



BOYNE CALLIOPE SUB REGION NEWSLETTER

Fitzroy Basin Association

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Hello and welcome to the first edition of our BCSR Newsletter for 2008. If you know of anyone who would like to receive a copy, please pass our details on so they can make contact with us.



Coordinator's Chatter!

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for this year and the first of many "Coordinator's Chatter" to come!! Firstly I should introduce myself! My name is Kristy Dalton and I started in the Coordinators role mid-January and hail from Mitchell in south-western Qld. I am not new to the FBA network, having worked in a Technical Role in Emerald from 2005-2006, however, I am new to the Boyne Calliope area. I have spent the past year living and working in London where it seems I have brought the rainy weather with me back to Australia!

I am hoping to build on the great momentum started by Andrew Schweitzer, Vanessa Wood and Murray Bullock to continue to work with landholders in the Boyne Calliope Area to tackle NRM issues. In addition to our current fearless team of Allison Fowler and Rachel Bryan, we are hoping to add a new Field Officer to the midst and interviews for that position are currently underway. This person will be the face you see coming up your driveway for a property visit so it would definitely pay to get in touch with them when they come onboard.

As you can see from the date claimer section of the newsletter we have already started holding workshops and planning for the future of the BC Sub Region after the demise of Natural Heritage Trust 2 funding. All reports indicate that we will be provided with continued support for the existing NRM framework and on-ground incentives beyond June 2008. As a result the Boyne Calliope Steering Committee (BCSR) is currently in discussions regarding where we will focus our efforts and funding for the next three years. We will be in contact with landholders in the selected catchments in the next few months to discuss options with them. For those landholders not in these "priority areas" we still encourage you to contact us. We can assist you in sourcing alternative funding opportunities, participation in the various workshops we hold and our "whole of catchment" projects such as FBA's Property Mapping Project and Rainforest Recovery Project that Vanessa Wood was involved in.

I think that is probably enough from me! The next newsletter will give you a clearer picture of our "Action Plan" and direction for the BC Sub Region, however, if you wish to have any input please do not hesitate to contact our office. As a team we wish to thank you for your support over the past years and are excited about working with you all into the future.

Kristy



Looking back – 2005/2008 Snapshot



Over the last three years, the BCSR has been working hard to build partnerships with the community, key sectors and landholders. Our focus has been on working with landholders in the Upper Calliope River, Bracewell, Degalgil Creek and Ridler Creek areas, however, other landholders in strategic areas have also had projects developed where appropriate. In this time, BCSR committed \$160,328 to on-ground projects with contributions from landholders totaling \$294,510. This represents a significant combined gross investment of \$454,838 in sustainable agricultural practices in the Boyne Calliope Catchments. A total of 26 projects were developed in the above mentioned Neighbourhood Catchments with:

- 3 projects dealing with sustainable grazing;
- 1 project dealing with salinity/water use efficiency;
- 12 projects dealing with riparian and wetland fencing;
- 10 projects dealing with weed control.

To support these practice changes, BCSR has run 11 workshops and field days over the Boyne Calliope Catchment on a range of topics. These include Regional Ecosystem Mapping, GPS Use, Grazing Land Management, Rainforest Scrub management, Groundwater management and Natural Sequence Farming Methods. Staff have also played an active participatory role in other local NRM/Agricultural groups and also with local Councils and as a result we have strong partnerships with these groups. In the coming three years we are planning to further strengthen these partnerships, establish links with industry and coastal stakeholders and continue the good work with our property project development.



WATER RELEASES FROM LAKE AWOONGA

Recent good rainfall and inflows into Lake Awoonga raised water levels from 34% to 59% in less than ten days. By 8.30am 21 February, around 193,000 megalitres (ML) of water had flowed into the dam, and the level was sitting at 34.4m AHD.

Jim Grayson, Chief Executive Officer of the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) said, "GAWB holds a Resource Operations Licence through the Department of Natural Resources and Water which allows us to sell water from Awoonga Dam, but also requires GAWB to undertake environmental releases. In Queensland, as opposed to other States, environmental objectives must also be satisfied alongside water used for other purposes (like irrigation or to meet urban or industrial demand)."

"GAWB's Operating License requires it to undertake specified base and trigger releases that are intended to improve downstream water quality, encourage sediment removal, and contribute to the long-term maintenance of existing habitats - ultimately protecting and enhancing the health of the river downstream of Awoonga Dam."

"Daily base-flow releases are designed to simulate natural stream flows, the amount of which varies according to inflows into the lake. Base-flow releases ceased in November 2006, but have recommenced since the level of water in storage rose above 30m AHD."

"Trigger-flow releases are designed to simulate flood events when high levels of inflows are received over a short period."

"Based on the recent inflows GAWB will be discharging around 16,000 megalitres from 25 February to satisfy our trigger-flow requirements," Mr Grayson said. "When undertaking these trigger releases we will take a number of factors into consideration including tides into the Boyne River and minimising impacts at Pikes Crossing. Overall this will reduce water levels in the lake from 59% to around 57%".

Residents in the lower Boyne River that may be impacted by the release have been notified by GAWB. For more information please contact the Gladstone Area Water Board on 4976 3000.

TACKLING CATS CLAW IN THE BOYNE AND CALLIOPE



Cats Claw Creeper, Boyne Valley

The last BC Newsletter contained an article about the recent release in the Boyne Catchment of the Tingid Bug to attack Cats Claw Creeper.

Over the next few months FBA will also work with Gladstone Area Water Board, Calliope Council and Gympie Landcare to trial the release of a leaf-tying moth (*Hypocosmia pyrochroma*), also to attack Cats Claw Creeper.

On the ground, FBA has also recently contracted a Greening Australia work team to attack Cats Claw in the upper part of Degalgil Creek. This work involves the more traditional painting (and sometimes repainting) Glyphosate herbicide onto the cut stumps of the Cats Claw vines. It is anticipated that this will enable a comparison of the two control methods.



Hypocosmia pyrochroma,
adult moth



Hypocosmia pyrochroma,
larvae

For further information contact: Graham Lightbody 49992811 or Kristy Dalton 4975 6555

A Note from: National Lantana Management Group

A new approach is being developed to tackle the threat from lantana (*Lantana camara*) and the National Lantana Management Group needs your help. The NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and Biosecurity Queensland are jointly developing this plan to guide and coordinate Australia's response to reducing the threat posed by *Lantana camara* to biodiversity. The approach involves the need to identify the native species at risk and then prioritise sites for control – thereby ensuring that control will result in the greatest benefit for biodiversity nationally. Over 1250 native plants and 150 animals have been identified as

being at risk from lantana invasion in our area.

This project will also fund initial lantana control at some of the high priority sites in the first instance, through the Commonwealth's Defeating the Weeds Menace initiative.

If you require any further information on this project and the nomination of sites in your region, please call Pete Turner, Project officer (Lantana) with DECC on (02) 0585 6548 or Kym Johnson, National Lantana Coordinator, with Biosecurity Qld (07)3405 5360.

National Weed Detection Project

CRC Weed Management Group are holding a workshop on the 24th April 2008. The workshop will be focusing on weed collection techniques by covering the following:

- Equipment for collection
- What to collect
- Labeling and descriptive information
- Safety and Hygiene Issues
- Handling Plants during collection
- How to pack a plant press
- Drying specimens
- Packing and posting specimens

Registration is free and includes course notes, morning tea & lunch. For registration and further details contact Jane Morton on 07 3896 9467 or jane.morton@epa.qld.gov.au.

Why Collect Weeds?

Prevention and early intervention are the most cost effective means of dealing with potential, new and emerging weeds in Australia. Many communities could have been spared the high cost of weed control and health risks associated with parthenium, for example, had the weed spotter network existed when this plant began naturalising.

We may have had a much better chance of eradicating it than we do today.

The project is managed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC), and is jointly funded by the Weeds CRC and the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust. Pilot work in the Rockhampton and Townsville areas is underway with the collaboration of the Queensland Herbarium (EPA), the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines (NR&M) and the Fitzroy Basin Association.



Australian Government



FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION



Queensland
Government



Centenary of parks - celebrating our country and people

In 2008 Queensland's national parks turn 100. Queensland has some of the world's most magnificent national parks including five world heritage areas that protect global treasures such as the Great Barrier Reef and the wet tropical rainforests.

The Centenary of Parks celebrations in 2008 will provide the community with opportunities to become aware of the special attractions that abound in national parks. Events will aim to foster community pride in Queensland's natural treasures and remind us of our colourful past and rich Aboriginal heritage.

Meet your local Environmental Protection Agency rangers and share your ideas. Rangers will be at several local events with displays and brochures. So bring your questions and tell us about your experiences and our management in national parks in the area ... the good, the bad and the ugly!

- 3-4 May, Ubobo Mountain Challenge
- 1 June, Gladstone Ecofest
- 6-8 June, Boyne-Tannum Hookup

For more information about parks in your area visit us online at [www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks and forests](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests) or contact the Environmental Protection Agency in Gladstone on 4971 6500.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy Easter. Take care on the roads if you are traveling.

If you have any questions or simply want to know how the FBA can assist you, please do not hesitate to telephone, fax or email us. If there is a particular topic or area of interest you would like to see in the newsletter please contact us.



LETS MAKE IT A DATE!!

Raglan Catchment Working Group

Wednesday 2nd April at 8:00a.m.

At the Raglan Target sports Assn Inc Club, Hourigan Ck Road, Raglan

Bracewell Sub Catchment Working Group

Thursday 3rd April 2008 at 7:00p.m.

At the Mount Larcom Community Hall, Mount Larcom

Boyne Valley Catchment Working Group

Tuesday 8th April 2008 at 9:00a.m.

At Boyne Valley OCWA Ubobo

Calliope River Catchment Working Group

Thursday 10 April 2008 at 9:30a.m.

At the OCWA Bloomfield Street, Calliope

- 2nd April - AgForce Biotech Forum, Emerald
- 3rd April - AgForce Biotech Forum, Mackay
- 26th May - AgForce SMARTtrain Chemical Application, Rockhampton
- 17/18th April- Grazing BestPrac, Goals n Vision Workshop, Rockhampton
- 28/29th April- Grazing BestPrac, Technology of Growing Grass Workshop
- 19/20th June - Leucaena for Profit and Sustainability, Rockhampton

For further information on all these dates please contact this office on 49756555.

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If the office is unattended please
leave a message

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