



Natural Resources  
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges

Natural Resources  
SA Murray-Darling Basin



# The BIGG Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2016

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## UPCOMING - Spring Pasture Walk



The walk will visit the MLA Producer Research



We will also visit the Keyneton Pasture Demonstration site which has over

Site at Moculta which is observing subclover root diseases

On Friday September 16, the Barossa Improved Grazing Group (BIGG) will hold its major pasture walk for the year where it will showcase its pasture project trial sites located at Moculta and Keyneton. The pasture walk begins at 1pm at the Keyneton trial site (Cnr Mt Eagle Road and Stott Hwy, Keyneton).

The trials funded by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) through a Producer Research Site and Producer Demonstration Site grant are investigating;

- Sub-clover root disease management (Moculta), and
- The productivity of different pasture varieties for use in grazing and vineyard systems (Keyneton).

Apart from observing BIGG's trials and discussing their results, the pasture walk will feature a field presentation by University of Western Australia plant pathologist, Dr Ming Pei You, who's research group have co-located one of their national sub-clover root disease trial sites at Moculta. Dr You will discuss the impact that root diseases have on pasture productivity and the management strategies that best reduce their impact.

Thanks to Sheep Connect SA, clover experts David Woodard from Rural Solutions SA and Dr Kevin Foster from the University of WA will also give a field presentation about sub-clover identification, including the identification and management of oestrogenic clovers. Several oestrogenic clover varieties infest local pastures and given they can substantially affect sheep production through reducing ewe fertility its vitally important to be able to identify them.

BIGG's trials have been conducted with the assistance of Coopers Farm Supplies and Farmer Johns, whose agronomists will be at the pasture walk to answer all your pasture related questions.

>>>[See Flyer for more details](#)

**REGISTER HERE**

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**Precision Livestock Management Info Night  
Tuesday 4th October**

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The Angaston Ag Bureau, in association with Sheep Connect SA invites all sheep & beef livestock producers and industry service providers to join with them and Dr Robin Dobos for the “Precision Livestock Management Forum” on Tuesday 4th October, 2016, 8:00 to 10:00pm, at Mt McKenzie Hall.

The session will include leading Livestock Management Research Scientist, Dr Robin Dobos from the NSW DPI (Armidale) where he works in collaboration with the University of New England’s Precision Agriculture Group (UNE PARG), CSIRO, CRC Spatial Information and MLA’s Biomass for Business.

Improved livestock productivity and production efficiency through both precision management and genetic improvement are becoming increasingly important as demand for food increases and resources become more constrained and environmental concerns increase in importance. Real-time sensor technologies such as wireless sensor networks are being developed and incorporated into labour-saving automated data-collection and management systems. These systems will evolve to evaluate factors contributing to efficiency within commercial pasture-based production systems, including intake and feed efficiency at pasture, behaviour, disease susceptibility and health, reproduction and welfare status, and into applications that improve whole-farm profitability, risk-management and compliance. They also enable interactions with the environment to be monitored and better understood.

The aim of this precision livestock management program in sheep and cattle is to identify critical-control points in the production system early enough to implement corrective measures that prevent compromising animal health, welfare and nutrition. It will also enable the monitoring of any effects on the environment. The research is using animal-borne sensors to gather behavioural and location data to establish metrics on individual animals that identify critical-control points that inform producers of issues and improve their decision making.

Please RSVP for venue and supper catering purposes: Virginia Waples, M: 0447 260554

## Machine Direct Seeding





Brett Nietschke, Jamie Pook (NR AMLR), Ben Klemm and David Hein from Trees for life checking out the direct seeding machine for watercourse rehabilitation

The Barossa Improved Grazing Group are studying the cost benefit of machine direct seeding for rehabilitating a watercourse in Moculta.

The group are comparing direct seeding with manual tubestock planting as part of a 25th Anniversary Landcare project with support from Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (NR AMLR) to investigate and demonstrate the benefits of watercourse rehabilitation.

A section of a degraded watercourse was fenced off in early 2015 and 640 plants were planted manually along a 250m stretch of the watercourse in July 2015. A further section of the watercourse is now being direct seeded to compare the two methods.

Trees for Life Direct Seeding Manager David Hein says there are many benefits of direct seeding.

“The process is very quick and producers can plant 25 to 30km in one day,” David said.

“The machine, which can be towed by a small tractor, quad bike or ute, can plant four to five species at once including eucalypts and acacias. The plants establish a very strong root system from direct seeding which means they will establish successfully as long as they make it through the first summer.”

Project facilitator Georgie Keynes says the revegetation site, along a watercourse on the property of dairy farmers Murray and Ben Klemm, will be monitored over a number of years to help producers learn about the benefits and investment involved in rehabilitating watercourses on their own properties.

“We already know there are significant benefits including an increase in ground cover, bank stabilisation and water quality, and the project has shown over the last 18 months that these benefits appear very quickly,” Georgie said.

“Now we’re investigating how producers can obtain these benefits with minimal cost and time outlay with a cost benefits analysis of direct seeding.”

## Lambex Wrap-up



MORE than 120 South Australians headed across the border to the first-ever New South Wales held LambEx 2016 in Albury.

The two-and-a-half-day event welcomed more than 1050 delegates, with international and Australian speakers discussing the latest outcomes and research on lamb, sharing their vision, and empowering and inspiring participants to all champion their passion.

Champion marathon runner Robert de Castella, Riverina Bluebell's Chris Wilson and former National RIRDC Rural Woman of the Year Pip Job were standouts in the Survive and Thrive session, along with information delivered by local producers

Thanks to sponsorship from SheepConnect SA, Spence Dix & Co, Pinkerton Palm Hamlyn & Steen and the SA Sheep Industry Fund, as well as support from Livestock SA, two LambEx SA buses headed across to the event from Naracoorte and Nuriootpa, with 73 people onboard, including some who had travelled from as far afield as Kimba.

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, Farmer Johns and the Angaston Agricultural Bureau directly supported 13 producers from the Barossa and surrounding districts to attend.

Participants ranged in age from 16 to 70, with producers and stakeholders from PIRSA, Livestock SA, University of Adelaide, Elders, Farmer Johns, and an inaugural 2014 LambEx Young Gun making the trip across.

“The buses allowed old friends to catch up and new friendships to be made. Importantly each person on the bus has indicated what on-farm and community based actions they will be pursuing to support the SA sheep industry. It highlights the value of LambEx and

travelling together.” Mr Hancock said the engagement and active participation of everyone in the Nuriootpa bus in the numerous bus workshops/discussions led by other participants was extremely fruitful.

“Eleven hours just seemed to race by, both ways,” Mr Hancock said.

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## BIGG Tree Planting

Do you still have trees left to plant in your reveg site and running out of time to get them in? BIGG's army may be available to help- which will go towards maintaining our important newsletter/website and OH&S requirements. Contact [Georgie](#) for more info....

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## From the Inbox...

- Meeting Market Specifications for Beef- meat specification for current markets, how to assess and monitor progress of cattle and more....Mount Compass 20 Sept- more details contact [Melissa Rebbeck](#)
- AMLR NRM's Mt Pleasant Pasture Assessment Field Day- 24 Sept [More Info](#)
- National Landcare Conference will be in Melbourne 21-23 September. [Read More...](#)
- Trees for Life are running their Paddock Tree Program for another year- [more info](#)
- Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook!](#)

## Your BIGG Contacts

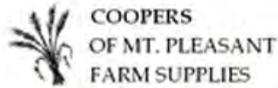
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