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### DrumMuster

collection in the Barossa Valley  
at Kuchel Contractors  
Landscaping Supply Store,  
52 Siegersdorf Rd, Tanunda  
on 14<sup>th</sup> November

from **8.00am and 4.30pm**

Eligible containers must be:

Rinsed until free of ALL chemical  
residue.

Clean and dry.

Punctured if they are metal.

All lids must be removed.

Future collection options will be  
advised subsequent to this  
collection date.



**Drop your Electrocoup  
pruning shear back to our  
Nuriootpa store by the end of  
November for the annual  
service and get a free can of  
Electrocoup grease.**

### Seasonal reminders

- Consider increasing on farm water storage with a new Polmaster rainwater tank – call to order.
- Use Gallagher electric fencing systems for containment areas, strip grazing summer forage and stock proofing old fence lines. Call the FJ team for info on battery and mains systems for this task.



Harvest has kicked into gear for the broadacre cropping segment. It is quite amazing to see how hardy our crops have been and their likely yields despite

substantially lower rainfall! This is testament to current farming practices that focus on preserving soil moisture outside of the growing season and managing nutrition and in crop stresses from pests and diseases. Each year adds to the bank of experience that we can use to assist in our decision-making processes going forward. This season will add its own value in this knowledge bank.

Besides the crop, we need to spend a fair bit of time ensuring that we are looking after ourselves, our neighbors and our mates during tough times too.

We have all struggled at some point in time and if you are going through a tough time due to the dry that's OK. For some, the biggest challenge is to admit that

we may need help to get us through difficult times. We must ask for, and accept help. Just talking can help clear our thinking and see beyond the current circumstances.

Maintain positive habits. The most important of these is sleep. Quality restorative sleep is the fuel for everyone's wellbeing.

The other habit to focus on is physical activity. Move – preferably in the sun. Keep active. If necessary, contact your neighbour and get them fired up. This might knock off two birds with one stone – walk and talk!

Be conscious of who you spend time with and whose company you keep. Surround yourself with optimistic voices that encourage and support you – not voices that drag you down.

Talking, good habits (less alcohol, better diet), sleep and exercise form the base of personal wellbeing!

**Greg Schubert**

### Quote of the Month

**"A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle."**

Kahlil Gibran

## Viticulture/Horticulture

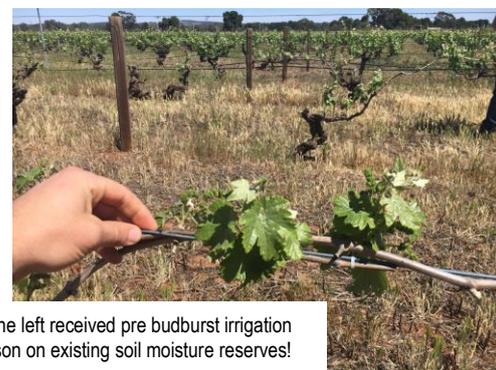
### Water Monitoring

Efficient water use and maximising the benefit from any applied water will be the focus of all horticulturalists over the course of this summer growing season.

It is important to get adequate canopy growth early in the season. Early warnings were flagged prior to the viticulture growing season beginning with below average soil moisture evident in moisture monitoring sites and with little rain on the horizon to recharge this shortfall. All growers are aware that nutrition and water management together are key to achieving wine grape quality. In order to set vineyards up for a solid start to the season we recommended that growers attempt to have a full profile of moisture in the cont page 2



These vines are approx. 5 rows apart - the left received pre budburst irrigation whilst those on the right started the season on existing soil moisture reserves!



- Load binders, rated chain and approved lifting fittings in stock.
- Check out our range of Neutrog fertiliser for lawns and gardens.
- Performance dry lick for sheep or cattle should be made available once the green feed dries out.
- Philmac fittings, poly pipe and troughs for all domestic, irrigation and stock water supply.

- We stock a wide range of ammo at our Nuri store for predator pests, birds and rabbits etc. Call to arrange supplies for the starling assault!
- As natural feed sources deplete make sure rat and mouse baits are available around houses, sheds and farm yards – keep a step ahead!
- Please return all Chep pallets to our yards as soon as possible.

from page 1. rootzone at budburst. The benefits of these early irrigation applications are very evident in those vineyards now. The 2 photos illustrate the large difference in early, healthy canopy growth. Should you still be interested in adding the advantages of a weather station to assist in your management program we have an attractive package available. The package includes a new MEA logger and probe for approximately \$2000 per site.

Recently MEA have collated together 5 weather stations based across the Barossa and created a website for the weather data generated from those sites to be available to the public. This provides another avenue of local weather information that growers can use in their management decisions. Follow the link below to view live data at these sites in the Barossa or jump onto our website and click on the link on our Resources

<https://barossa.greenbrain.net.au/>

Please call Adam Pietsch to discuss this in more detail.

**Flowering** is approaching which is also the seasonal reminder to undertake petiole testing. Petiole testing provides a very accurate measurement of the nutrition program you have implemented in the vineyard.

Samples need to be taken during the flowering period, preferably early in the day before any impact from warm day time temperatures. Instructions are included with the sample kits but in general terms 100 petioles should be collected at random from vines across the block. The representative sample is then forwarded for testing with subsequent results notified to you via our agronomy team.

Petiole tests can be backed up with soil tests and also tissue tests with the results cross examined to build a substantial knowledge that can be referred to when any nutrition applications are considered.

Our viti agro's can assist with all things nutrition in the vineyard and the sampling process.

**Be mindful of product Withholding Periods.** As an example, Miravis needs to be applied before flowering starts. You should also check any Export Interval requirements that your winery processor might need to adhere to. These restrictions could be outside of the product label recommendations and are driven on various countries local residue data. The EU has a focus on reducing residual limits well below recognised food safety levels that exist globally. Collectively we have a very valuable industry and therefore we need to protect it by working within the boundaries of industry regulation and product registration.

**Bio-Forge from Stoller** with its antioxidant properties, works to maintain the genetic potential of plants, improve growth, and increase yield in a variety of agricultural crops. Bio-Forge assists in maintaining healthy root tip development and limits the effect of stress ethylene production to allow better nutrient uptake, resulting in improved yields. It can be used in both preventative and curative situations, allowing growers the flexibility they need to react to plant stress.

Bio-Forge showed positive effects on vines that were treated subsequent to the early season frost events a few weeks ago. Anecdotal observation indicated more active growth of the secondary shoots compared to those vines that didn't have the product applied. We will obviously continue to watch these blocks closely over the next few weeks to see if we notice any positive impact on flowering and fruit set as well.

In addition to the activity we have seen in frost affected vines, Bio-Forge was applied comparatively in some vineyards last season to determine its assistance to vines under heat and moisture stress. Vines treated remained in better health over the long dry summer with higher levels of leaf retention and better yields achieved at harvest. Fruit from the treated area of these vines was tracked through production and although not in absolute replicated terms the end result indicated that wine quality was certainly enhanced by the application of Bio-Forge to reduce the impact of stress.

Our viti agro's have the data from these trials available and are happy to discuss them in more detail with you. We would certainly recommend you use Bi-Forge in any horticulture crops to alleviate typical summer related stresses!

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## Broadacre Cropping

### Ryegrass Control

Obviously, a decent amount of hay has been cut over the last few weeks in addition to those crops originally destined for the hay market. Ryegrass regrowth might be evident in these paddocks subsequent to the removal of the hay. These populations should be controlled to stop seed set. Glyphosate, paraquat or grazing at a high stocking rate prior to flowering will provide adequate levels of control.

The current early finish to the season could provide an opportunity for successful **crop topping** in both cereals and pulses. You should be mindful of the increasing levels of resistance to clethodim in pulses. Crop topping or other strategies that minimise seed set from ryegrass should be viewed as “compulsory” practice. This season is a classic example of environmental conditions providing an ideal opportunity to reduce those grass populations. Call any of our agro’s for further assistance with rates etc.

Start planning **your seed requirements for 2019**. In general, it is apparent that some crops won’t yield well enough to retain quality seed for next year’s crop while other regions appear to have crops that are filling very well given the dry spring conditions we are experiencing this season. Many specialised varieties – Moby barley and Outback oats as well as other oat seed generally will be very difficult to source. Some new bean varieties, Bendoc and Marne will also be under extreme supply pressure.

We ask that you all give us an early indication on your seed requirements so we can do our best to supply your full volume. We would be reluctant to be receiving “floor sweepings” and other inferior quality options that will no doubt turn up late in the season when the supply pressure is really on!

As with last season’s dry finish we will most certainly have to address herbicide residue issues in 2019. The Imi chemistry (Intervix, Intercept, Sentry, Spinnaker) will be our main area of concern for non-Clearfield crops locally. This may also mean that your seed requirement needs to be adaptable to cater for these challenges too.

**Changes to the 24-D label** have taken place at the beginning of October. All applications of herbicides with any of the various 24-S actives in them need to be applied according to the new label. Please head to our website for a link to view these amendments or contact one of our agro’s for further advice on the label changes.

## Pasture

**Pasture Seed** supply heading into 2019 will prove to be difficult. The current dry conditions that we are experiencing are also affecting seed production regions across most Southern Australia. Some parts of the SE are ok but production from those areas won’t make up the shortfall that typically originates in Southern NSW and Victoria as well. We expect that prices will also rise in conjunction with this forecast shortage. Careful planning of any renovation and over-sowing next autumn will be necessary. A paddock appraisal now might be advisable to determine what base pasture exists currently and therefore a prediction of pasture makeup subsequent to an opening rain event.

Please make sure you discuss your likely requirements with us as soon as you can to ensure we are able to cover your seed needs.

### Paddock Preservation and Containment Feeding.

With the BOM’s long-range forecast not painting a rosy picture for the summer and fodder stocks likely to be below normal, the temptation to get as much grazing from each paddock as possible will be strong. Careful management of pastures to ensure sufficient residues to maintain ground

cover and take swift advantage of rain when it does come, will be vital. Avoid grazing covers too tight where possible as the shorter the pasture residue after grazing, the longer it will take to recover when rain does come. Severe grazing will also impact the longevity of perennial species. These varieties will typically be the foundation of early autumn feed and so should be preserved even in a tough season.

Consider a sacrifice paddock or containment area where stock can be easily fed and watered and fodder intake can be carefully monitored, so resting valuable pastures. This practice will also reduce animals stress as they won’t expend energy foraging.

We can assist in formulating nutrition additives to provide stock with a balanced ration – call Randall at the Nuri store.

You may have to increase water point volume to cope with the higher stocking rate as well as feeders and troughs to keep feed clean and contaminant free.

Turn off water troughs in paddocks not being used to eliminate evaporation and discourage share farmers in the form of kangaroos and other native species who can use a lot of water.

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## Livestock and General

We have rapidly moved from spring into the summer period. This also means an alert for all those summer routines that aren't necessarily the most enjoyable!

**Make sure the bushfire plant is ready for action.** Check that fire pumps, tanks and hoses are all in good working order and start when you want them to start!

We stock a full range of Onga pumps and accessories as well as self contained fire units in various sizes ready for utes or trailers.

We also have a full range of fire extinguishers and knapsacks to take care of the legal obligation on farm vehicles.

Call either store to sort these for your fleet.

In a dry season water becomes a focus. It might be pertinent to review your farmyard **rainwater tank catchments** too. This might not be top of mind in

the winter time when existing tanks are all full and the gutters are overflowing onto the ground. We have options on a range of storage tanks including large capacity tanks with poly liners. Give us an opportunity to quote all your water storage requirements.

**Fencing** may not be on your radar prior to harvest. However, it will be part of the annual maintenance program into the New Year. Creosote posts are still on the difficult to get list so we continue to encourage all clients to order post requirements well in advance.

Give either of the FJ stores a call to place these orders sooner rather than later!

**Fly Protection** should be a priority for sheep graziers heading into summer. The last thing you need to be doing over harvest, the Christmas break and into the New Year is chasing fly blown sheep!

Long term control is relatively straightforward with an application of a reputable backline fly protectant. Blowies are already active and no doubt

will increase with the forecast storms. Avenge, Clikzin, Clik, Clik Extra, Extinosad, Blowfly & Lice and Vetrazin will all do the job.

Call into either store to discuss what you have been using in the past to manage resistance and to discuss applicable wool & ESI withholds to assist in determining which is the best option for your situation.

**Worm** burdens are still high despite the un-seasonally dry spell. Recent results confirm that higher than normal counts are present in most mobs tested. We therefore recommend that a worm test is undertaken on any mob BEFORE drenching. The test will assist in assessing which active will be most effective to suit your situation. Ideally samples should be collected on a Monday or Tuesday morning and posted immediately. Results will then be received on either Thursday or Friday.

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