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The BIGG Bulletin

February 2022

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Better Farm Business By Your Design

You're invited to register for a 2.5-day Better Farm Bu\$iness by Your Design (BFBBYD) course.

financials. With the assistance of business coaches, you'll do it, not just talk about how to do it!

You will also have the opportunity to compare your business to industry benchmarks, examine how your banker would assess your business using common financial indicators and create an action plan for real business change.

What's in it for me and my business?

- Work out and truly understand your 'real' profitability (ROA);
- A clear pathway to improve your business - identify your businesses profit drivers – is turnover, gross margins or overheads affecting your businesses profitability?
- See your business through your agri-manager's eyes – what is required to obtain a lower interest rate or loan to expand;
- Explore real changes to your business design that will increase 'real' profitability;
- Shared wisdom from coaching/mentoring and from other like-minded producers who have already made changes and improved their business profitability.

Places are limited

For more information or to register:

Georgie Keynes

Mobile: 0409 287 261

Email: georgie.keynes@biggroup.org.au

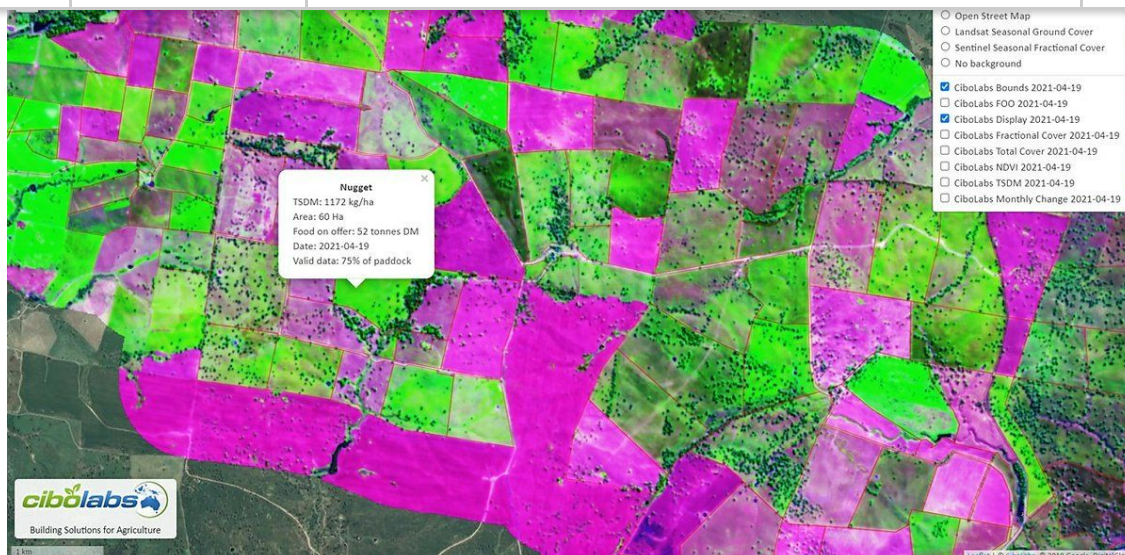
This short course will be held in the Angaston, Barossa Valley;

- > Workshop 1 - **Tuesday 15 March 2022**, 9am - 5pm and
- > Workshop 2 - **Wednesday 16 March 2022**, 9am - 5pm and
- > Workshop 3 - (1/2 day only) **Friday 25 March 2022**

This project is part of the Goyder's Line program and is funded through the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board and the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.



Producer Technology Group

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Last chance to sign up

For your chance to have a 12 month reduced subscription to the Cibo Labs pasture key remote monitoring pasture program.

Training will be done throughout the year with a group of BIGG producers to make the most of the technology.

Only \$250 / farm for the year.

Please contact [Deb Scammell](#) asap for more information.

Tech Group Bus Tour- Friday 18th March

Save the Date!

Visit innovative sheep/beef producers and pasture sites on the Fleurieu peninsula!
 In conjunction with Mid North High Rainfall Zone Group.

Opportunity to jump on the bus or take separate cars.

More detail to be released soon!

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Membership and Sponsorship



The BIGG annual membership and sponsorship is now open!

See the details below regarding the conference postponement, however we will still offer all of the associated opportunities, including free conference tickets and trade displays, it will just be held in July!

Visit the [BIGG Members Area](#) for membership information

or....

Visit the [BIGG Sponsors Area](#) for additional benefits and opportunities!!

We sincerely thank all of the sponsors involved in 2021 for the support, ideas and networks provided to BIGG and the BIGG producers!

Commercial Sponsors:



Enhancing Barossa's Mental Health

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FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

 **ARE YOU BOGGED MATE?**

**ENHANCING
BAROSSA'S MENTAL
HEALTH**

Guest Speaker Mary O'Brien takes a straight forward approach to mental health of blokes in rural communities



Tuesday 8th March
6.30 pm **Angaston Football Club**

 **Ticket Bookings
Required** email for details:
ateam@angastonfootballclub.com.au

[Register Here](#)

Farm Life to Writing a Book... Fiona Koch's first Novel the Seventh Stele



Moculta farmer, Fiona Koch has recently written her first novel, she shares below how the writing process helped her navigate through a few tough farming years....

I have been fortunate to be involved with agriculture all my life. Growing up on a vineyard and grazing property in the Barossa Valley. I attended Roseworthy College completing a Bachelor of Applied Science in Agriculture and later completing a Graduate Diploma in Agriculture Science from Charles Sturt University. I worked in the wine industry before working on the farm with my husband Ian.

I started writing after Ian and I went to a remote Fijian Island which was popular with back packers. There was no air conditioning, television or telephone. It was quite isolated. After reading all the novels I had in my suitcase and exhausting the small library, I decided to occupy my mind with writing a book I would like to read. So, my first novel began. Writing fiction is a treat because it allows a freedom to invent characters, places and events.

Farm work and life is always busy. It is always full of unexpected events and things not going to plan. Fitting writing in with farm life has been a journey and finding quality writing time a problem. I was determined to finish my first novel and would write when I had the chance. I wrote mostly during drought years. I often woke up at night worrying about the lack of rain so I started writing often about 2-4am in the mornings. Trying to occupy my mind. I was always worrying how the dry would affect our land, livestock and livelihood. Writing provided a form of escapism and it felt more constructive and purposeful working on my novel rather than worrying about something I had no control over such as the weather and lack of rain. (It was very disheartened watching the bom radar map when rain clouds would disappear just before they reached our farm) Writing became a form of therapy. Challenging times also helped with character development. My characters would also go through challenges and I had to reflect on how they would behave in difficult situations. Writing also helped develop problem solving skills. When you put a character into a bad situation you have to create a plan on how they will escape or survive the situation, which has to be somewhat believable. Working with nature and animals

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My book the Seventh Stele- Love Lies and Deception is an adventure fictional novel based on a character Alexandria Roberts who is from a farm herself. She thinks she is leading an ordinary life. Her husband gets killed but she meets the mysterious Miltos who takes her on a journey. A series of events begin to unravel the truth behind her family birth right and the dark and sinister agenda of a group of powerful people.

The book is available at the Ravens Parlour Bookstore at Tanunda or on [amazon.com.au](https://www.amazon.com.au)

I am currently working on my second novel a sequel to the Seventh Stele.

Happy Reading

From the Inbox

- Livestock Technology Expo- Kapunda- [more details](#)
- Native Grassland Project- Grassland seeding and grazing management trials- Truro 31st March, [Registrations Essential](#)
- Managing Ewes in Containment Areas- a guide for producers- [MLA Resources](#)

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Your BIGG Contacts

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