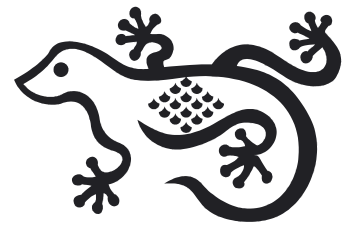


CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

September 2009



CHRRUP Funding Assured

Recent discussions with the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) have been very constructive and CHRRUP has assured funding to continue the Neighbourhood Catchments, Grains BMP and Cotton BMP programs which are currently active.

While conducting the above programs it is becoming increasingly clear that more and more people are becoming interested in what might be called alternative management systems, in both the farming and grazing contexts. This may involve the use of 'Compost Teas' or different grazing rotation systems or any number of activities that might be considered by some to be new and innovative.

While CHRRUP does not specifically advocate any specific technologies or management regimes we certainly do advocate activities that reduce the impact of agricultural activities on the environment. We also understand that there are production and viability imperatives implicit in all agricultural activities and we are extremely mindful of that.

It is the meshing of these factors that present the challenge, and that is where an organisation like CHRRUP should be active. We are very interested to hear from people who are implementing or experimenting with alternative technologies and practices. People trying new things sometimes find it difficult in a world resistant to change and CHRRUP is certainly a place where people will find open minds and support. We welcome discussion and ideas.

Positive Outlook for CH Economy

In good news for our region, the Central Highlands economy is continuing to show strong positive growth, according to the latest report released by the CHDC.

The Central Highlands Economic Profile contains detailed information on employment figures, population growth, major projects and industry growth in the region. Covering an area of approximately 60,000 square kilometers and rich in mining, horticulture, cotton, cattle, grazing

and citrus, the Central Highlands contributes \$4.1 billion or almost 2% to the gross state product of Queensland. Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing is the largest industry in the Central Highlands in terms of business numbers, and experienced the highest annual increase in Gross Regional Product (GRP) in 2007/98, contributing \$694.5million to the turnover in the region.

The CHDC has also released a report assessing the effects of the January 2008 floods on our community. Businesses from all industries were surveyed, with most reporting they are now on the way to recovery.

Reuben Lawrence, from Lawrence Consulting, will be in Emerald on 16 October to present the findings of both reports. Contact Robyn Matheson, CHDC, on 49824 386 to reserve a seat.

Both reports are available on the CHDC website www.chdc.com.au

Free Workshops Available

BMA Gregory Crinum Mine is sponsoring a series of free workshops and field days next month. Dr Maarten Stapper will be speaking on Biological Farming & Healthy Soils, and Peter Andrews will be sharing his experiences on Natural Sequence Farming. These workshops will be held in Capella on 6 & 7 October. Please contact Mary Bulger, BMA, on 4980 3300 or 0429 073361.

On-Farm Composting

Composting innovator, Florian Amlinger is sharing his experience and knowledge at a seminar in Emerald. Discover more about composting and its benefits, the background to development, strategy and uses. You will also find out more about marketing/sales, equipment and machinery requirements and the benefits to you and your soil. The seminar is being held at the AACC Campus, Emerald, on Saturday 10 October from 9:30 – 3:30. Cost is \$30pp. Please contact Joe Garnham on 0432 341338 for more details.

Date Claimers

22 September – AgForce Property Computer Mapping, Emerald. Venue TBA. 8:45-4:00pm. Contact Bree Robertson on 3236 3077.

6 & 7 October – BMA are presenting free workshops in Capella, featuring Dr Maarten Stapper and Peter Andrews. Contact Mary Bulger, BMA on 0429 073361.

10 October – On-Farm Composting Seminar, AACC Campus. 9:30-3:30, cost \$30pp. Contact Joe Garnham 0432 341 338.

5-6 November – Chemcert Training Course, AACC Campus Emerald. Contact Donna Goodall on 49828 807.

Vicki is Back...

Well, I have returned to work again, and am now on a part-time basis. I will be in the office every Monday, and working from home during the week, and be contactable on the mobile.

I also have a new role! I am now the Best Management Practice Officer and will be covering both Grains BMP and eventually Cotton BMP in the future.

We are now in the process of forming another couple of BMP landholder groups in the Central Highlands

What is BMP Grains you might ask?

- It is a voluntary program
- Industry led process
- Aims to help broad acre grain growers to identify improved practices which can help improve their long term profitability of their enterprise
- Helps you identify the steps to incorporate the BMP process into the business
- And will allow the grains industry to demonstrate good environmental management to the wider community

How does it Work?

The program consists of 5 core modules:

Pesticide application

Farm Design and Layout

Managing Rainfall

Integrated Pest management of grain Farms

Crop Nutrition and soil fertility management

Each module has a self assessment tool which helps you identify practices that could be incorporated into your system; then there is an action plan which helps you prioritize the steps; this is run in a workshop environment via the internet; there are facilitators to help you go through the modules and identify practices.

How Much time does it take?

The question every farmer asks! Because every time you are away from the farm you are losing money; so we aim to have 3 workshops to cover all 5 modules and also some training relevant to the modules throughout the year to help you incorporate the improved practices. But that will be sorted as we go along depending on interest from participants. We would like make it as easy and as accessible as possible so you can all utilise the useful information coming through the process which will help you become sustainable both economically and environmentally. I would like to form some groups before the end of the year and run one workshop if possible. If you are at all interested please call me on the mobile number below.

Vicki Horstman, Best Management Practice Officer, 0427 320 539 or email: vicki@chrrup.org

Email Newsletters

If you would like to receive your CHRRUP newsletter via email, please advise Sally Murden on 49 822996 or email admin@chrrup.org



CHRRUP
PO Box 115, (13 Borilla St)
Emerald Qld 4720
Ph: (07) 4982 2996
Fx: (07) 4982 2985
admin@chrrup.org



New Ground Cover Project for FBA

A project to assess ground cover in the Fitzroy Basin has resulted in a new tool that will help field staff working with local landholders.

The 'Sub-regional Support Pack' was developed by Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (QPI&F) under a collaborative project with Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) and CSIRO.

The pack includes interactive maps, and a database of ground cover data collected during the Ground Cover Assessment project managed by FBA with support from the Queensland and Australian Governments. The field pack means information gathered will be used more widely and applied in a practical way to help landholders undertake planning or make land management decisions.

QPI&F Dr Terry Beutel recently trained FBA staff in the use of the packs via an online webinar and said the pack provides an enormous amount of data about ground cover. It includes averages, trends, and results from rapid condition assessments conducted since 2005 and enables staff to compare catchments or land types, and to quickly produce ground cover mapping for the region's land managers.

Around the Office...

· Vicki Horstman is back from maternity leave, working on a part-time basis, 5 days a fortnight. Welcome back, Vicki!

· Sally Murden has celebrated a 'significant milestone' birthday on 17 September. Happy birthday, Sal!

· After almost 4 years with FBA, Nick Kirby will be leaving at the end of October to go to 4T Consultants. We will miss Nick around the CHRRUP office!

· Goodbye also to Gavin Peck, Technical Manager for FBA. Gavin has been on the CHRRUP technical panel for several years, and will be farewelled at dinner in Emerald this week.

Neighbourhood Catchments

The contracts are arriving for all approved projects and I am beginning to send them out to landholders. I am hoping to have all contracts out by the end of the month. As always I am busy trying to get new projects developed for tech panel, and exciting news - I am starting to sign off on some completed projects! I am expecting to have a tech panel in October, so let me know if you have any planned activities you would like submitted.

I participated in the Cancer Fund's Relay 4 Life on the weekend along with the other CHRRUP/FBA staff: Rolfe, Nick, Rhys, Sally, Vicki and the Lilyvale Road group LIVE OK Inc. We were generously sponsored by Rio Tinto and BMA and with some generous and kind donations from other individuals, we were able to raise \$2829.76. It was a good weekend for a great cause, with a big thank you to everyone who has helped our team.

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