



Why celebrate our Great Grains at Warracknabeal?

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 group all had a connection with grain farming. They felt this celebration drew attention to the importance and nature of the **grains, farmers** doing Science as part of their daily work farming and the **Sciences** behind their knowledge and skills in grain farming. *"We need to spread the awareness, educate our nation, and our children, about the importance of our grains and farming,"* said Areegra farmer Donna Liersch, *"to encourage new interest in agriculture, for its diversity and potential,"* added Wendy Hewitt.

Sciences, as knowledge, skills and materials, has provided our farming and wider community with:

- Our **food** - for us here and for the world and our domesticated animals
- understanding of why grains are an **essential** food for our survival
- a huge increase in **plant breeding** research and technology over the last 50 years provided great advances in what farmers grow as grains, and the nature of the grains industry – compared to "When I was a child - it was all wheat, barley and oats" said Lindsay Koschitzke.
- the amazing seed varieties from the Science of selective plant breeding, **tailored** to regional production and specific food markets,
- 30-40 years ago there was great concern about how we would feed the growing world. The Scientists did a lot to contribute to farmers increase in yields so the **world has been fed** in this time.
- the Science in growing wheat is unbelievable in how it has **increased yields** - 70 years ago a 10-12 bag/acre crop was a wonderful achievement by plant breeding Science, soil Sciences and the farmer; today farmers use the Sciences of plant breeding, soils, weather, nutrients, sprays and record keeping technologies so that a 40bag/acre crops has been achieved here.
- **Soil scientists** helped us understand the nature of our flat land with clay subsoils in retaining moisture for deep rooted crops, while engineering scientists provided ever larger machinery to increase production, and plant scientists provided new varieties and new legume crops to survive diseases, yield more and return Nitrogen to the soil.
- **farmers who match Scientific knowledge with their Scientific observations** on their patch of farmland to adjust their growing program and achieve the best yields for the conditions in each season,
- an industry for our **employment, lifestyle and income**
- fostering the **growth** of this industry"



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