



Barossa Improved Grazing Group Annual Report 2021



Barossa Improved Grazing Group Inc.

Our Vision

Resilient Landscapes and Land Managers

Our Mission

To Improve Farm Grazing Systems



2021 Snapshot

- Annual 'Grow 2021' BIGG Conference- 80 Attendees
- New two-year Smart Farms Water Security Grant
- 10 different events providing opportunities for over 150 producers
- Honours Student project on Ewe Condition Score
- New Technical Facilitator joined the team
- A new project to look at building on farm resilience
- 11 BIGG Bulletin e-news reaching over 350 producers
- New and existing linkages with rural businesses





Contents

About Us	3
BIGG Partnerships	4
BIGG Projects	
Grow 2021 Conference	6
Producer Demonstration Site: Ewe Containment Areas	7
Equipping farmers with soil, water and climate decision making tools	8
Goyder's Line Project	9
Soil Health & Grazing Workshop	10
Pasture Walks & Pasture Paramedic	11
Livestock Technology Group	12
Supporting Wellbeing in the Community	13
Looking to 2022	14

About Us

Barossa Improved Grazing Group Board

Peter Mitchell (Angaston)	Chair
Ian Koch (Moculta)	Vice Chair
Sarah Weaver (Tanunda)	Treasurer
Vic Patrick (Flaxmans Valley)	Board Member
Stephan Anesbury (Mt Pleasant)	Board Member
Lisa Nietschke (Freeling)	Board Member
Craig John (Mt Pleasant)	Board Member
Taryn Mangelsdorf (Gawler)	Board Member
Georgie Keynes	Executive Officer
Brett Nietschke	Technical Facilitator
Deb Scammell	Technical Facilitator
Jane Evans	Technical Facilitator- Water & Wellbeing



Communications

Website	www.biggroup.org.au
BIGG e-news	
Producer Case Studies	
Live Weather Station Information	
Producer Resources	
Events	
Facebook	@Barossaimprovedgrazing
YouTube	Barossa Improved Grazing Group

BIGG Partners:

Gold Sponsor:

Agricultural Bureau
of South Australia Inc.
PATHWAY TO IMPROVEMENT



Angaston

Silver Sponsor:


Coopers Farm Supplies
Mount Torrens | Mount Pleasant

Bronze Sponsor:


emmetts
STAYING POWER

Commercial Sponsors:



SEELANDER[®] QUARRIES

ROD'S
CUSTOM MADE
STOCK BLOCKS
www.rodstockblocks.com.au



RayWhite.
RURAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Penrice Quarry & Mineral
an ADBRI company

Nutrien
Ag Solutions[™]
FAWCETT LIVESTOCK



AWN
delivering the vision

taractechnologies

Johnson's
Feeding the animals that feed the world

vpe valley power equipment

Elders

RURAL BANK

CLARE VALLEY GRAINS
MANOORA

AGF seeds
Australian Grain and Forage

Bunyara
fencing & post metrics steel

Simmonds Transport
Est. Since 1927
LIVESTOCK • HAY • GENERAL CARRIERS
Mobile: 0427 658 936
Ph/Fax: (08) 8568 2209
3218 Eden Valley Road,
Mount Pleasant S.A.

VATER
Machinery

IQ border.
THE SMART CHOICE.



BASIC TRAILERS

Seed Force

BARENBRUG
Grow with Confidence

JAE
Justins
AUTO ELECTRICS

PERRYS
fuel distributors since 1949

LYNDCH MOTORS
— EST 1951 —
CASE IH

Alltech LIENERT
HELPING YOU GET THROUGH
THE UPS AND DOWNS OF BUSINESS
ANZ

BatteryWorld GAWLER
POWER YOUR PASSION
8523 0028

Project Sponsors



Government of South Australia
Northern and Yorke
Landscape Board



Government of South Australia
Murraylands and Riverland
Landscape Board



SA Cattle
Industry
Fund

SA Sheep
Industry
Fund



Thank you

To all producers, businesses and industry personnel who provide your time, knowledge and support for all things BIGG. **BIGG exists by producers for producers** and will continue to work from the 'ground up' in 2022!

Grow 2021 BIGG Conference

BIGG's 6th Annual Conference was the highlight of the year, with over 80 producers attending the afternoon session.

The conference focused on growing the business, livestock, land and people. It provided a great opportunity to learn, but also to network with local businesses, farmers and industry.



Highlights

- Eight speakers delivering a range of land, water and livestock presentations
- Fantastic sponsors display throughout the day
- Updates from the Adelaide University
- Local Producer Case Studies on weather stations and on-farm water security
- Attendees rated the conference 9/10 for their business

Presentation from the day

<https://biggroup.org.au/resources/presentations>

Producer Demonstration Site: Ewe Containment Areas



The project has just entered its final year of three. It works with farmers to demonstrate and assess the use of on-farm ‘containment areas’ to:

- Maintain annual enterprise stocking rates
- Maintain ground cover
- Increase reproductive rate
- Maintain condition score of the ewe to increase lamb marking percentage and maintain wool cut



During this project we will:

- Conduct a cost benefit analysis to determine the economic performance of containment compared to non-containment areas.
- Upskill producers to increase their confidence in the use of electronic identification, condition scoring, ground cover monitoring and feed budgeting.
- Conduct extension activities to encourage adoption of key practices.

Highlights:

- 12 farmers were engaged (located across the Barossa, Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges and Lower Mid North) with their containment sites being monitored in 2020 and 2021
- Sheep Feeding and Health Field Day at Mt Pleasant
- Local case studies developed to facilitate farmer-farmer learning
- Opportunities to further investigate ewe health in containment with projects in 2022
- The project allowed us to link in with Adelaide Uni Honours Student Program, Alex Turner, to investigate individual ewe condition score in relation to lamb survival. This will be presented at the BIGG 2022 Conference

[Summer Feeding Ewes Webinar](#)

[Use of Minerals in Containment Tech Note](#)

[Tim Brown Producer Case Study](#)

[Containment Ewe Discussion and Case Study Webinar](#)

Equipping farmers with soil, water and climate decision making tools

This new 'Smart Farms' two year project is working with PIRSA's Brian Hughes, to provide on- farm decision-making tools for farmers with linkages to BIGG's weather stations, new water quality testing and investigations to improve on-farm water storage and infrastructure.

Highlights

- Water Security Trip to visit lined catchments in the Coorong region
- Water Catchment Workshop with 15 producers to learn about implementing lined catchments locally
- A producer survey determined the opportunities and challenges for local on-farm water requirements
- There will be a range of events held in 2022 to learn about measuring on-farm water requirements and innovative technologies

[Lined Catchment Construction](#)

[Lined Catchment Learnings](#)

[Innovative Water Harvest and Storage Solutions](#)

[BIGG Water Catchment Case Study: Dale Button](#)





Goyder' Line Project

This project is a new one for 2021 and will support producers with a range of on-farm decision making related to improving business resilience and responsiveness to climate variability.

The project has facilitated a Rural Producer and Grazier Water Security Forum in November 2021. BIGG teamed up with the Angaston Ag Bureau for this event. The forum had over 80 attendees and provided information on the Barossa New Water Project to look at opportunities to improve future water security.

The project will continue in 2022 with the following activities:

- A climate webinar in April 2022
- Rural Business Workshops in March 2022
- Mixed Species Demonstration Site and Bus trip to visit established sites in March 2022



Soil Health and Grazing Workshop

This small project facilitated internationally renowned soil scientist Dr. Christine Jones to visit the Barossa and present to over 50 people.

Highlights

- Presentation session highlighting important soil health principles including the liquid soil carbon pathway
- Pasture walks visiting two local mixed species pastures.
- Further opportunities to investigate the use of perennial native plants and mixed species annuals which respond to the local environment in 2022.



Pasture Walks & Pasture Paramedic Program

The return of pasture walks, BIGG's original flagship events, was continued in 2021. These events always provide a fantastic networking opportunity for producers, with social opportunities provided at the end of the event.

Highlights

- April Pasture Walk- visiting a local brassica pasture, centre pivot with wheat and a multi species pasture. Very interesting how each pasture established given the very dry season
- Coopers Mt Pleasant spring pasture walk- over 20 producers viewed the Coopers pasture demo site where there was a range of annual pasture varieties on display.
- Pasture Paramedic is an MLA decision support tool which allows producers to determine the productive capacity of their pastures. A group has monitored their pastures in spring and look at them in late summer to help facilitate 2022 decisions.



Livestock Technology Group

The group will run over two years, delivering a range of sessions to develop the capacity of producers to increase on-farm productivity.

Highlights:

- 8 livestock businesses have developed an on-farm technology plan to facilitate implementation on their farms
- Visit with the Mid North Livestock Technology Group to the Karoonda Livestock Technology Update
- Remote Technology Workshop with 20 producers investigating remote water and pasture monitoring.
- Feed Budgeting Workshop with 10 producers developing supplementary feeding plans for 2022



Supporting Wellbeing in the Farming Community

BIGG welcomed the addition of two wellbeing events for 2021, which provided the opportunity to discuss rural community wellbeing for the local area.

Highlights

- Are you Boggled Mate- joined with Barossa Grape and Wine for hear from this enlightening presentation about rural suicide prevention.
- Wellbeing for Service Providers event was held in October, with over 20 people who attended and heard from a local rural doctor, the Barossa Council and The Seeds of Hope Suicide Prevention network on ways to provide support and help to those who may be struggling.



Looking to 2022!

Thursday 17 February

- BIGG Focus Farm Field Day at Keyneton in the morning
- BIGG Conference at Angaston in the afternoon

Friday 4th March - Smarts Farms Water and Pasture Bus trip to the mid north

Visit smart on-farm water saving ideas and mixed species pastures.

Thursday 10th March - Livestock Tech Expo, Kapunda

Find out about the latest livestock technology and ideas at this Tech Expo

Tuesday 15/ Wednesday 16 and Friday 25th March- Farm Business Workshop

Spaces limited so book with Georgie now!

Friday 18th March- Ag Tech bus trip, Fleurieu

Visit farmers on the Fleurieu to look at new pastures, innovative technologies and grazing systems

Week of 11th April- Smarts Farms Water Planning Workshop

Half day workshop focussing on individual producer water needs/supplies/options

