

CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

July 2009



CHRRUP

Funding Updates

The Federal Government has recently released the funding allocations under the Caring for Country program.

Our main benefactor, the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA), has done well in this process and has secured funds to continue programs in this financial year and into the future. FBA has secured base funding of \$4,608,000 over the next 2 years and a further \$10,365,040 over 3 years under the Reef Rescue banner. FBA has also been allocated \$750,000 from the State government.

These funds will enable the continuation of the Priority Neighbourhood Catchments process as well as other programs being developed at the moment. Concrete details of the exact make up of the funding delivery should be finalised by mid August.

CHRRUP will continue to be active in devolving these funds to landholders and we hope to engage more new landholders in our current Priority Catchments and perhaps move into new catchments in the New Year.

Although funding arrangements have changed over the last year and there have been some adjustment pains, the situation looks positive, and CHRRUP is looking forward to implementing practical activities with landholders.

What Activities Are Eligible For Funding?

Landholders in our current catchments of Billaboo, Black Boy, Retreat and Upper Theresa who have projects they think may be eligible for funding are encouraged to contact CHRRUP on 49822 996. Examples of these projects could include: fencing to land types, strategic weed control with neighbouring properties, options for salinity remediation, property management planning, workshops or riparian fencing. Conversion of machinery to minimum or zero tillage, irrigation system changes and soil moisture monitoring equipment to improve cropping practices may also be eligible. Visit the CHRRUP website at www.chrrup.org for more details on eligibility and funding options.

Grower Gets 'Golden Gecko'

Congratulations to John and Mary Walter, Nogo Valley Orchards, who won the inaugural CHRRUP On-Farm Innovation Award for trials conducted on their macadamia farm. The award was presented at the recent CHCG&IA Irrigation Dinner, and includes \$1500 towards training or consultancy fees, and a perpetual trophy – a woodcarving of the CHRRUP gecko.

John and Mary have conducted the first commercial scale trial of pressure compensated surface drip line irrigation under Macadamia trees in Australia, resulting in up to 50% water savings. Over the past 10 years, they have expanded their own small trials to a 40ha commercial scale research trial, incorporating formal DPI&F and CSIRO trial plots of new varieties. This has also led to agronomic and environmental impact evaluation, economic benchmarking of the Macadamia crop in a stressful environment, and developing the Central Highlands as a new growing region.

CHRRUP would like to congratulate the local growers on the high quality of entries received, and would encourage people to consider their nominations for next year.

CHRRUP would also like to thank Michael Brosnan and the Emerald Woodworking Group for carving the gecko, which was used as the trophy.

Planning For Success

CHRRUP, in partnership with Rio Tinto Kestrel Community Development Fund, are developing a succession planning workshop, to be held in Emerald on Thursday, 10 September. The day will consist of interactive sessions, with contributions and advice from local accountants, financial planners, legal practitioners, insurance firms and banks designed to implement the succession planning process. A communications facilitator will be present during the day to assist with group discussions. The workshop is designed to provide direction, awareness of the process and how to address it, and introduce people in

Date Claimers

13-14 August – Healthy Grass, Cattle & Soil Workshop, Emerald. Contact Mick Alexander on 0749 383919

8 September – CHRRUP Board meeting. Venue TBA. Contact Sally Murden 49822 996.

10 September – Succession Planning Workshop, Emerald. Venue TBA. 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.

organisations who are there to help. Further information, with registration, venue and RSVP details, will be provided in the coming weeks. The workshop will be open to landholders, agency staff, and small business owners - anyone who may be interested to find out how succession planning can assist in their business. For further information, contact Rolfe Ellem, Executive Officer, CHRRUP, on 49822 996.

AACC Looks to Bright Future

The Minister for Queensland Primary Industries & Fisheries, Tim Mulherin, was in Emerald recently to meet with local industry about the future direction of the Australian Agricultural College Corporation. The Minister was accompanied by the Associate Director General, Rob Setter, and met with around 30 people, including representatives from AgForce, past students and board members, TAFE, pastoral companies, agricultural teachers, and local irrigators and producers. Vaughan Johnson, Member for Gregory, and Annette Smith, CHRRUP Chairperson, were also in attendance. The meeting was planned as a dialogue with industry to present a draft strategic plan for the future direction the colleges are taking, and to welcome feedback and comment. Similar meetings are being conducted in Dalby, Mareeba, Burdekin and Longreach, and once they have been completed, an implementation plan will be developed and released in the coming months.

AACC Director, John Elich, is confident the colleges will continue to provide world-class training well into the future. "The training market has changed; today's young people are different from those 30 years ago, and it is necessary to review what AACC is doing to meet these changes in society, as well as making sure the organisation is commercially viable."

Mr Elich said AACC would continue to deliver training across Queensland, in line with the needs of the rural industries it services.

CQ Women Leading the Way

A motivated group of women in CQ have been successful in obtaining a \$47,000 grant from the Federal Government under the Australia's Farming Future initiative, which will be used to organise a special event to be held in Emerald later this year. The main activity will be the two-day event featuring guest speakers, workshops and training sessions with a focus on leadership, and the launching of a mentoring program. Child care will also be provided at the workshop. This event will enable women to build their capabilities, and their capacity to become more involved with their respective industries and government. If you have ideas for guest speakers or topics, or you would like to help organise the event, please email womensevent@centralhighlandsirrigators.org.au or phone Rachael Reeves on 0427 954012 or Rachel McDowall on 0407 454 404. (Please contact by 31 July if you would like to help).



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Healthy Soils Workshop

Mick Alexander will be conducting another 'Healthy Grass, Cattle & Soils' workshop in Emerald on 13-14 August. Topics covered will include putting a value on grass, the carbon cycle, harvesting sunlight and water, Cost Benefit analysis and grazing/cropping management. 'Farm Ready' will subsidise 100% of fees for all approved businesses. If you missed out last time, contact Mick now on 49383 919, or 0438 395255.

Grains BMP

Last week a number of Growers participated in the last two modules of the GrainsBMP program. The two workshops (Capella and Gindie) were structured so Growers were given an opportunity to hear what is best practice for Integrated Pest Management and Soil Fertility from Graham Spackman and Doug Sands. They were then given the opportunity to undertake their self-assessments for the modules, using some of the tips/hints and suggestions provided by Graham and Doug. Those who participated indicated that they found the day very worthwhile.

For those who are working on their projects, the Technical Panel will be meeting to assess your projects on the 14th August 2009, so I will need your quotes by **COB 6th August 2009**, to allow time for processing. For those Growers who were not able to attend, there is still an opportunity for you to complete your modules, so please give me a call.

Rachel McDowall, Grains BMP 0407 454 404

Neighbourhood Catchments

End of financial year came and went and the madness settled down – for a little while anyway! It has ramped up again now and I have been busy developing new projects to take to tech panel. I have also spent the last week visiting contracted projects with the Traditional Owners from the Kangoulu People. Both I and the landholders involved found spending time with the boys very interesting and learnt quite a lot about Cultural Heritage. Thank you to all of the landholders involved for your great response and hospitality, and thank you to Jonno and Gavin from the Kangoulu for your great effort and involvement.

For those landholders who had projects approved in the last 6 months I have spoken with FBA and they have informed me that due to the backlog of paperwork (as all the subregions had the same idea and submitted their projects at the same time), current projects will not receive their contracts for another couple of weeks. I will get these posted to you as soon as I receive them, and until then you are right to go ahead and start. If you need a map to get you going then please let me know and I will email this out to you. I spent a day at Ag-Grow getting around and talking to past and potential project participants (say that 3 times quickly!) which was great. If I didn't catch up with you however and you would like to have a chat then please feel free to contact me anytime.

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