

ISSUE 4, November 2022

SUSTAIN-A-BULLETIN

FITZGERALD BIOSPHERE GROUP



Spring Field Day 2022

This year's Spring Field Day was attended by about 40 farmers and industry representatives and greeted us with some fairly unpleasant windy weather. The day was kicked off at the Jerramungup Sports Club with a presentation from Crawford Taylor of Rabobank with a well-received presentation on their sustainability measures and considerations now and into the future. We then heard from Wayne Birch from Farmanco who updated us on managing mice, before heading out to the Jerramungup Future Fund crop (6km south of town) being agronomically managed this year by Kyran Brooks. President Andrew Wylie gave a brief update on some of the goings-on of the JFF.

We then headed out to the late seeding trial (managed by the Nutrien Ag trials team) and received an update from Kyran. At this stage, the second of the three time of seeding for the trial had been put in, with the first cereals in up and going. We were then going to stop in at the Needilup dam to discuss the new WaterSmart Dams project, but the less than ideal weather conditions saw us convene to more comfort at the Needilup Pavilion. We were treated to a delicious lunch from the JDHS P&C and heard from FBG Chair Dave Turner, as well as Carrie Taylor, who gave the attendees an update on WaterSmart dams, and what farmers can expect to benefit from out of that project.

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We then headed to Nathan Brown's, where he and Rudolph Le Grange gave us some insights into different pasture types (this one being a lucerne/chicory mix), and how they look to close the feed gap and ensure there is always actively growing pasture for the sheep enterprise.

From there, we headed back to the Sports Club for the afternoon session. Georgia Trainor from Intergrain gave a great update on some of the development they are doing with regards to cereal varieties and a run through on some of the emerging varieties which may be of interest.

A Zoom presentation from Ann Erickson of DPIRD followed on the biosecurity issues of lumpy skin disease and foot and mouth disease. We then heard from James Bee of Elders with an interesting update on hybrid canola and the considerations that come into this. Finally, CBH gave an update of their logistics situation, as well as an indication of where the grains market is at and what we can expect for 2023. A few areas to watch!

Finally, our day wrapped up with a sundowner sponsored by CBH and a meal sponsored by Intergrain and provided by the Jerramungup Hockey Club

Thank you to everyone who attended and/or presented on the day. We look forward to next year's field day which will be held in the Gairdner area. Please let us know of anything you would like covered or sites visited.

Maddy Wylie



Top left: Crawford Taylor of Rabobank presenting to attendees.

Bottom left: Site visit to Nathan Brown's pasture paddock.

Top & bottom right: Carrie Taylor holding a Chicory tap root.



From the EO's desk

I hope this issue finds our grain growers harvesting some awesome crops or just about to get cracking. With a close to ideal growing season for many farmers, I hope that those yield potentials are realised!

With this busy period getting underway, and the many pressures associated with it, it is a timely reminder to take care and look after your teams and yourselves.

On the FBG front, we have wrapped up a couple of projects since our last edition, and have got cracking on a few more. The late seeding trial at Needilup has had a nice drink of water in recent weeks with the three time of seeding now cracking along. Harvest of this trial is expected in mid-December.

On 12th October, we held our Annual General Meeting. David Turner, Chair 2019-2022 stepped down from both the chair role, and the board with his tenure at an end. Laura Wishart also stepped down as she balances many work commitments. We welcomed new chair Craig Hall, as well as new board member, Colin Green. Thank you to both Dave and Laura for your time and commitment to FBG and I look forward to working with you in other capacities going forward. We are thrilled to have Craig and Colin in their new roles and look forward to working closely with you both to achieve some great outcomes for FBG and our members.

Photo: Late seeding trial on Dave Turner's

In 2023, we look forward to re-engaging with our advisory committee and will be seeking your nominations and input in the new year. Watch this space for more details.

In coming weeks, we will be taking measurements as part of a paddock-scale demonstration at Nathan Brown's comparing stubbles left by a stripper front compared to a draper, and how the groundcover is maintained over summer, with and without grazing. We will then look at how the subsequent crop establishes in 2023. This project is funded by South Coast NRM through the Future Drought Fund. We will be advertising a field walk of this and some other paddock happenings in March next year.

The FBG offices will be closed from 17th December through to 15th January. We will be contactable during this time via phone and email.

Cheers, Maddy Wylie EO



Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective

On behalf of the Fitzgerald Biosphere Community Collective, we are thrilled to announce that we have engaged a Communications and Engagement Coordinator, Annie Leitch, on the back of our successful Lotterywest grant application.

Annie has a background in conservation communications, and has most recently been engaged in the central Kimberley region with Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Mornington Wilderness Camp. In her new role within the Fitzgerald Biosphere, Annie will be working with the diverse range of stakeholders to increase awareness and promote the outstanding unique biodiversity and landscape values held by our part of the world.

Annie loves getting out in to nature and is passionate about delivering meaningful outcomes to community and conservation-based organisations. Excited to have you on board Annie!



Annie Leitch

Farewell to Jolene Daniel

FBG staff member Jolene Daniel has finished up her current projects, which have focussed on growing and maintaining groundcover to protect agricultural soils. She will also be finishing up with the group as she and her family move onto new endeavours closer to Albany.

Jolene will be greatly missed from the FBG and Jerramungup communities for her great passion and dedication to the group, sustainable agricultural practices and her advocacy for this. She is also a fantastic support and an ideas woman – we will miss your input as a farmer, board member, staff member and friend. We look forward to seeing what you get up to in the next phase of your journey!

All the best Jolene, Pete, Stella and Pippa!

Talkin' Soil Health conference

On 11th August, FBG was represented at the Wheatbelt NRM Talkin' Soil Health conference in York by Maddy Wylie and Jolene Daniel. The day was jam-packed with thought-provoking speakers and brought together farmers, researchers and industry professionals, as well as representing the seven NRM regions of Western Australia.

The theme of the event this year was "Building Resilience from the Ground Up" and some of the many topics (and speakers) covered were: WaterSmart Farms and WaterSmart Dams (Richard George, DPIRD), the future of resilient soils and how to maintain certain biological functions when operating a water deficit (Lukas Van Zwieten, Soil CRC), carbon farming – opportunities and considerations behind the headlines (Cindy House, DPIRD), closing the feed gap and building a feed chain (Phil Barrett-Lennard, AgVivo), a journey to Net Zero from farmers' perspectives (Simon Wallwork and Cindy Stevens), and an insight into a lifetime of exploring the third element of soil fertility (microbial interactions) (Dr Lynnette Abbott, UWA).

At each Talkin' Soil Health conference, there is a focus on celebrating those farmers who take strong action to improve the health of their soils. This year, the day was intersected with short films of each of the 7 nominees from around Western Australia. This was one of the highlights and provided some fantastic insights into the many ways farmers from very different production systems approach the challenges of running sustainable agricultural enterprises and managing their natural resources.



The nominee and champion for the South Coast NRM region was our very own Jolene Daniel (pictured above). Jolene was nominated by FBG as a passionate advocate for soil health improvement. She has been involved with FBG for many years wearing a range of hats, from board member (and past chair), to trial host and farming partner, to most recently, project officer taking on a couple of projects focussing on groundcover. Through all of this, she continually strives to trial new approaches to see what adapts well on her patch. She is always seeking new information and inspiration and she aims to restore the health of the natural landscape to provide a strong foundation for her agricultural enterprise.

Maddy Wylie

2022 Cat Sterilisation Clinic Wrap Up

In September, FBG held our 2022 Cat Sterilisation Clinic. This year's clinic saw a massive response, wrapping the day up with 16 cats being sterilised along with plenty of vaccinations and microchips. Thanks to the community members and their furry friends who supported this year's clinic. By sterilising your cats you are playing a major part in keeping feral numbers down, in-turn protecting all of the wonderful native and endangered fauna species that are within our shire.

FBG would like to remind all other cat owners of their responsibility to ensure their cat is microchipped, sterilised and registered with the local council.

A special thank you to the Shire of Jerramungup for your ongoing support towards these clinics and to Dr Cathy Wishart for your time and expertise, as always it is greatly appreciated.

Jess Brown



Climate Services for Agriculture

The Climate Services for Agriculture team visited Fitzgerald Biosphere Group on 5th October, to meet with staff and members and discuss their climate information needs. [Climate Services for Agriculture](#) (CSA) is a national project funded by DAFF through the Future Drought Fund, involving the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and FarmLink Research. The platform - which utilises BOM data - is designed to help farmers recognise climate trends and conditions that have, or may in the future, impact the way they operate on farm. It allows users to search by location and by the commodity/

commodities they produce. The workshop was part of a regional tour by the CSA team across the southern Wheatbelt. The input gleaned from these sessions will be fed back into the tool as it is developed and improved. If you missed the session but would like to explore the platform, visit <https://climateservicesforag.indraweb.io/> and enter your farm location. You can provide feedback direct to the CSA team via the 'Give feedback' button on the website, or by contacting Sarah Clarry at comms@farmlink.com.au

Maddy Wylie



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology



Carrie Taylor, Rex Parsons, David Turner & Maddy Wylie

Watersmart Dams Survey Key Takeaways

FBG is one of the partner groups involved in Watersmart Dams – a two year project led by GGA, in collaboration with DPIRD and UWA. One of the first activities in this project was to conduct a survey aimed at better understanding water supply issues facing farmers across the Wheatbelt, Great Southern, and Esperance regions. The key findings from this survey, which yielded 93 responses, indicate:

- Overall, 2019 and 2020 were the most challenging dry years since 2000.
- The most common responses to such dry years include carting water, reducing or compromising spray water use, and destocking.
- Cleaning out existing dams, refurbishing or compacting roaded catchments, and building new dams appear to be the most widespread water supply infrastructure investments.
- The most frequently cited issues are water quality (for spray use and for stock), evaporation, insufficient runoff from catchments, leaking dams, and dams too small to be efficient.
- In Jerramungup, the issue of greatest concern is water quality in dams impacting spray efficacy.

The findings from these surveys will be used to prioritise investment opportunities, including two-three demonstration sites in the Jerramungup Shire to address the above issues. Stay tuned for further updates on the progress of these sites, as well as the development of an app to assist with dam and catchment planning.

Carrie Taylor



GROWER
GROUP
ALLIANCE
Together we grow



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



UWA
PERTH · AUSTRALIA

Increasing groundcover to build resilient soils in the Western Fitzgerald Biosphere Project Complete!

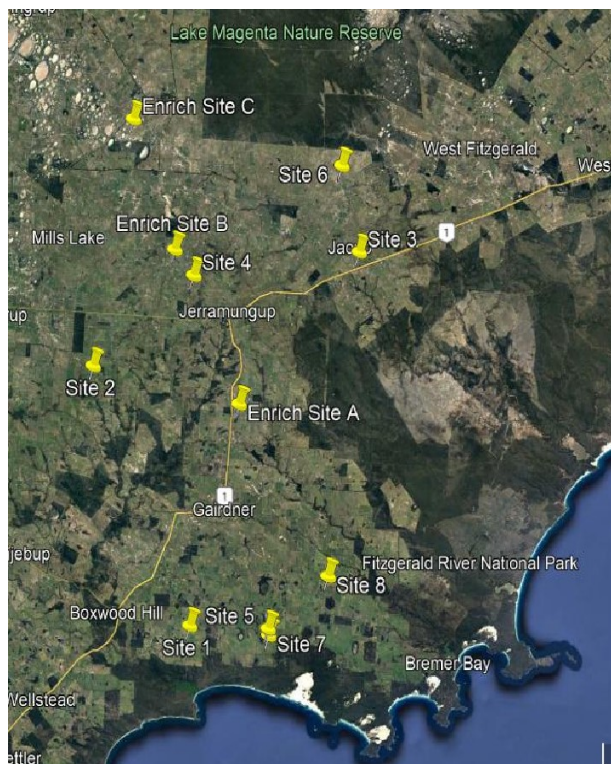
This Future Drought Fund project has enabled and supported innovative farmers that are members of the FBG to achieve some excellent outcomes in trialling new ideas and options to increase groundcover and start building resilient soils.

The project has allowed farmers to trial a diverse list of pastures that have not been commercially grown in the area, this list includes:

- Multi-species summer pastures (including purple top turnip, tillage radish and forage corn)
- Perennial pastures including a multi-species mix (including chicory, lucerne, panic, setaria) and a
- A demonstration of Ecotain Plantain
- Native Kangaroo Grass and Megamax Panic

The project has also provided extensive technical support to farmers to identify problem soil types and areas that were suitable for regeneration through sowing to **Enrich type fodder species**, with three demo sites planted across the region. This newfound knowledge will help not only the farmers involved but future farmers looking to regenerate similar type areas in the future.

Jolene Daniel



This project is supported by funding through Future Drought Fund.



Left: Anemeka Saltbush with Vimineria Juncia.
Middle: Perennial Mix— chicory, lucerne, plantain, setaria, panic, fescue, strawberry clover
Bottom right: Ecotain Plantain

Safety Spotlight

Farmer Fatigue

A timely reminder as we head into the pointy end of the year of the risks around fatigue. Take the time to recognise your signs of fatigue and when it's time to put the tools down. This is not only a risk to the health and safety in your farm business, but also has potential consequences around fatigue management legislation and can attract prosecution from WorkSafe.

Fatigue is four times more likely to cause worker impairment than drugs or alcohol and a fatigued employee is three times more likely to be involved in a workplace incident.

Some signs of fatigue to be aware of in the workplace (in yourself or in a work colleague):

- Inattention, or "zoning out"
- Difficulty in remembering/thinking clearly
- Struggling to make decisions
- Clumsiness, dropping things, tripping over
- Increased errors in judgement

So what are some steps to avoid fatigue in your farming business, even during peak periods?

- Prioritise sleep
- Take extra breaks where possible
- Take additional care during early morning/late night tasks
- Rotate tasks to reduce monotony, especially the night shift
- Check in on those who may be working alone
- Keep well hydrated and maintain a balanced diet
- Encourage open and honest conversations amongst your crew
- Lead by example

There are many good industry resources available. Some include:

- Safe Ag Systems
- <https://www.safeagsystems.com/blog/managing-fatigue-in-agriculture>
- Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety
- https://aghealth.sydney.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Fatigue_Management.pdf
- Processworx
- <https://www.processworx.com.au/managing-fatigue-on-farms/>
- Upper Mid West Agricultural Safety and Health Centre
- <http://umash.umn.edu/farm-safety-check-fatigue/>



Measuring Harvester Losses in WA

Do you know what your harvest losses are? An ongoing study funded by GRDC indicates that more than \$300 million worth of grain was left in the paddock last harvest. In 2021, Facey Group coordinated the sampling of 75 sites for harvest losses, with this study continuing into 2022, this time coordinated by the Grower Group Alliance. In summary,

- 200 samples collected by Grower Groups state-wide using BushelPlus drop trays
- Front and machine losses measured for all WA grown crops
- Loss benchmarks are less than 1% for cereals and 3% for canola but should be balanced with harvest capacity and machine running costs.
- Average losses in wheat and barley as tested by the Grower Group Alliance in 2021 were around 2% and 4.6% respectively
- Averaged measured losses in canola were measured at 3.2% but were measured as high as 10%
- Pulse crop losses were very high, measuring an average of more than 10% in lupins. Most of this was attributable to front losses.
- Front losses in canola averaged of 1.7% for growers using draper fronts while adjustable table fronts averaged losses of 1%.

Growers using drop trays averaged 1.3% machine losses across all crops, those not using trays averaged 2.9% machine losses.

More information can found here:

<https://www.gga.org.au/activity/measuring-harvester-losses-in-western-australia/>



JFF Community Crop Update

This year, the Jerramungup Future Fund gained access to 200ha land to lease from The Parsons. The crop chosen to go in was 44Y30 Round Up Ready Canola which was seeded in the last week of April by Viridis Ag. Knock down and pre emergent chemical applications were completed by Paul Barrett, Wade Brown and Trent Parsons with post emergent chemical applied by Mal Smith. It has since had a fairly straight-forward growing season aside from some waterlogging issues resulting in yield losses in around 10 per cent of the area.

A real community effort, in-crop operations/donations were carried out/made by a raft of people, including Rodney Carthew, Harry Van Der Maat (fertiliser applications), Nathan Brown, Bill Bailey, Alex Baum (fertiliser donations) and Andy Solomon (rock picking). This is a commercial crop with lease and cropping inputs paid at full rates, but would not be possible without the generous donation of time, machinery and some urea by local farmers.

The crop was swathed in late October by Trent Parsons and now awaits pick-up. Yields should be between 1-1.5t/ha and should net a tidy profit to contribute to the future fund for future community benefit.

Maddy Wylie



Conquering Coastal Tea Tree In Bremer Bay

For the past three years, FBG has worked alongside local contractor John Alaouze to target Coastal Victorian Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) in Bremer Bay. *Leptospermum laevigatum* is a significant environmental weed, posing a serious threat to the unique biodiversity of Western Australia. Our Regional Land Partnerships project allows us to target four sites around Bremer (Mary St, Progress Dr, Dillon Bay, and Short Beach), amongst Kwongan shrubland – a classified Threatened Ecological Community. Each of these sites was previously infested with multiple, large stands of Victorian Tea Tree at various stages of maturity.

This ongoing program has once again yielded extremely satisfying results. At Progress Drive, Tea Tree has been almost entirely eradicated along the roadside, while almost no Tea Tree plants remain at Short Beach. Similarly, we are confident that all mature *Leptospermum laevigatum* has been eliminated from our target zone near Mary St, while younger plants continue to be monitored and removed. At Dillon Bay, the February fires removed the vast majority of the existing Tea Tree stand, and remaining plants have since been removed. This area is now abundant with orchids, Christmas tree, cats paws, and plenty more recovering native vegetation. At all other sites, the removal of Victorian Tea Tree has also prompted the return of native vegetation, currently exhibiting some magnificent colours.

Carrie Taylor

This project is supported by funding through South Coast Natural Resource Management and the Australian Federal Government's National Landcare Program.



Short Beach in 2019, prior to Victorian Tea Tree removal



Short Beach in 2019, following Victorian Tea Tree removal



Short Beach in 2022, recovering well after Victorian Tea Tree removal



Above (three photos): Tea Tree after being cut and sprayed



Revegetating vulnerable lands in the Bremer area

Over the past 12 months, FBG board member Laura Wishart, has led the charge on the revegetation of areas identified as vulnerable or degraded in her local area. Together with two neighbours, Nat Davis and Darren and Kylie Retallack, the Wisharts fenced degraded creeklines and replanted endemic species in an area known to host chuditch (Western quolls) and Carnaby's cockatoos.

In this time, the neighbours achieved 22.7ha revegetation and 8km fencing to protect both the plantings and the locally significant wetlands.

This project was led by Laura, sponsored by FBG and funded through the State NRM Small Community Grants program. One

of the greatest gains from the original plans came in engaging with an additional neighbour. This resulted in final outcomes being extended beyond what was initially planned and involved an additional creekline which will have flow-on effect for the ecological impact on the local area.

Project contact: Laura Wishart 0448 414 031



natural resource
management program



*Bottom left- Fencing at the Retallacks's
Bottom right- Summer Mix germination at Ants & Leonie*



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Shire of Jerramungup
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Coastal and NRM Conference 2022

19th – 21st September 2022

Resilience in the face of climate change was a broad theme at the Coastal and NRM Conference held in Mandurah in September. In her opening key note address on resilience, Dr Carmen Lawrence OA, President of the Conservation Council of Western Australia, sounded a note of warning about the expectation that resilience alone is enough to withstand a changing climate. Relying only on our ability to adapt comes with the risk that the underlying drivers of climate change aren't given sufficient weight and we embrace resilience at the expense of action, she said.

The conference program was extensive and the following were of particular relevance to agriculture.

Adoption of Regenerative Agriculture Practices

Joanna Wren from the Lower Blackwood LCDC described how her group applies the AAA framework (awareness, advice, adoption) to extension and adoption of regenerative agriculture practices in their area. The on-ground objectives are: to rehydrate landscapes, to increase biodiversity on farms and to build carbon. The group ran whole farm planning workshops in which farmers identified their needs and challenges. Guided by the outcomes of the planning workshops, they went on to build local support and leadership networks, peer-to-peer groups and provided one-on-one access to resources and experts. On-ground support has included stock exclusion fencing, revegetation, portable fencing and watering points and carbon farming support. An unexpected success was their 'Talk'n After Hours' monthly webinar series.

Dryland Salinity and Rainwater trends

John Simons, Senior Research Scientist with the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD) gave an update on estimates of the extent of dryland salinity throughout South West WA. Using ground truthing in 70 study areas from north of Geraldton to east of Esperance (350,000ha), including our own, and a statistically robust validation method, the DPIRD team estimates 1.75 million ha of land is now salt affected. This includes 670,000 ha of previously undetected saline land. We are fortunate to have John and the DPIRD team working with us through Carrie's salinity project to update salinity extent in our own area and to support landholders to manage it.

Paul Raper, also a research scientist with DPIRD, followed John's presentation with information about groundwater trends and salinity risk assessments for South West WA. Data collected between 1991 and 2021 from 1800 bores had useful data. Analysis of 550 bores that had reliable records for more than 20 years, identified the following trends:

Trend	Percentage
Rising	45%
Stable	12%
Falling	24%
No trend	19%

The salinity risk was found to be higher than a 2007-12 assessment. This risk is lower in the western wheatbelt where there are high rainfall, shallow regolith areas. In the eastern wheatbelt the risk is higher and long term: groundwater levels are still rising there. At this stage, decline in rainfall hasn't impacted groundwater trends over much of the South West.

Waterways

Sally Clifton Parks is the coordinator of the Revitalising Geopraphe Waterways program run by the Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER). The catchment runs predominantly through the Busselton and Capel Shires and is about 2,000 km² in size (by comparison, the Bremer River catchment is 716 km² and the Gairdner River Catchment is 1770 km²). A combination of poor sandy soils, agricultural practices and urban expansion had led to water quality problems in waterways from nutrient run-off and for 15 years the community worked to reduce nutrient run-off, revegetate riparian zones and fence off waterways.

Mass fish deaths in 2013 triggered a review in 2014 to understand why, despite these efforts, water quality was still a major issue. The shifts they made in their approach were: to adopt 'source to sink' nutrient management and a whole of government approach, to use a management process informed by science and monitoring and to continue collaboration with the community. Although they say they have a long way to go, this approach has resulted in a 75% reduction in nutrients entering the waterways so far.

Leonie McMahon



Picture above: In 2013 mass fish deaths in Geopraphe Bay waterways triggered a shift in management approaches that resulted in significant water quality improvements, including a 75% reduction in nutrients entering waterways.

With thanks

I was able to attend the conference thanks to funding from our Smart Farms Climate Resilience project. Two others; Bremer Bay volunteer Christine Soulier, and shire of Jerramungup's Penny Willcocks were able to attend with support from conference organisers, Lotterywest and the Shire of Jerramungup.

This project received funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.



Meet our Shorebirds...

Our resident Hoodies and Oystercatchers are breeding now

If you go for a walk around the Wellstead Estuary in the coming weeks keep an eye out for our nesting shorebirds. Six shorebird species breed around the estuary, the sand dunes and bar on Main Beach. These are the Hooded Plover, Pied Oystercatcher, Red-capped Plover, Black-fronted Dotterel, Black-winged Stilt, and Fairy Tern. Not all species will be there every spring. It fluctuates from year to year depending on seasonal conditions.

One constant however is that breeding success is extremely low for all of these species on the Wellstead Estuary. They frequently have several attempts – up to three in a season – to raise chicks and often all attempts fail. The odds are stacked against them. Beach-nesting birds are vulnerable to predation or disturbance by seagulls, ravens, feral cats, free-roaming cats and dogs, foxes, walkers, bikes and vehicles. All can destroy an egg or end a chick's life in an instant. Unfortunately, many shorebirds don't distinguish between a perceived threat and an actual one and this gives rise to an enormous issue. If a person or a dog (no matter how well behaved) approaches to within about 60m of a Hooded Plover nest, it is perceived as a threat. The plover will leave the nest or chicks (runners) in an attempt to distract us. Lots of human, dog and vehicle movement means lots of perceived (or actual) threats. It means lots of time spent distracting us away. Meanwhile, those unprotected eggs or runners can die from starvation, exposure or predation. Unfortunately too, there is the actual threat that we can step on or ride or drive over a chick or a nest of eggs without even knowing it, they are so small and can be so well camouflaged. Successful breeding is a steep uphill battle but a few simple actions on our behalf can help tip the odds back a bit in favour to the shorebirds.

BirdLife Australia recommends the following actions to help improve breeding success for Hooded Plovers – a species of particular concern because its population is in such sharp decline. The same guidelines apply to all of our shorebirds.

- Keep an eye out for Hooded Plovers and if you see one, walk on another 100m down the beach before settling.
- There might be signs or fences on the beach pointing out that you are near an active nest – please avoid this area and follow what the signs say.
- Walk and drive close to the water's edge.
- Walk your dog on a lead; this applies to dogs that don't chase just as much as dogs that like to chase – this is to reduce the impacts of disturbance.
- Never sit in front of a signed area.
- Stay clear of the dunes.

Migratory birds will soon be arriving

Soon we can expect the arrival of our migratory birds – those who achieve astonishing flying feats each year to the Arctic Circle and back to breed. Migratory bird numbers around the world have declined drastically by up to 80% in the last 30 years due to the destruction and degradation of wetland and intertidal habitats.

One of the most likely migratory species you will see on the Wellstead Estuary in significant numbers over summer is the Red-necked Stint. Other regular migrants seen in fewer numbers include Bar-tailed Godwits, Curlew Sandpipers, Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones, Common Greenshanks, Great Knots, Greater Sand Plovers, Grey Plovers, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Grey Tattlers. There have been frequent sightings of a Whimbrel on the estuary throughout October. This summer our priority is to raise people's awareness of how important it is to give shorebirds their space. While disturbance to nesting birds results in failed breeding attempts, migratory birds that are constantly disturbed face the prospect of not having enough energy reserves to fly the 10,000 or so kilometre journey to their northern breeding sites.

For further information about sharing our beaches with birds visit the BirdLife website

https://www.birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/education_sheets/INFO-sharing-beaches.pdf

Leonie McMahon

Bremer Projects Division

[This project is supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program.](#)



natural resource
management program



Hooded Plover



Oystercatcher

How severe will global competition be for Australia's wheat exports?

With the winter crop harvest underway in parts of Australia, attention is turning to where the sector will face competition in global wheat export markets.



Rabobank

RaboResearch general manager Australia and New Zealand Stefan Vogel said all eyes remain on exports out of the Black Sea. "While Ukraine, in a war-stressed environment, has impressed with strong total grain and oilseed export volumes in past months, its wheat exports from July to mid-October were down approximately 60 per cent on the same period last year," he said. There is more grain to come out of Ukraine, Mr Vogel said, but far less than in past years as the recently-harvested wheat crop (of approximately 20 million tonnes) was down almost 40 per cent on the previous year's record harvest, due to the war. "Even if the grain export corridor continues, the USDA expects only another six to seven million tonnes of wheat will be exported from Ukraine in the remainder of the current marketing year (to June 2023). And exports likely won't get much better with the next Ukrainian crop in 2023." Mr Vogel said Russia's forecast record wheat crop seems to be getting smaller in recent weeks due to weather issues in the spring wheat belt (which accounts for half of Russia's wheat area and about a third of its wheat production). And the pace of Russia's wheat exports since July (the beginning of its season) is 15 per cent behind last year, he said. "In Argentina, drought is hurting wheat production, which is estimated to be down 20 per cent on last year (the lowest in

seven years). This will cut Argentina's exportable surplus by more than 30 per cent from last season. "The USDA this month cut estimates for the already-harvested US wheat crop by seven per cent, to close to last year's level, which was a 20-year low. This will tighten the US's exportable surplus slightly below last season's 22 million tonnes, resulting in probably that country's lowest wheat export volume in 50 years."

EU wheat production – despite this year's heatwave – fell only three million tonnes short of last season (to 135 million tonnes), approximately 15 per cent below the record levels seen in 2014 and 2015, Mr Vogel said. "More importantly, the EU's total grain production is seven per cent down on last year and it will have to rebalance this by cutting use of locally-produced grain in its feed sector to favour exports. This will require the second-highest volumes of EU feed grain imports seen in more than two decades, with the EU needing to import large amounts of corn from the world market to feed its livestock and to allow domestically-produced wheat to move into the export channel rather than the local feed sector."

According to Mr Vogel, Canada's wheat output, unsurprisingly, looks much better than last year's drought-hit crop and the 26 million tonnes of export potential is well above last year's 15 million tonnes.

"India, although having a slightly smaller crop in 2022, can still remain a wheat exporter while China, with its own good crop, does not likely require more imported wheat than last season. "All in all, global wheat production in 2022/23 will stay close to last year's level, but, given lower global inventories, the world will have to cut back demand this year rather than achieve the average annual growth volume of 10 million tonnes seen over the past decade," he said.

To find out more about other Rabobank research, contact Rabobank's Albany team on (08) 9844 5600 or subscribe to RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness Australia & New Zealand on your podcast app.



Stefan Vogel

Funding Opportunities!

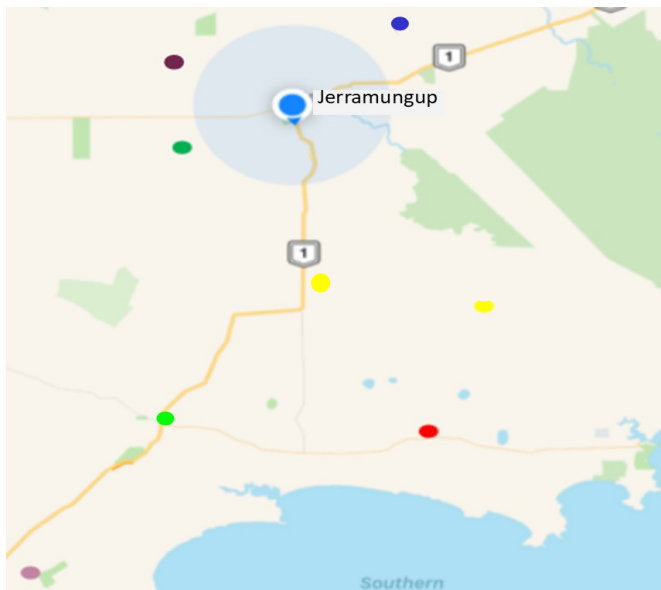
Do you own property in the vicinity of the Fitzgerald River, Lake Magenta, or the Fitzgerald River National Park?

You might be eligible for funding for pest control - think contract shooters, free access to cat traps, and anything else you're interested in. If it's fencing that you're after, we might be able to help with that, too! Just give us a call to find out more.

Call Carrie:
0459454713



Jerramungup district rainfall



Location		Jan–Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Jerramungup		330.2	52.5	28.4	93.0	512.8
Needilup Nth		236.0	45.0	20.5	66.5	368.0
Needilup Sth		278.0	46.0	28.5	76.0	428.5
Jacup		286.0	52.0	26.0	80.0	444.0
Bremer Rd		343.0	52.0	45.0	171.5	622.0
Gairdner		308.9	32.0	31.7	139.6	512.2
Boxwood		298.8	48.4	33.4	172.6	553.2
Mettler		328.7	77.2	38.4	191.1	635.4



2023 FITZY FOX SHOOT

FEBRUARY
DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

Keep on eye out on our facebook page for more information in the coming months.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FBG OFFICE HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

The FBG Office will be closed from Friday the 16th of December to Monday the 16th of January 2023.

*Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season.
We look forward to seeing you all
in the new year.*

Contact FBG for more details ph. 0499 346 233

Email: admin@fbg.org.au

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