



Mil-Lel producer Gavin Johns with grand-daughter Sarah and their 'Food producer on board' sticker.

WHAT:
Livestock SA Southern
Region meeting
WHERE: Naracoorte Hotel
WHEN: Thursday,
June 25, starting
at 6.30pm

Southern Region meets to celebrate first year

BY PETER STOCK
Southern Region Chairman



IT HAS been nearly 12 months since the Southern Region of Livestock SA was formed and with vice-chairman Lachy Grundy and secretary Tom Dawkins, we have been working in the South East to raise awareness of the new advocacy structure with stock owners.

We have specifically not held more meetings but been out and about in the Southern Region at sheep and cattle sales and field days, signing up members and ensuring any members' issues or concerns, no matter how large or small, were forwarded on to the board. Livestock SA membership from the SE now totals over 1000 of 2276.

We have worked with Natural Resources South East on drought and feeding livestock in dry times workshops as well as had input into disaster planning for bushfires.

One of the highlights was developing a 'Food producer on board' sticker. The stickers were about reminding people that, at the end of the day, we produce food and our role is important. As stock owners, we can be united against some of the groups that are trying to make life difficult for us. Anyone who is interested or runs sheep, cattle or goats should be a member of Livestock SA for that reason.

The Southern Region will meet on Thursday, June 25, and it would be great to see as many people who are passionate about livestock farming attend to hear from president Geoff Power and board member Steve Radeski.

> **RSVP:** Tom Dawkins, 0402 406 965, tomdawkins83@gmail.com

From the president

With
GEOFF POWER



Livestock SA is celebrating two years as the peak organisation representing beef cattle, sheep and goat producers in South Australia. During this time, we have started a brand new organisation, signed up 2276 members and represented them on a range of livestock and farming issues.

Our mandate is to be a 'strong and independent voice for livestock producers' and we thank you for your support as we advocate on your behalf.

The Federal Government's farm finance, concessional loans and water infrastructure grant schemes are due to finish on June 30. The uptake of the grants has been excellent. Livestock SA is receiving reports of how they have helped pastoralists retain stock and upgrade water resources, and there is talk of requesting an extension.

However, there has been poor uptake of the farm finance and loans – while the loans are available they are hard to obtain which is frustrating. There seems to be problems between the state and federal governments in setting a cohesive policy and at present, farmers in need are falling victim to politics and bureaucracy.

All producers are able to assess their eligibility by visiting PIRSA's concessional loans information page and using the Bureau of Meteorology rainfall analyser.

We are keen to hear from members on dry conditions, and any other issue or concern. The more complete picture we have, the better we can communicate with government representatives.

> **More information:** Concessional loans for SA, <http://bit.ly/1eu8mLW> and Australian Rainfall Deficiency Analyser www.bom.gov.au/climate/ada/



Congratulations Jack!



FOR South East residents who received their Yellow and White Pages phone book recently, there was a familiar Livestock SA face representing farming on its cover – vice-president Jack England, Lucindale (pictured).

Jack was selected under this year's theme, Australian Stars Rising Above, which celebrates up and coming Australians who are achieving beyond their years and making positive changes in their community. He joins other esteemed SE locals Mike Armour, Helen Williams and James De Barro who have previously appeared on the cover.

In addition to Livestock SA, Jack lectures agricultural science students, hosts science work experience students each year, and works with Meat and Livestock Australia, University of Adelaide and CSIRO on research and development trials and projects. He also volunteers for the Country Fire Service.

News In Brief

Minor use permit for footrot

Livestock SA recently made a submission to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority that it should continue to issue a minor use permit for strain-specific footrot vaccines for at least five years. The current permit is due to expire later this year. Livestock SA supports the re-issuing of the permit because farmers have a limited number of tools to tackle footrot and taking one of those options out of the equation would make disease management more difficult.

Rural areas character review

Livestock SA lodged a supplementary submission on the Barossa rural area and character review. Its additional points included that the Barossa region is more than just grapes. The Barossa has 584 farming properties with 61,230 hectares used for agriculture and 75% of that for livestock grazing compared with 22% for grapes. Livestock SA outlined that at the centre of the review were 'right to farm' issues and that constraining or rejecting construction of infrastructure impedes a farmer's right to grow food for people and contribute to the local economy.

> **More information:** View all Livestock SA submissions online at www.livestocksa.org.au/pages/news/submissions.php

Congrats to Merino winners

South Australia was well represented in last month's National Merino Challenge with students from schools at Burra, Cleve, Cummins, Lucindale, Meningie and Waikerie and the University of Adelaide competing. Winners in the secondary school division included champion Daniel Puckridge, Cummins, who was also the top performer in the wool section, second place Alex Boehm, Cummins and third place Angus Wiech, Burra. Mary Williams, Lucindale was the top performer in the production section. In the tertiary division, Caitlin Berry was top performer in the breeding section. It was the second year in a row that the individual winner was from Cummins Area School. "I come from a sheep, cattle and cropping property, and am interested in doing an Ag Science degree at uni and maybe going on to be an agronomist. The event was a good opportunity to talk to all the industry people and hear the plans of the other students – as well as being a competition, it was a great networking event," Daniel said.

Diary dates June

> 'Your Levy, Your Industry' Producer Forums

- > Bordertown - Tuesday, June 16.
Register at www.mlaforumbordertown.eventbrite.com.au
- > Clare - Wednesday, June 17.
Register at www.mlaforumclare.eventbrite.com.au
- > Broken Hill - Thursday, June 18.
Register at www.mlaforumbrokenhill.eventbrite.com.au

> Southern Region Meeting

Thursday, June 25. Naracoorte Hotel, starting at 6.30pm

Guests – Livestock SA president Geoff Power, board member Steve Radeski

RSVP to Tom Dawkins,
tomdawkins83@gmail.com

August

> Livestock SA Annual General Meeting,

Friday, August 28

September

> Livestock SA at the Yorke Peninsula Field Days

September 29 to October 1