

# On the ground

A newsletter of the BCSR

Boyne Calliope  
Sub Region

## What's happening?

**1 October** — CVA Tannum Community Nursery.

**2 October** — CVA weed control in Pindari Nature Refuge; contact Karl French on 0428533002.

**9-10 October** — Grazing BestPrac Building Healthy Soils in Grass & Crops Workshop (see insert); "Stowe Park" Calliope; contact Mick on 0438395255

**14 October** — Boyne Valley Catchment Working Group Meeting; Ubobo CWA, 9 am

**16 October** — Calliope River Catchment Working Group Meeting; Calliope QCWA Hall; 9:30 am

**24 October** — **FBA Carbon Forum & AGM** (see insert); Rockhampton Plaza Hotel, George St, Rockhampton 10 am; contact Karlee Goodsall on 0749992800

**5 November** — Raglan Catchment Working Group Meeting; Raglan Target Sports Club House; 8 am

**6 November** — Bracewell Catchment Working Group Meeting; Mt Larcom Public Hall; 7 pm; contact Darryl Saw on 0749 758195

## Message from the Coordinator

Welcome to the spring edition of the BCSR Newsletter! As you can see, our newsletter has had a facelift in readiness for the new season along with a name change. Thanks to Water Quality Officer Rachel Bryan for her creativity! We feel it really represents what we are trying to achieve and hope you do as well!

Since our last newsletter BCSR staff have been very busy getting out and about and supporting the local community. We have participated in a Gladstone Regional Council Visioning Workshop, an Air Quality Forum and the Fitzroy Flood Forum and also held a successful PNC Launch you can read all about in the following pages of the newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those landholders who have undertaken projects with us, for taking the time to return the evaluation surveys of our work. This information is of absolute importance for us to continually improve the level of service we provide to you and make sure we provide you with the information that is of most use. Over the next couple of weeks BCSR staff will be following up by calling those landholders who received the evaluation to give you another way of providing your feedback to us. This is once again voluntary but we do appreciate any feedback you can provide to us.

I really hope that these newsletters that we produce are of use to you on a practical level. If you know of any neighbors or community groups that would like to receive the newsletter, do not hesitate to contact us on 0749 756 555 to add their name to our mailing list.

Enjoy the warmer weather!

Kristy

## Get in quick! Workshop subsidy available

BCSR is giving landholders the opportunity to attend the Grazing BestPrac workshop on Building Healthy Soils on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of October at "Stowe Park" Calliope (see the insert inside this newsletter) on the cheap!

BCSR will provide \$300.00 (plus GST) towards the total cost of the workshop for 10 lucky landholders in the Boyne and Calliope Catchments, reducing the cost for landholders to attend to \$500 (plus GST).

Any interested landholder can be involved so get in quick!! Cut off date for registering an interest is the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. To register for this opportunity or for more information contact the BCSR office on 0749 756 555.



## Project opportunities for landholders

*BCSR puts focus on Ridler & Degalgil Creek catchments*

**MORE than 30 landholders gathered at Jan and Ivan Stiller's "Hilldale" property in the Boyne Valley on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, to learn about opportunities to improve land management.**

The Stillers hosted an information session and barbecue organized by Boyne Calliope Sub-region of the Fitzroy Basin Association, which has chosen to work in the Ridler and Degalgil Creek catchment areas over the next financial year.

FBA Boyne Calliope field officer Rowan McKay encouraged landholders to take advantage of technical support, training, advice and funding incentives available to improve their properties. He said the catchments had been chosen because of high-priority natural resource issues, including weeds, sediment loading and high biodiversity values in the area.

"But in the end it comes back to community - we believe landholders in this area can effectively work together to make things happen," Mr McKay said.

He said the FBA's "neighborhood catchments" approach involved working with the whole community in priority catchments to achieve integrated and collaborative outcomes.

"Common projects include fencing to land type and installing watering points to relieve pressure on highly used pastures to reduce erosion, fencing to manage recharge areas or protecting riparian areas by fencing them to control stock access," he said.

There was also potential for landholders in the target areas to develop weed control projects, in particular, for the management of Giant Rat's Tail grass.

He said FBA could assist landholders manage areas for plants and wildlife or help them access information and support in relation to farm forestry, which is a rapidly growing industry.

We would also like to hear from landholders with any ideas for holding field days, training or workshops."

Mr McKay urged landholders to get expressions of interest in soon to have projects considered. Forms are available from the Boyne Calliope office on 4975 6555 or email [rowan.mckay@fba.org.au](mailto:rowan.mckay@fba.org.au).



*Top: Eunice Payne, Joan Davies and Beryl McGregor. Middle: Ivan Stiller catches up with Peter Brady. Bottom: Damien & Allison Fowler, Jan Stiller and Kristy Dalton.*



## You say 'goodbye' ..... I say 'hello!'



In late August the BCSR crew said goodbye to Administration Assistant Allison Fowler (pictured left) who has left to pursue other employment opportunities closer to her family in Tannum Sands.

After a successful recruitment round, Noeleen Tewes (pictured right) has started in the role and is eager to get her teeth into the job and start meeting stakeholders.

Noeleen hails from Bundaberg and has moved to the region to join her husband and daughters.

The BCSR office is located in the Library Building on Don Cameron Drive in Calliope. Contact the office on 4975 6555.



# Get the dirt on soil health

**Over Central and Northern Queensland, landholders have identified the need to increase their awareness about soil health issues.**

FBA has had a successful project proposal under the National Landcare Program, called *'Healthy Soils, Healthy future: Bridging the gaps for sustainable agriculture'*.

The project will be run in collaborative with the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group will focus on a series of education and research activities to answer some difficult soil questions.

The education component will consist of a series of training workshops involving a field site visit or demonstration of topics such as:

- soil fertility and soil health,
- soil organic carbon,
- use of soil treatments and how to make them work in farming systems,
- pasture cropping, and
- making your own biological products.

The research component involves on-farm trial and demonstration sites located on producer's properties investigating the response to the above improvements.

Rob & Sandra Waterson's "Stowe Park" near Calliope are just one of the many landholders involved by providing their properties as a demonstration site.

The funding for this project has been successfully approved for three years starting on July 08, thus it is currently in the very early stages.

Landholders in the Boyne Calliope Sub Region can, however, expect to hear more about the workshops being held and the outcomes of the demonstration sites in the near future.

While most events are likely to be held in the Dawson area, around Baralaba or Callide, the Boyne Calliope Sub Region will help support interested landholders to attend and become involved in the project where possible.

**To find out more about the 'Healthy Soils, Healthy Future' project, please contact Valeria Berry (pictured above)**

**Ph: 0749 929 156 or**

**Email: [valeria.berry@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:valeria.berry@dpi.qld.gov.au).**



## Plaudits flood in for forum

The Fitzroy Basin Association has declared the "Fitzroy Flood Forum" held over the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> of August in Rockhampton a huge success, with around 150 people attending events over the three days.

The FBA organized the event with partners the Department of Natural Resources and Water and sponsors the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre.

Over the three days participants were able to learn more about the January floods and their impacts, as well as the opportunity to create new friendships and partnerships.

For more information on the presenters or topics covered please contact Rachel Bryan on 0749 992 850 or email [Rachel.Bryan@fba.org.au](mailto:Rachel.Bryan@fba.org.au)



*Di Walker from Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority chats with Wendy Parsons from CapReef at the forum launch.*



*(L-R) Bruce Cowie from NRW, FBA Technical Manager Gavin Peck and Stewart Neilsen from NRW at the launch.*

## A mighty little fly!



In late September, Darryl Saw from the Gladstone Regional Council and BCSR staff in partnership with DPIF and Tropical Weeds Research Station at Charters Towers, released a new Lantana bio-control on several properties in the upper Calliope catchment. The herringbone leaf mining fly (*Ophiomyia camarae*) was released in infestations on "Dundee", Jonathan Pattersons property and Lake Road owned by Cement Australia.

As the name suggests, this biocontrol agent attacks the leaves of lantana plants. The adult fly lays eggs on the underside of lantana leaves and the larvae feed on the mesophyll of the leaf, forming herringbone shaped mines (see photo above). Concerted attack from this insect should cause premature defoliation, placing the lantana plant under significant stress. While it is unlikely to kill the plant outright, the aim is to reduce the rate of spread of lantana and is considered another tool to add to the lantana control kit rather than a replacement for chemical or mechanical control techniques.

Further monitoring and assessment by project partners is expected for the following 12 months with a view to release in other areas in the future. For more information please contact Darryl Saw on 0749758195.



*Rowan McKay and Darryl Saw releasing the Herringbone leaf mining fly at Lakes Road.*

