



Why celebrate our Great Grains at Murtoa?

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?

Most of the children and adults at the Murtoa celebration did not come from farming families. They had rather come for 'curiosity' as one youngster put it - to discover what the great grains were and why they are important. There was plenty to explore with the great grains: the three grain groups, the crops within them, their uses and developments as varieties, and how to recognise them by their shape, size and colours. Some participants surprised themselves with how many seeds they could correctly identify in the seed type challenge. As a group, by the end of the session, the reasons they could give for celebrating our great grains and the contribution of science to this had trebled compared with the start!

These reasons given by the group for celebrating these plants and their seeds were that they:

- are our food, like wheat, barley, canola and 'beautiful' pulses
- are full of protein which gives us good food for living eg breakfast cereals; and lemon-barley water cordial – a health drink common in the past,
- food for the world to help with world hunger
- and food for our stock animals;
- are suited to being grown in our climate and soils
- with lots of variety in the seeds
- thanks to the plant breeding science and scientists

They also gave reasons for celebrating the sciences involved in growing great grains because:

- they are important sciences in the Wimmera,
- they work on developing better seeds for the Australian conditions,
- and ways to use the seeds as foods
- and developing farming practises through a long history of grain growing;
- also helping our environment
- providing an excellent source of income here
- and employment for the Wimmera



 national science week

in  Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL

is funded by

 An Australian Government Initiative

 Inspiring
AUSTRALIA

supported by

 enviroed4all
environmental education for everyone

with grain donations by: **Wimpak** (Minyip), **Viterra** (Dooen), **Graincorp** (Murtoa), **Wilkins** (Warracknabeal), and **the Australian Grains Genebank** (Horsham) and **Burrum Biodynamics** (Burrum)