

the leucaena network

NETWORK NEWS

August 2021



Chairman's Word

I feel very privileged to have been elected to lead The Leucaena Network through 2021 and 2022 at the Network's recent Annual General Meeting.

I have been involved with the Network since the beginning and have served in many roles and am excited to be a part of the focus and direction that the Leucaena Network has in 2021 and moving forward. Congratulations to outgoing President Hugh Rea on his successful leadership of the organisation over the past three years. It is pleasing that Hugh has agreed to remain as a part of the Network's Executive team and will continue to provide guidance in our activities.

Congratulations also to Brett Blennerhasset who was elected as the Network's Vice-President and who brings experience as a very successful leucaena producer and advocate for the industry to the role.

We were very pleased to welcome Mark Harrison of QUT to the Executive team as an external advisor. Mark's expertise in research has already proved invaluable and he joins Nigel Tomkins from MLA and Stuart Buck of DAF in providing advice and guidance to the Network Executive.

We thank John McLaughlin for continuing his role as Treasurer for the Network and for Craig Antonio and Michael Burgis for continuing as valued members of the Network's Executive.

Together with our Executive Officer, Bron Christensen, we are looking forward to an invigorating and exciting year, kicking goals for the leucaena and grazing industries.

Robin Cruikshank

Chairman – The Leucaena Network

Gin Gin enthusiastic about leucaena!

A cool morning and later showers did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 28 attendees at The Leucaena Network's Introduction to Leucaena workshop and field day held last Saturday at Chris and Beth Jensen's

'Boxvale' Gin Gin. 'Boxvale's' machinery shed was the ideal venue for all to escape the cool breeze to hear about the basics of leucaena establishment from the Network's Bron Christensen. Workshop attendee and irrigation services 'Netafim' Qld State Manager Jeremy Evans was persuaded to add to the day with an impromptu overview of potential irrigated systems and methods of irrigation of leucaena. Following a hot cuppa and delicious catering from the Gin Gin Bakery (queues outside the bakery from 7am each morning were testament to how delicious their fare is!), the workshop attendees made the short drive to Paul and Karla Tobin's 'Greenleaf' property where Paul and Karla have established an intensive leucaena and Rhodes grass grazing system. Paul was very generous in sharing his experiences, successes, and lessons learned in growing leucaena in several different systems, planting varieties including Cunningham, Wondergraze and Taramba. The day was rounded out with a barbecue lunch back in the 'Boxvale' shed where Network member Bruce Apel showed his barbecue mastery with perfectly cooked steaks (purchased from Gin Gin's Kuskey Country Meats –flavourful and tender!)! Attendees and the Network really appreciate the support of the Gin Gin Community Bank who sponsored all the catering and Manager Jonathon Smith, who attended the day – great to see a bank that is happy to come on farm, learn about leucaena and how responsibly established and managed leucaena can greatly assist a grazing enterprises's viability and in turn, their local community. A huge thank you to hosts Chris and Beth Jensen and Paul and Karla Tobin and other interested graziers in the Gin Gin area who prompted the field day organisation and to all who took the time to attend. A very enjoyable day of leucaena!

Footnote: It was lovely to see a lot of the attendees the next day at the Hinterland Junior Enduro Club's Club Day, also on Chris and Beth's property! A great day out for all ages on bikes (our 13 year old spent the trip home regaling us with stories of his prowess on the track and where he 'stacked it') so if you are a keen dirt bike rider, check out their events!









THE LEUCAENA NETWORK 2021 AGM

The Network's 2021 AGM was held via Zoom on Thursday 24 June 2021. Many thanks to all who took the time to join us virtually for this meeting...we look forward to next year (hopefully) when we can do it in person!

The 2021 Executive of The Leucaena Network is:

Chair – Robin Cruikshank

Vice President – Brett Blennerhassett

Treasurer – John McLaughlin

Executive Members – Hugh Rea, Craig Antonio, Michael Burgis

Advisory Members – Stuart Buck (DAF), Nigel Tomkins (MLA),
Mark Harrison (QUT)

EXECUTIVE MEMBER PROFILE

Robin Cruikshank Chair

Robin has been involved with the Leucaena industry and The Leucaena Network for more than 20 years, attending the inaugural meeting of the Network in Biloela in 1999.

Robin presided over the Network's activities for several years and at the recent AGM, was elected to the Chairman's role.

Robin and his wife Jenny had 500 acres of Leucana on their property at Thangool in Central Queensland. However, at nearly 70 years of age, Robin's body was telling him to slow down so he and Jenny sold

their Thangool property and 'retired' to 140 acres just outside of Yeppoon.

Robin will now be kept busy developing this block - fencing, ridding it of lantana and clearing cyclone debris and aiming to plant Leucaena and coastal grasses in his retirement.



LET'S TALK LEUCAENA IN THE CALLIDE AND DAWSON VALLEYS

Scott and Judy Smith will host a Leucaena Open Day at 'Glenlivet' Thangool on Saturday 11 September 2021. The day promises to be an engaging one with discussions on the basics of successful leucaena establishment, machinery for establishment and

management and the economics of leucaena.
RSVP to Bron Christensen at admin@leucaena.net by Wednesday 8
September 2021.

LEUCAENA the leucaena network

OPEN DAY

THANGOOL

Saturday 11 September 2021
9am - 1pm

To be followed by a BBQ lunch
Kindly hosted by Scott and Judy Smith
"Glenlivet" Cox-Millard Road,
Thangool

LEARN ABOUT:

(near Biloela)

The basics of leucaena establishment and management

- Climate, soil, location, planting
- Machinery for establishment and management
- The Leucaena Code of Practice
- The Economics of Leucaena – weight gain and profitability

**INCLUDES LEUCAENA Paddock SITE VISIT AND
PRODUCER DISCUSSIONS**

RSVP for catering purposes to Bron Christensen at
admin@leucaena.net or 0488931691 by Wednesday 8
September

BYO Camping Chair
www.leucaena.net



The Leucaena Network appreciates
the support of MLA

COME AND TALK LEUCAENA WITH US AT THE LANSDOWN FIELD DAY

The Leucaena Network will be in attendance at the CSIRO's Lansdown Field Day on Tuesday 7 September 2021. Leucaena will form part of the presentation on the reduction of enteric emissions. We won't have a stand but will be mingling, so if you would like to know more about leucaena, just come up for a chat!



Australia's National Science Agency

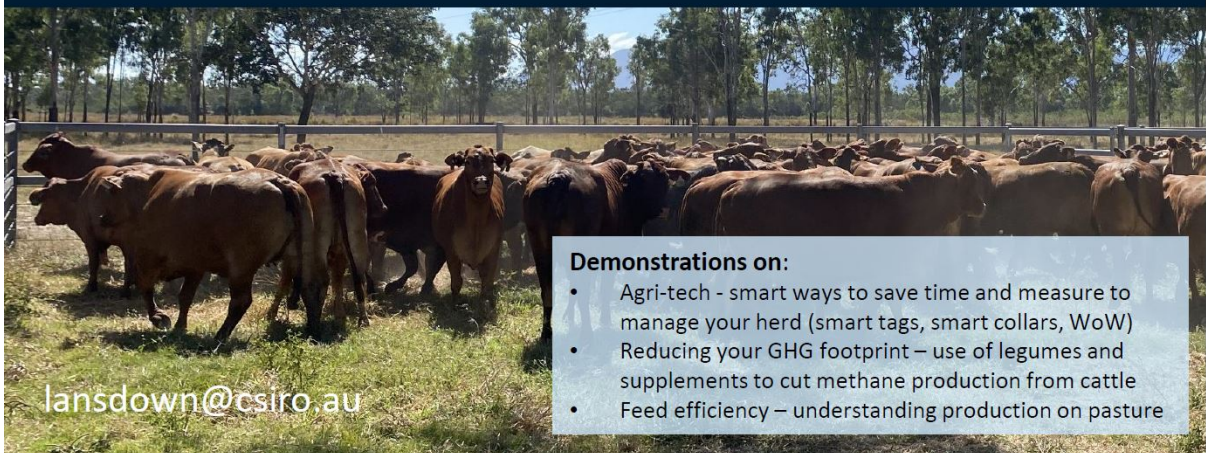
Lansdown Research Station Field Day

Tuesday 7th September - 10am to 2.30pm
4073 Flinders Highway, Woodstock

Register here



Discover beef research on your doorstep and meet our scientists



lansdown@csiro.au

Demonstrations on:

- Agri-tech - smart ways to save time and measure to manage your herd (smart tags, smart collars, WoW)
- Reducing your GHG footprint – use of legumes and supplements to cut methane production from cattle
- Feed efficiency – understanding production on pasture

It's always nice to see our staff members recognised and so it was encouraging to see AgForce CQ profile the Network's Executive Officer on her appointment to the AgForce Agribusiness Committee. Bron represents The Leucaena Network and industry as a member of the Central Queensland Regional Beef Research Committee (CQRBRC) and whilst she has been appointed independently to the AgForce Agribusiness committee, we are sure she will represent leucaena well if and when the opportunity arises!



AgForce CQ

August 16 at 6:34 PM · 🌐



With the Dawson River running through her blood, Bron Christensen is a fourth generation

Theodore, Central Queensland grazier. Bron returned to Theodore in 2001 to purchase and operate a beef breeding enterprise with her husband. Bron has a background in agriculture, rural health, business and project management. She holds a Bachelor of Business, and is a graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP) and the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and is currently studying for her Bachelor of Science – Regenerative Agriculture. She was previously Regional Manager - Dawson and Callide Valleys for Cotton Australia prior to her appointment as Executive Officer for The Leucaena Network in 2017. Bron has held several higher-level Board positions including the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service (CQHHS) and she is a Central Queensland committee member of both the AICD and the Regional Beef Research Committee (CQRBRC) and has recently been appointed to the AgForce Agribusiness Committee.

Bron is committed to the promotion and development of her passion and livelihood - the Australian red-meat industry and it is this passion that inspired her to become a member of the AgForce Agribusiness Committee.

"No matter which agricultural industry you are in – beef, grains, cotton or cane, the key to long-term enterprise viability and sustainability is good business management. And good business management needs reasonable and implementable policies and governance that enables a land owner to grow and develop their enterprise," she said.



THE LEUCAENA NETWORK 2020/2021 12 MONTH REPORT CARD

During the previous twelve months The Leucaena Network has continued to provide information, advice, assistance and referrals to potential and established leucaena producers as well as a wide range of events and activities to promote the successful and responsible establishment and management of leucaena throughout northern Australia. We thought you might like to see a little of what we have achieved...

THE LEUCAENA NETWORK 2020 CONFERENCE

The Leucaena Network was very pleased to present (finally) the Network's 2 day 2020 Conference in Townsville and Ayr on the 8th and 9th September 2021.

- More than 80 delegates
- Member's Breakfast with more than 40 attendees with the opening by Senator Susan McDonald and guest presentation by Kate Andison, Livestock Leader with The Livestock Collective.
- Topics throughout the day included establishment and management strategies; alternative methodology for leucaena; potential alternative uses for leucaena; and carbon opportunities.
- Don Heatly, Former MLA and ACIAR Chair was the Guest Speaker at the Conference Dinner.
- The Field Day included visits to Lansdown Research Station to view leucaena trials and the bovine enteric emission research; and to Don and Laurel Heatley's 'Byrne Valley' to view intensive irrigated leucaena grazing systems.



INTRODUCTION TO LEUCAENA

3 Introduction to Leucaena Field Days held during the past twelve months.

Participants from across the workshops indicated an overall high level of satisfaction with attendance (91%), a high level of confidence and knowledge improvement (83%) and a 70% propensity to initiate or increase their leucaena plantings within the next two to five years.

MILLMERRAAN - SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2020

- Hosted by Bill and Nikki Macqueen of 'Murrallah' Millmerran
- Guest speakers included Bill and Nikki Macqueen and Craig Antonio
- Supported by
- 36 Attendees



INNISFAIL - TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2020

- Co-hosted by DAF and TLN at the Innisfail Showgrounds
- Guest speakers including established leucaena producers from surrounding areas
- 23 attendees



GIN GIN - SATURDAY 26 JUNE 2021

- Hosted by Chris and Beth Jensen of 'Boxvale' Gin Gin
- 28 attendees
- The day included a field visit to Paul and Karla Tobin at 'Greenleaf' to view established leucaena and hear of their planting strategies and leucaena use.
- Supported by Gin Gin Community Bank



FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION (FBA) - WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2020

- Dedicated Advisor workshop organised by The Leucaena Network with

presentations by The Leucaena Network (organisation role and profile, Code of Practice and assistance available for their clients), Stuart Buck – Senior Agronomist, Sown Pastures DAF (basic leucaena establishment requirements) and Ross Newman – Independent Agronomist (inter-row pasture options).



FIELD DAYS

Participants from across the field days indicated an overall high level of satisfaction with attendance (72%), a high level of confidence and knowledge improvement (74%) and a 74% propensity to initiate or increase their leucaena plantings within the next two to five years.

NT ESTABLISHMENT TRIAL FIELD DAY BLACKBULL STATION - WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2020

- Hosted by Logan Reid, Manager, Blackbull Station, Douglas Daly, Northern Territory.
- Presentations included the basics of leucaena establishment (The Leucaena Network), Live Weight Gains in the NT (Peter Shotton – NT DITT), Climate Information (Chelsea Jarvis and Emily Hinds – USQ), Producer Experience (Logan Reid – Blackbull Station)

- The field day included viewing of Blackbull Station's leucana paddocks, including the establishment trial.
- More than 48 attendees.



FAIRVIEW LIVE WEIGHT GAIN TRIAL FIELD DAYS

SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2021 AND THURSDAY 27 MAY 2021

- Hosted by Bruce and Lucinda Mayne 'Fairview
- Held as part of a live weight gain trial undertaken with Bruce and Lucinda Mayne, QDAF, Ross Newman (agronomist), Nutrien and Queensland Beef Consultancy.
- 130 attendees across the two field days
- Catering assistance provided by MLA.





INDUSTRY PRESENCE

The Leucaena Network hosted information stands at the following industry events. Resources available on the stands included access to the 'Let's Talk Leucaena' video showcasing the experiences and advice of six experienced leucaena producers; access to the 'Introduction to Leucaena' video providing an introduction to the basics of successful establishment of leucaena and inter-row pastures; key Fact Sheets; Case Studies highlighting the successful establishment and management of leucaena pastures by experienced producers; and live weight gain data from the Northern Australian live weight gain trials and the Fairview trial.

NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION (NTCA)

CONFERENCE, ALICE SPRINGS 24-26 MARCH 2021

- Attended by more than 500 delegates



BEEF AUSTRALIA 2021

ROCKHAMPTON 3-8 MAY 2021

- More than 250 people visited the stand
- Stand was manned at all times by experienced leucaena producers who were able to provide first-hand advice to enquirers.
- The Network hosted a 'Member's Only' networking event providing the opportunity for Network members to meet each other and chat.



NT FARMERS FOOD FUTURES CONFERENCE

DARWIN 18-20 MAY 2021

- Attended by more than 300 delegates
- The Network also attended the NFF Roadshow as part of the Conference.



PRESENTATIONS

The Leucaena Network was invited to present at the following complementary workshops and field days:

PINNARENDI FIELD DAY - 30 MARCH 2021

- Organised by QDAF to showcase the liveweight gain trial and variety comparison (Redlands and Wondergraze) being undertaken at Pinnarendi Station, Forty Mile Scrub, North Queensland.
- The day comprised of the presentation of the live weight gain results to-date by DAF and viewing of pastures and pasture trials both at Pinnarendi and Whitewater Station followed by presentations at Undarra Station.
- The Leucaena Network presented on the activities of the Network, the Code of Practice and the interim live weight gain results achieved by the two other sites as part of the Northern Australian Live Weight Gain trial and the Fairview Trial.
- Network member and NALWG trial producer, Brett Blennerhassett provided an overview of his leucaena activities and the interim live weight gains achieved to date as part of the trial.
- Network Treasurer John McLaughlin provided an overview of his work on walk over weigh systems as part of his role with the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group.



ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP AND

FIELD DAY - 7-8 APRIL 2021

- The Leucaena Network was invited to present on the basics of leucaena establishment and the live weight gains to date across the Northern Australian trials as part of the workshop.
- The Network also attended the field day the following day to gain an overview of emerging industries in the North Queensland region.



NORTHERN TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL FIELD DAY

27 - 28 APRIL FIELD DAY

- The Leucaena Network presented at the two-day Northern Territory Agricultural Field Day at the Douglas Daly Research Farm (DDRF), providing a basic overview of the establishment and management of

leucaena and the presentation on the live weight gains to date achieved from the NALWG trial and the Fairview Trial.

- NALWG Trial participant and representative of the Douglas Daly Research Farm, Peter Shotton provided an update on the current and previous live weight gain and pasture trials undertaken on the DDRF and hosted a field walk to view the farm's leucaena plantings.



MLA ESK BEEF UP FORUM - 25 MAY 2021

- The Leucaena Network presented a snapshot of Australia's leucaena industry and the key requirements for successful establishment as well as the presentation of the live weight gains achieved to day by both the NALWG and the Fairview trials.



DEVELOPING NORTHERN AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE DARWIN 17-19 AUGUST 2021

- A covid-19 outbreak in the Northern Territory on the morning of the Conference commencement on the 17th August resulted in the departure of all delegates and speakers en-masse by Monday afternoon and the last-minute conversion of the Conference to on-line.
- The Leucaena Network presented a Snapshot of Leucaena in Northern Australia during the Tuesday afternoon session. This provided the viewers with an overview of the economic and environmental benefits of leucaena and the results of the live weight gain trials undertaken across northern Australia to date.



A very quick NT trip - 12 hours from landing to departure...but did manage an early morning walk and quick swim before the chaos commenced!

CARBON

The Network is currently developing a submission to the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) to request consideration of leucaena grazing systems as part of the ERF incentives. This proposal focuses on the reduction of enteric emissions of up to 28% and increasing soil carbon by up to 267 kg/ha per year compared to native grass pastures.

LEUCAENA CARBON FORUM

The Network is receiving a high number of enquiries regarding the capacity for leucaena to be included in current ERF programs. To assist producers to know if they have a feasible project and to enable graziers to provide feedback directly to ERF representatives, the Network is currently organising a Leucaena Carbon Forum. It is anticipated that this Forum will be held in Rockhampton in October this year.

More details will be released as details are finalised but if this is something that interests you, please let us know at admin@leucaena.net.

RESEARCH

Liaison with Network members to assess additional opportunities for information and research regarding leucaena grazing systems is an ongoing activity for The Leucaena Network. Current research and adoption projects include:

STERILE LEUCAENA WORKING COMMITTEE

- Research into the development of a sterile leucaena is being undertaken by both the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Development (DPIRD) and the University of Queensland. The working committee provides guidance and feedback to these research entities.
- The Network plays an active role as a member of the Sterile Leucaena working committee, providing practical input into the ongoing research into sterile leucaena.

LIVESTOCK EMISSIONS INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP

- At the invitation of the Clean Energy Regulator, The Leucaena Network is a participant in the Livestock Emissions Industry Working Group.
- This group has identified leucaena as one of the four key strategies for the reduction of livestock emissions.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND REGIONAL BEEF RESEARCH COMMITTEE (CQRBRC)

- The Leucaena Network's Executive Officer represents The Leucaena Network on the Central Queensland Regional Beef Research Committee (CQRBRC)
- The CQRBRC provides input into MLA's research priorities through the North Australia Beef Research Council (NABRC).

ESTABLISHMENT - SUSTAINABLE LONG TERM LEUCAENA GRASS PRODUCTION IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

- Following the success of the Redlands For the Regions project to facilitate establishment of the Redlands leucaena variety in north Queensland, the Network undertook a second establishment project, this time in the Northern Territory. The Sustainable Long Term Leucaena

Grass Production in Northern Australia project commenced in October 2019 and will finalise mid 2022.

- Three of the four trial sites established successfully over a two-year period however one of those sites has withdrawn from the project after being decimated by fire.
- The fourth site has been unable to establish due to insufficient rainfall but hopes to undertake the planting in early 2022 with the aim of successful early establishment achieved by the project completion.



FAIRVIEW LIVE WEIGHT GAIN TRIAL

- The twelve-month Fairview Live Weight Gain trial commenced in May 2020 and culminated at the CQLX Special Weaner and Feeder sale at the end of May 2021. The project was undertaken as a joint initiative of Bruce and Lucinda Mayne 'Fairview', Calliope, DAF Rockhampton, Ross Newman – independent agronomist, Nutrien and Queensland Beef Consultancy. 100 head of cattle were provided by local graziers – Will and Kate Wilson of 'Calliope Station', Ed and Kara Quinn of 'Voewood' and Philip and Claire Mann of 'Wycheproof'. 80 head were grazed on leucaena – grass pastures with 20 head grazed on native pastures as the control group.
- It was noted that the native pastures were augmented with the inclusion of a lagoon as the water source for the control cattle which provided the cattle with access to hymenachne, a nutritional addition to the native pastures.
- The assessment of live weight gain per hectare indicated that, over the 361 days of the trial, leucaena achieved an average kilogram per hectare of 433kg/ha whilst grass only achieved an average of 107 kg/ha.



FUTURE PROJECTS

The Network is currently investigating opportunities for collaboration and further research into:

- the necessity for rumen inoculation of cattle grazing on leucaena;
- comparison of live weight gains achieved by cattle on leucaena supplemented with HGPs and those not supplemented;
- the potential of leucaena as an affordable, high protein hay, silage or pellet – increasing its potential use by producers as well as providing graziers with a profitable leucaena management tool; and
- the inclusion of leucaena in both soil carbon and enteric emissions projects.

THE LEUCAENA CODE OF PRACTICE

The Network continues to work with the Northern Territory Government to refine the Code of Practice for a bespoke NT Code which aligns with the NT Land Clearing Guidelines. We hope we are in the final stages of negotiations and thank Brett and Suzanne Gill, Logan Reid, Chris and Amanda Howie, Tony Hayne and Peter Shotton for your input as graziers and leucaena producers into what is workable for the NT grazing industry.

The Network has also been collaborating with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council to develop a biosecurity plan for leucaena for the Shire. Thanks to local graziers Grant Blennerhassett, Paul Massey and Brett Blennerhassett and DAF's Bernie English for providing guidance in the process.

Further details on all our activities can be found
at www.leucaena.net

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The Leucaena Network · 270 LeGallez Road · Theodore, Qld 4719 · Australia

