

Primary Interest

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



Issue 5, February 2009

Fashion statement paying off for Peter Olsen Fellowship winner

They're definitely creating quite a stir in the region, but for Kimba farmer Brook Seal, his coat wearing sheep are more about upping the standard in wool quality than creating a fashion statement.

Brook, 24, has been trialling the coats for four months now in an aim to investigate whether they're a feasible option to help boost wool quality.

He has been supported in his venture by the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia's Peter Olsen Fellowship for Young Farmers, which he was awarded in October last year.

Brook has used the \$7,000 fellowship to carry out his 'sheep cover' idea and help South Australia's wool industry strive for greater standards.

"Currently I've got 370 coats on two to four year old ewes, 120 on ewe hoggets and nine rams," he said.

"They fit similar to a dog coat. They go over the sheep's head with two straps around the legs, then two straps that tighten up on the back that are loosened when the wool starts to grow."

Already Brook has noticed huge benefits in the sheep covers.

"Surprisingly we've had no fly strike and I've definitely noticed a difference in wool quality. . . no dirt seems to have escaped underneath the coats," he said.

"I suppose the real test will be when



Brook Seal, 2008 Peter Olsen Fellowship winner demonstrating the 'sheep covers' on his Kimba property

we shear in September, and find out whether they're actually financially viable."

Already attracting much interest from the community, Brook says he plans to hold a field day during September when shearing takes place.

"It should be a great day, I'll demonstrate how the coats are fitted and share my findings on how the trials have gone so far," he said.

The next test however will be crutching the covered sheep. Brook says this will be a much harder undertaking than usual as the shearers will have to be careful not to cut the straps between the legs.

"After crutching, the ewes will undergo pregnancy scans to see if having the



coats on the ewes and rams had an impact or not," he said.

"Then we have lambing to follow in six weeks time, so we're very keen to see how the trial pans out."

If that's not enough, Brook says that he plans to undertake a study tour to New South Wales in March to April, where farmers have been successfully using the coats for years.

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Sowing the Seeds with Mark Dennis

With 2009 now upon us, a lot of us are feeling a little disillusioned by the coming season.

Facing yet another year of drought conditions is something none of us wanted to see happen.

It's causing confusion, frustration and angst – especially when thinking about how we might finance our crops and inputs.

I must admit even I was feeling anxious about what might be ahead for my family and I. However then I came across something that put the fire back in my belly.

It reminded me of all the great things I love about farming - its importance in the community and amazing opportunities it offers our families. It brought to the forefront why we as farmers need to keep ploughing on through turbulent times, and seek refuge in our farming networks to keep going for the sake of our future farming generations.

It incited my passion to keep going and think positively about the season ahead and I'd like to share it with you.

It's called 'A Farmer's Creed', and was originally written for New Holland in 1975. I hope it spurs you on just as it did for me.

A FARMER'S CREED

I believe a man's great possession is his dignity and that no calling bestows this more abundantly than farming.

I believe hard work and honest sweat are the building blocks of a person's character.

I believe that farming, despite its hardships and disappointments, is the most honest and honourable way a man can spend his days on earth.

I believe farming nurtures the close family ties that make life rich in ways money can't buy.

I believe my children are learning the values that will last a lifetime and can be learned in no other way.

I believe farming provides education for life and that no other occupation teaches so much about birth, growth and maturity in such a variety of ways.

I believe many of the best things in life are indeed free: The splendour of a sunrise, the rapture of wide open spaces, the exhilarating sight of your land greening each spring.

I believe that true happiness comes from watching your crops ripen in the field, your children grow tall in the sun, your whole family feel the pride that brings from the shared experience.

I believe that by my toil I am giving more to the world that I am taking from it, an honor that does not come to all men.

I believe my life will be measured ultimately by what I have done for my fellow man, and by this standard I fear no judgements.

I believe when a man grows old and sums up his days he should be able to stand tall and feel pride in the life he's lived.

I believe in farming because it makes all this possible.

Seeking assistance is smart farming

The State Government announced last month a further \$6 million in drought assistance to continue the Planning for Recovery program.

This will give grants of up to \$4,000 for farmers to development business plans and \$10,000 to make on-farm changes.

These extra funds mean we as farmers have the chance to make real on-farm changes, and prepare strategically for what may be another tough season ahead.

Its risky business farming and



the government can only do so much, which is why we need to take advantage of what assistance is out there and up-skill as much as possible to prepare for the challenges ahead.

I encourage all members to make the most of what's offered– make an appointment and plan for recovery, succession or whatever approach is needed for you and your family this year.

Now is not the time to give up but to take time to invest in yourself and your business.

Go to the free workshops, field days and planning sessions. The more you learn and up-skill the more resilient and adaptable your business will be.

The ABA is currently running free workshops for members to manage climate variability at a regional level, and I urge you to get along.

You will be taught how to understand the risks and tradeoffs of different strategies and utilise available seasonal indicators and tools.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mark Dennis".

ABA workshops helping farmers to plan ahead for climate risks

Farmers have started planning ahead for the impacts of climate variability with the help of the Advisory Board of Agriculture.

Over the past two months, more than 120 people have attended the ABA's climate variability workshops in Victor Harbor, Monarto, Naracoorte and Mallala.

Project Coordinator, Craig Liddicoat from Rural Solutions SA says the workshops have so far proven successful in getting participants to start thinking about managing climate risks.

"Many participants have found the workshops useful by learning how to use climate tools and information and then apply it to their own circumstances," he said.

"As part of the session, presenters from CSIRO and SARDI share their expertise on climate drivers, projections and seasonal outlook tools.

"All the attendees then discuss what they think the key climate

issues in the region are and what short and long-term strategies need to be implemented."

Further workshops

Piednippie (Western Eyre Peninsula) - Wed 4 Mar

Kimba - Thurs 5 Mar

Wharminda - Fri 6 Mar

Crystal Brook - Wed 11 Mar

Bute - Thurs 12 Mar

Parilla - Wed 18 Mar

Karoonda - Thurs 19 Mar

Coonalpyn - Wed 25 Mar

Padthaway - Thurs 26 Mar

Yorketown - Wed 1 Apr

Eudunda - Fri 3 Apr

Farmers interested in attending need to RSVP by registering at www.ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au/training_info/workshops or by



Rural Solutions SA's Barry Mudge explaining the use of risk profiles at a recent workshop

calling (08) 8821 1555.

The workshops are being funded by the Australian Government National Landcare Programme - Sustainable Practices Grant.

Our People - Our Board

An avid horseman, trumpet enthusiast and tennis player, Vic Walter, 63, has been the Fleurieu/Murray Plains representative on the Advisory Board of Agriculture for four years.

Over the years, Vic along with his family has run a stud sheep and dairy farm but now concentrates on commercial beef in Willow Creek, Southern Fleurieu Peninsula.

A member of the Parawa Agricultural Bureau for more than 40 years, Vic says being on the Board is a great experience, enabling him to learn a lot about other primary industries in the state.

"I've met some fantastic people from industry and government, and have gained great insight into many agriculture issues," he said.

Vic loves to share his knowledge of farming and up until this year also ran a tourism 'farm camp' on

his property. The camp, which had been running for 30 years accommodated up to 50 people. This included mostly school children who would travel from across South Australia to learn about what life's like on the farm.

A dedicated CFS volunteer for over 40 years, Vic's also passionate about conserving his land and ensuring the environment is protected for future farming generations.

"I believe it's important that all farmers look after their land and natural resources," he said.

"We've been fencing off swamps and creeks and planting revegetation, because as farmers we need to take responsibility and ensure our farming practices don't degrade the natural waterways."

Vic will be hosting this year's Advisory Board of Agriculture's Annual General Meeting on the 17 and 18 August at Victor Harbour.

He says he's looking forward to the challenge and showing other Board



members the sights of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

"The AGM give us the chance to really focus on our priorities as a board and strategies for the year ahead," he said.

The meeting will also include a tour of the agricultural areas in the region and a formal AGM dinner.

Low cost soil phosphorous testing kits prove popular

The Advisory Board of Agriculture's low cost soil phosphorous testing kits have once again been high in demand this year.

More than 130 kits have already been dispatched, since the ABA announced that they would once again subsidise the kits for Bureau members for 2009.

ABA Chair, Mark Dennis, says its crucial farmers are aware of their soil phosphorous levels before seeding, which is why the Board decided to support the initiative.

"We ran the same deal last year with great success," he said.

"With the high cost of many phosphorus based fertilisers, this year was even more important for our members to carefully manage their fertiliser inputs.

"By using the kits to test their soil before deciding on fertiliser inputs, members will not only save money but also better

manage the quality and nutrition of their soils."

The tests provide an indication of the amount of phosphorus available to the plant. Adequate levels are generally between 20-30 mg/kg of available soil phosphorus depending on soil type and crop grown.

Since the program was launched in December, 48 members from across the state have ordered over 136 soil kits.

Daryl Koch from Kimba is one member who has continued his soil testing this year in preparation for sowing 700ha of wheat.

He says that phosphorus testing



Ag Bureau President, Mark Dennis picking up his P-soil testing kit from Rural Solutions SA's Mary Crawford

allows him to identify which areas of his property require more fertilisers.

"I can adjust my fertiliser plan to ensure there's sufficient phosphorous on more productive areas of the property and then reduce the inputs for the less productive areas."

Cost of Production tool under development

The ABA's cost of production tool has received positive feedback since its launch in October last year.

Developed by ABA members Richard Murdoch and Jeanette Ridgeway, the electronic spreadsheet enables grain farmers to enter their cost of production figures, and automatically calculate their target net farm gate price.

In less than 10 minutes farmers can get a quick and timely snapshot of business costs and what needs to be achieved to make a profit or to cover costs. Long-term goals can also be determined by using five year yield averages.

"The challenge of grain marketing can be daunting at times," Mr Murdoch said.

"But the feedback we've received is that CoP tool can help growers to quickly identify their price indicator to be profitable.

"We've received some great feedback, and we're obviously very pleased with our first efforts. One thing for sure is that no one price fits all."

Mr Murdoch says that they now plan on modifying the tool to take into account different commodities and make it even more user-friendly.

"We've thrown around the idea of maybe developing the tool into a portable calculator or even a CD, and are now working on these ideas," he said.

If members still want to get a copy of the tool they can call the ABA on 1800 652 258.

NLIS tagging

As of 1 January 2009 all sheep and lambs regardless of their age must be tagged with an approved NLIS ear tag when being moved to a property with a different Property Identification Code.

This includes animals being sold privately or through a saleyard, animals going for slaughter or being moved for agistment.

Animals bred on the property can be tagged with any colour ear tags, except pink, so long as it is an approved NLIS tag and has their PIC printed on it. If sheep were not born on the property and do not already have an NLIS ear tag, producers need to apply a pink post-breeder tag, indicating that the animals were not born on that property.

Producers requiring more information about the end of the exemptions or anything relating to the NLIS-Sheep should contact the PIRSA NLIS helpline on 1800 654 688.

Combating soil constraints and building healthy soils

A new Agricultural Bureau project will provide farmers with the know-how on combating costly soil issues.

The \$499,500 project, to be managed by Rural Solutions SA, will demonstrate to farmers how they can best manage their soils through the adoption of new soil management techniques and technologies.

The project is supported by the Advisory Board of Agriculture, Southern Mallee Agricultural Bureau and McKillop Farm Management Group, with funding from the Australian Government National Landcare Programme - Sustainable Practices Grant.

ABA Chair, Mark Dennis, says the two-year project will include the establishment of demonstration field sites in the Eyre Peninsula, mid South East, Murray Mallee and Northern and Yorke agricultural districts.

It will also include field days

held throughout the state, where soil management issues will be discussed, along with demonstrations on various soil amelioration techniques, including clayspreading and delving.

"This project will give farmers the confidence to better manage their soil," Mr Dennis said.

"It will give them the tools and know how to find out what's best for them and see it in action before reaching into their own pockets to implement it on-farm.

"Currently farmers can spend up to \$200 per hectare to conduct their own trials, and still they have no guarantees that it will work.

"This is about empowering land managers to build healthier, more robust soils through the innovative management of soil constraints."

The types of soil constraints the project is aimed at addressing include water repellent sands, bleached sand layers, sub soil compaction and restricted rooting



depth due to sodic subsoils.

The 'Building resilient farming systems in South Australia through improved knowledge and innovative management of soil constraints' is also supported by the Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

Precision agriculture offers promising results

The Advisory Board of Agriculture's Precision Agriculture project has indicated that it is possible for farmers to reduce their costs and still maximise their incomes.

The three-year project funded by the National Landcare Program and carried out by Rural Solutions SA's Craig Bell involved more than 12 demonstration paddocks in the Upper South East and Murray Mallee regions.

All sites were EM 38 surveyed and ground tested with soil samples. The data was then entered into a software program to create management zones within paddocks to account for paddock variation.

Project Coordinator, David Creeper from Rural Solutions SA says one of the aims of the project was to demonstrate the importance of combining EM 38 surveys and soil

sampling to establish soil potential zones.

"By using these soil potential zones to match crop variety, seeding and fertiliser rates using variable rate technology, we were able to demonstrate that gross margins can be optimised for each zone," he said.

"While final analysis of all properties trialled is still to be carried out, it is clear that there can be significant yield differences between the different soil type zones."

Paul and Theo Kaesler's Loxton property was one of the properties involved in the trials.

"Overall the Kaesler's saved about \$16.89 per hectare by using precision agriculture technology," Mr Creeper said.

"The trial indicated there were no significance in yields between flat rate and variable rate technology,



L-R: Loxton farmers Paul and Theo Kaesler who took part in the trials

but the savings were found in reduced fertiliser inputs over the zones."

Paul Kaesler said both he and Theo were very pleased with the results.

"If zoning our paddocks can reduce our fertiliser costs and improve our yields in a very dry year, we look forward to even better margins in a normal or above average year," Mr Kaesler said.

More information: David Creeper, 83898826 or 0429 118075.

Branch Briefs - latest info from across the network

Mil Lel:

Held their annual Family Social Evening with 46 people attending for BBQ tea and hear guest speaker (previous local resident) Tom Braun speak. He discussed his experience of twelve months working for multi national company Pacific Seeds on Ord River Scheme WA as part of his study course at Marcus Oldham College, Victoria.

Upper South East:

Bureau groups about to start meeting again for 2009. The Harvest Report meeting is on 11 March at Wolseley, in conjunction with the MFMG, Precision Ag 'Yield Mapping' project presentation.

Lochaber:

Members attended MacKillop Farm Management Group Field Days at Frances and Wirrega to observe those crops surviving and producing best results with minimal amounts of rainfall. Several members also attended the Struan Open Studmasters Day to hear speakers from AWI - MLA and CRC present their five to 10 year Plan - Wool Sheep/Meat



The Mallala 'Cockies Choir' in full voice at the local carols night

Sheep Research- Lamb Plan/Wool Plan and uniform benchmarking. Information on the new 1 - 5 rating system for plain breech / wool colour was presented.

Longwood:

New Branch President, Malcolm Hale, presented an engraved plaque to outgoing President, Ray Allen in recognition of his many

years of service. Ray has been a member of the Branch for 58 years and President for a total of 28 years

Mallala:

Bureau was again in fine voice at a recent weekend performance by 'The Cockies Choir' at the local carols night in December and further performance at the local hospital.

Board Bis

February meeting

The Advisory Board of Agriculture met on 3 and 4 February. ABA/ Bureau projects were a main focus of the meeting. Rural Solutions SA's Dave Davenport provided an update on the Risk Management Project. David Creeper and Richard Saunders, also from Rural Solutions SA, addressed the Board on the Precision Ag project. While the Board also discussed looking at other opportunities to develop new projects and apply for additional federal project funds.

Working groups met on 4 February. The Promotional Group discussed the development of a sponsorship program for the ABA and Bureau, which was endorsed by the Board.

The Innovation and Adoption of

Best Practice Group discussed further development of the Cost of Production tool. This was endorsed by the Board, along with support for the Arno Bay Branch Bureau Bus Trip, BOAB Grow Organic SA and the Kangaroo Island Branch's Micro-climate mapping: educating KI farmers.

While the Achieving an Informed and Supportive Government Group discussed submitting a response to the productivity commission on behalf of the ABA and attending NRM strategic plan meetings to ensure the interests of the Bureau was represented.

ABA members update

There are nine Board members whose terms expire in August 2009. They include Shirley Pledge (Kangaroo Island), Peter Rose (Murraylands), Philip Wheaton

(Far West Coast/Central EP), Allen Meissner (Adelaide Hills), Trevor Wilksch (Barossa), Mark Dennis (Lower EP), Vic Walter (Fleurieu/ Murray Plains), Richard Konzag (Lower North) and Janette Ridgway (Upper SE).

Letters and nomination forms will be sent to Branches in these regions for return to head office by the end of April. Branches are encouraged to liaise with their ABA member rep to ensure the continuity of their regional representation.

Annual General Meeting

This year's Advisory Board of Agriculture's AGM will be hosted by Board member Vic Walters and held in Victor Harbor on 17 and 18 August. The meeting will also include a tour of the agricultural areas in the region and a formal AGM dinner, with guest speaker.

Weather Watch

According to the latest Bureau of Meteorology's Seasonal Climate Outlook, pastoral districts of South Australia should expect a moderate shift towards wetter than average conditions over the next three months (February to April).

However, over the remainder of southeastern Australia the outlook shows no strong bias towards either wetter or drier conditions.

Over the pastoral districts of South Australia, the chances of totals exceeding the 3-month median rainfall are around 60%.

The Bureau's climate outlook for February to April states cooler days are more likely in northwestern SA, where the odds are around 40% of exceeding the median maximum temperature for the February to April period.

However, over the remainder of the southeastern region, the outlook shows no strong bias towards either warmer or cooler conditions, which means that the chances of day time temperatures being warmer than normal are about the same as the chances of being cooler.

The odds for average overnight temperatures exceeding the median over February to April is between 30 and 40% in northern NSW and the far northeast of SA

For further information visit www.bom.gov.au

Calendar of Events:
Reminder to all Branches to please advise Anne Madden or Sam Johnson about forthcoming events so they can be included on the website, in Primary Interest and Board Bis. Let other branches know what you are doing and the issues facing your area.

Managing livestock over summer

Successful management of livestock over summer and autumn involves following a prepared management plan.

This ensures the best outcome for livestock, land condition and water supplies. This plan should have been prepared at the end of last season. For many farmers this has involved the use of stock containment areas.

Where livestock have open access to paddocks - feed, cover levels and water supplies can come under considerable stress at this time of year.

To prevent this from occurring, moving stock to a suitable



containment area can be an appropriate strategy. .

This will enable pastures to get the best possible start when the season breaks, and reduce the risk of soil erosion.

Further information visit www.pir.sa.gov.au/pirsa/drought.

Upcoming Ag Bureau Events

2 March/6 April (date dependent on vintage)

Ag Bureau – Light Pass Branch
Topic - discussion night
Wesley John, Secretary,
0439 293 352

3 March

Ag Bureau – Angaston Branch
Topic - Penrice Soda Quarries
Mark Grossman, Secretary,
0408 085 682

7 March

Ag Bureau – Koonunga Branch
Vineyard Walk,
Ian Craig, Secretary, 8566 2427

9 March

Ag Bureau – Lone Pine Tanunda Branch
Tanunda Show
Jeffrey Rosenzweig, Secretary,
8562 3541

12 March

Ag Bureau – Mt. Barker Branch
David Skey to talk on tractor & machinery maintenance
Alan Vickers, Secretary,
0438 602 079

17 March

Ag Bureau – Mallala Branch
Topic - Chemical analysis: Boxer Gold, Precept, Balance, Torpedo
David Cawrse, Secretary, 8525 4066

1 April

Ag Bureau – Koonunga Branch
Topic - Tracey Becker, Canada
Ian Craig, Secretary, 8566 2427

2 April

Ag Bureau – Mt. Barker Branch
Geoff Redden to speak on Gorse control, animal husbandry & John's disease. Natalie Watkins to report on ph soil testing.
Alan Vickers, Secretary,
0438 602 079

3 April

Ag Bureau – Mallala Branch
Bus Trip, David Cawrse, Secretary,
8525 4066

7 April

Ag Bureau – Angaston Branch
Sticky Beak Night
Mark Grossman, Secretary
0408 085 682

13 April

Ag Bureau – Rowland Flat Branch
Topic - Spray application
Barry Scheer, Secretary, 8524 4932

18 April

Ag Bureau – Koonunga Branch
Vintage Festival Float
Ian Craig, Secretary, 8566 2427

Bridging the Gap - latest science news from Adelaide University

Science and technology plays a huge part in the development of new farming systems.

New innovations and the development of more efficient ways of farming enable the agricultural industry to grow and remain a competitive force in global markets.

That's why the Agricultural Bureau of SA has developed a strong affiliation with scientists and agronomists and feed back their developments to members in easy to understand ways.

This new column will be the first of many, as the Bureau continues to help bridge the gap between scientist and farmer.

It showcases the latest in research and development from the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy and Waite Campuses.

Sheep research from Adelaide University's Roseworthy Campus

Biological defleecing

This project has identified a compound that creates a weakened zone in the staples



which remain on the animal until harvesting several weeks later. The animal is then protected from the elements while the new fleece grows out. They are now working with engineers to develop a mechanical harvesting machine and wool transport vacuum system.

Wool colour

Is looking at why some sheep are more susceptible to wool yellowing and fading. The aim is to find out what causes the yellowing and how you can select sheep less susceptible to the problems.

Barebrech genetics

The discovery of a barebrech ram at Cowell has shown that mules-free Merinos can be bred without losing wool quality or quantity. Project is continuing to study barebrech genetics to fast-track its adoption.

Surgical mulesing

A student is studying the value of Trisolfen and another pain-relieving compound for mulesed lambs. If the new compound is effective, it may be developed for commercial use.

Updates

EC extended for most parts of SA

The Federal Government has extended drought assistance to more than a dozen regions across South Australia.

Areas extended to 31 March 2010 include Central and Eastern Mount Lofty, Central Eyre Peninsula, Clare, Light and Barossa, Fleurieu Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Mid-North, Murray-Mallee, River Murray and Lower Lakes Corridor, Upper North District, Upper South East, Western Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula.

The Lower South East will however not continue to receive

EC support past 31 March 2009. The Federal Government made the decision after acting on advice from the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC), which assessed EC areas late last year.

Drought affected farm and farm dependant small businesses in this region however may be eligible for transitional income support to 30 June 2009. They are urged to contact Centrelink for more information.

FarmReady grants

Farmers, industry and resource management groups can now apply for up to \$1500 to attend approved training courses as well as receive support in developing strategies that will assist them to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Funds cover course costs, as well as associated reasonable travel, childcare and accommodation expenses.

For more information visit www.daff.gov.au/farmingfuture

Preventing soil erosion

Maintaining soil surface cover is important for managing soil erosion.

To help Bureau members find out what surface cover levels are required to adequately protect their land, the latest information from the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation's Fact Sheet is available on the Bureau website: www.agbureau.com.au/general_information.

WAB News

Following the successful establishment of three new branches at Keith, Pinnaroo and on-line, the Women in Agriculture and Business group is looking to expand further in 2009.

The first step will be a meeting to discuss re-forming the Adelaide WAB branch, which first opened in 1948.

The branch attracted women who had moved to the city through retirement or for work. They met monthly at various locations and ran a full program of informative speakers, educational workshops and tours. The branch closed in June 2004.

Women with a rural background or an interest in rural life are invited to indicate their interest in an Adelaide based branch by contacting WAB administration officer, Meg Partridge on 8226 0250 or Adair Dunsford 8756 7037.

Information evenings will also be held at Meningie and possibly in the Barossa early this year in a further effort to establish new branches.

WAB State Publicity Officer, Adair Dunsford, says the new rural branches represent the generational change that is taking place in some districts and the real need for women to have good networks for information and friendship in difficult farm



L-R: Michelle Hill, Loxton North; WAB South East Councillor Jan Boord and former WAB member and Loxton resident Maureen Heinrich

business environments.

“Membership fees have been set at \$25 annually from July 1, which is a real bargain,” she said.

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.

Your ABA regional representatives

Chairman

Mark Dennis (Lower Eyre Peninsula)
8684 4250
0428 844 250

Deputy Chairman

Neville Ferme (Upper North)
8636 5016
0409 365 016

Treasurer

Heather Baldock (Eastern Eyre Peninsula)
8627 4056
0428 101 416

Richard Konzag (Lower North)

8527 2077
0417 830 406

Philip Wheaton (Far West Coast /

Central Eyre Peninsula)
8626 1301
0428 261 301

Shirley Pledge (Kangaroo Island)

8559 4215
0427 041 787

Peter Rose (Murraylands)

8578 9049

Trevor Wilksch (Barossa Valley)

8524 5344
0417 391 124

Vic Walter (Fleurieu / Murray Plains)

8598 5335
0438 011 200

Allen Meissner (Adelaide Hills)

8388 3378

Tony Loffler (Riverland)

8584 9083

Richard Murdoch (Yorke Peninsula / Hummocks)

8854 5115
0419 842 419

Janette Ridgway (Upper South East)

8753 2338
0427 532 338

Yvonne Correll (Mid and Lower South East)

8765 8065
0438 273 264

Helen Colliver (WAB rep)

8835 1252