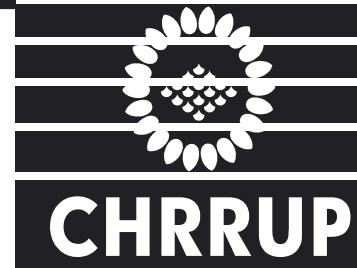


CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

September 2008



Rolfe Ellem Joins CHRRUP As New EO

The CHRRUP newsletter has a new contributor this month after Anna Cochrane has moved on to new endeavours. My name is Rolfe Ellem and I officially took over as CHRRUP Executive Officer on August 25. I was lucky to have had Anna around for the first fortnight to familiarise me with CHRRUP and the way it works in the community. She has left the organisation in fine working order and I wish her luck on the farm south of the border.

Being originally from Barcaldine, the move to Emerald did not involve great geographical shock, but the intervening years have seen substantial change. I have spent the last ten years predominantly involved in the international development arena working throughout Central and South East Asia. While I was away things have moved on and Emerald the town is not what it used to be, and the agricultural, social, economic and industrial environments are entirely different. There are great opportunities and challenges arising and evolving in this dynamic environment. A recent change in federal government also adds another aspect to the mix that will require consideration and adjustment. I am intensely interested in all this and hope that CHRRUP can be a positive influence wherever we contribute.

Reef Rescue Package

The federal government has introduced a 'Reef Rescue' package as part of the 'Caring For Our Country' initiative. As a sub-region, CHRRUP was not directly included in the consultation process; however we are directly affected through the operations of the FBA and BDTNRM. Under the 'Reef Rescue' package, \$23 million has been allocated in Queensland to natural resource management regions and peak industry groups to work together to deliver land management practices essential to improving reef water quality in Terrain, Burdekin Dry Tropics, Mackay-Whitsunday, Fitzroy Basin, Burnett Mary and Cape York. Initial discussions have indicated that there may be funding available to CHRRUP, and this will become more evident in the near future. This

situation has both positive and negative connotations. On one hand, if the funding arrangements eventuate they will give surety to the ongoing functionality of CHRRUP. On the other, CHRRUP finds itself in a position where funding arrangements make our commitment to be locally driven and managed difficult to maintain in a practical sense when our funding is applied for and distributed by other organisations. This is, in no way, a criticism of the Regional Bodies' activities, but rather a comment on the need for CHRRUP to stay relevant at a local level. This is a challenge that lies before the CHRRUP board and management in the medium term future. It may require that CHRRUP become more active in accessing funding under its own auspices that directly relates to the wants and needs of the immediate community, both rural and urban. It may also mean that CHRRUP ventures out from the Natural Resource Management arena and becomes more involved in other areas. Regardless of the direction CHRRUP may take in the future, in the short to medium term it remains a securely funded organisation doing worthwhile work with landholders and the community. This will always be the case, and CHRRUP aims to make a positive contribution to that situation.

PM Visits Emerald

AgForce played host last week to an important visitor, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Mr Rudd was met by incoming AgForce vice-president, Ian Burnett, and his family at their property, where Mr Rudd was able to see the impacts of the January flood damage to cattle and cropping enterprises in the region. Mr Rudd was accompanied by his entourage, a media contingent and Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke. Meeting with the group were local member, Chris Trevor; the Mayor, Peter Maguire; CQ AgForce state councillors, AgForce members and neighbours. While in Emerald, Mr Rudd released the draft drought review, which has been headed up by outgoing AgForce president, Peter Kenny. Mr Kenny has visited 25 sites around Australia, gathering information on the social and other impacts of the drought. Mr

Date Claimers

20-23 October – Veg Futures 08 Conference, Toowoomba. Contact Samantha Morris on 0421 709519.

24 October – FBA Forum. 'The Carbon Market - Friend or Foe for Agriculture?' 10AM at the Rockhampton Plaza Hotel. RSVP to Karlee Goodsall on 4999 2827.

17 November – Governance Training, CHRRUP Board Room. RSVP to Sally Murden, 49822996.

18 November – CHRRUP Board Meeting, venue TBA.

Rudd spoke about his interest in rural operations, the need for increased awareness and ability to plan for periods of drought, and support available from the Federal Government.

CHRRUP Board Meeting

The CHRRUP Board Meeting was held on 2 September - Annette Smith successfully ran her first meeting as Chair, and Rolfe Ellem attended as the new EO. Thanks to Central Highlands Development Council (CHDC) who provided the venue, and to Brigid Duncanson for giving an overview of the organisation. Other presentations were delivered by Colin Moffatt, on the Ensham Mine Flood Recovery, and a CQBEEF update by Gina O'Sullivan. Rachel McDowall from Como Consulting spoke about the recently completed Parthenium Action Group Review Project. Draft copies of the annual report were circulated, and these will be available at the November meeting. The group also visited the recently opened Keeping House at the Botanic Gardens, accompanied by Linda Black.

Governance Training

A reminder that the second session for Corporate Governance Training will be held on 17 November in the CHRRUP Board Room. The session 'Strategic Planning for your Organisation' is open to all members of the community. Training will be conducted by Global Training Institute, a company who specialise in Corporate Governance for NRM groups. Further information can be found on their website www.globaltraining.net.au Please contact Sally Murden on 49822 996 to RSVP.

BDT Facilitator for Emerald

Jenny Russell is the new Emerald-based Community Support and Engagement Facilitator for the Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management (BDTNRM). Key activities in Jenny's role will include developing networks and partnerships, providing community and project support, and promoting natural resource management in the region. Jenny has had extensive experience in similar community engagement positions in NSW and ACT. Anyone wishing to contact Jenny will find her at the State Government Office Building, Hospital Road, Emerald. Her contact details are mobile 0458 243 544 or Jenny.Russell@bdtprm.org.au

FBA Forum on Carbon

The FBA is hosting a Forum entitled 'The Carbon Market - Friend or Foe for Agriculture?' The Forum will be held at the Rockhampton Plaza Hotel in George St on Friday, 24 October. The Forum will commence at 10AM, and will be followed by lunch. FBA members are free, and other interested parties are welcome at a cost of \$30pp. Further details will be available when guest panelists have been finalised. Please RSVP to



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Karlee Goodsall on 4999 2827 or Karlee.Goodsall@fba.org.au by Friday, 17 October.

Changes for AACC

The Australian Agricultural Colleges Corporation (AACC) have recently moved from under the banner of the Department of Education & Training to operate under the portfolio of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. The transfer of AACC as a corporation was a move requested by both AACC and DPI&F, and will help both organisations capitalise on potential synergies in terms of resources, people and connections with industry. Over the next twelve months, AACC and DPI&F will be reviewing their operations to reduce overheads, better resource activities, and update infrastructure and resources. The objective is for both organisations to deliver better services more efficiently. Rural industries and DPI&F have recognised that the lack of skilled workers in the agricultural sector is one of the biggest issues facing the industry. Consequently, 'Building Skills For our Future' is one of the three pillars in the DPI&F's "Fresh Approach", and AACC will be a key player in delivering on this major goal.

Comet Tales

Susie Bate will be away from the office until the beginning of November. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please contact the CHRRUP office on 49 822 996.

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

Belyando Byline

The BSIG meeting held Wednesday 27th August was an extraordinary general meeting called to address the issue of the dwindling interest and involvement of members, particularly landholders. The group has decided to voluntarily wind up their incorporated association in favour of a non-incorporated landholder information sharing group to be called 'Belyando Suttor Landholder Field Days.' A voting form has been sent to all BSIG members to approve this change. For more information on this matter please do not hesitate to call me. I am in the process of re-organising a Stocktake workshop for Alpha. The workshop was originally scheduled earlier this year, but was cancelled due to the floods. Look out for a flyer on this and please let me know if you would like to register, or want any further information.

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