

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

April 2019

In this issue

- Dry Times Recovery Workshop- THIS FRIDAY!
- Virtual Fence Testing is Go!
- New Weather Station is Up and Running!!
- Soil Health in Grazing Systems Webinar Recording
- From the Inbox

Don't forget: BIGGs Weather Monitoring Station Survey!

To those of you who filled out our weather monitoring station survey - thanks!

We are still after some extra responses so if you haven't got around to filling it out, please do – it only takes a few minutes! Even if you don't use the weather station please let us know!!

[Click to Access the Survey!!](#)

Dry Times Recovery Workshop

Tickets Still Available but RSVP is essential!

THIS FRIDAY 3rd MAY
9.00am-1.00pm- Keyneton Hall
Including Lunch
\$20 to be paid on the day

Time	Topic	Presenter
9.00	Welcome	Georgie Keynes BIGG
9.10	Current Stocktake What's working, what could be better and how am I placed to reach my goals	Chris Scheid- Proadvice
9.40	Livestock <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategies for feeding livestock at the break of the season- pasture height and feed intake• Quick feed budgeting• Transitioning from supplementary feed to green feed• Animal health requirements• Setting a pasture rotation to fit livestock requirements• Livestock water requirements	Daniel Schuppan- Landmark
10.25	Morning Tea	
10.50	Pastures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pasture varieties to fill the winter feed gap• Opportunities to extend the growing season• Ways to build up fodder reserves for the coming season	Craig Altmann- AGF Seeds
11.25	Planning for the season <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing a plan for the coming season• Business opportunities- lower stocking	Chris Scheid- Proadvice

	<p>rates- opportunities for trading?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuilding the flock/herd • Plan for livestock, people and the land. 	
12.30	<i>Please join us for lunch!</i>	

RSVP: Click [here](#) or email georgie.keynes@biggroup.org.au



Government of South Australia
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board



Natural Resources
SA Murray-Darling Basin

This project is supported by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the NRM levies.

Virtual Fence Testing is Go!!



South Australia's first virtual fencing trial of cattle is about to kick off locally.

Virtual fencing is a system, which can control stock movement without having to rely

on physical fences. It has been successfully trialed with cattle in other states but is yet to be tested in SA. However, thanks to funding from the SA Murray-Darling Basin and Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Boards, and the Federal Governments Virtual Herding project, CSIRO will conduct a 30-day trial to test its effectiveness to protect environmentally sensitive areas of a commercial grazing paddock at Eden Valley.

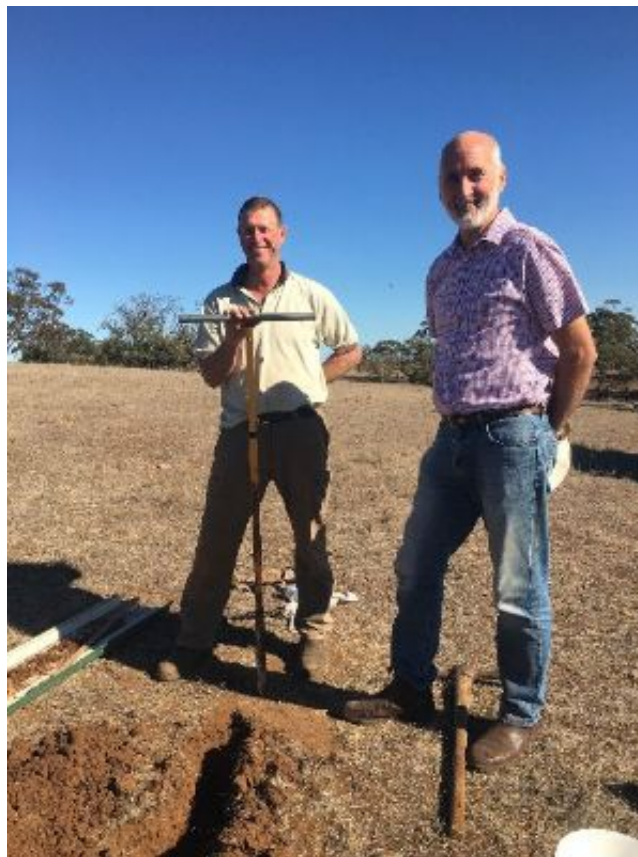
In the trial, cattle will be fitted with an Agersens eShepherd™ collar (pictured) that train animals to stay within certain areas of the paddock - in this case stopping access to a waterway and red gum saplings that have regenerated.

The trial is scheduled to start in late May and will be held on the property of Andrew Jaeschkes using their santa gertrudis cattle. In mid June a field day is also planned at the trial site so watch this space for future BIGG communications on that!

BIGG has had a long-standing interest in virtual fencing and sees this project as a valuable opportunity to support its trialing and build producer capacity in its future use.

This project is supported by the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board and the Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board (through funding from the NRM levy), the Virtual Herding project (through funding from the Australian Government's Rural R&D for Profit Program) and CSIRO.

BIGG's New Weather Monitoring Station is Up and Running!



Its been a long time coming but BIGG recently had its fourth 'baby'!

In early April a new telemetry monitoring station was installed in a native pasture paddock at Moculta to record soil moisture and climate data. This station complements BIGG's existing stations at Flaxman Valley, Keyneton and Koonunga, which were put up in representative Barossa pasture paddocks way back in September 2013!

The Moculta station is located off Kruschel Rd (between Moculta and Stockwell) on the property of Ian Koch who has extensive native pasture. It includes the same equipment as the other stations, but also an extra sensor measuring wind direction. The station was installed by Peter Toome from TOIP Pty Ltd (pictured with Ian Koch) who is a long-time supporter of BIGG.

Data from BIGGs stations is recorded in near-real time every 15 minutes and can be accessed via the following links:

- [Flaxman Valley](#)
- [Keyneton](#)
- [Koonunga](#)
- [Moculta](#)

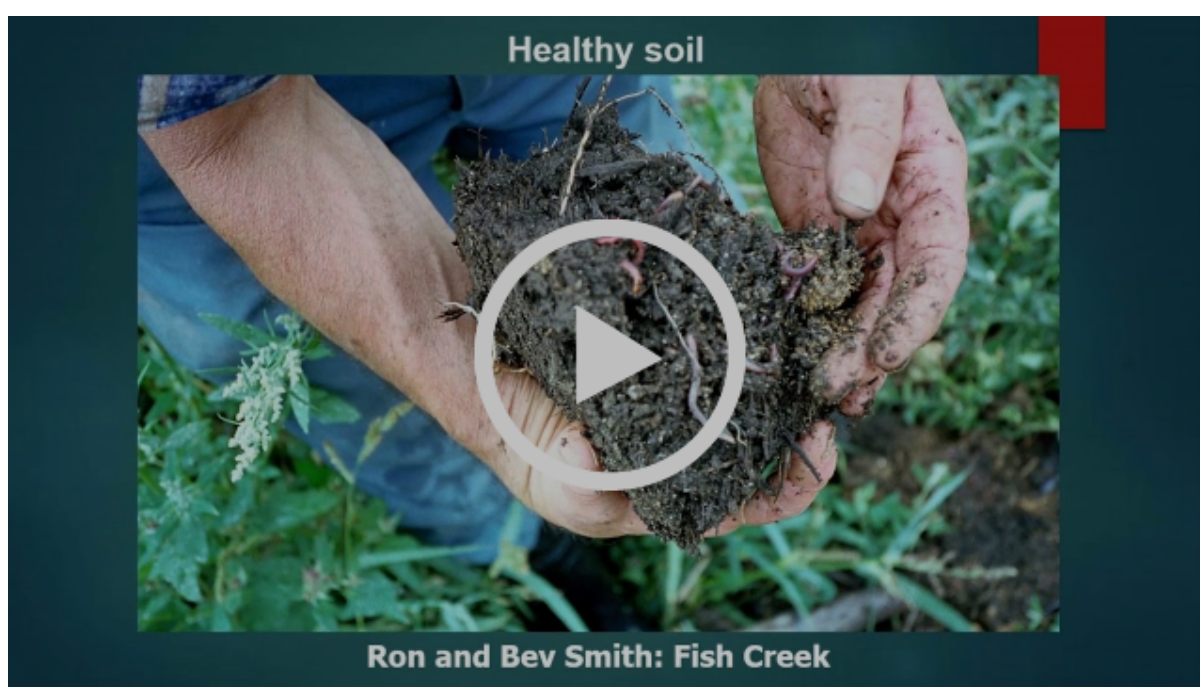
A factsheet on how to interpret this data and information can be found [here](#).

This project is supported by the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board's

'Supporting Sustainable Primary Production' grant through funding from the NRM levy.

Improving Soil Health in Grazing Systems Webinar Recording

If you missed the soil health webinar- click the link below to broaden your understanding of soil health by providing an introduction to the chemical, biological and physical soil properties and the opportunities available to improve them.



Click the play button or use the link: <https://youtu.be/bMtTmP1SsvM>

From the Inbox.....

- One Biosecurity Workshop- Livestock SA- Barossa and Hills- Nuriootpa Friday 10 May/ Kapunda 10 May/ Mt Pleasant 9 May/ Cambrai 8 May [More Details](#)
- BIGG [Winning with Weaners](#)- July 2019- [Register your interest](#)
- Drought Outreach Events: Murray Bridge, Karoonda, Lameroo 7th and 8th May [MORE INFO](#)
- Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme- Drought Affected Areas- [More Information](#)

- Dry Times Resources Website- Natural Resources SAMDB [Check it Out!](#)

Your BIGG Contacts

Technical Facilitators:

[Brett Nietschke](#): 0432 804 389

[Georgie Keynes](#): 0409 287 261

Communication Officer:

[Rebecca Barr](#); 0402 788 526



Facebook



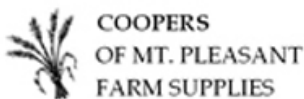
Website



YouTube



Email



TOIP Pty Ltd
Telemetry Over Internet Protocol



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

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 © 2019 Barossa Improved Grazing Group, All rights reserved.

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

