



Fleurieu Beef Group Inc. Annual report 2022

Incorporated May 31st 2000

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FRONT COVER: 25th Anniversary Celebrations: the Honorable David Basham MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (front center) together with FBG members and friends celebrating and enjoying the Group's achievement of 25 years of continuous operation.

A Brief History

In 1995 local agricultural service providers Tim Prance and Simon Ellis were commissioned to run a new course called “Prograze”; an eight session program delivered over several months and addressing the issues of pasture quality and quantity, together with animal requirements and performance. This program was delivered as a pilot course to two groups of livestock farmers; one situated on the western side of the Mt. Lofty Ranges, in Mt. Compass area and the other on the eastern side of the ranges, centered in the Port Elliot Mt. Jagged area. The Mt. Compass group comprised mainly cattle producers, whilst the other was a more diverse group in which there were both sheep and cattle producers.

At the conclusion of the Prograze course, the Mt. Compass group resolved to continue meeting through 1996 under the name “Mt. Compass Beef Discussion Group” Cattle producers from the Port Elliot Mt. Jagged area were invited to attend and thus in “Embryonic” form of the Fleurieu Beef Group was began. At a meeting on the 17th December 1996 the records show members in attendance : Margaret Sweeney, Elaine Trevilyan, Susie Gillies, Ian Gillies, Richard Lawrence, Geoff Davis, Mark Higgins, Rory Fitzpatrick, Brian Sinkinson, Kevin Young, Richard Willson, Adrian Burton, with Tim Prance, Mike Boerema, Doug McLaren, Brian Codd, Neil Arthur recorded as apologies.

At the end of 1996 a name change for the group was suggested in order to better reflect the wide spread of producer’s properties over the Fleurieu Peninsula. Thus early in 1997 the Fleurieu Beef Group was born, with Geoff Davis as Chairman and Adrian Burton as Secretary -Treasurer. Meetings were held in the mornings of the third Tuesday’s of each month and this pattern has continued to this day.

The inaugural chairman Geoff Davis held the office until his retirement in December 2009, whilst the offices of secretary and treasurer were held at various times by Adrian Burton, Althea Grove, Richard Willson and Michelle Sinkinson. Barb Voysey was appointed to the secretary-treasurer office in December 2001 and continued for sixteen years, retiring in 2017. The vice chairman office, held by Rory Fitzpatrick till December 2009, when he was appointed chairman and upon his retirement in December 2014, Geoff Bowles was appointed to this office, retiring in December

2017. Mark Higgins followed on and remains chairman to the present day. Melissa Rebbeck retired from the Secretary office in December 2021, after four valuable years of service.

In addition to monthly meetings, farm walks, guest speakers, various tours and farm training courses, the Group has always had a strong research and development arm. In 1998 a four year trial “Tools for Grazing Strategies” was launched at “Kimberly Park” Yundi, the home of Richard and Di Willson. The trial investigated the effects on pasture production and profit from various fertiliser applications and stocking rates as compared to the district average of both.

The years 2000 -2008 saw many significant funded projects undertaken which resulted in important outcomes on member’s properties and also on the whole Fleurieu Peninsula. Partnerships with Creation Care and Dung Beetle Solutions International saw the Group complete \$540K of funded projects for dung beetle establishment, and environmental works addressing fencing, revegetation and erosion control. Success was such that the beetle *Bubas bison*, which was first released onto member’s properties, is now considered established over the whole Peninsula. The publication “Identifying Dung Beetles on the Fleurieu Peninsula” was also produced in 2003.

In addition to the partnerships mentioned above, the Group has maintained strong links with the Mt. Compass School, The University of Adelaide Roseworthy Campus and both the Natural Resource Management Boards in our region. In recent times we have also forged close links with Climate and Agricultural Support and Fleurieu Farming Systems. In 2019 the Fleurieu Beef Group Inc. website was launched: <https://www.fleurieubeefgroup.com/>



Contingent of FBG members attending the April 2022 AgTec Field Day at “Burnt Oak”

Vision, Mission, Objectives and Purpose

Vision Statement *

To be the first port of call for beef producers on the Fleurieu Peninsula to create sustainable, premium beef products for future world markets.

Mission Statement *

To equip members of the Fleurieu Beef group to contribute to the local, state and national economies, through the production and sale of high quality beef products, on farms exemplifying health of the land, the livestock and the people.

Objectives and Purpose (as per Constitution 2015)

- To identify and utilise methods of improving productivity of pastures.
- To identify and utilise cost effective control of pests and weeds.
- To promote effective pasture utilisation and optimisation of pasture nutrition.
- To identify and utilise methods of improving farm profitability.
- To promote improved farm property management and sustainable grazing systems.
- To encourage and promote the use of on farm quality assurance.
- To solicit aid from various statutory or sponsorship bodies for projects to benefit sustainability of farm practices.
- To facilitate co operation with various statutory bodies and sponsorship groups who may give support to the Group for various programs or projects or trials.
- To educate and inform members of the community through informative meetings, seminars or field days.

(*) *subject for review*

Officers and Members

Officers

Mark Higgins - *Chairman*

Cherry Macklin - *Vice Chairman and Program Secretary*

Tom Cosentino - *Secretary*

David Macklin - *Treasurer*

Life Members

Geoff Davis

Barb Voysey

Tim Prance

Mark Higgins

20 Year Members

Geoff Bowles

Richard Lawrence ●

Mark Higgins ●

Tim Prance ●

Austin Johnson †

Terry Sweetman ●

Richard Willing

Richard Wilson ●

(●) Foundation Member
(†) Deceased

Members

Tom Adams

Jason Patullo

Melissa Rebbeck

David Ambrose

Peter Read

Michelle Yip *

Bradley Arthur

Stephen Rogers

Bennet Stanes *

Geoff Bowles

Peter Rumbold

Lilly Culberts *

Alistair Coles

Andrew Robinson

Bryan Gill *

David Dawes

Stephen Schmitz

John Humphrey *

Keith Fryer

Rory Simpson

John Kirkham *

Janet Furler

Robin Smith

Matilda Simpson *

Philip Jacques

Geoff Stuckey

Andrew Ewers *

Richard Lawrence

Terry Sweetman

Brian Lange *

Nan Mann

Matthew Viney

(*) New Member

John McEvoy

Richard Willing

Sandy Nott

Richard Willson



TIM PRANCE RECEIVES LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD FROM CHAIRMAN MARK HIGGINS.



CHAIRMAN MARK HIGGINS PRESENTS 20 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE TO AUSTIN JOHNSON †



DAVID GREENHOUGH (CHAIR HILLS & FLEURIEU LANDSCAPE BOARD) PRESENTS 20 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES TO TIM PRANCE, MARK HIGGINS, RICHARD WILLING, RICHARD LAWRENCE, TERRY SWEETMAN, RICHARD WILLSON. (LEFT TO RIGHT)

GEOFF BOWLES AND AUSTIN JOHNSON ABSENT.

Fleurieu Beef Group Inc.

Chairman Report

Welcome all members and guests to the 2022 AGM, which also celebrates the 26th anniversary of the Fleurieu Beef Group. Thank you to our hosts, Tom and Amy Cosentino, who have continued the tradition of a venue which provides an atmosphere in which we can all relax and enjoy the evening.

The executive committee has met twice this year, on 28th of January and on the 11th of November; both meetings being attended by all, enabling efficient working through of the Beef Group business. Life member and rural consultant, Tim Prance joined us for the January meeting and this was of great benefit in planning the remaining AgTec project activities; especially the South East trip to Struan in March. Tom Cosentino, who was appointed Secretary of the Group just twelve months ago, has proved a pleasure to work with at all times, bringing to the role energy and enthusiasm. Cherry and David Macklin are solid “Pillars” of the Group; bringing experience, wisdom and humor, which have all contributed to the joy of serving FBG as Chairman. It is noteworthy that next year will mark Cherry’s twentieth year of membership.

Others of the membership, who it is my pleasure to thank & point out for their service through 2022

- Richard Lawrence and Robin Smith who kindly recorded the meeting minutes during Tom’s absence.
- Nan Mann for her diligence in providing excellent morning teas, together with some assistance from the Arthur family at the October meeting.
- Stephen Schmitz for handling all the logistics of providing a barbeque meal at the May and December meetings.
- To those within the Group who provided meeting venues: Higgins family, Peter Read, Tom Adams, Bradley Arthur, Stephen Schmitz and Tom Cosentino.
- To those outside the Group who provided meeting venues: Rod Walker, Struan Centre, Scott & Fleur Harlock, Tooperang Hall Committee and Tristan Mulhern.
- Tim Prance who, in addition to his facilitation of the AgTec Project, put in a substantial effort organising the two day trip to the South East, including meals and accommodation.
- Melissa Rebbeck who retired in December last year, after four solid years of service as Secretary. It is noteworthy that the previous Secretary, Barb Voysey, had served in the role for sixteen consecutive years. Melissa taking on such a well-worn baton, found her way and served with distinction, contributing greatly to the success and growth of the Group.
- Chelsea Parker who organised the supply of the FBG mugs, retiring from the Group before she saw the fruit of her labours. The mugs have proved an excellent gift for visiting speakers.

- Tom Cosentino who organised the photo show at last year's AGM. We now have a great foundation laid, which can be built upon into the future and viewed at other AGM's.
- FPAG Victor Harbor branch for sponsoring the Group with the provision of a new hay corer.
- Jeff Edwards (Landscape SA), who has worked with the Group for many years and has over the last five years given great assistance in the production of our Annual Reports. Only those who are familiar with his skills in turning a poor quality draft into a high quality production can truly appreciate Jeff's contribution to the success and growth of Fleurieu Beef Group.

The membership has grown again this year, reaching the mile stone of forty, which includes the four offices and thirty six members. This has greatly contributed to good attendances at meetings and lively discussion. New members include Michelle Yip, Bennet Stanes, Lilly Culberts, Bryan Gill, John Humfrey, John Kirkham, Matilda Simpson, Andrew Ewers and Brian Lange. Also at last year's AGM Tim Prance was awarded Life Membership in acknowledgement of his enormous contribution to the Group since its inception.

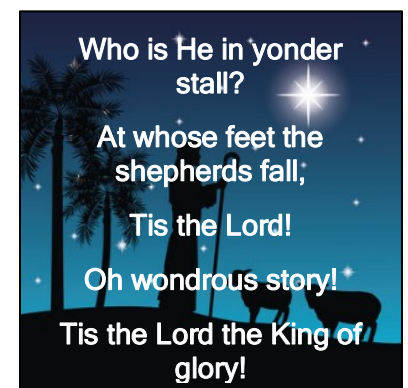
This last year has again seen Fleurieu Beef Group people in the media. In January the "Stock Journal" rural newspaper, published a detailed article on the cattle enterprise of Janet Furler and 20 year member Richard Willing. The article highlighted their progressive genetic selection through the use of "Pathfinder" bred Angus bulls. The June edition of MLA's Feed Back magazine published a very nice article on Bradley Arthur's cattle enterprise and it was a highlight to see the whole family involved in the business. In the same edition our Life Member Tim Prance produced a very helpful article on producing more profitable and productive pastures. A highlight of Tim's article was the new "Pasture Paramedic Tool". Cherry Macklin received very high accolades, when one of the Simmental cross steers which she bred, was awarded champion carcass at the Royal Adelaide Show. My congratulations and thanks to you all for your contribution to the healthy image of on farm cattle operations.

My sincere thanks to members, for your support of and participation in the programmed activities of the Fleurieu Beef Group. Your presence and contribution to meetings is the key to creating a pleasant atmosphere where we can all learn and take home new ideas to improve our businesses.

Christmas and the holiday season are upon us again, a time when we can reflect on the wondrous events of the Nativity. A poem often comes to my mind at this season:

Happy Christmas and New Year to you all,

Mark Higgins



Secretary Report

The 2022 year has been my first as the Secretary of the Fleurieu Beef Group. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Mark, Cherry and David who all invest a lot of their time and effort into ensuring the meetings are worthwhile for members and that they run efficiently. Thank you all.

I am proud to be associated with such a friendly, informative and social group of people. As a new producer with a lot more to learn, I value each and every meeting I get to attend and have put several practices in place on my property that I have picked up from the FBG and I am sure that other members have done the same. It has been good to see the membership base grow throughout the year and I welcome all new members to the Group.

Strong and increasing beef prices have been welcome in 2022, despite some short term price worries associated with the threat of Foot and Mouth disease becoming more prominent in the media and increased fertilizer prices stemming from global supply chain issues and energy prices. Hopefully members are able to finish the year with some strong sales and have some momentum behind them coming into what may be some drier times ahead.

Thanks to Richard Lawrence and Robin Smith who have both filled in as Secretary when I have been unavailable. Thank you also to Nan Mann for consistent excellence in the catering space and being a key driver of high attendance at meetings in 2022.

We are very fortunate to be involved in such an exciting and rewarding industry and even more fortunate to call the Fleurieu home. I'm looking forward to 2023 and beyond with the FBG.

Tom Cosentino - Secretary

FBG Financial statement of the year ending June 30, 2022

Income

	\$
Membership subscriptions	2175
Promotions and Technology Project	3722
Interest received	3
Total	\$ 5 900

Expenditure

Honorariums	1440
Bank fees	6
Morning Teas	330
Hall Hire	200
Technology project acquittal	17732
Secretarial services	130
Anniversary Dinner	627
Merchandise (net)	539
Speakers	700
Total	\$ 21 704

Loss

Total (income minus expenditure)	\$ (15 804)
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Balance Sheet at 30th June, 2022

Accumulated funds 1st July, 2021	24 105
Loss for the year	(15804)
Represented by Bendigo Banks	\$ 8 301

Treasurers Report 2021/22: notes on the financial statements

The financial statement before you may look a little depressing, but if you exclude the AgTec project acquittal, the results show a trading profit for the year of \$1928. I would like to place on record our thanks to Bendigo Bank for a grant of \$598 to purchase a new projector and screen.

25 Year Celebration Dec 2021

Theme: Thankfulness

- *For those who have gone before and laid the foundations*
- *For those outside the Group who have helped us along the way.*
- *For the current membership who will take the Group into the future.*



FBG 25th Celebration Program 21/12/21

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
6pm-6:05	Welcome by Chair of FBG.
6:05-6:30	<p><u>Those who have gone before and laid the foundation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of 5 current foundation members: Mark Higgins; Richard Lawrence; Tim Prance; Terry Sweetman; Richard Willson. • Presentation of Executive Officers: • Chairs: Geoff Davis (1997-2009); Rory Fitzpatrick (2010-2014); Geoff Bowles (2015-2017); Mark Higgins (2018-). • Secretary: Adrian Burton (1997); Richard Willson (1998); Althea Grove (1999-2001); Barb Voysey (2002-2017); Melissa Rebbeck (2018-2021). • Treasurer: Adrian Burton (1997); Althea Grove (1998-2001); Barb Voysey (2002-2017); Melissa Rebbeck (2018); Richard Willson (2019); David Macklin (2020-) • Presentation of 4 Life Members: Geoff Davis; Barb Voysey; Tim Prance; Mark Higgins.
6:30-7:45	<p><u>Those outside the Group who have helped us along the way:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Wayne Pitchford- Director Davies Livestock & Research Centre; School of Animal & Veterinary Sciences; The University of Adelaide. • Dr. Bernard Doube- Director Dung Beetle Solutions International. • Mr. Greg Dalton- Managing Director of Creation Care Pty. Ltd.
7:45-8pm	<p><u>The current membership who will take the Group into the future:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of current members present.
8:00-9:30	<p>Main meal.</p> <p>Cutting of the cake: Minister Basham (with helpers) lights candles and says a few words.</p> <p>Photo show runs while sweets are served, followed by tea & coffee & nibbles.</p>



THE HONORABLE DAVID BASHAM MP,
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, LIGHTS THE
CANDLES TO EVERYONE'S APPLAUSE.



ANNIVERSARY CAKE KINDLY MADE AND
DECORATED BY LYNETTE HIGGINS



A GOOD LAUGH ENJOYED BY ALL, IN THE PLEASANT SURROUNDINGS OF AN AUSTRALIAN WOOLSHED (KEITH FRYER IN THE FOREGROUND).



FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN GEOFF DAVIES ENJOYS THE EVENING WITH BETTY LOCKWOOD AND ANNABEL FITZPATRICK

RORY FITZPATRICK (STANDING); SERVED THE GROUP AS VICE CHAIR AND CHAIR, FOLLOWING ON FROM GEOFF DAVIS (SEATED BACKGROUND).



Projects

Field testing of three new dung beetle species on the Fleurieu Peninsula

Project began in September 2019 in partnership with Creation Care and funding of \$29 850 GST exclusive from the South Australian Government ‘Supporting Sustainable Primary Production’ Grant through Natural Resources AMLR NRM Board. Projected end date June 2020 with ongoing works proposed.

Purpose: To improve beef farm grazing capacity and resilience, and reduce the impact of cattle dung carbon and nutrients in water bodies and the atmosphere by-

- On nine pilot farms establishing three new spring active dung beetle species, *Onthophagus vacca*, *Bubus bubalus* and *Copris hispanus*.
- Developing beef producer’s knowledge of rearing and managing dung beetles.
- Providing farmers with a “seed stock” of these new dung beetle species in order to breed more beetles for release on their farms.
- Defining optimal environmental conditions for all three new species so that future beetle release sites can be selected that match the beetle’s requirements.



O. vacca

B. bubalus

C. hispanus

(Photos courtesy of Creation Care)

The final report for this project was tabled 8th July 2020 and is available on the Fleurieu Beef Group website. Field results enabled all the objectives listed above to be achieved and the report is highly

recommended as a breakthrough for establishing dung beetles on farms through the use of nurseries and relatively small colonies.

Creation Care and the South Australian Government, together with Fleurieu Beef Group members, who diligently managed the nurseries over several months, are all to be congratulated for delivering such a successful collaborative approach to the an important problem.

Although this project “officially” was ruled off in mid-2020, it was realised that we were on the verge of major breakthroughs with the beetles *Onthophagus vacca* and *Bubas bubalus*. Thus with oversight from Creation Care, several members kindly volunteered to continue the work on their properties and this effort continues today. The important results achieved thus far may be summarised as follows:

O. vacca: From the project successes, members realised that the successful nursery multiplication of beetles on their farms could be used as “mother ships” - able to send satellite colonies of beetles to other farms in the region, where they would be placed in nurseries for multiplication. This process has begun and should be repeatable indefinitely, site conditions considered.

B. bubalis: These beetles proved more difficult to multiply than *O. vacca*, with large variations in members results. However this important information has provided a basis for further studies which are continuing today. Three members achieved very good rates of multiplication which has resulted, in what we believe, the first release of farm bred *B. bubalus* in Australia.

Producer Technology Group Project

July 2020 marked the commencement date of this two year project which is funded to the tune of \$25,000 by the South Australian Government through the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Fleurieu Beef Group invited other livestock producers from the region, to join us in this important venture and Tim Prance of T Prance Rural Consulting is the overseeing consultant.

Areas of investigation are broad; including water, soils, pasture, livestock handling, genetics and other topics of Group interest. A plan of events has been established and it is anticipated to hold at least eight sessions over the two years. At the outset a SWOT analysis of farms was carried out

and this was followed up by a session on using electronic identification to source individual animal carcase and feedlot performance.

This important project was ruled off in May of this year and the areas of investigation may be found in the 2022 FBG Program section of this report. The two day trip to the South east of South Australia and the field day in April were highlights for many members.



MEMBER PHILLIP JACQUES PUTTING TO WORK HIS NEW CATTLE CRUSH AND PRECISION LIVESTOCK MEASURING EQUIPMENT.

2021 FBG Program

DATE	VENUE	TOPIC	ACTIVITY	FURTHER INFO
Feb	Walker Dairy Farm Mt Jagged	Pasture management	Farm Walk	Rod Walker
Mar	Struan	Ag Tech project	Field Trip to Struan and Scott Harlocks	https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/research/agtech/attend_demos/struan_kybybolite_demo_farms
Apr	Burnt Oak Middleton	Grass Fed Beef Focus Farm	Farm Walk / presentations	Speakers: Mark Higgins, Burnt Oak - Technology in the Higgins livestock business. Tim Prance - Pasture monitoring options. Kent Llewellyn - Genetic selection and AI technology for commercial herds. Anthony Chick, Optiweigh - In paddock weighing that works. James Ellis, Datamars (Trutest) Demonstration of new crush, weigh crate and data collection process.
May	Emerald Hill Mount Observation	Soil Health	Field Day	Speakers: Melissa Rebbeck; Dr Bernard Doube; Dr Rebecca Tonkin
Jun	Mulherns Dairy , Back Valley	Pasture walk and proximity tags	Farm Walk and PLM technologies	Tristan Mulhern
July	Tooperang Hall	Calf health and vaccination	Presentation by Veterinarian Ben Weir	Ben Weir Willunga Vet Service willungavets.com.au
Aug	Tooperang Hall	Livestock Minerals and Supplements	Presentation by Beachport Minerals	Tom Batholomaeus Liquid Minerals https://www.beachportliquidminerals.com.au/
Sep	Tom Adams	Preparing stock for sale, transport and curfews	Discussion and cattle assessment with Platinum Livestock	Ben Dohnt Platinum Livestock https://www.ciaa.com.au/agents/platinum-livestock/
Oct	Bradley Arthur	Wireless Tech in Agriculture	Presentation by Bradley Arthur and George Driden	George Driden Integrated Precision Viticulture https://ipvit.com.au/
Nov	Stephen Schmitz	Current Livestock Research Update	Power Point Presentation by Wayne Pitchford	Prof Wayne Pitchford

Dec	Tom Cosentino; 3957 Victor Harbor Rd. Hindmarsh Valley	Monthly meeting and AGM	Gathering / Celebration	
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MELISSA REBBECK (CENTRE), RETIRING AFTER FOUR YEARS AS SECRETARY, RECEIVES A FLOWER ARRANGEMENT FROM VICE CHAIR CHERRY MACKLIN; WHILST MARK HIGGINS HOLDS A THANK YOU CARD SIGNED BY MEMBERS.

7 ways FBG have paved the way for carbon neutral beef

By Mark Higgins- chairperson FBG Inc.

The concept of neutral net Carbon emissions has been circulating in the scientific community for several years, but through 2021 it has become an issue spoken of by politicians and the wider community. Though the presence of Carbon in the atmosphere (CO_2) is widely known to be essential to all plant life, and thus animal life, including our own, it is the excess above certain thresholds which scientists state will lead to detrimental climatic conditions upon the Earth. Other gasses such as methane (CH_4), which enters the atmosphere from many different sources including cattle, who burp it out of their mouths as a consequence of their digestive processes, are known to be major contributors to these detrimental climatic conditions.

Since its earliest beginnings Fleurieu Beef Group members have been involved in a variety of trials, strategies and on ground works, which although they appear insignificant on their own in mitigating greenhouse emissions, yet when combined into a management package provide real means of contributing to Carbon neutral beef production on their farms. Although not an exhaustive list, the following will give the reader an indication of the trials, works and ongoing developments which are taking place on member's properties today.

1

Removal of CO_2 from the atmosphere by woody vegetation

Through the process of photosynthesis, woody plants like Australian natives, remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it in their above and below ground masses, thus creating a net draw down and storage of atmospheric carbon (CO_2). This effective carbon sink is utilized by members of the Fleurieu Beef Group when they revegetate gullies, hills, water courses, erosion sites and poorer land class areas that are unsuitable for cattle production. These areas also provide shelter and comfort for the cattle, enhancing weight gains whilst also providing important wild life corridors for the movement and spread of native species across the landscape.



PLANTING ESTABLISHED IN 2005



CARBON SINK 2021

2

Storage of carbon in soils by dung beetles

Although Australia has its own native dung beetles, adapted to feed on dry fibrous pellets of marsupials, these proved to have minimal impact on dispersal and burial of cattle dung. Thus from late 1960's CSIRO began sourcing beetles from other countries and introducing them to Australia. Fleurieu beef Group members began work in this area in 2002, and with the assistance and oversight of Dr Bernard Doube released the beetle *Bubas bison* onto their farms, which has now spread over the whole of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Burying huge quantities of cattle dung through the long winters, this beetle increases soil carbon levels, again helping to resolve global warming issues. Another consequence of this timely dung burial is that it interferes with the life cycle of cattle intestinal parasites, thus dramatically reducing chemical means of treating this infection; not only mitigating the exposure of our food chain to industrial chemicals but also reducing the need to manufacture them.



DUNG BURIAL WITH SUMMER ACTIVE BEETLES



DUNG BURIAL WITH WINTER ACTIVE BEETLES

3

On-farm dung beetle nurseries ensure successful establishment of new species

Establishment of dung beetle nurseries on member's properties has great promise, for in these structures new species of dung beetles are rapidly propagated under controlled conditions, in order for donor colonies to be relocated to other regions, where the process can be repeated. This strategy, developed in conjunction with Creation Care, avoids the risk that large numbers of valuable and relatively rare species are exposed to unknown detrimental environmental factors. The ultimate objective of this strategy is to efficiently enable the establishment of dung beetles on Australian farms, so that in all seasons of the year, complete burial of dung takes place; thus storing carbon in the soil year round.



DUNG BEETLE NURSERY ON FARM

“I’d love to see sheep & cattle farms where you can see livestock breeding taking place and then alongside will be a dung beetle nursery where the mini livestock are bred and reared- and considered just as important. We believe they may have capacity to be a major force in on farm carbon neutrality programs”.

Dr Russ Barrow, Charles Sturt University

4

Biochar in cattle dung increases levels of soil carbon

Trials with Biochar also show promise: biochar is added to feedstuffs fed to cattle in order to increase efficiency of daily weight gain (feed conversion and hence methane reduction) and is then passed out in the dung. Consequently when buried by dung beetles, improves pasture production, soil carbon and microorganisms in the soil. The addition of Biochar to the dung compared to dung alone being buried had the effect of: increased pasture production; increased fungi by up to 10mg/kg; increase of 4tonnes/ ha soil carbon; 34mg/kg more phosphorus, with higher molybdenum and sulphur; improved pasture ME. The final report is available on the FBG website.

5

Extension and education improves cattle efficiency, lowering emissions

Fleurieu Beef Group has run many workshops, including “Bred Well Fed Well” where members have had opportunity to gain practical understanding of achieving real genetic progress in their cattle. This knowledge has helped in bull and heifer selection, while several members have also begun AI programs. Genetic gain achieved from these programs is direct and cumulative; improving the present and future generations of cattle. The learning paths explored through the technology project have also addressed strategies to achieve efficient production systems, as measured by emissions per kilogram of beef produced. Again, this improved production efficiency helps reduce atmospheric carbon contribution from agriculture.

FBG members have also participated in the “Farm 300” series of workshops, where many insights into reducing their on farm methane and carbon footprint were presented. Through this program members became much more aware of how improving their production efficiency, reduces methane intensity. The final report is available on the FBG website.

EMPEROR

(AMF,CAF,DDF,NHF,MAF,OSF,RGF)

Te Mania Emperor E343 | 29AN1810 | Owned by: Murdeduke and ABS Australia




Rare Gem to be Remembered as a Beef Legend Forever

- Vastly recognised sire who set beef industry on fire when he was purchased for an Australian record \$91,000 in 2011
- Emperor has left a legacy like no other
- Used in 18 different countries, 344 registered herds, a record 87 45 registered progeny
- 955 structurally assessed, 4737 scanned, 2592 docility records, 1034 genomically tested
- Emperor daughters are an outstanding legacy to the Angus breed
- Retains a profound influence over the seedstock and commercial Angus sector to this day

Reg. No.	VTME343
Born	09/08/2009

Te Mania Yorkshire Y437 (AI)
Te Mania Berkley B1 (AI)
 Te Mania Lowan Z53 (AI) (ET)
 B T Ultravox 297E
Te Mania Lowan Z74 (AI) (ET)
 Te Mania Lowan V201 (AI) (ET)



Emperor at 2 years.

	CE-DIR	CE-DT	GL	BW	200D	400D	600D	MCW	Milk	SS	DTC	CWT	EMA	RIB	Rump	RBV%	IMF%	NRF-F	DOC	A/Breed	DOM	H/Grain	H/Grass
EBV	+4.7	+4.9	-6.8	+5.1	+52	+96	+126	+124	+12	+2.0	-6.8	+64	+3.7	+1.4	-0.2	-0.3	+2.4	+0.17	+3	\$137	\$120	\$154	\$128
ACC	98%	96%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	92%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	95%	99%				
%Rank	33	31	17	71	31	23	22	12	89	46	16	52	83	12	43	81	32	50	62	19	26	18	22

EBVs as at 1st July 2021 TOP 20%

INFORMATION UTILISED TO MAKE CONSISTENT GENETIC PROGRESS, REDUCING EMISSIONS PER KG WEIGHT GAIN

(SOURCE: 2018-19 ABS BEEF SIRE DIRECTORY; USED BY PERMISSION)

6

Improved pasture production draws down atmospheric carbon (CO²)

The grazing of pasture by cattle stimulates the growth rates of these pastures. People in urban areas observe this effect when they cut their lawns; the more often they mow the grass, it responds with vigorous growth. Fleurieu beef producers utilise this principal, adding pasture rest periods so that maximum growth from photosynthesis, due to adequate leaf area, takes place. This continuous cycle of rested growth followed by harvest of the pasture mass, improves the effectiveness of drawing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Cattle provide many advantages in this cycle, as compared to mowing the grass, for they are able to convert the grass into a high quality foodstuff (beef), whilst their residues of dung and urine are important organic fertilisers which further stimulate pasture growth. The increased root mass of the pasture is also an important means of directly increasing levels of soil carbon.

7

Research and outreach

The Fleurieu Beef Group has developed and mutually maintained close links with professionals who are leaders in their field and who require access to farms, in order to carry out their research and trials. These partnerships are vital to achieve carbon neutral beef production, creating a real sense of personal ownership and involvement, as our members participate in “Citizen Science” whilst forging life time friendships with industry leaders.

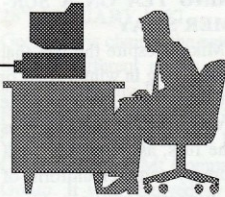


GEOFF BOWLES SPREADING BIOCHAR WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH, BUILDING SOIL CARBON AND MAXIMIZING PRODUCTION OF HIS LUCERNE Paddock

Acknowledgements: Dr Bernard Doube and Melissa Rebbeck for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

From the Archives

**FLEURIEU
BEEF GROUP
NEWSLETTER #3**



Tuesday 28 Jan. 1997 at Mike Boerema's property Woodcone Road, Mt Compass.

Apologies: were received from Kevin Young and Rory Fitzpatrick.
Those present: Tim Prance, Mike Milne, Mike Boerema, Richard Willson, Geoff Davis, Mark Higgins, Elaine Trevillyan, Margaret Sweeney, Brian Sinkinson, Brian Codd, Terry Sweetman, Ian Gillies, Susie Gillies, Richard Lawrence, Adrian Burton.
For convenience: the following notes are separated into distinct sections and are intended to provide a general overview of what transpired.

SECTION ONE : MIKE MILNE AND PIRD GROUPS IN THE SOUTH EAST OF SA

The first PIRD group in SA was established at Fumer (in the Penola-Millicent area). Daryl Crozer was a 'prime mover' in the establishment of the group. Along with Ritchie White and about a dozen others, this first group was started on their own without support from the Dept. of Agriculture. When the group grew larger, it divided in halves for easier management. At about this time (or just prior), a number of people had been trying to get farm manager groups operating in Victoria. One of the early decisions of the Fumer group was to organise a buying and selling service. Each of the members purchased a fax machine and they negotiated to all buy their fuel and fertiliser etc. from the same suppliers (presumably at discount rates). Mike issued a word of caution and pointed out that both service and price need to be considered and it may not turn out to be in the long-term best interests of local producers to "upset" local vendors.

The third PIRD group in the SE was formed by about a dozen people in the Willalooka area who originally did the Property Management Planning course and subsequently did the ProGraze course. This group sought and obtained PIRD funding under the rather catchy title "Meating The Market". In August 1996 they organised a bus trip to the Riverina area to look at feedlots. The fat assessment machine owned by the Willalooka group was not funded with PIRD money. They charge themselves twenty cents per head for the use of the machine. This group have not formed a marketing scheme. Although they act independently when it comes to such matters as the sale of stock etc., they have agreed to share information i.e. special "deals" that may be on offer etc.

SECTION TWO : TIM PRANCE AND BEEF CHECK GROUPS IN VICTORIA

Tim pointed out that the Beef Check Groups in Gippsland operate as a type of Advance ProGraze group with regular farm walks and the setting of selling targets for beef production i.e. what liveweight they expect to achieve by specified dates etc. Each member has an obligation to collect and share specific information. These groups operate with a Coordinator and about 10 to 15 people, with an annual membership fee of approximately \$100.

(In view of the difficult times currently experienced by local beef producers, perhaps we should take positive action and start up similar groups here, calling them Beef Cheque Groups.)

SECTION THREE : MIKE MILNE AND CROSS-BREEDING

One of the early approaches to cross breeding was the introduction of the Bos indicus influence which allowed producers (especially in the tropical areas) to benefit from hybrid vigour. However work undertaken at Struan showed that the Brahmans and Santas really didn't lift beef production in the SE, mainly because they were not suited to the climate. Quite a few producers in the SE subsequently bought in to European breeds in the hope they would work marvels. One of the outcomes of this has been an acceptance that if the climate, country or markets are not conducive to these breeds, it might end up being a waste of money using them. However, perhaps more importantly, there has been an increasing acceptance of cross-breeding in the area. After an initial attitude that whilst it is acceptable to cross sheep, goats etc, one shouldn't "meddle" with straight bred cattle, now some 80-85% of producers in the SE are cross-breeding in some way.

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There is now an acceptance that you can't get something for nothing, and to get positive results from bigger framed animals, you need to be able to keep the feed up to them. Fertility and calving problems can also significantly affect production.

A survey undertaken in the SE during the late 1980's compared the financial return from cross bred dams (across three breeds) when stocked at the rate of 1 per hectare and 1.2 per hectare.

	Return from 1/h	Return from 1.2/h
Simmental X	\$352	\$365
Jersey X	\$291	\$367
Hereford X	\$270	\$323

It is currently very "fashionable" to design animals to meet specific markets (ie Woolies etc) and a great deal of attention is being paid to the use of cross bred bulls. It has been found for example, that pure bred Herefords and Angus can't meet EEC specifications straight off grass without too much fat cover, but if cross bred bulls are used, it can be achieved.

SECTION FOUR : TIM PRANCE ON RECORDING CLOVER SEED RESERVES

One of the most important attributes which clover shares with barley grass and silver grass, is that they all grow from seed. The simple reason that there may be more silver grass and barley grass plants in a certain paddock (or part of a paddock) is because there would be more of their seed available. It is helpful to accept that one of the most crucial factors in the establishment and maintenance of quality sub clover stands, is a numbers game. In simple terms we need to maximise seed numbers. If we can measure clover seed reserves, we have some idea whether our management practices to maximise clover reserves, (such as mite control, application of fertiliser, spring grazing, hay/silage cutting etc), are working or not.

One way to measure the clover reserves is to place about ten metal rings across a paddock, each ring should cover exactly one tenth of a square metre in area (approx 10 centimetres in diameter), water the soil, cover it with a bag and later count the germinated seeds within the ring. A count of 1500 to 2000 clover plants per square metre would be very good, but if there were more than 1000 silver grass plants or 10 capeweed plants per square metre, it would present a problem.

A second technique is to take about 30 core samples with a piece of 50mm steel pipe, to a depth of about 5 m) across the paddock, put them all in the one bag and end them (via Tim) to the DPI at Flaxley. For a fee of about \$40 to \$50 the sample will be sieved and the clover seed counted. For an additional \$50 a germination test will be performed.

If the clover reserves are low we could drill in more seed, but probably the cheaper and more effective technique would be to consciously change our pasture management practices.

SECTION FIVE : MORNING TEA ON A SURPRISINGLY COOL SUMMER'S DAY

Thanks for your hospitality Mike. Despite the fact that all mere mortals were either sheltering in winter coats or complaining that they didn't bring one, our venerable pasture guru from the Goolwa office of the DPI was apparently oblivious to all the fuss, as he calmly went about his duties in his customary summer uniform of shorts and short sleeved shirt, without a jumper.

SECTION SIX : MIKE BOEREMA ON CROSS-BREEDING THEN STOCK INSPECTION

Mike relayed information he gained from a talk by Sandy Yates (from the NSW Dept. of Agriculture) in September 1996. A survey of 330-340kg yearlings was undertaken. It showed that animals which had a Score 3 fat cover (of 7-12mm at the P8 site) and had a B (or heavily) muscled butt shape, achieved a premium of 26 cents per kilo over the average saleyard price. This equates to an additional \$96 per head for the producer. In general terms, you need an infusion of Euro breeds to get B muscling without too much fat cover. Producers pay a financial penalty for too much fat cover because for example, it takes one extra hour for the processors to trim the fat from a Score 4 carcass in comparison with a score 3 carcass. An increase in live muscle results in an increased dressing percentage which in turn should result in an increased financial return.

Mike alerted us to the fact that there is a growing tendency for the supermarket trade to require increased carcass weights as heavier carcass weights mean lower processing costs and more marbling with increased age. The target weight for Woolworths is going to change from 180 - 250kg to 210 - 270kg.

Mike showed us some of his pure bred Gelbvieh bulls, Gelbvieh-Red Angus bulls, pure bred Gelbvieh cows and Gelbvieh-Red Angus cows. Thanks for the opportunity of inspecting your stock, Mike.

SECTION SEVEN : RICHARD WILLSON'S BROCHURE ON CROSSBREEDING

Richard handed out a brochure on Crossbreeding, from the Australian Hereford Society, PO Box 246 Brisbane Roma Street 4003. It points out that perhaps we should consider that our financial returns may not necessarily increase simply because we turn off heavier and better muscled calves. Herd profitability for vealer producers is related to the number of calves produced, their average weight and the price per kilo received. Perhaps we should change our thinking from maximum production per cow to optimum production per hectare (ie kilograms of beef produced per hectare). Cross bred cows such as Hereford X Simmental may be high performers for vealer production but they also have high energy requirements if they are to perform to their potential. In simple terms this means they eat more so may require a reduced stocking rate. A continuous, rotational cross-breeding system (criss-cross system) is explained.

**SECTION EIGHT : BUSINESS MEETING
28th JANUARY 1997**

Geoff Davis chaired the meeting.

Several different names were suggested for our group, including Fleurieu Peninsula Beef Group, Fleurieu Beef, Fleurieu Grazing and Livestock Group, Fleurieu Premium Beef Producers, South Coast Beef and Mt Compass Farm Management Group. It was resolved by a clear vote that our name shall be "Fleurieu Beef Group".

It was agreed that Adrian Burton be the Secretary/Treasurer (because no one else offered). Moved Richard Willson, "That an initial subscription fee of \$25 be payable by the end of February 1997, that our membership extend from 1st January to the 31st December of each year and that an AGM be held in November of each year." Seconded by Elaine Trevillyan.

Motion Carried.

Moved Mike Boerema, "That we open a cheque account at the local Bank of SA, that there be at least two signatories with only one person to sign and that a monthly financial statement be presented." Seconded Margaret Sweeney.

Motion Carried.

Geoff Davis was nominated for President by Ian Gillies, Seconded by Susie Gillies and was duly elected.

Elaine Trevillyan offered to investigate any legal implications for our group.

Geoff Davis suggested that we should have some specific aims written down. Suggestions include:

- To be progressive and better farmers.
- To expand our knowledge and expertise and put it into practise.
- To include other livestock groups in some of our activities.
- To produce better pastures and cattle.
- To improve our knowledge of beef production and marketing.
- To increase our financial return per hectare.

The following were agreed as criteria for new membership of our group.

- must have done, be doing or agree to do, the ProGraze course, or have other special qualifications which are accepted;
- must be a viable, progressive beef producer;
- must be ratified by the group at large;
- group membership cannot exceed 20 farms.

It was agreed that Neil Arthur be invited to our next meeting and that he be advised of the requirement to undertake the ProGraze course.

It was unanimously agreed that Tim Prance be invited to be our Facilitator/Coordinator.

Our next farm meeting will be held on the property of Geoff Davis on Tuesday 25th February 1997, commencing at 8.15am.

**SECTION NINE : BUSINESS MEETING
17th FEBRUARY 1997**

Thank You to Richard and Dianne Willson for the use of their home for the meeting.

Those Present Margaret Sweeney, Susie Gillies, Ian Gillies, Brian Sinkinson, Kevin Young, Brian Codd, Geoff Davis, Terry Sweetman, Richard Willson, Mike Boerema and Adrian Burton.

Apologies Elaine Trevillyan, Rory Fitzpatrick, Tim Prance and Mark Higgins

It was unanimously agreed that we proceed with an application for PIRD funding, based on the Preliminary Application Form forwarded to Gerald Martin, a copy of which was included in our Newsletter #2.

SECTION TEN : DRAFT OF INFORMATION FOR PRODUCER-INITIATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (PIRD) FUNDING.

1. Group Contact Details

2. Group Background,

3. Project Name (ie Subject Area)

4. Overall Aim of the Project

5. Objectives

- To have 75% of our members successfully complete the TAFE Farm Chemicals Course by the end of 1997 and to have all of our members complete the course by the end of 1998.
- To have 90% of our members complete the ProGraze Course by July 1997 and to have all of our members complete the course by the end of 1998.
- To have 15% of our members complete the Property Planning Course by the end of July 1997 with a view to them advising whether they believe it would be beneficial for our whole group to undertake this course.
- To investigate the issue of bruising and/or hide damage, and determine practical ways we can minimise this problem.
- To continue to implement the ProGraze principles when making decisions about grazing management.
- To produce beef which more closely meets the requirements of consumers (ie weight, fat cover, tenderness etc.)

6. Methodology

- This project is a natural development from the activities our group has undertaken over the past two years. We intend continuing with our monthly meetings with guest speakers who are specialists in their field, farm walks etc.
- We aim to produce a monthly Newsletter and investigate the establishment of our own Home Page on the World Wide Web, to enable interaction between our group and the world at large.

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- We will obtain specification sheets (weight brackets, fat score details, price grids etc) from the various beef processors and marketers in both S.A. and Victoria.
- We intend compiling and disseminating periodic “tender sheets” to stock agents, processors etc. detailing the number of cattle we have as an overall group at various times throughout the season, including specific information on their breeding, weight, age, sex, fat score, butt shape etc. As a means of achieving this, we intend hiring a fat scanner and training all of our members in its use. We intend recording uniform stock assessment information for inter-farm comparisons and the interlotting of stock for sale.
- We intend having a set of recommendations formulated by a veterinary surgeon, with regard to the health of our herds, and requiring all of our members to follow the recommendations.
- We intend developing a close liaison with the Fleurieu Regional Development Corporation and Mr Edward Nixon their Business Advisor, in particular.
- We intend developing a close liaison with the Agricultural Science teachers in Secondary Schools in our area, and inviting their students to become involved in aspects of our programme.
- A Public Relation Officer will be appointed from within our group. This person will provide the local press and radio stations with relevant information.

7. Sequence of Activities

- Please refer to separate sheet.

8. Expected Benefits to Group Members

- Replace any sense of powerlessness our members may have experienced with regard to the marketing of their stock, with a positive sense of direction.
- By supporting our members to take ongoing action consistent with current and future market trends and progressive, sustainable grazing systems, we anticipate an improved net financial return per hectare.
- Continue to develop a cohesive group environment in which we feel free to openly share both problems and successes related to beef production on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

9. Assessment of Potential Benefit to Growers Outside Your Group

- We are prepared to send speakers to meetings organised by other groups and to invite members of other groups to our meetings, field days etc.
- We intend making a video of the process we go through and the outcomes of those activities. This film will be made readily available to interested persons.
- Our findings will also be presented in an easily read written format.
- An increase in the percentage of domestic beef which meets the requirements of both customers and processors has the potential to benefit the entire industry. There would be a potential increase in the profitability of retailers if they more accurately and consistently presented product which the customers prefer. There would be a potential increase in the profitability of processors if there was a reduction in the percentage of carcasses which failed to meet their desired specifications (ie if there was more first grade and less second grade product per thousand head processed). There would be a potential increase in the profitability of producers if they were able to consistently place an increased proportion of their annual turn off, in the prime or top price category of a price grid.

10. Summary of Financial Support Requested from MRC

11. Anticipated Operating Expenses

- Fat Scanner.
\$1,000 to hire in first year. If found valuable, we will purchase ourselves as a group for subsequent years.
- Video Camera
We will do everything we can to borrow one, but we will claim \$450 to hire one for “emergency situations”.
- Operating Expenses
Phone, Stationery, Advertising, Postage: \$425 per year

12. Anticipated Travel Expenses

Sandy Yates (from NSW for Public Meeting)	\$400
Willalooka group to come here by car	\$175
Our whole group to local abattoirs	\$250
Three of our group to Hirds (Vic) on one car	\$350

13. External Contractor Details

Edward Nixon (Business Advisor with the Fleurieu Regional Development Corporation) \$450 times 2 (years)
Tim Prance (Primary Industries -Agronomy advice related to sustainable grazing systems) \$450 times 2.

14. Other Support

Fleurieu Beef Group Inc

Advance your beef enterprise



TOM GIBBS (RIGHT) VICTOR HARBOR BRANCH MANAGER FPAG, PRESENTS A HAY CORER TO FBG REPRESENTATIVE TOM COSENTINO. WE THANK FPAG FOR THEIR KIND SPONSORSHIP OF THE GROUP IN THIS HELPFUL WAY.