

The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

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The BIGG Bulletin

July 2021

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BIGG Water Catchment Workshop – 4th August



On Wednesday 4th August BIGG will be holding a Water Catchment Workshop at the Mt McKenzie hall to showcase and communicate the innovative rainwater capture strategy of **on-farm lined catchments**.

A lined catchment is a poly lined catchment area that runs into a poly lined dam, with rainwater being captured in any rainfall (or dew) event.

Earlier in the year several BIGG members attended a Livestock Water Security Field day in the Coorong region, which featured farmers who are successfully harvesting rainwater using lined catchments. The Water Catchment Workshop will feature representatives from the Coorong who have been at the forefront of lined catchment development in SA:

- Mark Scobie – leading Coorong farmer who was the first farmer in the region to gain approval to construct a lined catchment
- Tracey Strugnell – Coorong community engagement officer who was the key driver of the Coorong water security project that focused on the development of lined catchments

Brian Hughes, local PIRSA consultant will also share his knowledge on lined catchments at the workshop.

The workshop is free, but please RSVP. For the full workshop program, see this [flyer](#).

For further information about lined catchments in the Coorong see this [factsheet](#).

This workshop is supported through funding from the Australian Governments Smart Farms Small Grants and the Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan.

Eden Valley Water Update



BIGG teamed up with Barossa Grape and Wine to deliver a Water Update for the Eden Valley Area on Thursday 8th July. The event updated landholders on current projects which may provide opportunities for those experiencing water shortages.

The three main points are as follows:

1. SA Water's proposed infrastructure concept plans for Eden Valley.

SA Water has established an Eden Valley information resource on their ["WaterTalks" webpage](#) –

"SA Water, in partnership with the Barossa Grape and Wine Association (BGWA) has now prepared four high-level concept plans showing high level infrastructure requirements to bring raw water for the Mannum to Adelaide Pipeline (MAPL) into Eden Valley and surrounding areas.

The four concept plans can be found [here](#) or in the Document Library section, to the right, called Eden Valley concept design options.

Each concept plan is based on the supply of 3.2 Gigalitres of water initially to meet water demands to the respondents to the SA Water and BGWA surveys last year."

>>>> [Full Concept Plans](#)

>>>> [Full Article](#)

2. Drought and Emergency Water Infrastructure Projects - Community Standpipes

The Barossa Council has engaged in the following community water infrastructure projects: "...a new standpipe, tank, pump, power and control system at Eden Valley, and Moculta; and upgrades to standpipe infrastructure at Mt. Pleasant."

(www.barossa.sa.gov.au Drought and Emergency Water Infrastructure Project.)

Mount Pleasant – Railway Terrace, within Talunga Park – showgrounds, near the Community Wastewater Treatment plant.

Moculta – 780 Hutton Vale Road, within the sporting grounds, behind the oval and clubrooms.

Eden Valley – Rhine Park Road, 100m East from the intersection with Eden Valley Road.

The Mt.Pleasant and Moculta standpipes are currently operable. The Eden Valley Community Standpipe is nearing completion. Please keep checking Barossa Council's website and face book for a final date when the Eden Valley standpipe service will become available.

Access to the standpipes will be available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. They are operated via a QR code on your mobile phone.

3. PIRSA On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme, Round 3 is now open.

South Australian primary producers in drought affected areas can now apply for a new funding round of the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme.

>>> [Guidelines](#)

>>> [More Information](#)

For any further information or concerns about any local water related issues, please

Pasture Paramedic Program

The Pasture Paramedic Tool can be used to assess your perennial pastures, to facilitate decision making on improving your pastures.

BIGG were successful in receiving a grant through Murraylands and Riverlands Landscape Board's Ag Knowledge Grant to work with a group of producers to monitor their pastures through spring and summer using the tool.

If you have a paddock that you are having problems with, or considering re-sowing, or just want to improve your pasture management skills, please let [Georgie](#) know!

To find out more about the tool- see this great video!



Are you bogged mate?

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Are you bogged mate? is all about helping country blokes talk about mental health and suicide while spreading awareness about depression in regional areas.

Producers who attended the Eden Valley Water Forum on Thursday 8th July, heard from the founder of Are you bogged mate's, Mary O'Brien, who provided a very frank and relevant presentation about suicide and depression to the group.

She shared her story, which started with writing an article on depression and suicide, after two men in her community took their lives. She related depression to being bogged in the mud, and that it takes guts to pull yourself out, which includes asking for help and support.

If you missed the session, check out [Are you Bogged Mate? website](#)- it provides great info and stories for country blokes..... and pictures of bogged tractors!

From the Inbox

- Ag Excellence Forum- 'A Climate of Opportunity'- 9th August, Barossa Novotel- [More Details](#)
- SA Livestock Advisor Update- 29th July, Hahndorf- [Tickets](#) still available!
- Bury your Undies and Learn about Soils- National Science Week with Murraylands and Riverlands Landscape Board- [More Info!](#)
- 2021 Grassland Society of Southern Australia's Annual Conference- Virtual Sessions- [See the full program](#)
- Stepping into Leadership 2021- WoTL and PIRSA Program to improve leadership skills- [Find out more](#)

Your BIGG Contacts

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