

# La Grange Agriculture and Water Opportunities

PLANNING THE FUTURE FOR AGRICULTURE IN  
THE LA GRANGE REGION, WEST KIMBERLEY

Issue 7  
July 2014

## From the Editor

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Welcome to the La Grange project update. Since our last edition the resource assessment team has completed the soil survey work and collected the rainfall data from remote regional loggers positioned before the Wet. The hydrogeology team has nominated the preferred monitoring bore sites and proposed these sites to landholders for their consideration. Local business Kimberley Water Pty Ltd has been awarded the contract to install the monitoring bores and this program will commence as soon as access to approved sites has been arranged.



*Shelamar Station beans bound for Woolworths and Coles, enjoying their morning drink*

Independent La Grange project monitors, BRM Economics have hailed the May regional workshop a success after surveying attendees. The M&E report along with the confidential evaluations provided by participants at the workshop highlighted the need for more regional interaction, and in response, plans are underway for two individual day trips in addition to the annual two-day workshop.

There's lots going on with landholders in the region. Helen Campion from Anna Plains station has returned from her Indonesian trip as part of the sister ship program between DAFWA and the East Javanese Government and the Karajarri rangers have been out and about with the project soils team, pastoralists and with their own Healthy Country work plan. Two of these rangers are among six KTLA members currently preparing for their August Land Management exchange to Canada. Rumour has it, Anna Dwyer has been madly walking Broome so she can be fit and ready to run from the bears.

Thanks to those who have provided updates for this edition and for your continued contribution to the project. I look forward to catching up again soon.

Cheers, Felicity Brown



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## MIDWAY POINT FOR LA GRANGE RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

### Monitoring bore installation program

After visiting and testing around 300 bores throughout the region, the resource assessment team has selected a number of preferred sites to strategically place monitoring bores.

Monitoring bores are an asset offered to the region by the La Grange Project for future monitoring of the groundwater.

The drilling contract to install the monitoring bores has been awarded to Broome based Company **Kimberley Water Pty Ltd.** Owner **Vic Hoile** is well known throughout the region, having installed a large number of water bores over the past 35 years. Information on the proposed bore sites has been provided to Traditional Owners and Pastoralists for their consideration and approval. If proposed sites are over sensitive areas, they can be moved or if need be, removed from the program. Once access to the approved sites is coordinated, the installation program will commence. DAFWA's monitoring bores will be an asset for the La Grange region's Pastoralists, Horticulturalists, Traditional Owners, Ranger programs and Government Departments to continue to monitor the health of the region's groundwater in the future.



Vic Hoile and the drill rig he'll be using to install monitoring bores throughout the region



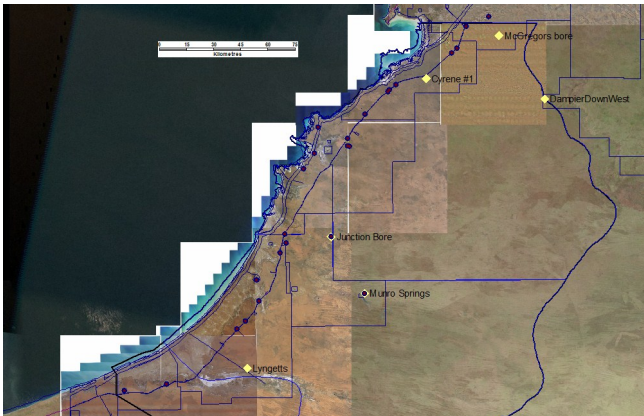
Interviewing David Galwey (Shamrock Gardens)

### Evaluating our progress

The independent monitoring and evaluation (M&E) team BRM Economics surveyed attendees for their opinions surrounding the workshop and the La Grange project, at the regional workshop in May. The report highlighted the challenges, successes and areas for improvement as suggested by participants who overall hailed the workshop a success with a powerful sharing environment. An on-country interaction was nominated as an outcome from the workshop along with a day trip to an operating horticulture business. Both activities are currently being planned. Project participants are encouraged to forward suggestions for both these activities to: [felicity.brown@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:felicity.brown@agric.wa.gov.au) The La Grange project takes all evaluations seriously, whether formal or informal and uses the feedback for continuous improvement, particularly with our stakeholder engagement and communication.



## Understanding rainfall recharge



The resource team downloaded rainfall data in June, from five of the six rain gauges and data loggers placed strategically throughout the region prior to the Wet season (see above). The information will help to understand the response of water levels in the Broome Sandstone aquifer to rainfall, especially in the Wet season, as well as the amount of recharge from rainfall to the Broome sandstone aquifer and the rate of groundwater movement in the Broome Sandstone. This will be calculated by measuring chloride in rainfall and groundwater samples and measuring rainfall.

## Soil survey work complete

Soil sampling, site description and mapping fieldwork for the 2014 season is complete. Results will be collated with the hydrogeology data as part of the overall resource assessment program for La Grange. The soil survey has already identified five types of pindan soils in the La Grange region. The suitability of these five types for irrigated agriculture will be further confirmed by the resource assessment team.



## Sharing the knowledge

The Karajarri rangers caught up with the DAFWA La Grange soils team when they were working along the highway near Frazier Downs in July. Team leader Paul Galloway provided the rangers with an insight into soil survey work and demonstrated the soil drill rig in action. The rangers helped identify local plants of the area, growing in different soil types.







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Anna Plains station and the Karajarri Rangers have been working together eradicating Parkinsonia weed *Parkinsonia aculeate* L. on Anna Plains.



Shelamar sweet corn



Wickham's Grevillea  
*Grevillea wickhamii*  
found throughout La Grange

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LA GRANGE

### Bidyadanga to Canada

On 15 August, Karajarri Traditional Owners **Joe Edgar, Mervyn Mulardy, Anna Dwyer, Jessica Bangu, William Spratt and Wynston Shovellor** will depart Broome for British Columbia, Canada.

The trip is a Land Management cultural exchange for KTLA members to learn and share stories surrounding land, water and cultural management.

In addition to a packed program of public speaking, presentations and networking, the KTLA will also proudly share the Karajarri story through dance and song, with several performances



scheduled in Vancouver.

We look forward to hearing about this trip on the T.O's return.

### Anna Plains to Indonesia

Helen Champion was one of 12 Western Australian delegates to travel to Surabaya to meet and mentor Indonesian women in the Agriculture sector. The pilot project was run by Influential Women as a part of the sister ship program between the Department of Agriculture and Food WA and the East Javanese Government.

Helen's allocated village group was Komitari Kehati, in the Probolinggo region. The group shared knowledge and ideas as women in the agriculture industry and the mentoring program continues even now that Helen has returned home to Anna Plains, via emails.

"Guiding and empowering the Komitari Kehati was a two-way adventure that I am truly grateful for". Helen says. "We share the passion for food production and for keeping food on our family's plates, both now and in the future".



Helen buying meat at the Javanese wet markets