



Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



The BIGG Bulletin

March 2015

Lamb Survival Workshop

There's still time to register for the upcoming workshop, though spaces are filling up fast so don't delay!

The Barossa Improved Grazing Group, along with the North Rhine Sheep Group and the Angaston Agricultural Bureau, invites you to a half day industry workshop featuring:

- **Lamb autopsy**— Identify causes of lamb loss for your lambs by bringing some fresh dead lambs along - Dr Gordon Refshauge DPI NSW
- **Strategies for improving lamb survival** — Minimising lamb losses through ewe nutrition, feed supply and demand, mob sizes, genetics and shelter - Dr Jason Trompf
- Free BBQ dinner to be held following the workshop

The details:

- Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015
- Time: Commencing at 2:30pm
- Duration: Workshop will wind up around 6:30pm with a BBQ to follow
- Venue: 'Wootoona', 143 Karra Yerta Rd, Flaxman Valley
- Cost: Free
- BYO Chair

Registration is essential as there are limited places:

Register Now

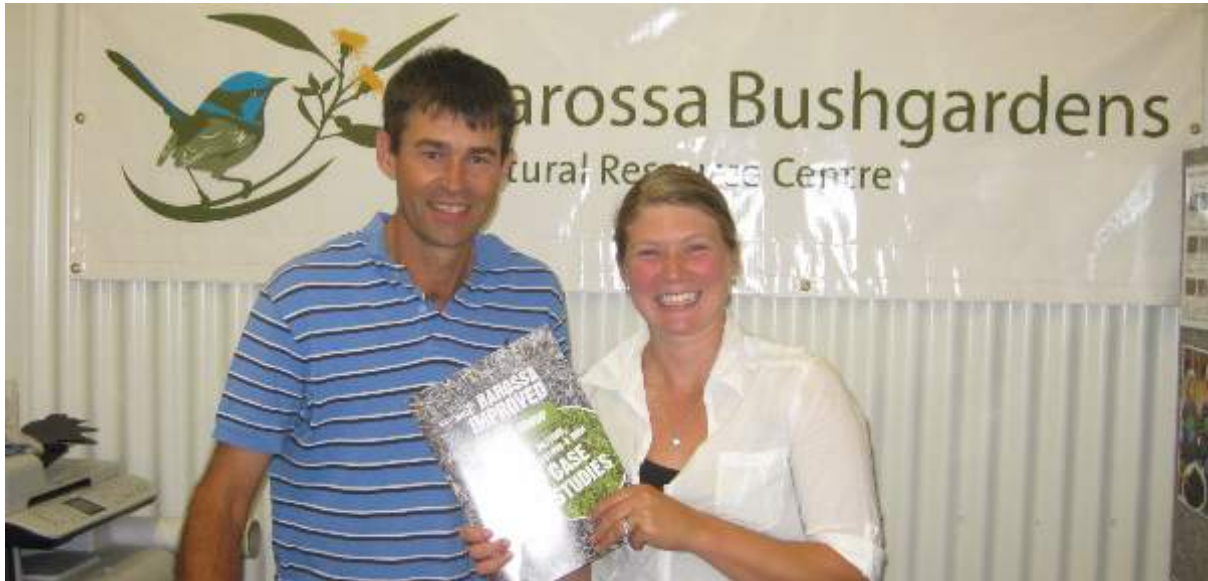
Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Translate ▼

Case Studies Launch and Strategic Planning Workshop



Earlier this month BIGG celebrated three years of operation with a Friday night BBQ at the Barossa Bushgardens, while launching the new BIGG Case Studies booklet.

BIGG have produced a Case Studies booklet showcasing the learnings, achievements and innovations demonstrated in BIGG's sustainable pasture management and on-farm NRM projects during the 2012-14 growing seasons.

The booklet and launch BBQ were funded through a Natural Resources AMLR Community Action NRM grant for 'Sharing innovative sustainable pasture management and NRM stories'.

You can read the booklet on the [BIGG website](#). We have also released a YouTube video looking at how local producers are managing and recovering pastures following the 2014 bushfires. You can [watch the case study video online](#).

On the same day, the BIGG held a strategic planning workshop to define our vision

and mission, governance structure and future project direction. Stay tuned to find out more about what was discussed and what the strategic plan will look like.

Combating Soil Acidity in the Barossa Ranges and Plains



Precision pH testing (pictured) is one of the topics that will be covered on managing alkaline soils in upcoming workshops.

Source: Brian Hughes

By Brian Hughes, Soil and Land Management Consultant – PIRSA Rural Solutions

Soil acidity issues have been slowly spreading through cropping and grazing land in the Northern Mount Lofty Ranges. While soils in the higher rainfall areas are inherently acidic, these soils have continued to acidify to pH levels where toxic aluminium is released and even tolerant plants are affected. In the high rainfall cropping areas surface soil pH has moved neutral to acidic levels over the same period.

Good land management practices can exacerbate the acidification process, including intensive legume production; removal of nutrients in grain, hay and silage; and the use of some nitrogen and sulphur fertilisers, in combination with nitrate leaching out of the soil profile.

The main treatment options include the use of agricultural limes and dolomites to correct acidity and the amounts required will depend on your soil type and texture, initial pH and target pH and quality of the lime.

In recent years the loss of “Nutrilime” as a cheap and good quality liming product formerly produced by Penrice from soda ash as a by-product has reduced the options for liming and increased the cost of treatment.

Soil acidity and biochar workshops are to be run across the AMLR and SAMDB regions, with two in the Barossa Region for interested landholders.

These workshops will tackle the problem of soil acidity, covering topics including managing soil acidity in your area, the economics of treating acidity, local pH and trial

data, comparing lime sources, trialing precision pH testing and tools for lime rates.

In the same workshop, another tool for managing soil acidity will be under the spotlight. Biochar, the process of converting carbon waste into fertilizer under high temperature and low oxygen levels, has attracted considerable interest recently.

The process offers a unique way to improve the fertility, moisture content and nutrient holding capacity of soil. Biochar also retains nitrate and prevents it from leaching, a major source of soil acidification. And because of its alkaline nature, biochar is a good candidate to consider when looking at ways to reduce soil acidity.

The workshops are free but participants must register

Workshops are coordinated by Natural Resources AMLR and Natural Resources SAMDB.

The Natural Resources AMLR workshops will be at Lobethal (13 April), Parawa (14 April), Yankalilla (14 April) and Kapunda (23 April). [Read more](#).

To register for any of the AMLR workshops please contact Taryn Mangelsdorf on 0427 188 125 or taryn.mangelsdorf@sa.gov.au

The Natural Resources SAMDB workshops will be held at Mt Barker (8 April), Mt Compass (9 April), Meadows (9 April) and Mt Pleasant (22 April). [Read more](#).

To register for SAMDB workshops please contact Tony Randall on 8532 9101 or 0427 834 396 or email tony.randall2@sa.gov.au

From the Inbox...

- Sheep industry Technology Day, Tuesday April 14 from 9am to 3pm at Allan Piggott's "illoura" property at Moorlands, South Australia. [Read the flyer](#).
- Coorong Tatiara Local Action Day are hosting a Soil pit day on April 10, supported by Natural Resources SAMDB, looking a test results for that have constrained soils. For more information contact [Tracey Strugnell](#), 0427 750 050.
- Natural Resources AMLR newsletter 'Small Talk' is now out for Autumn. [Find it here](#).
- 'Dairy Turns its Waste to Asset' Landcare article: [Read it here](#).
- Have you read the AMLR case study on BIGG? If not, you can read it on the [Natural Resources website](#).

Your BIGG Contacts

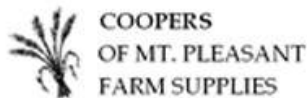
Technical Facilitators:

[Brett Nietschke](#): 0432 804 389

[Georgie Keynes](#): 0409 287 261

Communication Officer:

[Rebecca Barr](#): 0402 788 526



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

Copyright © 2015 Barossa Improved Grazing Group, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)



Follow BIGG on Facebook



Check our our Website

MailChimp