Livestock SA 2019 Board Nominees

Livestock SA received seven nominations for six vacant board positions during the nomination period. Members can vote for their preferred candidates using the voting slip and reply-paid envelope provided. Voting closes at 5pm on Tuesday, August 20. For more information, contact returning officer Deane Crabb on 08 8297 2299.

NAME: Mark Dennis
LOCATION: Koppio, Eyre Peninsula
CONTACT: 0428 844 250, markmd1@bigpond.com

The Dennis family moved to Koppio on Lower Eyre Peninsula in 1965 and have farmed there ever since, changing farm enterprises and increasing farm size over the years. Today, the family runs 2500 ewes for wool, prime lambs and stud sheep, 40 breeder cattle and crops wheat, canola and lupins.

In over thirty years of farming I have seen many changes in land management and farming practices and have embraced change to have the property and business in a better position. I have had extensive involvement in the past SA Farmers Federation, serving on the Natural Resources Committee for 10 years, which included being their nominee on the Native Vegetation Council for four years. I was on the Advisory Board of Agriculture for eight years, including three years as Chairperson, which included being Chairperson of the Agriculture Bureau of South Australia. Locally I have been involved with CFS, Poonindie Primary School, Landcare, Ag Bureau, Tumby Bay District Consultative Group and Marble Range Football Club. I am currently a member of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board.

I have been a member of the Livestock SA Board for the past two years, and currently represent Livestock SA on Sheep Producers Product Integrity Committee. As the livestock industry faces many challenges, I believe it is vital that we have a strong group representing the industry. The Livestock SA Board must raise the relevant issues with government and other bodies and have solutions and a plan to take to them.

NAME: Gillian Fennell
LOCATION: Lambina Station, Marla
CONTACT: 08 8670 1071, gillian@morestonecontracting.com

Born and bred in North West Queensland, I moved to South Australia almost 15 years ago with my husband and his family when we sold our Queensland holdings and purchased Lambina Station - a million acre rangelands cattle station in the Far North of SA, where we run a herd of Charbray breeders.
In my role as the President of the Remote & Isolated Children’s Exercise, I have developed an intimate knowledge of the remote areas of South Australia and the challenges faced by all producers – sheep, goat and beef, in the outback.

I am also currently the SA Representative for Australian Women in Agriculture, a non-profit incorporated organisation established in 1994. It is Australia’s peak organisation for women across all areas of agriculture.

I have been a member of the Livestock SA Board for the past two years, and I am currently Treasurer.

I am outspoken, have strong opinions and beliefs and am passionate about seeing the continued development of the livestock industry in South Australia. I believe we have the capability to produce some of the best quality livestock in the world, not just Australia and that Livestock SA should continue to be a leader in this area, and let everyone be heard. Together, as an industry, we can make a difference.

NAME: Samantha Neumann
LOCATION: Freeling
CONTACT: 0457 928 995, samantha.neumann@elders.com.au

I grew up on my family’s wheat and wool property, east of the Barossa ranges. My passion for agriculture was formed here, and while I enjoy and maintain active involvement in operations, it has been within Agency where that passion has been fostered and encouraged to grow.

Currently employed by Elders, as the e-commerce coordinator in the National Livestock team, I focus on developing and delivering digital solutions that connect producers to their markets and enable agents to be relevant and responsive through technology adaption. I have a particular interest in data, predictive analytics and machine learning, and the opportunities that lie ahead for this technology in the livestock sector.

I enjoy participation in a number of industry bodies, including the SA Sheep Expo and SA Agricultural Bureau, and have been the recipient of scholarships including AWI Breeding Leadership, Angus Australia Kansas State University and WPA Raising the Baa – Australian Institute of Company course.

NAME: Allan Piggott
LOCATION: Moorlands
CONTACT: 0407 580 925, allan@illoura.com.au

I have been a member of Livestock SA since 2014. I have previously been a member of the SA Sheep Advisory Group, and I maintain a close relationship with members of SASAG and the SA Cattle Advisory Group.

I currently chair the SA Sheep Industry Blueprint (a subcommittee of Livestock SA) which has set the strategic direction for the SA sheep industry for the next 10 years. Following the success of the Sheep Blueprint, we emulated the model to develop a Cattle Blueprint which was launched in 2018. There were obvious synergies between the Blueprint process and the role of a SAMRC regional committee, so the Blueprint committee has also served as the South Australian SAMRC/SALRC committee. I served as the inaugural chair of
the SA regional committee of SAMRC and this partnership has resulted in more productive outcomes for both organisations.

In 2013-14 I chaired the LambEx Conference organising committee. This conference engaged all levels of Australian sheep industries which provided a fantastic opportunity to work with industry leaders, while developing my leadership and negotiating skills. I was Vice President of Sheepmeat Council of Australia in 2017, and President of Sheep Producers of Australia in 2018. During my time with Sheep Producers Australia, I oversaw the transition from Sheep Meat Council of Australia to Sheep Producers Australia - an incorporated skills-based board.

NAME: Richard Reedy
LOCATION: Murray Bridge
CONTACT: 08 8532 6116, reedy.kat@gmail.com

I am a beef and fat lamb producer from Murray Bridge. I am the current Vice Chairperson of the South Australian Murray Irrigators Association, a member of the National Irrigation Council, a Member of the Murraylands Drought Reference Committee and a service provider and consultant in the Mallee and Murraylands region.

I have formerly served as a Chairperson of the SA Government Irrigation Advisory Board Lower Murray Reclaimed Floodplain, Chairperson of Lower Murray Operations and Chairperson of the Lower Murray Irrigation Association.

I have also served on groups including the Drought Proofing the City of Murray Bridge Committee, the Premier’s Community Leaders Reference Group, which provided direct input to the Premier to assist the South Australian Government’s response to the proposed Murray Darling Basin Plan and as a former member of the Millennium Drought Reference Committee.

NAME: Alex Thomas
LOCATION: Torrens Park
CONTACT: 0457 842 775, alex@alexthomasptyltd.com

Originally from a sheep station in South Australia’s north-east pastoral, I am incredibly passionate about the sustainability of rural industries and communities.

I am the Director & Principal Consultant of my own work health and safety consulting business, the winner of the 2018 AgriFutures Rural Women’s Award (SA) and the winner of the 2018 SafeWork SA Augusta Zadow Award.

I am a part time carer for my disabled father (as a result of his work in agriculture) and I have since dedicated my life’s work to empowering rural women and amplifying the improvement of work health and safety in rural industries.

Having worked with over 90 businesses across a multitude of different industries, in addition to having recently completed the 2018 Governor’s Leadership Program; I have a strong background not only in work health and safety, but in corporate social responsibility, risk management and community advocacy.
I am a people-person, a self-starter and a good communicator and I believe that by sharing my knowledge, skills and expertise from both rural and non-rural sectors I would be able to make a valuable contribution to the Livestock SA Board.

As a would-have-been 6th generation pastoralist (who’s heart will always remain on the Station), I would love the opportunity to give back to the industry that’s given so much to me.

NAME: Glen Tilley
LOCATION: Kapunda
CONTACT: 0409 140 592, hillcott@westnet.com.au

I am a fifth-generation farmer and have been fulltime farming since 1974. Our property is in the Tarlee-Kapunda district and has run a mix of cereal cropping, prime lambs, self-replacing Merinos and a couple of periods of vealer production. In recent years, properties at Mosquito Hill and Willow Creek on the Fleurieu Peninsula have been purchased and vealer production and cattle trading have resumed.

Over the past 25 years I have had a strong interest in the livestock industry, particularly the sheep industry. During this time, I have chaired the following groups: the Lower North Lamb Group; Milk-Fed Lamb Group; SA Lamb Development Team and the Producer Advisory Panel of SheepConnect SA.

This involvement has given me a great understanding of the whole supply chain from the producer to the consumer and the issues facing each sector within the chain. The groups that I have been involved in have highlighted the importance of the extension programs. It is critical that industry bodies provide producers with the tools and training support to improve their business and management skills. It is an issue that I have always campaigned for.

On a personal note I have had a long involvement in country tennis and have chaired two tennis associations and am a Life member of the Tarlee Tennis Club. Fishing trips with my children are greatly enjoyed and travelling with my wife Jayne are experiences that we both get much pleasure from.

Voting closes at 5pm on Tuesday, August 20.
Please fill out and post the voting slip back to:
Reply Paid 84250, Livestock SA Ballot, Unit 5, 780 South Road, GLANDORE SA 5037

Register now to attend GROWING SA!
Results of the ballot will be announced at the Livestock SA AGM, held as part of the 2019 GROWING SA Conference on at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf, on Monday 26 August and Tuesday 27 August. Register now by visiting www.growingsa.com.au/register/ or calling 08 8332 3277.