



The BIGG Bulletin

May 2014

BIGG's New Logo!

We have a new logo! The design of the logo was originally conceived by Jen Light and Fiona Koch from the Angaston Ag Bureau who developed different concepts in consultation with the BIGG Advisory Committee.

The final design was then refined by a professional graphic designer, Susan Ryan, from Kapunda. After much debate and deliberation, Susan expertly captured all the different views and ideas into one recognisable logo to represent BIGG.



The logo, with its double contour lines, signifies the rolling green hills of the Barossa and surrounding regions. While the shades of green symbolize green pasture and are reflective of BIGG's core aim of sustainable pasture production in grazing systems.

The new branding will help build BIGG's identity as a vibrant and growing community focused grower group.

We hope you like it!

Game on for Barossa's Best Pasture!

Who's going to grow the best pasture in the Barossa in 2014 - will it be one of the Ag. Bureaux or one of the local livestock groups, that's the million dollar question!

This year, BIGG is running *The Barossa Pasture Challenge*, a project funded by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources that aims to develop a cost effective, sustainable and productive renovation program for pasture paddocks in the Barossa region. Apart from providing learnings about sustainable pasture renovation, the project is essentially a competition between the five local producer groups who make up BIGG:

Angaston Ag Bureau, Koonunga Ag Bureau, Barossa Mid North Dairy Discussion Group, Mt Pleasant Beef Group and North Rhine Sheep Group. There are six pasture paddocks in *The Barossa Pasture Challenge* - one nominated by each group, with Angaston Ag Bureau having two. The key criterion of the Challenge is that the pasture can be improved through any means, except being re-sown. The landholders representing their groups, including the pasture species in their paddocks are as follows:

1. **Angaston** - Anthony Steinert, Craneford (phalaris/ cocksfoot/ chicory/ plantain/ sub-clover)

2. **Angaston** - Jen Light, Flaxman Valley (phalaris/ cocksfoot/ sub-clover)

3. **Koonunga** - Jamie Nietschke, Koonunga (lucerne)

4. **Barossa Mid North Dairy Discussion** - Andrew Koch, Moculta (annual grass/ sub-clover/ phalaris)

5. **Mount Pleasant Beef** - Vic Patrick, Flaxman Valley (phalaris/ cocksfoot/ sub-clover)

6. **North Rhine Sheep** - Graham Keynes, Keyneton (annual grass/ sub-clover/ phalaris)

In consultation with local agronomists, Peter Wendt (Farmer Johns) and Craig John (Coopers), a Pasture Management Plan (PMP) has been developed for each paddock which will guide management decisions

and aim to address issues such as weeds, poor soil nutrition, low pH or low legume content. Check out the PMP's which are on the [BIGG website](#). Throughout the 2014 growing season each paddock will be monitored for

productivity and NRM improvements. The competition will conclude in October when an independent agronomist will judge each paddock at *The Barossa Pasture Challenge* field day.

New Sub-clover Project Investigating Root Diseases



Eden Valley sub-clover trial site

BIGG was recently successful in receiving a three-year R&D grant from [Meat Livestock Australia](#) to investigate soil borne root diseases in sub-clover pastures. Sub-clover is the dominant legume of Barossa-based pasture systems and as root diseases in sub-clover are believed to cause up to 30% production losses, the project is a great opportunity to examine this locally.

The project will undertake field trials to

determine the effect of soil borne root diseases on the productivity of regional sub-clover based pastures. Last week, the 2014 trials were sown in two local pasture paddocks; Murray and Ben Klemm's at Moculta and David Woodard's at Eden Valley.

These trials are evaluating different sub-clover cultivars for their ability to regenerate and to determine if fungicide treatments reduce the impact of root diseases. As such, various measurements will be conducted throughout the 2014 growing season, including seedling emergence, dry matter production and plant nodulation.

As part of a national project funded by [Australian Wool Innovation](#), 25 local producers also have the opportunity to collect a soil sod

sample from one of their sub-clover based pastures which will then be analysed for root diseases (for free) by the University of WA. If you are interested in this offer or for more information about our trials contact Brett Nietschke.



Craig John (Coopers) helping sow sub-clover at the Eden Valley trial site.

From the INBOX

Ag Excellence Alliance Presentations

All presentations from the Ag Excellence Alliance forum held in March are now up on the [Ag Ex website](#), including BIGG's presentation on [Partnership Engagement](#).

Barossa Pruning Expo

The Barossa Pruning Expo is being held on June 11 at the Nuriootpa Research Station. For further information and to register, visit [here](#).

Lambex Young Guns

Congratulations to Georgie Keynes, Keyneton and Lachie Grossman, Angaston, for being selected as finalists in the [Young Guns competition](#) which is part of the Lambex conference in Adelaide, July 9-11. Don't forget early bird registration for Lambex closes on June 1.

Trees for Life

Trees for Life ordering season is open until July 31 (for seedling plantings in 2015). See [here](#) for further info.

Further Information

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