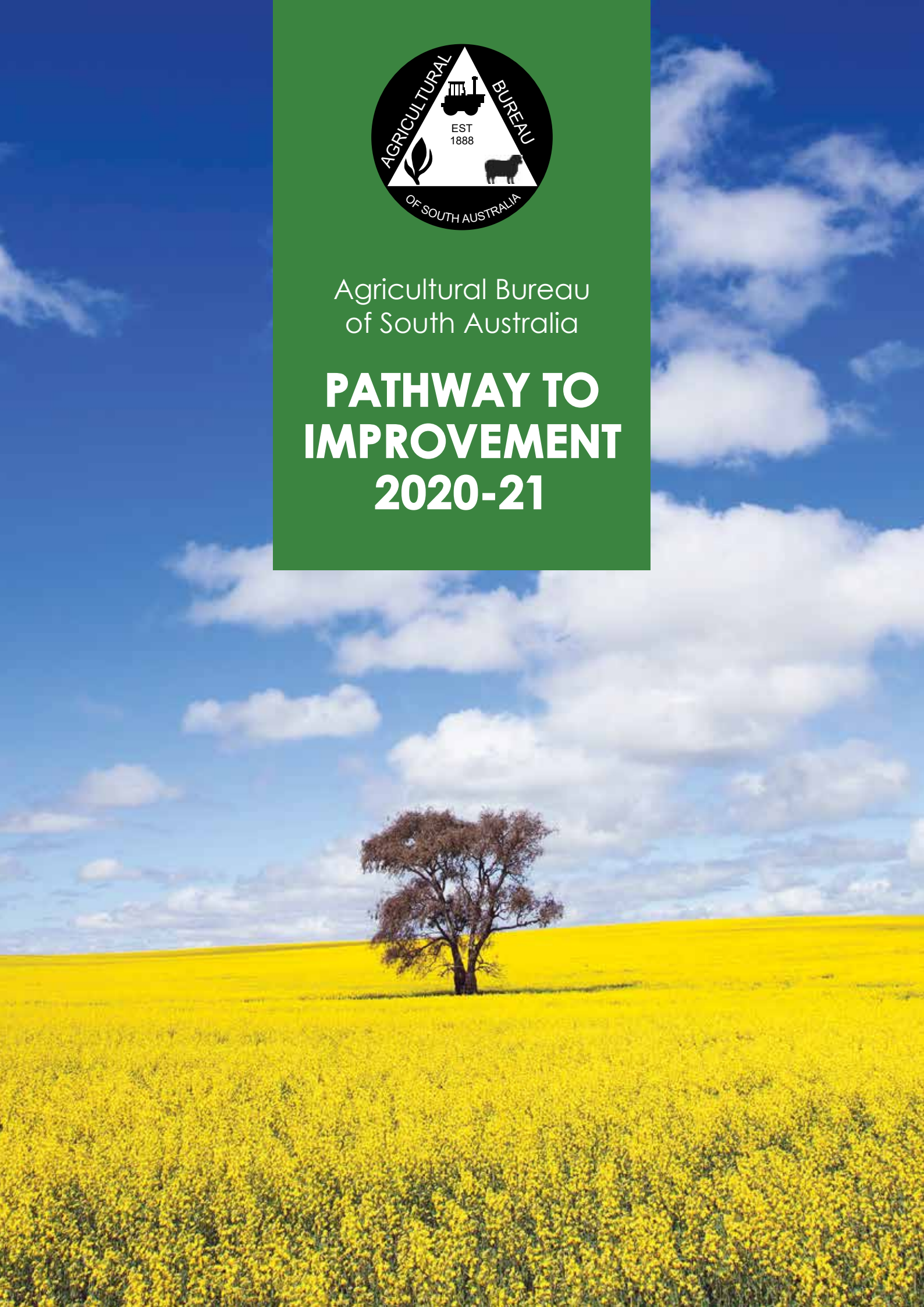




Agricultural Bureau
of South Australia

PATHWAY TO IMPROVEMENT 2020-21



Contents

About Us.....	3	Scholarship to Support Rural Youth Pursuing a Career in Agriculture.....	12
Chair's Report.....	4	Governing Body.....	13
2020-21 Highlights.....	6	Thank You to our Sponsors.....	13
Long-Standing Members Awards.....	7	General Jeffery	
2020 Spirit of Excellence Awards.....	8	Soil Health Finalist.....	14
Scholarship Winner Shares her Vision on Family Farm.....	10	Ag Bureau Projects 2020-21.....	15
COVID-19 Stalls Bursary Winner's Vision for his Community.....	11	Meet our Board Members.....	18
		Ex Officios.....	19



About Us

Helping to bridge the gap between scientists and farmers, the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia (Ag Bureau) encourages excellence in agriculture, business management and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Representing the interests of South Australian farmers, the Ag Bureau communicates regularly with the government and other agencies on issues that affect the farming community, including research and development, farming practices and education. This includes the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), Rural Business Support, South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and University of Adelaide.

A not-for-profit organisation with more than 1300 members in 60 branches across the state, the Ag Bureau was established in 1888 and is the only farmer network group of its kind remaining in Australia. Membership is open to primary producers and those with an interest in South Australia's agricultural industries.

Members are provided opportunities for professional development, collaboration on common challenges, project funding, application support, knowledge exchange and crucial local community support.

Young farmers are mentored by experienced Ag Bureau members, and the annual Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards held in October, recognises, encourages and supports young farmers and rural youth who are pursuing careers that will sustain rural communities, with prestigious and generous scholarships.

Ag Bureau branches foster the development of vibrant communities and industry networks, and provide resources to branch members, including relevant Codes of Practice, local, state and federal grants and project funding opportunities, agricultural-related articles by farmers and industry advocates.

For more information or to locate your nearest branch visit agbureau.com.au



Chair's Report

2021 will be remembered for many reasons, however foremost in our minds, it was another year of challenges and adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For many of us, our new “normal” looks and feels very different. In amongst all this though, there has been one constant: our community, our farming groups, and our willingness to adapt to change. It has been a team effort with producers, supply chains and all those involved in our production systems, working to keep everything running as best as possible. On behalf of the Ag Bureau Board, well done to every one of you.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in Adelaide on Tuesday, 29 October 2020 where we bid farewell to Mark Grossman, Chair of the Ag Bureau for eight years and a Board Member for nine. Passionate about the Ag Bureau, Mark represented our organisation at many levels and always with the needs of the members and the Ag Bureau as a priority, and we thank him. As a gesture of appreciation for his contribution to the Ag Bureau and his local community, he was awarded the Services to Primary Producers Award at the 2020 Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards.

Following Mark's retirement, the Board appointed me as Chair, Bevan Oster as Vice Chair, Darren Kennedy as Treasurer, and we welcomed Corbin Schuster as the Barossa and Light Region's representative. We appreciate and acknowledge the continued support and input from the Ex-Officios representing the Department for

Environment and Water (DEW), the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), Rural Business Support, South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and University of Adelaide. The contribution, knowledge and encouragement from these representatives, is greatly valued.

The 2020 Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards were hosted at The Arkaba Hotel in Adelaide where we celebrated the resilience and strength of South Australia's agricultural industry with a group of passionate and talented rural innovators. The goal of the awards is to provide members of our rural communities an opportunity to improve personal and professional skills and in doing so demonstrate significant benefits back to their communities. Congratulations to all the finalists.

The Spirit of Excellence Awards are made possible through our generous sponsors DEW and PIRSA. Their valuable scholarships are helping to support our state's most inspiring and motivated young people who are truly passionate about agriculture and our communities.

As part of our journey to take the Ag Bureau into the future and build on the past to improve the outcomes for our members and the organisation; the Board have invested time and resources into what we have called 'The Discovery Project'. DLF Creative has consulted with the Board, conducted a survey of members and stakeholders, and provided an interim review for the Board to plan a strategy to move forward.



Thank you to all those who participated in the survey. This information will be valuable in taking the next steps in considering branding, value to members and stakeholders, communication strategy and investing in a systematic approach to the management of the Ag Bureau.

Ag Bureau members and branches around the state, in their own unique way, have continued to conduct activities of relevance to their area during the year. I see this as a strength of our community, groups responding to the membership and learning, caring, and sharing in support of each other.

On behalf of the Board of the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia, we thank our valued members, stakeholders and sponsors for your ongoing support, and we look forward to the new horizons of 2022.

Janette Ridgway
Chair - Agricultural Bureau of South Australia

2020–21 Highlights

During 2020-21 COVID-19 the global virus made life challenging, even though agriculture and all the allied support services were considered essential, many others in our communities have been doing it hard.

Thankfully for technology, many of the events and face-to-face forums that were cancelled were subsequently made available online.

After a successful nine-year term, former Chair **Mark Grossman** passed the baton to new Chair, **Janette Ridgway** of Wolseley.

Bevan Oster (Yorke Peninsula and Mid North) was voted as Vice Chair, **Darren Kennedy** (Riverland and Mallee) Treasurer and **Clem Fitzgerald** (Eyre Peninsula) together with **Peter O'Neil** (Fleurieu Peninsula, Hills and Kangaroo Island) remain valuable and knowledgeable contributors to the Board.

We welcomed Freeling's **Corbin Schuster**, who joined the Board as the new Barossa and Light representative.

At the **2020 Excellence in Agriculture Awards** on Friday 23 October, **Ellen Zibell** was announced as the winner of the **Sustainable Agricultural Scholarship** sponsored by the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) and **Matthew Maunder** the winner of the **Rural Youth Bursary** sponsored by The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA).

Edward Downing was the recipient of the **Lois Harris Scholarship** with an outstanding TER of 96.85. The ceremony also saw **Mark Grossman** honoured with the **Services to Primary Production Award**.

The **Point Pass Ag Bureau** were successful applicants in the 2019–20 Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Agricultural Knowledge Grant. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 they were unable to hold their event and were thankfully granted a 12-month extension to hold the event in 2020.

Generous community support enabled the **Laura Ag Bureau** to deliver straw bales to some of the state's most drought-stricken farmers and pastoralists living north and east of Orroroo. Secretary Andrew Kitto and his team of volunteers rallied together (for a second year) to develop the "**SOS - Share our Stockfeed**" campaign and, on Monday, 21 December 16 trucks distributed almost half of the 2000 locally donated hay bales.



Ebenezer Community Centre was fitted with a defibrillator, or AED, thanks to the **Koonunga Ag Bureau** successfully receiving two community grants from The Barossa Council and the Light Regional Council.

The Ag Bureau completed the first part of '**The Discovery Project**' thanks to the many respondents to our survey in May–June. We will now proceed forward with new initiatives and systems to further enhance the value of memberships and our role in farming communities.

Ex-Officio **Brian Hughes** was announced as one of the three finalists in the **2021 General Jeffery Soil Health Award**. Brian has been a strong believer and supporter of the Ag Bureau and our farming community.

Finally, Friday 29 October, 2021 will see a new location for this year's **Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards** at the Terrace Function Centre in Evanston (Gawler), to acknowledge this year's enthusiastic entrants.

Long-Standing Members Awards

The Board recognises and congratulates the following long-standing members on reaching their milestones. Thank you for your continuing contributions to our work.



Koonunga
Royce Kleinig



Boors Plains
Paul Browning
John Eden



Lowbank & Districts
Andrew Leske



Moonta
Roger McCauley

Koonunga
Matthew Schiller

Mount Barker
Kym Gladigau
Graeme Schoell

Moonta
Geoffrey Bagshaw
Andrew Cadd

Mount Barker
Max Green



Koonunga
Michael Hoffmann



Koonunga
Mervyn Fiegert

Lone Pine Tanunda
Roger Edwards
Michael Schubert

Lone Pine Tanunda
Dudley Koch
Keith Koch
John Neldner

Rowland Flat
Jesse Auricht
Tim Liersch

Lowbank & Districts
Allen Buckley
Trevor Schiller



2020 Spirit of Excellence Awards

Ellen Zibell's vision to analyse current farming practices and create the change needed for future generations was recognised at the 2020 Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards.

Generously supported by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and Rural Business Support, the Spirit of Excellence Awards offer young farmers and rural youth the opportunity to pursue personal and professional development to benefit their local communities.

Chair of the Ag Bureau, Mark Grossman, said the judges were met with applications and project ideas that were all exceptional.

"Once again, the Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards has provided a stellar lineup of passionate and talented rural innovators as finalists," Mark said.

"The quality of applications made judging difficult and the Ag Bureau encourages this year's applicants to continue pursuing their dream projects."

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, David Basham presented the winning Rural Youth Bursary Award virtually to winner Matthew Maunder, who was unable to attend in person due to another commitment.

Matthew hoped to use the Rural Youth Bursary to attend the International Citrus Conference. "I would be able to meet and form relationships with many researchers and producers from around the world."

"This would be invaluable to progressing my career and improving the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the citrus industry in South Australia," he said.

Director of Landscape Services for DEW, Matt Ward, presented the Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship to winner Ellen Zibell.

Ellen's vision is to combine her two passions health and agriculture, through diversifying the family farm.

"To grow unique ancient grains, sustainably regenerating the landscape by learning the natural intelligence of our land, restoring biodiversity and improving our soil health we will directly improve the environment, our farm and our own health," she said in her application.

Some of the other standout projects and ideas from the 2020 finalists included:

- Sam Schmidt's idea to utilise worms, worm juice and castings to improve fruit quality and quantity, enriching the soil and using minimal artificial methods or chemicals in the process, and to scale up a small, backyard operation to a commercial, cost-effective model;



Left: Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship winner Ellen Zibell accepting her award. Right: Award presenter Matt Ward from the Department for Environment and Water, Ellen Zibell and Ag Bureau Chair Janette Ridgway.

- Jasmin Piggott's vision to develop a native flower farm, to seek sustainable options for diversifying the farm enterprise, particularly when it comes to drought-proofing and fodder diversity and to share knowledge of the production of flowers, plants and floristry skills with locals and city dwellers alike.

Penny Schulz, winner of the 2019 Rural Youth Bursary, gave a presentation on how she has utilised the funds to advance Ag education at her local high school in Murray Bridge, by implementing Ag into the STEM curriculum.

We also learned 2019 Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship recipient, Paul McGorman, was able to attend a study tour to Orange & Manildra to look at containment sheep feeding systems which has assisted him in developing a farm business model based around environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Former Alfred College student Edward Downing, studying the Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Adelaide, was awarded the Lois Harris Scholarship in recognition of academic excellence.

Edward received the highest Tertiary Entrance Score (TER) for a student entering the Agricultural Science course with an outstanding TER of 96.85.

Outgoing Chair Mark Grossman was also recognised with the Services to Primary Production Award. Mark has demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm for the Ag Bureau branches, members and primary industries as a whole.

He helped transition the fully-funded Advisory Board of SA to the self-governing Agricultural Bureau of South Australia and has always been available to assist with management, promotion and the development of the Ag Bureau.



Ag Bureau Chair Janette Ridgway (far left) with David Basham MP (far right) and the 2020 Spirit of Excellence Award winners from left to right: Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship winner Ellen Zibell, Lois Harris Scholarship winner Edward Downing and Services to Primary Production winner (and outgoing Chair) Mark Grossman.

Scholarship Winner Shares her Vision on Family Farm

Committed to creating the change needed for future generations to secure the longevity of farming, Ellen Zibell's Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship win allowed her to research and interact with other like-minded people to learn and follow her passion.

Ellen is a co-director of her family farming business 50kms northwest of Kimba. Together with her husband Brett, his brother Mark and wife Lisa, they farm 7750 hectares of land for their mixed cropping and livestock enterprise.

In Ellen's winning application she demonstrated her vision to diversify the farming enterprise to grow unique ancient grains, sustainably regenerate the landscape, restore biodiversity and improve soil health to directly improve the environment, farming land and personal health.

I am determined to provide the best legacy we can for our three children and the future generations that wish to be involved in agriculture, and I can see that sustainable farming could be the key to this.

*Ellen Zibell,
2020 Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship Winner*

"I believe that as the next generation of farmers we need different skills, and need to question the current ways of doing things. We need to have a state of constant curiosity to move forward in the industry we love for generations to come."



Ellen's original plans were to conduct research trips to Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, visiting farmers and experts using sustainable farming practices, but with continuing border closures due to COVID-19, she had to look closer to home.

Her South Australian trip gave her insight into many amazing people and fantastic ideas here in our own backyard and enabled her to expand her knowledge and gain the appropriate skills.

On Tuesday 17 August 2020, Ellen held her inaugural 'Resilient Ag, for the future' event at the family farm at Buckleboo. Over 80 guests attended including local farming families and children from the Kimba area school. Guest speakers included Nakala Maddock (Nutrisoil) talking about the benefits of improving soils and what worms can do for soils. Mary-anne Mickan (Korinya Farm Gate) spoke about creating nutrient-dense food and pasture-raised pork and beef.

Attendees then headed out into the paddock with Nic Kentish (Resource Consulting Services) to look at one of Ellen's trial sites, who explained how the mixed species in the field will improve the soil.

Ellen's main aim for the event was to share her scholarship with others. The feedback she has received and continues to receive has been very positive, and she thanks all those who made the day possible.

COVID-19 Stalls Bursary Winner's Vision for his Community

Rural Youth Bursary winner Matthew Maunder's strong sense of community involvement and interest in agricultural sustainability motivated his winning application.

After completing an Honours Degree in Rural Science at the University of New England, Matthew gave back to the Glossop community by volunteering with the local CFS, sporting clubs, an Aboriginal youth reading program and with Youth in Agriculture communities.

Working as a Technical Officer at Australia's largest citrus farm in the Riverland, Costa Group's Kangara Farm, Matthew's role allowed him to manage numerous research trials looking into the irrigation, chemical, fertiliser and environmental sustainability of the operations.

These practices ignited Matthew's interest and motivated him to apply for the Rural Youth Bursary, hoping it would allow him to attend the International Citrus Congress (ICC). He wanted to meet with researchers and fellow producers from around the world, to further his knowledge on the leading practices of citrus farming, especially in sustainable production, which he could share with local growers.

"Attending the ICC would be invaluable to progressing my career and improving the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the citrus industry in South Australia," Matthew wrote on his application.

Unfortunately for Matthew, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic put a stop to attending the ICC, but it did allow him to study an Advanced Diploma in Horticultural Business.



This course has expanded Matthew's knowledge of how to improve the economic sustainability of a horticultural business, a valuable skill in the world of increased input costs and stagnant returns.

I look forward to being able to apply these skills in my own work, on a citrus farm in the Riverland, as well as sharing this knowledge with other members of the Ag Bureau in the area.

*Matthew Maunder,
2020 Rural Youth Bursary Winner*

Through the course, Matthew has met like-minded individuals from a diverse range of enterprises and locations. This has broadened his knowledge of horticulture, and provided invaluable contacts in diverse agricultural industries.

"I'd encourage all young people working in rural areas to apply, as it is a great opportunity to pursue further study, undertake a study tour or develop a special project, which will ultimately benefit the rural community."

Scholarship to Support Rural Youth Pursuing a Career in Agriculture

Former Prince Alfred College student studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Adelaide was awarded the 2020 Lois Harris Scholarship in recognition of academic excellence.

The Agricultural Bureau of SA announced Edward Downing as the 2020 recipient of the respected Lois Harris Scholarship. Edward received the highest Tertiary Entrance Score (TER) for a student entering the Agricultural Science course in 2020 with an outstanding TER of 96.85.

The scholarship, which is in its 21st year, recognises high achieving students entering into their first year of tertiary education.

I am quite humbled and honoured to receive the scholarship and would like to thank the Agricultural Bureau of SA for making it possible.

*Edward Downing,
2020 Lois Harris Scholarship Winner*

Edward is hoping to use the scholarship to help cover his living costs while studying away from home, contribute towards his HECS loan, and fund some travel to NSW and Queensland to investigate advances in feedlots.

Growing up on his family's sheep, mixed cropping and irrigation farm in Mundulla, in the state's



South East, Edward has an understanding and an appreciation for working together and learning from others with his dad regularly encouraging him to work at other properties in the region.

Completing his year 12 studies, Edward enjoyed a gap year where he worked and travelled overseas, and returning home he announced his desire to pursue studies in agriculture — much to the surprise and delight of his parents.

“Originally I thought I'd finish my degree and see where it leads me, but I'm really enjoying learning about irrigation practices and sustainable operations — I can already see areas for improvement on our family farm. As to where my ag studies will take me... I am excited and open to embracing the experiences and opportunities that come my way.

The scholarship is named in honour of a former Agricultural Bureau of SA Board Member (1995-1998), the late Lois Harris, in recognition and support of young people entering into the agricultural industry in South Australia.

Governing Body

Comprising representatives from each of the Ag Bureau's regions, the Ag Bureau Board is strengthened with members from government, research bodies and agriculture education.

Representing the interests of South Australia's farmers to the government, the Board contributes to the extension of emerging agricultural research and development by managing innovative projects.

The Board also manages the annual Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards which recognises and celebrates the achievements of young people. It provides winners with financial support to pursue a career of excellence in agriculture and helps promote Ag Bureau membership to a young and vibrant audience.

As a governing body, the Board is responsible for:

- Managing/administering finances, insurance, awards and projects
- Preparation/distribution of submissions on industry-relevant issues
- Facilitating the implementation of research, extension and training programs to enhance agriculture, business and management
- Promoting the Ag Bureau's aims, objectives and achievements and the importance of sustainable resource management to the broader community
- Providing a view forward to industry bodies and government departments on behalf of members.

Thank You to our Sponsors

Generous sponsorship and support enabled the Ag Bureau to continue delivering educational activities and events to support our valued branches and members throughout the year.

It was heartwarming to see branches embracing online technology to deliver events through the COVID-19 restrictions, including density and social distancing rules.

We take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors and supporters who have helped make these possible, in particular: Department for Environment and Water (DEW)

and Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) generously allocated funding towards the Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards.

The ongoing support of DEW enabled us to present the Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship (\$8000) to Ellen Zibell at the 2020 Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards. While PIRSA's continued support enabled us to offer the Rural Youth Bursary (\$5000) to Matthew Maunder.

We also acknowledge the dedicated team at Rural Business Support for supporting our Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards dinner.



General Jeffery Soil Health Finalist

Congratulations Brian Hughes on being one of the three finalists in this year's General Jeffery Soil Health Award.

Brian is an Ex Officio on the Ag Bureau's Board, representing The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA). He is a strong believer and supporter of the Ag Bureau network, our farming community and always seeks to find opportunities for collaboration and research that will benefit our members.

He has extensive knowledge of South Australian soils, their health, distribution, properties and management in agriculture. This broad knowledge enables Brian to bring a well-balanced approach to solving many technical issues and problems related to soils and their management.

Brian is the Principal Consultant for PIRSA-Rural Solutions SA and provides significant leadership in developing new ideas, project concepts and project applications. He is regarded as a technical authority on understanding and managing soil acidity and leads numerous applied research activities and projects in this area.

Throughout his career he has been dedicated and committed to improving soil health, imparting his knowledge to others and the continuous improvement and adoption of soil management practices.



Ag Bureau Projects 2020-21

New Projects

Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment

Increasing farmers' knowledge and understanding of soils to adopt best practice sustainable agriculture on the Yorke Peninsula, SA.

May 2021 to October 2021 – \$66,500

The grant is to support land manager practice change that will deliver more sustainable, productive and profitable food, fibre and forestry business while protecting Australia's biodiversity; protecting and improving the condition of natural resources; and assisting Australia to meet its international obligations.

This project is to be delivered by Rural Solutions and will work with three farmer groups.

Soil pit workshops with soil specialists and practical, hands-on training will allow farmers to assess their soils and to make better decisions to improve their farming practices. The workshops will focus on a number of issues including soil acidity, sodicity, salinity and soil fertility and management practices including surface cover to control wind erosion.



Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment

Natural Resource Management (NRM) Drought Resilience Program

June 2021 to November 2022 – \$178,000

The project has two objectives, the first is to increase adoption of innovative practices to improve the productive capacity of underperforming soils by improvements in water use efficiency in low and medium rainfall areas of SA, resulting in reductions in soil erosion, acidity and salinity.

The second is to increase the adoption of innovative farm water collection, storage and reticulation techniques improving water security, and reducing the pressure and reliance of natural systems including watercourses.

Soil Improvement Component

This project will focus on a two-stage approach for the soil component:

- Healthy Soils Check – identification and assessment of limiting soil factors
- Innovative Practices – exposure to opportunities to overcome limitations using new and innovative practices.

Innovative Water Component

Develop and run a series of four workshops in regional areas to discuss and assess future alternative water supply, storage and reticulation options.

Landholders will then go through a water planning process for their property including examining the water requirements, opportunities for less invasive water supply, storage, reticulation and costing options. Grazing principles included.

Ag Bureau Projects 2020-21

Current Projects

National Landcare Project – Mid North and Yorke Peninsula

Increasing farmers' knowledge and skills to manage 'emerging' soil acidity to improve soil health, crop and pasture production

June 2020 to October 2022 – \$47,260

With more intensive and productive farming systems in the Lower North and on the Yorke Peninsula, there are now areas with emerging issues of soil acidity where this has not occurred before.

The growth of high-value crops such as lentils and chickpeas are highly sensitive to low pH (acid) soils.

Due to acid soils, these crops are going yellow, not nodulating well and dying in patches.

This project will work with two Ag Bureau groups to demonstrate innovative technologies such as the Veris® soil pH mapping machine to show the spatial variation of soil pH across paddocks.

The soil pH mapping work and decision support tools will be used in workshops to increase farmers' awareness, knowledge, understanding, skills and management to treat acid soils.

After the workshop farmers will have the capacity and capability to make informed decisions to improve soil health, crop production and profitability.

National Landcare Program – Streaky Bay

Increasing available root depth and overcoming pH constraints on calcareous soil through application of machinery and organic matter

January 2020 to April 2023 – \$10,000

The aim of the demonstration is to trial two different machines (Reefinator and FAE Rock Grinder) to break up profile stones and the rocky subsurface layer to increase usable root depth and increase available nutrients within such stony rises.

Treatments will also subsequently include application of organic matter, such as sowing of medic or applying pelletised Lucerne, to treat the currently highly alkaline soil, improve phosphorus availability for crops and enable the stony rises to become productive farming land.

This project will measure the increased production that can be obtained and the financial viability of undertaking this demonstration on a large and small scale.

Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board – Buckleboo and Kimba

Ameliorating red and white sandy soils with high soil strength

April 2020 to April 2023 – \$11,000

This project will assist Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group (BFIG) to meet grower demands for development of knowledge and capability to implement the most appropriate strategic tillage practices.

The project is designed to improve soil health through improved soil carbon, soil biology, better nutrient use and management of soil structure leading to increased profitability, while reducing negative environmental impacts (soil acidity, nutrient leaching etc).

This project will allow BFIG to investigate effects of nutrition applied in deep ripping through an existing Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) project on Buckleboo's Red Sands, and replicate the trial south of Kimba on a white salacious sand.

Completed Projects

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board – Point Pass

Gone with the wind; managing soil erosion in marginal country

September 2019 to EXTENDED 2021 – \$2,900

The grant focused on the delivery of knowledge and skill-building events to support agricultural and horticultural groups in the region to achieve natural resources management outcomes for improved sustainable agricultural production.

Due to COVID-19 Point Pass Ag Bureau was unable to hold their event in 2019–20 and were thankfully granted a 12-month extension.

The original application lacked relevance, due to the delay, so there was a change in the content slightly while still meeting the outcomes.

A successful day trip was held in 2021 achieving project outcomes. Visiting Thornbys at Sanderston, the group were shown through the extensive sheep feedlot enterprise. They discussed the day to day management, how the cropping business



supports the large sheep portion of the business, and also how the feedlot waste is used as a management tool within the cropping system.

Also visited was Schusters EzyBale at Freeling, they shared how diversifying the business and investing money outside of the square has added to their business resilience and financial risk management.

Northern and Yorke Landscapes Board Grassroots Grants - Laura

Beyond Straight Lines

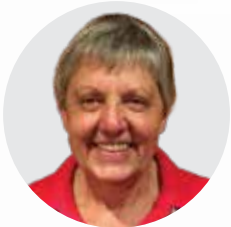
February 2021 to July 2021 – \$10,842

The grant focused on improving the use and understanding of technology to improve soil health.

There has been a significant increase in farmers wanting to spread lime or gypsum to improve soil condition, as well as an understanding about improvements in data collection tools, and methods/resources for analysis, in order to make informed decisions about inputs.

There was also a demonstration on the use of technology to support farm decision making.

Meet Our Board Members



Janette Ridgway - Chair

South East
PO Box 20, Wolseley 5269
0427 532 338
ejridgway@bigpond.com

Janette works with her family on their farm, east of Bordertown, a mixed enterprise of broad acre crops, sheep, and horticulture. Janette has a passion for agriculture, community and family, she brings these skills and understanding to the Board, along with a desire for learning and sharing of information.



Bevan Oster - Vice Chair

RMD 1042 Dowlingville
Kadina SA 5554
0408 824 790
oster5@bigpond.com

Bevan has been part of the Petersville Ag Bureau since 1980. He spent many of his early years shearing in the area and later farming. In 2012 he returned to farm at Dowlingville. He is passionate about the history of the Ag Bureaus in his region and is confident the Petersville branch has a strong future.



Darren Kennedy - Treasurer

Riverland & Murray
PO Box 654, Glossop SA 5344
0438 339 837
djmakennedy@bigpond.com

Darren is a second-generation farmer in the Glossop region, managing wine grape and dried sultana properties. He believes the Ag Bureau's history and standing make it the ideal vehicle for moving information and ideas from legislation to grassroots farmers and back, in an informal setting, that gives voice to the non-activists within the rural community.



Clem Fitzgerald

Eyre Peninsula
PO Box 608, Marden SA 5070
0428 976 692
clemfitz1955@icloud.com

Farming in the Buckleboo and Kimba areas since 1971, Clem was a founding member of Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group and has been a member of many agricultural groups including the South Australian Farmers Federation. Clem has served as mayor and chairman of numerous State and Federal committees.



Peter O'Neil

Hills, Fleurieu & KI
PO Box 446, Yankalilla 5203
0419 974 11
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Peter has been farming beef cattle in the Parawa district for 30 years. Peter is a councillor on the Yankalilla Council and has been a Rotary volunteer for more than 30 years, also serving as President during that time. 2021 marked Peter's retirement from the Ag Bureau Board.



Corbin Schuster

Barossa & Light
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Growing up on a diverse farm producing hay (domestic and export), grain, straw and pigs, Corbin is passionate about growing high-quality products and value-adding on farm produce. He has attended Freeling Ag Bureau meetings for nearly 15 years, and sees Ag Bureau as an important social network for SA farmers.

Ex Officios

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Agricultural Bureau
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PATHWAY TO IMPROVEMENT



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