



NOVEMBER | 2016



Kangaroo Island's David Rowsell (pictured) and his partner Lyn Dohle celebrated signing up as Livestock SA's 3000th members.

## Livestock SA signs 3000<sup>th</sup> member

**Livestock SA marked a milestone in October, with the signing of its 3000th membership, sheep producers David Rowsell and Lyn Dohle from Kangaroo Island.**

Livestock SA Chief Executive Officer Andrew Curtis says the continued membership growth is an indication of the strong support for the organisation's independent advocacy work on behalf of producers.

"It's very encouraging to continue to see a steady growth in memberships," he said.

"Livestock SA is in its fourth year of operation and we continue to focus on our vision for a strong, viable, productive and profitable livestock sector in South Australia.

"All livestock producers who pay levies are eligible to become a member at no additional cost. Associate memberships for farm managers, consultants and businesses are also available. I would encourage anyone who has not yet signed up, or is uncertain whether they have, to get in touch."

Mr Rowsell and Ms Dohle say it is essential for livestock producers to have a representative body.

"It's very important, being part of Livestock SA gives us more protection on the issues

which are vital to livestock producers and the KI region," Mr Rowsell said.

The couple run a self-replacing fine wool Merino flock on KI, with 4000 ewes and lambs. Ms Dohle also works for PIRSA Rural Solutions.

Mr Rowsell said he was also pleased that Kangaroo Island had gained representation on the Livestock SA Board, with local producer Jamie Heinrich recently appointed.

"I think he'll do a great job and it's also great that our region will have a representative on the Board," he said.

Mr Heinrich said he was pleased that Livestock SA's membership had continued to grow, and that the 3000th member came from his local region.

"It's great to see people who are so passionate about the sheep and wool industry," he said.

"Livestock SA provides an opportunity for all South Australian livestock producers to have their say on the people and policies that represent them and their industry. I would encourage any producers who have not yet joined, to sign up."

**Details:** Producers can contact the Livestock SA office to join or check their membership on 08 8297 2299.

## MLA AGM and Red Meat Industry Forum

**Meat & Livestock Australia will hold its AGM alongside a Red Meat Industry Forum on Thursday, November 10, at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, 145a Mount Barker Road, Hahndorf.**

A Red Meat Advisory Council Forum will also be held as part of the event, with RMAC Chair Don McKay to give an industry update. Other speakers include:

- Sean Starling, MLA General Manager, Research
- Dr Christine Pitt, CEO, MLA Donor Company (MDC)
- Dr Jane Weatherley, CEO, Integrity and Information Systems Company
- Michael Finucan, MLA General Manager, International Markets
- Lisa Sharp, MLA Chief Marketing & Communications Officer
- Michael Crowley, MLA General Manager, Producer Consultation and Adoption.

All producers, advisers, consultants and industry are invited to attend, with the Forum commencing at 10am, and running until 3pm. The AGM will begin at 3.30pm and run until 5pm.

**Details:** To register visit [www.mla.com.au/agm](http://www.mla.com.au/agm) or contact 02 9463 9333.



## From the president

With  
**GEOFF POWER**



**October has been a busy month for Livestock SA with the first meeting of the newly-elected board, supporting and surveying producers affected by storms and power outages as well as advocating for members on Victoria's mandatory RFID and calicivirus spread.**

Good rains and subsequent pasture growth usually provide ideal conditions for a rise in rabbit populations. However, in good news for livestock producers the opposite has happened over recent months, with reports of the calicivirus strain RHDV2 reducing rabbit numbers in some areas of South Australia. This strain was first detected in the Australian Capital Territory in 2015, and was found in SA for the first time earlier this year. Another calicivirus, the Korean strain RHDV1 K5 is set to be released next year which will hopefully further reduce the rabbit population. It is hoped the two strains will have a double barrel effect to control rabbit populations across Australia.

RHDV1 K5 will be released at 418 sites across Australia, with Federal Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce saying recently that community organisations, Landcare groups and government land managers will participate in the national rollout of the virus as part of the Coalition Government's \$1.2 million commitment to assist with the research and development of new rabbit control methods. Producers have been asked to download and use the RabbitScan mobile app to contribute to the national data set which will monitor the spread of the virus and the impact on rabbit populations.

An interim report from the ACCC has recently been released on their Cattle

and Beef Market Study. I urge livestock producers to look at the interim report on the Livestock SA website, and submit any feedback on the recommendations before November 23, when suggestions are submitted.

There has been much discussion on Victoria introducing Mandatory RFID tags for sheep and goats. Livestock SA believes while there are benefits for the use of RFID tags on-farm, to mandate them would create a huge cost to industry, not only for the tags but for infrastructure at saleyards, on-farm, and in the processing sector. In South Australia, we have a compliance rate on National Vendor Declarations at approximately 97%, therefore we should be concentrating on getting the other 3% across the line. We also must remember that these costs will find their way back to the farm gate.

Following the recent floods and windstorms in SA, Livestock SA conducted a survey on the damage caused to infrastructure, farm businesses and stock losses. The survey results have been collated, and are currently being compiled into a report which will be sent to the State Government to assist future planning.

In other news, over the past month Livestock SA membership has surpassed the 3000 mark and we look forward to continued growth as we progress. Another great milestone we have reached in the past month, was Andrew Curtis reaching six-months as the Livestock SA Chief Executive Officer. Our new Board are also settling into their roles well with a range of issues being worked upon.

For those heading into harvest, we wish you a safe and successful journey.

**Details:** For more information on RabbitScan visit [www.feralscan.org.au/rabbitscan/](http://www.feralscan.org.au/rabbitscan/) or for more information on the ACCC interim report on the Cattle and Beef Market Study visit [www.livestocksa.org.au](http://www.livestocksa.org.au)

## News In Brief

### Office-bearers elected

In October, the newly-elected Livestock SA Board met for the first time, with Geoff Power voted to remain President, Joe Keynes, as Vice-President, and Andy Withers appointed as Treasurer. Following a call for nominations for peak national representation, the Board also appointed Allan Piggott as the Livestock SA representative on the Sheepmeat Council of Australia, Joe Keynes for WoolProducers Australia, Amanda Giles for Cattle Council of Australia, and Peter Lauterbach for Goat Industry Council of Australia.

### PPSA AGM

A brief Primary Producers SA AGM was held on 24 October with all commodity members present. PPSA Executive Chairman Rob Kerin presented the Annual Report, commenting on the Pinery bushfire and the more recent storm and flooding which occurred across the state. Three inaugural Council members, David Basham, Simon Berry and Garry Hansen, had been farewelled during the past year and their contributions were acknowledged. John Hunt from SA Dairyfarmers was elected Secretary and Geoff Power, from Livestock SA, Treasurer.

**Details:** Rob Kerin 08 8297 0899

### Let's be Frank

Primary Producers SA have put together an engaging series of videos with a central character "Frank" focusing on ways to improve rural men's health. Created by the Freemason's Foundation Centre for Men's Health at the University of Adelaide, the videos focus on topics ranging from depression, to fitness, prostate cancer and sleep apnoea. Health can sometimes be the last thing many producers worry about, so it is hoped the videos will raise awareness of these common illnesses, and the actions which can be taken to improve them. Make sure you have a look!

**Details:** Visit [www.ppsa.org.au/our-work/health-and-safety/resources/mens-health-films/](http://www.ppsa.org.au/our-work/health-and-safety/resources/mens-health-films/)

## Concerns raised over proposed introduction of RFID tags for sheep and goats in Victoria

**Livestock SA is very concerned at the proposal the Victorian Government has made to mandate the use of electronic tags in sheep and goats, and the impact it will have on producers and the movement of livestock between the two States.**

Livestock SA believes there will be an immediate impact in the South East of South Australia and Western Victoria saleyards, which will impact not only the regional economies in these areas, but the economy of both States. In SA there are good programs in place, such as abattoir surveillance, and it would be a retrograde

step to move away from what currently works well. While the use of RFID tags can lead to productivity gains, Livestock SA believes it should not be mandatory.

**Details:** For further information visit [www.livestocksa.org.au](http://www.livestocksa.org.au)