

CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

March 2010



CHRRUP

From the EO's Desk...

Recently I attended a workshop focussing on natural grasslands in the Central Highlands and northern Fitzroy Basin. This ecological community is listed as endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The purpose of the workshop was to help FBA plan projects that would work within the guidelines of the EPBC Act to improve and recover this grassland community. Rhys Kellow from FBA is the contact for the planned projects.

If you are unfamiliar with the EPBC Act and/or if there are likely to be protected areas under the law on or near your property then you can access further information by contacting Ross Rowe, Environmental Liaison Officer with Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts on 1800 704 520 or by visiting www.environment.gov.au/farming.

Last week Grazing Best Prac in conjunction with CHRRUP ran a two day workshop covering soil health and microbes. The presenters were Bart Davidson from Bionutrient Solutions (www.bionutrient.com.au) and Sandrine Makiela from CQU. The main outcome of the workshop was an understanding that via appropriate management practices soils can be repaired and or improved. The landholders attending found the workshop very informative and went away from the session with a plan to assess their property's soil health. As one landholder commented, he didn't know how much he didn't know about soils! Topics covered over the two days included the assessment of soil health through soil testing as well as the use of different management technics such as planting legumes and compost teas.

Soil testing and understanding soil health is a growing area of interest. CQU is currently in the process of setting up a laboratory which will be able to undertake biological soil analysis which will allow landholders to undertake a health check of their soils and understand what they need to do to improve the health of the soil system. More workshops are planned as part of the FarmReady Managing Climate Change – From the Ground Up programme covering

topics such as: bio-char, pasture cropping, natural sequence farming and carbon trading. As part of the programme we also hope to run a second soil health workshop out in the Central Highlands. We will keep you informed via the CHRRUP website, and in our newsletters.

AgForce CQ Regional Forum

CHRRUP Field Officer, Vicki Horstman, will be among the line-up of guest speakers at the AgForce Forum this month. Vicki will join a group of presenters including AgForce President John Cotter, cattle and grain directors, policy advisors, media and government representatives. The Forum will include a regional meeting followed by a panel of speakers and questions from the floor. Issues to be discussed include general relevant issues, cattle, grains, mining, media and Grains BMP. For catering purposes please RSVP to 4927 6100 by 22 March.

Looking at Leuceuna

UQ and The Leucaena Network are offering a practical, 2-day, farm-based training course - How to establish and manage dryland leucaena pasture - with farm walks and presentations by scientists and grazier experts. The course will include details on getting started, establishment and land preparation, environmental impacts, grazing management and a planning exercise. The course will be held in Roma from 24-25 March, and the cost (\$1320pp) will be covered by Santos. This includes course notes, text book, complimentary leaf analysis, and full catering. Accommodation and breakfast are not included. Please contact Scott Dalzell on 3365 1172 or s.dalzell@uq.edu.au to register, or for more details.

Recovering Threatened Native Grassland

FBA has received funding from the Australian Government to help in the recovery of the recently listed "Natural grasslands of the Queensland Central Highlands and northern

Date Claimers

17 March – AgForce Grazing & Grains Info Session. 9-2:30pm. AACC Campus, Emerald. RSVP to Natalie Schick, AgForce, on 0428 154 803.

19 March – CHDC Friday Forum 5:30 - 7:30pm at the Mayfair Tavern function room. Guest speaker, Phil Ferenczi, DEEDI. RSVP to Robyn Matheson, CHDC on 49824386

19 March – Clermont Landcare Meeting. 4pm and BBQ afterwards. 'Morbridge' Clermont. RSVP to David Bridgeman on 49856115, by 17 March. BYO Drinks.

22-23 March – Grazing Bestprac, Technology of Growing Grass Workshop in Clermont. Contact Mick Alexander on 4938 3919. Farm Ready Approved to all eligible primary producers.

26 March – AgForce CQ Regional Forum. 8:30am Mayfair Tavern, Emerald. Non-members welcome. RSVP to Danielle Hogarth 4927 6100.

28 April – NRM Expo, Emerald Showgrounds.

Fitzroy Basin" Ecological Community. This community has been listed as Endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act and updates an earlier listing for 'Bluegrass Grasslands'.

The FBA is keen to hear from landholders with Native Grasslands / Bluegrass Downs country on their properties, who are interested in:

- Maintaining remnant areas of these grasslands;
- Improving the condition or extent of natural grassland patches;
- Renovating to native grassland, areas that may have been degraded by past cultivation or persistent heavy grazing.

Note: One important tool to assist grasslands recovery is the management of grazing pressure. Recovery actions will not necessarily entail complete grazing exclusion. Please contact me on 4982 3344 for more information.

Rhys Kellow – FBA, Biodiversity Field Officer

Grazing & Grains Info Session

Central Highlands producers have the opportunity to catch up on issues affecting their businesses at an AgForce grazing and grains information session this month.

AgForce project officers will explain how to understand regional ecosystems and regulated regrowth vegetation maps.

They will discuss how and why a Property Map of Assessable Vegetation, commonly known as a PMAV, is beneficial to an enterprise.

The Delbessie Agreement affecting leasehold landowners and new reef regulations will be covered in detail, along with the present state of play of the carbon economy and emissions trading schemes.

The information day is free of charge and open to all landowners. Morning tea and lunch is provided.

The field day will be held on Wednesday 17 March, 2010, at the Australian Agricultural College, Emerald, from 9am-2.30pm.

To register, call AgForce Reef Rescue project officer Natalie Schick on 0428 154 803 or email natalie.schick@agforceqld.org.au

The information session is delivered by AgForce, AgForward, and CHRRUP through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

Ka Ka Mundi Tour

Lindsay Black will be conducting one of his tag-along 4WD camping tours during May (postponed from Easter holidays) This is a great way to experience the scenery and history of the Central Highlands, with highlights including the old wagon tracks on Tambo road, Aboriginal keeping place at Springsure, art sites, and Mitchell and Belinda Springs. Cost is \$25pp per day donation to Yumba Burin. For more information, or to book, contact Lindsay on 4984 1644 or Linda Black on xlublack@hotmail.com



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FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION

Hello Baby Cochrane

Congratulations to Anna and Andrew Cochrane on the arrival of Clementine Elsie, who was born on 2 March in Brisbane. Mother, baby and dad are all doing well, and have returned to the property at Hillston.

Phasing out Faxstream

Due to the rising costs of faxstreaming our monthly newsletter, and the fact that the majority of people now use email regularly, we will be phasing out the faxstream as of 30 June 2010. The newsletter will then be delivered via email, and it is also available on the website www.chrrup.org Please contact Sally Murden on 49822 996 or admin@chrrup.org to ensure we have your current email address. Please also let us know if faxing is your only option!

Grains BMP

Hello Everyone!

Wet hey? Shed work done? And what about the lawn I need a bike flag to walk around our yard at the moment!!!

Well we are at the stage of Project development for my BMP groups. Two groups, (Springsure and Capella) totaling 11 landholders have gone through all 5 modules! I have 9 landholders in Clermont to do the last 2 modules on the 17 March at the Clermont Club.

Tim Neale from Precision Ag will be doing consecutive workshops on 22-24 of March in Clermont, Capella and Springsure, so please give me a call if you would like to attend. Once this round is over we will be launching back into the areas in June, so I will be looking for Expressions of Interest for involvement in the BMP program soon.

Any questions please call me.

Vicki Horstman, Best Management Practice Officer, 0427 320 539 or email: vicki@chrrup.org

Neighbourhood Catchments

I have finally gotten out of the office for a couple of days to do some property visits which is great! I was getting a bit of cabin fever being stuck in the office for so long because of the rain – but the picturesque country side was well worth the wait!

One good thing about being stuck in the office is that it has given me a chance to get all of my current projects developed and assessment ready. I have the assessment panel coming on Wednesday 31 March to look at 18 projects which is fantastic! I will be in touch with all project applicants either Wednesday afternoon or Thursday after the panel to let you know the results.

Other than that I am keen to keep getting out there and developing projects, so if you have something you would like to do on your property that will improve ground cover, decrease erosion or protect riparian areas then let me know and I will come and check it out.

Bronwyn Roberts, CHRRUP Field Officer, 0428 776 249 or email: bronwyn@chrrup.org