

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

May 2019

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Upcoming MLA Pasture Update

Please save the date: Tuesday 18th June for the upcoming MLA Pasture Update!

Details: Mt McKenzie Hall 9.00am- 2.30pm (inc. lunch), Cost: \$20

We have a great group of local and interstate presenters:

- Bernard Doube- Dung Beetles (see the article below!)
- Mike Stephens- The In's and Out's of Succession Planning
- Dana Campbell- Virtual Fencing Update

- Mick Taylor- MLA Feedbase Projects Update

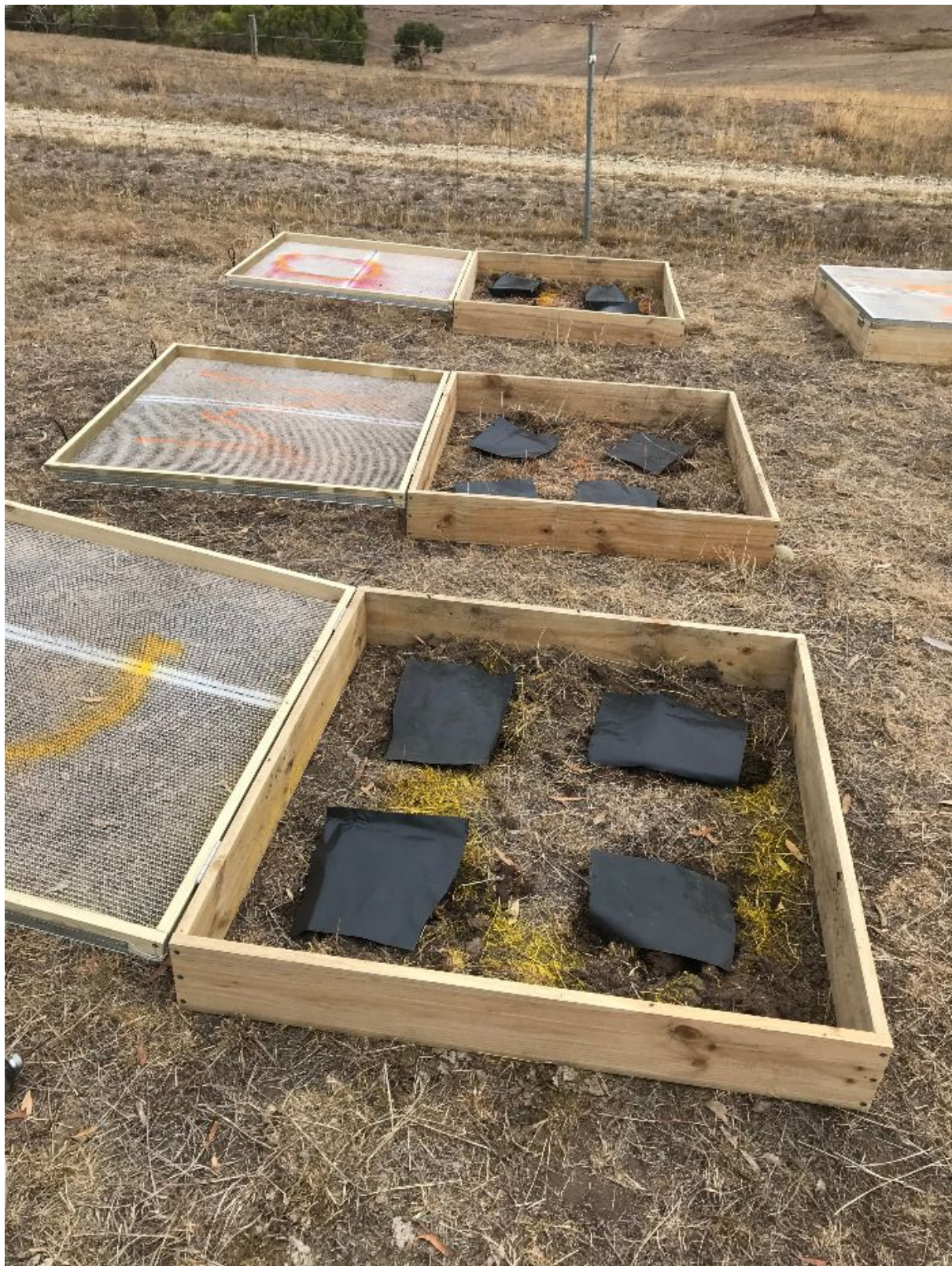
We will also have a practical session on farm looking for dung beetles and learning about effective perennial pasture management and grazing for increasing profitability.

We are very excited about this event and hope that you can attend- it will be a great day! This event is supported by Meat and Livestock Australia and the Grasslands Society of Southern Australia.

[Click here to book your Ticket!](#)

Dung Beetle On-Farm Farmer-Nursery for the Barossa

Dr Bernard Doube, Dung Beetle Solutions International



Currently across southern Australia there are virtually no effective spring-active dung beetles and so the dung of domestic stock accumulates in paddocks, locking up soil nutrients and providing a breeding ground for gut parasites and bush flies. The recognition of this seasonal gap in dung burial prompted MLA to fund CSIRO to import two new species of spring-active dung beetle from southern Europe (*Onthophagus vacca* and *Bubas bubalus*). Between 2012 to 2017 these beetles have multiplied from small numbers to some thousands. It is now time to take them to the farming community.

As part of the \$23m, *Dung Beetles as Ecological Engineers Program Project* (2017-2022) we plan to establish both species at 100+ sites across southern Australia.

To do this we are establishing a series of farmer-managed Farmer-Nurseries across southern Australia. These will be located on carefully selected farms in target release areas. On each focus-farm there will be four small on-ground nursery-cages (see picture) in which beetles are reared for two generations (20 months) before being released to paddocks on the test property. We are looking for one such cattle property in the Barossa region. To register your interest, please let [Brett Nietschke](#) know.

For more information on Dung Beetles come along to the BIGG MLA Pasture Update where Bernard will give a presentation and also a practical session looking for dung beetles on farm.

Local Soil Moisture Update



Hopefully you have been able to score a little bit of rain over the last few days. Locally the growing season rainfall (since April) is actually pretty similar for the same period last year but of course we would love a bit more!

As part of BIGGs *Soil Moisture Monitoring in Grazing Systems* project we continue to monitor the soil moisture status of local paddocks; located at Flaxman Valley, Keyneton, Koonunga and our new site at Moculta.

The current monitoring report can be viewed [here](#). It includes data on the growing

season rainfall to date and the current soil water capacity of each site.

Site	Growing season rainfall (mm)*	Estimated soil water capacity (%)**
Flaxman Valley	65	45
Keyneton	49	27
Koonunga	51	30
Moculta	43	-

*Rainfall from 1/4-29/5/19

**As the Moculta site was recently installed it will take 1-2 seasons before its soil water capacity can be determined

Also BIGGs weather monitoring station survey closes on Monday June 3, so if you haven't filled it out already please do so by Monday!

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

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.

SA Merino Sire Evaluation Field Day

SA MERINO SIRE EVALUATION TRIAL

FIELD DAY: TUESDAY 4TH JUNE 2019

KEYNETON STATION: 1057 STOTT HIGHWAY, KEYNETON SA 5353

Same ewes, same environment, same management. View progeny of 16 leading Stud Merino sires side by side.



Time: 11:00am – 3:00pm

Guest Speakers: including Ben Swain (AMSEA) and Joe Keynes (SA Merino Sire Evaluation Trial Site Host 2018-drop)

Inspection of Sire Groups: 2018-drop progeny on display in sire groups together with results from measured and visual assessments

Trade Displays

Lunch and refreshments

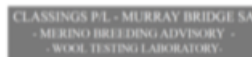
2018 SIRES

Challara Poll 140394
Collinsville Poll 160608
Flairdale Poll 150078
Gunallo Poll 160473
Hazeldean 003368
Hilton Heath Poll 150817
Kelvale Poll 160088
Leahcim Poll 132624
Lucernbrae Poll 160010
Malleetech Poll 166048
Mumblebone 160418
Nyowee Poll 14L770
Radnor Poll 120604
Roemahkita Poll 160256
Tuckwood Poll 161069
Wallaloo Park Poll 161514

Please register your interest with SA Merino Sire Evaluation Site Coordinator Anna Cameron

Mobile: 0403 747 332

Email: acameron@yalumba.com



A true benchmark of comparative sire performance

From the Inbox.....

- BIGG [Winning with Weaners](#)- July 2019- [Register your interest](#)
- Q-Fever Survey- Livestock SA- [Access Here](#)
- Soil Acidity Survey- win prizes and soil tests! [Access Here](#)
- Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme- Drought Affected Areas- [More Information](#)

Your BIGG Contacts

Technical Facilitators:

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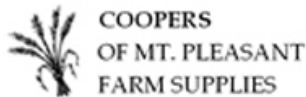
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Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

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