



Winter Pasture NRM Update

November 2013

Georgie Keynes Takes Out State Landcare Award



Georgie Keynes, with son Banjo, at the SA Landcare Awards

Georgie Keynes, BIGG's inaugural Facilitator, has won a prestigious award at the 2013 State Landcare & Premiers NRM Awards held on 6 November in Adelaide. Georgie was awarded the *Westpac Agribusiness Innovative Young Landcare Leader Award* for leadership in promoting and driving landcare practices through onground and awareness raising activities.

This is a new award category, which recognises the achievement of everyday individuals aged between 15-35 years who has made an exceptional contribution to landcare through their work and/or voluntary activities. BIGG was proud to nominate Georgie for her award.

The awards ceremony, coordinated by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources SA, was attended by 300 people. The event gave Georgie an opportunity to network with like-minded people and to catch up with some of her former colleagues from Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty.

Georgie and the finalists from eight other categories will now represent South Australia at the 24th National Landcare Awards to be held in Canberra next year. Having been brought up on a farm at Keyneton, Georgie has been aware from an early age of the importance between maintaining and enhancing the condition of the land to generate good productive capacity.

"The great thing about the BIGG projects is that they have a focus on achieving good NRM outcomes but also on maintaining and improving productivity, hence is a win-win for producers and the environment," said Georgie.

Georgie sees value in further promoting landcare in the region through networking and bringing various stakeholders (not just landholders) together to share new ideas and learn from each other. This vision has also led to her involvement in establishing the Barossa Young People in Ag committee, which provides a platform for young people to network and share ideas about agriculture in the region. She is working on the first statewide conference for Young People in Ag next year.

For now, Georgie is looking forward to spending her award of \$500 on her two-year-old twin girls and son Banjo, and sharing the magnum of Champagne with her husband Toby.

Congratulations Georgie and good luck for the National Landcare Awards!

Exploring New Pasture Options at the Charleston Pasture Field Day

On 26 October, New Springs Landcare Group hosted a Pasture Field Day at Charleston, which was well attended by 35 participants. The day focused on choosing the most appropriate pasture species and varieties for local properties. Anthony Pearce of Hills Farm Supplies provided technical advice for the Field Day. The following key learnings were noted by Will Hannaford, NRM District Officer (Mid Torrens and Upper Onkaparinga).



Anthony Pearce from Hills Farm Supplies talking to participants about early spring sown Forage Rape

Annual pastures

- Dry sown oats or triticale (sown at 40kg/ha) in a mix with a competitive annual or Italian ryegrass (sown at 20kg/ha) provides good competition/yield in late autumn-winter (from the cereal) and in late winter-spring (from the ryegrass);
- Can be grazed multiple times;
- Can be cut for high quality silage in October;
- Can be cut for high quality hay in late October/early November prior to head emergence; and
- Significantly more yield can be obtained if urea is applied after each grazing or once a paddock is locked up.

Perennial pastures

- Maturity date is critical when selecting ryegrass (annual and perennial) varieties to match your paddocks potential;
- Later maturing perennial ryegrass varieties must be better managed to maintain persistence:
 - graze when at 12cm (including after autumn break)
 - spell at 5cm
 - allow to go to seed in late spring
 - graze to no lower than 2cm before the autumn break;
- Early spring sown (perennial) chicory shows promise as late spring/early summer dryland feed;
- Drought tolerant (annual) forage rape (brassica) offers late spring/early summer dryland feed and biocide activity to reduce soil pathogens prior to sowing a perennial pasture;
- New Oceanic fescues offer much better palatability to Demeter fescue in irrigated pasture;
- New soft leaf cocksfoots offer similar persistence to Porto cocksfoot, but has better palatability.

Sharing NRM Case Studies Grant

BIGG was recently successful in receiving a \$5000 State NRM Community Action Grant to showcase the learnings, achievements and innovations demonstrated in our sustainable pasture management and on-farm NRM projects for the 2012-14 growing seasons.

The aim of the grant is to share lessons from these activities so to promote greater awareness and participation of

local communities and individuals in landcare management. It also provides a great opportunity to showcase BIGG's accomplishments to producers and stakeholders in other regions.

A booklet will be produced highlighting 25 producer case studies as well as two case-study videos to be published on the web. Key topics to be included are:

- Success factors for perennial pasture

establishment;

- NRM benefits of grazing in vineyards;
- Increasing biomass trial;
- Trialing technograzing using the Rappa electric fence system;
- Spring sowing perennials trial;
- Sustainable soil focus paddocks;
- Rotational grazing management;
- Watercourse rehabilitation; and
- Cost effectiveness of soil amelioration.

From the INBOX

Koonunga Pasture Walk on YouTube

Earlier in the year BIGG held a Pasture Walk which is now on YouTube. Check it out at [Koonunga Pasture Walk](#). Thanks to Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty for commissioning the video.

Dairy SA Central Dairy Conf. 2014

Dairy producers mark 12 March 2014 in your diary. For more info contact Penny Schulz – penny@dairysa.com.au



Further Information

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