

The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

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Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



The BIGG Bulletin

June 2015

Local sub-clover field trials and demonstrations

In 2015 BIGG is continuing its three-year project funded through a Producer Research Site grant from [Meat & Livestock Australia](#) (MLA) to investigate the effect of soil borne root diseases on local sub-clover productivity.

This year, small plot field trials are being conducted in long-term pasture paddocks located at Moculta (Ian Koch's property) and Craneford (Carolyn de Koning's property – see picture). These trials, sown in late May, are assessing the effect of different management strategies (fungicides, fertilisers and inoculants) on winter sub-clover production. To assess these strategies various measurements will be conducted throughout the growing season, including sub-clover establishment, dry matter production and plant nodulation.



In addition to BIGG's local trials, MLA's research partner for the project, The University of Western Australia, has co-located one of its national trial sites at Moculta. The University of Western Australia is also investigating strategies (fungicides, cultivation and livestock grazing) that may limit the impact of soil borne root diseases on sub-

clover. This will complement BIGG's research and provide extra local data about the issue.



Thanks to Coopers Farm Supplies, Craig John has also kindly sown their clover variety demonstration at the Moculta and Craneford trial sites (see picture). Sown in late May and including 25 varieties (subs, balansa, persian and arrowleaf clovers, and medics), this will give producers a great opportunity to directly compare clover performance.

Both the trials and demonstrations will be showcased at a field walk in spring. For more information about the project and the associated 2015 field work contact [Brett Nietschke](#).

Revegetation Demonstration to Manage Watercourse Erosion

A new BIGG project is underway to improve our understanding of methods of stabilising watercourses to reduce erosion

BIGG received a 25th Anniversary Landcare grant from the Federal Government to set up a demonstration site to compare how effective different plant communities are at stabilising watercourse banks.

Project facilitator [Georgie Keynes](#) says the project will trial four different vegetation systems; native grasses, shrubs and ground covers, hardy reeds and rushes, and a control area with restricted stock access.

"The location we've selected is a winter stream which runs into the North Para, and gets extremely boggy in winter months. We're going to trial the four different options to see which will most effectively improve bank stabilisation," she said.

The site (pictured), located on dairy farmers Ben and Murray Klemm's property at Moculta, will be fenced 10 metres either side of the watercourse for 250 metres, to prevent stock access and pugging of the soil by cows.



"The first step after fencing is control of woody weeds such as briar rose, artichokes and thistles, which needs to be done with care to prevent contamination of the watercourse," Georgie said.

Planting will commence in July with tubestock, and a field walk will be scheduled later in the year.

This project is being run in conjunction with Natural Resources AMLR and Barossa Bushgardens.

From the Inbox...

- GSSA Grasslands Conference, July 22-23 Naracoorte. [Register now](#). BIGG will also be hosting a Pasture Update Tuesday 25 August, in Nuriootpa - Save the date, and stay tuned for more information!
- Yorke Peninsula MSA Beef Understanding Carcase Feedback Presentation Night, 22 July, Warooka. [Read more](#).
- Retail Agriculture Workshop: "Money doesn't grow on trees, it grows in grass". Kapunda, 29 July 2015 [Read more](#).
- Making More from Sheep HR webinar series: [Safety](#) (30 July) and [Unpacking Packages](#) (20 August).
- SA Landcare Conference: September 14-16, Waikerie. [Save the Date!](#)
- The Rural Connect toolkit for primary producers is designed to provide some special support for business, farming and family life on the land. [Read more online](#).
- Regional Capability Community Fund: Grants between \$500 and \$5,000 [available now](#), closing date Friday July 24.

Your BIGG Contacts

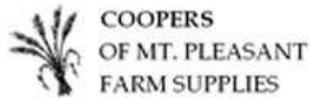
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