

The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

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Natural Resources  
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges



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SA Murray-Darling Basin



# The BIGG Bulletin

JULY 2016

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## Save the Date - BIGG Spring Pasture Walk

BIGG's spring pasture walk will be held on Friday 16 September. More details will be released next newsletter, but make sure to mark the date in your calendar!

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## Latest sub-clover root disease project happenings



Dee Heinjus, MLA's SA PRS Coordinator (Rural Directions) and Michael Evans, BIGG Producer group member at MLA's PRS National workshop held in June in Melbourne.



Kevin Foster, Senior Research Officer, The University of Western Australia and Brett Nietschke, BIGG Technical Facilitator at the Moculta trial site.

In 2016 BIGG is continuing its three-year project funded through a Producer Research Site (PRS) grant from [Meat & Livestock Australia](#) (MLA) to investigate the effect of soil borne root diseases on local sub-clover productivity.

Field trials are again being conducted at Moculta (Ian Koch's property) and Craneford (Carolyn de Koning's property) to assess the effect of key fungicides and fertilisers on sub-clover production in the presence of soil borne root diseases. To assess these management options, various measurements are being collected 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 (UWA), has co-located one of its national sub-clover root disease trial sites at Moculta. This also occurred last year, and was highly beneficial as it gave producers access to additional local research results whilst complementing BIGG's own trials.

The UWA and BIGG's research was recently highlighted as part of MLA's National PRS workshop held last month in Melbourne. At the workshop, Professor Martin Barbetti from UWA gave an overview of the complexity of managing root diseases in sub-clover pasture and the value of developing resistant cultivars as a long-term management strategy.

Not only was the sub-clover root disease project discussed at the workshop but also on the agenda were the findings of other MLA-funded pasture projects. These topics included: dual purpose crops, alternative legumes, phosphorous efficient legumes, sub tropical pastures, pasture persistence and establishment, and real time biomass estimation of pastures.

BIGG was represented at the workshop by Brett Nietschke and Michael Evans. Michael is also the SA producer contact for MLA's Feedbase Investment Plan Symposium (to be held later in the year). If you have any local pasture research suggestions please contact Michael at [wootona@bigpond.com](mailto:wootona@bigpond.com). MLA encourages producer input into the planning of research activities as producers informing research is essential to the success of the PRS program.

The trials from the MLA sub-clover root disease project and BIGG's newly funded MLA

Producer Demonstration Site project that is evaluating the productivity of various pasture types will be showcased at BIGG's pasture walk to be held on Friday 16 September.

## Video: Fiona and Ian Koch



Watch the **NEW** BIGG video, where Fiona and Ian Koch discuss their directions in grazing and property management, including polycultures, guinea fowl and summer crops.

BIGG supported the Koch's in 2015 to apply for an AW Howard study grant to travel to the US and learn from sustainable farming pioneer Gabe Brown.

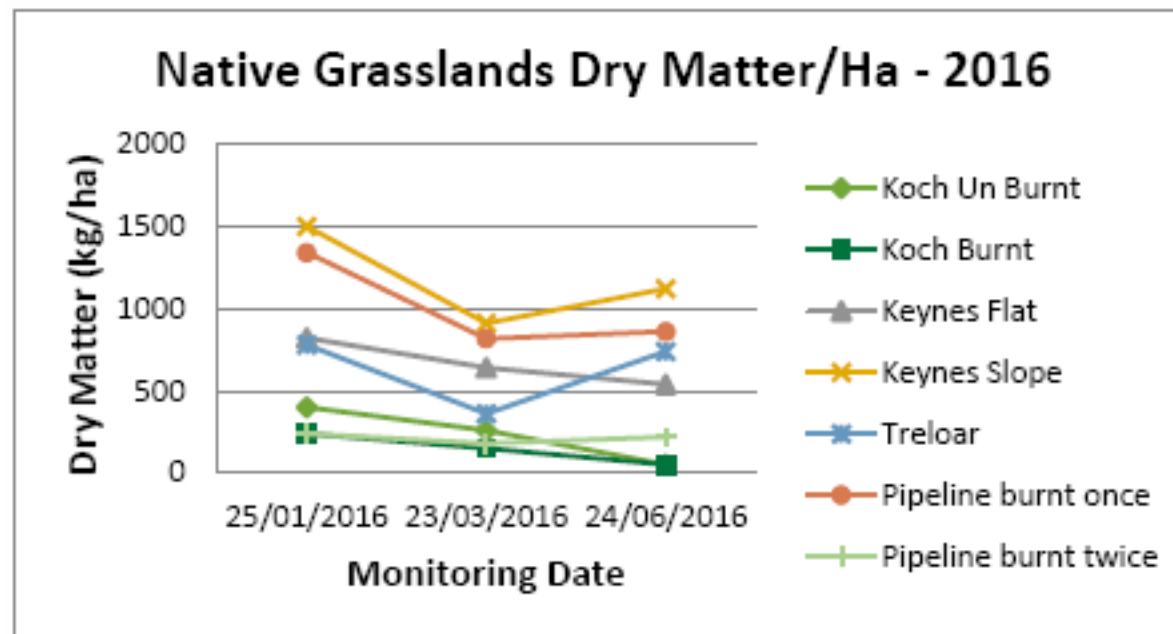
We caught up with them after they returned and asked what they are now doing differently to improve thier sustainability and profitability.

Read the Koch's full report at the [BIGG website](#)

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## Eden Valley Bushfire Pasture Monitoring Update





The native pasture bushfire recovery team have issued a new pasture monitoring update, which is available now on the [BIGG website](#). The report monitors the groundcover and dry matter at seven monitoring sites.

## From the Inbox...

- Brome grass workshop, 15 July 9:30am at Waikerie, featuring Sam Kleeman, Rick Llewellyn and Peter Boutsalis. [Read more.](#)
- SA Merino Sire Evaluation Site planning meeting: Wednesday 20 July 7pm at PIRSA Nuriootpa office. [Read more.](#)

- The Limestone Coast branch of the Grasslands Society of Southern Australia is holding a pasture update on Tuesday 26 July at Avenue Range. [Read more.](#)
- Expressions of interest for Stepping Into Leadership are now open, closing 29 July. This program will enable women in agriculture and agribusiness to participate in professional development building personal leadership skills. [Read more.](#)
- Time to place your Trees for Life seeding order! Seedling orders for the Trees For Life 2016/17 growing season are now open so it's a great time to think about what you need and place an order before the 31 July. [Read more and place your order.](#) Landholders, community groups and schools affected by the Pinery bushfire are entitled to a 50 percent discount.
- **Are you a young influencer across all sectors of agriculture?** The Aust Govt Dept of Agriculture and Water Resources, together with RIRDC, would like to invite you to apply to be a part of GrowAg. Each GrowAg delegate will hear from agricultural experts and mentors, they will have access to a wealth of industry information, resources and the latest in best practice and innovative business principles. If you are aged 25 to 40, apply now to participate in this preeminent industry event to be held in Albury on 21-23 September 2016. [Read more.](#)
- There is a new way of accessing weather information from Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin's weather station network. A mobile friendly webpage has been created which gives users access to weather data on their smartphone and tablet devices. Weather data is sourced from over 40 weather stations in the SAMDB region. Data is recorded every 15 minutes and uploaded to the web each hour. Access the new page on [mobile](#) or [desktop](#) now.
- [DairySA's June Newsletter](#) is available now



# Your BIGG Contacts

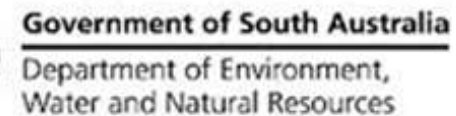
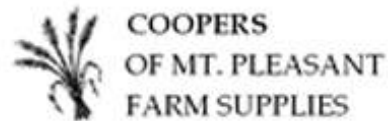
## Technical Facilitators:

[Brett Nietschke](#): 0432 804 389

[Georgie Keynes](#): 0409 287 261

## Communication Officer:

[Rebecca Barr](#): 0402 788 526



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