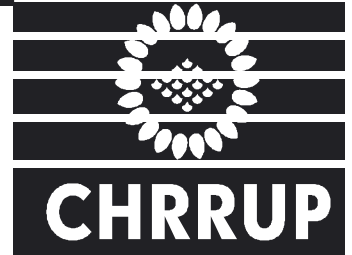


CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative
May 2008



CHRRUP Update

The CHRRUP Board has appointed Brigid Duncanson as the Executive Officer to replace Anna. Currently working for the Central Highlands Development Corporation as the Regional Development Officer, Brigid has a strong mix of project management and agricultural knowledge and will bring strength to the team. Brigid will start with CHRRUP on the 16th June, which means that Anna will be finishing up on Friday 27th June allowing a fortnight's on-the-job training.

In addition, Gail Godwin-Smith is stepping down as Chair of CHRRUP and handing the position over to Annette Smith. Annette is a rural and urban valuer based in Emerald, who grew up on an irrigated cotton and horticulture property. Annette has great management and meeting skills and was a Deputy Chair on the Emerald Agricultural College Board prior to the amalgamation of colleges. The handover will occur at the next CHRRUP Board meeting on the 17th of June.

Whilst new people in both these positions may be challenging for the organisation, I have no doubt that Brigid and Annette will make a great team with the full support of the CHRRUP staff and stakeholders.

NRM Expo

We had an overwhelming response from local schools around the Central Highlands to participate in the NRM Expo that CHRRUP hosted on the 30th April. Over 1200 school children from years 4 – 7 visited the Emerald Showgrounds and experienced the world of NRM. 23 exhibitors volunteered to educate the students about the management of riparian areas; endangered habitats of the Hairy Nosed Wombat and Bridled Nail Tail Wallaby; energy generation and coal mining; macroinvertebrates in waterways; and how to identify native vegetation including Brigalow and Soap bush to name a few. The CHRRUP staff would like to extend a big thank you to all those who helped us, especially the cotton growers and AACC students who assisted with the Marquees; the volunteer exhibitors; and all those who supported us. An especially big thank-you to all

CHRRUP staff who organised the event, and then worked tirelessly on the day. We are already planning NRM Expo 2009!!!

Environmental Law Workshop

The Environmental Defenders Office have notified CHRRUP that they will be running a one-day workshop in Emerald to assist landholders understand their legal rights. The topics of the workshop will be: Means of legally accessing planning and environmental information held by government agencies; How to participate in the development process under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (Qld) including making submissions and appeal rights; How to address concerns about environmental pollution or harm under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld); and, Rights to object to mining under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (Qld). The workshop will be held on the 26th May from 9AM – 1PM at the Central Highland Regional Council Gallery Meeting Room. There is no cost to attend the workshop, and lunch and morning tea will be provided. Please contact Larissa on 07 3211 4466 or edoqld@edo.org.au to confirm your attendance for catering purposes.

Farewell Anna, Andrew

For all of those people wanting to say goodbye to Andrew and Anna Cochrane, they will be having a BBQ at the Emerald Golf Club on Saturday 28th June 2008 at 3pm. Please bring a plate of nibbles or salad to share with friends. Let Anna know you are coming on 0488 413 336 or anna@chrrup.org or on the office number 4982 2996.

FBA Innovation Fund

FBA is calling for expressions of interest under its \$700,000 Innovation Fund, for projects and activities to advance new ideas in local natural resource management. FBA will help fund projects, trials and research that are pioneering in their approach, look at new practices or ideas, as well as group activities such as bus tours or

Date Claimers

18-22 May – the 16th Australian Weeds Conference, Cairns.

24-25 May - Farm Day 2008. Contact 1300 367036.

26 May – Environmental Law Workshop, CH Regional Gallery Meeting Room, Emerald. Contact Larissa on 3211 4466.

28 May – Clermont Show People's Day

30 May – Springsure Show People's Day.

4 June – Emerald Show People's Day.

17 June – CHRRUP Board Meeting, CHRRUP Office, Emerald.

21-24 September - Landcare Conference, Monto.

workshops to promote the uptake of original ideas. Funding will be on a co-contribution basis, where cash and in-kind efforts provided by applicants will be matched by FBA. Individuals, groups and organisations are all eligible to apply and there is no minimum amount. In addition, there is a bursary up to the value of \$25,000 to help individuals develop their knowledge and skills. This money can be used for travel, study or training expenses to enable a person with a passion for sustainable land management or improving the state of our environment to undertake personal development. FBA Innovation Fund Guidelines and Expression of Interest (EOI) Forms are available online at www.fba.org.au or by phoning 4999 2800.

Closing date for receipt of EOIs for project grants is Friday, 23 May 2008.

Landtype Fencing Case Study

Landholder – Mervyn and Elizabeth Zahl ‘Avonmore Station’ Alpha

Project – Mervyn and Elizabeth worked with Field Officer Bronwyn Roberts to establish this project. The object was to separate Gum Gully and Camp Oven paddocks to protect the erosive soils of Gum Gully and to better graze the sandy soils of Camp Oven. This was done by landtype fencing and putting in new watering points. The Zahls contributed over \$20,000 to the project, with CHRRUP putting in almost \$7,000.

Details – Gum Gully paddock is a 437Ha cleared Eucalypt woodland paddock with standing gum along Gum Gully running through the centre into Native Companion Creek which borders the paddock and property along the Western boundary. The area is extremely erosive due to the nature of the soil and surrounding topography and has low ground cover due to preferential grazing from cattle.

Camp Oven paddock is 295 Ha of largely cypress pine re-growth and remnant vegetation on sandy soils. The paddock is in good condition with good ground cover however sometimes dies off before cattle graze due to the preferential grazing of Gum Gully.

Outcome - The fencing has been done, and the project is almost completed, but has been delayed by the difficulty in getting tanks. By separating the paddocks and establishing a watering point in each, the landholders hope to independently graze and spell each paddock at more controlled and opportune times. This should also have the beneficial effects of increasing the ground cover in Gum Gully to help combat the erosion, and maintaining good condition in Camp Oven by grazing before the feed dies off.

Quote – ‘Anything that can help the erosion in Gum Gully sounds good to me’ - Merv Zahl

Comet Tales

The Grains BMP Bill Gordon workshops for the Southern reference group have been postponed until further notice.



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Details will be circulated closer to the date. Projects will need to be collated and ready for the technical panel before mid June.

I have been out and about on property visits this month, focusing on completion reports. Anyone who has projects that require extensions please contact me to make suitable arrangements via phone or email before the end of this month. Also I encourage anyone who has partially completed sections of their projects to let me know and I can organize part payments.

Susie Bate, Comet Catchment Field Officer 0427 326400

Nogoa News

I have returned from my leave a married woman!! Thank you all for your words of enthusiasm for our future!

I am in the middle of doing up variations for extensions for projects contracted 06-07 and 07-08, so if you need an extension for time please let me know. If you have completed your project and would like to do a completion report please call and we will arrange an appointment. If you have an old project 04-05/06 that has not been completed or started we need to talk!

I'm in the middle of Grains BMP projects at the moment. We have had a good response from the participants, and we are hoping for a break in the groups' busy lives to find time to run a Bill Gordon Spray workshop in Capella. If there is anyone else that would like to participate please call and we will send the details out to you.

I will be heading down to Dubbo for a CRC Climate Change Forum at the end of May with a representative from the local Cotton Growers and Irrigator Association. We will be able to report back next month.

Vicki Horstman, Nogoa Catchment Field Officer 0427 320 539.

Belyando Byline

There will be a BSIG sub committee meeting next week to assess applications for the final round of project funding. All applicants will be notified of the results as soon as possible after this meeting.

Good news came last week with the Burdekin Dry Tropics (BDT) officially extending the project until 1 December 2008. This is excellent news for all landholders involved with projects who have not been able to complete them due to the flooding earlier this year.

A reminder to all approved applicants to contact me if they have any or all of their project completed so we can start the process to get the funding to you.

Bronwyn Roberts, Belyando-Suttor Field Officer 0428 776 249.