

MEDIA RELEASE



DAM CENTENARY DRAWS FROM INTERSTATE

Preparations are well underway to celebrate 100 years since the construction of the first major irrigation dam in NSW, with interest received from as far as Queensland.

In October this year State Water will host 'Back to Burrinjuck', a week of activities at Burrinjuck Dam and in Yass to mark the dam's centenary.

Construction of Burrinjuck Dam, which began in 1909, marked the beginning of the Murrumbidgee and Coleambally irrigation areas and associated migration and development in inland NSW.

State Water CEO George Warne said widespread interest in the celebrations had been received since word was put out last year.

"We've had people from throughout the Riverina and as far away as Maroochydore in Queensland register their interest," Mr Warne said.

"A number of responses have come from people with relatives who worked on the dam during construction so we are hearing some interesting stories of family connections to Burrinjuck."

"The official Centenary ceremony on the Thursday, (22 October) is a major drawcard and has had a lot of interest, as has the Reunion Dinner and Dance on the Saturday and dam wall tours," Mr Warne said.

Eighteen schools from the Griffith, Leeton and Coleambally areas have registered to take part in the Schools Program, with more places available for interested schools.

The Schools Program details the history and significance of the dam and involves competitions for primary and secondary students, resource kits (including a documentary), display material and dam wall tours.

Six sponsors have agreed to support the event including Murrumbidgee Irrigation as Gold Sponsor; and Riverina Citrus, Transgrid, SunRice, Coleambally Irrigation and Country Energy.

A Burrinjuck Centenary Exhibition will be established in the Yass Visitor Information Centre during the celebrations.

People who would like to display items to the exhibition are welcome to contact Louise Booth at the Information Centre by calling (02) 6226 3858.

To find out more about the 'Back to Burrinjuck' event please visit the website www.statewater.com.au/backtoburrinjuck or contact State Water on (02) 6841 2087.

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