The latest news from the Barossa Improved Grazing Group

**Past Issues** 

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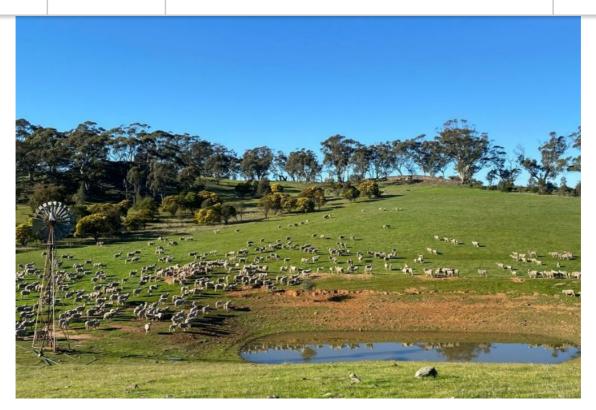
# The BIGG Bulletin September 2021

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## **BIGG Regional Water Survey**

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Are you a producer who relies on water for your agricultural enterprises (well who doesn't!)? If so we are after your feedback.

BIGG has initiated a short survey to verify the <u>current water needs and issues</u> of regional (Barossa, Eden Valley and Northern Mt Lofty Ranges) producers.

The survey will only take 5 minutes to fill out, so please click the link!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3993R6P

Please Take the 5 Minute Water Survey- Click Here!



## **Becoming 'Water Secure'**



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catchment. A lined catchment is a poly lined catchment area that runs into a dam, with rainwater being captured in any rainfall (or dew) event. The workshop featured representatives from the Coorong who have been at the forefront of this innovation.

Coorong Community Engagement Officer, Tracey Strugnell initially gave an overview of the water security issues faced by farmers in the Coorong (poor quality/saline groundwater, high mains water costs) and the solutions they are implementing to manage them. These include leak detection units, groundwater desalination, shandying water and the construction of lined catchments.

Coorong grazier, Mark Scobie was one of the first in the Coorong region to construct a lined catchment and he outlined the 'how-to' of constructing a lined catchment. Mark emphasised the importance of selecting a catchment site that is free of rocks and not too steep (or else the tyres that hold down the poly liner slide off the catchment!). Marks lined catchment runs into an 11 megalitre lined dam, which provides enough water to service his property. Marks presentation was a great endorsement for lined catchments and becoming 'water secure' as he has since turned the SA water meter on his property off.

Finally local PIRSA soils expert Brian Hughes, shared his knowledge on numerous water harvesting options (including lined catchments) that have been employed around the state.

The workshop was overwhelmingly well received by those who attended. The speaker presentations from the workshop can be found at the following links:

- The Coorong Water Security Story Tracey Strugnell
- <u>Lined Catchment Construction</u> Mark Scobie
- Lined Catchment Learnings Tracey Strugnell & Mark Scobie
- Innovative Water Harvest and Storage Solutions Brian Hughes

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

### **BIGG Workshop- Remote Monitoring**

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### Wednesday 22nd September Wanera wine bar - Angaston 12:30pm (lunch provided) Session 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Hear about a range of remote monitoring options which can improve on-farm efficiency, production and turnover.

The workshop will include the following sessions:

- Mike Hayes In2IT; Mike will cover remote water monitoring systems, other remote monitoring – he is an expert on communication and connections in the country so happy to cover any queries you have and can discuss most brands of telemetry equipment and what will suit your needs.
- Phil Tickle Cibo Labs; Remote sensing and pasture biomass measurement, correlated with pasture cuts and how this technology can be used on your farm

Contact & RSVP by Friday 17th September: Deb Scammel / 0407790622

The Red Meat and Wool Growth Program is an initiative of Primary Industries and Regions SA and supported by Meat & Livestock Australia, SA Sheep and Cattle Industry Funds, and Sheep Connect SA

## **Drought Management Plans Available!**

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Primary Producers looking to tackle climate change and build more resilience into their farm business can now apply to have a Drought Management Plan created, facilitated by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.

The individualised program will consider different areas of property management, with a focus on drought mitigation to provide best practice and environmental management advice. The plan will consider land systems and condition, grazing management, fencing requirements, water and stock handling infrastructure, weed and pest control, and biodiversity.

Once a Drought Management Plan is complete, further financial support is offered to implement some of the priority on-ground works listed within the plan.

There are limited positions available for this program and it is essential that the applicant understands the time commitments to enable successful delivery, as the plans require completion by late January 2022.

Further Info and EOI form: Libby Duncan Landscape Project Officer

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board P (08) 8841 3441 | M 0456 755 346 Libby.Duncan@sa.gov.au

## **Containment Areas Workshop**

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## Register for a half-day containment areas workshop and access up to **\$1,000** to improve a containment area on your farm!

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board is hosting two half-day sessions to support producers in making sheep feeding decisions during summer. Presenter Deb Scammell from Talking Livestock will help you work out if you have the resources (funds, labour, equipment, mental resilience) available to feed sheep for a required amount of time.

Topics include;

- set up and design of containment areas,
- feeding types and quantities,
- which animals to feed,
- the importance of monitoring, and
- common sheep health problems in containment.

The sessions will start with a presentation by Deb Scammell, followed by a trip to two local properties, where you'll hear how containment areas have benefited their businesses. Zoetis will host a social wrap-up session. Lunch will be provided.

Join us at **Eudunda** OR **Jamestown** (Location details provided on registration)

Eudunda

Wednesday, 15 Sep 2021, 12pm – 5pm

Jamestown Thursday, 23 Sep 2021, 9am – 1pm

This project is supported by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

#### Register now

Libby Duncan Landscape Project Officer Email: libby.duncan@sa.gov.au Mob: 0456 755 346









## A note from our Sponsors Bunyara Merino and Poll Merino

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## From the Inbox

- Celebrate Women in Wool- AWI/Sheep Connect Event- Thursday 14th Oct;
  <u>More Information</u>
- SA Regional Drought Hub Workshop- Thursday Sept 16th, Roseworthy Campus- <u>See Full Details</u>
- Carbon Neutral 2030 Grazier Workshop- <u>See More Information</u>
- <u>On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme</u> Round 3 (2021-22)

## **Your BIGG Contacts**

#### **Executive Officer:**

Georgie Keynes: 0409 287 261

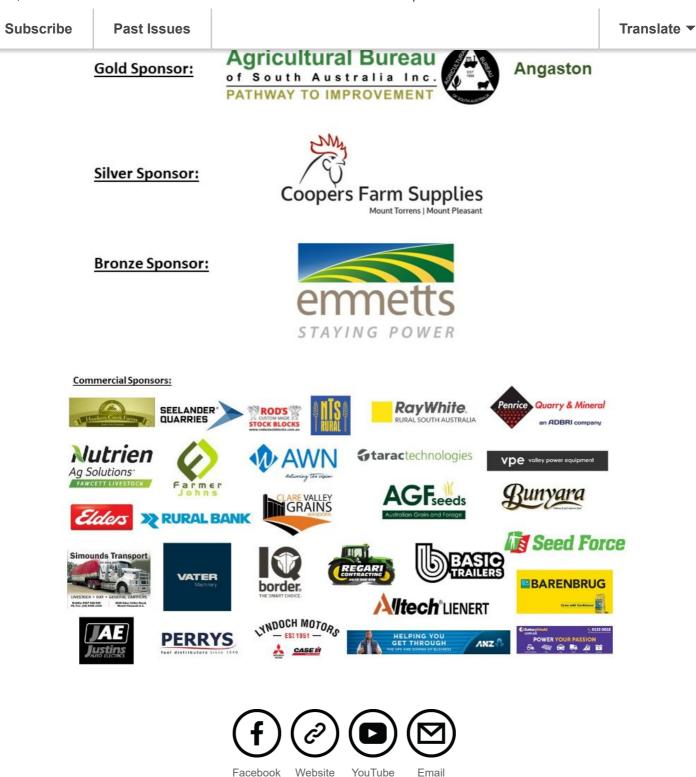
### **Technical Facilitators:**

Brett Nietschke: 0432 804 389

Deb Scammell: 0407 790 622

Janie Evans: 0412 500 752

## Thanks to our BIGG Sponsors!



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