

On the ground

A newsletter of the BCSR

Boyne Calliope
Sub Region

What's happening?

2 December—BCSR Lantana Control Field Day (see insert) "Yarrowonga" (Owen & Paulette Lindley); Norton Road, Nagoorin; contact BCSR 0749756555

3-4 December —Grazing BestPrac Building Healthy Soils Workshop (see insert); "Stowe Park" (Rob & Sandra Waterson) Calliope; contact Mick on 0438395255

9 December — Boyne Valley Catchment Working Group Meeting; Ubobo CWA Hall, 9 am; contact Darryl Saw on 0749 758195

11 December — Calliope River Catchment Working Group Meeting; Calliope QCWA Hall; 9:30 am; contact Darryl Saw on 0749758195

18 December—AgForward Computer Mapping Workshop (see insert); Calliope; contact Bree Robertson on 0732386039

15-20 December—CVA Curtis Island Conservation Camp; contact Karl on 07 49724969

Message from the Coordinator

Welcome to the sunny, summer edition of our newsletter – the last for 2008! 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 finalise all open projects. Landholders with uncompleted projects with us will need to have them finished and signed off before Christmas to ensure you receive the funding you are entitled to.

The end of the year also causes us to say goodbye to another of our staff members. Rowan McKay is leaving us to head back down south and finish his university degree in December. We are currently recruiting to ensure we have somebody new to start very early in the new year. Landholders who have been working with Rowan can contact other staff in the office with questions about your projects until a new Field Officer is appointed. BCSR and FBA recognizes that changing staff members impact on all facets of our business from landholder projects to our relationships with stakeholders, and as a result we are taking steps to improve this issue. It is not something that can be fixed overnight however, so we really do appreciate your patience in this difficult time. The rest of our staff are sticking it out and we all hope to work with more of you next year!

Kristy



Office Close & Staff Leave

The BCSR office at Calliope will be unattended from COB on the 19th of December, opening again on the 5th 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 0749756 555 and they will be dealt with promptly when the office is re-opened. FBA HQ in Rockhampton will also be closed during this time.

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!



Splatter guns assist in the fight against Lantana in scrub

Through the Rainforest Recovery Program, FBA has been able to fund the purchase of 6 Forestry Splatter Guns to assist in the control of Lantana species within the Boyne/Calliope Sub Region.

Field Officer Sarah Steel said the Rainforest Recovery Program is aimed at protecting scrub remnants within the region by encouraging better weed and other management techniques. "Lantana has become a major threat to rainforest remnants within the region as it is highly invasive and has the ability to out compete rainforest species, therefore it was a logical choice to purchase the splatter guns for use within the community as it is recognized that this will provide many direct and indirect benefits for scrub protection" she said.

"They are an excellent tool for accessing lantana in difficult terrain as they can be used off horseback, quadbike, vehicle or by walking. They provide a highly effective method of control by providing a targeted, low volume, high concentration "splatter" of glyphosate to Lantana within a 10m radius of the operator. Less chemical is used (reducing herbicide costs) and overspray is greatly reduced".

The guns will be made available to the community through the Gladstone Regional Council who will hire them out for a nominal fee. Contact Darryl Saw for more information on hire.

The splatter guns will be demonstrated at the upcoming "Lantana Control Field Day" to be held at "Yarrowonga" on the 2nd of December (see advert on the back of this newsletter). Landholders will also be given the opportunity to test the new guns for themselves on this day.

For more information contact Sarah Steel on 0749 756555 or 0429 992828.



Get in quick! Healthy Soils Workshop subsidy available again...

Due to high interest, Grazing BestPrac is running a second "Building Healthy Soils" workshop with Ray O'Grady to provide the latest science for hands on production of crops & pasture. BCSR is once again giving landholders the opportunity to attend this workshop on the cheap!

BCSR will provide \$300.00 (plus GST) towards the total cost of the workshop for 5 more lucky people in the Boyne and Calliope Catchments, reducing the cost to \$500 (plus GST). See the enclosed flyer for more info.

Any interested landholder can be involved so get in quick!! Cut off date for registering an interest is the 26th of November. To register for this opportunity or for more information contact the BCSR office on 0749 756 555.

Keen to keep Curtis Island beautiful?

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA), invite locals to join them on a week long conservation camp on Curtis Island to help with foredune restoration and beach protection activities in the National Park. CVA are running three week long projects, 17-22nd November, 24-29th November and 15-20th December, and this is a great opportunity for locals who voiced concern over the designation of the island as State Development land to be involved in its protection. The team will camp on the island and CVA will provide project related transport, food and camp accommodation. Cost for the week is \$248, with concessions for pension card holders.

Green Corps is coming...

If you are aged 17-20, seeking work skills and enjoy working out doors, Green Corps may be for you. Green Corps is a 6 month long federally funded youth training program centred on environmental projects, delivering training in First aid, OH&S, and Certificates 1 in Conservation and Land Management. Participants receive a training wage, a uniform, and transport from a centralized location. Conservation Volunteers Australia are facilitating a team in the Gladstone area, from January 2009.

More details on both projects are available from Karl at CVA on 07 49724969 or via the CVA website www.conservationvolunteers.com.au

Pictured to the right: Darryl Saw, Gladstone Regional Council, testing one of the new splatter guns



Fund breathes life into innovative ideas

A new fund is ensuring central Queensland is at the forefront of progressive practices. Nine projects have been developed to examine new and cutting-edge land management practices through the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc (FBA) Innovation Fund.

FBA Chief Executive Officer Suzie Christensen said the successful projects shared in funding of more than \$650,000.

Funding was provided for projects to:

- Trial sequential cropping in the Dawson area.
- Organise a field trip to examine natural sequence farming (NSF) techniques (see box below for more information)
- Support a trial of automated subsurface drip irrigation, chemigation and fertigation in pineapples near Yeppoon.
- Promote precision agriculture and remote sensing technologies.
- Investigate the potential of pasture cropping, biological farming and soil carbon sequestration.
- Investigate how central Queensland can prepare for climate change.
- Hold a series of webinars on agricultural issues.
- Hold a community forum in 2009 to share innovative ideas.

NSF on the move in the Fitzroy!

In a follow-up to the successful Natural Sequence Farming (NSF) Workshop run by BCSR at "Stowe Park" last December, FBA has provided the opportunity to 20 landholders from around the Fitzroy Basin to take a trip to the Hunter Valley to look more closely at NSF principles.

Five landholders from the Boyne Calliope Sub Region have been selected to participate in the trip. They will visit Peter's property Barramul Stud and nearby Frog Rock Winery who is also implementing NSF principles in collaboration with Peter, for four days in early December.

The participants of this trip will then use their new knowledge to have input into developing a Code of Practice for use of the principles in this region and look at setting up some demonstration sites for other interested people to learn from. The funding for this project was part of the FBA Innovations Fund Grants. Stay tuned for more updates in the next newsletter.

Ms Christensen said the Innovation Fund was created specifically to support 'out of the box' ideas that would not fit into normal funding streams.

"Many landholders are interested in the potential of new practices and technologies but need more evidence or information on how it can be applied in the local area. Some great ideas never get off the ground because no-one is willing to back them – so we wanted to provide a pool of money that catered to untried project ideas we might not normally fund," she said.

"We have an open mind about the outcomes of the projects, because it's all about expanding our knowledge and we can learn from both successes and failures."

For more information contact FBA on 0749992800.

Pictured below: John Cranny is a partner in Valley Syndicate, a pineapple farm near Yeppoon that has been funded to trial sub surface drip irrigation.





This field day is a must if you want to:

- Find out how to maximise the effectiveness of lantana control on your property
- Learn about integrating different lantana control methods for maximum results
- Have a go at using one of the Gladstone Regional Council's Splatter Guns
- See the Ellrott Plough in action - demo by Peter of Alternative Woody Weed Control
- Learn about the results of the FRCC herbicide trial at "Moncton Hills" Raglan earlier this year
- Share knowledge with experienced lantana control officers
- Pick up a pack containing the most recent Lantana information



WHEN? Tuesday 2 December, 2008

Arrive at 9:30am for a 10am start, finish by 1:30pm then join us for a BBQ lunch

WHERE?

'Yarrowonga', with Owen and Paulette Lindley

Directions

Follow the Gladstone-Monto Road for approx 50km from the Dawson Highway, turn off at Norton Road and then property is about 20km along to your right—Look out for the BCSR signs.

What to bring?

A hat and a chair if needed.

Interested?

RSVP by 26 November to BCSR staff on 4975 6555.



This day has been organised in partnership with Gladstone Regional Council and the National Lantana Management Group, and is supported by Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments (FRCC) Inc.



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

