

Sunday 8th July:

Holy Water

Janelle Allison, Peter Cullen, Jay Griffiths, John Levi
(Chair: Morag Fraser)

If there were water
And no rock
If there were rock
And also water
And water
A spring
A pool among the rock
If there were the sound of water only
...
But there is no water.

T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (1921)

The yearning in Eliot's verse is palpable. It is for a material thing, to be sure, but also more. It is a yearning that strikes a chord as I write this a week after the drought may or may not have broken here in the hills of Adelaide.

Why does water matter?

Please answer this question from your area of expertise. It is a question about science, community, faith, economics, and many other things. We want to be told of different parts of this jigsaw.

And be assured that you have a captive audience – lying as it does at the end of the Murray River, Adelaide is a town obsessed by water. In my suburb, blokes talk as eagerly about their water-tanks as they do about their cars – the religious significance runs that deep!

This is an opportunity to look past the immediate debates of desalination plants versus storm-water catchment to the place water holds in physical, emotional, and communal lives.