



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



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COUNTRY



# The BIGG Bulletin

October 2014

## Native Grass Identification and Management Field Day



BIGG's native pasture project, funded by Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and SA Murray Darling Basin, aims to improve the capacity of landholders to sustainably manage the recovery of burnt-out native pastures after the Eden Valley bushfire.

As the first step towards investigating these issues, BIGG 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 fire-affected producers better manage pastures damaged by the fire. The event is open to all landholders, not just those in the bushfire affected region.

**When:** Monday October 27 1pm-5pm

**Where:** Meet at Keyneton Hall

**Sites visited:** Keynes and Treloar's

**Bring:** A hat, drink, sunscreen and chair if needed.

Native grass specialists Anne Brown and Millie Nicholls will lead a paddock walk to

identity native grasses growing locally and assist landholders to make their own quick plant guide.

Discussion on the day will include:

- Grazing management of native grasses
- The difference between winter and summer growing grasses
- Ground cover requirements
- Feed quality of native grasses
- How much dry matter is on offer.

Anyone interested in attending the native grasses identification workshop can register by using the link below, or contact Bec on 0402 788 526. Registrations close October 24.

For more information contact Daniel Schuppan by [email](#) or on 0477 315 931

[Register Now](#)

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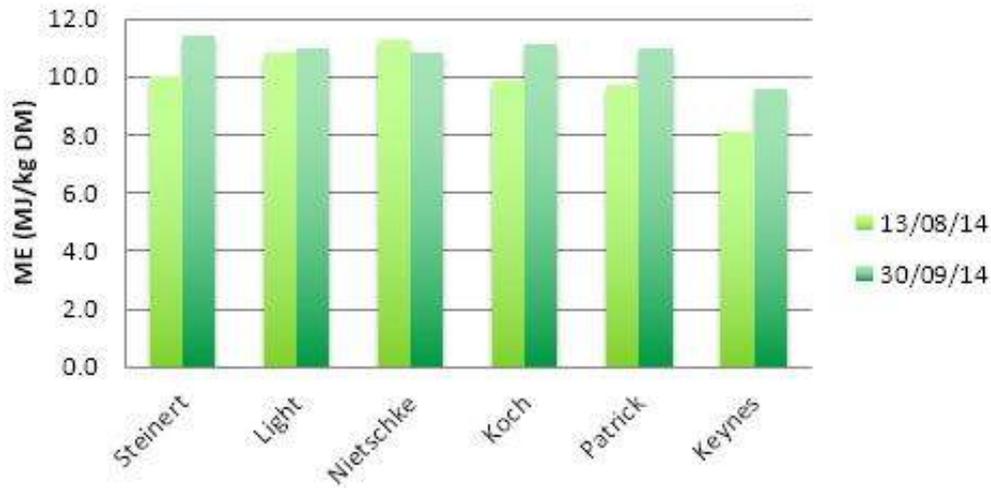
## Local pasture quality

BIGG's *Barossa Pasture Challenge* project, which in 2014 pitted our local producer groups in a pasture improvement competition, was recently [won by Angaston Ag Bureau's, Anthony and Chris Steinert](#).

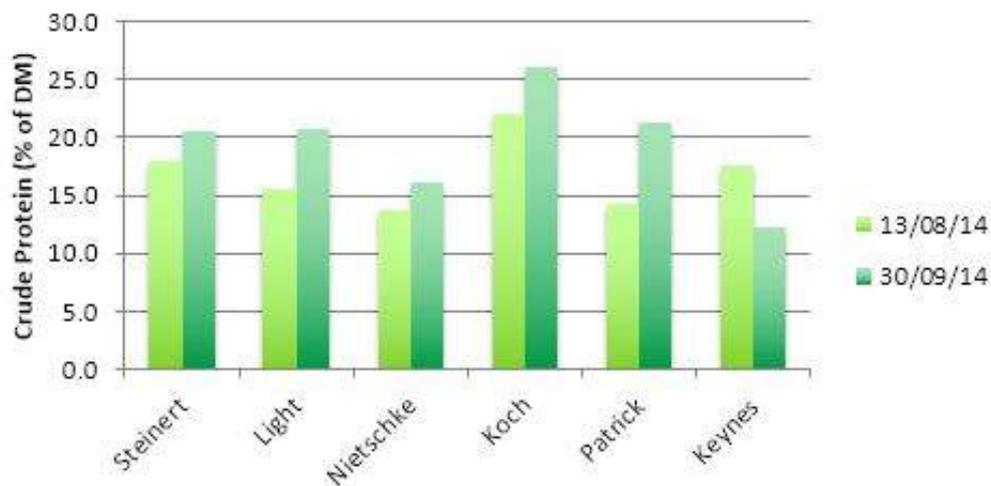
As part of the competition, six pasture paddocks were monitored throughout the growing season for their productivity and quality. This included collecting a pasture sample from each on 13/8 and 30/9/14 and testing them for metabolisable energy (ME) and crude protein.

The results (figures 1 and 2) of these tests are reflective of the stage of growth and composition of each pasture at sampling (table 1).

**Figure 1: Metabolisable energy of pasture paddocks on 13/8 and 30/9/14**



**Figure 2: Crude protein of pasture paddocks on 13/8 and 30/9/14**



The highest ME values recorded at each sampling date was Jamie Nietschke's (11.3 MJ/kg on 13/8) and Steinert's (11.4 MJ/kg on 30/9). While at both sampling dates the pasture with the highest crude protein was Andrew Koch's (22.0 and 26.0%, 13/8 and 30/9 respectively). However, each paddock had a story to tell, including the following:

- All paddocks showed increased ME levels at 30/9 compared to 13/8/14, except Jamies Nietschke's. This likely reflects the haying off, of the barley grass, which made up 60% of this pasture.
- The pasture with the lowest ME (8.1-9.6 MJ/kg) contained the highest percentage of broadleaf weeds (Graham Keynes). This was also the only pasture where crude protein levels dropped at the second sampling date.
- Andrew Koch's high crude protein pasture reflects the high clover content (53-78%) in the paddock.

The *Barossa Pasture Challenge* project was funded by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), through a 2013-14 State NRM Community Grant.

**Table 1: Composition of pasture paddocks on 13/8 and 30/9/14.**

| Producer Group<br>(landholder)                        | Species                                | Composition (%) |         |
|---|--|-----------------|---------|
|   |  | 13/8/14         | 30/9/14 |
| Angaston Ag<br>Bureau (Anthony<br>and Chris Steinert) | Phalaris                               | 45              | 24      |
|   | Clover                                 | 28              | 19      |
|   | Silver grass/ryegrass/<br>barley grass | 11              | 38      |
|   | Cocksfoot/plantain                     | 11              | 14      |
|   | Capeweed                               | 5               | 5       |
| Angaston Ag<br>Bureau<br>(Jen Light)                  | Clover                                 | 41              | 45      |
|   | Ryegrass/silver grass                  | 23              | 9       |
|   | Phalaris                               | 18              | 27      |
|   | Capeweed/geranium                      | 6               | 19      |
|   | (Bare ground)                          | 12              | -       |
| Koonunga Ag<br>Bureau (Jamie<br>Nietschke)            | Barley grass                           | 59              | 61      |
|   | Ryegrass/silver grass                  | 23              | 22      |
|   | Lucerne                                | 6               | 17      |
|   | Clover                                 | 6               | -       |
|   | Capeweed                               | 6               | -       |
| Barossa Mid North<br>Dairy Discussion                 | Clover                                 | 53              | 78      |
|   | Barley grass                           | 26              | 17      |
| North Flinders Ranges<br>(Vic Patrick)                | Ryegrass/barley grass                  | 39              | 56      |
|   | Clover                                 | 17              | 16      |
| North Rhine Sheep<br>(Graham Keynes)                  | Salvation jane                         | 5               | -       |
|   | (Bare ground)                          | -               | 6       |
|   | Salvation<br>jane/geranium             | 57              | 70      |
|   | Phalaris                               | 16              | 10      |
|   | Barley Grass                           | 16              | 10      |
|   | Clover                                 | -               | 5       |
|   | (Dry litter)                           | 11              | 5       |

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## Looking Forward Forum

Landholders affected by the Eden Valley bushfire were invited to an 'Eden Valley Bushfire looking forward forum' which was co-hosted by BIGG, the Angaston Ag Bureau and the Mid-Murray & Barossa Recovery Committee on October 2.

The forum, held at Keyneton, was targeted at engaging landholders in development activities, projects and services to assist the productive, profitable and sustainable recovery of people, families, businesses and the community.

The forum included presentations from:

- Daniel Schuppan, who provided information on our native grasses project and the upcoming native grasses workshop.
- Peter Michelmore, from Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin, giving landholders a briefing on the past and future projects and services available to producers.
- Grant Crettenden of Rural Business Support, looking at ways that landholders can obtain assistance in financial and business recovery planning.
- David West and Lyn James from SA Health, who talked about caring for yourself

and your mental health - an aspect often neglected when dealing with difficult circumstances.

A facilitated discussion on the services and support groups currently available for affected landholders closed out the evening.

The forum was well attended with over 50 participants, and the outcomes from the workshop will be used to help drive the future direction of projects for BIGG.

Thanks to Bruce Hancock who coordinated and hosted the event.

## From the Inbox...

- Natural Resources AMLR Free Pastures with Punch Field Day: Sunday October 19 2:00-4:30 at Charleston. [Read more.](#)
- Pastoral Beef Field Day: Profit Drivers and Innovation: at Marree on Tuesday October 28. [Read the brochure.](#)
- Bestwool/Bestlamb Evening Phone Seminar: Tuesday October 21 8pm. [Read more.](#)
- Beef 4 Profit Workshops: Meating the Market: at Mt Compass on the October 31. [Read the brochure.](#)
- Natural Resources SE have prepared information on 'dry times management' to aid producer decision making, which is also relevant for our region on [their website](#).
- Barossa Bushgardens Field Day looking at native grasses and vegetation, October 29 8:00am-12:00pm. For more information or to register contact Nicki Robins on 8563 0650.

## Your BIGG Contacts

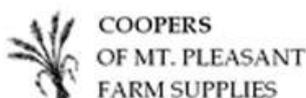
### Technical Facilitator / Coordinators:

[Brett Nietschke](#): 0432 804 389

[Georgie Keynes](#): 0409 287 261

### Communication Officer:

[Rebecca Barr](#): 0402 788 526



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