



NOVEMBER 2011

TRAINEE NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

It's that mad time of the year again... the end of school approaches and with it are exams, last minute assignments, late logbooks, harvest etc. Good luck to anyone involved in exams – students, staff and mentors. We hope you manage to survive without too much stress.

LOGBOOKS

Trainees submitted hundreds of pages of logbooks in the last week of September to get the units included in their SACE results. It was a difficult task to get these all marked before results had to go to schools.

Next year we will have to set an earlier due date for logbooks for units to be included in SACE results. If you are a continuing Trainee, please take note of the instruction sheet that we send out with your logbooks – It states that it is important for you to return them regularly over the period of your Traineeship, with them all being handed up for marking/assessing at least 6 months before you expect to complete your Traineeship.

SCHOOL RESULTS: If you are a school student, details of the units you have completed in your Traineeship, were faxed to your school last month. Your school will add your Traineeship results to your SACE results.

All Block Releases are finished for the year. We don't like to run any BR's in 4th term as Trainees seem to be so busy with end of year commitments at school and at work. BR's will commence again in Term 1 2012. If you are continuing, you will receive a letter about your Block Releases, 3-4 weeks prior. In the meantime, we encourage you to work on your elective logbooks and workbooks over the break. Remember that logbooks and workbooks are meant to be completed and submitted regularly during the year. If you are behind, please do some work and catch up.

FINISHING EARLY: If you expect you may finish early or terminate your Traineeship, please let us know in advance so that we can ensure you are resulted for as much as possible.

GRADUATION 2012

For Trainees who have finished their Traineeship this year or are close to finishing, you will be invited to attend the RST Graduation Dinner.

This year's Graduation will be held on Friday 24th February 2012, at the Hotel Grand Chancellor Adelaide. Please see the enclosed letter for more details and don't forget to put this date on your calendar.



Jemma Fraser & Heidi Stokes with their dogs at the Mid North Working Dogs Block Release.

NEW TRAINEES

Welcome to trainees who have commenced their Traineeship with us in the last couple of months. We hope you enjoy your Traineeship with your employer and your training with RST. Please ask your Regional Training Consultant (RTC) about anything that you would like to know or have clarified about the program.

BALLANTYNE, Samuel	LING, Alexander (returning to do C3 Ag)
BIGG, Dylan	MODRA, Nathaniel
CREASER, Jarred	NORTON, Hayley
KOMPO, Luke	RAMSEY, Chad
LEHMANN, Kristie	STARKE, Trent (returning to do C3 Ag)
LUSH, Nicholas	WHEELER, Dylan



Above L-R Alex McCauley, Teresa Robinson (RTC YP Region) & Kelvin Barr (Deliverer)



Trent Starke and Lochie Paech at the Cummins Crop Agronomy Block Release.



Congratulations to Peter Barr

CONGRATULATIONS TO RST TRAINEES

Congratulations to Peter Barr and his offside 'Captain'. Pete and 'Captain' competed in the Sheep Dog Trials at the Keith and Tintinara Districts Show on the 8th & 9th October. They took out 2 First place trophies, in the 'Novice' and 'Improver' sections. Their score was so good they went straight into the final of the 'Open' section, and were doing very well, until a 'stupid sheep' jumped out of the yard getting them disqualified. Trudy Docking, our Program Manager and Trish Menz, our RTC for the SE and Keith/Bordertown areas, were there to cheer on Pete and 'Captain'. It was a terrific performance by both handler and dog.

Well done to the students from Gladstone High School who participated in a range of competitions at the Crystal Brook Show and also at the Royal Adelaide Show. Congratulations to Georgia Smart who won the Junior Fleece Judging at Crystal Brook Show, ahead of Brad Lines who came equal 2nd. Brad Lines also came 2nd in the Junior Ram Judging at Crystal Brook, with Trentyn Thomas coming 3rd. Lucas Woolford was in the top 6 finalists in Junior Fleece Judging at the Royal Adelaide. There was a great article in your local paper. Well done everyone.

Congratulations to Duane Wilson from Horizon Christian School whose commitment and work in his Traineeship earned him an 'Honourable Mention' in the Wakefield Plains Regional Council, VET Student of the Year Award.

To anyone else who has extended themselves in any way, have earned an Award or won or been placed in a competition – Congratulations and well done. By trying new things, and stepping out of our comfort zone, we learn that we are capable of far more than we ever imagined. Keep up the good work.



Dominic Chevalier
Whyalla Horti Workshop

CROP AGRONOMY BLOCK RELEASES

Crop Agronomy Block Releases were all held during August and September 2nd. This is a very popular Block Release for Trainees who are involved with cropping and pasture development. Send your Trainee out with your Agronomist whenever the opportunity arises so they are able to develop their skills even further. Also ensure they are checking for root diseases and plant disorders in your own crops whenever possible.

TRAIN WORKING DOGS BLOCK RELEASES

These Block Releases are also finished for the year. Twisty Barr and his four legged friends have travelled the State and passed on their knowledge and skills to many of our Trainees. Hopefully since your BR you and your own four legged friend have been practising your technique so you can manage sheep without any unnecessary stress. Don't forget how handy the plastic rake is as a training aid.

REQUIREMENTS WHEN SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Unless advised otherwise, Trainees are required to submit their Block Release assignments within 2-3 weeks following their Block Release – their RTC will advise them of the due date. Trainees are also required to use the 'Trainee Assignment Cover Sheet' template provided to complete their assignment. The template ensures that when you submit your assignment, every page will have your name and assignment details on it and the cover sheet ensures that your name, contact details, assignment name, group and RTC name are easily accessible. If an assignment is submitted without a cover page and identification, you will not receive credit for it. If we receive an assignment without a name or details on it, we cannot mark it. If you do not have a template, or cannot open it for some reason, please contact your RTC to have a copy emailed to you.

CHEMICAL ACCREDITATION BLOCK RELEASES

If you undertook Chemical Accreditation this year, your assessment and any resubmits should have been completed by now. The last of our Trainees to do Chemical Accreditation were a few who were able to join a group of farmers and blockies from around Loxton who organised to have a face to face workshop to do their accreditation renewals. If you have completed your Chemical Accreditation, your 'ticket' is valid for five years before you need to renew it.

THANK YOU TO OUR BLOCK RELEASE HOSTS

Once again, we need to pass on a BIG THANK YOU to all of our host families, who have been kind enough to have us and our Trainees on their properties for recent Block Releases. Thank you also to people who have helped us find suitable venues. Our thanks to:

- Jimmy Miles and Jane Michell from Naracoorte (Keith/Bordertown and South East Crop Ag)
- Kevin & Maggie Longbottom (Clare Crop Ag)
- Mark & Caroline Graham (YP Crop Ag)
- Nick & Cheryln McCauley (YP Working Dogs)
- Paul Ayliffe of Martindale Holdings (Clare Working Dogs)
- Howard and Toni Bastian (Mid North Working Dogs)
- Paul Simmons from Coomandook (Coonalpyn, Murray Bridge & Fleurieu Working Dogs)
- Sim's Farm, Cleve Area School (Working Dogs)

REGISTERING WITH WORKCOVER

We have recently had a few enquiries about wage rates and registration of Trainees with WorkCover.

Regional Skills Training is unable to give advice on the wage structure for Traineeships. Please contact Fairwork SA with any queries about wages and entitlements. Phone:13 13 94

An employer of a Trainee MUST be registered with WorkCover, but they may not be required to pay any levy on the Trainees wages. To register or check your registration and requirements, contact Safework SA.

SAFEWORK SA CONTACT DETAILS:

Phone: 1300 365 255
Website: www.safework.sa.gov.au
Email: help@safework.sa.gov.au

RUGBY JUMPERS

Some Trainees may notice that some of their peers have recently purchased the RST Rugby Jumper. If you would like to look as good as your fellow trainees at next year's Block Releases and are happy to part with around \$65, please contact your RTC or our Head Office staff to order a jumper.

WORDS OF WISDOM – "When the student
is ready, the master appears" BUDDHIST PROVERB

TRAINEESHIP STAFF DETAILS AND CONTACTS



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