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January 2021



The Climbing Club of South Australia won a Grassroots Grant for their Morialta Crag Care project. The funds will be used to provide tools, guards and 250 native seedlings to revegetate a site in Morialta Conservation Park. This photo shows the Crag Carers after a morning of tackling weeds.

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recipients of the 2020 Grassroots Grants program!

Twenty eight innovative and practical environmental projects have received a total of \$220,000 in Grassroots Grants from the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board.

Board chair David Greenhough said applicants came from a broad cross-section of the community, including not-for-profit organisations, individual landholders, agricultural industry bodies, schools and volunteer groups.

"The quality and diversity of applications has been impressive, showing a keen interest in improving our environment with local targeted activities. I thank everyone who applied," he said.

The annual Grassroots Grants program, which commenced this year as part of the Landscape SA reform process, offers the community an opportunity to apply for funding to improve the management of natural and productive landscapes at the local level.

Among the recipients, the **Echunga Community Association** will use its grant to rehabilitate areas of Echunga Creek within the Mt Barker Council area. The project aims to transform this weedy degraded area into a community park with a thriving ecosystem for the benefit of nature and people.

Aboriginal consultancy **Tribal Expertise Facility** has received a grant to produce a guide to Aboriginal knowledge and values in the Fleurieu Swamps, focussing on particular local plants and animals.

"First Nations peoples have a wealth of knowledge about our natural environment and this guide will share some of that insight with the broader community," Mr Greenhough said.

McLaren Vale Biodiversity Project will use its grant to restore and create habitat on vineyards with the help of 500 volunteers, aiming to plant 6000 seedlings across six hectares of land. Native vegetation supports vine health by attracting beneficial bugs, birds and bats as a non-chemical way to control pests.

A grant provided to the **Goolwa Coastcare Group** will help the group weed and restore some of the last remaining coastal vegetation in the area, involving significant volunteer input.

Encounter Lutheran College will revegetate four hectares with Sedge Grass to provide habitat for the threatened Sedge Skipper Butterfly, as well as weeding, planting native species and installing signs to educate students, teachers and community.

"These projects will support the valuable work of volunteer organisations, schools, landholders and community groups to deliver important landscape management activities. I wish everyone good luck with their projects and I look forward to seeing the results of these great ideas," Mr Greenhough said.

You can see the full list of Hills and Fleurieu Grassroots Grants recipients and read about their projects on our [website](#). Keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#), where we'll be keeping you updated with these projects and the results they are delivering in your communities.



Pindone carrots ready for distribution.

Want to control pest rabbits? Hop to it!

Feral rabbits have been sighted concerning numbers in many parts of the Adelaide Hills, and the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board is eager to support landholders in tackling this problem. This brief [video](#) guides you through how to correctly prepare for and bait with pindone-treated carrots. The dry conditions from January to April are ideal for baiting, as rabbits are attracted to the moist carrots. In early February, the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board will be holding pindone-treated carrot distribution days. If you have feral rabbit problems, please [watch the video](#) and [contact us](#) if you are interested in participating.

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The launch was attended by the Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs MP, and representatives from the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and the Willunga Farmers Market.

Apply now for the Willunga Farmers Market Scholarship!

Are you a primary producer on the Fleurieu with a great idea for innovative new products? Why not apply for a 2021 Willunga Farmers Market Farmers Scholarship? This great opportunity was launched at the market in December 2020, by Environment Minister David Speirs MP, along with previous recipients and representatives from the Willunga Farmers Market and the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board. The board is proud to help support this \$15,000 scholarship which supports local primary producers by providing a pathway to start a viable farming career on the Fleurieu Peninsula, including start-up funds and mentorship and business training. More information.

[Apply now.](#)

Applications close 29 January 2020.

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Photo: Jodie Pain

Caring for livestock during a heatwave

Although our summer has been mild so far, some warmer weather is just around the corner. Livestock owners should take special care of their stock during a heatwave as animals suffer from the heat as well, and extreme heat can have a detrimental effect on animal health and wellbeing. Follow these tips from PIRSA to keep your animals healthy during summer heatwaves:

- Provide plenty of shade and shelter.
- Providing cool water close to the shade – animals drink up to double the amount of water in hot weather.
- Keep troughs clean especially when moving stock into a new paddock.
- If possible, don't let animals access dams as they can become boggy and animals accessing the water may get stuck.
- Check on livestock daily.
- Look for signs of heat stress such as sweating, panting, and drooling.
- Minimise stock movement and if they need to be moved do it during the night or the coolest part of the day.
- Transporters of livestock should also have in place contingency plans to handle unexpected breakdowns, especially during hot weather.

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General Jeffery
SOIL HEALTH AWARD



NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN
FOR THE 2020 GENERAL JEFFERY
SOIL HEALTH AWARD

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General Jeffery Soil Health Award

Nominations are now open for the General Jeffery Soil Health Award for any individual farmer, land manager, extension specialist or educator making an outstanding contribution to improving soil health in Australia. The award:

- Recognises, honours and celebrates an individual's outstanding contribution to improving soil health through activities including good management practice on the ground; extending knowledge, and advocating for, improved soil management; and raising awareness about the importance of maintaining and improving soil health.
- Promotes better management practices to improve soil health across the landscape
- Provides a platform to promote what is being done to improve and encourage soil health at a meaningful scale
- Honours the remarkable work of Australia's first National Soils Advocate, Major General the Hon Michael Jeffery, AC, AO (Mil), CVO, MC (Retd).

[Apply now.](#)

Nominations close 31 March 2021.

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Events

[Meat and Livestock Australia webinar](#)

27 January 2020 - online

In this webinar, Aggregate Consulting Director Sandy McEachern updates the beef industry on key benchmarks of beef enterprises from the 2019/20 benchmark year. Sandy will delve into Aggregate's benchmark data which consists of 200 businesses from south-eastern Australia and will decipher how the top beef producers managed their enterprises during the drought.

[Barossa Improved Grazing Group conference - The Land. The Livestock. The People.](#)

18 February 2020

BIGG's Annual Conference will be a great opportunity to learn new skills, grow ideas and network with other farmers and rural businesses. Topics include building skills to look after your wellbeing, soil carbon 101, farmer case studies, improving on-farm water storage and harvesting, free water testing and more. Tickets include presentations, producer panels, trade displays, afternoon tea and dinner.

BIGG's Annual Conference will be a great opportunity to learn new skills, grow ideas and network with other farmers and rural businesses!

A 'Grazing Naturally' Introductory Field Day with Dick Richardson

11 of February - Murray Bridge area (time and venue TBA)

The objective of Grazing Naturally is to create a fit-for-purpose grazing-orientated community of organisms to produce the best environment for grazing and animal production with regenerating soils. This field day makes up part of an ongoing learning opportunity for those who want to go on with a Grazing Naturally implementation program with support from Dick Richardson.

To express interest or book your space, please contact Dick Richardson 0429069001 or dick@grazingnaturally.com.au

Presented by Grazing Naturally, Murraylands and Riverlands Landscapes Board and The Murray Mallee LAP.

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If you have a story or event to promote, please email the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator for the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, Sophie Bass, at sophie.bass@sa.gov.au.

The Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator Program is funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

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