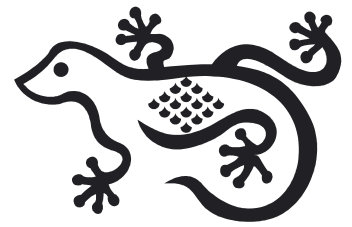


CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

March 2009



CHRRUP

New Catchments

CHRRUP has commenced activities in three new catchments, and are calling for expressions of interest from eligible landholders. Blackboy, Retreat and Upper Theresa catchments have been prioritised for the 2009-2010 period, and Bronwyn Roberts will be the catchment field officer. Blackboy and Retreat catchments are west of Emerald, around the Willows and Gemfield area, and connect with the Billaboo catchment currently worked in by Vicki Horstman. Upper Theresa is along the Drummond Range south west of Clermont. Landholders in these areas are invited to apply for assistance to develop sustainable land use projects, under a new round of funding opportunities. Projects may include strategic weed control, landtype or riparian fencing, biodiversity, mapping and property planning. The first round of applications will close on 30 March, when they will be assessed by the Technical Panel, so interested landholders are urged to contact Bronwyn as soon as possible on 0428 776249 or bronwyn@chrrup.org

Positive Outlook for CHRRUP Funding

The capability for CHRRUP to continue to carry out incentive programs into the future is looking more assured. This encouraging advice is due to FBA being likely to receive annual funding comparable to, or higher than, current levels over the next 3 years under the Reef Rescue program. This will mean CHRRUP will continue to work with landholders under the FBA Priority Neighbourhood Catchments program as it has in the past.

On February 24 CHRRUP conducted the first board meeting for 2009. It was well attended by voting directors. During the afternoon following the meeting a facilitated session was held where directors reviewed the purpose of CHRRUP and its mission and goals. This was quite a useful exercise, particularly for new directors, and it is hoped that these directors will provide innovative ideas and strategic direction that will keep CHRRUP relevant well into the future. These factors, the fact that CHRRUP is moving into 3 new Neighbourhood

catchments and the implementation of the new modules of the Grains BMP program means it is an exciting and interesting time for CHRRUP as we anticipate a secure and productive working environment.

Success Starts With Soil

CHRRUP and Grazing BestPrac are conducting a 'Healthy Soils Workshop' at AACC Emerald Campus on 23-24 March. The presenter, Ray O'Grady, has a wealth of experience in regenerative and conventional farming with expertise in improving soil health. Ray will be addressing topics including nutrient cycling, regenerative grazing and cropping, the carbon cycle, compost teas and accumulating soil carbon. Farm walks at 'Emerald Downs', demonstrations and cropping performance monitoring will be conducted as well. Book quickly, as CHRRUP are providing a 50% subsidy for the first 12 businesses to attend (normally \$880 for first person and \$330 for second person from same business). Please contact Sally at CHRRUP on 49822 996 or admin@chrrup.org

Willows Cactus Control Program

Over the next 6 months, CHRRUP and the Central Highlands Regional Council will be conducting strategic control of the declared weed 'Willows Cactus' (*Cereus uruguayanus*). The cactus has been declared a priority pest weed species which needs immediate attention before it invades the surrounding catchment. A community consultation will be held with the residents of the Willows to inform and generate support for this major undertaking. This meeting will be held at the Willows Community Hall at 10:30AM on 8 April. For more information, please contact Vicki Horstman on 4982 2996.

GPS Workshops

AgForce will be conducting a series of workshops providing practical training in the use of a GPS on your property. Topics covered will include GPS features, navigation

Date Claimers

14 March – Clermont Landcare AGM. 4PM at 'Morbridge', Clermont. BBQ afterwards. RSVP to Dave Bridgeman, 4985 6115.

17-18 March – Certified Chickpea Agronomy Course, Emerald. Contact Gordon Cummings, Pulse Australia, on 0408 923 474 to register.

20 March – Grains BMP Workshop. Cultural Centre, Capella. Contact Vicki Horstman 4982 2996.

23-24 March – Healthy Soils Workshop. AACC Campus, Emerald. Contact Sally Murden on 49822 996.

8 April – Willows Cactus Community Consultation meeting. 10:30AM at Willows Community Hall. Contact Vicki Horstman 4982 2996.

29 April – NRM Expo for high school students, Emerald Showgrounds.

and location, what to look for in a GPS, and how to download data into computer mapping software. GPS units are available for the day, if needed. For a list of workshop dates, for more information, or to register, contact Bree Robertson at AgForce on 3238 6039 or bree.robertson@agforward.org.au

Volunteer Fire Brigade Training

Training is available for volunteers in Wolfgang and The Peaks Fire Brigades. The course, 'Maintaining Chainsaws, and Trimming and Cross-cutting Felled Trees' will be held on 28/29 March at Tom Murphy's property, 'Tomarrin', Moranbah.

The course will commence at 8AM on both days, and conclude around 3:30PM on the second day. There is no cost to attend the course, and lunches and smokos are included. For further information, please contact Allan Johnson in Emerald on 49820001. RSVPs must be received by 23 March.

Clermont Landcare AGM

All Clermont Landcare members, and any interested landholders on the Wolfgang Access Road, or Russell Park Road, are invited to the AGM to be held at "Morbridge", Clermont at 4PM on Saturday, 14 March. On the agenda is the \$3million road funding commitment from RTCA and Queensland Government for the upgrades of Wolfgang Access and Russell Park Roads. There will be a BBQ to follow, BYO. Please RSVP to Dave Bridgeman on 4985 6115.

Nogoa News

The last lot of projects for the Billaboo Catchment will be going through the technical panel on 30 March, and I am still waiting on some contracts for already approved projects. Bronwyn is now doing my next couple of catchments Blackboy, Retreat and Upper Theresa. I am still waiting on some projects in the Capella catchment, it is looking good though, with only about 8 left. A workshop will be held at the Cultural Centre in Capella on 20 March for the next 2 modules on Grains BMP. A flyer with more details will be sent out again. Anyone who wants to get involved please give me a ring and I will let you know how to get started.

Only 4 weeks to go then I am off for awhile! So if you have any queries please call Bronwyn Roberts for my Neighbourhood Catchment projects and Susie Bate for Grains BMP.

Thank you again for all your cooperation and working with me for the last 3 years 10 months!

Vicki Horstman, Nogoa Field Officer, 0427 320539.

Grains BMP

Hello to all! Grains BMP is revved up and ready to go! CHRRUP, DPI&F along with CQ Sustainable Farming group have been scanning Comet and Nogoa landholders for



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expressions of interest to complete the five module BMP. Currently the first 3 modules are being rolled out, with 4 & 5 to follow in May. With groups already established in Capella, Gindie, McKenzie and Golden Mile we are still looking for interested grain growers to participate in the program. Each module consists of a simple self assessment questionnaire that helps compare your current practices with industry best practices. Participation in the program will help you focus on the practices that can improve the profitability and sustainability of your business, and identify ways to implement these practices. As part of the Grains BMP there are opportunities to access incentive funding to help implement changes in your farming system.

How do you get involved? Please call Susie Bate on 49 822 996 or 0427 326 400.

Comet Tales

G'day to all landholders still finishing their projects. Time is running short and your projects need to be completed. I will be contacting you all in the next few weeks, to organize your competition reports.

Thank you to all the landholders in the Cona and Humboldt Creeks who have successfully completed their projects, I've thoroughly enjoyed working with you all so far. Chrup is currently working in the Nogoa catchments at present but don't be alarmed, as we will endeavor to come back your way in the near future. Remember I am only a phone call away, so please feel free to drop me a line anytime.

Susie Bate, Comet Field Officer, 0427 326 400.

Belyando Byline

The Caring for Our Country application process was extended for a further month due to the Victorian Bush Fires and North Queensland Flooding. This has allowed time for a very worth project to be developed involving the Belyando Sutor Catchment. At this stage assessment of project applications is still due for June/July this year. Keep an eye out in the newsletter for any news on this and what it means to you.

I have officially launched into three new priority neighbourhood catchments in the Nogoa catchment. These catchments are the Upper Theresa, Blackboy Creek and Retreat Creek. Expressions of interest have gone out to all contacts. If you have any possible projects including fencing to landtype, fencing riparian areas and/or areas of high biodiversity value, strategic weed control, property planning or property mapping; then please either return the expression of interest or give me a call ASAP so we can get them underway.

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