



BOARD BIS – July 2007

NEWS FROM THE BOARD:

Advisory Board of Agriculture AGM and associated activities: 12th to 14th August.

Organisation is progressing well. A district tour will take place on Monday 13th followed by a dinner that night. The Board's AGM, followed by a brief business meeting and strategic plan session are being held on 14th October.

ABA executive support from PIRSA: The new support team for the ABA is operating well.

Helen Lamont (Strategic support one day a week), and Georgia Gowing (Communications and Promotions one day a week) will meet with Ben Bruce (Director, Sustainable Systems, PIRSA) and Anne Madden (Administration Officer) to discuss progress on 1st August.

ABA membership 2007 / 2008: Nominations from all regions where Board members are retiring this year have been received. Finalising paperwork to go to the Minister for appointment before the AGM.

Agri Business Conference: Held on 25th and 26th July. Far West Coast / Central EP ABA rep, Philip Wheaton, attended and gave a presentation on the future of extension in sustainable agriculture. ABA Board Chairman, Mark Dennis, also attended and found it very interesting and thought provoking.

Awards now Open: Applications for the Peter Olsen Fellowship for Young Farmers and Agricultural Bureau Services to Primary Production are now open. Please note that closing date for both is *Friday 14th September*.

BUREAU ACTIVITIES:

Charra: Recently hosted its 50th annual Hogget Competition. A Certificate of Appreciation from the Agricultural Bureau is to be presented to Charra Branch.

Coonalpyn: On-farm meeting on 3rd July looking at different seeding systems and spraying programs, finishing with an AGM and BBQ.

Coomandook: 18th July held their AGM and planning meeting.

Koonunga: WAB rep on the ABA, Lyn Teakle was guest speaker at the Branch's social night. She urged women from the Barossa to attend Bureau meetings as they are involved with the farm in many instances and also asked that the men accept the women (with mixed response!).

Laura: AGM heard Jo Humphris and Craig Shearer on the Elders Wool trip to China.

Lochaber: 12 members spent an interesting and informative day visiting Horsham Stock Feeds lamb feedlot on the property of Wonwondah Pastoral Co. Feedlot can accommodate up to 10 000 head. Lambs are sourced from Victoria, SA, NSW and Tasmania – purchased at 32 / 36 kg liveweight and turned off at 52 kg after 42 to 39 days in the feedlot. Horsham Stock Feeds also contract feed lambs for other farmers and sells prepared feedlot rations to farmers to grow out their own lambs. Trip was arranged in conjunction with Elders Ltd.

Millicent: June meeting, two speakers from Provimi spoke on grass tetany in cattle and livestock health. Very relevant topic with heavy losses of cows this year due to grass tetany. They held their AGM on 25th July with approximately 30 attending. Guest speaker



Laura Mitchell gave a very interesting presentation on her recent wool handling trip to America. Membership awards also presented.

Nelshaby: AGM guest speaker was Leith Cooper on the coal enquiry.

Wattle Range: AGM dinner on Tuesday 31st July. Guest speaker, Harry Bosman, former Zimbabwean farmer who now lives in Mt. Gambier and runs an organic produce business.

Mailout to Branches: Paperwork for membership fees for 2007 / 2008 have been sent to Branches. Hoping for prompt response!

SEASONAL CONDITIONS:

Drought: Guidelines are available from:

- PIRSA Prudential and Rural Financial Management, toll free on 1800 182235
- Service SA Drought Link website www.service.sa.gov.au/drought

Further information is available from:

- PIRSA website drought page www.pir.sa.gov.au/drought
- Drought Hotline: 180 2020 (freecall)
- *EC assistance information sessions*

A series of information sessions to inform people about the range of Exceptional Circumstance (EC) assistance that is available for producers and agriculturally-dependent small businesses in the recently-declared regions of Yorke Peninsula, Mid North, Clare and Barossa will be held in early August.

Sessions will include speakers from PIRSA and Centrelink, on topics such as EC entitlements, criteria, how to apply and where and who is available to assist in the process. The Rural Financial Counselling Service will provide details on the assistance available to help people lodge applications.

Sessions will be held at:

<i>Minlaton</i>	10 am Wednesday 1 August,	Minlaton Bowling Club
<i>Bute</i>	2 pm Wednesday 1 August,	Bute Sports Club
<i>Crystal Brook</i>	10 am Thursday 2 August,	Crystal Brook Inst Hall
<i>Burra</i>	2 pm Thursday 2 August,	Burra Town Hall
<i>Clare</i>	10 am Friday 3 August,	Clare Golf Club
<i>Eudunda</i>	2 pm Friday 3 August,	Eudunda Town Hall

More information: Tia Walker, Rural Financial Counselling Services. Telephone 8362 1166 or email: tia.walker@rfcssa.org.au

- *EC Sessions:* Upper North ABA rep, Neville Ferme is attending these sessions at Crystal Brook and Burra on 2nd August.
- *Outdoor Watering Suspension Extended*
Temporary restrictions on outdoor household watering will continue during August 2007 to help conserve water for summer. The Minister for the River Murray, Karlene Maywald says these measures are necessary due to the ongoing impacts of reduced water availability from the River Murray.
- *Succession Planning Workshops*
PIRSA and Country Health SA are presenting free workshops on succession planning for sustaining families and farms. The sessions which run from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm will be held:

Karoonda Sporting Complex	Thursday 2 August
Padthaway Bowling Clubrooms	Friday 3 August
Lock Bowling Club	Tuesday 7 August
Cummins Bowling Club	Wednesday 8 August

Streaky Bay Sporting Club	Thursday 9 August
Booleroo Centre Bowling Club, Stephens Street, Booleroo Centre	Thursday 16 August

Numbers are limited. Registrations are by contacting Rural Health Team, Yvette Atze.
Telephone 8667 2458. Email: atze.yvette@saugov.sa.gov.au

Far West Coast / Central Eyre Peninsula: Lots of livestock leaving the area, some for on-hooks, some saleyards. Most operators have de-stocked by 20%. Lack of feed.

Lower Eyre Peninsula: Looking pretty good around bottom of Lower EP, but unfortunately heading north it dries out and some areas need a good rain badly.

Eastern Eyre Peninsula: Outlook becoming bleak and people despondent.

Upper North: Most of the UN is managing on minimal rainfall, with coastal areas ie. Port Broughton to NectarBrook recording less than 20mm for May and June. The crop emergence in **heavy** soils the worst for 50 years in the Port Broughton to NectarBrook area. Established crops are making GS 35 plus and looking for moisture. Jamestown agronomist reported very poor plant counts for Canola this year. Frosts has been above average in July.

Murraylands: Season continues to progress very well with more rain late in the month of July to total around 50 to 65mm for the month. Most crops looking good, though some isolated wind damage and the later sown crops a bit slow. Most farmers are spraying out broad leaf weeds in cereals or spreading / spraying out nitrogen when conditions are right. Most pasture sowing, mainly lucerne has been completed or close to it with good germinations if pests have been controlled properly. Pasture growth is starting to move again after the earlier frosts had slowed them up and lucerne pastures have pretty well gone into dormancy. Most areas to this point are looking at a good year with a current growing season rainfall decile of around 6 to 8.

Mid and Lower South East: Seven mm rain on 27th July, giving us a total of 79 mm for the month. Much better than 36.75 mm for June, but still not good for Lower SE.

Mid SE received 95 mm rain for July with pastures looking good but responding slowly due to cold weather and crops sown late May / early June looking good. Lambing percentages varying between 95 to 130%.

Millicent received 100 to 150 mm rain for July with the seasonal outlook good at present, with majority of crops out of the ground and looking healthy. Pasture growth is very slow at present as expected but should pick up in the next four weeks. Stock and progeny in good condition at present. Some paddocks under water as water table begins to rise.

The **next issue** for 2007 will be produced on **Thursday 30th August**. Any **comments or questions**, please contact Executive Support team on 1800 652 258 / 8226 0351.