

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

November 2015

Sustainable Farm Dinner Keynote Speaker

We're excited to announce the addition of climate and agricultural scientist Melissa Rebbeck to the line-up for BIGGs sustainable farm dinner of Thursday 10 December.

Melissa will talk about how producers can deal with extreme climate events, including frost, drought and heatwaves, she will tell us what local data is showing us about a changing climate, and what to expect in the future.

The event will also feature:

- Fiona Koch shares her learnings from her trip to the US to learn from rancher Gabe Brown
- Georgie Keynes and Daniel Schuppan will wrap up the findings from the native pastures project, including launch of BIGGs case study booklet and video presenting graziers' experiences in recovering after bushfire
- Keep the kids entertained with natural resources activities
- And of course, a good old Barossa BBQ for the family!

The details:

- Date: Thursday 10 December
- Time: 5:00pm onwards
- Where: Eden Valley Institute, Murray Street, Eden Valley

- Cost: \$10 per family
- RSVP: Cara by email admin@agcommunicators.com.au



Melissa Rebbeck

RSVP Now

Evaluating Lucerne on Acidic Soils

Research by SARDI at Pewsey Vale has shown that lucerne can thrive in the acidic soils of the Adelaide Hills with liming or the right combination of lucerne cultivar and rhizobia. [Read more here.](#)

[The Stock Journal](#) has also written an interesting article on the trial.



SARDI lucerne breeder, Alan Humphries at BIGG's October Pasture Walk discussing the results from SARDI's Acid Tolerant Lucerne trial, Pewsey Vale.

Successful grants for BIGG

BIGG has been successful in two recent funding applications.

Thanks to funding from Natural Resources Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges, BIGG will continue running our three soil moisture and weather monitoring stations at Keyneton, Koonunga and Flaxman Valley for another three years until December 2018.

Data from the stations is available for producers to use in near real-time at www.biggroup.org.au. BIGG is also planning a future project to combine the data with weather forecasts to provide useful pasture tools for producers.

We have also received funding from More Beef from Pastures to run a BETTER BULL SELECTION workshop in early 2016. More details will be available in the December newsletter, but if you're interested, please get in touch at admin@biggroup.org.au!

From the Inbox...

- Biochar Workshop featuring WA Farmer Doug Pow: Friday 27 November, Mount Compass. [View the flyer.](#)
- Natural Resources SAMDB announces a new farm records management tool, nrmFARM to be launched 14 December 2015. [Read more here.](#)
- MLA have featured BIGG's Sub-clover Root Disease Project in their latest [industry news](#) that is distributed nationally to 30,000 MLA members.
- [Watch](#) The Story of Soil Conservation in South Australia by Primary Producers SA.
- A few producers want to do the Life Time Ewe Management Course in the Springton/Mt Pleasant/Birdwood area but for it to start a couple more are needed. [Find out more here.](#)
- Expressions of Interest: We have an opportunity to have the 'More Lambs More Often' workshop in our area. This is a full day workshop currently being held by RIST (Rural Industries Skill Training) and aimed to focus on the farm as a business while managing factors such as climate variability. Workshops will be mid-December or early-mid January.

More information about the workshop:

- An interactive day with a relaxed facilitation style
- Explores climate variability and possible effects on the farming business
- Highlights how businesses can adapt to climate variability - resilience etc.
- Highlights the current role of carbon farming
- If you are interested, please email admin@agcommunicators.com.au

Your BIGG Contacts

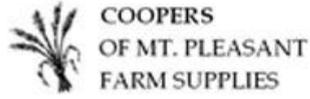
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Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

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