

# MFS Newsletter

**MFS**  
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## MERRY XMAS

### Local girl Georgie May Constance wins the 2017 MFS traineeship position....

You are most likely to catch Georgie at a horse event anywhere on the Monaro. I caught up with her recently at the Nimmitabel gymkhana. Having recently completed Year 12 at Yanco High School, Georgie is the third generation, born and bred on her family's sheep and cattle property South of Bombala. "Farming has been my passion since I can remember and I wish to follow in my fathers and grandfathers footsteps and eventually take over the family farm after University."



She plans to go on and study Agricultural Science at Charles Sturt University in 2018 but for next year her focus will be closer to home on the MFS traineeship gaining invaluable practical skills as she works on a variety of farms across the Monaro.

This year, for the first time, MFS has organized for Georgie to attend the Hay Inc. training course as part of her year. She will join 14 other agricultural focused youths in three training blocks on rural properties in the Hay district learning skills in cattle handling, wool classing, yard work, pregnancy scanning, fence construction, livestock water repairs, motor bike maintenance and many other areas.

Georgie is a "hard worker and a fast learner" and we look forward to working with her next year.

We would also like to **thank Emma Tangye**, our out-going trainee for her hard work and consistent efforts during the traineeship this year.

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- MFS Legume results update
- Drench resistance tests – ready to go
- What's coming up in 2017
- Funding Success for lamb finishing

## MFS Legume Trial - Bombala Kyleston Site

Spring Biomass Assessment – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016

	Spring Sown			
	R1	R2	R3	Average kgDM/ha
Santorini	1266	0	1121	<b>796</b>
Arrow Leaf	647	306	933	<b>628</b>
Casbah	0	261	206	<b>155</b>
Bartolo	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Gland	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

	Summer Sown			
	R1	R2	R3	Average kgDM/ha
Arrowleaf	1918	3483	2988	<b>2796</b>
Margurita	3019	827	1394	<b>1747</b>
Avila	416	1353	1104	<b>958</b>
Casbah	174	0	225	<b>133</b>
Bartolo	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Gland	0	0	0	<b>0</b>



	Autumn Sown			
	R1	R2	R3	Average kgDM/ha
<b>Margurita</b>	2446	2597	2497	<b>2513</b>
<b>Balansa</b>	3377	2143	1419	<b>2313</b>
<b>Seaton Park</b>	1973	1757	1397	<b>1709</b>
<b>Arrowleaf</b>	1420	132	1059	<b>870</b>
<b>Bartolo</b>	19	154	564	<b>246</b>
<b>Casbah</b>	0	158	102	<b>87</b>
<b>Santorini</b>	34	17	0	<b>17</b>



Balansa bolta autumn sown

## Feed Quality Results – November 2016

	DMD%	CP%
Arrowleaf (summer sown)	69	10.8
Margurita (summer sown)	68	11.4
Arrowleaf (autumn sown)	74	8.7
Seaton park (autumn sown)	70	9
Margurita (autumn sown)	72	14
Balansa bolta (autumn sown)	69	11.2

Not taking into account any statistical analysis, the results to date indicate the autumn sowing has been the most successful in terms of biomass produced for the legumes *margurita french serradella* and *balansa bolta*. *Margurita* has also performed in the summer sown plots along with the arrow leaf clover. Considering the significant weed dominance in these plots, the establishment, competitiveness and performance of the *margurita* is certainly a stand out at this stage. A final assessment will be conducted in Autumn 2017 before the final comparison analysis of all the three sowing dates will be conducted and summarised.

REMINDERS FOR 2017

**Drench Resistance testing available**

A reminder that if anyone would like help to conduct a drench resistance test over the summer please contact Nancy Spoljaric who has the packs and equipment ready to go. **Protocol** is as follows;

- 15 sheep are needed for each drench group
- test three drench groups ie. white/levamisole combination, mectin and mectin/white/levamisole triple combination
- randomly allocate sheep to groups and identify
- drench each treatment group separately
- leave control group untreated
- graze all groups together for next 10-14 days
- re-yard and collect dung samples from all treatment groups (clearly identify and label samples)
- drench each treatment group separately
- send samples to lab notifying it is a drench test and request a larval culture subject to a sufficient egg count
- a drench is classed as 'effective' only when it reduces the worm egg count by 98 per cent or more.

EVENTS FOR 2017

-MFS has recently been successful with a **lamb finishing** Producer Demonstration Site through MLA. We will receive **\$56,314 over three years** to ground truth the modelling work for six "lamb finishing" pasture systems. These will include two rape pastures, a plantain, lucerne, and improved grass pasture (grass based and legume based). This project will give us very useful information on the dry matter production, feed quality, and lamb growth rate performance on various finishing pasture options.

-MFS is hosting two sites as part of the CSIRO / NSW DPI phosphorus efficient legumes project. These sites

will be located on "Redcliff" and "Glenfinnan" and will be sown in Autumn 2017. This project aims to reduce the phosphorus (P) dependence of Australian temperate pastures by expanding the use of high yielding pasture legumes ie. serradellas that have lower fertiliser-P requirements.

-A **Legume nodulation field day** will be held early in 2017 to present the results of the recent legume nodulation survey which sampled 55 sites across the Monaro district. Preliminary results indicate our average nodulation score may be as low as 2.6 (range 0 to 8).



-The **BOM** has commenced a four year program to **improve its climate outlook service** which has kicked off with a series of workshops across Australia. If you would like a summary report of the key findings please contact Nancy. The Bureau has co-developed an online, interactive course to help users better understand rainfall and temperature outlooks, and inform decision-making. You **can register and access the course for free at:**

[https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training\\_module.php?id=1247#.V8VpbE9f3Z5](https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1247#.V8VpbE9f3Z5)

-Tocal College, in partnership with SafeWork NSW, will be offering subsidised **quad bike training workshops in April 2017**. More details to follow.

-MFS in conjunction with NSW DPI has developed a **service directory** of professionals in the district which deal with farm transition options. These professionals were part of the two forums which MFS and NSW DPI have held in Cooma over the previous year. To access the directory please visit [Service Directory - Farm Transition](#)



On behalf of the Board of MFS I would like to **wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable Xmas break with their families.** Thank you once again for your support for MFS this year.  
Best wishes,  
Richie, Georgie, John, Jono, Gus, Mike, Phil and Nancy.

