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# AG NOTE

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**Gerard O'Brien**  
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## *Introduction*

Hello everyone from Western AG and welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter.

The 2016/2017 harvest has been a drawn out affair and, in a number of cases, has only just been completed. Record yields particularly in cereals have been achieved in Southern areas where the magic 10t/ha has been hit with some varieties such as Beaufort. Canola yields of up to 3.5t/ha have also been reported. In the Wimmera Mallee, lentils yields of over 3t/ha have been common along with lots of solid 4-5.5t/ha cereal crops. This has certainly helped ease the pain of low commodity prices!

It is hoped that by combining paddock results with other information sources, such as local variety trials, we are able to provide better advice on variety selection and management. We hope to have summary findings for our clients soon.

The focus is now on getting paddocks prepared for sowing to pastures and crops for the 2017 season. The time of sowing is critical for production and clients need to be prepared to sow crops dry on a target date. The crop protection strategy and timing will need to be adjusted depending on moisture at sowing, rainfall and emergence. A good idea is to establish a complete list of management items and target completion dates leading up to sowing so things are not left to the last minute.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and, as always, please call for further clarification. Here is wishing everyone a cracking start to 2017.



**Ashley Perkins**  
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As with planning, our agronomy team with the permission of clients, are busy collecting paddock yield and quality data currently to enable the comparative analysis for regions, crop types and varieties. The object is to use unidentified data to establish crop and variety performance averages, water use efficiencies and effects of management decisions such as time of sowing on yield.



**James Jess**  
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## *Western AG is going Digital.....*

Over the past decade, Western AG has been at the forefront of bringing new technology, service initiatives and positive farming advancements to farmers. Western AG's unwavering objective is to drive innovation and we will continue to do so. As part of this, we have been heavily involved in developing new products with Suppliers, conducting various research & commercialisation trials, active participation with industry leading bodies such as GRDC and Southern Farming Systems (SFS), involvement at local level with sporting, educational engagement and sponsorship.

As we do this, we will be chasing current email details, not only to ensure that the newsletter still gets through, but to also keep you up to date of what activities we are up to and any other business initiatives we feel that you may be interested in.



**Matthew Barber**  
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In the next few months, we will be ramping up our exposure through our website, social media and advertising mediums. We will be also moving our well known Ag Note to the digital delivery only.



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## *Wheat & Barley Regional "Best Bets"* (by Nick Zordan & Anna Fry)

With the 2016-17 harvest in the bin, we can now plan for the upcoming season. The important decision is now upon us to decide which crops and varieties are going to be the best for our farming operations. Deciding on what crops to grow and the best varieties is an important decision that seems to be getting earlier each year. The past season was one out of the box and it is important not to judge any variety on a single year. In 2016, we saw many other factors influence yield, such as fungicide and nutrient management, waterlogging and frost.

To grow crops that suit your farming system and that suit our variable climate, we need to choose varieties that have proved themselves over multiple growing seasons. A lot of time, money & research have gone into developing seed varieties that suit particular regions and it often can be hard to wade through the large amount of information provided by seed suppliers. Following are a few that we believe have a good fit in particular regions.

### Wheat Wimmera

**Trojan-APW.** Mid-long variety, semi dwarf suited to the wetter areas in the Wimmera. This wheat is known to be high yielding with a solid disease package. Stem rust MRMS, stripe rust MR, leaf rust MRMS. In trials, over the last few years, it has shown good protein and test weight results, but is APW wheat.

**Cosmick -AH.** Early-mid variety that has yielded well with good protein levels. Usually easy to harvest in the past. The disease package is weak being stem rust MS, stripe rust MSS, leaf rust SVS and Yellow Leaf Spot SVS. If disease is well managed, this wheat will perform well.

### Wheat Mallee

**Scepter-AH.** Early-mid variety to replace Mace. It has performed well in trials in the last few years. MR stem rust, but MSS leaf and stripe rust which will need to be managed. A high biomass wheat that has the strength to yield in a tight finish as well as push on in a wet spring.

**Cutlass-APW.** A mid-late variety that adapts well in our climate, similar to Yipti, which allows a flexible sowing window. It has performed well in trials in the last few years. Fair disease package, stem rust R, Stripe rust MS, leaf rust RMR and yellow leaf spot MSS. This is an early sowing wheat option, but is APW which may limit some Mallee Farmers.

### Barley Wimmera/Mallee

**Latrobe- Malt.** Early-mid maturing variety, that has proven itself in trials and on-farm in contrasting seasons. It has been yielding well and has good lodging resistance (it did go over this year, but stood up longer than most varieties) and disease package as well as head retention. Latrobe has a short coleoptile so Pre-Em chemicals must be used carefully. Also, it lacks early vigour which doesn't suit high grass weed pressure situations well.

**Compass-Malt.** Early-mid maturing variety that made a name for itself in 2015-16 with high yields in numerous areas. It has fantastic early vigour, competes with weeds very well early and can be used with double knock situations. In above average seasons, its' poor disease package, including lodging resistance and poor head retention, has let the variety down. Compass can be used as a tool to combat high weed situations or, in lower rainfall areas, has a good fit in certain situations.

**Spartacus CL-Malt** An early-mid maturing variety, an IMI tolerant that's doesn't compromise yield. It is bred from Latrobe, which means it has a similar strong disease package as well as a good straw strength and lodging. It is far less itchy than Scope CL and is registered for the use of Clearfield herbicide technology. It has poor early vigour, but has a definite fit in systems where IMI herbicides residuals are an issue.

### Wheat Western District

**Trojan-APW.** In addition to its fit in the Wimmera, this mid-late season variety has proven itself in field over 4 years now in the HRZ. The variety has performed well in dry and soft finishes and has become a reliable wheat choice. MSS to Septoria means it needs attention in wet seasons.

**Pascal-APW.** Commercially released by DOW Seeds in 2016. A mid-late season maturing variety that has shown great results in field this year. Yielding similarly to Revenue with the additional ability to go APW. It has excellent sprouting and lodging tolerance which proves valuable in delayed harvests.

**Beckom-AH.** A semi dwarf wheat with mid-season maturity. This variety has stood out in NTV data and we saw its success in field last season. It was bred for its acid tolerance and resistance to stem and stripe rust. With a Septoria rating of SVS it will need a fungicide strategy in our environment. Sharp finished have seen Beckom produce moderate screen levels, sowing April through till mid May will maximise potential yield while reducing the risk of downgrading due to screening losses.

**Adagio-Feed.** A high yielding mid-late maturing red wheat. Adagio has a good grazing tolerance when sown early, providing a feed option in mixed enterprises. Its' thinner stalk has been noted as more favourable during harvest against Revenue. It has a strong disease package with MR to Septoria, however stripe rust at SVS will need monitoring.



### Barley Western District

**Westminster- Malt.** Continues to be a reliable option in the HRZ. The early vigour makes it a good tool for crop competition. Like all malting barley, net blotch will need a fungicide strategy.

**Bierce-Malt.** A new malting barley that matures 21 days earlier than the Westminster variety. Breeders suggest the yield will reach its limit at 5t/ha. It has good head retention and standability of Commander. It's likely to have a fit for delayed sowing for ryegrass control.

**Rosalind-Feed.** 2016 was Rosalind's first year in the field. This mid-maturing feed barley has a strong disease package with good resistance to net form net blotch, leaf rust and powdery mildew. NVT data at Westmere last season saw it average 8.3t/ha with 9.8% protein. A high yielding feed that we are likely to see more of in 2017.

Remember, grow what works within your farming system to meet your production strategy., and always ask your Agronomist for more information about the varieties that will suit your needs.

## Canola “Best Bets” for 2017 (by Tim Hofmaier)

With record yields and below average prices last season, our focus now turns to the 2017 cropping program. Given current moisture carry over and recent summer rain events, canola is returning as a sound option for Wimmera growers. Further to this, continuing low feed barley prices and large tonnages stored on farm, canola plantings are set to rise in 2017. Last year we saw major Blackleg issues in Group A varieties like Bonito and Wahoo. Prosaro fungicides were applied with excellent results. There was also aerial Blackleg later in the season which affected flowers and pods of the canola. Stingray appeared the worst variety affected with some paddocks seeing up to 30% damage.

Blackleg is a pathogen that will overcome cultivator resistance genes. Fungal spores are released from canola stubbles and spread extensively via wind and rain splash. The yield damage can be quite large ranging from 50% to 90% where *L. maculans* has overcome major Blackleg resistance genes within certain varieties. The best defence against Blackleg is growing resistant varieties, like Hyola 559TT which is a R resistant variety, coupled with Flutriafol applied to the sowing fertiliser.



### ATR BonitoTT

Bonito is an open pollinated (OP) early to mid Nuseed variety with a Group A rating. This canola variety has been one of the best yielding over the past 3 years and still is a good option for this season. Clients would need to budget for a spray of Prosaro at the 4 to 6 leaf stage. The canola stubbles from last season would also need to be considered when choosing this variety.



### Hyola 559TT

This Advanta (Pac Seeds) variety has shown to be one of the most adapted and popular Triazine tolerant (TT) hybrids across the 1.5 to 2.5t/ha environments within Southern Australia. It has shown multi seasonal adaptation with a very high inherent Blackleg protection rating and very high oil content to provide growers with a complete agronomic package. This variety has very good early vigour and is excellent competition for ryegrass. It is a R - MR resistant variety with a Group ABD Rating. A Prosaro application may not be required with this variety, saving around \$30/ha in chemical, which would offset the hybrid seed cost.

### 45Y91CL

The new “Y” series hybrid by Pioneer combines very good vigour and high yield potential. It was the best yielding canola variety in NVT’s at Minyip last year. It has a GRDC resistance Group AB and a Blackleg resistance rating of R-MR. However, the 45Y91 is a Clearfield variety potentially posing restricted plant back issues to wheat and barley the following season. The availability of Pioneer CL Canola seed tonnages will be limited this season.



### Invigor T4510

A new Hybrid TT from Bayer that has performed exceptionally well in trials over the past 4 years. It has very similar maturity to Bonito and Hyola 559TT. The variety exhibits good vigour with excellent oil content and has got a MR Blackleg rating. Bayer, whilst relatively new to the canola market, looks certain to become a market leader in the future with some newer varieties going very well currently. With regards to the Roundup Ready (RR) stable, Bayer has IH51RR which has also performed particularly well in southern trials.



## Will a Drone replace my Agronomist? (by James Jess)

Some time ago, Western Ag has invested in Phantom 3 professional drones to assist agronomists with decision making in the field. Drones enable agronomists to get a “bird’s eye view” of the land and are useful in making decisions around drainage, pest incidence including slug effected areas, and areas of high weed pressure. Further use of drones could be made when making the decisions around hay cutting or late crop yield assessments. This could be a valuable tool particularly when crops get to a stage where they are difficult to access by foot, ATV or vehicle. An example of this would be canola at flowering or wheat at head emergence.

The future is bright for the application of drones in agriculture. The ability to assess the relative density & health of vegetation greenness and correlate that back to health of the crop or Nitrogen requirement is done through analysing the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data. This operation is already performed by drones and in the coming years will be more accessible, cheaper and easier to use.



So, it does pose the question, will a drone replace my agro?

The answer to that question is NO.

Drones simply are another tool that allows your agronomist to get another different picture of what is happening in each individual paddock. Consider it an essential tool to be able to get the best advice for your cropping and pasture enterprise.

To see some footage of the Phantom 3 professional drone in action, head to the Western AG Facebook page.

## *Lentils - A Profit Opportunity in the HRZ* (by Ashley Perkins)

Can lentils be another rotational option in the high rainfall zone of SW Vic? In the 2016/2017 cropping season two growers successfully grew jumbo 2 lentils which yielded in excess of 2.5 tonne per ha. At values of around \$650 per tonne delivered Melbourne (Feb 22nd Weekly Times), this results in a gross of \$1625/ha. Not a bad return, if they can be successfully grown and are certainly a potential option.

Lentils have been grown in Victoria, generally in the Wimmera Mallee, since the early 1990's. They suit the no-till and stubble retention systems, that many farmers have adopted, and they are an important tool in resistance management with annual ryegrass and brome grass.

Lentils generally like sand to clay loam soils, therefore not suiting all our soil types but in areas they are certainly a fit. Because they are harvested basically with the harvester front on the ground, the paddocks must be rock free and should be rolled after sowing or early Post Em at approx. 3 node to break up and larger clods which could potentially get into the sample at harvest. Lentils don't like wet feet and potentially die if this occurs. They also prefer pH 6-7, so lime may need to be applied to achieve this range. Having standing stubble present is an advantage due to their short growth (30-50cm in height) the stubble helps to keep the plant upright and reduces lodging.

There are many varieties of lentils with Jumbo 2 being very popular due to their disease profile. Hurricane lentils are IMI tolerant varieties which are very popular in the Wimmera/Mallee to fit in with the Clearfield herbicide systems for the management of brome grass.



Previous paddock history is vital and particular attention should be taken to the previous season's chemical applications. Apart from IT Hurricane lentils, the rest are extremely susceptible to group B herbicides and can be effected for several seasons if pH levels are high due to the persistence of the group B herbicides in the soil. Lontrel residues in retained stubble can also be an issue so attention to herbicide history must be assessed.

There are very limited options for broadleaf weed control and generally IBS and Post Sow Pre-Em applications are used. High populations of wild radish, fumitory and thistles should be avoided. For grass control the usual options are available post emergence and products may vary due to the grass weed spectrum. Please seek assistance from your local Western Ag agronomist for weed control options and paddock assessment for any herbicide carryover issues.

Lentils should be inoculated with a Group E/F with your preferred inoculant option. Sowing rate and depth will vary with different areas but a depth of approx. the same as cereals and at a rate of around 55-65kgs/ha in the HRZ. This may alter with varying seed size in different seasons. Last year the lentils were sown late May at Berrybank so, as a starting point, this would be the timing to aim for.

Lentils are also generally desiccated to even out maturity for ease of harvest which also gives the added bonus of annual ryegrass control.

### Key Points;

- Choose rock free paddocks
- Check paddock herbicide history for any potential carryover issues
- Rolling paddock provides better harvest efficiency due to lower harvest heights and a better grain sample.

Variety selection will be determined by your weed spectrum, but Jumbo 2 seem to be the lentil of choice due to its' disease profile and yield potential. If an IMI tolerant variety is required then Hurricane lentils will be the lentil of choice. As already stated previously, planning and previous paddock history is very important before considering growing lentils so as not to have chemical residue issues.

## *New Product - Butisan by BASF* (by Trudy McCann)

A new product due to enter the Pre-Em market this season is Butisan by BASF. Butisan will be registered only for use in Canola for control of Annual Ryegrass, Wild Oats and Wireweed, applied and incorporated by sowing (IBS), and an expected residual control for up to 12 weeks post application.

Butisan is very safe for use in all canola types and is highly active on Annual Ryegrass. The current label application rate will be between 1.5-1.8L/ha, IBS with best results coming from using a knifepoint and press-wheel set up. Being Group K, like Sakura, Butisan forms a herbicide barrier in the soil through which weed seeds must germinate.

Butisan has a low volatility, is safe to apply when dry sowing, and becomes active in low moisture conditions.

## **Butisan**<sup>®</sup> Herbicide

The big advantage over previously available products in the IBS canola market is Butisan can be applied up to 3 days prior to incorporation. It is also highly water soluble allowing for the active to be washed back in to the furrow, providing control of previously missed weeds germinating in-furrow. Trials have shown up to 80% annual ryegrass control in the furrow.

It is likely other grass and broadleaf weed species will be added to the label as initial research data is promising and further trial results are required for registration.

This season, Butisan will be available only in limited quantities.



## *Be careful of Chemical Residues* (by Edwina Simpson & Matt Witney)

Whilst most areas experienced a wet Spring and finish to the 2016 season, and summer rains have been common cause of a delayed finish to harvest, chemical residues still need to be considered when planning for the 2017 season.

Growers should consider their individual situation when referring to the following information and discuss any concerns with their agronomist.

The risk of potential yield loss from chemical residues damaging crops can be reduced through several means.

No till and controlled traffic farming systems can lead to an increase in soil moisture, as well as an increase in any microbial activity which also may contribute to chemical breakdown, however, the level of effect is always difficult to quantify.

Management options used to minimise yield loss includes delayed sowing timing and planting tolerant crops. Many plant back periods will vary with soil pH (generally measured in calcium chloride) and soils with high pH clay subsoil carry an increased risk of residue carry over that may not be evident until crops roots grow into subsoil. Nutrition, especially Zinc, can help reduce plant effects.

Product	Active ingredient	Plant back	Rainfall	pH
Ally	600g/kg Metsulfuron	10days – Wheat 6wks – barley, cereal rye, Triticale 9mths – pulse crops, Lucerne, clover	N/A	5.6-8.5
Balance	750g/kg Isoxaflutole	10wks – wheat, barley oats 9mths – field peas, faba beans, 9mths – canola 21mths- lentils, clover, medic	100mm 250mm 350mm 500mm	
Crusader	30g/L Pyroxsulam 90g/L Cloquintocet	9mths – barley, canola chickpeas, faba beans, field peas, lentils, Lucerne, medic, oats	25mm or more	
Hussar	100g/kg Iodosulfuron-Methyl	1 day – wheat 9mths – barley, oats, triticale, faba beans, canola, chickpeas, lupins, Lucerne, clover, vetch 21mths – lentils	250mm	
Intervix	33g/L Imazmox 15g/L Imazapyr	0mths – Clearfield wheat, Clearfield barley, Clearfield canola 10mths – chickpeas, faba beans, field peas, Lucerne, lupins, oats, barley, wheat 34mths – canola	150mm (300- 375mm rate) 200mm (<500mm rate) 250mm (600-750mm rate)	
Lontrel Advanced	600g/L Clorpyralid	9mths – clover, chickpeas, faba beans, field peas, lentils, lupins, medic, vetch	150mm	
Precept	125g/L MCPA 25g/L Pyrasulfotole	3wks- wheat, barley, oats, triticale 9mths – canola, chickpea, field pea, Lucerne, lupins, vetch, lentil, medic 21mths – lentil, medic (alkaline soils)	250mm 500mm	Alkaline soils affect lentil and medic plant back
Sakura	850g/kg Pyroxasulfone	5mths - maize, sorghum, sunflowers 9mths – barley, canola, chickpeas, faba beans, field peas, lentils, lupins, vetch, sub clover 21mths- durum wheat, oats, Lucerne, medic	150mm 250mm 550mm	
Spinnaker	700g/kg Imazethapyr	10mths- Lucerne, lupins, vetch, wheat, barley 22mths – oats, safflower 34mths- canola	Check Label	
Velocity	210g/L Bromoxynil 37.5g/L Pyrasulfotole	3wks- wheat, barley, oats, triticale 9mths – canola, clover, chickpeas, faba bean, lentil, Lucerne, lupin, vetch 21mths – lentil, medic (alkaline soils)	250mm 500mm	Alkaline soils affect lentil and medic plant back

Rainfall Chart 2016	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-17	Total April-Jan17
Kaniva	9.2m m	51.4m m	51.6m m	80.6m m	48.4m m	114.4m m	72.6m m	15.4m m	31.4m m	25.4m m	500.4m m
Nhill	6.6m m	41m m	43.4m m	61.8m m	33.6m m	93.4m m	59m m	13.6m m	32m m	23.2m m	407.6m m
Hopetoun	0.8m m	51.6m m	26m m	40.2m m	25.6m m	119.2m m	52.2m m	17.8m m	12.8m m	23m m	369.4m m
Horsham	7.6m m	60.4m m	36.6m m	61.2m m	40.6m m	91.4m m	54.2m m	8.6m m	31.6m m	38.8m m	431m m
Edenhope	28m m	68.8m m	56.4m m	81m m	95.8m m	131.2m m	89.4m m	23.2m m	38.8m m	31.2m m	643.8m m
Hamilton	38.8m m	103m m	68.2m m	136.4m m	73.4m m	158.6m m	93.2m m	34.4m m	35.2m m	45.4m m	786.6m m
Willaura	6.4m m	80.2m m	47m m	76.4m m	66.2m m	137.8m m	88.8m m	30.4m m	23.4m m	39.4m m	596m m
Ballarat	13.8m m	71.4m m	70.6m m	93.4m m	63.6m m	178.2m m	102.4m m	34m m	27.6m m	38.6m m	693.6m m
Derrinallum	18.2m m	102.4m m	63.6m m	88.4m m	54.8m m	112m m	135.2m m	30.2m m	36m m	45.8m m	686.8m m
Bannockburn	11.6m m	61.8m m	50.2m m	93.2m m	39.8m m	90.4m m	59.8m m	27.8m m	12m m	35.6m m	482.2m m

## *Productive Pastures in 2017* (by Karl Drever)

Pasture Establishment and renovation is an expensive process that requires planning and preparation to ensure the maximum result can be achieved.

It would be highly recommended when considering sowing a new pasture, especially a perennial, that 12 months planning is undertaken. Below are the most important points to be considered prior to sowing a new pasture.

1. Select the paddock, start planning 12 months in advance.
2. Implement weed and pest control, ensure correct issue identification.
3. Soil Test, different species have different requirements.
4. Pasture Selection, choose the correct species and varieties to suit your requirements and environment.
5. Sowing conditions, seed bed preparation.
6. Sowing equipment.
7. Inspect the newly establishing pasture for weeds and pests regularly.
8. First grazing.

Quite often, especially with pasture selection, decisions are made on price more so that what is the best option for productivity. Plant Breeders are now doing more work in Australia to ensure species and varieties not only perform, but also persist in our conditions.

This season, at Western AG, we have put together our Hi-Grow Pasture Range with species and varieties that we have seen perform in our environment over the past few years, these are options for you to sow this season, knowing that we can also provide a custom mixing service if these blends don't suit.

### **Hi-Grow Early Hay -** Drummer Annual Rye, Shaftal and Balansa Clovers

A fast establishing Hay mix suited to early winter grazing with the option to lock up to cut silage or hay, suited where a summer crop is being planned to sow in the Spring.

### **Hi-Grow Premium Late Hay –** Mach 1 & Burst Annual Rye, Shaftal & Border Balansa Clovers

A fast establishing, highly productive and late maturing annual pasture blend for intensive late autumn/ winter grazing, silage and hay production. The Premium Annual has outstanding bulk winter feed with the option of an early silage or hay cut when conditions permit. A superior alternative to forage cereals in wet waterlogged conditions.

### **Hi-Grow Premium Italian –** Knight & Thumpa Italian Rye, Lusa Persian, Viper Balansa and Arroto Arrowleaf Clovers.

A highly productive short term, late maturing pasture blend for winter or early Spring grazing, silage and hay production. A high quality blend with increased leafiness and excellent grazing recovery. The Premium Italian is a late heading blend with reduced aftermath heading which means it holds its late spring and early summer feed quality in appropriate environments such as the Western District. The annual clovers chosen are later maturing which is ideal for this blend for high quality hay production.

Given the right conditions and correct management, stand persistence of the Italian ryegrasses into the second year can be achieved.



### **Hi-Grow Safe Graze Perennial –** Avalon AR1 & Ausvic Perennial Rye, Urana & Riverina Sub Clovers, Balansa Clover.

For farmers wanting a high quality ryegrass based pasture in low to medium rainfall areas. Early to mid maturing sub clovers for reliable regeneration the following year, with excellent winter and Spring Production. (450 mm+ rainfall)

### **Hi-Grow Premium Perennial –** Kingsgate Perennial Rye, Riverina & Coolamon Sub Clovers, Viper Balansa.

This perennial ryegrass clover pasture blend is suitable for sheep and beef farms that require top quality pasture under a rotational grazing system. High dry matter production and better disease resistance in grasses and legumes. (600mm+ rainfall)

Remember that the most expensive pasture is the one that fails to establish. Please speak to your Agronomist regarding what option best suits your requirements this season.

## *Winchester Ammunition & Accessories* (by Aaron Starick)

Western AG Derrinallum branch now have access to Winchester ammunition and accessories, but not firearms.

The ammunition range available for order includes Winchester, Norma and FIOCCHI. Also available for order is gun storage units, reloading components, apparel and accessories.

We will be operating mainly on an order in basis, although there will be a small amount of stock on hand at the shop. Orders generally take around 1-2 weeks.

With plenty of foxes and other vermin around, and with the duck hunting season approaching fast, please feel free to give Aaron a call at the Derrinallum office (03) 5597 6622 and he can provide the pricing and availability of all products.

**Note: We cannot access Firearms**



**WINCHESTER**  
AUSTRALIA



## *More Lambs, More Often workshop* (by Jackie Elliott & Katrina Ridgway)

Over recent months, Western AG hosted a 'More Lamb More Often' workshop for sheep producers at both the Ballarat and Willaura stores. Producers attended the free workshops that were facilitated by Dr Steve Cotton – Dynamic AG Consultancy.

The objectives of the More Lambs More Often (MLMO) are to;

- Improve understanding of the drivers of climate change and climate variability,
- Increase awareness and understanding of the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) and opportunities to reduce emissions,
- Highlight impacts of climate variability on farm productivity and profit, and assess the flexibility of sheep business to adapt to this variability,
- Promote effective strategies and tactics to manage climate variability, including how to manage/breed ewes to optimise reproduction in poor seasons
- On farm tactics for variable seasons
- Ewe condition score targets and the attributes of a resilient business.

The overall outcome of this initiative is to increase the resilience of businesses and for sheep producers to understand how management can reduce emissions of greenhouse gases per unit of product, ensuring a more sustainable future.

# zoetis

The presentations were complimented on the day with a demonstration by Heidi Southerland from Zoetis on the importance of second dose vaccinations and also a presentation on WeatherPro mineral supplement by Geordie Elliott from Performance Feeds. Both Zoetis and Performance Feeds sponsored the lunch and morning tea at both events.

# PERFORMANCE FEEDS

Following the presentations there was a great opportunity to have a group discussion about the Ballarat and Willaura regions – conveying ideas around the room about individual operations.



The Animal Health (A.H.) & General Merchandise team at Western AG will host more information sessions for livestock producers in the future. Your feedback on topics of interest would be much appreciated.



### Disclaimer

The information contained in this AG Note is to be used as a guide only and specific information needs to be sought from the authors regarding individual situations. Western AG Supplies takes all care in compiling this information. However Western AG Supplies accepts no liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person who relies on this information.



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**Horsham - Nhill - Goroke - Kaniva  
Derrinallum - Willaura - Ballarat - Bannockburn**

**For every selected item purchased in March and April, you will receive an entry into the prize draw.**

One lucky winner will receive an accommodation and dinner package for two at the lovely coastal town of Port Fairy.

Treat that special lady in your life to dinner at Blake's Seafood Restaurant and two nights accommodation at The Victoria Apartments.

*the Victoria*  
PORT FAIRY

Two winners will receive a twelve-month subscription to Graziher—a magazine for women of the land.

**graziher**

FOR WOMEN OF THE LAND

**WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY 8TH MAY  
2017 IN TIME FOR MOTHERS DAY!**

Terms and Conditions Apply—see in store for details.

\*ZOETIS—Startect, Ultravac, Glanvac. Merial—Triguard, Dynamax Capsules (selected stores). VIRBAC—Websters, Cydectin Sheep, Eweguard, Cydectin LA. ELANCO—Zolvix, Pyrimide. Performance Feeds—DV80 Lambing Ewe. Farm Balance—Ewe and Lamb Blocks. Coopers—Ovilis Campyvax.

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