

# CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

## August 2009



## CHRRUP

## Farm Succession Planning

*“Throw in aging parents with 4 children, 3 in-laws, 2 properties and 1 (largeish) debt, and you know working out a succession plan was never going to be easy for our family. Last week, we took what was probably the hardest step – the first one. We sat down with a professional succession planning facilitator, and actually talked about how parents’ needs could be met, while making allowances for those who wanted to remain on the properties. While there are still a lot of details to be worked through with the accountant and solicitor, we now have a much clearer direction on how things will work out. Most importantly, we are all still talking to each other!”*

This Farm Succession Planning forum can be the first positive step to addressing this issue. While not dealing with individual family concerns, it will provide awareness and direction, and the knowledge of where to find the people who can give you the best advice. Professional presenters will include representatives from John Crossan & Assoc (solicitors), Harris, Houlihan & Holzward (accountants), Brennan Mayne Agribusiness, Mick Alexander from Grazing Bestprac, CQ TAFE and Skilling Solutions QLD. The forum will be held on Thursday, 10 September at the Emerald Town Hall from 8:30AM until 5PM. Cost is \$15pp, which will include lunch, morning and afternoon tea.

Please RSVP to Sally Murden, CHRRUP on 49822 996 or email [admin@chrrup.org](mailto:admin@chrrup.org) by Monday, 7 September.

*This workshop has been funded by the Rio Tinto Kestrel Community Development Fund, coordinated by CHRRUP and implemented by Grazing Bestprac. Thank you to all those presenters who have donated their time.*

## Open Invitation

There is an open invitation for people involved in the agriculture/horticultural sectors, and the financial services/banking/accounting sectors to attend an industry breakfast this week. Employment Education Training Advisory

Network (ETAN) is conducting an industry breakfast for these sectors to examine their particular issues relating to the recruitment, training and retention of their workforce. ETAN is looking to respond to these issues from within their network resources, or to advocate for an effective response from other networks or agencies.

The breakfast will be held at 7:30AM at the Emerald Explorers Inn, on 21 August. Please RSVP to Tony Robinson on 4982 4386 for catering purposes.

## Are You the Next ICM Director?

CHRRUP currently has a vacancy on the board for an Integrated Catchment Management director. This is a voluntary position, and would suit someone with experience in the organisation of natural resource management and community groups. Board meetings are held quarterly, and provide an opportunity to have some input into the way natural resources are managed locally. If you are interested, or you know of someone who might be willing, please contact Sally Murden at CHRRUP on 49822 996.

## Landholders Wanted for Tech Panel

CHRRUP is looking for some grazing landholders who would like to participate on our technical panel. The panel meets 2-3 times a year, to review projects funded under the FBA incentive program. This is a great opportunity to have some genuine input into the type of projects that are funded, and gain some insight into how natural resource management works. Other representatives on the panel include local industry and departmental people, farming and irrigators, so we are looking to increase the representation from grazing landholders. This is a voluntary position, and would suit someone who has a particular interest in environmental management. If you are interested, or you know of someone who might be willing, please contact Sally Murden at CHRRUP on 49822 996.

### Date Claimers

**21 August** – ETAN Industry Breakfast. 7:30AM till 9, Emerald Explorers Inn. Contact Tony Robinson, CHDC, 4982 486.

**2 September** – Predator Control Day. 8:30AM at AACC Campus. Features cost of wild dogs, trapping, and how to set up a wild dog management group. Cost \$10pp. Contact Lyn Butler, AgForce on 4927 6100.

**8 September** – CHRRUP Board meeting. Willows Community Hall. Contact Sally Murden 49822 996.

**10 September** – Succession Planning Workshop. Emerald Town Hall, 8:30 till 5PM. Contact Rolfe Ellem, CHRRUP, on 49822 996.

**10-11 September** – Chemcert Training Course, AACC Campus Emerald. Contact Donna Goodall on 49828 807.

**5-6 November** – Chemcert Training Course, AACC Campus Emerald. Contact Donna Goodall on 49828 807.

# From the Diary of A Field Officer...

With the CHRRUP region encompassing an area of almost 10,000,00Ha, the Field Officers generally end up spending a good part of their week in the car. Travelling an average of 50,000km per year, navigation, map-reading and off-road driving are important skills, and it does not take long to become accredited as a professional gate-opener!

Communication skills are important when interacting with industry, agency staff, landholders, technical support and community groups. Other useful attributes are the ability to see the big picture when developing projects, flexibility and a good sense of humour!

Typical activities in a field officer's week might include: property visits to prepare and sign off on projects, GPS & mapping training, organising field days, property planning, preparing technical panel submissions, and updating contracts on the FBA data base.

The not so typical activities have included:

- Arriving on property to find man of the house cooking pikelets, as his wife was in town at a meeting. They were the best pikelets ever!
- Getting a phone call at 9PM asking if I can pop into the local agent before I leave town to pick up a drill bit so the landholder can bore the last of his posts to complete the contract.
- Spending all day on a property visit out on the Belyando, and with another visit booked up the road the next day, I ended up staying the night in borrowed pyjamas. The lady of the house even washed and ironed my clothes while I was asleep!
- Visiting a property on the Belyando 52 days after the flood waters peaked to inspect the damage, only to find a large amount of water still lying about the property. Nearly broke my heart.
- Receiving a phone call from a landholder at 5:30AM on a Saturday morning to inform me that he was just heading out to start his project! Thanks Bob!
- Arriving on a property 180km from town having had to change a flat tyre en route. Landholder was reluctant to let me travel home without a spare, so he gave me the two-way channels of every property back to the highway in case I got into trouble. I rang him at 9PM to say I had arrived home safely.

*It really is the people you meet and hearing their stories that makes this job so worthwhile...*

## Australian Future Grain Leaders

This program is an ideal opportunity for people who want to take on the challenge of leading and driving change in the industry. Participants will meet other like people in the grain



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industry, develop mentoring partnerships and take away new information and tips for your future. Face to face meetings will be held in Sydney and Melbourne (with funding support) on 21-23 October, 24-26 March and 26-28 July 2010. This program is an initiative of Grain Growers Association Limited and is being delivered through its Innovative Grains portfolio, and you are invited to apply for one of up to 15 places available in the 2009 - 2010 Program.

Whilst the cost of this program is subsidised and covers the cost of travel, accommodation and all tuition, participants are expected to pay for operational costs relating to internet connections and phone calls. To find out more about the Australian Future Grain Leaders Program or to ask any questions you have please contact Jo Eady, Program Facilitator, Ruralscope Pty Ltd on 0419 912 879 or [jo@ruralscope.com](mailto:jo@ruralscope.com) Applications close 4 September, 2009.

## Grains BMP

The technical panel assessed the current round of projects on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> August. Once the projects are approved, I will continue to be the Growers contact person until such time as Vicki is officially back on board.

For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to complete all 5 modules, please contact me to arrange a time for you to either do it at my place or if necessary out on your property.

The local CH Grains BMP reference panel met recently to discuss the future direction and rollout of GrainsBMP. If you have any ideas or feedback, please contact Rod Collins on (07) 4992-9146 or email [Rodney.Collins@deedi.qld.gov.au](mailto:Rodney.Collins@deedi.qld.gov.au). Your contribution will be greatly appreciated and will help the Grains BMP team to improve the process.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about GrainsBMP

**Rachel McDowall, Grains BMP 0407 454 404**

## Neighbourhood Catchments

The contracts are arriving for all approved projects and I am beginning to send them out to landholders. I am hoping to have all contracts out by the end of the month. As always I am busy trying to get new projects developed for tech panel, and exciting news - I am starting to sign off on some completed projects! I am expecting to have a tech panel in October, so let me know if you have any planned activities you would like submitted.

I participated in the Cancer Fund's Relay 4 Life on the weekend along with the other CHRRUP/FBA staff: Rolfe, Nick, Rhys, Sally, Vicki and the Lilyvale Road group LIVE OK Inc. We were generously sponsored by Rio Tinto and BMA and with some generous and kind donations from other individuals, we were able to raise \$2829.76. It was a good weekend for a great cause, with a big thank you to everyone who has helped our team.

**Bronwyn Roberts, CHRRUP Field Officer, 0428 776 249 or email: [bronwyn@chrrup.org](mailto:bronwyn@chrrup.org)**