

On the ground

A newsletter of the BCSR

Boyne Calliope
Sub Region

Spring 2009

What's happening?

13 October —Boyne Valley Catchment Working Group Meeting; QCWA Hall Ubobo; 9am; Contact Darryl Saw on 041773 5079

3 November—AgForward & BCSR GPS Workshop; Calliope RSL Hall; 8:45am; RSVP to BCSR office on 0749756555

4 & 5 November—Grazing Best Prac Technology of Growing Grass Biloela; Venue TBD; RSVP to Noela at 0749 383 919

4 November —Raglan Catchment Working Group Meeting; Raglan Target Sports Club House Raglan; 8am; Contact Darryl Saw

5 November —Bracewell Catchment Working Group Meeting; Mt Larcom Hall; 7pm; Contact Darryl Saw

6 November —Calliope River Catchment Working Group Meeting; QCWA Hall Calliope; 9:30am; Contact Darryl Saw

Message from the Coordinator

Welcome to the last edition of 'On the ground' for 2009. We trust that throughout the last year these newsletters have been of use to you, by providing information about what events we have coming up and what we have spent our time working on.

With the end of the year comes a time for us to plan ahead. With this in mind we have enclosed a quick survey form to give you the opportunity to tell us **what workshops and events you need and want**. We strive to make these events as useful as possible for you so if you have an idea for a topic or presenter we have failed to include please tell us about it – don't be shy! The form can be posted back to PO Box 80, Calliope; faxed to 0749 756 265 or dropped into us.

The end of the year also marks a significant milestone in BCSR history – we have now had stable staffing for the last 12 months! In addition to this we also have two new members to our local Steering Committee – Leo Neill-Ballantine from 'Galloway Plains' and Dan Carney from 'Stowe Park'. These guys have already had great input into our committee and I hope will be involved with us in the years to come. We must also mention our very stable team of long-serving Steering Committee members of Darryl Saw, Jim Price, Ivan Stiller, Peter Brady, Brent Braddick and Brett Nichols – without these guys we would not be where we are.

All the best for the new year (and I hope rain is one of your Christmas presents!).

Kristy

Office Close & Staff Leave

The BCSR office at Calliope will be unattended from close of business on the 18th of December, opening again on the 4th of January while staff are away on much needed holidays! Staff will not be contactable at this time, however, please leave any urgent messages on the office number of 049 756 555 and they will be dealt with promptly when the office is re-opened.

The Staff & Steering Committee of the Boyne Calliope Sub Region of the Fitzroy Basin Association would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





1080 WILD DOG/FERAL PIG BAITING PROGRAM

Rural residents of the former Calliope and Miriam Vale Shires are invited by the Gladstone Regional Council to participate in a 1080 Wild Dog & Feral Pig Baiting campaign to be conducted on:

2—6 November 2009 for former Calliope Shire Services

10 November 2009 for former Miriam Vale Shire Services

Landholders will need to register their interest before the **27th of October 2009** by contacting Tania Jeffs on (07) 4974 6220 or by downloading and submitting the appropriate forms available from Gladstone Regional Council website www.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au. More information about this service is available on the Councils website.

Landholders caught at Wild Dog Control Field Day!

Close to 30 landholders attended a Field Day to discuss control methods for local wild dog issues organised by the BCSR and Gladstone Regional Council.

The guest speaker of the Wild Dog Control Field Day, held on the 5th of October in Mt Larcom, was Tony Townsend, a well known trapper and dog caller who has previously worked for NSW Parks and Wildlife.

BCSR Field Officer Vicki Dart said highlights included Tony's discussion of wild dog calling and his demonstration of trapping techniques and a session in which Darryl Saw from the Gladstone Regional Council provided the crowd with an update of local council baiting programs.

Information packs from the day are available at the BCSR office for anyone who was unable to attend. Please call 0749 756 555.

Anyone who would like to contact Tony to discuss the services he can provide (presentations at workshops, rogue dog trapping) can call him on 0409 364 256.

Damien Fowler from Jemena (previously Alinta) sent in this photo of their weed spraying/wash down setup. Damien says they fill the red tank with water to wash down on site to minimize weed spread. "We choose the Polaris for our weed control vehicle because it's easy to wash down, its more maneuverable and lighter than a conventional 4WD, therefore you have better access to areas without getting bogged during the wetter months when the weeds are most actively growing. Our target species are mainly Parthenium and GRT".

For more information on the setup or about Jemena's activities contact Damien on 0407 376 908.



Mining—Landholder rights?

With nearly 80% of Queensland now subject to Mineral Exploration permits, Mineral Development licenses or Authorities to Prospect for Petroleum, many landholders will find themselves in a situation where a mining company may want to explore their land.

The Queensland Government has appointed Toowoomba-based Legal Aid Solicitor Glen Martin to provide landholders with free legal advice and assistance regarding mining issues and related activities including mineral exploration, gas and oil exploration and production, gas and oil pipelines, fossicking, quarrying and infrastructure development.

Specialist lawyers such as Glen can provide landholders with advice, help to interpret and draft documents and assist with negotiating with mining, oil or gas companies. Although Glen does not represent landholders in court, he can represent people in compensation agreement negotiations and provide a specialist opinion to clients and their private solicitors about their cases and related court proceedings.

Glen can initially provide up to six hours of advice and minor assistance to rural landholders impacted by mining and related issues. This can be extended to 35 hours for complex matters.

Further information contact Glen Martin—

Phone: 1300 651 188

Email: gmartin@legalaid.qld.gov.au

Further useful information is provided at: http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/land_owner_occupier_information.cfm

Taken from Beeftalk—Spring/Summer edition

VegMachine hits the ground

Some exciting new technology has quietly found its way onto central Queensland grazing properties over the last year. Using decades of satellite measurements of ground cover, the Fitzroy Basin Associations Ground Cover Project has produced a set of ground cover monitoring tools that are simple to access and easy to understand. And the technology is hitting the ground now where it's needed, out on the land.

At the heart of the ground cover technology is VegMachine™ - software for monitoring and benchmarking ground cover changes on grazing land. With a few simple clicks, you point VegMachine to the area on your property that you want ground cover information for, and VegMachine shows you how cover has changed in that area since 1988. VegMachine has been developed by a consortium of producer support agencies like CSIRO and Queensland Primary Industry and Fisheries.

FBA staff will be using this technology more and more into the future as it makes it very easy to share information by enabling staff to print a simple one page report on any part of the property the landholder chooses. Landholders can walk away with a history of how ground cover has changed at that location and a very good idea of how this compares to the local average.

VegMachine can give landholders feedback on past management decisions, help identify where productivity is improving or declining and encourage learnings to improve decisions for the future. It can't measure land condition but used intelligently, it can give some really useful insights into the health of your biggest asset—your land.

To see VegMachine in action on your property give Vicki a call on 0749 756 555.

New Regrowth Clearing Laws

Landholders woke on the 8th of October to a new set of regrowth clearing laws. For copies of the new landholders guide, more information about what these changes mean for you or for links to download a regrowth map for your property visit

www.derm.qld.gov.au





HOW TO USE GPS ON YOUR PROPERTY

This workshop provides practical training in the use of a GPS (Global Positioning System) for producers.

**CALLIOPE RSL Hall – Tuesday 3rd November
8:45 am – 4:00 pm**

BYO – hat, water bottle, comfortable walking shoes & GPS unit if you have one (units are available for participants who do not have their own)

How will this GPS workshop help me?

- Show you GPS features to consider before purchasing a GPS of your own
- Help with capturing the location of property infrastructure, project sites & weed infestations
- Show you how to navigate around the GPS and use it to calculate areas and lengths
- Show you how to download GPS data into computer mapping software
- And much, much more...
- Plus receive a GPS Workbook and Pocket Guide (Garmin 60, 76 and Etrex models)

What will the GPS workshop cover?

Participants will become familiar with:

- How a GPS works
- GPS accuracies
- GPS and map coordinate systems
- What to look for in a GPS
- Setting up a GPS correctly
- Capturing waypoints and tracks and calculating areas and lengths
- Navigation using GPS features
- Using a computer to manage GPS information

The workshop is limited to 10 enterprises and is FREE of charge to all Queensland landholders.

For more information or to register - contact the Boyne Calliope Sub Region on 0749 756 555

Please register ASAP to avoid disappointment.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



The Boyne Calliope Sub Region office is located at the rear of the Gladstone Regional Council Library building on Don Cameron Drive in Calliope. You can visit us in person or contact us by phoning 07 4975 6555. To subscribe or un-subscribe to the On the Ground mailing list, please email admin.bcsr@fba.org.au.

Boyne Calliope Sub Region is supported by the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.

