

MFMG

www.mackillopgroup.com.au



MacKillop Farm Management Group Inc

Merry Christmas

Communicating with you.....

Commencing in late October, we are now sending an email to all those on our database every Monday morning.

This email includes info on upcoming events, trial and project updates, other information sourced from various locations including GRDC, sponsors, other research bodies and anything we think you may be interested in knowing about.

We hope that this will streamline our communication a little and also assist in keeping you up to date with happenings in the region

If you would prefer to receive this via fax please call Krysteen on 0408 655108 or if you are not currently receiving the email please let me know on admin@mackillopgroup.com.au

The Management Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all members, sponsors and supporters of MFMG a fantastic Christmas and New Year and hope that 2012 has been a year to remember (for all the right reasons).

We look forward to working with you in 2013

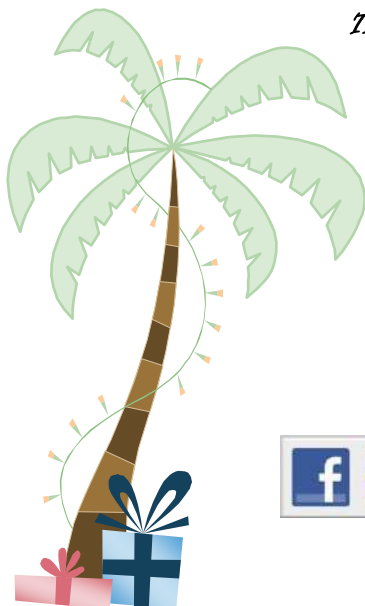


Tasmania in August?

See attached information

Booking form and deposit due by 1st February 2013

Thanks



@Mackillopfarm



Mackillopgroup



As we get to the business end of the season, it is a good time as you are driving around on harvesters, lining up in silo queues, checking stock waters or running irrigation pumps to reflect on the year that What did we achieve, and what can we look at doing differently next year?

The agricultural climate is changing, and as a group we are continually trying to adapt with it. Continual changes in commodity prices in a region that is so diverse presents challenges to Research, Development and Extension.

Although variety selection is important (and often one of the easiest things to change), we need to continually move forward - looking at the farming system as a whole, the role of livestock in these systems and how to maximise overall farm profit for our growers.

That is what I will be pondering over while reviewing the year that was and considering how we can better meet your requirements in the year to come.

Hope that harvest is successful for you all, that you all manage to take some time off afterwards to recharge and spend time with friends and family and look forward to seeing you in 2013.

Regards

Felicity

Operations and Research



It's been a busy few months for the MIMG with four successful workshops run in the lead up to the irrigation season. We kicked off the workshops with an informative session from Tim Powell on irrigating in the SE and understanding soil moisture, which was followed by sessions on Centre Pivot irrigation and Flood irrigation. All days were well attended with over 40 irrigators and consultants taking part. Finally we had a breakfast meeting and presentations where given on

fertigation processes and methods, the costs involved and how to go about setting a system up. Other topics covered included general information about products, the pitfalls and design principles. Again this was also well attended with around 25 growers and consultants present. A big thankyou to all our sponsors for the sessions -- Water Dynamics and Grundfos

Behind the scenes there is a lot of work going on putting together a reference 'ute guide' to irrigating. More will be explained in the near future.

We are currently looking for ideas for trial work next season. If anyone has suggestions on something they would like to see, let us know. Ideas put forward so far; New crop variety trials, irrigating broadacre crop types, irrigated crop nutrition, moisture monitoring. We would love some input from the wider MFMG members

Thanks to everyone on the committee for their hard work this year. A big thankyou to our major sponsors, Integrated Irrigation and Cox Rural.

Have a safe and prosperous harvest and all the best for the festive season

Regards

James Heffernan

MIMG Chairman



South East Prime Livestock Achievers



"Profiting from Prime Livestock Production"

SEPLA - Mackillop Livestock production Arm, Incorporation, Nutrition, Pastures, Animal Health, etc

The South East Prime Livestock Achievers (SEPLA) was initially formed 10 years ago with a vision to drive technology, research and adaption to benefit producers and the wider industry in regards to livestock production. The group has had changes in numbers over the years with new and old faces coming and going. Personally I have been involved for 7 years and the honesty, trust and openness shared with members has been the cornerstone of the group's success.

The merging under the MacKillop umbrella has been a significant change in recent history and I feel the group now needs to reinvent itself without losing the "good feel" built up over the years. Most croppers have livestock and ultimately all producers need to find a way to improve production in their livestock enterprises. Mackillop gives SEPLA a wider net to publish results and a solid base to gauge what producers want from the group. At a recent meeting some topics mentioned were:

- Sheep Handling Facilities
- Deficiencies causing poor lamb development
- Row spacing for best pasture establishment
- New pasture species on the horizon, (tedera, messina)
- Unlocking nutrients on heavy alkaline soils



We are calling for any ideas that people may have so we can have a target list over the next 2 years to bring some real results to members. This can be as small as wanting to know the answer for a particular observation made in your sheep/ cattle/pasture or a large scale trial that can potentially be undertaken.

The Sticky beak day has been a big success over many years and just as the name suggests it involves visiting a farm and seeing how another enterprise works. Recently Peter Hannaford and Andrew Shepherd hosted us at their farms for a look a very successful long term pasture renovation program and a very intensive small seed production and cleaning facility. Both Andrew and Peter were very hospitable and freely shared information to the keen attendees. Days like this can be hugely beneficial as the information attained is of a practical nature given by producers who are driven by success.

The SEPLA committee looks forward to working with the Mackillop members in building the SEPLA brand to being the one stop for all questions and answers in relation to livestock production, nutrition and pasture. We look forward to working with all members.



Regards
Jamie Tidy
SEPLA Chairman

