

Seed Inoculant Update

Expected release mid-January 2018

New Edge Microbials have advised that the inoculant has developed well and is in the process of being tested for effectiveness by the NSW DPI. This is a 6-8 week process to ensure the efficacy of the inoculant. Once this process is complete, the inoculant will be provided to the re-sellers including seed suppliers and your local stock and station agents.

Seed Supply

Leucseeds

- Taramba available
- Limited amounts of Redlands
- Wondergraze expected to be available Jan-Feb 2018

Les Hayward

- Cunningham expected to be available Feb 2018

Leucaena Chop

- Cunningham expected to be available April 2018



Nigel Tomkins (MLA) and Rob Ahern (Swans Lagoon) inspect the Redlands / Wondergraze trial at Pinnarendi
(full story page 2)

the leucaena network

Network News

December 2017



Craig Antonio, Laurie Peake, Richard Cox (Acacia), Hugh Rea, Steve Banney and Jane Wightman view the leucaena plantings on 'Acacia', Theodore

Chairman's Word....

It's been a hectic few months for the Leucaena Network! The issue with the effectiveness of the Rhizobium inoculant CB3126 affected many growers wishing to commence or expand their leucaena plantings and we thank New Edge Microbials for prioritising the development of a replacement. We understand the frustrations many growers have experienced - it has been several years since planting conditions were as good as those in early November, however at this time, there is no substantive evidence that effective leucaena establishment can occur without seed inoculation. The release of the effective inoculum cannot come fast enough for most of us and we are looking forward to its release in mid-January 2018.

The Leucaena Network has been very pleased to engage our new Executive Officer. Bron Christensen brings with her extensive project management skills, coupled with her own experiences as a leucaena grower. Bron has hit the ground running, working on the release of our new website, further research and trial projects and ensuring our members receive the best The Leucaena Network can offer.

The Leucaena Network Executive met in Theodore in October and had the pleasure of a pre-meeting visit to 'Acacia'. Richard Cox, Acacia's manager, provided an overview of the current and proposed plantings on 'Acacia' including irrigated, under-centre pivot developments. Our thanks to Richard for his hospitality and time.

It is great to see our newsletter back on your emails and we look forward to providing you with quick snippets in this format every month.

Until next time,

Craig

Craig Antonio, President - The Leucaena Network

NEW MEMBER SERVICES

- ✓ Let's stay updated! We also have a new Facebook page – The Leucaena Network. This page is available to all. Updates and information will be continuously posted there to ensure you stay informed. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/The-Leucaena-Network-1763562713946511> or just search for The Leucaena Network on Facebook, Like and Follow to access the news feeds.
- ✓ Let's connect! The Leucaena Network also has a new 'just for members' Facebook group. This is a closed group where you can share an issue with other members, ask for advice, advertise your leucaena machinery for sale or simply touch base! Go to The Leucaena Network Facebook page, search down the left hand side for 'Groups' and then request to join the Members Only group.
- ✓ It's almost here!! It's beginning to get exciting as our new website is almost ready for launch. We'll get an e-burst out to you when it's 'live' so you can start to use the site as your 'Go-To' for everything leucaena.

The Leucaena Network heads North for Redlands!

On the 16th and 17th November, Nigel Tomkins (MLA) and new Executive Officer Bron Christensen travelled to the Atherton Tablelands to meet with existing and prospective leucaena growers regarding producer-based trials for the psyllid resistant leucaena, Redlands. Nigel, Bron and DAF members, led by Joe Rolfe and Bernie English, met with five interested growers and these discussions have led to the current development of a potential research project, through MLA, to track the establishment of Redlands in psyllid prone regions. The following day, Nigel, Bron and Joe, accompanied by prospective growers Robert Ahern and Gerard and Elizabeth Lyons, visited an existing MLA/DAF Redlands and Wondergraze establishment trial site at "Pinnarendi". The group valued the opportunity to view the trials but not before enjoying a hearty home-cooked breakfast provided by 'Pinnarendi' hosts, Ron and Nadine Atkinson (Pinnarendi Station Stay and Café). It was then off to "Whitewater" to meet with grazier Tom Saunders who is undertaking a grazing trial with leucaena growing under trees.

It is an exciting time for leucaena with the release of Redlands and the 'under trees' trials - we look forward to bringing our members regular updates on the website.



Bron Christensen, Tom Saunders, Rob Ahern and Nigel Tomkins at the Leucaena Under Trees trial site at 'Whitewater'



Introducing...

Bron Christensen Executive Officer – The Leucaena Network

Bron was appointed to the part-time role in October 2017 and she has hit the ground running!

Bron is a born-and-bred Theodore local (with time-outs for good behavior, school, uni, travel and work) and returned 'home' to Theodore in 2001 with her husband when they purchased their own grazing property. They have managed to raise some leucaena, a few cows and three gorgeous kids!

Bron brings many years of project management experience to the position, coupled with some public service, rural health, cotton, water policy, agricultural, financial, management and governance roles.

Please don't hesitate to contact Bron on 0488931691 or admin@leucaena.net.