

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

MAY 2016

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AgTastic 2016



Register now for the 2016 AgTastic Conference!

The Barossa Improved Grazing Group and Barossa Young People in Ag, sponsored by Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin and Regional Landcare Facilitator, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Region, invite you to come along for a sticky-beak bus tour followed by dinner at Peter Seppelt Wines.

Keynote speaker Dale Grey, Climate expert from the Department of Economic Development, will explain key climate influencers, how climate patterns are changing and what we can expect in 2016. Dale has been working with the Victorian DEDJTR as a crop/pasture research and extension agronomist for 23 years at Rutherglen and Cobram and is now based in Bendigo. He comes from a cropping farm in the southern Victorian Mallee. For the last 11 years he has specialised in climate and weather and is editor of "The Break", "The Fast Break" and "Very Fast Break" climate e-newsletters.

Dale's presentation will focus on the oceanic and atmospheric climate drivers that effect SA rainfall and climate change's influence on those drivers. There will also be a brief snap shot of the model predictions for those drivers and rainfall and temperature for the coming winter and spring.

The event will also feature:

- Welcome and wine tasting at Peter Seppelt Wines
- Tony Randall from Natural Resources SAMDB will introduce nrmFARM, a free online farm management and records keeping program available to farmers, horticulturalists, and rural property owners.
- Georgie Keynes will present BIGG's Landcare Watercourse Revegetation site at Moculta.
- A tour of Hutton Vale Farm to discuss their farming practices and involvement in the Trees for Life 'Paddock Tree Project'.
- Keynote speaker Dale Grey, dinner, networking and entertainment at Peter Seppelt Wines

The details:

- **Date:** Thursday 9th June 2016
- **Time:** 2pm onwards
- **Where:** Commencing at Peter Seppelt Wines
- **Cost:** \$40 (Dinner &/or bus tour)

RSVP: Cara by email admin@agcommunicators.com.au

[Register Now](#)

BIGG producers bulletproofing sheep businesses

Fifteen producers from the Barossa region recently learnt how to bullet-proof their sheep business against variable seasons at More Lambs More Often (MLMO) workshop, on April 29 at Keyneton, with livestock specialist Tim Prance.

Participants learnt about the changes in climate being observed in the past 30 years, including a reduction in growing season rainfall, and were given an insight into the drivers that influence our climate (watch the 'ClimateDogs' videos from Agriculture Victoria [here](#)).

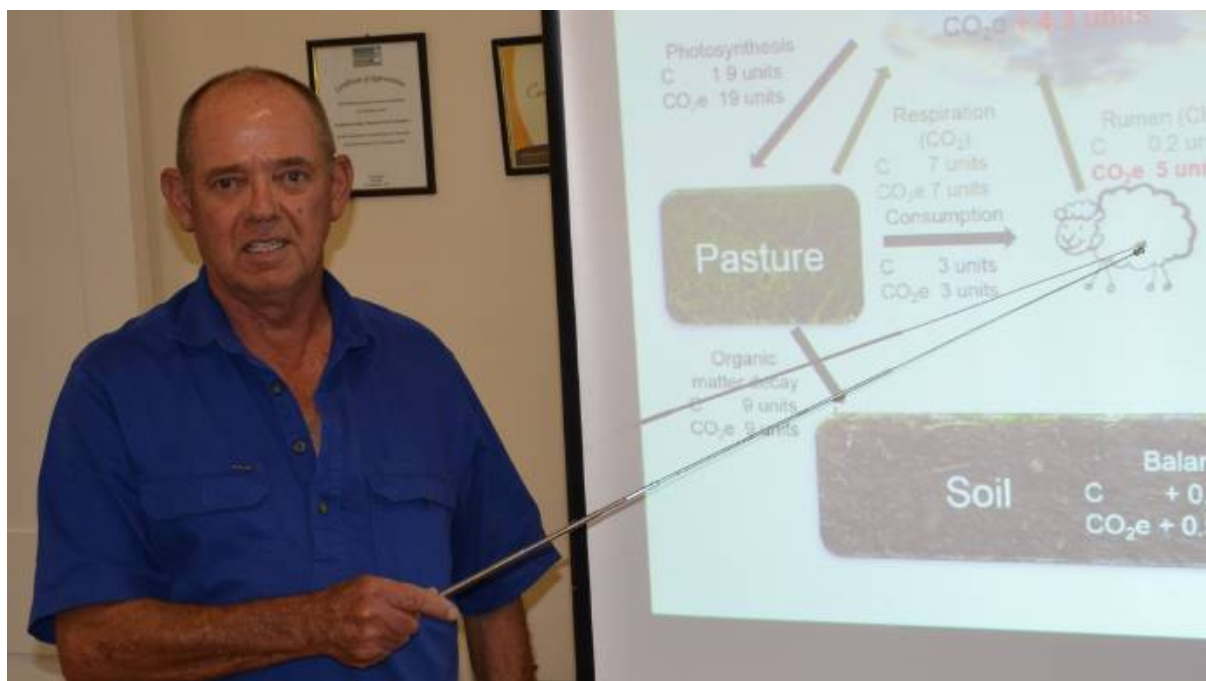
The course also introduced the Federal Government's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF), and the potentially disappointing news about limited opportunities in the short term to benefit from carbon farming.

Tim explained to producers how flexibility is key to managing variable seasons, with the group testing their business flexibility using a MLMO 'Flexibility Indicator', where producers scored their business in terms of enterprise structure, feed demand profile, animal management and feed base.

Read the Stock Journal article [here](#).

For more information on farming in a variable climate and carbon farming, visit the Carbon Farming Knowledge website <http://carbonfarmingknowledge.com.au/resources/>

And don't forget, AgTastic is featuring Climate expert Dale Grey who will tell us about the climate drivers that effect SA rainfall and tell us what we can expect in 2016!



Livestock specialist Tim Prance

From the Inbox...

- Come along to the Improving grazing management field walks on the 6th and 7th of June, supported by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board, to learn about grazing management strategies to improve pasture production and composition, biological activity and livestock production. For further information and to register, view the flyer [here](#)
- Grassland Society of Southern Australia's 2016 Annual Conference – 'Ready, Set, Grow!' will be held in Hamilton, Victoria from Wednesday 31 August to Thursday 1 September. Full program and registration details will be available soon.
- WHS information from Fidesa - view a summary of requirements [here](#) and a video created to help farmers manage fatigue during busy periods like seeding [here](#).
- Please complete the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association's survey for Landholders of small properties who do not earn their main income from agriculture <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/collaborativefarming>

Your BIGG Contacts

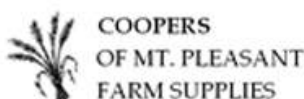
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