

Issue 10 | 31-05-2023

GILLAMII NEWSLETTER

Autumn Edition



**Saltland Genie
Web App Launch**

**Clearing
Vegetation: Do's
and Don'ts**

**Project Focus:
Mapping the way
forward**



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- **Gillamii Spring Series | 20th of September**
- **Bloom Festival Exhibition and Workshops**
23rd September- 29th September

Are you following us?

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-  Facebook: @Gillamii
-  Instagram: @TheGillamii

FROM THE COMMITTEE

RACHAEL NICHOLLS

In this edition we hear from the wonderful Rachael Nicholls, who officially joined the Gillamii committee last year. Rachael is no stranger to the Gillamii Group, supporting many initiatives and events which often connects to her role as Branch Manager for the Community Bank Tambellup/Cranbrook. Rachael moved from Perth 6 years ago looking for a 'tree change', settling on a 5 acre block in Tenterden. A self confessed lover of the environment, combined with her career with the Bank, Rachael brings a unique and impactful perspective to Gillamii.

You have a lovely peri-urban 'bush block' in Tenterden, tell us a little bit about that?

"My partner Daniel and I moved down six years ago and settled on a 5 acre block with lots of trees and wildlife around. We looked after a property in Kendenup for awhile, and decided this is where we wanted to be. We have been working on some rehabilitation on the block, we did a burn off two years ago, and we are wanting to plant some more native trees to encourage the birdlife. As we speak i'm looking at a beautiful bright yellow chested bird with a black head, he's gorgeous."



You bring a unique perspective to our committee with your role at Bendigo coupled with your passion for the environment. How have you found this interacts with what Gillamii does and your role on the committee?

"I feel very strongly about environmental matters, Landcare, and being responsible about how we use the land whether it is for farming or recreation..."(Continued)

"Being able to support what the Gillamii does not only aligns personally, but also from a community perspective with my role in the bank to engage with groups and people in the community so we have an idea of what kind of things are needed, and how we can support this through products or the sponsorship rounds. Up to 80% of our profit goes back into the community, so if we can get a good feel for what is needed then we will do what we can to help out."

Do you believe Gillamii plays a strong role in the community around sustainable agriculture and environmental management?

Absolutely, it is really heart warming and eye opening to see the things that the Gillamii are involved with, along with other Landcare groups. Being relatively new to the farming community, it is great to see there are people out there that want to farm responsibly (in terms of sustainability) and Gillamii are leaders in the community in that way."

Questions continued next page...



Gillamii have been active in determining what emerging initiatives including carbon and natural capital accounting will mean for farming enterprises and landholders. Investors and banks are powering forward in this space, including ESG (environmental, social and governance) considerations for investing. Do you have any thoughts on what farming enterprises and landholders should be aware of?

"The technology and innovation out there is developing, and on the brink of being able to be put into practice by landholders. Personally, if I look at where I buy my clothes and food from, and ensure those companies are being as responsible as can be, that will be the challenge for farmers. If products aren't responsibly produced, from a consumer point of view, that is where the pressure is going to come from to make those changes"

Have you seen ESG investing attitudes effecting the way the bank operates?

"In terms of day to day, we are seeing more in the residential sector with 'green loans' if you are building an environmentally sustainable house or putting in solar panels or water tanks. We haven't seen as much in the rural space, but that is out of my scope (at the Community Bank). "In the finance industry overall there is definitely lots of talk about it. If farmers aren't sustainable from a business operating point of view, then they are not as favourable to lend money to."

From your point of view, is there anything you would like to see Gillamii doing in the community?

"My answer is really that I think Gillamii does a fantastic job and certainly covers a wide range of topics. A lot of initiatives are very inclusive, involving the school kids, people of different cultures and different areas too. Not everyone knows how great the Gillamii is...the only thing that comes to mind is increasing the understanding of what Gillamii does in the community and how people can be involved or support the group."

What do you hope to achieve or get from your time on the Gillamii committee?

"I think for me, it is the opportunity to be involved in projects in the local area that are improving the sustainability of the environment we all live in. What the person up the road does effects the water that I drink and the animals that are around. I enjoy the opportunity to be involved and support initiatives where I can. Professionally, being on the committee helps us to understand where we can support community groups."



Agriculture in Transition: The Role of Natural Capital Accounting Forum

On the 23rd of March over 60 participants gathered at the Tambellup Hall to be part of the community-led forum, Agriculture in Transition: The Role of Natural Capital. The forum was developed by the Gillamii Centre and North Stirling Pallinup Natural Resource (NSPNR) and facilitated by Larissa Taylor from Savoir Consulting.

The aim of the forum was to contribute to natural capital capacity building in the sub-region and help farmers navigate the challenges and opportunities for natural capital accounting, carbon and co-benefits and nature repair investment in response to the energy transition. The workshop also aimed to address climate risk and natural capital knowledge gaps by creating collaborative opportunities for individuals, businesses and organisations across the agricultural industry.

Participants, ranging from NRM groups, agricultural consultants, research institutions, finance sector local landholders, came together to hear an extremely dynamic set of presentations from a range of leading organisations such as the WA Biodiversity Science Institute, Accounting from Nature, Farmanco and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

This forum was the first community-led Natural Capital event for the Gnowangerup, Cranbrook and Broomehill-Tambellup Shire's and surrounding communities. Natural Capital Accounting is a complex, exciting and immerging industry, one that is often confronting to discuss.

Both NSPNR and the Gillamii Centre believe we achieved our purpose of beginning to build Natural Capital Accounting capacity within our sub-region, however recognise the long journey ahead in disseminating high-level research, information and policy into on-ground action. Both community groups are committed to continuing to navigate this industry in order to ensure our communities are informed and empowered, through further informative events and practical projects with meaningful industry collaboration.



Genie's out of the bottle: Saltland web app offers salinity solutions

Dryland salinity affects about 1.75 million hectares of public and private land in the South-West of WA, resulting in lost agricultural productivity. Western Australian farmers now have a new online tool at their fingertips to rehabilitate salt-affected lands.

The Saltland Genie web-based app brings together eight decision support tools to help landholders implement solutions on their salt-affected land. The Web app was launched at the 2023 Wagin Woollerama, and was developed by Gillamii and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The project was supported with funding from the WA Government's State NRM Program



Farmers and landholders can enter their water and soil salinity measurements to help find practical solutions, access information about on-site implementation and estimate the return on planned rehabilitation investment.

There are details on suitable plant species for salt-affected land, farmer case studies and a water salinity calculator to determine safe drinking water requirements for sheep and cattle.

We encourage landholders to use the app, and send feedback, access the tool on your phone or desktop at www.saltlandgenie.com

The release of the App marked the end of the incredible Productive Saline Pastures for the SW WA project. Gillamii feels extremely fortunate to have received the support and resourcing through DPIRD, the Western Australian Government's State NRM Program, and local producers to undertake this project. We celebrated this strong collaborative effort with a technical review meeting and celebratory lunch in February 2023, reviewing what we had achieved as a team, and where to next. Read all about the achievements of this project on our [website](#).

This project forms part of decades of work by many individuals and organisations to address the issue of WA's salinity in innovative and productive ways.

Therefore, although this project has been completed, Gillamii is committed to continue supporting producers in understanding, assessing and regenerating their saline lands with perennial plant-based solutions.



Connect Kids to Country: Barna Mia Camp



Gillamii has co-ordinated the Barna Mia camp since 2009, seeing multiple cohorts of year six students from Cranbrook, Frankland River, and Tambellup Primary School experience the Dryandra Woodlands and the biodiversity it has to offer. Students travel to the Dryandra Woodlands National Park, where more than 850 species of flora and fauna can be seen throughout the year. This camp compliments the on-going Connecting Kids to Country environmental education program, which aims to support positive environmental attitudes and increase knowledge and awareness within our future stewards of the landscape. This camp was generously supported by South Coast NRM through the Federal Government's National Landcare Program, The Community Bank Tambellup/Cranbrook and the Mt Barker Co-Op.

On the 5th of April, twelve year six students from Cranbrook, Frankland River and Tambellup Primary School, teachers, Gillamii staff eagerly made the journey to the Dryandra Woodland for the overnight camp.

The group was introduced to Marty from DBCA who was a wealth of knowledge and took the students through native fauna trapping and monitoring activity. Our first task was to bait and set the 6 cage traps and learn about fauna monitoring, as well as biodiversity and threats to our native fauna. Following dinner, students headed to the Barna Mia Sanctuary for the nocturnal tour where students learned about the importance of the woodlands to our first nations people, and the threats facing wildlife before heading into the sanctuary to see the friendly natives up close.

It is safe to say both the adults and students enjoyed the experience of seeing these often elusive natives, especially fauna that is extinct on the mainland. An early wake up the next morning saw Marty and the group of students head back into the woodlands to see if their trapping was successful. Luckily we had a skilled bunch of conservationists, and we caught 3 Brushtail Possums and one Woylie. Marty showed the students how wildlife biologists process fauna and capture important data.



Funding and Projects

The Australian Government is continuing to invest in natural resource management. These investments include a range of measures to protect our unique environment, biodiversity and natural heritage; build stronger and more sustainable agriculture and land care. We await for developments on South Coast Natural Resource Management's Tender on behalf of the South Coast region.

We are excited to announce the funding support received from the Community Bank Tambellup/Cranbrook and the Tambellup Community Crop toward the Connecting Kids to Country initiative. These funds will support the Know Your Patch program with an environmental or cultural specialist, and implementation of signage for each School's Patch.

Gillamii has received additional funding through the Future Drought Fund and South Coast NRM to implement a farmer case study on existing subsurface catchment systems to monitor and shed light on the additional benefit of capturing water and maximising the use of these systems. Gillamii has applied for a State Natural Resource Management Grant to add a native revegetation guide for saline areas to the existing SALTdeck resource. We are also excited for the potential opportunity of collaboration on Stirling's to Coast Farmers group's application for sub-surface drainage for reclamation and revegetation of salt affected land.

Cranbrook Show

The Cranbrook Show was a great success in 2023, even with less than desirable weather. The show committee put in a great effort with new events like the Young Farmer Trial and old favourites in the Dog Jump Competition. Gillamii hosted the inaugural 'Gillamii Grower Giant Pumpkin Competition', with some magnificent entries and young Oliver Baxter taking out first place and enjoying his Adventure World family pass prize. As always we hosted a stall displaying information about the group and the recently release Saltland Genie Webapp.



Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations

If you intend to clear native vegetation, you will need to apply for a permit from either the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) or the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS), or otherwise an exemption must apply.

If you need to clear more than five hectares per year, a clearing permit must be obtained.

It is an offence to clear native vegetation without the authority of a permit or an exemption.

The activities listed below may be exempt from requiring a clearing permit if the total clearing is limited to five hectares per financial year. Exempt clearing does not require a permit. The exemptions under Regulations do not apply in environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) declared under section 51B of the EP Act. The limited clearing exemptions include:

- Clearing to construct a building
- Clearing for firewood
- Clearing to provide fencing and farm materials
- Clearing for woodwork
- Clearing along a fence line on alienated land
- Clearing for vehicular tracks
- Clearing for walking tracks
- Clearing isolated trees

Isolated Tree Definition

A tree is considered to be an isolated tree when it is in a cleared area that is more than 50m from any other native vegetation. For the purpose of this exemption, this is taken to include all trees that are more than 50m away from any other native vegetation.

Clearing Along A Fence line

This limited clearing exemption allows the landowner to clear land for a fence line on, or within, the property to the width necessary to provide access to construct or maintain a fence.

Please approach clearing with a great amount of consideration for the impact on biodiversity and the health and function of the landscape.

Clearing regulation FAQs and information can be found [here](#).





MLA Shade and Shelter Project Update

Heat stress exposed ewes and rams can have reduced fertility and impaired foetal development and lower lamb survival. Likewise, cold stress will increase the mortality rate of newly shorn sheep and newborn lambs. Extreme climatic variation (wind, rain and temperature) poses a significant stress on extensively-managed sheep. Shade and shelter minimise heat and cold stress to improve the production and welfare of sheep as well as having amenity values and other benefits for pasture production and biodiversity. Under the Sheep Reproduction Strategic Partnership, MLA alongside The University of Western Australia, Murdoch University and a number of other industry partners will investigate and develop interventions to reduce the impact of climatic variation on sheep enterprises. This project has established a trial site in Cranbrook.

Project Update

The Shade and Shelter project has entered its second year and the project team have been busy visiting research sites for the heat stress experiment and recruiting research sites for the shelter and lamb survival experiment which will soon be underway. Here we provide a brief update on some of the components of the project.

Shade and Shelter survey

Our survey to collect baseline data on the current use of shade and shelter, and motivations for adoption, is still open. If you would like to have your say, complete the survey [here](#).

Results from the surveys completed during 2022 show that most producers utilise shade and shelter within their enterprise for ewes and lambs around the time of lambing followed by use during unseasonal weather events. Most producers were motivated to use shade/shelter to improve lamb survival. Producers provide shade/shelter predominately using natural topography and vegetation, and cultivated trees. The largest barrier to the adoption of shade/shelter was the upfront investment costs followed by interruption to management practices for crop and pasture.

Investigating the impacts of heat stress of ewes on reproductive performance

Three research sites were completed for this experiment during 2022 and the experiment has five research sites for 2023, with these now complete. The weather data collected at the research sites in 2022 show that the ewes and rams experienced heat stress on at least 50% of days during joining. Further information about the weather data is available [here](#).


Shelter and lamb survival

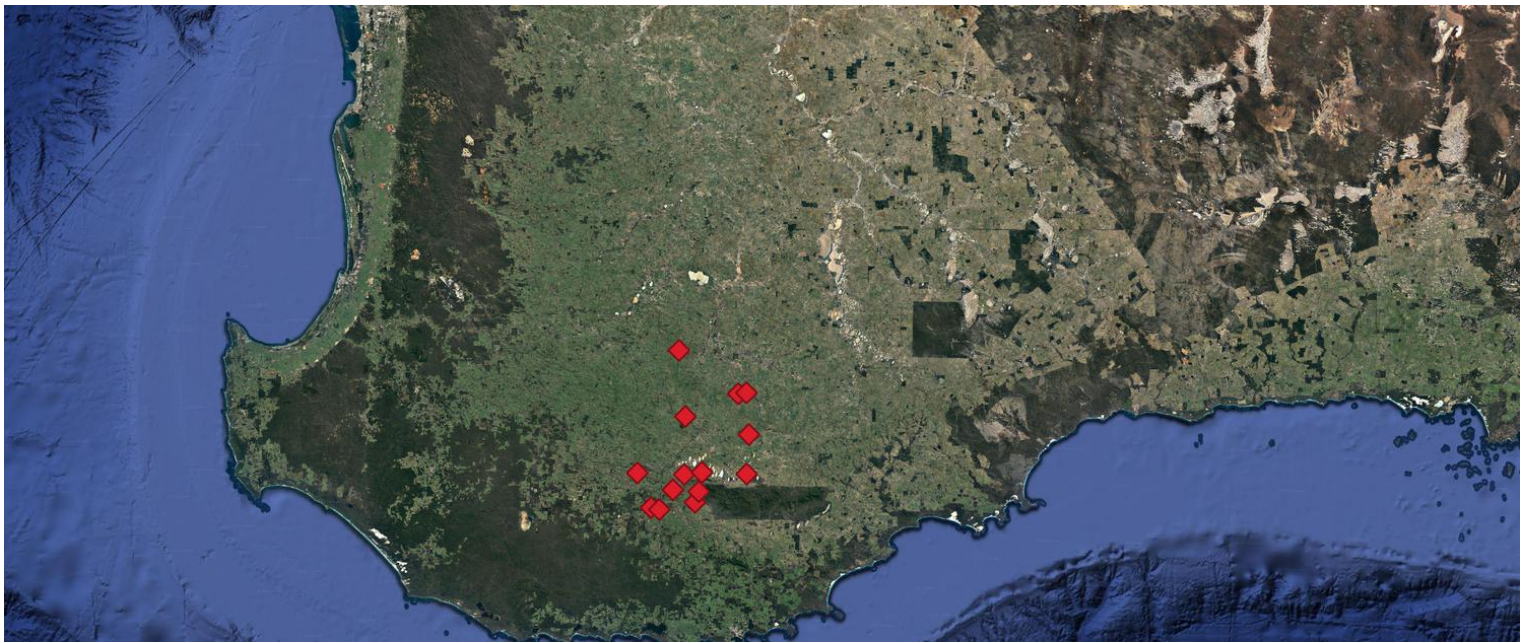
Recruitment is underway for research sites for this experiment for 2023. An expression of interest has been released by PhD candidate Georgia Welsh via Twitter. Check it out [here](#) and get in contact with Georgia or Serina if you are interested in being involved or would like further information about the trial.

Pre-experimental modelling has been conducted to evaluate risk indicators for cold stress of newborn lambs at six project locations across southern Australia. The report can be accessed [here](#).

Shrub design and management

An update on this experiment has been released which you can read [here](#). The research team encourage you to get in touch with any feedback.

 Note: All underlined words contain live links



PROJECT FOCUS

MAPPING THE WAY FORWARD - NRM IN THE KENT-FRANKLAND REGION

Since Gillamii's inception in 1994 hundreds of Landcare projects have been undertaken, comprising of millions of dollars in investment, requiring long-term monitoring and management of data. Fluctuations in organisational capacity can lead to mismanagement of data, creating an inability to ascertain cumulative impact. Without this, resources cannot be strategically assessed or invested.

This project will develop a series of protocols enabling organisations to process and consolidate project data, digitisation of NRM in the Kent-Frankland region, and consulting our Menang community to acknowledge caring for country. Good data management allows organisations to establish baselines, benchmarks, and goals to keep moving forward.

- Consult Ecotones to create a data management protocol
- Development of Project/Data archiving Protocol, and then actively processing historic files.
- Mapping caring for country in collaboration with Menang community.
- Bringing together current project data alongside historical project data, integrated into one accessible file system, to increase the ability to manipulate and analyse data
- Host a workshop session for Southern groups with Ecotones, enabling supported transfer of the protocols, and discussion of future data management across the South Coast region
- Measure impact by using consolidated spatial data to produce statistics and mapping. Impact report to be presented at Gillamii' AGM

Snapshot

Project Period

2023-2024

Project Value

\$145,619.00

Project Officer

Freya and Ash

Funding


State NRM

Future Project updates can be found on our [website](#)



natural resource
management program



 Note: All underlined words contain live links

MEMBER PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

SURVEY



CLIMATE ISSUES FOR THE SOUTH COAST AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY SURVEY



Your response will go into the draw to **WIN a \$100.00 Bunnings Gift Voucher.**

To enter, fill your name and contact details in the section provided on the survey.

The purpose of this survey is to collect data on knowledge of agricultural climate issues across the south coast of Western Australia. Your input into this survey will help to ensure projects, workshops and other activities are meeting local needs. No data you provide through this survey will be shared in a format that allows individuals to be identified.

**THE WINNER WILL BE
DRAWN ON THE
20TH OF JUNE 2023**



MEMBER PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

FENCING AND REVEGETATION *WORKS CONDUCTED 2024*

Greening Australia

Green Jobs



2024 Restoration Opportunity

Revegetation & Protective Fencing

Greening Australia are partnering with Gillamii to provide landholders the opportunity of revegetation and protective fencing to enhance environmental assets such as Black Cockatoo habitat and Threatened Ecological Communities. Projects will be implemented as environmental offsets through the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Environmental Revegetation and Rehabilitation Fund, part of the State Government's Green Jobs Plan.

Opportunity

- ✓ Site Assessment
- ✓ Restoration Plan
- ✓ Funding for Seedlings & Protective Fencing
- ✓ Assistance with Site Prep & Establishment

Site Information

- ➔ Sites will be assessed and accepted by DWER based on environmental values presented
- ➔ Revegetation undertaken is to be protected in perpetuity through some mechanism (i.e. covenant)
- ➔ Planning 2023 for 2024 Revegetation

Contact Us

0427 500 374
admin@gillamii.org.au



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of
Water and Environmental Regulation

UPCOMING EVENTS



GILLAMII'S *Spring* SERIES



SAVE THE DATE

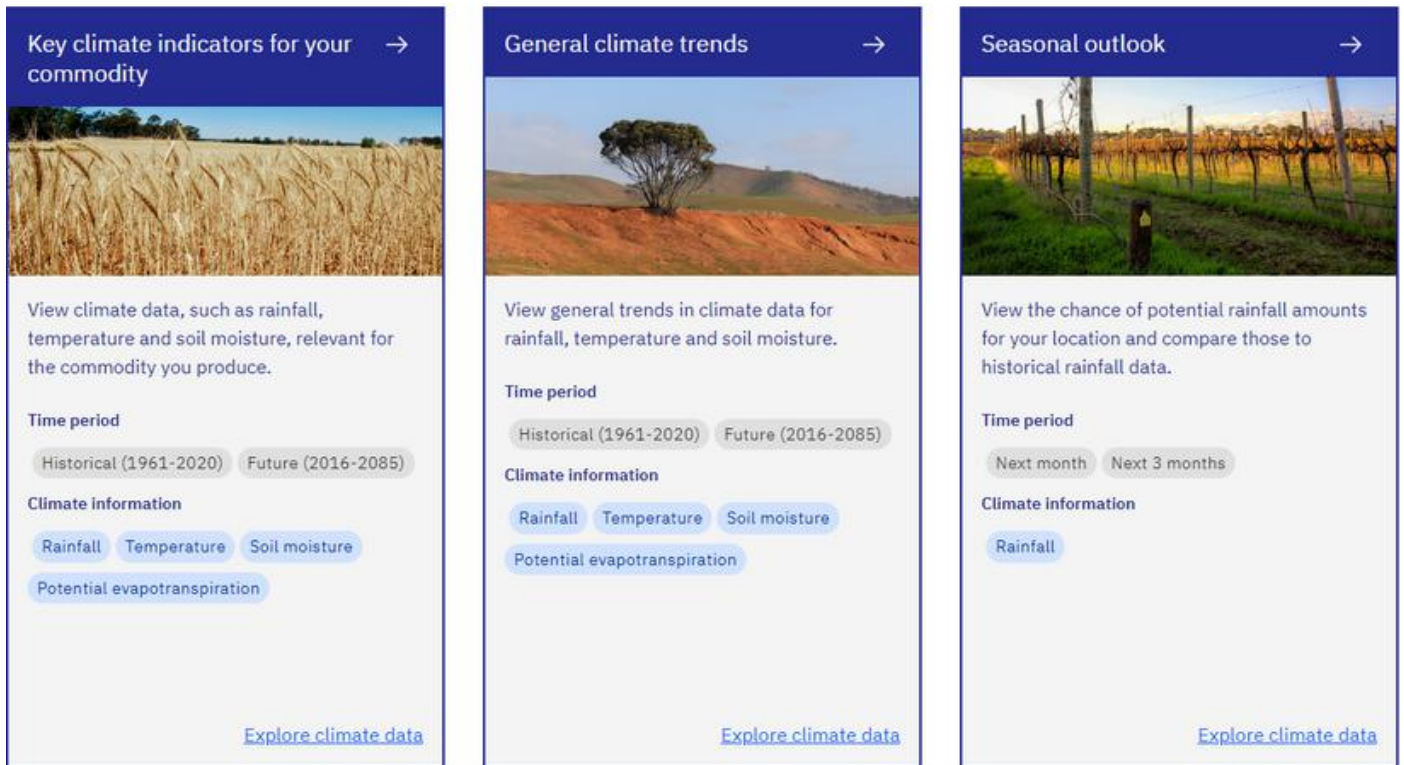
WEDNESDAY 20TH OF SEPTEMBER

GRDC GRAIN LEGUME TRIAL
MLA PERENNIAL PASTURES
DROUGHT MITIGATION: DAM COVER DEMO
FARMER CASE STUDIES: SUB-SURFACE CATCHMENTS

More information to follow soon

Seasonal Climate Outlook

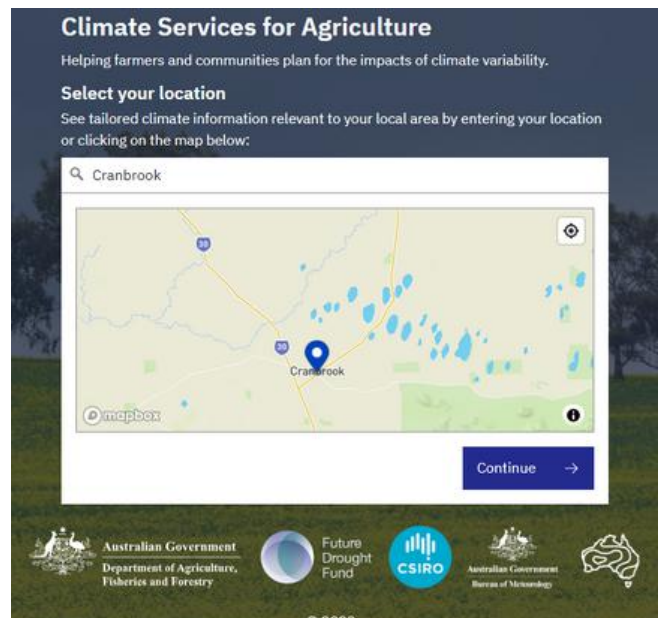
New Climate Services for Agriculture Tool



The start to the growing season has been slow, especially when we compare this to season breaks in recent years. You can't worry about what you can't control and the rain is certainly one of those things, but what you can control is your decision making and planning. There are a variety of climate information tools available to farmers, including the recently released Climate Services for Agriculture tool.


The CSA platform helps you understand the historical, seasonal and future climate at your location to help inform decisions for your business. It provides you with historical data (1961-most recent year gone by), seasonal forecasts (1-3 months) as well as future climate projections based on the 15 years before and after 2030, 2050 and 2070, for a given location.

We highly recommend checking this newly available tool out. You can access the CSA tool on your phone or desktop through the link.



<https://climateservicesforag.indraweb.io>

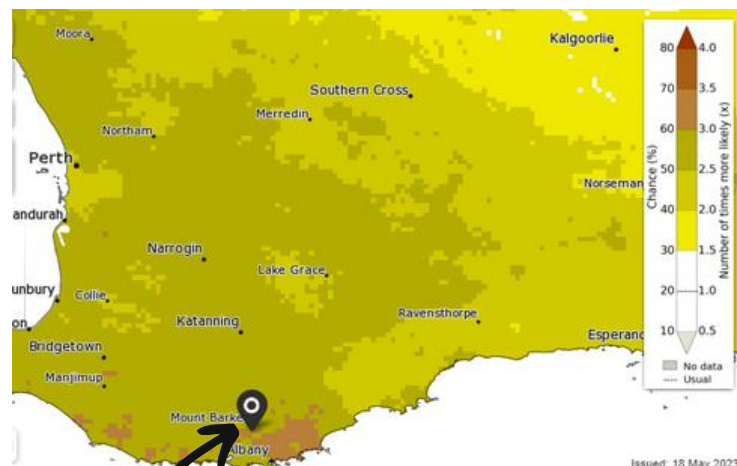
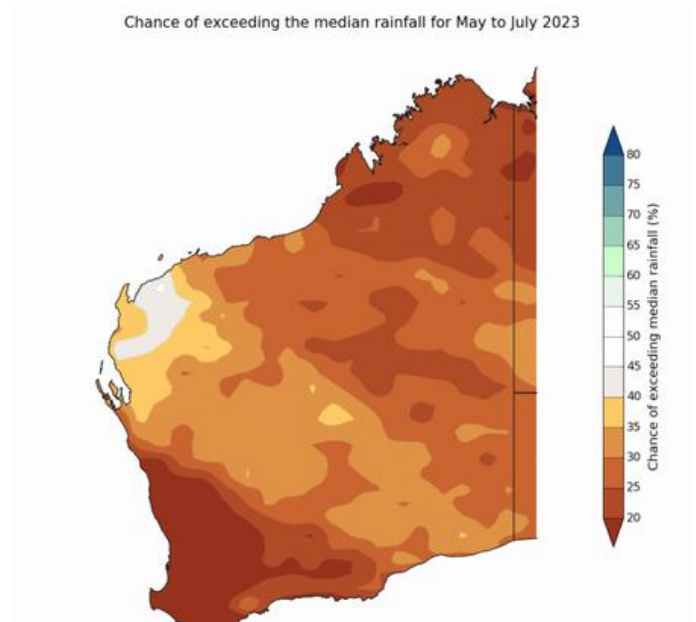


 Note: All underlined words contain live links

Seasonal Climate Outlook

DPIRD Season Outlook

- Rainfall in the South West Land Division, for May to July, is likely to be below average, based on a survey of 20 international models.
- The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for May to July 2023, is indicating 20-30% chance of exceeding median rainfall for the SWLD, with medium skill (55-75%). The current longer-term outlook (at time of writing) for winter, June to August 2023, is also 20-30% chance of exceeding median rainfall with slightly poorer skill (50-65%).
- Temperature outlooks for May to July 2023, from the Bureau indicate an 80% chance of above average day-time maxima. Skill is moderate to good 65-75%. For night-time minima for the SWLD, the Bureau is indicating 65-80% chance of exceeding above average temperatures. Skill is mostly poor at 45-50%.
- April rainfall was average to above average, with Walpole receiving 254 mm. April maximum and minimum temperatures were very much below average.

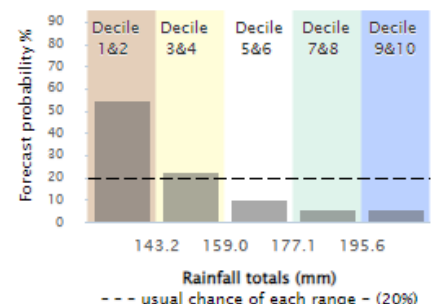


Things to watch out as the season unfolds

- Mean sea level pressure over the South West Land Division is forecast to be high (high pressure system), resulting in blocking highs, which will suppress rainfall from winter cold fronts.
- The Bureau of Meteorology puts out a national severe weather outlook for April- August and looks at likelihood compared to recent decades. The current watch points for the SWLD include bushfire, drought and heatwave.
- Chances of both an El Niño and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole developing from June. If an El Niño coincides with a positive IOD, there is a clear signal for reduced winter-spring rainfall for large parts of the South West Land Division.

Outlook for June to August at Cranbrook

Rainfall	
Historical median	169.2 mm
Chance of unusually dry (< 143.2 mm)	55 % ★★☆☆
Chance of above median (> 169.2 mm)	18 % ★☆☆☆
Chance of unusually wet (> 195.6 mm)	6 % ★☆☆☆



EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Bookings through our website:

<https://www.gillamii.org.au/water-testing-equipment-hire->

Members have free access to hire equipment available at The Gillamii Centre Including:

- Comm Veg Direct Seeder
- Chatfield Tree Planter
- Fox and Cat Traps
- Pottiputki Tree Planters
- Ripper Moulder
- Salinity and pH Water Testing Kit



Chatfield Ezy-planter for hire \$110.00/day for members

ARE YOU A MEMBER FOR 2023?

Check out the details of the Gillamii membership on our website: <https://www.gillamii.org.au/membership>.

Payment

The Gillamii Centre Inc

BSB 633 000

Account 110 006 285

Reference - (Your Trading Name) Membership



Interactive whiteboard in the Bendigo Bank meeting room, which is available for hire

OPEN
LIBRARY

Cranbrook Public Library

Wednesday - Friday

9am - 4.30 pm



Cranbrook Shire Newsletter

Keep up to date with the Shire news!

To subscribe, email

cranbrooknewsletter@gillamii.org.au



Bendigo Bank Meeting Room Hire

Available for community hire!

Seats 30 people

Call 9826 1234 for more information



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The Gillamii Centre

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