



# Why celebrate our Great Grains at Minyip?

## What are the Great Grains?

When you eat food products made from cereals (like wheat, or oats), or pulses (like lentils or chick peas) or oilseeds (like canola), you are eating a 'Great Grain'.

Our toasting glasses are full of different types and varieties of 'great grains'.

## Why did we think we should celebrate them for National Science Week 2014?

Facilitator Jeanie Clark, said the group came up with many reasons. This Senior Citizens group had one retired farmer as their 'expert' and others with varying degrees of farm backgrounds in their lives, but none were currently farming.



The reasons the group came up with were that, through **agricultural** sciences, especially **plant breeding**, Science as knowledge and materials has provided their community with:

- an amazingly **versatile group of seeds** to fit differences in environments.
- plants that form the **economic basis** of farm families and of this shire
- seeds that are made into **food products**, especially '**healthy**' ones.
- seeds that can be used as **bio-fuels**
- seeds that yield better than previous ones - so contributing **to feed the ever-growing world** eg part of the reason for the introduction of legumes in the 1970's was for the sudden increase in world population then. .
- ways to **care for the environment** when growing these plants eg part of the reason for the introduction of legumes was to return Nitrogen to the soils.
- our **history** as an **innovative** farming community,
- our history as a **productive community** eg holding the record for the most wheat bags delivered in one day in the Guinness Book of Records, and appreciation of Farrer for his wheat that enabled a great step forward in yields
- **plant breeding** nearby at Horsham

 national science week

  
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An Australian Government Initiative

  
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