

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 2020

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- Ewe Containment Areas Bus Trip
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Beyond 2020 Conference

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

Beyond 2020

The Land. The Livestock. The People

A Barossa Improved Grazing Group Conference, supported by Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin

RUTH SOMMERVILLE
Mid North Producer,
Executive Officer Upper
North Farming Systems



JENNY WILLIAMS
Sports Psychologist,
Best on Ground
Performance



MICHELLE COUSINS
Cousins Merino
Services



EDWARD SCOTT
Soil Scientist and
Principal Consultant,
Soil and Land Co.



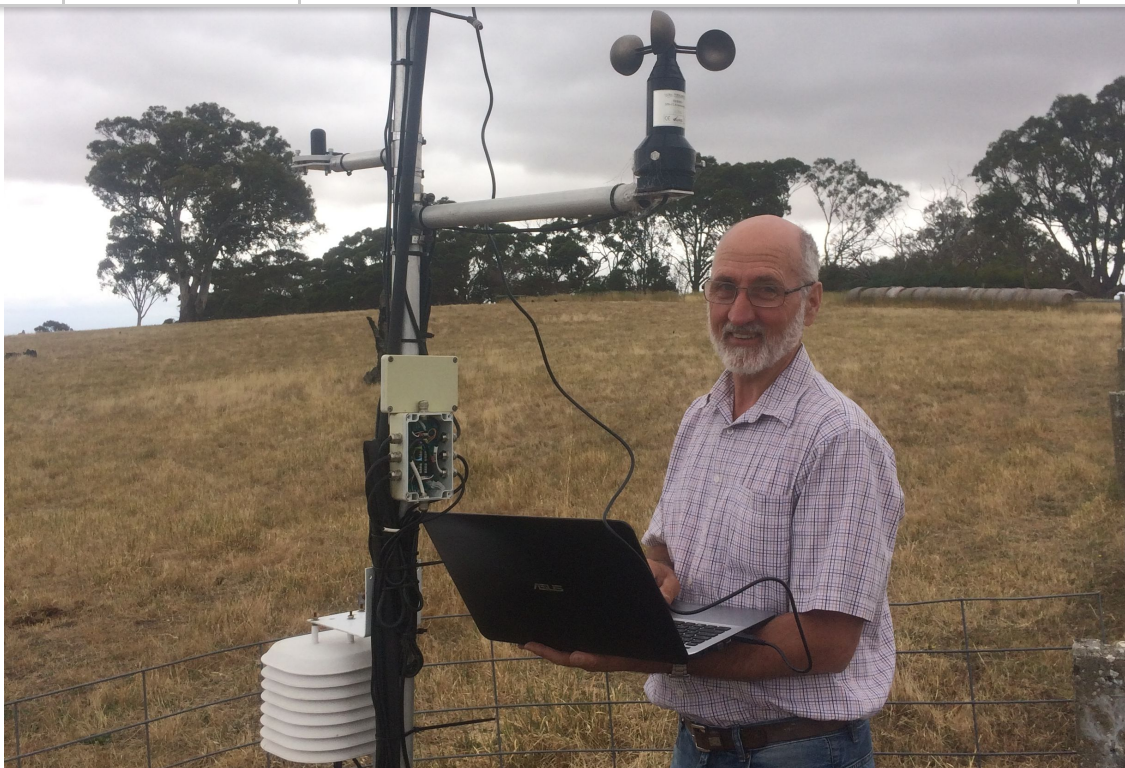
Also featuring:
Brian Hughes, Water storage and harvest
Producer Panel: Ewe Containment Areas
Brett Nietschke, Soil Moisture Monitoring
Young Gun Panel

**Tuesday
February 18,
2020**

NURI SPORTS CENTRE, 13 PENRICE ROAD, NURIOOTPA
12:40 PM-9PM | FREE (BIGG members) | \$50 non-member
Includes: presentations, trade displays, afternoon tea and dinner
Register at: <https://bigg-beyond-2020-conference.eventbrite.com.au>
More information: Georgie Keynes, 0409 287 261, georgie.keynes@biggroup.org.au
This event is supported by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board through NRM levies

[More Info and Registration](#)

BIGG Weather Station Update



Late last year BIGG was successful in gaining new funding from the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board for our soil moisture-monitoring project. As part of this funding, wind direction sensors were recently installed at BIGG's weather stations at Flaxman Valley, Keyneton and Koonunga (these stations now have the same equipment as BIGG's latest weather station, Moculta, which was established in April 2019). At the Flaxman Valley site, the probe that measures soil moisture to a depth of 85cm was also replaced. The equipment was installed by Peter Toome of TOIP Pty Ltd (pictured).

Currently we are revamping the webpages that display the recorded data for each weather station, including making them 'mobile friendly'. This will be completed in the next two weeks and on **27 February (at 8pm)** BIGG will run a webinar explaining the new webpages. The webinar will also outline how to interpret the data for farm decision-making.

A very welcome 25mm fell across the region late last week. Data from BIGG's weather stations showed this increased soil moisture levels from about 10% to about 25%.

This project is supported by the AMLR NRM Board through funding from the NRM levy

Visit the BIGG weather stations

Ewe Containment Areas Bus Trip



Wednesday 4th March

This bus trip will visit four different ewe containment areas across the Barossa and surrounding areas.

- Learn from other landholders
- Discuss what works and doesn't work in set up and day to day running of a containment area
- Feeding regimes/ set up/ machinery
- Ewe nutrition and health
- Ground cover conservation

More details to come!

This project is supported by MLA and the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM AgKnowledge Grant.

Progressive Soil Pit Field Day

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Thursday 19th March 2020

- Observe soil pits which have been dug at our 4 weather station sites
- Learn about soil health and acidity
- Bring along your own soil tests too for discussion

More details to come out!

Free Soil Test Kit!

BIGG Membership



Just a reminder about the BIGG Membership. There are fantastic benefits that you can receive:

- Free entry to the BIGG Annual Conference (value \$50)
- Free or discounted entry to all other BIGG pasture walks, field days and workshops (value \$25+)
- Receive the monthly e-newsletter for project updates, event notification and technical information
- Eligible to nominate for the BIGG Board and to vote at the AGM
- Eligible to nominate for the new BIGG travel bursary award

Each member category is entitled to all member benefits listed above:

- Full membership- \$100 for the first individual member
- Associate membership- \$50 for additional members involved in the farm business
- Full time student membership- \$20

Visit our website for sign up form!

From the Inbox

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- Dairy SA Central Conference- 5 March- Tanunda [Tickets!](#)
- Low Stress Stock Handling School- 11/12 Feb Delamere [More Info](#)
- AMLR Climate Guide- [Check it out!](#)
- On-farm water infrastructure rebate- 50% off water infrastructure- [View here](#)
- Para-boss workshop- developing a sheep worm program- 10 March Glenelg Contact [Deb](#)

Your BIGG Contacts

Technical Facilitators:

[Georgie Keynes](#): 0409 287 261

[Brett Nietschke](#): 0432 804 389

[Deb Scammell](#): 0407 790 622

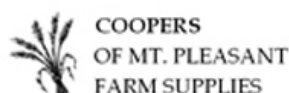


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Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

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