

# CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

## July 2008



## CHRRUP

## Welcome New Board Members

At the quarterly meeting on 17 June, three new members were welcomed to the CHRRUP Board. Paul Oates, Kerry Hayes and Sara Hanggi have joined the Board, bringing with them considerable knowledge and experience.

### Paul Oates, Pastoral Director

Operating properties on the upper Nogoia and Belyando Rivers, Paul has been a grazier in the region for the past 23 years. Paul has been actively involved in several sustainable land use projects, both with CHRRUP and on an individual basis. Paul is also a Director of the Brahman Classic Sale group.

### Kerry Hayes, Local Government Director

Kerry has been involved with Local Government for many years, and is currently a Councillor on the recently formed Central Highlands Regional Council. As a livestock and property agent, Kerry has gained valuable knowledge about land uses and natural resources in the area. Kerry is also a Director for the Emerald Land and Cattle Company.

### Sara Hanggi, Conservation Director

With a Bachelor of Science (Hons) majoring in Environmental Science and Wildlife and Marine Biology, Sara is the Co-ordinator for the Capricorn Conservation Council. Sara's previous experience includes roles in hydrography.

Presentations and tributes were also paid to Gail Godwin-Smith, outgoing Chair, for her many years of service, and Trent Jeppesen, previous Pastoral Director, for his contributions.

The Board now consists of:

Annette (Netty) Smith, Chair

Lindsay Black, Indigenous

Nigel Burnett, Food & Fibre

Larry Daniels, Grains

Peter Dowling, Economic Development

Linda Drake, Human Services

Sara Hanggi, Conservation

Kerry Hayes, Local Government

Colin Moffatt, Mining

Tom Nicholas, Integrated Catchment Management

Paul Oates, Pastoral

Dr Jim Sands, Higher Education

Juliana McCosker, EPA, George Bourne, DNR&W, and Kevin McCosker, DPI&F are also non-voting State Agency representatives.

This variety of backgrounds, locations and skills gives CHRRUP the strength and ability to realise a common vision: A viable and sustainable future for the Central Highlands.

## CQ Sustainable Farming Systems Meetings

A series of meetings will be held in the region during the week 21-25 July. Each meeting will be a short 'in crop' field walk to discuss relevant issues, which may include winter weeds, Feathertop Rhodes grass, nitrogen fertiliser and grain protein following double cropping, sorghum harvest results and P trial results. For more information, dates and venues, please call Anne Shepherd or Maurie Conway, from the DPI&F, on 4983 7400.

## Managing Subsoils Workshop

A workshop looking at 'Maximising Gain by Managing Subsoil Constraints: Options and Impacts' will be held in Emerald on 23 July. The Subsoil Constraints Project Team conducted a number of workshops in 2004 throughout the Northern Grains Region to identify and understand impacts of sodicity, salinity, alkalinity, acidity, nutrient deficiencies and toxicities. Project staff conducted several on-farm trials to evaluate the management options for soils with subsoil constraints. This follow-up workshop will provide knowledge and skills in identifying constraints; their economic and environmental impacts; farm-scale identification using yield maps, EM38 and remote sensing; and management options.

Reference material, morning tea and lunch will be provided. The workshop will be held at the Emerald Golf Club from 8:30AM until 1PM, and registrations are essential. Further workshops will be conducted if demand exists. Please RSVP to Stuart Buck on 4992 9187.

### Date Claimers

**23 July** – 'Managing Subsoil Constraints' Workshop, Emerald Golf Club 8:30AM – 1PM. Contact Stuart Beck, 4992 9187.

**5-7 August** – FBA Flood Forum, Rockhampton. Contact Rachel Bryan on 4975 6555 to register.

**27 August** – BSIG Extraordinary General Meeting. Contact Bronwyn Roberts 0428 776 249.

**21-24 September** – Landcare Conference, Monto.

## Weeds Guide Available Online

An 'Introduced Flora of Australia' guide is now available online as a printable document and as a searchable database. According to the new publication, the number of plant species in Australia has more than doubled since European settlement, largely due to the number of species introduced for gardeners. The guide lists over 2,700 species which have become weeds, and a further 5,900 that are here, not yet weedy, but which have a history of becoming classified as weeds overseas. Users will need to know the correct scientific name of the weed to search the system. The guide is available on the University of Queensland website, or at [www.weedsrc.org.au](http://www.weedsrc.org.au)

## Congratulations Rhys!

Congratulations to Rhys Kellow, FBA, who graduated on the weekend. Rhys now holds a Bachelor of Environmental Management from UQGC.

## FBA Flood Forum

To illustrate the impact the recent flooding in Central Queensland has had on our community, FBA will be hosting a Flood Forum in Rockhampton from 5-7 August. This includes an event launch on the evening of the 5th, a series of presentations over 2 days, and a dinner. The Forum will reflect on the diverse stories, experiences and information generated by the flood, to improve our understanding of the event, and help us better prepare for the future.

There will also be a Foto Competition, looking for the most majestic, moving and amusing images captured during these events. Photos will be judged by guests at the launch event on August 5, and winners announced that evening. Entries must be received by 5pm, Friday August 1.

For further details, visit the website at [www.fba.org.au](http://www.fba.org.au)

## Nogoa News

This has been another busy month for me! I am still chasing some landholders to see how they are going with their projects. I have been finalizing Property Action Plans and contracts for a couple of projects in my catchment. I am hoping to get some more of these finished soon, as I am preparing for a launch into a new Neighbourhood Catchment. This is Billaboo, out near Bogantungan, so I am looking forward to seeing some new country and meeting new people.

We ran a Bill Gordon Spray workshop as part of our Grains BMP, which was very interesting. I am now in the process of contracting PAPs for the Grains BMP participants.

I have been out and about with a visit to Blackdown Tableland to do a Cultural Heritage project, and a couple of other property visits to help mark out fences for mapping requirements.

The Caring for Our Country grants are still open – if you need a support letter or some help, please let me know as the closing date is August 1, 2008.

**Vicki Horstman, Nogoa Catchment Field Officer, 0427 320539.**

## Comet Tales

Grains BMP is still dominating both Vicki's and my workloads, with a few project modifications to iron out, and a couple of property visits in the pipeline. I'm waiting on a few landholders to return calls regarding their projects, and also have some property visits stemming from this.

The first week of August I will be in Rockhampton attending the Flood forum and field officers catch-up regarding our new neighborhood catchment areas. I have been organizing to commence work around mid August in my new catchment area 'Buckland'. CHRRUP staff are all hands on deck given that Anna finished up on June 27th, and hopefully her replacement will be implemented soon!

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

## Belyando Byline

BSIG held a meeting in conjunction with the Desert Upland Committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> June which was deemed very successful. Guest speakers included George Bourne talking about the Delbessie Agreement for lease hold land, and Tom Nicholas talking about Carbon in Soil. It was decided during the BSIG meeting that the group needs a new direction and reinvigoration. It was therefore decided to call an extraordinary general meeting to define the purpose of the group and decide the course for the future. This meeting will be held Wednesday 27th August (date to be confirmed) and will be immediately followed by the Annual General Meeting to make the new direction official. An agenda will be sent to all BSIG members in the coming weeks.

I have recently been to Townsville to visit the Burdekin Dry Tropics to discuss the current project. It was decided that in order to complete final reporting on time all funded projects will need to be completed and paid out by 15<sup>th</sup> November. I will be contacting all landholders involved this month to see how they are going with their projects and to get an idea of any that may not be completed on time. Unfortunately there is no room for extension as this project will officially be closed come the end of the year.

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 Field Officer, 0428 776 249.**



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