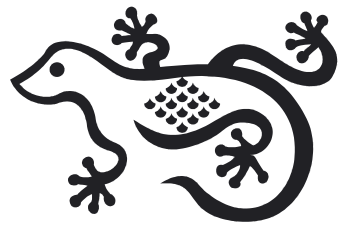


CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

November 2008



CHRRUP

CHRRUP Activities

The CHRRUP Catchment Officers are working with landholders to develop NRM projects under the Fitzroy Basin Association's (FBA) Neighbourhood Catchment process. These projects will begin before the New Year and should keep us busy in the first quarter of 2009. Projects under the first module of the FBA Grains Best Management Practice pilot program will draw to a close by the end of December and a review process will hopefully provide good feedback for a roll out in the future. CHRRUP has also been facilitating on-ground works for The Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management Group (BDT) in the Belyando/Suttor area. This program will draw to a close at the end of the year. BDT is currently conducting an extensive review of all their programs including CHRRUP activities. This review should provide very useful and constructive information on the overall and comparative effectiveness of different on-ground delivery methods. BDT is to be applauded for this endeavour and the results should be very helpful to CHRRUP.

People will know that CHRRUP facilitated the implementation of a weather station network for the Comet River Sustainable Farming Group. Investigations are currently underway to see how this network may contribute to an early warning flood system for Emerald. It is good to see an already useful initiative having a positive impact for the broader community. As some of our programs draw to a close it is quite satisfying to reflect on the good work CHRRUP does in a variety of areas and it gives us confidence for the future.

Release Sites Needed for Nailtails

After receiving approval from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a volunteer group has started a captive breeding programme to help save the endangered Bridle Nailtail Wallaby. Project Kial, which receives funding from FBA, hope to have up to 40 wallabies by the end of 2009. Once the babies are around 8 months old, they are micro-chipped, weaned, and put in a separate enclosure with

minimum human contact, to prepare for their eventual release back into the wild. FBA Biodiversity Coordinator Graham Lightbody is encouraging landholders with suitable land for release sites, to get in touch. The wallabies need a reliable water source, herbage and shrubs, and lots of hollow logs or stick piles for shelter. There are funding incentives available for landholders who can make a long-term commitment to providing habitat and predator control for the species. Please contact Graham Lightbody on 4999 2800 or graham.lightbody@fba.org.au if you can help. Project Kial is run solely by volunteers with minimum funding, so volunteer work and donations are greatly appreciated. Contact Tina Janssen at tina.janssen@bigpond.com for more information.

Broadband on the Land

David Murchie is the Broadband Development Officer with the Central Highlands Development Corporation, and operates within the Central Highlands Regional Council shire boundaries. His role is to improve awareness and use of broadband across the region, and to assist where possible with access problems. Broadband has been available for several years and the benefits to business and residents have been significant. One of the areas where good, fast internet access can really help is for people who live, work and run businesses outside the major centres. Being able to use email, access government services and do business over the internet is a real time and money saver. David is keen to identify the areas for improvement whether they are access issues, skills or usage problems and then implement some regional solutions. To date, he has had considerable success around the Springsure and Rolleston areas, particularly with access problems.

A short survey to help build a better understanding of what assistance is required by landholders is available on the new CHBroadband website. David is available by phone or email, or he can arrange to visit and talk about your broadband needs or questions. David Murchie, ph 49824386, email dmurchie@chdc.com.au or the new website www.chbroadband.com.au

Date Claimers

17 November – Governance Training, AACC Emerald Campus. RSVP to Sally Murden, 49822996.

18 November – CHRRUP Board Meeting, AACC Emerald Campus. RSVP to Sally Murden, 49822996.

3-4 December – Healthy Soils Workshop at 'Stowe Park', Calliope. Contact Mick Alexander on 0438 395255.

11 December – Stocktake Workshop at 'Charlton Park', Clermont. 8:30 - 3:30PM. Catering will be provided, and there is no cost to attend. Contact Bronwyn Roberts on 0428 776 249.

The CHRRUP office will close for the Christmas period from midday 24 December, and will reopen Monday 5 January 2009.

Veg Futures 08

Vicki, Susie and Bronwyn travelled to Toowoomba in October to attend the Veg Futures 08 Conference, presented by Greening Australia in partnership with Land and Water Australia. The conference was an opportunity to interact with leaders in the management of our natural resources and environment, along with over 500 delegates, including senior researchers, policy advisors, regional NRM organisations, NRM practitioners and land managers. Speakers focussed on some of the most pressing issues facing our natural landscapes: climate control, water conservation and management, and maintaining and promoting biodiversity within a native context. One of the highlights for the delegates was the session on carbon trading, where presenters from EPA and AgForce explained how the carbon market is likely to function, how it fits within the rural sector, and opportunities and risks. Field trips included a trip to Wivenhoe Dam, to look at water projects in South East Queensland, and a canoe trip down the Brisbane River, looking at weeds projects, water quality, and even a couple of koalas!

Healthy Soils Workshop

Ray O'Grady, supported by Grazing BestPrac, CHRRUP and Boyne Calliope Subregion, is presenting a Healthy Soils workshop at 'Stowe Park', Calliope on 3-4 December. The program will include topics on regenerative agriculture, accumulating soil carbon, nutrient cycling, pasture walks, and demonstrations of compost teas and microbial brews. Ray is a specialist in nurturing soil health, and has a wealth of experience in regenerative and conventional farming. The cost is \$800 for the first person/\$300 for the second, and discounts are available for families and groups. For more information and to book, please call Mick on 0438 395255 or email mick@grazingbestprac.com.au

Governance Training

There has been a change of venue for the second session of Corporate Governance Training on 17 November. It will now be held at the AACC Emerald Campus. The session 'Strategic Planning for your Organisation' is open to all members of the community. Please RSVP to Sally Murden on 49822 996.

Nogoa News

Completions, closures, BMP grains and Billaboo are the flavour of the month.

I have been busy catching up with everyone and checking on progress with projects in Capella and Clermont NC. I have also been following up on Grains BMP with Self Assessment and Evaluations- also completions for any incentives that have been processed with the BMP projects.

The Technical Panel will be meeting on 10 November 2008,



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and I will be presenting some projects from the Billaboo catchment. I hope to have some more projects in the New Year, so let me know if you have any ideas or plans where we can work together!

I am heading down to a Women's Leadership Conference in Melbourne from the 17-21 of November. This is the first time in the Big Smoke, so it should be interesting!

If anyone wants to contact me to do completions etc please call me on the mobile, or leave a message at the office.

OK take care.

Vicki Horstman, Nogoa Catchment Field Officer, 0427 320539.

Comet Tales

After a recent shoulder reconstruction - I'm back at work. So down to business! All projects in the Cona and Humboldt catchments should be nearing completion, if they haven't already finished. I will be busy with property visits and completion reports for the remainder of this month.

The first pilot module from the Grains BMP project on 'Pesticide Application' will be wrapped up by Christmas. A further four pilot modules will follow in the New Year. Details have not been confirmed as yet, but project participants will be notified when information is available.

In December and January I will be undertaking new projects in the Buckland neighborhood catchment area. Contact will be made with each individual landholder in the designated catchment to discuss their NRM needs.

If you are an individual or group interested in any training, field days or workshops beneficial to the rural community, please contact me to discuss your plans. Options may include organizing, technical or financial support, networking and partnership ideas.

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

Belyando Byline

I have been busy doing completion reports all over the Belyando Suttor catchment with only 4 completion visits left to do, 2 of which are booked in next week so we are right on track. A reminder to all landholders who were approved funding for weather stations - you need to purchase the weather station and return a copy of the invoice along with a signed copy of the project agreement ASAP to claim the funding. Any funds not claimed by the end of November will no longer be valid. This goes similarly for those landholders who have completed their on-ground works but are yet to purchase mapping software (if approved) - please do so and contact me before the end of the month.

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