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100 Year Anniversary PS
Marion



Wombat near Sedan

Working Together

Volume 42

WINTER EDITION 2015

A helping hand for farmers in fight against pest animals

Embargoed until 9am, 4 May 2015

Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) Inc and Primary Producers SA *A helping hand for farmers in fight against pest animals*

South Australian farmers will have an extra tool in the fight against pest animals through an innovative and successful program that has gained the support of Primary Producers SA (PPSA). The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) Farmer Assist program will provide landholders access to a database of qualified SSAA members with program-accredited shooting skills to assist with on-property pest animal control.

SSAA Farmer Assist Coordinator Matt Godson said the online tool was developed to provide farmers with a free, simple and fast service for

dealing with problem wildlife. "We have worked closely with farmers to develop a tool which is both useful and practical and after a successful trial in Queensland, we are now preparing to help more farmers across a number of other states," he said. SSAA SA President David Handyside said the program is an extension of conservation and wildlife management services that members have been providing to the community for many years.

"SSAA members have assisted the State Government with pest control on public lands and in some National Parks for over 20 years, with this program now in place to assist individual landholders," he said. Primary Producers SA Executive Chairman Rob Kerin said the SSAA Farmer Assist program was a responsible form of pest control that would help reduce the damage pest animals cause to many of the state's rural businesses.

"All six commodity members of the PPSA believe that their members could benefit from this program at times, depending on the particular pest animals or pest birds that need to be controlled," Mr Kerin said.

All SSAA members participating in this program have achieved a proficient standard of marksmanship and will adhere to a strict code of practice that takes legislative requirements and animal welfare into account.

See www.farmerassist.com.au for more details.

Contacts:
Matt Godson, SSAA Farmer Assist Coordinator, 0448 887 079
Rob Kerin, Primary Producers SA, 0439 933 103
David Handyside, SSAA SA President, 0418 820 470

WomSAT

WomSAT (Wombat Survey and Analysis Tools) is a new, online mapping project where anybody can record when and where they see wombats or their burrows!

This project has been developed by UWS so that we can learn more about wombat populations across Australia. Individuals can record the loca-

tion of a wombat and in doing so report the wombat's status (alive or dead), level of mange and any other circumstances surrounding the sighting.

Through the WomSAT project we hope to learn more about wombats so that we can aid their conservation. WomSAT has potential as a long term wildlife monitoring tool for

wombats. Data provided to WomSAT will help teach us more about factors affecting wombats and help identify disease and roadkill hotspots. WomSAT will also help to raise the profile of this iconic native marsupial within the Australian community.

We invite you to explore the *Continued on page 2.....*

WomSAT *continued*

‘...teach us more about factors affecting wombats and help identify disease and roadkill hotspots.’

WomSAT website (womsat.org.au) and participate in this project. If you have any further questions, please contact Candice Skelton C.Skelton@uws.edu.au WomSAT Project Coordinator or Associate Professor Julie Old (j.old@uws.edu.au). Want to become a wombat warrior? Register at womsat.org.au Follow us on facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WombatSurveyandAnalysisTools>

Twitter: @WomSAT
Instagram: WomSAT

Any questions? Contact

womsat@outlook.com



Wombat burrow



Nancy Fahey and Greg Kirk enjoying a cruise on the Marion see article page 3

Marginal to Mainstream—*Dr Elisa Sparrow*

‘...practical methods of grazing and grassy understorey management... tools improve pasture productivity.’

The Marginal to Mainstream project is designed to rejuvenate degraded pastures and improve their productive capacity. The project is supported by the South Australian Murray–Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board, through funding from the Australian Government. The project will be conducted in declining grazing country in the SA Murray–Darling Basin region, predominantly within the Ranges to River District.

The aims of the project are to:

1. Demonstrate practical methods of grazing and grassy understorey management.
2. Provide land managers with tools/information to improve pasture productivity.
3. Improve the productivity and natural resource base.
4. Increase soil stability, pastoral resilience and biodiversity.

Natural Resources SAMDB has teamed up with landhold-

ers, and the community, to find relevant management



tools for grazing properties within the region. Demonstration sites will be set-up to showcase the improvement of perennial pastures when man-

Marginal to Mainstream *continued*

‘..measuring the influence of fire, chemical control, disturbance, direct seeding and kangaroos on native grass growth.’

agement tools such as rotational grazing regimes, disturbance, chemical control, fire, and direct seeding area used. Field days will be held throughout the year and everyone is welcome to attend.

Demonstration Sites

1. Mt Mary: wards weed management through grazing
2. Keyneton: cost of infrastructure to reduce paddock size versus the productivity gains from doing so

3. Tungkillo: economics of alternate feed sources during summer and determining “when to feed”

4. Cambrai: pasture cropping
5. Conservation Parks in the Mallee: measuring the influence of fire, chemical control, disturbance, direct seeding and kangaroos on native grass growth
6. Truro: chemical versus grazing management in controlling saffron thistle
7. Finnis and Kyeema: pasture cropping and pulse grazing

8. Multiple sites: how much does a southern hairy-nosed wombat eat compared to a sheep, roo and rabbit? For more information on the project contact Elisa Sparrow (elisa.sparrow@sa.gov.au or 8532 9157 or 0428 861 613)

The Mid Murray Local Action Planning Committee Inc. has been supporting a component of the Natural Resources SA MDB ‘Marginal to Mainstream’ project *Continued page 3.....*

100 Year Anniversary by Nancy Fahey

ONE HUNDRED YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE LOCK ONE BLANCHE-TOWN

On Friday 5th June, I attended the commemoration ceremony with my friend Greg Kirk. It would have to be one of the most memorable days that I have experienced. Greg whose family has a long history on the Murray and had a great uncle who took part in the building of Lock one. It was an honour to participate in such a significant event

attended by around 6-700 people. In today's terminology it would be described as 'Nation Building'. Blanchetown can be very proud of this significant event and the rich history of the town. We must appreciate the sheer hard work of building of the lock that was endured and the many hardships for the people of that era for both those working on the lock and their families. During the period from when the project started to completion, many setbacks

were endured from several floods and other difficulties. To see the Marion under full steam with people dressed in Period Costume travelling upstream and docking in the lock as was in 1915 for the laying of the Foundation Stone was a sight to behold. She remained in the dock for the whole of the event. The school children of Blanchetown played a significant role in the re enactment. A large display of memorabilia and photos of the era were on

'... Marion under full steam with people dressed in Period Costume ..in 1915...laying of the Foundation Stone..'

100 Year Anniversary *continued*

display in the marquee. The Barossa Band played on the lawn area and added to the atmosphere. There were many people of significance including, Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess, Councillors, a representative from the Murray Darling Basin, Federal Member for Barker Tony Pasin and the State Member for Water and the Environment Ian Hunter who conducted the unveiling of the

100 year plaque. Helen Stagg launched her excellent book, *Harnessing the River Murray* stories of the people who built the Locks 1 to 9, 1915-1938. The book 4 years in the making and 270 pages is a very comprehensive detail of that era. It was a proud day for the people of Blanchetown that despite now considered a small town for some to understand that this was the beginning of what was a huge envi-

ronmental achievement and is now cemented in the history books. Following the formalities a free BBQ lunch was enjoyed by all. We then departed upstream on the Marion for a one hour cruise on what turned out to be a perfect day to enjoy our beautiful River. Thanks must go to SA Water and the wonderful volunteers on the Marion and the lock keepers for such a memorable day.

'It was a proud day for the people of Blanchetown... now cemented in the history books.'

Marginal to Mainstream *continued*

run by Dr Elisa Sparrow. This project is exploring the concept of pasture cropping. Pasture cropping is a technique developed by Colin Seis and Daryl Cluff in 1993 which involves sowing crops into living perennial pastures and growing them symbiotically. In a mixed farm enterprise it seeks to combine cropping and grazing into one land management method where each one benefits the other. This type of farming avoids the need for all vegetation to be

killed prior to sowing, groundcover is maintained at all times so that erosion by wind and water is avoided, soil structure is not destroyed by cultivation and chemical input. 'No till' cropping, also minimises soil disturbance, often with direct drilling of seed, however it is not performed in combination with a perennial pasture, but more usually into the stubble of previous crops. Sowing a crop using the pasture cropping method also stimulates perennial grass

seedlings to grow in numbers and diversity. This then produces more stock feed after the crop is harvested and totally eliminates the need to re-sow pastures (Source: Case Study 12- Winona NSW www.soilsforlife.org.au).



Perennial grasses

'..soil structure is not destroyed by cultivation and chemical input.'

MID MURRAY LAP

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Peter Graves
Indigenous Advisor:
Isobelle Campbell

This newsletter is printed on
100% recycled paper,
Protecting our Trees and
Environment



Workshops and Friends Group

The Mid Murray LAP and Mapping Services SA will hold a GPS use and Mapping workshop in Cambrai on the 28th of July. This workshop is useful for landholders to learn simple mapping techniques to help manage their properties. To register your interest or for more information contact Aimee Linke 0427 590 344 or midlap@internode.on.net

The Cambrai Community Nursery holds a working bee on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. It is a great opportunity to learn simple propagating techniques and spend a few hours with like minded people. The local landholders and others enjoy catching up sharing some morning tea. For more information contact Irene Bugeja 8564 6034 or cambrai_nursery@internode.on.net

The Friends of Meldanda hold a working bee on the first Friday of each month at Meldanda when we plant trees, spread mulch and maintain the Community Bushgarden. It is a great community project to be involved with in Cambrai. For more details please ring Sally Gethin-Jones on 8565 2205

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Return to:
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PO Box 10
CAMBRAI SA 5353
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Email: midlap@internode.on.net

Name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....

Upcoming Events

Landcare Association of SA
and Riverland West Landcare

2015
State Community
Landcare
Conference

September 14-16 Waikerie
South Australia

www.landcaresa.asn.au

Grassland Society of Southern
Australia Inc.

2015 GSSA
Annual
Conference

July 22-23 Naracoorte
South Australia

t.prance@bigpond.net.au

Murray Mallee Local Action
Planning Committee Inc.

2015 Biochar
Farming
Demonstration Day

August 2015 date to be
Confirmed

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