BAROSSA IMPROVED GRAZING GROUP

BIGG

ANNUAL REPORT

2026



Vision: Resilient landscapes and land managers.

Mission: To improve farm grazing systems.

CONTENTS

Chairperson's Report 3

About Us 4

Sponsors & Partners 5

Annual Conference 6

Projects 7-9

Finance 10-12

Looking Ahead 12

2026 Snapshot

- 80+ attendees at the BIGG Annual Conference.
- 8 in-person pasture and livestock events delivered.
- 12 BIGG e-news delivered to 470+ subscribers.
- 2 factsheets published.
- 7 videos released.
- 649 Facebook followers with 54K views (14 Oct '25 - 15 Oct '26).
- 84 YouTube subscribers with 3.7K views (14 Oct '25 - 15 Oct '26).
- 36 sponsors and industry partners.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Firstly, thank you all for joining us here this evening for BIGG's 2026 Annual General Meeting.

Well, another successful year for BIGG.

Projects finished, and projects started.

A couple of farewells, and some new arrivals. A big thank you to Pete Mitchell, our previous Chair and my sounding board and wise counsel over the past 12 months. It would also be remiss to not give another big thank you to Janey Evans who also 'hung up the boots' this year after a stellar innings. And to use another sports cliché, there's not a position on the field she didn't play an absolute blinder!

We are blessed to have an excellent Board and a brilliant panel of facilitators. I thank you all, with particular thanks to Brett and Deb.

BIGG is about to enter its 15th year in existence.

As I reflected on this recently as I searched through my Gmail account of correspondence I'd received from BIGG over the years, two things sprung to mind.

First, the Herculean efforts of people like Bruce Hancock and Georgie Keynes. Organisations like BIGG, that are membership based, volunteer driven 'not for profits' don't get to 15 years unless you have the Bruce's and Georgie's along with many others that make significant personal contributions along the way.

The second thing that stuck me was the longevity of our contributors. A 2012 newsletter 'introduced' a certain PhD student in a project support role. That young student is now our Treasurer, and again I thank Sarah Weaver for her work in bringing further clarity to our financials. This clarity will give the Board greater means to make clearer, more informed decisions going into the future.

But I should note that, like so many other 'not for profits', BIGG has reached a point after 15 years where it needs to prepare for a life where its existence, no, its ability to flourish, does not simply rely on the good nature of volunteers. Afterall, we are in the business of developing grazing systems (along with their guardians) so that they remain sustainable and regenerative.

Some of that work has already commenced. I'm delighted to see us embrace technology like Xero for our financials, WordPress and Mailchimp for our website and comms and now Membership Works for managing our membership and sponsorship.

And then there are the Optiweighs! It's being amazing to receive the positive feedback and enthusiasm, I and others, have had since their arrival.

We are embracing the recommendations of our 2025 auditors report and engaging Chris Scheid to lead the comprehensive review of our strategic plan in the New Year. Chris was not only the facilitator of our last review and plan but is also a member of BIGG along with other producer groups such as McKillop. Chris truly understands our sector, having advised many others in it.

And we are working our way to a more sustainable means of administering the running of BIGG. So, thank you to Alice and Pene.

Right now, in my opinion, BIGG is in a pretty good position to go forward.

In the words of an influential figure in our field, BIGG is a Tier 1 operator.

We are a provider of choice.

We are systematically putting the 'tools in the toolbox' for us to continue to remain a Tier 1 operator and do the great work we have become renowned for. But also have the clarity, systems and policies in place that ensure we continue to flourish.

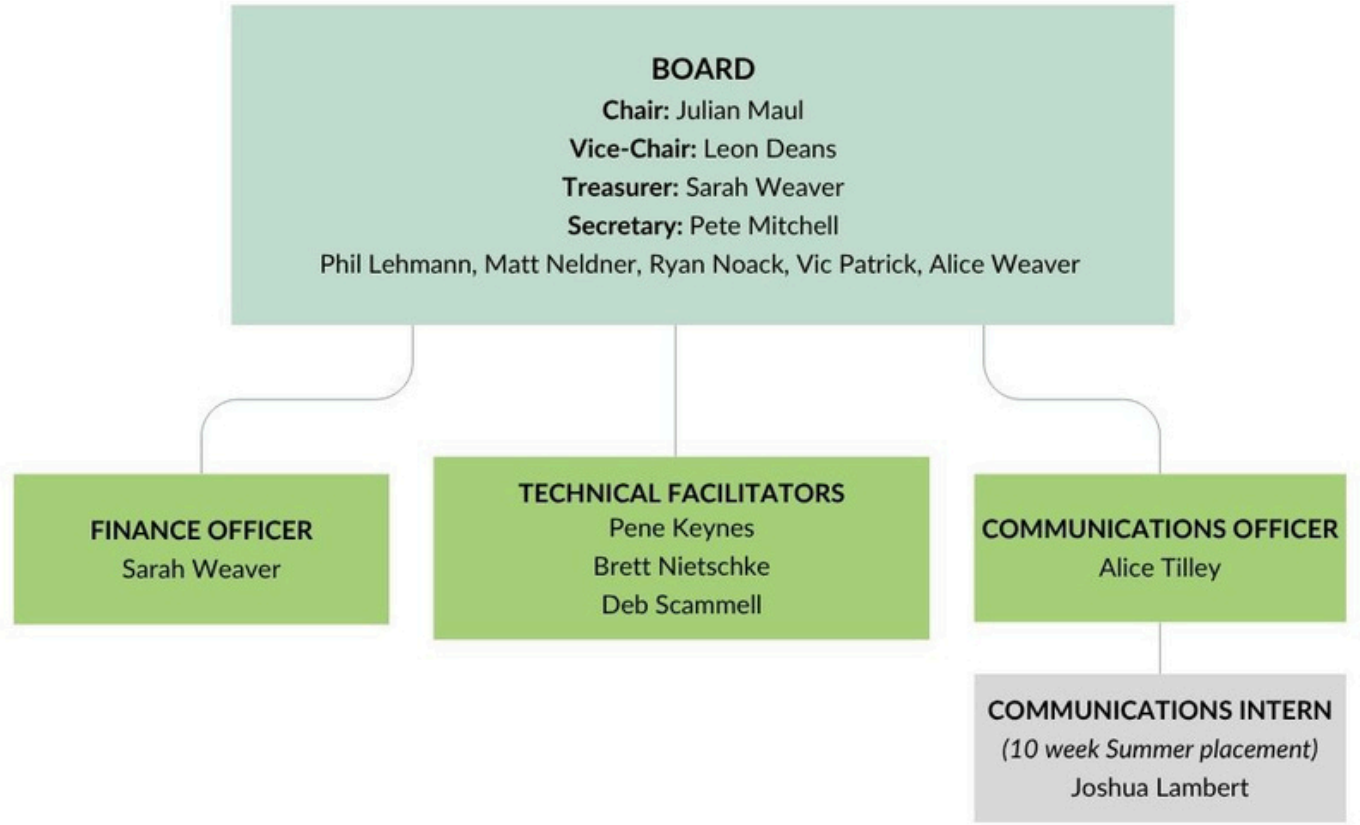
I present my report to the membership.

Thank you.

Julian Maul
Chair, BIGG

ABOUT US

BIGG is an incorporated association (registration number A43855) that operates through a board consisting of producer and industry representatives to provide strategic direction. The Board is supported by the Finance Officer, Communications Officer and Technical Facilitators to manage and coordinate BIGG projects in conjunction with our funding partners. In early 2026 BIGG welcomed Pene Keynes as a Technical Facilitator.



Thank you

To the many individuals within the BIGG community including producers, industry partners, and Angaston Ag Bureau for your ongoing support of BIGG with your time, knowledge and expertise.

Thank you to outgoing Technical Facilitator Janie Evans and past Chairperson and Board Member Pete Mitchell for your many years of dedication and service to BIGG.

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Gold

Agricultural Bureau of South Australia Inc. PATHWAY TO IMPROVEMENT ANGASTON

AgriSilience

Livestock SA

Bronze

Angaston Transport

Commercial

Elders Insurance Gawler Barossa Clare Valley

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Barossa Quarries

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Solar Water Pumps Australia

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NTS Rural

AGF seeds

Pasture Trials Network

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ADBRI Quarries

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NEOGEN

Crop Consulting Services Pty Ltd

TARAC Spirited Innovation

Nutrien Ag Solutions Fawcett Livestock

JAE Justins Auto Electrics

BARENBRUG

Project Sponsors & Partners

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Future Drought Fund

SA Discovery Farms

SA Drought Hub

Government of South Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Drought Response Government of South Australia

Livestock SA

SA Cattle Industry Fund

SA Sheep Industry Fund

Landscape South Australia Northern and Yorke

Landscape South Australia Murraylands and Riverland

mla Meat & Livestock Australia

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

80+ attendees joined together on 19 February at Lambert Estate (Angaston) for the BIGG Annual Conference *Thrive Together: Pastures, Livestock & Farmers*. The conference brought together leading experts, local insights and inspiring stories to support resilient, future-focused farming systems including:

- Professor Mark Hutchinson, Adelaide University, explored the complexities and current limitations in understanding animal pain. Mark outlined emerging interventions to improve animal welfare and productivity gains.
- Dr Peter Hayman, South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), provided an in-depth update on advances in weather forecasting and demonstrated how producers can apply these tools for both day-to-day operations and long-term strategic planning.
- Leighton Wilksch, AgByte, presented practical approaches to using weather and soil moisture data to support informed on-farm decision-making.
- Ben Davies, Thomas Foods International, shared insights into the current livestock market outlook and key industry trends.
- Dr Tshewang Dorji, Adelaide University, discussed outcomes from the recent Mt Crawford pasture legume trial aimed at improving drought resilience.



Conference speakers with BIGG representatives L-R; Dr Peter Hayman, Leighton Wilksch, Janie Evans, Ben Davies, Deb Scammell and Brett Nietschke.



Speaker Jess Stenson with conference attendees.

- BIGG Technical Facilitators Brett Nietschke and Deb Scammell, provided an overview of BIGG's key projects, including mixed pasture trials, a lined catchment demonstration site, the eID grower group and the BIGG internship program.
- Olympic marathoner Jess Stenson, inspired attendees by sharing her journey as an elite athlete and mother, sharing the life lessons in resilience and determination underpinning her success.
- Local Barossa identity Jane Ferrari entertained guests during the conference dinner with stories from her 25 years at Yalumba, where she served largely as the company's global "storyteller".

Other highlights included strong trade display support and free tickets being awarded to four young people in ag to attend the conference.

BIGG gratefully acknowledges and thanks the 2026 Conference sponsors: SA Drought Hub, Landscape SA Northern and Yorke, Landscape SA Murraylands and Riverland, Livestock SA Sheep Industry Fund, and Meat & Livestock Australia.

PROJECTS

LINED CATCHMENT PROJECT

Partnering with SARDI this project showcased how lined catchments can be used to harvest rainfall and be a viable on-farm water security strategy for local landholders. The project delivered two components:

Construction of a demonstration lined catchment

- A 1-hectare poly-lined catchment was built on Leon Dean's property in Flaxman Valley involving:
- Surveying and selecting a suitable site.
- Earthworks to shape the catchment above an existing dam.
- Installing and welding a poly-liner over the surface.
- Erecting fencing around the catchment to exclude stock and wildlife.

Communications

The project's learnings were shared via:

- Four on-site field walks
- Two factsheets covering the approval and construction process
- A video demonstrating the construction process and reasons for the lined-catchment benefits, with an additional three shortened versions of the video for social media.



Leon Deans at his Lined Catchment site.

IMPROVED EWE HEALTH OUTCOMES FROM CONTAINMENT – MLA PRODUCER DEMONSTRATION SITE

The Meat and Livestock Australia funded Producer Demonstration Site Project has just completed the first year of following ewes in containment across three sites.

The aims of the project is to refine best-practice containment feeding and reduce ewe losses during and after confinement. The project is investigating several key challenges, including:

- Nutritional deficiencies, as a result of long-term supplementary feeding.
- Understanding the correct way to feed to enhance rumen health, fibre vs grain rations.
- Avoiding ewe mortality (once ewes are let out of containment) over lambing.

In July, a producer tour was completed as part of the Lambex Group tours with 30 producers visiting two of the containment sites and hearing about the results to date for the project.

First year results have recently been collated and are as expected with a higher percentage of older breeding ewes showing a significant calcium deficiency in containment. There was also an increase in ewe mortality over lambing associated with ewes being fed a high grain diet in containment. The project will continue for another 2 years allowing producers to trial different supplementation and feeding methods.

PROJECTS

BIGG PASTURE TRIALS

BIGG continued two long term pasture trials (initiated in 2024) through funding from the Federal Government's Future Drought Fund:

- Trial aims to determine the productivity of perennial based multi-species pastures (sites located at Marananga and Angaston).
- Trial aims to determine the pasture recovery benefits associated with deferred grazing and containment feeding (sites located at Flaxman Valley and Keyneton).

OPTIWEIGH

BIGG commenced the 2.5 year project focused on the use of Optiweigh in-paddock weighing technology to help sheep and cattle producers strengthen the sustainability and resilience of their livestock enterprises.

Structured around two producer groups (one sheep and one cattle) this project will demonstrate and support the on-farm application of Optiweigh technology for better on-farm decision-making and more sustainable outcomes. Optiweigh is a portable, self-contained tool placed in a paddock to measure animal weight in real time. Producers involved in the two groups will receive on-farm support for implementing the technology via workshops, peer-to-peer learning and the opportunity to trial an Optiweigh unit on-farm. The first workshops and sticky beak session were held in September 2026.



Optiweigh Cattle group sticky beak, Sept '26

This is funded by the SA Livestock Sustainable Solutions Program through the Department of Primary Industries and Regions and Meat & Livestock Australia. The workshops and activities are also supported by SA Drought Hub Sponsorship and funding from the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board (by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and delivered for the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.)



BIGG Intern, Joshua Lambert

COMMUNICATIONS INTERNSHIP

BIGG welcomed it's third Communications Intern University of Adelaide Agriculture undergraduate Joshua Lambert in November '25 for a 10 week period. Along with assisting BIGG in it's communications iniatives this year's internship also involved placements with industry partners offering valuable mentoring and hands-on experiences.

PROJECTS

MLA WEANER PRODUCER DEMONSTRATION SITE

The Meat and Livestock Australia-funded Producer Demonstration Site project (April 2026 to June 2028) is testing different strategies for managing weaner lambs for drought resilience against standard practices across three Barossa sites. The project measures lamb survival after weaning, lamb growth rates and ewe recovery, including an economic analysis of each strategy. Findings will be shared with producers through field days, case studies and a video to encourage wider adoption.

In September, BIGG delivered the first field day (in conjunction with the Optiweigh sticky beak) at Marananga where producers were introduced to the project and heard from livestock consultant Deb Scammell on best-practice weaner management including pre-weaning preparation, liveweight targets, animal health and feed quality.



COST BENEFIT PRODUCER RESOURCES

Complimenting the cost benefit reports released in '25, BIGG extended its project communications into a video series. Three videos gave an overview of the return on investment analysis that was conducted on the BIGG's ewe containment, on-farm water technology, and multi species pastures projects.

EID ADVANTAGE PRODUCER GROUP

Facilitated by Deb Scammell, the initiative combined educational workshops and on-farm sessions to help producers utilise electronic identification (eID) and data-driven decision-making to enhance livestock performance and selection strategies.

Group sessions included:

- Cousins Merino Services August '25 covering equipment and tags, common issues, managing data and tools to assist with data management.
- eID Deeper Dive into Excel Workshop February '26 helping producers build confidence in using Excel to manage and analyse eID data to improve their on-farm productivity.
- Webinar & Coaching with Sally Martin, May '26. Assisted producers to understand flock profiles and how to use breeding tools like Ram Select to improve breeding decisions.
- Final wrap up session June '26. A final bus tour to the Mid North to look at the Optiweigh technology, look at pastures and hear from a producer on how to transition to a non-mulesed commercial flock.



eID Deeper Dive into Excel Workshop at Angaston, February '26

FINANCE

BIGG BUDGET REPORT

FY 2025_26

Total Income: $254,575.77

- Total Grant Revenue (Project Funding) = $231,189.2
  - Grant Revenue for projects $210,403.23
  - Grant Admin component $20,785.97
- Total BIGG Admin = $45,861.74 *(Including Grant Admin and Revenue)*
  - Sponsorship and Membership $20,841.11
  - Fundraising and Donations $2,545.46
  - *Grant Admin component $20,785.97 + Grant Revenue $1,689.2*

Project Funding:

- Total Grant Revenue $329,303.43
  - Grant Revenue 2026 = $210,403.23
  - Grant Revenue Carried Over FY2025 = $118,900.20
- Project Sales (Revenue spent directly on projects) = $145,439.2
- Project unexpended but allocated for 2025_26 (Revenue – Sales) = $183,864.23

Admin Funding:

- Total BIGG Admin Revenue $45,861.74
- Profit retained from FY2025 $14,331.85
- Project- Admin & Mgmt *(25/26 Completed projects balance rollover)* $15,967.37
- Operating Expenses $35,264.15

Total Admin Profit (Revenue, Profit Retained, Project Admin & Mgmt – Operating Expenses) $40,896.81

Notes:

BIGG can cover all its forthcoming project requirements.

In 2026 BIGG purchased two Optiweigh machines and two accompanying trailers, consequently an Assets Register has been established. The Audit is in final stages of completion.

BIGG Admin will retain a profit of $40,896.81. To minimise the number of active projects, residual acquittal balances completed within the 2025_26 FY were rolled into the BIGG Admin budget *($15,967.37).* These funds are utilised for ongoing maintenance of equipment and services to support BIGG members and projects. It is worth noting, the AU Methane project had a retained balance of $13,500.00, attributing the higher than normal Total Admin Profit for FY 2025_26.

Admin Income is covering the BIGG Operating Expenses (Admin Revenue) to ensure 'wheels keep turning'.

Grant income is dependent on the grant cycles which occur across financial years.

FINANCE

The following financial reports are subject to audit review.

Profit and Loss

Barossa Improved Grazing Group
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026
Trading Income	
Fundraising and Donations	2,545.46
Grant Revenue	231,189.20
Sponsorship and Membership	20,841.11
Total Trading Income	**254,575.77**
Cost of Sales	
Communication/Media	13,150.44
Demo & Trial Site Expenses	18,310.55
Facilitation/ Coordination	67,474.24
Intern Program	4,695.45
Printing & Stationery	614.33
Speakers/ Consultancy	11,454.50
Sundry Equipment	16,086.64
Travel	3,755.09
VenueHire& Hospitality	9,897.96
Total Cost of Sales	**145,439.20**
Gross Profit	**109,136.57**
Other Income	
Grant Income Carried Forward	118,900.20
Total Other Income	**118,900.20**
Operating Expenses	
Advertising & Promotion	1,000.00
BIGG EO	8,800.00
Communication Officer	18,277.46
Consulting & Accounting	4,982.00
Finance Officer	5,880.00
Insurance	886.61
Subscription/HostingFees	2,117.83
Total Operating Expenses	**41,943.90**
Net Profit	**186,092.87**

FINANCE

Balance Sheet

Barossa Improved Grazing Group
As at 30 June 2026

	30 JUNE 2026
Assets	
Bank	
Barossa Improved Grazing Group	249,870.96
Total Bank	**249,870.96**
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	45,000.00
Total Current Assets	**45,000.00**
Total Assets	**294,870.96**
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accrued Expenses	18,628.07
GST	14,195.21
Rounding	33.01
Total Current Liabilities	**32,856.29**
Total Liabilities	**32,856.29**
Net Assets	**262,014.67**
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	186,092.87
Retained Earnings	75,921.80
Total Equity	**262,014.67**

LOOKING AHEAD

- Board Governance training, December 2026
- BIGG Strategic Plan review, February 2027
- 2027 Student Internship
- BIGG Conference (Lambert Estate Wines) 22 July 2027