

CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

August 2008



CHRRUP

Rolfe Ellem To Join CHRRUP

The Board is pleased to announce they have appointed a new Executive Officer for CHRRUP. Rolfe Ellem will take up the position on 25 August. Rolfe has a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics and specialist fields include agricultural extension, farm management economics, community liaison, animal production and agricultural marketing. Rolfe has extensive experience in Australia as a Farm Financial Counsellor for the DPI&F, as well as a Project Development Advisor for various community groups overseas.

Governance Training

Corporate Governance Training has been organised for the CHRRUP Board, and it has been decided to open the sessions up to other members of the community. The first session 'Making Your Corporate Governance Easier' will be held on 1 September at the CHRRUP Board Room. The cost will be \$2,500 plus GST for the first 5 people, and then \$20 for each person after that.

The second session 'Strategic Planning For Your Organisation' will be held on 17 November, and venue and costing details remain the same. The training will be conducted by Global Training Institute, a company who specialise in Corporate Governance for NRM groups. Further information can be found on their website www.globaltraining.net.au. Please RSVP to Sally Murden on 49 822996 if you would like to attend.

Look Out For the Crimson Finch

Keep your eyes out for the Crimson Finch Eastern Form (*Neochmia phaeton iredalei*). The Crimson Finch, or 'blood finch', was once wide spread over much of Central Queensland, although they have not been seen in the Central Highlands since the 1980s. Their current known range extends along the Connors River, Lower Isaac, and their tributaries; however the rivers and large creeks within the Central Highlands still contain habitat features that are likely to

support a viable population. Adults are usually 12-14cm long, and can be easily recognised due to the deep red colour (especially the males) that covers their body. They rarely appear outside of riverine vegetation, which will include varying species of eucalypts, dense river grass, and a source of permanent water. If you think you have seen this elusive species, or would like to know more, I would love to hear from you.

Rhys Kellow

FBA Biodiversity Field Officer

Ph: 4982 3344 or 0429 992 820

Email: rhys.kellow@fba.org.au

New Catchments

CHRRUP will be concentrating on-ground works in the following catchments for the next funding period.

Billaboo (C14)

The Billaboo catchment is located to the west of Emerald, running from slightly north of Boguntungan, southeast to the Willow and to Ducabrook creek in the South. The area is predominantly grazing. Please contact Vicki Horstman if you would like to be involved.

Buckland (C28)

Buckland catchment is to the south-west of Springsure. It encompasses the Ka Ka Mundi, Salvator Rosa and Mount Hutton sections of the Carnarvon Ranges. The area is predominantly grazing, with extensive and intensive grazing and cropping across the catchment. Buckland also is the source of the Nogoia River which means that work carried out there will have flow on effects over the whole catchment. Susie Bate will be conducting a launch and calling for Expressions of Interest in October.

Belyando-Suttor

The Belyando-Suttor Catchment runs from south of Alpha to Belyando-Crossing in the north. The catchment is made up of approximately 452 landholders and 96% of the catchment area can be described as grazing with 2% dryland farming, with mining and forestry comprising the balance. Bronwyn Roberts will continue her involvement in the catchment.

Date Claimers

27 August – BSIG meeting, Clermont Club, Clermont to start at 9:30AM. Please RSVP to Bronwyn Roberts, 0428 776 249.

1 September – Governance Training, CHRRUP Board Room. RSVP to Sally Murden, 49822996.

2 September – CHRRUP Board Meeting, CHRRUP Board Room. RSVP to Sally Murden, 49822996.

5 September – MLA Beef Up Forum, 12-6PM, Blair Athol Hall, Collins St, Clermont. Call 1800 675717 to register.

21-24 September – Landcare Conference, Monto. Register on 07 3012 7617.

17 November – Governance Training, CHRRUP Board Room. RSVP to Sally Murden, 49822996.

18 November – CHRRUP Board Meeting, venue TBA.

AgForward Workshops

The AgForward team presents a range of workshops to landholders, including vegetation management, and computer mapping. The next workshops for the region will be GPS Essentials at Belyando Crossing on 26 August, and at Mt Coolon on 27 August. Please contact Bree Robertson on 3238 6039.

Beef-Up Forum in Clermont

MLA will be conducting a 'Beef-Up Forum: More Beef, More Money' on Friday, 5 September, at the Blair Athol Hall in Clermont. Industry experts will provide practical tools and information on business, grazing and herd management relevant for Queensland beef producers. The session will run from 12-6. Admission is \$20 per business, which will cover lunch, refreshments and BBQ dinner. Register now by calling 1800 675 717.

Landcare Conference

The 2008 Queensland Landcare Conference will be held in Monto from 21-24 September. The theme this year is Infinity: Sustainability by Design. With over 40 speakers and 20 workshop sessions, the conference covers topics such as peak oil and gas; succession planning; climate adaption; river health; soil carbon and much more. Accommodation options are still available, but are filling fast! CHRRUP has some funding available for registration fees for a limited number of local Landcare delegates, so please contact your field officer if you would like to apply.

Nogoa News

Completions and project follow ups are the flavour of the month at the moment! The 'Caring For Our Country' applications have all been completed and submitted, so we will have to wait and see if they were successful.

I attended the FBA Flood Forum in Rocky with the rest of the CHRRUP team – it was interesting to look back on the floods, and the impact it has had on us all. Nigel Burnett from 'Colorada' gave a Food and Fibre update, and Larry Daniels from 'Theresa Downs' spoke as well. There was also a speaker from Ensham mine about the issues they have had with the flood waters and getting the mine operational again. The local landholders gave great presentations and represented us well.

I held a launch for the Billaboo catchment landholders on Friday, 15 August at the Willows, in conjunction with the *CQBEEF* presentation. We had a BBQ lunch and handed out information, and the landholders who attended will pass the word onto their neighbours. I will be doing a drive around the catchment soon to visit landholders who weren't able to come on the day.

Vicki Horstman, Nogoa Catchment Field Officer, 0427 320539.



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Comet Tales

August kicked off with the FBA Flood Forum hosted in Rockhampton, a handful of landholders from the CHRRUP region attended and a select few were guest speakers. I have been out on a few completion report property visits this month, with a few more in the pipeline. I have been working on some project deed of variations, namely project extensions, which will need to be signed and returned. If you received this paperwork, please return it via mail to the Emerald office in a timely manner please!

Recently I attended the Drought Policy Review Public Forum in Emerald. The expert panel is undertaking a series of public forums across Australia to determine the types of social support people value in times of drought, irrespective of whether they are eligible for Exceptional Circumstances assistance. Of particular interest to the panel was how the drought has impacted on; individual's mental and physical health, family relationships and the cohesion and provision of services and the functioning of local communities.

Until next month, Go-Aussie-Go!!!!

Susie Bate, Comet Catchment Field Officer, 0427 326 400.

Belyando Byline

I have been busy completing a 'Caring for our Country' Open Grants application to continue a project in the Belyando Suttor until June 2009. The application is to take a completely new approach in the catchment, developing a sub-catchment plan for a prioritized area not unlike FBA do when going into a new neighbourhood catchment. Fingers crossed that the application gets approved, as it may lead to further funding in the future.

The other big news is there is a BSIG meeting Wednesday 27th August at the Clermont Club, Clermont. This meeting will commence at 9:30 for a 10:00am start and it would be great if all BSIG members or potential members could attend. The meeting holds a lot of importance as the first session is an extraordinary general meeting to develop the new purpose and direction of the group. The second session will then be the annual general meeting complete with elections. If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to share your ideas on purpose or direction then please call or email me and I will make sure they are shared with the group. Similarly if you are unable to attend this meeting and would like to nominate as Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer then please contact me ASAP.

A reminder that, though I will be contacting all landholders this month, if you are finished your project now then please do not hesitate to contact me.

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