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Farmsafe WA Alliance E-news

Topics in this issue:

	Page
Farm Weekly & Farmsafe	
Safety First Promotion	2
Managing Farm Safety courses	2
Active Aging Workshops	3
Free Advisory Service	3
Child Safety Workshops	4
ICCWA lunchtime forum	5
Young farmer competition	5
Member profile—Janet Robinson	6



What price for a life?

If a disease were killing or injuring farmers on this scale, there would be a human outcry and a demand that the killer be stopped.

WHO ARE WE?

Farmsafe WA Alliance WA is an independent not-for-profit non-government organisation encouraging and leading the way to safer farming. We are ever seeking to improve our membership base—anyone with an interest in farm safety is eligible.

Our committee consists of farmers, community members and industry groups.

Contributions to this newsletter are ALWAYS welcome

Please forward them to us by email at farmsafe@wn.com.au or by mail:
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Do you know anyone who would like to receive information by email or mail? Let us know so that they can be added to the distribution list.



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FARM WEEKLY & FARMSAFE SAFETY FIRST COMPETITION

“Something that we have always taken for granted could have been easily a tragedy ...”

In conjunction with the Farm Weekly, Farmsafe WA challenged farmers to participate in a Safety First Promotion

We asked farmers to tell us of near misses or close shaves on the farm—what happened and more importantly what you could have done or have done since to avoid a recurrence.

Farmsafe WA Executive Officer Michelle Taylor said the entrants' stories ranged from child to sun safety and also covered employment issues. “People submitted some really good ideas and had plenty of interesting stories about near misses.”

The competition has now closed (see winning entry below) BUT.....if you would still like to tell us your story —whether it's a significant invention , incident or a small tip, we would love to share your suggestions.

And the winning entry was.....



Helen Wright of Kojonup was the winner of this Farm Weekly and Farmsafe Alliance Safety First Promotion.

Helen realised that her four-year old daughter had been climbing to the top of a rainwater tank to check the levels, just as she and he husband did.

“We felt sick to the bottom of our stomachs—how easily she could have fallen in the tank and this would have been one of the last places we would have looked if we couldn't find her,” she wrote.

“Immediately we removed the ladder to prevent anyone climbing and to prevent a tragedy from happening, not only for our children but anyone else who may be visiting the farm. “

“...Something that we have always taken for granted could have been easily a tragedy waiting to happen.

This is a warning for other farmers who also check their tanks.”

MANAGING FARM SAFETY COURSES

They started in a promising way and ended with the trainer and a Farmsafe officer locked inside Hillside Farm Education Centre for what threatened to be an overnight stay!

The most recent farm safety and trainers courses were well attended by farmers, managers, students and trainers of agriculture. The combination provided a lively mix and kept Ben, the trainer, on his toes.

But he passed with flying colours when, during a discussion about sheering shed steps, he was able to tell us that ‘the riser-tread ratio should be 300 x 200mm or 7.75 x 11.75 inches or in easy to remember terms, the height of the short edge of a piece of A4 paper with the step depth equal to the long edge of the paper. So now that we have published that gem of wisdom to the world, there are no more excuses for having dodgy sheering shed steps (snigger).

Actually, there were many enlightening facts that came out during those courses. One of the biggest



eye-openers was the extent of the potential loss of income and the many costs that could be incurred following a farm accident. Most people have no idea!

Here is the really exciting part. The assignment for the trainer course is to write an essay about how safety can be communicated in the most painless way to farmers. Now help me out here, guys! Tell me the answers. I will call it ‘original research’ and score some extra brownie points. I am Rosie at the Farmsafe office.

Oh yes, we did manage to escape from Hillside Farm! After several failed rescue attempts by the wildlife organisation next door, we managed to contact the centre's principal who drove from Roleystone during her holidays to unlock the gate.

ACTIVE AGEING: SMART FARMING OVER 55'S

Farmsafe WA has run a total of eight workshops across rural and remote WA, concluding the Active Ageing: Farming Over 55 program, funded The Department of Local Government and Regional Development.

These workshops encouraged farmers over 55 to discuss the topic of ageing, agility and their ability to juggle farming tasks they used to do when they were younger - combining as they do, a home and a heavy work environment.

All farmers who participated in the workshops felt as though they had gained something from being involved. Some have said they are now doing more strength exercise and others have started 'alternating between jobs to avoid repetitiveness and potential fatigue'.

The main theme of the program was to encourage farmers to 'work smarter, not harder' to get the job done. Ideas collected from participants have been collated by Farmsafe Australia

(as well as other ideas from others states) to produce a useful guide 'The Great Ideas Bank.'

This resource has been created by farmers and agricultural workers. It is in the form of an easy reference guide, which is either job or action related. If you would like a copy or any other information, please contact Farmsafe WA Alliance.

Thank you to our sponsors, the Department of Local Government and Development and SafetyQuip.

We'd also like to thank Suzie, who did an excellent job on the project!



The Bingara safety rule for older farmers:
Never cut your toenails with the pneumatic shears!

FREE ON FARM HALF DAY ADVISORY SERVICE

This highly popular service began in 2004 as a measure to increase the number of safety and action plans in place on Western Australian farms. The service offers a non-threatening FREE forum to discuss legal requirements for occupational health and safety.

Our independent, qualified safety consultant is funded to visit your farm, advise you on how to avoid injuries and illnesses and provide you with a report tailored to improving safety factors in your workplace.



If you would like our consultant, Ben Olsen to, make a confidential visit please contact the Farmsafe office.

PARTNERS IN GRAIN AND FARMSAFE WA

Partners in Grain (PinG) teamed up with Farmsafe WA to increase the awareness of dangers on the farm and how to lower the risk of serious injuries to children. PinG coordinated the workshops and sponsorship was provided by Wesfarmers Federation Insurance (northern workshops) and GrainPool (southern workshops).

The response was excellent, with Condingup, Ravensthorpe, Lake Grace, Dumbleyung, Kellerberrin and Yuna hosting workshops.

The workshops were interactive and involved a discussion about child safety on farms and its importance, followed by a wander around the



The driveway display kit set-up at Marie Fowler's Condingup property.

sheds and farm area using the child safety checklist. A driveway display kit was also set up to illustrate to parents the difficulties of seeing children from motor vehicle mirrors. A St John Ambulance volunteer, from the region, then provided workshop participants with information and demonstrations on child first aid.

Many thanks to the sponsors, WA Partners in Grain; GrainPool; GRDC; Wesfarmers Insurance, Dalwallinu; Department of Agriculture and Food WA and St John Ambulance for their support.



Discussing the silos on Tara and Glenn Ball's Dumbleyung property are Michelle Taylor, right, of Farmsafe WA, and participants at the Farm Safe Just for Kids event



COLLABORATIVE CHILD SAFETY WORKSHOPS

Each year about 300 Australian children (aged 0 to 14 years) are killed and 60,000 hospitalised by unintentional injuries – the kind often referred to as 'accidents'. Princess Margaret Hospital Emergency Department saw a total of 11,344 child injury cases for the 2006-07 financial year alone. Many of these could have been prevented by simple means.

On the 1st and 2nd of April, Child Safety Forums were held in Manjimup, Bridgetown and Pemberton to raise awareness of how to prevent childhood accidents and injuries within the home environment.

Thanks to the support of the Department of Health, Kidsafe WA and Royal Life Saving, Farmsafe WA Alliance held a series of FREE interactive talks to

parents, grandparents and carers of young children. The topics covered home safety, child safety on farms, water safety, and creating safe play spaces.

The workshops provided a great opportunity for the three not-for-profit organisations to work together to provide information on how to keep children safe and injury free at home, on the farm, around the water and around the road.

If you would like any information on child safety on farms, please contact us.



Because child safety is no accident!!

LUNCHTIME FORUM PRESENTATION

Michelle Taylor, Farmsafe WA Executive Officer was invited by the Injury Control Council of WA to deliver a presentation on Thursday 3rd April.

Farmsafe WA Alliance has delivered a number of initiatives encouraging farmers to be safer on their farms. One recent research project, funded by the Department of Health WA and conducted in collaboration with the Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health (CUCRH), Department of Emergency Medicine (UWA) and Charles Darwin University, involved determining farmers' ability to respond effectively to situations requiring medical emergency care. The first responder to a medical emergency on a farm or station is often farm workers, owners or family members. It has been well demonstrated that appropriate timely response to a medical emergency can improve a patient's probability of survival and reduction in severity of injury.

This lunchtime forum provided a preliminary



Michelle presenting at the ICCWA Lunchtime Forum

understanding of what the true picture of medical emergencies are for farmers and station owners and how they can be better prepared in the event of a medical emergency, along with some recommendations based on the findings to an invited audience.

Thank you ICCWA for the opportunity to talk about this great project!

YOUNG FARMER COMPETITION WITH WA FEDERATION FOR RURAL YOUTH

Farmsafe WA again had the opportunity to be involved in this year's young farmer competition, held by the WA Federation for Rural Youth (WAFRY) at the Wagin Woolorama.

The competition consisted of six modules that tested both practical skills and theoretical knowledge across major industry areas such as cattle, sheep and wool and agronomy as well as other relevant areas such as farm finance, farm safety and a domestic module.

The competition aspires to not only reward the young farmer who wins on the day but to promote role models and agriculture as an exciting and viable career option to all young people.

John Paul Collins of Katanning was the winner of both the farm safety modules and was the overall competition winner. Mathew Fairbrass was



Wesfarmers Federation Insurance representatives, Katrina and David West with the Young Farmer Competition place winners and Michelle Taylor,

placed second and Neil Letter third. Congratulations to all competitors!

We would like to thank Wesfarmers Federation Insurance for sponsoring the farm safety module—providing Farmsafe WA with the opportunity to present a prize to the module winner.





Member Profile - Janet Robinson

I was born in England and grew up on a dairy farm in Hertfordshire and Dorset during World War II. It gave me the welcome freedom of a rural up-bringing that became the context to my life.

During the post-war years I moved with my family to British Columbia in Canada where I finished my schooling, and then it was on to a large dairy farm in Byford, Western Australia. Here my brother and I learnt the routines of being real farmers alongside my father.

Fortunately, the local Mundijong Junior Farmers Club was a very active organisation and it helped to ground me in the agricultural lifestyle. More than that, it seemed to serve as the unofficial marriage bureau, and when he eventually overcame his shyness, an attractive young man called Bill Robinson asked me to marry him.

During the first few years of running our dairy farm at Keysbrook, we cleverly produced two farming sons and then launched ourselves into our grain and sheep enterprise at Arthur River.

Having always been personally involved in a diverse range of farm tasks, I am proud to call myself a farmer and not simply a 'farmer's wife'! As such I have enjoyed active roles in community organisations like the CWA and the Regional Council of Farmsafe WA.

Although we were supposed to have retired ten years ago we still live on the farm at Arthur River that is now run by two of our four children. And as you can imagine, we find plenty to do! Our kids have spouses and have produced our eleven grandchildren and more recently our four great-grandchildren.

Things have changed over the years and now we discuss concepts like 'duty-of-care' and 'hazard inventories'. Of course, it is just about working safely, but the buzz-words make us all feel more important.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Membership of the community based organisation Farmsafe WA Alliance Inc supports the need to make agriculture a safer industry for the future. **Members' benefits include: Bi-monthly email bulletin, 10% discount on Managing Farm Safety Course, Farmsafe WA safety sticker, advance notification of upcoming events, access to resources and training opportunities**

Name	\$45		
Address.....	Individual/family	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$.....
Phone.....	\$140		
Email.....	Business/Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$.....
	Additional Donation	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$.....
	Total		\$.....

Payment can be made by cheque, credit card or internet transfer.

Internet Transfer Bank details: Farmsafe WA Alliance National Australia Bank, BSB: 086 699, Account No.: 596 032 205

Credit card payment: Visa Mastercard Bankcard

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: ____ Signature: _____

How else can you help? Do you have specific areas of interest, concern or expertise to contribute?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OHS farm safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATV safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise Injury Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Workshop safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify: _____ | | |

The income we receive through our members' annual subscriptions is vitally important to us. Your contributions will help us to effectively continue our work. We are always keen to recruit more members, - this is probably the easiest way for you to make a real difference to the work we do.

Non Profit Organisations: Contact us regarding reciprocal arrangements or fee negation

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