

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

October 2019

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BIGG Inc Board

The newly elected BIGG Inc. Board, Taryn Mangelsdorf (NR AMLR), Vic Patrick, Sarah Weaver, Lisa Nietschke, Georgie Keynes, Craig John and Ian Koch. Absent Chris George and



Peter Mitchell.

BIGG are very excited to welcome the new BIGG Inc. Board who were elected at the AGM on Wednesday 18th September at Wanera.

Stepping into the chair role is local producer Ian Koch who runs a ram stud and cropping enterprise at Moculta. Ian has played an instrumental role in getting BIGG to where it is today, serving as the chair of the Angaston Ag Bureau when BIGG started as a sub committee of the Bureau. In addition, Ian and his wife Fiona have been involved in many projects over the years and received an award which took them to visit farming properties in America.

In addition, the new BIGG Board consists of four other producer representatives, Vic Patrick, a beef producer and vigneron from Eden Valley, Peter Mitchell, a sheep producer from Angaston, Chris George a sheep producer from Mt Pleasant and Sarah Weaver who is a lecturer at Adelaide University.

In addition to the producer representatives, the Board welcomed two industry representatives in Craig John, agronomist at Coopers Farm Supplies and Lisa Nietschke, who is a nutritionist at JT Johnsons in Kapunda and local government representative Taryn Mangelsdorf from Natural Resources Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges.

In addition to the appointment of the new Board, BIGG welcomed Georgie Keynes to the role of Executive Officer and Brett Nietschke as the Returning Officer.

Stay tuned to hear about all of the exciting things the Board will be up to in the coming months!

7 Years of BIGG!



At the BIGG AGM, we also celebrated the previous seven years of BIGG which started as a small project working with local producer groups. Thanks to the support of the local producers, the advisory committee and the Angaston Ag Bureau, the 'small' project has now led to a thriving producer group which has brought over 15 grazing inspired projects to the local farming community.

BIGG thanked the Angaston Ag Bureau who have provided leadership, support and guidance by not only establishing BIGG but helping it to grow.

The evening also provided the opportunity to thank the 20 producers who for the past seven years have provided their time, ideas and support volunteering on the BIGG Advisory Committee. This group of producers, industry and local agribusiness has been integral to the growth of BIGG which has always relied on this support to make sure projects and the direction of the Group was lead from 'the ground up'.

We also take this opportunity to thank all of the producers, industry, agribusinesses and industry who have supported BIGG through out the years. This is a group that has evolved to help producers improve their grazing businesses, it provides an opportunity to learn, support each other and network and without the support of everyone the group would not be where it is today.

If you missed the reminiscing you can view the powerpoint slide on our website.....

[BIGG 7 Year Celebration Presentation](#)

Koonunga Pasture Walk





On September 27 the Koonunga Ag Bureau held their annual crop walk accompanied by Farmer Johns Peter Wendt and Kurtis Ward, and PIRSA's Brian Hughes and David Woodard.

Highlights included Ben Schmidts peaola crop, PIRSA's Koonunga lime trial, BIGG's Koonunga weather station measuring soil moisture, Glen Beckers beans crop, and Farmer Johns pasture trial at Stockwell.

Soil Moisture Status Update



Soil moisture levels are currently quite variable across BIGG's weather station sites. At the end of September, Flaxman Valley is approximately two-thirds full, Koonunga a quarter full, while Keyneton is not far off being exhausted.

Rainfall in September was relatively uniform across all sites, with the highest recording being 41mm at Koonunga.

Site	September rainfall (mm)	Growing season rainfall (mm)*	Estimated soil water capacity (%)**
Flaxman Valley	37	267	70
Keyneton	36	250	15
Koonunga	41	243	27
Moculta	30	217	-

*Rainfall from 1/4/19-30/9/19

** Soil moisture capacity at 30/9/19

Get on Board- Sheep Containment Areas Project



Don't forget>>>>>>>

To help us out with the Sheep Containment Areas project we need to hear from you about how you are using containment areas, what works, what doesn't work and what you would like more information on.

If you don't use containment we would still love to hear from you about the reasons you don't and the barriers to adoption.

This will be a great project to help all of the local producers get more out of their sheep businesses with workshops, bus trips and the chance for one on one property visits with experienced consultants in the future.

Stop Press: Sheep Tech Group

BIGG is seeking expressions of interest from producers to be involved in a “Sheep Tech Group”, gathering 4 times over the next 12 months to focus on, and share learnings of innovation in sheep technology such as EID, sheep handling & weighing, portable crutchers, sheep yard and shearing shed design, and animal health.

Gatherings will include guest demonstrations by Tech Providers, sticky beaks of technology on other farms to help you work out what you need on your property to help make life easier or improve production or both!

As a precursor have a think about the types of information you might like to check out:

- Eid Technology (Trutest, Gallagher, Shearwell, BreedElite etc...)
- Drenching technology
- Sheep handling (Combi clamp, Tepari, Clipex etc...)
- Sheep yards (Back up Charlie, Proway, Magnus....)
- Shearing sheds

To register your interest please contact Georgie

I'm interested in the Sheep Tech Group!

From the Inbox.....

- Stock Theft and Farm Security Webinar- Wednesday 2nd October (tomorrow!)- [Register](#)
- Eudunda Show Hogget Competition (10th November)- [Entries Open](#)
- Tailm Bend Regional Outlook- Wednesday 2nd October- [More info](#)
- State Landcare Conference October [Tickets](#)
- SA Fast Break- learn about current climate forecasts, the position of the climate drivers and their potential impact on farm business profitability [Subscribe Here](#)

Your BIGG Contacts

Technical Facilitators:

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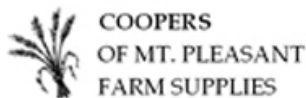
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