance Training Program—4th March
- 2020 GRDC Grains Research Updates, Albany Zone— Jerramungup, 11th March
  - FBG Fitzy Fox Shoot—20th March
  - Food for Thought, Long table dinner— Bremer Bay, 20th March
  - Cat Sterilisation Clinic—7th April

### REGIONAL EVENTS

- 2020 GRDC Grains Research Updates Perth 26th-27th February



Contact FBG for more details ph. 9835 1127

Email: [admin@fbg.org.au](mailto:admin@fbg.org.au)

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FBG Acknowledges the support of

