

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#)

The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

[View this email in your browser](#)



Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin



The BIGG Bulletin

August 2017

In this issue

- Upcoming Spring Sticky Beak Pasture Walks
- Koonunga Demonstration Site Update
- Pastures with Benefits- Evans and Steinert Case Study
- Oestrogenic Clover Survey
- BIGG Advisory Committee 2017
- Soil Moisture Probe Current Plant Available Water

UPCOMING SPRING PASTURE WALKS

12 September - Keyneton / Eden Valley

&

20 September- Koonunga (NEW!)

SPRING STICKY BEAK- Keyneton & Eden Valley

12 September 2pm-5pm



Followed by 6.30pm dinner at the Angaston Lutheran Church Hall with the Angaston Ag Bureau

Join guest speakers from Heritage Seeds, Kirk Brehaut and Coopers Craig John, and 11 producers from NSW Cranbury Landcare Group to check out local pastures varieties at the Keyneton demonstration site and local paddocks.

- feed budgeting
- improving hay quality
- grazing cereals
- preparing and managing brassicas
- grazing perennials

Meeting at Keyneton Demo site- Cnr Mt Eagle Rd and Stott Hwy, Keyneton



NEW!!!

KOONUNGA STICKY BEAK- Ebenezer Demo Site

20 September 4pm

Join guest speakers from Farmer Johns, Anthony Ellis and Pasture Genetics, Rehn Freebairn and the Koonunga Ag Bureau to observe how pasture varieties respond to the local environment and how they can fit into your system to fill feed gaps.

- establishing and grazing lucernes (planted in 2016)
- early feed opportunities using cereals
- simulated grazing strips demonstrating opportunities
- perennial grasses and their persistence for the local environment- planted in 2016
- mid-row pasture varieties

Site located just off Sturt Hwy at Cnr Carrara Hill Road and Schneider Road, Ebenezer.

Followed by BBQ dinner with the Koonunga Ag Bureau.

Contact [Georgie](#) for more info.

Koonunga Demonstration Site Update



Lucerne 71 and Balance chicory blend producing 3.5t DM/Ha- can't even see the quadrant!!



Moby barley (left), Tetrone ryegrass (centre) and Outback oats (right) with simulated grazing strips.

The pasture demonstration site located at Koonunga, delivered in partnership by MLA, Farmer Johns and Pasture Genetics was planted in 2016 to a range of perennial and annual varieties including lucernes, and lucerne mixes, perennial grasses, annual cereals and ryegrass which have regenerated in 2017 and clovers which have also been left to regenerate.

In addition to quantity and quality measurements simulated grazing strips have been done to provide a demonstration of the potential production and benefits livestock receive from grazing the plants and how well the plants respond.

Recent measurements at the site demonstrated Lucerne varieties producing on average across the four plots (containing two different varieties L71 & L56 and two blends) 3.5t DM/Ha. The plots have now had 'grazing' strips to observe how they respond.

Outback oats and Tetrone ryegrass, which regenerated from last years plots are both demonstrating a growth rate of over 200g DM/ day after they were 'grazed'. In addition, the 2017 sown early variety Moby barley growing ove 500g DM/day. These varieties have also received another 'grazing' treatment.

These varieties (and more) will be on show at the Koonunga Sticky Beak Pasture walk on the 20th September!

Pastures with Benefits

Case Study- Bill & Mandy Evans and Anthony Steinert, Keyneton



Prior to grazing the pasture measured 2000kgDM/Ha



After a stocking rate of 2.4 DSE/Ha the pasture measured 500 kg/DM/Ha

After a great season last year which produced high quantities of hay, Anthony Steinert and Bill Evans decided to aim towards producing quality hay rather than a large quantity of hay/ silage at Keyneton.

In early June they planted a blend of ryegrass, subclovers and annual clovers into a paddock which had voluntary barley.

After two months, in early August, the 6Ha block within the paddock measured 2000kg DM/Ha and was grazed with 195 ewes with lambs at foot. This resulted in a stocking pressure of 98 DSE per hectare.

The ewes remained in the paddock for 9 days until the pasture measured 500kg/DM/Ha, resulting in an overall stocking rate of 2.4DSE per hectare.

This paddock will continue to be monitored to determine the total production and quality of the pasture once the paddoc has been cut for silage or hay.

Barossa Oestrogenic Clover Workshop



Are Oestrogenic Clovers affecting your ewe's fertility, can you increase your lamb marking percentages.....

Learn more about identification and management of oestrogenic clovers.....

YOU MUST FILL OUT THE SURVEY (below) TO ATTEND!!!

Oestrogenic clovers are found across many pastures in the Barossa and surrounding areas. They can cause huge infertility issues, predominantly in ewes who graze these pastures.

The Mackillop Farm Management Group (MFMG) and AgKI with support from MLA and SheepConnect SA are undertaking a project ('Good clover, bad clover') which will focus on upskilling producers on oestrogenic clover identification and the implementation of practices to improve lamb marking rates.

The first part of the project is a survey of producers to get an indication of the extent of oestrogenic clovers, potential impacts on fertility and producer knowledge about the issue.

Due to the interest in the Barossa, we will work to bring a workshop to the area if there is enough interest so please-----

You Must First Complete the Good Clover/Bad Clover Survey

http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Good_clover_Bad_Clover

Click for the Survey for Oestrogenic Clovers

BIGG Advisory Committee 2017

BIGG relies on an advisory committee, made up of representatives from the local livestock producer groups, rural businesses and stakeholders to ensure the Projects it delivers remain relevant, topical and provide the best outcomes for achieving on-farm productivity and delivering effective NRM outcomes.

At the recent Advisory Committee AGM we gave a huge thanks to outgoing Chair Mark Grossman. Mark has chaired BIGG from the beginning in 2012 when it was still known as the Winter Pasture Project. During his leadership BIGG moved from a simple Winter Pasture Project to a multi-project Barossa Improved Grazing Group which has managed over 17 projects. He continued his two year term to five years, ensuring that BIGG had a strong framework. Over these past five years, Mark has provided great leadership, direction and gone above and beyond to ensure he was always available and accessible for all things BIGG.

We also welcome new chair Graham Keynes. Graham is a livestock producer at Moculta, running sheep and cattle. Graham has been involved with BIGG from the start as the North Rhine Sheep Group Representative. Graham also host's one of the Soil Moisture Monitoring sites at Keyneton and has been on the subclover root disease advisory committee. We look forward to Graham's continued involvement with BIGG.

If you have any suggestions about opportunities or ideas for BIGG to pursue please contact your local livestock representative if you are in once of the group, or contact the facilitators on the details below. BIGG always aim to be built 'from the ground up'.



A huge thankyou to outgoing BIGG Chair Mark Grossman (pictured with sons Stefan and Lachlan) who has been instrumental in growing BIGG!



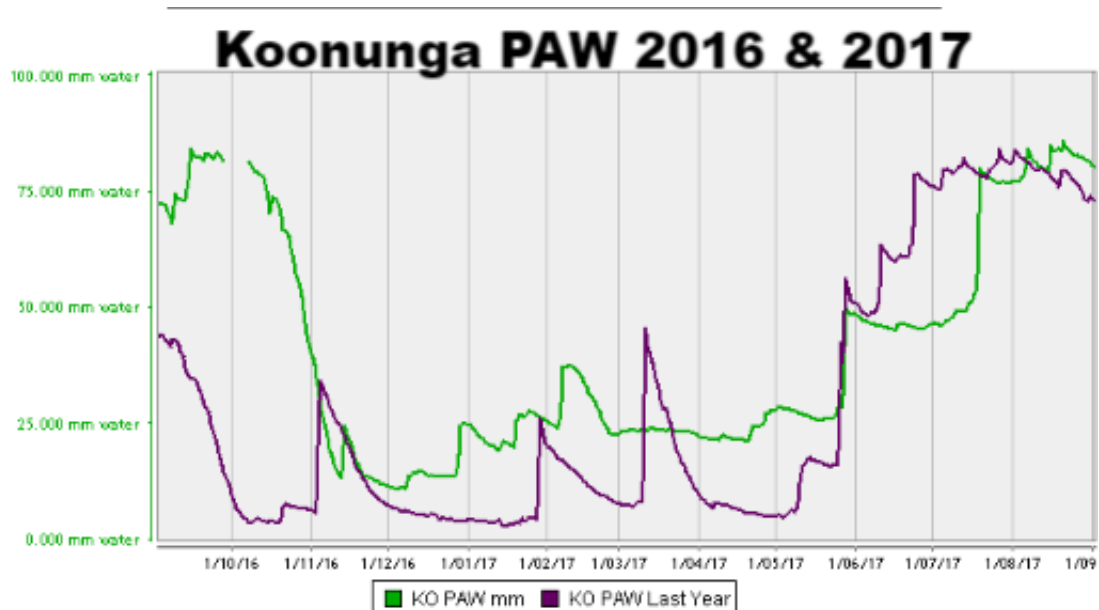
Welcome to new BIGG chair Graham Keynes who has taken up a two year term.

SOIL MOISTURE PROBES

The soil moisture probes at Keyneton, Flaxmans Valley and Koonunga are all just below FULL!

Interestingly, there is more plant available water in the soil this year compared to last year at the Keyneton and Koonuga sites.

Pop over to [BIGG website](#) to see more



From the Inbox...

- Southern Australia [Grasslands Conference](#)- @ Ngambie THIS WEEK!
Contact [Tim Prance](#) if you'd like a lift
- [Grazing Naturally Workshop](#)- with Dick Richardson 25th September -
Moorlands- Murray Mallee LAP
- New tool which helps with decision making-[AskBill](#)- more info contact
[Brett Nietschke](#)
- It's ram buying season- help with your selection using the [Ram Select Program](#)
- Come along to the- [SA Community Landcare Conference](#)- Clare Sept 11-13

Your BIGG Contacts

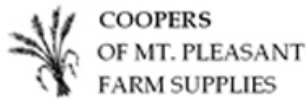
Technical Facilitators:

[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



Follow BIGG on Facebook



Check out our Website

Disclaimer: No warranty is made that this material is free from computer virus or any other defect or error. It is your responsibility to check this email and any attachments and links for viruses. Any loss/damage incurred by using this material is not the sender's responsibility. The sender's entire liability will be limited to resupplying the material.

Copyright © 2017 Barossa Improved Grazing Group, All rights reserved.

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

MailChimp