

CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

February 2010



CHRRUP

New EO for CHRRUP

CHRRUP has welcomed Megan Daniels as the new Executive Officer. Megan took up the position on 27 January, and is very happy to be back living and working in the Central Highlands, and catching up with familiar faces. Megan is originally from this region, having grown up on her family's cattle property north east of Emerald.

Prior to working with CHRRUP, Megan held professional positions in the areas of agribusiness and corporate banking, project co-ordination, agricultural consultancy and agricultural insurance loss adjusting. She has worked and lived in a number of locations throughout Queensland and the United Kingdom, and in Uganda. From her past roles, she has gained experience in building and managing professional relationships with clients and stakeholders, financial analysis, project management and report writing. Megan says "I am currently spending my time in the office getting up to speed with the operation and the current and planned projects however I am looking forward to attending some workshops and meeting with landholders."

Peter Andrews Returns to CQ

As a result of the interest generated by his recent visits to Central Queensland, Peter Andrews will be back in the area this month for another series of workshops.

Peter has gained much publicity about his Natural Sequence Farming ideas, and has written a book called 'Beyond the Brink' which illustrate his insights into the natural functioning of the Australian landscape. The field days have been organised by CHRRUP and CQ BestPrac, and are supported by funding from FarmReady. Workshops will be held at 'Kelvin Downs', Springsure on 9 February, and 'Bannockburn', Morinish on 10 February. This is a great opportunity to see Peter's theories in practice. There will be a \$20 fee to cover morning tea and lunch, payable on arrival.

Please RSVP to Sally Murden, CHRRUP on 49822 996 or admin@chrrup.org by 5 February.

Climate Change Report

A new report will help the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) to invest wisely in climate change adaptation and mitigation. The 'Responding to Climate Change in the Fitzroy Basin' report was prepared by Richard Routley from Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (QPIF) and funded from the FBA Innovation Fund.

FBA Operations Manager Claire Rodgers said the report was commissioned to determine the essential knowledge and skills the region needed to successfully face climate change. A copy of the report is available on the FBA website www.fba.org.au

"The report suggests we need to look at the effectiveness of management practices across agriculture in minimising the impact of climate change, but it also says we need to know more about new and innovative land use options to cater to new climatic conditions," said Ms Rodgers.

Local climate change mitigation requires a better knowledge of the 'footprint' of a range of current and potential land uses, and how emissions are affected by land management practices. Even though a lot of information is available on climate change the report indicated large knowledge gaps of specific local knowledge for Central Queensland land managers.

Fitzroy Farming Women's Workshop

FBA are running a series of two-day workshops, designed to help women gain new knowledge, make new connections and get more involved with their communities. Topics will include: communication, how to deal with stress, water quality monitoring information and skills, native plants and animals of CQ, Carbon made simple, nutrition and pasture health. The cost will be \$200pp, which covers two days of workshop content, materials, all meals and overnight accommodation. For more details, or to register, log onto the FBA website at www.fba.org.au Registrations must be received by 5 February, 2010. The Emerald workshop will be held on March 2 & 3.

Date Claimers

9 February – Peter Andrews Field Day at 'Kelvin Downs', Springsure. RSVP to Sally Murden, CHRRUP, 49822 996.

22 February – Grains BMP workshop, Clermont Club. 8:30-3. RSVP to Vicki Horstman 0427 230 539.

23 February – Grains BMP workshop, Capella Cultural Centre. 8:30-3. RSVP to Vicki Horstman 0427 230 539.

24 February – Grains BMP workshop, Springsure Town Hall. 8:30-3. RSVP to Vicki Horstman 0427 230 539.

2 March – CHRRUP Board Meeting. AACC Emerald Campus, 8:30am. RSVP to Sally Murden 49822 996.

2 & 3 March – Fitzroy Farming Women's Workshop, Emerald Register via FBA website, www.fba.org.au

28 April – NRM Expo for Year 6 & 7 students. Emerald Showgrounds. Contact Sally Murden 49822 996.

Women's Legal Help Line

Women's Legal Service provides free legal information, advice and referrals to women throughout Queensland. A new advice phone line has been dedicated to connect women in Rural, Regional and Remote (RRR) areas of Queensland to legal assistance in the areas of family law and domestic violence. This service is free and confidential.

The new number is 1800 457 117 and this service is open every Tuesday from 9:30am to 1:00pm (excluding public holidays). Please note women in RRR areas are still able to call on the general advice line on 1800 677 278 open Monday to Fri from 9.30am-1.00pm.

AgForce Information Sessions

AgForce Grazing and Grains Reef Rescue partnership provides free of charge information, tools and technology to all Queensland primary producers.

Keep your eye out, the latest information is coming your way! If you desire to know more about reef regulations; what if any on-ground grants are available to you through the Australian Government's Reef Rescue initiative; the Delbessie Agreement affecting leasehold landowners; Grains BMP; vegetation management; or how to lock in a Property Map of Assessable Vegetation (PMAV), than this service is perfect for you. This service is provided through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Reef Rescue program.

To express your interest, call AgForce Reef Rescue Project Officer Natalie Schick on 4927 6100 or 0428 154 803 or keep reading CHRRUP's newsletter for the latest information.

FBA Invests in Modelling Study

A new report from central Queensland is helping fill a huge gap in knowledge about the cost-effectiveness of regenerating grazing land in poor condition.

Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) invested in modelling to evaluate the costs and benefits of improving land condition on grazing properties across two different land types.

FBA Chief Executive Officer Suzie Christensen said it's believed to be the first study of its kind undertaken by a regional NRM group in Queensland.

"Surprisingly, there is very little existing research that looks at the economic and environmental trade-offs of restoring run-down land. We know landholders are running businesses and need to base land management decisions on costs and potential returns, so it's vital that we can justify land regeneration from both an environmental and financial perspective. Improved land condition benefits us all by reducing the amount of run-off that reaches waterways and the Great Barrier Reef," she said.

Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries' Peter Donaghy and Megan Star were commissioned to carry out the modelling.



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The land types analysed were brigalow blackbutt and narrow-leaved ironbark, and land regeneration was based on the ABCD land condition framework.

The modelling revealed that it will almost always be financially rewarding for graziers to regenerate brigalow blackbutt in poor condition. However it is more difficult for landholders to recover their investment in bringing narrow-leaved ironbark land back from poor condition, except when restoring large areas of this land type from C to B condition.

For further information and a modelling results fact sheet visit the www.fba.org.au or phone 4999 2800.

Grains BMP

Hello everyone hope you received some useful rainfall! Besides just growing weeds! I am back into it again with Grains BMP for 2010...

I have 3 new groups going at the moment: Clermont, Capella and Springsure. We are in the middle of rolling out the 5 modules but if you are interested in being involved please let me know and I can catch you up. The next workshops are as follows:

Clermont 22nd February Clermont Club 8.30 - 3pm;

Capella 23rd February Capella Cultural Centre 8.30 - 3pm;

Springsure 24th February Springsure Town Hall 8.30 - 3pm.

If you would like to attend please bring your lot on plan or your property/s so I can do maps for you.

If you want to attend please call me.

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

Neighbourhood Catchments

Hi! I'd like to re-introduce myself as a CHRRUP field officer. My name is Bronwyn and I have been missing in action for the last 3 months. Since Rolfe left us, I have been chained to my desk whilst acting in the role of Executive Officer AND admin lady whilst Sally went on holidays to America for 6 weeks (how dare she!)! But now I am back and can focus 100% of my attention on the neighbourhood catchment incentive scheme, and more importantly the 20 projects I desperately need to get developed for assessment! This assessment is due for the end of the month/early March and all involved landholders will know the results immediately!

I am very excited about the Peter Andrews Field Day we are holding Tuesday 9th February at 'Kelvin Downs', Springsure. If you haven't seen Peter (as appeared on Australian Story) speak about natural sequence farming then come along - he has some amazing theories and 'Kelvin Downs' have a working system to back him up! Even if you have seen Peter present this is an opportunity to see his theories in practice which is a first for the area.

I hope this glorious rain has found its way to your place - I know my lawn is looking like a jungle but I'm not complaining! If you would like to look into funding opportunities then please give me a call to arrange a visit.

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