



Government of South Australia
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
Natural Resources Management Board



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COUNTRY



The BIGG Bulletin

September 2014

Barossa Pasture Challenge Winners



Judge Tim Prance discusses the quality of Vic Patrick's pasture at Flaxman Valley during BIGGs Pasture Walk.



BIGG's Brett Nietschke presents the \$500 voucher for Heritage Seeds to Pasture Challenge winner Chris Steinert.



Farmer Johns agronomist Peter Wendt presented Jamie Nietschke with the prize for the most profitable pasture.



Craig John, from Coopers Farm Supplies and judge Tim Prance with the winner of the most improved pasture, Andrew Koch.

BIGG held its final pasture walk for its Barossa Pasture Challenge Project on September 19 where various award winners were announced, with the top honour going to Anthony and Chris Steinert, representing the Angaston Ag Bureau.

For their best overall pasture, judged by consultant Tim Prance based on overall pasture profitability, botanical composition, ground cover and production potential, the Steinerts received a \$500 pasture seed voucher donated by Heritage Seeds.

The Barossa Pasture Challenge Project, funded by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) aimed to implement a sustainable and productive pasture renovation program for paddocks in the region. It achieved this through the local producer groups (Angaston Ag. Bureau, Koonunga Ag. Bureau, North Rhine Sheep Group, Mount Pleasant Beef Group and Barossa Mid North Dairy Discussion Group) competing against each other to improve by any means a nominated pasture paddock throughout 2014, except being re-sown to a new pasture.

Other winners were Andrew Koch, representing the Barossa Mid-North Dairy Discussion Group, who won a \$50 Coopers Farms Supplies voucher for the most improved pasture, and Jamie Nietschke, representing Koonunga Ag Bureau, who won a bag of ryegrass seed donated by Farmer Johns for the most profitable pasture.

The pasture walk visited the six competing pastures, with an excellent turnout of 30 local producers who were able to benefit from the skills and knowledge of Mr Prance as well as local agronomists Peter Wendt and Craig John who provided technical assistance throughout the project.

For more information about the pasture walk, including data on the quality, productivity and profitability of each pasture, view the [pasture walk booklet](#).

Native Pasture Scoping Workshop



Landmark's Daniel Schuppan addressing participants at the Barossa Improved Grazing Group's workshop on native pasture recovery following the Eden Valley bushfires.



Pictured at the BIGG workshop on native pasture recovery following the Eden Valley bushfires are participants James Graetz, Keyneton, Jan and Neil Neumann, Angaston, and Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges sustainable agriculture officer Jess Cavallo

BIGG's native pasture project, funded by Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges and SA Murray Darling Basin, aims to improve the capacity of local landholders affected by the bushfire to sustainably manage the recovery of burnt-out native pastures after the Eden Valley bushfire. This is particularly important for livestock producers who rely on native pastures as part of their grazing system and are aiming to return them to their productive potential.

To ensure that the focus is in line with producers' needs, BIGG engaged Landmark grazing management and livestock consultant Daniel Schuppan to manage the project, which included running a scoping workshop on September 3 with local producers and specialists. The aim of the workshop was to identify key issues for the project to address.

The key issues identified were:

- Challenging in enabling rotational grazing of hills areas, including watering points and fencing.
- Overcoming limitations of fertiliser and lime application.
- A literature review may be required to focus on solutions for our local area.
- Identification of ground-cover targets for native grass pastures.
- Cost/benefit analysis of different native grass pasture management systems and applications.
- Importance of identifying species and understanding their growth habits to allow recovery, regeneration and then productivity into the future.

As the first step towards investigating these issues, we will be running a native grasses identification workshop with two native pasture specialists on Monday October 27. This will be a great opportunity for our local producers to improve their understanding of native pastures, and help them better manage pastures that were damaged in the fire.

The project, which will continue through 2015, will also involve a number of monitoring sites assessing both burnt and un-burnt pastures and soil testing to understand the limitations to pasture growth.

Anyone interested in attending the native grasses identification workshop can contact Bec on 0402 788 526 or [by email](#).

Latest BIGG News

- BIGG will be holding a native grasses identification workshop on Monday October 27 - so save the date! We'll send out more information once the details are finalised.
- Landholders affected by the Eden Valley bushfire should have received an invite to the Looking Forward Forum on October 2. If you haven't seen an invite but are interested in attending please contact Bec on 0402 788 526 or by [email](#).
- BIGG has a new Facebook page! [Like us on Facebook](#) to keep up-to-date with the latest BIGG news and events.
- Our BIGG facilitator Georgie Keynes has just returned from the national Landcare awards in Melbourne where she both gave a presentation about BIGG at the conference and was a finalist for the Young Landcare Leader award, well done Georgie! [Read about the award winners](#).
- Did you see our recent write up in the Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges newsletter - Small Talk? If not, [check it out here](#).

From the Inbox...

- Keyneton producer Joe Keynes has recently been elected onto the Livestock SA Board, congratulations to Joe! Read more at the [Livestock SA website](#).
- Applications are now open for Australian Grape and Wine Authority [post-graduate scholarships](#) in wine and viticulture fields.
- [International Rural Women's Conference](#) will be held Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 November, Adelaide Showgrounds (early bird registrations close October 6).
- More Beef from Pastures and Making More from Sheep are sponsoring a [farm business benchmarking](#) program. Registrations close October 31.

Your BIGG Contacts

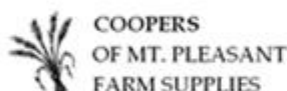
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