

MFMG NEWS

Autumn Edition 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26 – Applications close for MFMG Communications and Events Officer & Finance and Administration Officer

July 22 -24 – MFMG bus trip to Innovation Generation, Ballarat. To book your seat contact Meg Bell;
ceo@mackillopgroup.com.au

August 21 – MFMG Annual General Meeting & GRDC Grains Research Update, Keith

MFMG

www.mackillopgroup.com.au



Mackillop Farm Management Group Inc

MFMG CEO

Welcome to the MacKillop Farm Management Group's autumn newsletter for 2019!

MFMG are gearing up for another big year in the world of ag research, development and extension and it's my hope that this year we will be able to provide a diverse range of resources for our members to help increase productivity and profitability on farm.

SARDI are once again about to start sowing our sponsor and MFMG funded trials for 2019; a big thank you to all involved for your efforts in getting these organised, and a huge thank you to the sponsors who put up their hands to work with us this year. The SARDI team did a stellar job of our 2018 trials and I'm sure that 2019 will be even better! If you haven't yet checked out the results from 2018's trials, head to the MFMG website where you can access information and interpretation on a large range of work that was conducted by MFMG and a number of other organisations in 2018. We have also once again partnered with FAR Australia at the South Australia Crop Technology Centre to run a barley germplasm management interaction trial, and are looking forward to seeing the results from these trials.

MFMG is involved with a number of projects this year with a wide and diverse focus. For MFMG to continue to run in the capacity that it does and to provide you, our members, with the information that you need, we source funding from many different funding bodies, and liaise with many different organisations. MFMG is currently involved with projects that look at solving issues for our members, or that provide opportunity for our members to increase their enterprise profitability. These projects address issues such as soil acidity, waterlogging, grazing ripened crops, effective methods for dealing with resistant ryegrass in cropping systems, how to effectively use your feed base in a mixed farming enterprise, soil water data decision making with soil moisture probes and weather stations, and many more.

Other areas that we're hoping to focus on this year, as aligned with member feedback, are irrigated cropping, heifer management and containment feeding for sheep. As always, we're keen to hear your feedback and are always happy to talk, so feel free to contact any of the contracted staff or any of our board or operations committee reps to do so- you'll find contact information on our website.

As those of you who have been members for some time will know, 2019 is a study tour year! The destination for this trip is yet to be confirmed, but stay tuned to our weekly email for more details about this. We will also have a full calendar for our spring crop walks and field days again this year- these dates are yet to be confirmed, but again stay tuned to our weekly email for more information.

A new event that MFMG will be running this year is our Innovation Day. We'll be presenting all things innovation in soils, cropping, pasture and livestock, and we'll also be filling you in on our project work and where we're up to with our research. This event will be held in winter when it's nice and wet and you'll all be itching for an excuse to get off farm to upskill yourselves! Again, stay tuned to the weekly email for further details.

Lastly, a big thank you and farewell to our Trial Results Book Editor and Cropping Coordinator Katrina Copping, and our Finance and Administration Officer Mary Timms, as they head off to pursue exciting new roles. Kat and Mary have provided MFMG with invaluable support and services over the past few years, and will both be sorely missed.

If you've made it this far down the page, well done and thank you for reading! I look forward to seeing all of our members and sponsors out and about at our MFMG events in 2019.

Best wishes for a prosperous season,



Meg Bell



Keith Crop Walk 2018



Millicent Crop Walk 2018



Spring Field Day 2018



AUTUMN WITH THE SARDI SOUTH EAST CROP AGRONOMY TEAM

Amanda Pearce- SARDI Senior Scientist Amanda.Pearce@sa.gov.au



Above: SARDI South East Crop Agronomy Team members (L-R Ian Ludwig, David Robertson and Carlyne Hilton) at the GRDC funded hyper yielding cereal trial site at Hagley, Tasmania, November 2018

The SARDI South East Crop Agronomy Team (Amanda Pearce, Ian Ludwig, David Robertson and Carlyne Hilton) have put the header away and pulled out the seeder.

Highlights from the 2018 harvest included harvesting over 11 t/ha of wheat at the FAR Millicent Crop Technology Centre, achieving a canola crop of over 5 t/ha at MFMG's Millicent canola site, obtaining differences in wheat yields from treatments comparing liquid and granular fertilisers, and as with each year, learning about variety performance of crops in response to seasonal conditions.

It was the final year for the Wolseley Cereal Challenge, which over the past four years has evaluated a range of cereal crops and end uses for their agronomic economic performance. Compiling the results will allow growers to compare bread and feed wheat, durum wheat, malt and feed barley and grain oats to hay oats across a range of years with vastly different seasonal conditions and commodity prices.

It was also the final year of the SAGIT funded 'Dual Purpose Canola for the HRZ'. This trial has evaluated two times of sowing, grazing management and canola varieties for the past 3 years. The final report is being written and once completed will be made available to MFMG members.

All the trial results from 2018 have been published in the MFMG Annual Results Book and are available on the MFMG website.

The 2019 year has started well with the team being presented the SARDI Achievement Award for their commitment to WHS and the PIRSA Achievement Award 'Increase Productivity and Grow Regions' in recognition for their work on industrial hemp field trials, legislation, regulation, and licensing and industry development.

Trial work the team will be managing and to look out for in 2019 include:

- The third year of the rotation trials at Sherwood and Bordertown, evaluating the use of an annual pasture legume phase in the cropping rotation (GRDC-SARDI Strategic Partnership);
- Five agronomic trials (GRDC-SARDI Strategic Partnership) in the MRZ looking at forage barley and oats, impact of seed dressing on reducing the occurrence of AMV in lentil, lupin and faba bean pod set and pulse suitability across the region;
- A range of pulse agronomy trials within the district hosted by the GRDC Pulse Agronomy (GRDC) project, including spring sown pulses in the HRZ, disease management of new faba bean lines, broad bean canopy management and pulse herbicide work in the MRZ; and
- The second year of the GRDC funded Annual Ryegrass Management in the HRZ at Frances and Millicent (Chris Preston, Adelaide University), evaluating 4 different weed management regimens.

We again thank all the co-operating growers; we appreciate your time and effort and for allowing us to use your farm for research.

We also thank the MFMG members for their valuable input and commitment to research in the region.



Above: Bordertown rotation trial, one of two in the MRZ of the SE, a part of the GRDC-SARDI Strategic Partnership

ALL ABOUT SOIL

Claire Dennerley- PIRSA Rural Solutions SA claire.dennerley@sa.gov.au

Rural Solutions are working with MFMG on a number of soil projects this year. Two of these are the National Landcare Program Phase 2 (NLP2) Smart Farming Partnerships funded 'Building the resilience and profitability of cropping and grazing farmers in the high rainfall zone of Southern Australia' project, and the NLP2 Smart Farms Small Grants funded 'Using standing crops to finish lambs and improve summer groundcover and soil health' project. The first project focusses on filling gaps in our current knowledge on soil acidity, and the second project focusses on using alternative feed sources to promote good soil health and ground cover over summer.

MFMG has collaborated with Southern Farming Systems (SFS) and a number of other groups to deliver the 'Soil acidity and resilience' project, two host sites have been established- thanks must go to the Schuberts at Kybybolite and the Bartletts at Sherwood for their enthusiasm in being involved with this project. These sites will be mapped by Precision Agriculture, and liming trials will be set up for observations over the next 3 years. As part of this project, Rural Solutions provided free soil tests at the Lucindale Field Days in March to understand more broadly what the extent of acidity currently is in the HRZ, and to develop a contact base of interested farmers. If you'd like to register your interest in this project, please get in touch with Meg Bell.

MFMG has collaborated with Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) to deliver the 'Grazing standing crops' project, which kicked off with a forum in Keith on the 20th of March. San Jolly, Principal Consultant at Productive Nutrition, gave us a very thorough and enthralling session on all things grain, grazing and nutrition, and created lots of interest amongst the participants. Two demonstration sites will be established in 2019 for this project to demonstrate the opportunities and benefits of grazing standing crops, and there will also be 20 demonstration strips sown at MFMG's Keith and Sherwood trial sites this year to showcase different varieties and their suitability for grazing. Ali Frishcke, BCG's Livestock Project Officer, published an article on the background and the purpose of grazing standing crops- you can find the article [HERE](#).

Below: San Jolly presents on grazing standing crops at Keith



MFMG 2018 TRIAL RESULTS BOOK ONLINE NOW

Katrina Copping- MFMG Trial Results Book Editor

The 2018 MFMG Trial Results book is here!

Head to the website via this link: <http://www.mackillopgroup.com.au/>, click on the Reports heading (you will be asked to enter the member user name and password), find the heading '2018 MFMG Trial Results Book' and away you go.

You can download the whole book or individual chapters. While you're there, have a look at the South Australian Crop Technology Centre research results book too!

MFMG
www.mackillopgroup.com.au
MACKILLOP FARM MANAGEMENT GROUP
TRIAL RESULTS BOOK 2018

SARDI
Government of South Australia
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTION

GRDC
GRAINS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SAGIT

Driving Innovation, Productivity and Profitability

www.mackillopgroup.com.au | mackillopgroup | @mackillopfarm



MFMG SOIL MOISTURE PROBE NETWORK

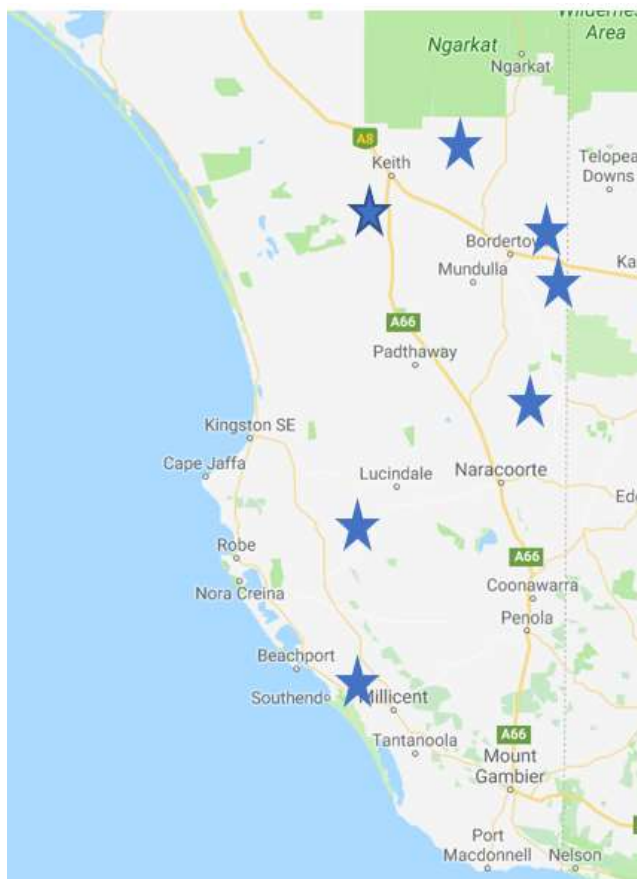
Felicity Turner – fturner@mackillopgroup.com.au

Did you know that MFMG have a soil moisture probe network accessing data from different cropping areas across the South East? Do you know how to access the soil moisture probe network online? Are you interested in understanding how to use the information further?

As part of a SAGIT funded program, MFMG will be running workshops during the season with growers to allow for improved decision making using these tools. If you are interested in attending these workshops, or have some interested neighbours, please let us know so that we can schedule workshops in your area!

Knowing what soil moisture level is currently available prior to sowing and how this compares to previous seasons can assist in some of the decisions around early sowing, dry sowing and crop or variety selection. If you would like to access the information now, but aren't sure how to, please call Felicity on 0400 299 087 or at fturner@mackillopgroup.com.au.

For further information on the project click on the link [HERE](#)



Above: Location of MFMG soil moisture probe network

GOOD CLOVER, BAD CLOVER CASE STUDIES

Tiffany Bennett- PIRSA, Rural Solutions SA tiffany.bennett@sa.gov.au

Introduction

The 'Good clover, bad clover' project has been focussed on increasing producer awareness of the issues encountered with oestrogenic clovers, developing skills in 'bad' clover identification and implementing strategies to overcome issues.

Two focus farms were established to be centres for the upskilling of other producers; Richard Kirkland's at Furner in the South East, and Simon Veitch's on Kangaroo Island. This report provides details on both Focus Farms and also one other property on Kangaroo Island involved in the project.

Clover Disease

Sheep grazing pastures containing oestrogenic subterranean clover can be affected by a number of reproductive disorders which together form 'clover disease', particularly in ewes. The main oestrogenic ('bad') subterranean clover cultivars of concern are Dinninup, Dwalganup, Yarloop and Geraldton. These cultivars have substances in their leaves, at a higher concentration than other cultivars, that have an effect on sheep similar to that of natural oestrogens. Isoflavone formononetin is the most active of these substances and clover cultivars which have high amounts are known as oestrogenic clovers.

Levels of isoflavones are potent to sheep while the leaf material is still green, however as the leaf senescences the isoflavones are broken down and so grazing dry pasture has reduced risk. On the other hand, if very good clover hay is made from the oestrogenic clovers and the leaf material is cured very well and has kept its colour, then such hay can still be oestrogenic.

Clover disease affects ewes and wethers. Symptoms include: lowered ewe fertility, increased difficult births, uterine prolapse, udder development in maiden ewes and wethers, and enlarged bulbourethral glands and urethral blockages in wethers.

To read the focus farm case studies click [HERE](#).

The 'Good Clover, Bad Clover' project was funded through the Meat Livestock Australia Producer Demonstration Site program. The project was a collaboration between the MacKillop Farm Management Group and Agriculture KI. The project was also supported by the AWI SheepConnect SA project and delivered by PIRSA Rural Solutions.

MFMG PHOTO GALLERY



MFMG CONTRACTS

Opportunities to join the team at MFMG

Mackillop Farm Management Group is seeking to engage a contractor/s to undertake the roles of Communications and Events Officer and Finance and Administration Officer.

If either or both of these roles appeal to you, or might appeal to someone you know, please head to our website for more information [click here](#)

Applications close Friday 26th April, and electronic applications only will be accepted.

Contact Us

Meg: ceo@mackillopgroup.com.au

Louise: louise@focusfacilitation.com.au

Penny: pmoorhouse@mackillopgroup.com.au

MFMG Website: www.mackillopgroup.com.au

PO Box 1364, Naracoorte SA 5271

Follow us on Twitter: [@Mackillopfarm](https://twitter.com/Mackillopfarm)

Like us on Facebook: Mackillop Farm Management Group

MFMG
www.mackillopgroup.com.au

MacKillop Farm Management Group Inc

SUPPORTED IN 2018/19 BY:

nab agribusiness Nufarm

Heritage seeds NUSEED

CROPLANDS

GRDC National Landcare Program mla SARDI

LANDMARK NTERGRAIN HARBOLD BAYER

PGG Wrightson Seeds FMC BASF Grain Growers K

BLM Elders Incees Pwse PACIFIC SEEDS

GLEN CARRON CASE IH

AGT Rabobank PIONEER Wickham Flower John Deere

Agribusiness Cox Rural Next Generation

MGA E.E. Muir & Sons water dynamics

MURRAY HARRIOTT GLENCORE AGRICULTURE YTERRA