

CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

June 2009



CHRRUP

CHRRUP Sponsors Innovators Award

The Central Highlands Irrigation Awards Dinner Dance will be held at the Emerald Town Hall on Friday, 26 June from 6:30PM. CHRRUP is sponsoring the Innovation Award, and will be providing a trophy and \$1500 worth of consultancy fees for the lucky winner. Nominations have been received and the successful entrant will be announced on the night. Organisers say seats are filling fast, and with modern day poet, Rupert McCall, as a special guest, it is sure to be a successful event.

Funding in Pipeline for myBMP Irrigators

Irrigated cotton growers who implement actions to improve water quality will be eligible for incentive funding, as the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) supports the rollout of the new Cotton *myBMP* system across Central Queensland. Previous participants in the Cotton BMP program will notice many positive changes as the new and improved system is delivered across the region.

myBMP - What Is It?

Cotton *myBMP* is an electronic-based voluntary farm management system that provides self-assessment mechanisms, practical tools and resources to assist growers meet industry benchmarks in areas such as water quality, biosecurity, climate change and soil health. Local growers will be the first to trial to the revitalised Best Management Practice program, which has been reviewed and developed to ensure it continues to meet challenges faced by the industry. Used online, *myBMP* has been designed to save time and resources by updating the presentation and relevance of the modules. **Cotton *myBMP* and the Great Barrier Reef**

One of the key outcomes of adopting best practice on farm is to improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef. Using the tools provided by Cotton *myBMP*, growers will be able to assess their current practices and identify and manage areas of possible risk to water quality. The Fitzroy Basin Association

is providing funding for projects developed through *myBMP* on-farm assessments, under the Federal Government's Reef Rescue incentives program. The program is being partnered by local NRM groups, CHRRUP and DCCA.

How Do I Get Involved?

FBA and Cotton Australia have engaged two local contractors, who will be working together to help growers use the new *myBMP* system: Rachel McDowall

Como Consulting
0407 454404

Rachel@comoconsulting.com.au

Liz Alexander (available Wednesday)
Blue Dog Agribusiness
0429 471511
bluedogag@bigpond.com.au

Liz and Rachel will help growers undertake their on-farm assessments, and guide growers on the eligibility of projects relevant for incentive funding.

All irrigated cotton growers in Central Queensland are invited to participate. Please contact Liz or Rachel now to discuss *myBMP*, and to book in for an on-farm visit. For growers who would like to be considered for the FBA incentive program, visits must be undertaken between 6 July and 28 August, so book early!

Healthy Grass, Cattle & Soil Workshop

Mick Alexander from Grazing BestPrac is conducting a 2-day workshop (25-26 June) in Emerald, covering a number of topics relating to Carbon, land and pasture management and property plans and actions. Other topics include compost teas, growing livestock, regenerative agriculture, backed up by farm walks and practical demonstrations. The course will be held at the Australian Agricultural College, Emerald Campus. Cost is \$990 per person, with group discounts given for more than 2 people per business. Farm Ready will subsidise all approved businesses.

For more information, or to book, contact Mick or Noela on 0749 383919 or 0438 395255.

Date Claimers

25-26 June – Healthy Grass, Cattle & Soil Workshop, Emerald. Contact Mick Alexander on 0749 383919

23,24,25 June – Free workshop, 'How to Use GPS on your Property', held in Theodore, Dingo and Emerald respectively. Contact Bree Robertson, AgForward on 3238 6039.

26 June – Central Highlands Irrigators Awards Dinner Dance. 6:30pm till late, Emerald Town Hall.

9-11 July – AgGrow Field Day, Emerald.

13,14,15 July – Grains BMP workshops held in Rolleston, Gindie and Capella respectively. Contact Rachel McDowall on 0407 454404.

20-23 July – GLM Workshop, Willows Gemfields Community Hall. Contact Gina Mace, FBA on 0429 992810.

CHRRUP Subsidises Grazing Land Management Workshop

This workshop is designed to assist landholders develop individual and relevant strategies to increase profit and sustainability on their properties. The workshop consists of 7 modules to help understand the relationships between pastures, soils, water, woodlands, biodiversity, fire and weeds, assess conditions of your pasture, and determine the financial impact of a range of management options. CHRRUP and CQBeef have generously subsidised the registration cost, so the first person from a business will only pay \$560 + GST (normally \$1620 + GST). This cost covers the 3.5 day workshop, materials, lunch and smokes, a follow-up day and on-going consultation with the deliverers. The workshop will be held at the Willows Gemfields Community Hall, on 20-23 July. For more details, or to register, contact Gina Mace, FBA on 0429 992 810.

New Lease of Life For 'Bridge Flats'

A large piece of endangered remnant vegetation on one of Emerald's historical properties is being returned to its natural state, in a joint effort between CHRRUP and the property owners. The paddock has never been cleared, and is a valuable source of food and shelter for many forms of native wildlife. The owners of the property are keen to protect this section of the Fitzroy River basin from erosion, and revegetate the tracks caused by recreational motorbike riders. CHRRUP will assist through funding for a fencing project, under the Transitional Regional Investment Strategy. Fencing has already started on a 3km stretch of the Lochlees Rd through to the Nogoia River, and when completed the area will be a very special refuge for local fauna.

Grains BMP

Hi Everyone! Now that planting is over and done with (hopefully) and the last of your harvesting is completed, I bet you are ready to go head first into Grains BMP. There will be workshops for the last two modules. For those of you who have not yet received correspondence about the workshop, hang in there..... I will fax it to you in the next week. The dates will be 13 July in Rolleston, 14 July in Gindie, and 15 July in Capella. Also, we had a win!! FBA were able to push the deadline for project proposals back until August 2009, so we have more time to finish getting quotes. If you have your quotes, could you send them through please, either by fax (4982 1545) or email (Rachel@comoconsulting.com.au) I will be in touch soon with more information. Any questions don't hesitate to call me on 0407 454 404. Cheers, Rach.

PS - I work Tuesday and Wednesday on Grains BMP



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Field Officer Vacancy

The position of CHRRUP Field Officer has been readvertised, and applications close at 9AM, Monday, 22 June. For selection criteria and a position description, contact Sally Murden on 49822 996 or visit the website www.chrrup.org

Emerging Leaders Workshop

FBA is inviting you to be part of this personal development opportunity. Developed specifically to foster emerging leaders in Central Queensland, this workshop will help you empower your organisation. Learn more about your leadership style, conflict resolution, group development, meeting and chairing skills and working with different stakeholders. The workshop is run over 4 days split into 2 sessions: 31 July & 1 August, The Caves, Rockhampton, and 11 & 12 September in Emerald. FBA are subsidising the cost at \$250pp (normally \$1000) including accommodation, meals and workshop content. Limited places available - contact Sheree Press, FBA on 4999 2808.

'WorkAway' Goes Live!

In common with many industries on the Central Highlands, people in the agricultural industry have struggled to find skilled labour, whether it be machinery operators, or tradespeople to do repairs and maintenance on the property, or around the home. At the same time, many visitors to the region who have expressed a desire to stay longer if they could find paid contract work. In response to these demands, 'WorkAway Central Highlands' has been created to provide job and time matches, and the website is now live! For membership details, check out www.workaway.com.au, or contact Tony Robinson on 0409 349375.

Changing Your Contact Details

Sally Murden is chasing as many people as possible to receive their monthly newsletter via email, rather than the faxstream! Please contact Sally on 49822 996 or admin@chrrup.org to update your details!

Neighbourhood Catchments

We had a technical panel assessment at the end of May where some really good projects were approved on five different properties. Three biodiversity stewardship projects were also approved. These landholders have all been contacted and I am finishing the paperwork so FBA can get the contracts out to these landholders in the coming weeks. I am also busy doing completions before the end of Financial Year. FBA are tidying up all outstanding projects and have contacted all landholders involved. This means I am flat out like the CHRRUP gecko trying to get those finished projects signed off and paid out before the end of June. So, if you have a possible project and are in the prioritised neighbourhood catchments (Billaboo, Blackboy, Retreat and Upper Theresa) then give me a call and we can look at a visit in July!

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