

Primary Interest

The Newsletter of the
ADVISORY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
Governing Body of the Agricultural Bureau



Issue 8, March 2010

Paris Creek dynamo to teach organic farming

South Australian Rural Woman of the Year, Ulli Spranz, co-founder of the B.-d. Farm Paris Creek biodynamic dairy farm in the Adelaide Hills, is ready to spread the word.

She will be organising a series of courses and workshops later this year to promote biodynamic and organic farming practices, with funding from the \$10,000 bursary prize for winning the 2010 Rural Industries and Research Development Corporation (RIRDC) Rural Women's Award.

Ulli was instrumental in establishing the first Biodynamic and Organic Agricultural Bureau in SA in 2005. It now has 61 financial members.

"The biodynamic and organic farming movement is growing in Australia, and particularly in South Australia," she said.

"I will use the bursary to further develop biodynamic farming, farming practices and farming management."

From a farming perspective, Ulli and her husband Helmut Spranz have reaped the benefits of value-adding by manufacturing a range of yoghurts, cheeses and milk. They have doubled production in recent years.

"We believe that our (locally



Advisory Board of Agriculture chairman Neville Ferme congratulates the 2010 Rural Women's Award SA winner Ulli Spranz.

produced) product should be widely available for consumers and at affordable prices, particularly to families," she said.

"We also want to make it possible for farmers to stay in the industry to keep farming and rural communities alive.

Runner-up was Stacey Fallon, a farmer from Lock and food development officer with the Eyre Regional Development Board.

Ulli also is in the running for the national Rural Women's Awards, to be announced in Canberra on 25 May.

Go to the PIRSA website link to see a video of the 17 February awards night.

The RIRDC awards are sponsored by PIRSA, ABC Radio, Rural Press and The Australian Women's Weekly.

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Sowing the Seeds

Well it is official - this harvest has been the biggest we've seen in quite some time. And while the 7.83 tonne harvest has been a welcome relief, it hasn't been without its challenges.

As many of you would know it has been a volatile market, with poor grain prices forcing many to make some tough decisions. Grain marketing is a difficult skill to master. But for those of you who planned ahead and calculated your cost of production figures, the decision to sell or store your grain may not have been so stressful.

It is important for farmers to understand though that they're not alone in their decision making. The reality is that we can't do everything ourselves – even though we like to think we can (yes I am looking at myself). And there is no need to put your business and family at risk when there is support available to help alleviate that stress.

Agricultural Bureau branches are a great support network. Encourage your branch to invite experts and consultants to come and talk to your members about

the best strategies going forward.

The Advisory Board of Agriculture also provides a project fund of up to \$1,000 per branch to support such events. The most important thing is not to clam up, but to talk and learn and, if need, be leave it to the experts.

With that said, the new season is just around the corner and I encourage all farmers to look positively towards what will hopefully be another good year. But please take the time to learn from your experiences and take the necessary steps forward to plan ahead.

The State's drought recovery - Planning for Recovery program has recently been revised to allow those who've already accessed assistance to review their business plans. Farm businesses can then apply for a \$2,500 grant to be used toward specialist advice. But you will need to act fast as applications close on 31 March.

I'd also encourage farming families to sit down with one another and talk frankly about the season ahead. What is your



plan of attack? What will you do differently this season? Are there any issues that need to be dealt with?

Good communication between members of a farming family is crucial to the success of a business. If you need help opening up those communications channels, I'd recommend contacting a Family and Business (FaB) Mentor.

Good luck and happy planning.

Neville Ferme
Chairman
Advisory Board of Agriculture

BoardBis

The Advisory Board of Agriculture held its first meeting for 2010 in Adelaide on 2-3 February.

Discussions were held on the Bureau's finances, 2010 AGM (Upper North), ABA appointments for 2010-2011 and the Cost of Production Tool. Reports were also heard from Don Plowman (PIRSA Deputy CE), Glenn Gale (DWLBC), Tony Rathjen (University of Adelaide) and all board members.

Rob Lewis (SARDI Executive Director) discussed the Research Development & Education National Framework. Rob will continue to keep the ABA informed at future meetings.

Evelyn Poole, Senior Consultant, Rural Solutions SA, spoke on the

Planning for Recovery program. Discussions revolved around EC IRS, review of business plans, and planned regional workshops.

Nigel Austin, Advertiser Rural Editor, also addressed the board. He talked about the need for the ABA to have a good relationship with the media to get the message into the metropolitan press (for city people to obtain a better understanding of rural issues). The board is keen to build this relationship, to communicate a positive message and to promote agriculture.

The board discussed a number of issues with Helen Lamont, Director, PIRSA Sustainable Systems. A presentation on the board's role/value will be made to PIRSA executives at the April meeting.

The three working groups (WG) met. The Promotions WG discussed the need for a Strategic Communications Plan, Field Day involvement, the Stock Journal column and the website.

The Government WG is to develop an Issues Paper (based on member regional reports/ additional issues raised) for the Minister and relevant heads of other agencies.

The Best Practice WG discussed Project Guidelines, linking branches and members with the latest research and speakers, the National Landcare Forum, the Cost of Production Tool and P-testing kits.

The next ABA meeting is set for 21-22 April at the Plant Research Centre, Waite.

Season smiles on Buckleboo farmers

The best season in several years has members of the Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group fired up for a busy 2010.

Group president Peter Woolford said: "We have done a lot of things over the past year, including dry sowing nutrition trials, variety trials and a two-day bus trip to the Upper North."

The Upper North farm tour received financial support from the ABA Bureau Project Fund.

Information about the ABA Bureau Project Fund is on the website www.agbureau.com.au.

"We also had an afternoon in September at (Kimba farmer) Brook Seal's property, looking at his sheep coat trials," Peter said.

"It was great to look at some decent crops during our annual sticky beak day in September."

In December, members collected weed seed samples for chemical resistance tests.

Also in December, Michael Bennett, from the Minnipa Research Centre, reaped the group's trials with the centre's trial plot harvester.

These results – and other Eyre Peninsula trials - will be presented at the group's farming systems breakfast (at the Buckleboo Club from 8am on Thursday, 25 March).

"It is the first time for a number of years we actually achieved some results," Peter said. "We're very pleased that our trials didn't fail due to lack of rain."

A busy 2010 program started in January with a demonstration of the new spraying technology Weed-It, hosted by Pringles Ag Plus Kimba.

Last month, PIRSA guest speakers Tim Prance, Daniel Schuppan and Mary Crawford addressed the group's SheepConnect Improving



Darren Hunt and Bert Woolford assess stock conditions during a sheep condition scoring exercise during the February Farm Walk at Elbow Hill.

Grazing Management farm walk.

"We would like all our members to come along and support us at the AGM in early April," Peter said.

"Feel free to suggest any issues you would like our group to look at - whether in a trial form or getting in guest speakers."

Ideas for this year's farm tour also will be discussed at the meeting.

Our Board - Our People

Lynette Pinder brings a wealth of financial management experience to her role as Barossa Valley regional representative on the Advisory Board of Agriculture.

She is currently a part-time professional non-executive director, sitting on a number of boards and audit committees, with more than 20 years' experience living and working as a certified practising accountant in Melbourne, Newcastle, Penang and Canberra.

"I got back into the agricultural side of things when I worked for Wheat Exports Australia in Canberra," she said.

"When we moved back to the Barossa Valley, my brother-in-law suggested I take up the position with the Advisory Board."

Lynette has replaced long-running board member Trevor Wilksch who, ironically, also has the unusual

hobby of playing the trombone.

"It's quite funny we had this interest in common," Lynette said.

Lynette plays with the Nuriootpa Town Band while Trevor is with the Marananga Brass Band.

"Fortunately we were joint winners of the Barossa Band Festival street march in 2009, so the rivalry is very friendly," she said.

As well as helping her sister and brother-in-law – Marie and Mark Waechter – on their Light Pass vineyard, Lynette sits on the PIRSA-affiliated Forest Industry Development Board, is a member of the audit committee for the Barossa and Mid Murray councils, and is treasurer of the Barossa Farmers' Market.

Born in Angaston in 1968, Lynette (nee Gower) grew up near Cambrai before attending Nuriootpa High School. She completed a Bachelor of Business and Accounting



between Adelaide and Melbourne.

She has returned to the Barossa Valley, to Stockwell, with her husband Wing Commander Grant Pinder and two children Natalie, 11, and Simon, 7.

Lynette says pressure on grape prices, water policies, the Right to Farm Bill – which she hopes will be reintroduced to State Parliament - and land use in the region are among the leading topics of interest to her local branch members.

From little things big things grow

Forty young, enterprising rural producers are widening their horizons through the inaugural State Government Ignite program.

The scheme, launched last year, and supported by the Advisory Board of Agriculture, progressed to the second phase in February when four regional workshops brought together many of the participants with their mentors.

Ignite winds up with a "graduation" in Adelaide in May to coincide with Tasting SA.

Participants have been matched with 30 professionals from the agri-business sector, including last year's Rural Woman of the Year Susi Tegan, Bush Tucker Icecream director Ian Pickett and Carol Schofield AM, from the Fleurieu Peninsula.

The project – a joint initiative between PIRSA and the Office for Youth, with funding through the federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations – aims to give young rural entrepreneurs support in developing and building their agricultural businesses.

The cluster workshops were held in Clare, Murray Bridge, Naracoorte and Kangaroo Island, with enterprises including honey, wine, muesli, potatoes, premium lamb and cider.

In Naracoorte, gladioli bulb producer Andrew Ridgway, a member of Wolseley Ag Bureau branch, took up the theme of marketing and business development with his mentor, Dru Reschke, the manag-



Facilitator Janette Long, from Ag Consulting Co, runs the Naracoorte workshop with Dru Reschke (centre) and Andrew Ridgway (Ag Bureau member)..

ing director of Koonara Coonawarra wines, Penola.

"I've learned a lot through the program," said Andrew.

"It's really made me focus on strategic thinking and of ways to capitalise on our unique position in the market."

The Ridgway farm, near Bordertown, has dedicated 5ha to producing more than 50 different kinds of gladioli corms (bulbs) – now the largest producer in Australia.

The sale of about 3 million corms a year to commercial growers and nursery suppliers is proving a valuable sideline for the broadacre family farm.

"My passion is cropping but I am interested in pushing the horticulture side, which neatly fits into our other farming seasons," Andrew said.

Dru Reschke said it was a pleasure working with Andrew.

"I enjoyed working with Andrew and helping him to look at his business from a different perspective."

Ignite mentor and Parawa Ag Bureau member Carol Schofield said mentoring was available in a number of forms.

"Ag bureau provide an excellent opportunity for younger farmers to tap into a huge network of people and skills," she said.

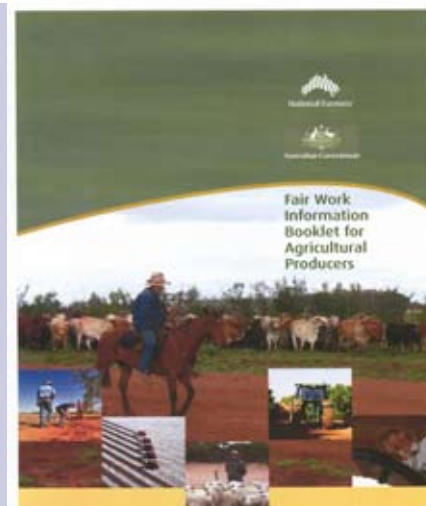
New Fair Work laws

Ag Bureau members are reminded that new workplace relations laws could affect day-to-day interactions between agricultural employers and employees.

The National Farmers' Federation, with support from the Australian Government, recently held free seminars across rural and remote Australia to help producers understand how the new Fair Work Act 2009 affects them.

The new national workplace relations system, governed by the Fair Work Act 2009, commenced on 1 July 2009, however, some parts of the new system started operating on 1 January 2010.

A free booklet and copies of the Pastoral Award 2010 and the Horticulture Award 2010 can be downloaded from www.nff.org.au or by calling (02) 6273 3855.



Time to test your paddocks

Subsidised soil testing kits are going out to Ag Bureau members to run those important checks before the start of the season.

Testing for phosphorous, potassium and organic carbon, as well as potential problems such as salinity and toxins, not only helps to control fertiliser costs but also improve productivity.

The kits build on previous P Week and P Testing programs.

So far, material has been sent out to 18 landholders to conduct 177 phosphorous ("P" soil samples cost \$16.50 per sample) and 28 landholders to conduct 287 generic soil samples (\$41.80 per sample).

As well, kits have been processed for 26 comprehensive acid soil tests and for 51 alkaline samples (both \$77 per sample). The orders range from three soil samples through to 150 soil samples.

Advisory Board of Agriculture chairman Neville Ferme recommended using the kits this autumn.

"It can not only improve your crops, but save you a lot of money," he said.

The kits, being distributed by Mary Crawford, at the Port Lincoln Rural Solutions SA office, are being subsidised by the Agricultural Bureau of SA.

PIRSA, via the State Drought Response, will support the program with assistance in co-ordinating results and providing follow-up advice.

Rural Solutions SA Senior Soil and Land Management consultant Brian Hughes said different crops need nutrients in differing quantities.

"High yields are only possible if



Mary Crawford with soil testing material at Rural Solutions SA's Port Lincoln office.

all major and minor elements are present and available in the right amounts," he said.

"It's also possible that nutrients might be present, but not in a form available to plants.

Information about the soil sampling kits have been sent to a number of Ag Bureau secretaries across the State.

Contact Mary Crawford on (08) 8688 3414 or email mary.crawford@sa.gov.au to organise

Prevention better than a cure

The Advisory Board of Agriculture's soil acidity sampling program in the South East has been so successful that it is also now being rolled out across the north and west this year.

The program aims to raise awareness, particularly about subsurface acidity, and encourage treatment of acid soils.

The project is jointly funded by the Sustainable Farm Practices component of Caring for our Country, and the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation. Rural Solutions SA is delivering the ABA project.

Rural Solutions SA acid soils project officer Natalie Watkins said 11 local bureau branches and two other groups participated in sampling of surface and sub-surface layers in February.

This included four on Eyre Peninsula and nine in the Mid North.



Ag Bureau members Kevin Schild, Michael Kennelly and Peter Kennelly inspect a soil sample for acidity on the Kennelly property, north of Freeling.

"These sites, in conjunction with the long-term monitoring and surveillance sites, will increase our knowledge of acid soils in South Australia," she said.

"This follows on from the monitoring work already done in the Mount Lofty Ranges and the South East regions."

Lower Eyre Peninsula ABA member Mark Dennis, who sits on the acid soils project steering committee, said he was keen for the Koppio bureau to be involved.

"Ten of our members will get information about sub-surface acidity, which is missing in normal soil testing, and which is more of a concern due to the difficulty in testing it."

A soil acidity bulletin, regional forums and links with Natural Resource Management boards have also been developed through the project.

For more information contact Brett Masters from Rural Solutions SA on on (08) 8688 3460.

Bridging the Gap - the latest news in weed research

By Sam Kleemann, Adelaide University, Waite Campus

Weed populations are dynamic in nature and can change rapidly in response to different management practices such as herbicide applications and tillage systems. The following research is being led by Associate Professor Gurjeet Gill at Adelaide University.

Wide-row cropping systems for weed management opportunities

In southern Australia, crops have traditionally been grown in rows 18-25 cm apart. However, there is growing interest among farmers to pursue wider row spacing (36cm to 50cm) because of potential benefits in disease and weed management.

Research funded by ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research) is being undertaken to investigate potential weed management opportunities and crop resource efficiency (i.e. water use) under wide-row cropping systems.

Preliminary results have shown that cereals are more sensitive to widening row spacing showing steady declines in grain yield and water use efficiency with increased row spacing.

In contrast, faba beans with their branching growth habit showed similar grain yield and water use even at the widest row spacing (>50 cm). Growing beans on wide rows also provided an opportunity to effectively control weeds (i.e. ryegrass) between crop rows using shielded applications of non-selective herbicides (i.e. glyphosate and paraquat). However, inability to control sizeable weed populations within crop rows appears to be a limitation to this approach and requires future attention.

Development of weed competitive wheat cultivars

Compared to other cereals, wheat is a poor competitor with weeds. Wheat is also the most widely



Applying non-selective herbicides in wide-row faba beans.

grown cereal crop in southern Australia where herbicide resistance in weeds is still increasing at an alarming rate.

Research funded by GRDC (Grains Research & Development Corporation) is being undertaken to improve weed competitive ability of wheat.

In an effort to boost early vigour and weed competitive ability of wheat, a novel wheat population containing dwarfing genes (Rht8, Rht12 and Rht13) was developed in collaboration with CSIRO.

These elite high vigour lines with improved competitiveness have further since been top-crossed to selected cultivars to maintain desirable agronomic characteristics such as plant height and grain quality.

More than 7,000 wheat lines have been assessed and the best performing lines have been found to reduce weed seed production by a further 50% compared to current commercial cultivars. This has been an extremely productive area of research and is quite a unique project both here in Australia and abroad where breeding focus is solely on weed competitive ability of wheat.

Management of barley grass in wheat in SA

There is growing evidence that this well adapted weed is increasing in prevalence in crops, particularly

in the cereal phase where few herbicide options are available for control. Research funded by GRDC is being undertaken to investigate the seed biology and management of barley grass.

Several populations of barley grass have been collected around the state, including the Eyre Peninsula where it commonly infests crops.

Studies on germination behaviour have clearly showed that there were large differences between barley grass populations in their level of seed dormancy.

Some barley grass populations required cold stratification (chilling exposure) in order to germinate. This is likely to delay weed emergence until after the crops have been planted, enabling escape from knockdown herbicides.

Field experiments have also been undertaken to evaluate various herbicide options for control of barley grass in wheat. New pre-emergence herbicide, Sakura (formally BAY-191), to be released next year was shown to provide consistent and high levels of barley grass control (>90%) and appears to be the first reliable herbicide for selective control of this troublesome weed in wheat.

For more information contact Associate Professor Gurjeet Gill at gurjeet.gill@adelaide.edu.au

Acknowledgements: Michael Zerner and Ben Fleet.

Taxation implications from ABB takeover

by Matthew Gordge and David McArthur, RSM Bird Cameron Financial Services

Many primary producers would have been issued shares in ABB Grain as part of the privatisation of the Australian Barley Board on 1 July 1999. From our experience those who were allocated shares continued to hold the shares, and in some cases increased their shareholding through the dividend reinvestment policy.

As part of the takeover of ABB by Viterra, ABB shareholders will have disposed of their ABB shares in exchange for cash, Viterra Shares or a mixture of cash and Viterra shares. ABB shareholders should be aware there are separate capital gains tax implications for all three options. We would advise shareholders to consider the taxation of their takeover scenario in light of overall tax planning prior to June 30, 2010.

For those shareholders who were successful in receiving Viterra shares only for their ABB shares, capital gains tax rollover relief will apply. This means the capital gains tax is deferred until sale of the Viterra shares. For many, this was their preferred option, however the resulting scale back meant some shareholders received only part Viterra shares and part cash. The cash component received for the takeover is subject to capital gains tax.

By considering the taxation implications prior to June 30, 2010 those affected may be able to take action to minimise any tax. Options available include deductible superannuation contributions, realising other investments such as AWB that may generate a capital loss and minimising farm income through use of farm management deposits. The taxable capital gain calculation can be complicated and it would be

advisable to contact your accountant or financial planner who will be able to assist. The rate of tax on a capital gain is dependant on your level of other income such as income from your farm operation, so this needs to be considered in conjunction with the capital gain amount.

The cash received for the ABB shares presents an opportunity for previous shareholders to consider the use of funds in light of succession, retirement and farm planning. For those that had large ABB shareholdings, the takeover could also represent an opportunity to diversify investments and risk with a less significant portion of wealth tied up in one investment.

* RSM Bird Cameron is a proud sponsor of the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia.

Upcoming Ag Bureau events

6 April
Light Pass
Question Box
Wes John 0439 293 352

7 April
Koonunga Branch
Wool and Sheep
Ian Craig 8566 2427

12 April
Rowland Flat Branch
Ashley Ratcliff: Review on new grape varieties
Aaron Gogall 8563 2535

13 April
Mallala Branch
Disc, tyne seeders
David Cawrse 8525 4066

3 May
Light Pass Branch
Truro Agencies
Wes John 0439 293 352

3 May
Lone Pine Tanunda Branch

AP John, Cooperage, Tanunda
Wes John 0439 293 352

3 May
Rowland Flat Branch
Dr Cecil Camelleri: Environmental Mgt and Carbon Responsibilities
Aaron Gogall 8563 2535

5 May
Koonunga Branch
Peter White – Ahrens
Ian Craig 8566 2477

11 – 12 May
WAB Council Meeting
Meg Partridge, PIRSA 8226 0181

18 May OR 15 June
AGM
Aerotech: spraying, snail baiting
David Cawrse 8525 4066

29 May
SA Rural Leadership Program:
Applications close
Meg Partridge, PIRSA 8226 0181

2 June
Koonunga Branch
AGM / Harvest Reports
Ian Craig 8566 2427

7 June
Light Pass Branch
Harvest Reports
Wes John 0439 293 352

7 June
Rowland Flat Branch
Herbicide strategies and risk management
Aaron Gogall 8563 2535

15 June OR 18 May
AGM
Aerotech: spraying, snail baiting
David Cawrse 8525 4066

Calendar of Events

Remember, please advise Anne Madden about forthcoming branch events, email anne.madden@sa.gov.au or phone 1800 652 258

WAB News

Women in Agriculture and Business will be flying the flag for South Australia in April when it attends the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) 26th triennial conference in Arkansas, US.

Women in Agriculture and Business is an affiliated member of ACWW.

Thanks to a South Australian Government grant, delegates Barbara Schaefer (Pinkawillinie Branch), Ronda Noack (Mundulla) and Jenny Hocking (WAB On-Line) will represent WAB at the conference from 21-28 April 2010.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, the Hon. Paul Caica MP, presented two cheques to WAB at its February Council Meeting.

The grants included \$4,000 on behalf of Primary Industries and Resources SA and \$3,275 on behalf of Minister Gail Gago from Office for the Status of Women.

The money will be shared with the South Australian Country Women's Association (SA CWA), who is also sending three delegates.

Resolutions to be considered at this conference include:



(L-R): Yvonne Correll (WAB International Officer), Minister Caica, Ronda Noack (Mundulla WAB) and Jenny Hocking (WAB On-line).

- Governments making available access to credit for women,
- Reduction in over packaging and the use of plastic bags,
- That women receive adequate education to help in managing the finances of their households,
- That arable land be set aside for food production and not bio-fuel production.

WAB and SA CWA raise funds throughout the year to assist with projects in the underdeveloped world.

Projects have included wheelbarrows to carry produce to market, tanks to collect fresh rainwater and the digging of wells to save many walking miles.

WAB and SA CWA would like to thank Minister Caica and Minister Gago for supporting the rural women of South Australia.

WAB wishes the delegates well at the conference and look forward to hearing about the outcomes upon their return.

Drought recovery support

Exceptional Circumstances (EC) assistance has been extended for another year for the River Murray and Lower Lakes Corridor and Murray-Mallee.

They were the only regions in South Australia to get an extension, with federal assistance ending in 11 other SA areas.

The North West Rangelands and Central North East are being reviewed in late March as their declaration expires on 15 June 2010.

The Federal Government accepted independent advice on whether to further extend EC assistance in 34 areas of NSW, SA and Victoria.

For those regions coming out of EC on 31 March 2010, applications for EC Interest Rate Subsidies (IRS)

remain open until 31 March 2010 for this current period.

The Planning for Recovery program is also still available to farming businesses that have been approved for an EC IRS in the last 12 months. Applications close 31 March 2010. Those who have previously accessed the program can now apply for support to review their plans and get specialist advice as well.

Other programs still available include:

- Farm debt mediation when intractable problems arise with financiers
- Financial counselling jointly funded by the Federal Government

•One-on-one Family and Business (FaB) Mentor support

•Country Health SA community counsellors.

The Centrelink Climate Change Adjustment Program and Transitional Income Support are also still available. For more information call the Drought Assistance line on 132 316 or visit www.centrelink.gov.au.

For more information visit: www.pir.sa.gov.au/drought or call the SA Drought Hotline 180 20 20.

Branch Briefs - information from across the network

Fleurieu / Murray Plains

Recent activities included a crop walk and a glacial soils field day. The Parawa Branch has also been successful in obtaining funding from the State NRM Program (a Community Action Grant) for a stock water project, as well as for a soils project

Lochaber

Members recently visited Kym Staude's property at Mundulla to inspect his dorper and dohne sheep flocks and irrigated pasture. Afternoon visit paid to "Pooginagoric" Free Range Turkey farm and processing plant operated by John and Robyn Watson at Bordertown.

Past President and Committee member, and innovative farmer, Allen Buckley, was named

Waikerie's Citizen of the Year. Allen was acknowledged for his "tireless work and passion for sustainable farming in his community, the Mallee community and further abroad".

Mil Lel

Held a social evening where members heard an interesting account of trekking the Kokoda Trail by Barry Ward. At any one time there were up to 1,000 people moving along the Kokoda Trail.

Millicent

Members attended the EverGraze Forum and Field Day on Perennial Pastures at Lucindale for their February meeting. A speakers' forum held in the morning covered topics on climate change affecting pastures, new varieties

and growing perennials locally. The 96 participants then visited a local robotic dairy and commercial perennial pastures.

South Kilkerran

Branch member Lyall Schulz was recognised in this year's Australia Day Honours. Lyall became a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to the community, and the fodder industry through executive roles.

Wattle Range

Guest speaker Craig Altman from SE Seeds demonstrated an Animal Performance Calculator developed by Seed Force, using member information and discussed new pasture options.

Drought Information

Drought Assistance eligibility guidelines are available from:
PIRSA Prudential and Rural Financial Management, on 1800 182 235 (freecall)

Further information is available from:

- PIRSA website drought page www.pir.sa.gov.au/drought or the Drought Hotline: 180 2020 (freecall)
- SA Government Drought Response <http://www.sa.gov.au/drought>
- Rural Financial Counselling Service SA <http://www.rfcssa.org.au/>
- Centrelink Drought Assistance http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/drought_assist.htm
- Australian Government Drought Assistance <http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought>
- beyondblue <http://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

For the latest news and tips on the drought and government programs subscribe to the free fortnightly drought e-news. Log onto www.sa.gov.au/drought. Jump to media and communication and follow the prompt under drought e-news.

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