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# The BIGG Bulletin

## April 2021

### In this issue.....

- BIGG Autumn Pasture Walk
- Sheep Feeding and Health Field Day
- Coorong Water Security Solutions
- Free Soil Testing
- Wood Chop Fundraiser
- From the Inbox

### BIGG Autumn Pasture Walk



**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**2.30-5.00 pm**

**Join local farmers and industry reps to discuss how summer grazing crops have fared over summer, get tips on pasture options for the coming season and even check out a centre pivot!**

Time	Topics	Location
2.30-3.10	Brassica establishment & summer grazing	Lillecrapp- 325 Keyneton Rd, Keyneton
3.40-4.20	Winter wheat for silage & hay - under centre pivot	Rocland Estate- 7 Belvidere Rd, Nuriootpa (cnr Belvidere & Sturt Highway)
4.30-5.00	Brassica/millet summer grazing, mixed species options	Bonythons- 213 Pipeline Road, Ebenezer
5.00	Drinks	

### Guest Speakers

Peter Wendt, Farmer Johns

Craig John, Coopers Farm Supplies

### Cost

Free: BIGG members and non-members

### Contact & RSVP to register

[brett.nietschke@biggroup.org.au](mailto:brett.nietschke@biggroup.org.au) 0432 804 389

*This project is supported by the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnerships initiative of the National Landcare Program and the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and*

## Sheep Feeding and Health Field Day



A group of producers joined the BIGG sheep feeding and health day in March for an afternoon of feedlots, sheep health and containment areas.

The tour started with a visit to DKT Pastoral, where Ryan McGorman took us through his fully automated lamb feedlot. This impressive set up demonstrated the importance of ensuring all aspects of the lambs environment needs to be spot on to ensure efficient live weight gains. It also highlighted the role that technology can play in reducing labour.

The group then heard from renowned sheep vet Colin Trengrove on local incidence of common sheep diseases and how they can be treated to prevent on-farm production losses.

The day concluded at Ryan Foulis' ewe containment lot. This year Ryan has changed his system to using silage in his containment lot, which is significantly reducing labour and creating an easier system to manage.

Thanks to the producers who opened their properties, and everyone who joined the day, particularly a group who visited from the mid South East!

## Coorong Water Security Solutions



Last week (March 26) BIGG members attended a Livestock Water Security Field Day in the Coorong where attendees gained some great insights into on-farm water management.

### Water catchment

In the last few years, several Coorong farmers have been particularly innovative in water catchment, with the field day featuring properties that have recently constructed a lined catchment to harvest rainwater.

A lined catchment is a poly lined catchment area that runs into a poly lined dam. It successfully captures rainwater in any rainfall (or dew) event; unlike a dam which needs the catchment soil profile to be wetted up, before water will run into the dam.

There are now eight lined catchments constructed in the Coorong region (with an average dam holding capacity of 14 ML). Water from the dams is then reticulated around a property for stock water. The construction of lined catchments has largely been driven by the high cost of mains water, low annual rainfall and poor quality/saline groundwater.

### Desalination

water for his cattle.

The salinity level of his bore is 5,800 ppm, however through desalination the 'clean' water becomes rainwater quality. He then shandies the clean water with bore water, which his cattle can then consume without affecting their productivity. Wastewater from the desalination process is managed via an evaporation dam.

For further information about the water security strategies in the Coorong, check out the following fact sheets:

- [Water harvesting and lined catchments](#)
- [Desalination for livestock water supplies](#)

***BIGG's trip to the Coorong was supported through funding by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board***

## Free Soil Testing



Free Soil testing is available to landowners in selected areas of the Northern Adelaide Plains, Southern Barossa, Western Mt Lofty Ranges, and Western Fleurieu (former AMLR area). The test is comprehensive, and aimed at either commercial farmers or hobby farmers. More information at <https://www.landscapesa.gov.au/hf/news/010921-Free-soil-tests-to-continue-this-year>

To obtain a test kit, please contact Rebecca Tonkin ([Rebecca.tonkin@sa.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.tonkin@sa.gov.au)) or 0400 488 786.



BIGG and the Angaston Ag Bureau are running a wood cut fundraiser to help support the groups provide events and opportunities for farmers in the region.

To get involved: Come along on 24th April- 8am onwards

This will be a fun day out in the paddock, working together to chop and load wood. There are plenty of jobs for everyone! You are welcome to come for the day or just for a few hours!

To purchase a load of wood:

The wood is normally blue or red gum, donated by local farmers, \$330 (ex GST) per tonne delivered.

For any wood orders or to get more info on the day please contact BIGG's Wood Chop Coordinator:  
Chris George  
E: [healthe@bigpond.com](mailto:healthe@bigpond.com)  
M: 0418 105 578

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## Basic Training



**Thursday April 15th - 1.00pm to 5.30pm**

**Manoora Football Club  
61 Weymouth St, Manoora SA**



Please bring your personal laptops,  
WIFI will be available.

Join us afterwards for a BBQ  
and refreshments!

For further information please contact Lucy Read  
Ph: 0438 461 145 E: lread@emmetts.com.au



## From the Inbox

- Community Outreach Events are coming to Angaston (Town Hall 9-1pm) on Wednesday 21 April and Tanunda (CWA Hall 7-4pm) on 20th April to provide support and advice on the drought and challenges like COVID-19. Farmers, farm workers and farm contractors can apply for the St Vincent De Paul \$3000 drought assistance payments (available until 30 April 2021) and Rotary \$500 debit cards, which also provide a welcome cash injection back into the community. It is an excellent opportunity for farmers, families and rural communities to grab a sausage sandwich, catch up with friends and neighbours and find out what support is available during drought and tough times.
- Soil Testing in the paddock Webinar- April 20 and 21- Register [here](#)
- Sheep Focus Workshop- Industry for the future- Snowtown 9th April- [more info](#)

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- PIRSA Livestock Tech talks- podcast and video series- [visit recordings or register](#) for updates
- GRDC Acid Soil SA 'one stop shop' for all info on acid soils- [visit](#)

## Your BIGG Contacts

**Executive Officer:**

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