

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

February 2019

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## Local Case Study Video: Maximising Pasture Production

Across two below average years, learn about how different livestock producers maximised their pasture production to fill feed gaps and increase the number of grazing days on their property.



Click on the link above to view or go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6wOEcUXUyQ>

## Mad March 2019: Upcoming BIGG Events

What an exciting couple of months we have ahead of us with lots of events to keep us learning and innovating our grazing businesses.

With the tough season we've been experiencing we hope that there is something for everyone to help you improve your grazing business but also have the opportunity to get off your farm and network with other farmers.

**B I G G   C O N F E R E N C E   2 0 1 9**

## THRIVING INTO THE FUTURE

### LIVESTOCK, LAND, BUSINESS & PEOPLE

Registrations are NOW OPEN for the Barossa Improved Grazing Group 2019 Conference "Thriving into the Future". Tickets are \$30 from <https://biggconference.eventbrite.com.au/>

This year's conference is looking at how we can thrive into the future, including:

- Cereal and livestock integration in dry conditions - Simon Vogt

- Keeping your animals healthy - Catherine Harper, Barossa Veterinary Service
- Using soil testing to improve productivity - Ryan Walker, APAL Laboratories
- Can NDVI coupled with soil tests reduce costs through variable rate fertilisers - Craig John, Coopers Farm Supplies
- A Barossa grape grower's story of thriving in challenging conditions - Adrian Hoffmann
- Local advice on how to set yourself up for success in 2019 from Farmer Johns
- A panel of Barossa producers will share their experiences, and
- An update on BIGG's newest projects and how BIGG plans to Thrive into the future.

**Buy Tickets Now**

## **Save the Date- BIGG Bus Trip: *It's Ewe Time!* Forum**

BIGG are currently in the process of organising a bus trip to attend the Jamestown *It's ewe time!* Forum on 26th March. Carpooling options will also be available for Karoonda on 27th March.

This will be a great event to network and learn from a wide variety of speakers about ways improve your sheep enterprise. The day will also include a visit to a Mid North Sheep property to have a 'sticky beak' to learn from others in the sheep industry.

Please put this date in your diary and look out for more information coming soon!

# It's ewe time!

- ✓ Tailor management to seasonal conditions
- ✓ Prepare and plan for the year ahead
- ✓ Maximise your returns in the market place



## THE SHEEP INDUSTRY'S POPULAR SERIES OF FORUMS ARE BACK!

- **Sir Hubert Wilkins Memorial Centre, Jamestown SA:** Tuesday, 26 March
- **Karoonda Football Club, Karoonda SA:** Wednesday, 27 March
- **Naracoorte Town Hall, Naracoorte SA:** Thursday, 28 March

### FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDING:



**HELEN MCGREGOR**  
Redefining Agriculture  
Maximising Ewe  
Performance



**DANIEL SCHUPPAN**  
Landmark  
Winning  
With Weaners



**COLIN TRENGOVE**  
University of Adelaide  
Sheep Health is  
Your Wealth



**HILARY BEECH**  
Holmes Sackett  
Dry Times  
Decision Making



**SIMON VOGT**  
Rural Directions  
Capitalising on Positive  
Price Cycles

Registration for the half-day forum opens from 8.30am, the forum starts at 9am and finishes at 12.50pm, followed by informal lunch with speakers. Cost is \$35 per person, including forum booklet and all catering.

### FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER AT:

[www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au/events](http://www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au/events) or call 1800 070 099

**BIGG to install a new monitoring station to  
record soil moisture and climate data!**





BIGG has recently been successful in gaining new funding from the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board for our ongoing soil moisture monitoring in grazing systems project.

BIGG first installed telemetry based monitoring stations in local pasture paddocks (at Flaxman Valley, Keyneton and Koonunga) to record soil moisture and climate data in 2013 and since then the board has been an ongoing supporter of the project.

The new funding will support several activities, including installation of a monitoring station at Moculta in a native pasture paddock of Ian and Fiona Koch's farm. Numerous local producers rely on native pastures (made up of native grasses, legumes and other plants) to provide feed through winter and spring, utilise summer rainfall and increase groundcover, hence it will be beneficial to better understand the water use of this pasture type.

The monitoring station will be setup with the same equipment as BIGG's other three stations, which includes a sub-surface probe (measuring moisture to a depth of 85cm), an automatic rain gauge and sensors measuring air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and radiation.

Other activities being conducted throughout the project include:

- A survey of local producers to determine how regularly they access the monitoring station data and how it is being used for decision-making

- Development of various case studies summarising the positive management changes local producers have implemented through their ready access to the monitoring station information.

To view a Soil Moisture Monitoring Video detailing the work we have already done please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zm7PF1KBrYQ>

*This project is being supported by the AMLR NRM Board's 'Supporting Sustainable Primary Production' grant through funding from the NRM levy.*

## Introducing BIGG Inc.



After going through a strategic planning process last year, last month BIGG successfully applied to become an incorporated association.

An incorporated association is a not-for-profit organisation that must benefit the community. It is also a registered legal entity which means going forward we will operate in our own right, rather than being 'under the wings' of the Angaston Ag Bureau.

BIGG has been a sub-committee of Angaston Ag Bureau since 2012 so a special thanks for their foresight and help over the last seven years. Without their assistance we wouldn't be here today, but it is now time to develop our own wings!

As part of becoming an incorporated association, BIGG has developed a constitution, which can be seen [here](#).

## From the Inbox.....

- Sheep Technology Workshop- Jamestown- THIS THURSDAY 28th Feb [More Info](#)
- Calf Rearing Workshop- Dairy SA- Taillem Bend 15 March [More Info](#)
- Are My Pastures Stuffed- see a great little MLA video and information [HERE](#)
- Dry Times Resources Website- Natural Resources SAMDB [Check it Out!](#)
- Rural Business Support Website- Get in touch with a counsellor, help with Farm Household Allowance application, Business Readiness Program workshops [WEBSITE](#)

## Your BIGG Contacts

### Technical Facilitators:

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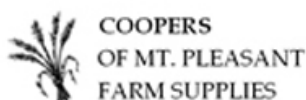
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**Government of South Australia**  
Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

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