

# CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

## December 2009



## CHRRUP

### What's On at CHRRUP

A second round of advertising for the Executive Officer position has just been completed, and interviews will commence in the very near future. In the meantime, Bronwyn Roberts is Acting Executive Officer.

Sally Murden is taking 6 weeks leave to travel to the United States, leaving on 5 December. In Sally's absence, the phones may be unattended for short periods of time – please leave a message, or follow the prompts on the answering machine to get in touch with one of the Field Officers.

All staff will be on leave over the Christmas period from 21 December until 4 January, and the office will be unattended during this time.

### Annual Report Online

The new, abbreviated version of the Annual Report was signed off by the Board at the AGM in November, and is now available on the website. In line with many other organisations, and to conserve resources, only a limited number of hard copies have been prepared. The report is only four pages long, and contains an informative overview of CHRRUP's activities for the 2008/09 financial year. Log on to [www.chrrup.org](http://www.chrrup.org) to view the report.

### CH Jobs Summit

Central Highlands employers attended a forum in November to contribute their ideas and support for ways in which regional businesses can deal with their workforce issues. Convened and facilitated by AgriFood Skills Australia, the Summit attracted around 80 people from a range of industries across the region.

A panel of employers, consisting of Alicia Dunbar, ('Kingower'), Craig Pressler (2PH Farms), Graham Morris (Ensham Mine), George Frangos (CHRC), David Brimblecombe ('Dalkeith', Capella), and Martina Wenman (HiLands Industries), gave their perspective on the region and the future.

Forum organiser, Tony Robinson (CHDC) said, "The Summit was organised as a way to bring employers together, and try to build a coordinated approach to the future development in our region. It was also a chance to build

awareness – there are approximately \$110 billion in major projects planned over the next decade, which will require about 32,000 construction jobs in the Bowen, Galilee and Surat Basins, and the Gladstone area. Even if only half of these plans eventuate, there will still be a huge pressure on the existing workforce and businesses, so we need to know what we, as a region, are going to do."

An employer group has been formed, with 16 members from businesses in agronomy, civil construction, horticulture, transport, agriculture, professional services and mining throughout the region, as well as the Barcaldine and Central Highlands Regional Councils. This group will be working towards developing a 20-year strategic plan, to create a framework and vision of what they want to see in the region, particularly in relation to the workforce.

The plan will be followed by prioritising essential elements and engaging service providers and the three tiers of Government to manage the additional social and infrastructure requirements.

Tony emphasised that while the group would be chasing funding for a support position, the outcomes and actions for the strategic plan would be driven by the employers themselves. "An essential feature of the approach is recognising the value of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to the economy of the region, the employment of the majority of people in this region as well as their investment in towns and farms."

While there is a large amount of potential in the region, the challenge is to develop strong visions and structures to ensure sustainable, viable communities.

### Government Group Visits Basin

A group of government officers saw for themselves the onground impact of funding in the Fitzroy Basin recently. Three members from the Australian Government joined FBA staff on a tour across the basin to see the results of projects supported with funding under the Reef Rescue component of Caring for our Country. While in the Emerald area, Bronwyn Roberts joined the group to visit the 'Bridge

### Date Claimers

**3 December** – AgForce Emerald & Anakie combined meeting. AACC Campus, 1:30pm. Guest speaker John Cotter. RSVP to Bruce Ryan on 4985 4837.

**5-6 December** – Grazing Bestprac workshop, including field day with Peter Andrews. Contact Mick Alexander 4938 3919.

**7 December** – Clermont Club. Grains BMP Module 1 – Pesticide Application. 8:30-3pm. Contact Vicki Horstman on 0427 320539

**8 December** – Capella Cultural Centre. Grains BMP Module 2 – Managing Rainfall, Property Plan & Layout. 8:30-3pm. Contact Vicki Horstman on 0427 320539.

**9 December** – Springsure RSL. Grains BMP Module 2 – Managing Rainfall, Property Plan & Layout. 8:30-3pm. Contact Vicki Horstman 0427 320539.

**21 December till 4 January** – CHRRUP office closed for Christmas Break.

Flats' project, which was a joint initiative between the property owners and CHRRUP to protect 1,148Ha of terrestrial native vegetation. Although the funding for the project pre-dated the current Reef Rescue funding, the visitors were impressed with the project outcome, and happy to hear similar projects are also being funded through the Reef Rescue funding.

## Discount for Leadership Forum

The 2010 Australian Regional Women's Leadership Forum is an inspiring and invaluable new program designed to support the leadership aspirations of women throughout regional Australia.

This powerful event provides a platform for the women of regional Australia to connect purposefully with other women from their community. Under the guidance of nationally acclaimed leadership expert and facilitator, Kellie Mills, participants undertake a journey of self-analysis as they consider their own leadership strengths and challenges.

The Australian Regional Women's Leadership Forum is delivered by Women & Leadership Australia – Australia's leading body dedicated to the development of female leaders. The Australian Regional Women's Leadership Forum is based on the belief that Australia's regional women represent an enormously under-utilised national resource. Through supporting the flow of women into leadership positions, tremendous cultural and economic benefits will be generated for regional communities. The forum will be held at the Rockhampton Plaza Hotel on 18 February, and thanks to funding provided by Workplace Training Advisory of Australia, registration fees have been discounted from \$495 to \$88pp. Seats are limited, so contact 1300 138037 or [www.womensforum.com.au/events](http://www.womensforum.com.au/events)

## Grains BMP Workshops

Grains BMP is designed to help grain growers identify aspects of their enterprise that can be modified to improve farm management, profitability and environmental impact. There are five modules:

- Pesticide Application
- Managing Rainfall
- Farm Design and Layout
- Managing Soil Fertility
- Integrated Pest Management

Each module consists of a simple self assessment questionnaire that allows landholders to compare current practices with industry best practices. This is followed by a prioritisation process identifying key areas for improvement and relevant ways of making these changes happen.

Participation in the program will help landholders focus on practices that can improve profitability and sustainability, and demonstrate to the wider community that their property is minimising its environmental impact. As part of the Grains BMP



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FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION

program, there are opportunities to access incentive funding to help implement changes. Grains BMP is a joint initiative of FBA, AgForce Grains, DEEDI and CHRRUP.

## Free Tax Seminar

This seminar will be presented by the Tax Office as part of their ongoing support for small businesses. All small business operators, or those thinking about starting a new business, are encouraged to attend to learn about tax issues and receive practical tips. Topics covered will include: Business structures, income tax and deductions, GST, BAS, PAYG, record keeping and budgeting for tax. Bookings are essential, as numbers are limited. Phone 1300 661 104, or [www.ato.gov.au/seminarsQLD](http://www.ato.gov.au/seminarsQLD) The workshop will be held at the Mayfair Ridge Tavern, on Tuesday, 8 December from 12:30 till 3:30pm.

## Grains BMP

All is well in the land of BMP! I had 2 successful workshops on the 5-6<sup>th</sup> November. Total participant numbers were 14 for the 2 days. I am running a Pesticide Application workshop in Clermont next week, and the next modules Property Plan and Layout and Managing Rainfall in Capella and Springsure. The original group (Capella) will need to do the final modules as well- Crop Nutrition and Integrated Pest management so I will be ringing and asking for suitable times for an on farm visit.

So I am looking for landholder's interest in starting BMP. If you have started and seem to think it is something that will assist in your business let the others out there know!

Ring me if you would like to discuss the process.

Hope it rains soon.

**Vicki Horstman, Best Management Practice Officer,**  
0427 320 539 or email: [vicki@chrrup.org](mailto:vicki@chrrup.org)

## Neighbourhood Catchments

I am starting to sound like a broken record, but I have had to put the technical assessment panel back until early February next year. This is due to the fact that I now have over 20 projects on the go, and the departure of Rolfe (who will be sorely missed) has resulted in an increased work load for Sally, Vicki and I. I will endeavour to contact all applying landholders to talk this through, however if you have any pressing issues then please feel free to contact me. Otherwise I have been stuck in the office playing catch-up and on a positive note – listening to the rain! Fingers crossed there is more to come for everyone!

I would like to thank all those landholders I have had the pleasure of dealing with this year, for your patience and support. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wet and Happy New Year! See you in 2010!!

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

*Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the CHRRUP Team!*