

SEPLA AGM and Pasture Walk and Post Drainage Field Days

9th October 2012

This field day will provide an opportunity to view and discuss a range of pasture options, based on the outcomes from SARDI SE Pasture Research Group research projects and South East Prime Livestock Achievers/MacKillop Farm Management Group on-farm demonstration trials.

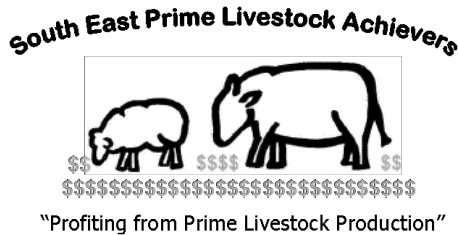
The day, held in conjunction with the South East Prime Livestock Achievers (SEPLAs) /MacKillop Farm Management Group and Grasslands Society of Southern Australia, and will take in both the post-drainage pasture research sites and some of SE-PLA's on-farm pasture demonstrations. This event will focus on managing perennials in the landscape.

Guest speakers will discuss managing pastures, decision making around renovating pastures, the impacts of implementing EverGraze principals and details on a range of pasture varieties.

This event will start at 9am at the Avenue Range Oval, concluding at the same location for refreshments and a BBQ around 5pm.

Food and refreshments will be provided.

For more information contact Penny Roberts Craig on 08 8762 9162, or 0427 573 038.



The SEPLA AGM will also be held on this day

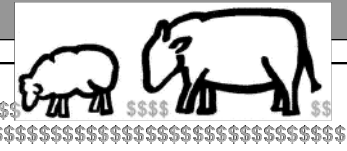
please consider becoming a committee member



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South East Prime Livestock Achievers (SEPLA)



"Profiting from Prime Livestock Production"

Extracted from report provided for MFMG Annual Reports

Wow how time flies!

We are now nearly two years into the integration of the South East Prime Livestock Achievers (SEPLA) group into the livestock arm of the MacKillop Farm Management Group. I think it is fair to say that the year has been one of consolidation for SEPLA, with both the committee and the MacKillop Executive Officer still trying to find out how each other operate and how best to continue to do so into the future. Nevertheless, we haven't been completely idle!

At the start of the SEPLA year (around September, following the August AGM) your committee decided to again focus on 4-5 key activities for the year:

- ◆ Annual General Meeting in August 2011 with guest speaker Alan Richardson (ABC South East). He spoke about his recent trip to South America, with interesting insights into their agriculture and lifestyle.
- ◆ Pasture Walk. Despite a pretty cold windy September day a dedicated crew visited the new MLA-funded pasture trial sites at Bob Tidy's farm near Naracoorte, Phil Clothier's property at Woolumbbool and the Avenue Range Sports Ground. We also had a look at a crop/pasture sequencing trial at Lochaber and an interesting kikuyu site at Woolumbbool.
- ◆ Sticky Beak Day and end of season BBQ in November. This was an exceptional day organised and hosted by Jamie Tidy. After visits to three very interesting properties to look at their pastures and production systems we topped the afternoon with a truly unique underground wine tasting experience and a magnificent BBQ at Jamie and Peta's house at Naracoorte.
- ◆ Following the success of our 2010 Perennial Pastures seminar we felt the time was right to hold another major pasture/livestock day to help fill the current extension void. This time we ventured to the McBride's new woolshed at Konetta and were presented with a thought provoking series of talks from high calibre speakers around the topic of "Perennial Pastures in a Carbon Climate". With 80 attendees for the day it was another great success. A huge thank you to Penny Craig for her exceptional effort to get this day up, running and successful.
- ◆ Still to come on the program for this year is a **Pasture Walk** in conjunction with SARDI's South East post drainage pastures project on **October 9th**.

We have also maintained our active R & D program, with the MLA-funded pasture trial ramping up its work. The site at Avenue Range that was started in Autumn 2010 was joined by three more sites at the Avenue Range Sports Ground, Woolumbbool and Naracoorte in Autumn 2011. With last year's dry summer/autumn the results coming from these sites will make very interesting reading and viewing over the next few months. **We will be visiting some of the sites during the annual Pasture Walk in October.**

Finally, thank you to all of the group's sponsors, **PPHS, Kenwyn Props** and **Woolumbbool Rampro**, especially those that have chosen to continue in the 'SEPLA sponsors' category. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. All the best for a better finish to this growing year than the one we received in 2012, for a slightly wetter summer and for lamb and cattle prices to keep ahead of our increasing costs.

Nick Edwards

Outgoing SEPLA Chairman

Extracted from report as provided for Annual reports distributed at AGM

The newly formed MacKillop Irrigation Management Group (taking over the White Clover Growers Association) has started 2012 with a fresh approach and renewed enthusiasm for the irrigation industry within the limestone coast. We have identified the need for a new forum to provide irrigators in the area with opportunities to further their skills and knowledge while undertaking trial work and demonstrations.

We kicked off the new group with a bus trip through the lower south east taking in different irrigation businesses and looking at opportunities to value add to irrigation systems. The day was well attended and offered an excellent opportunity to gather irrigators from across the area for an informative and enjoyable day. Following this, a series of workshops have been run encompassing fundamentals of understanding your soils, water quality and crop requirements, and ways to overcome limitations in your irrigation system. Understanding your centre pivot and understanding surface irrigation followed. These sessions have also been well attended and provide excellent food for thought heading into the next irrigation season.

We are pleased to provide the opportunity for all irrigators across the south east of SA and Western Victoria to improve their knowledge of irrigation systems and investigate ways to increase productivity and efficiency. We extend an invitation to any irrigator to become involved with either the committee or join in the many field days and information sessions in the future.

Thank you to the committee for their hard work throughout the year and special thanks to Krysteen and Felicity for their tireless work. A big thankyou to Wayne Hawkins for his efforts in chairing the White Clover Growers Association and helping to establish the new MIMG. Wayne's efforts over the years have been greatly appreciated and we look forward to his ongoing involvement and experienced contributions. Special thanks to our sponsors **Integrated Irrigation** and **Cox Rural** for their support. With the committee's support I hope to fulfill the role of chairperson in a way that continues to promote enthusiasm and forward momentum within the group and the broader irrigation community in our local region.

All the best for the season,

James Heffernan

Email: irrigation@mackillopgroup.com.au

Mobile: 0427 624 333

Upcoming Event for all Irrigators

Fertigation

is it a possibility with my system?

Proposed discussions to cover



- ▶ principles of fertigation
- ▶ types of systems available / design
- ▶ fertigation efficiencies eg. UAN vs UREA
- ▶ agronomic principles
- ▶ products available

***This half day session will be run in early November—
for further information please contact James Heffernan***



Irrigation

Do you have something you want to learn more about or see trialled in this region?

We are currently working on our strategic plan for the coming season—please assist us with your input and suggestions

Contact

James Heffernan

irrigation@mackillopgroup.com.au or 0427 624 333

Krysteen McElroy

admin@mackillopgroup.com.au or 0408 655 108



2013 MFMG Study Tour



Tasmania in August

We are planning a Study Tour to Tasmania in 2013

This is just an initial notification, so if you are interested in joining us please send me a message so that we can begin making plans and applying for funding with some idea of possible number of travellers.



Proposed Dates: Early to mid August 2013



Length of travel: approx 5 - 6 days

Estimated cost: under \$1500

(this is a very rough guide, with back of the envelope calculations only, but includes most meals, travel and accommodation—and not taking into account any support funding we may be able to access)



If you maybe interested in travelling with us let Krysteen know asap



GRDC Regional Cropping Solutions – High Rainfall Network Project Update from Trent Potter and Jen Lillecrapp

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) Regional Cropping Solutions (RCS) initiative aims to provide linkages between growers, farming systems groups, agribusiness and researchers to better plan and design the most effective response and activities for the priority issues affecting crop production.

Trent Potter and Jen Lillecrapp are contracted by the MacKillop Farm Management Group (MFMG) to the GRDC to provide the project services for the RCS High Rainfall Zone (HRZ) Network.

The HRZ comprises Kangaroo Island, Lower South East, South Western Victoria, Gippsland, southern New South Wales and Tasmania.

The HRZ Network was appointed in February 2012 and comprises five farmers, five agronomists/consultants, one research scientist and three GRDC Southern Panel representatives. Lachie Seears, MFMG Committee member was appointed to this network. His involvement with this network will ensure that the issues affecting crop production are included when identifying and prioritising issues and developing local activities that will have the greatest benefit.

The RCS HRZ Network has focussed on identifying and defining the priority issues affecting crop production. These priority issues are as follows -

Weeds

- herbicide resistant ARG (Groups A, B, C, K and M);
- herbicide resistance – cultural and chemical control;
- ARG and Wild Radish resistance management and crop options

Varieties for the HRZ

- choice of malting barley varieties – yield, disease, lodging;
- choice of milling wheat varieties

Slugs and snails

- spread of snails;
- slugs – predictive model of population relative to weather conditions

Nutrition

- nutrient budgeting – impact on wet or dry conditions;
- macro and trace element use at key growth stages;
- N management and reducing loss/increasing efficiency

Soils

- managing subsoil constraints

Stubble management

- stubble handling – incorporation versus burning versus retaining

Rotations

- alternative crop options (profitable) eg. clover (hay and grazing) where pulses not performing

Crop diseases

- Stripe Rust;
- BYDV
- Blackleg and Sclerotinia

GRDC Regional Cropping Solutions – High Rainfall Network cont

The RCS HRZ Network is developing project logic for each of these issues. This program logic will better inform the GRDC, specifically the GRDC Southern Panel on each of the priority issues and the most effective response – research, development and/or extension.



Pictured above are Lachie Sears, Bill Long and Stuart Kearns at a meeting of the RCS Networks in Adelaide in July 2012.

Trent and Jen are currently working to develop a project specification that will undertake trials to assess the effectiveness of a range of cultural and baiting strategies to effectively reduce slug numbers and the associated crop damage and losses.

Representatives of the GRDC Southern Panel and staff have undertaken a tour of regions within each of the zones of the Southern Region. Trent and Jen have facilitated the HRZ tour component. The tour group visited Kangaroo Island, South East of South Australia and South Western Victoria. The aim of this tour was for the participants to gain an understanding of the local issues affecting crop production. The tour group was hosted by local farming organisations, including MFMG. Trent and Jen would like to thank MFMG members who met with this tour group to discuss the issue that are affecting crop production and their farming businesses. MFMG members were able to suggest potential project outcomes and activities directly to GRDC representatives. Thank you must go to Trent and Barbie for providing beer and pizza which was very much appreciated by all, but especially the MFMG Southern Representatives.

Further information is available by contacting Jen Lillecrapp hrznetwork@bigpond.com or 0427 647 461.



Lachie Seears

Name (the one you like to be called): Lachie

Property Location: Boonderoo Pastoral Company at Conmurra

Who do you farm with: I farm with my wife Rebecca and son Hugh also parents Peter and Helen. I also have 2 workman Jamie Partridge and Craig Cooper.

What you farm/produce: Broad Beans, Wheat, Barley, Canola, Prime Lambs, Angus Cattle

AFL team you support: Carlton & Geelong

What do you do to relax (hobbies/past-times): Ride dirt bikes when time permits and would also like to work on lowering Golf handicap.

Get to know your committee members better.....

David Farley

Name (the one you like to be called): David

Property Location: Kybybolite. We have recently relocated here from the Adelaide Hills / Strathalbyn area, having previously owned a predominant cropping property in that area.

Who do you farm with: My wife Michele and our trusty side kicks being our three year old son Eddie who never misses out on a trip in the ute and the new man on the block Angus our soon to be one year old.

What you farm/produce: Prime lambs from self replacing maternal flock and cereal cropping.

AFL team you support: Carlton.

What do you do to relax (hobbies/past-times): I play cricket for Kyby and are constantly on the recruiting campaign. Let me know if you're keen (ability isn't a prerequisite).

Tom Sambell

Name (the one you like to be called): Tom

Mobile Number: 0448 620 171

Property Location: NE of Naracoorte between Apsley and Frances just on the good side of the border (VIC!) at Benayeo.

Who do you farm with: Parents Dennis and Chris, Brother David and wife Brooke along with our kids Eva and Gus

What you farm/produce: Sheep, Merino's and Xb's, Cropping, Small seed production under pivots mainly sub clover and some Lucerne - Roughly half sheep and half Cropping and seed production

AFL team you support: Geelong (who else?)

What do you do to relax (hobbies/past-times): Time with kids, watch footy, motorbikes, need to find some others!

Anything else you would like to share: Looking forward to contributing to the MFMG