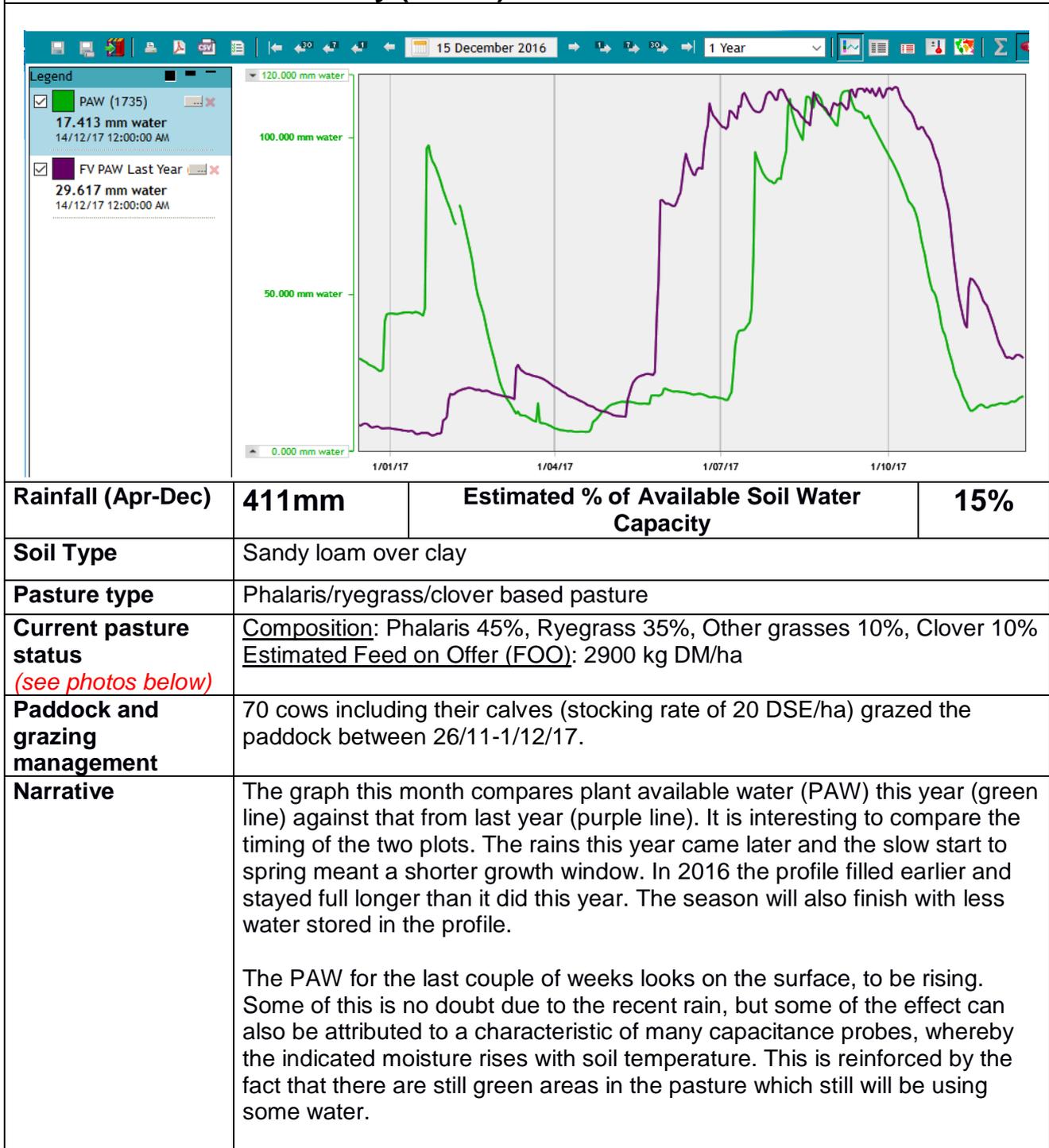
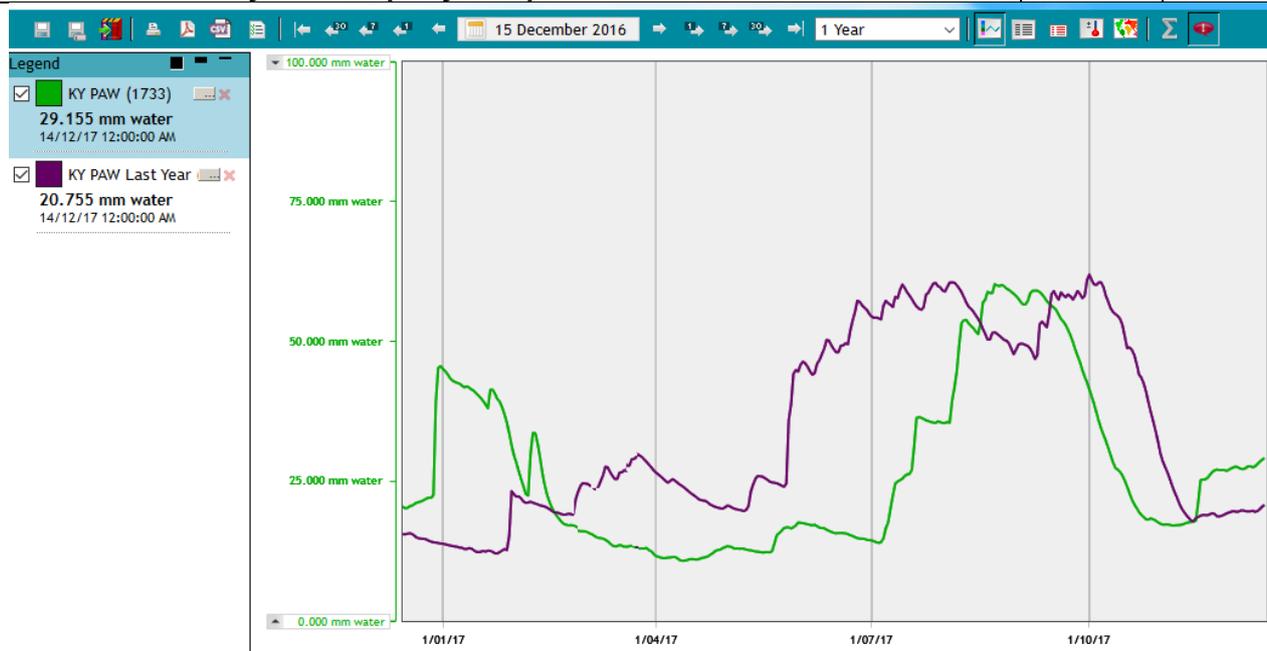


## BIGG Soil Moisture and Weather Station paddock report - 15.12.17

**Site Name: Flaxman Valley (Evans)**



# Site Name: Keyneton (Keynes)



<b>Rainfall (Apr-Dec)</b>	<b>353mm</b>	<b>Estimated % of Available Soil Water Capacity</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Soil Type</b>	Red loam over clay		
<b>Pasture type</b>	Annual grass and sub-clover based pasture, including some phalaris		
<b>Current pasture status</b> <i>(see photos below)</i>	<u>Composition:</u> Silver grass 45%, Barley Grass 45%, Wild oats 10% <u>Estimated Feed on Offer:</u> 1400 kg DM/ha		
<b>Paddock and grazing management</b>	The paddock has not been grazed for over a month. It was last grazed by 1000 wether lambs between 24/10-7/11/17 (stocking rate of approximately 7 DSE/ha).		
<b>Narrative</b>	<p>Like Flaxman Valley, serious water use did not kick in until later in the season and finished earlier compared to 2016. But as a counter, the late spring rain has left the profile with more water than at the same time last year.</p> <p>What happens to this residual water is an interesting question. A check of the soil moisture level at the various depths shows there is still a reasonable amount being held at 10 to 30cm, but with most focused at 40 to 60cm. Summer weeds which can establish themselves after a bit of rain, will quickly tap into the 10-30cm water and, if they get their roots down deeper, will have plenty of moisture to allow them to flourish. But if the weeds are kept at bay, this water will stay "in the bank", ready for next year's pasture growth.</p>		

## Site Name: Koonunga (Kleinigs)



Rainfall (Apr-Dec)	<b>363mm</b>	Estimated % of Available Soil Water Capacity	<b>33%</b>
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Soil Type	Red brown earth
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Pasture type	Oats/vetch
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Current pasture status <i>(see photos below)</i>	<u>Composition:</u> Oats 30%, Wireweed 30%, Trash 35%, Bare 5% <u>Estimated Feed on Offer:</u> 2150 kg DM/ha (not including the bales)
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Paddock and grazing management	The paddock was cut for hay on 16/10/17 and is yet to be grazed. The residual soil moisture and more recent rainfall events have ensured the oats have regrown, including wireweed, which is especially palatable livestock feed when it is fresh.
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Narrative	<p>The rainfall and water use patterns at this site in 2017 are much closer to those of 2016 than Flaxman Valley or Keyneton. The recent rains also provided a boost to moisture levels, with PAW in late November and early December higher than they were for the same time last year.</p> <p>Note that the PAW is still falling and this can be attributed to the water being used by the wireweed.</p> <p>At the last paddock assessment (23/11/17) the FOO was 1700 kg DM/ha and given the current FOO is 2150 kg DM/ha, the estimated Pasture Growth Rate for the period is 20 kg DM/ha/day.</p>
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**Photos of paddocks monitored for soil moisture: 23/11/17 (left) and 14/12/17 (right)**

**Flaxman Valley (Evans)**



**Keyneton (Keynes)**



**Koonunga (Kleinigs)**



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