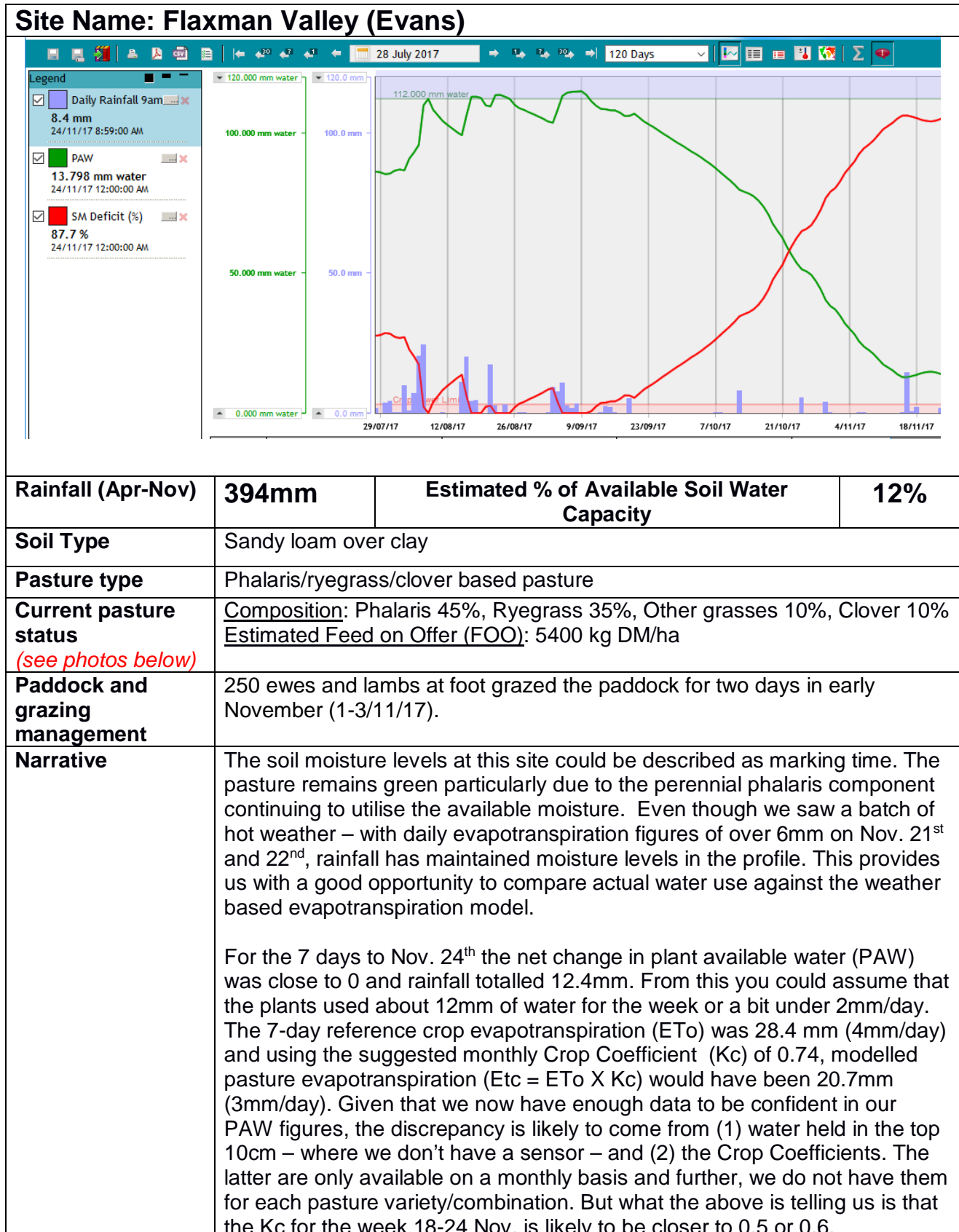
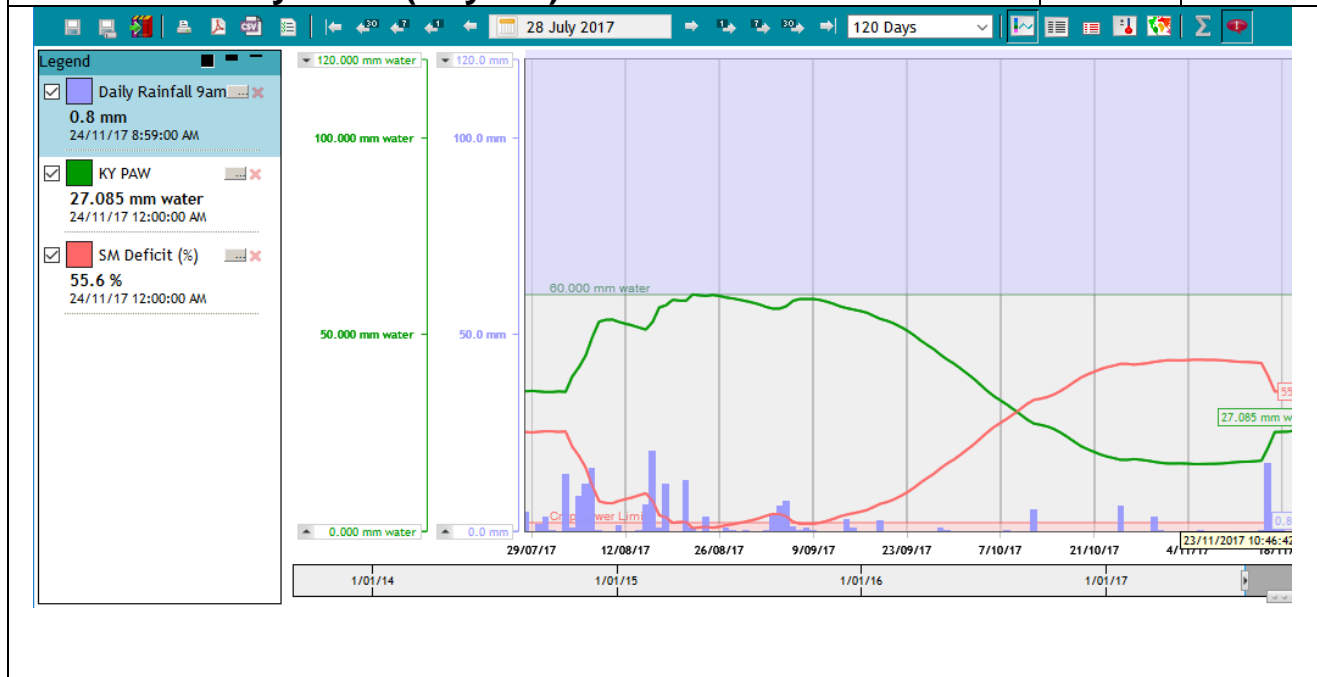


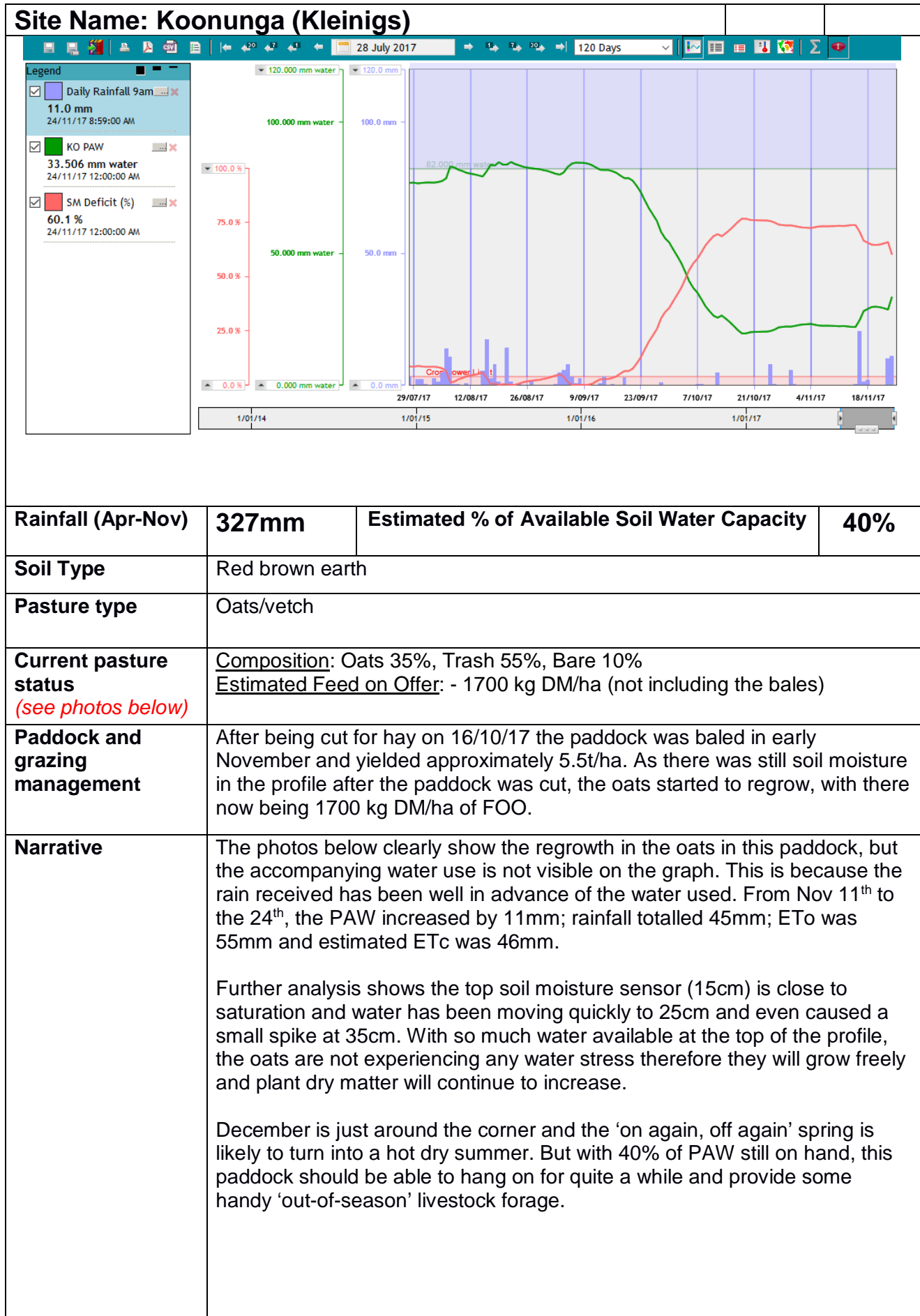
## BIGG Soil Moisture and Weather Station paddock report - 24.11.17



## Site Name: Keyneton (Keynes)



Rainfall (Apr-Nov)	<b>335mm</b>	Estimated % of Available Soil Water Capacity	<b>45%</b>
Soil Type	Red loam over clay		
Pasture type	Annual grass and sub-clover based pasture, including some phalaris		
Current pasture status <i>(see photos below)</i>	<u>Composition:</u> Silver grass 45%, Barley Grass 45%, Wild oats 10% <u>Estimated Feed on Offer:</u> 1700 kg DM/ha		
Paddock and grazing management	The paddock was last grazed by 1000 wether lambs (stocking rate of approximately 7 DSE/ha) from 24/10-7/11/17.		
Narrative	<p>This site has recorded nearly 21mm of rain in the two weeks to Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> (20mm then 0.8mm). This has increased the plant available water (PAW) from 17 to 27mm (i.e. 10mm increase over this period). The pasture is not using moisture at this site, so where has the extra rain gone?</p> <p>There are a couple of likely causes: the winter annual grasses which dominate the paddock have died off, while some moisture will gather on the stalks and more again will be held at ground level and in the top 10 cm of soil. Given that our uppermost soil moisture sensor is at a depth of 15cm, we can't see the moisture at the surface. In bare soils, this evaporates quickly, but with established pasture/crops, the moisture is retained. Some will no doubt be lost to evaporation, but the rest will either stay where it is, or will infiltrate deeper into the profile. If the pasture is cut or heavily grazed, evaporation rates will rise and much of this would be lost again.</p> <p>The PAW at this site is low so the profile fills and empties quite quickly. Pasture and grazing management decisions thus play a big role in making the most of the water.</p>		



**Photos of paddocks monitored for soil moisture: 26/10/17 (left) and 23/11/17 (right)**

**Flaxman Valley (Evans)**



**Keyneton (Keynes)**



**Koonunga (Kleinigs)**



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