



# RED MEAT UPDATES

## T A S M A N I A

22 July 2016

# Upskilling in pasture management

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# Business overview

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- 820ha (inc. ~180ha irrigated, 400ha dryland, 200ha run)
- 630mm rainfall
- Calving 300 cows
- Lambing 1700 ewes
- ~70ha/year cropped (poppies, carrot seed, grass seed, peas)
- 1.5 labour units

# Business overview





# Business overview



# Key drivers for change

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- Pasture quality / composition
- Wanted to improve pasture management prior to renovation
- Lifetime ewe management (LTEM)
- Managing small mobs (studs!)
- Lifestyle / business / personnel



# Key drivers for change



# How did I learn?

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- Undertook Lifetime Ewe Management (LTEM) course with Macquarie Franklin
- Led on to Pasture Principles
- Agronomist
- Speaking to other farmers

# Pasture Principles

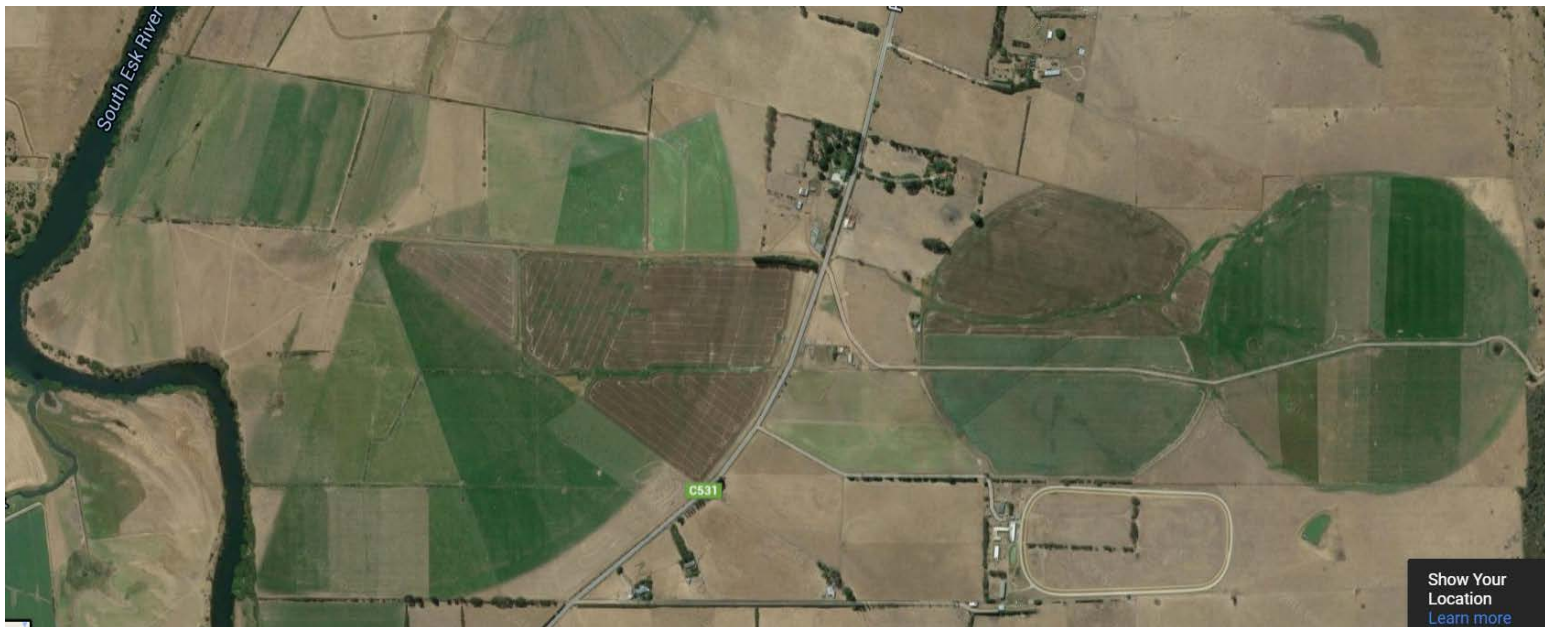
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- Benefits of group learning — a lot of questions asked I hadn't even thought of asking!
- Didn't just learn about leaf emergence rates and feed budgets — as a group a lot of trouble-shooting through difficult seasons.



# Changes implemented

- Started small — 1 pivot and 1 mob of bulls
- As the benefits became clear, expanded principles to rest of farm



# Changes implemented (cont.)

- Increased mob sizes
- Simplified enterprises
- LTEM — feed allocation and condition scoring





# Changes implemented (cont.)

- Infrastructure — fencing and water





# Changes implemented (cont.)

- Keeping track of stock movements!



< Notes ram (17/6) silage 2 (21/6) 

Ierry's river (26/6) t2 (5/7)

**R1 Bull calves**

Cm7 (16/2) cm8 (19/2) cm9 cm10  
(25/2) cm11 (1/3) cm1 (5/3 - too  
soon?) cm2 (10/3) cm3 (14/3) cm4  
(17/3) cm5 (20/3) cm7 (23/3) cm8  
(25/3) cm9 (29/3) cm10 (31/3)  
cm11 (2/4) cm1 (5/4) reservoir 1  
(7/3) r2 (12/4) r3 (15/4) r5 (19/4) r6  
(22/4 2236-4185) r7 (26/4) r8  
(29/4) r9 (5/5) r1 (10/5) r2 (13/5) r3  
(16/5) r4 (19/5 1700-3800) r5  
(22/5) r6 (26/5) r7 (28/5  
3944-1466) r8 (31/5) r9 (3/6) r10  
(4/6 fence broken) rattays (9/6)  
coal mine 1 (17/6) cm2 (20/6) cm3  
(24/6) cm4 (27/6) cm5 (1/7) cm6



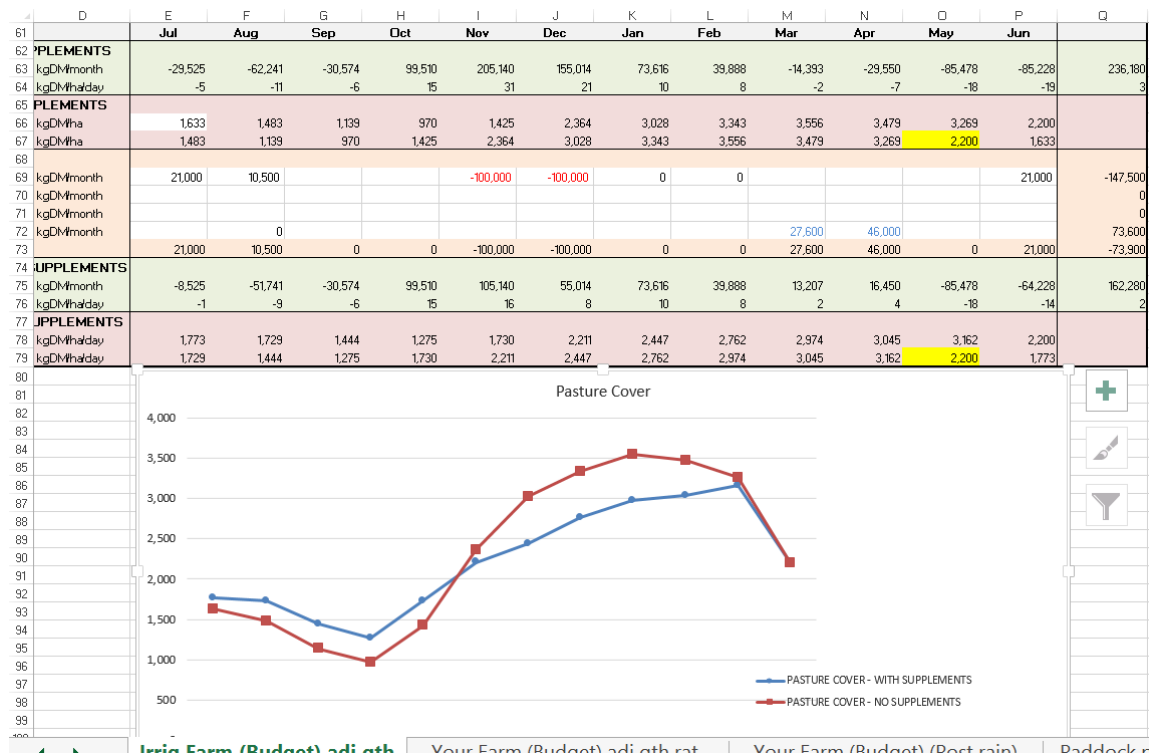
# Changes implemented cont...

- Measuring



# Changes implemented cont...

- Animal requirements / rules of thumb
- Feed budgeting / feed profiles





# Changes implemented cont...



# How we made the changes

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- Changes started on irrigated ground — could see the lost opportunities
- Now implementing on dryland
- Paddock size on dryland typically 20ha
- Where possible, run large mobs (ewes, cows)
- However, have moved to using a tape for smaller mobs (R2 Heifers, single-sire mating for cows)



# Challenges

- Managing ewes on high-quality feed



# Challenges





# Challenges



# Where are we going?

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- Benchmarking — too early to measure changes on business— are past few seasons a good reflection on average?
- Stock numbers have increased but a way to go
- Lamb weaning rates increased — two very good lambing seasons!?
- Will need to look at cost vs benefit
- Best change I have noticed is improved pasture quality and increased winter growth rates



# Top three take home messages

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1. Start small (one mob, portion of the farm etc.)
2. Does not need to be intensive (we are not dairy farmers!)
3. Principles are just that — principles — don't sweat the small things

# Tools, resources & training

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- Lifetime Ewe Management (LTEM)
- Pasture Principles
- Kiwi Tech fencing and troughs
- Plate meter
- Feed profile