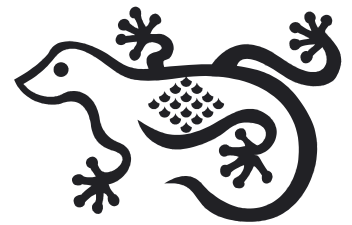


CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

May 2010



CHRRUP

From the EO's Desk...

I would like to welcome Josh Bell to the team. Josh comes to CHRRUP with some great experience which will be able to be applied to his role as Field Officer and will complement the skills and experience of CHRRUP as a whole. Josh's role will focus on the northern area of CHRRUP's region and he will be responsible for both the Neighbourhood Catchment Incentive Scheme (NCIS) and Grains BMP programs for this area.

In the near future CHRRUP will be announcing the priority Neighbourhood Catchments (NCs) which we will be focusing on in the 2010/11 financial year. A news alert will be sent via our email distribution list informing of the priority NCs and calling for Expressions of Interest from landholders in these areas. We will also be announcing the start of the next round of Grains BMP workshops and calling for interest. More information will be sent to our network soon regarding both the NCIS and Grains BMP Program.

It was the end of an era at the last CHRRUP Board meeting, when Lindsay Black tendered his resignation. Lindsay has been the Cultural Heritage representative on the CHRRUP Board since its inception, and his knowledge and experience have been very beneficial. Lindsay recently celebrated his 80th birthday with family and friends at the Springsure Showgrounds, and CHRRUP staff were present to wish him well. Colin Moffatt, the Mining Sector Director, also tendered his resignation at the Board meeting, and we thank Colin for his efforts and input into the Board over the past 2 years. Although no longer on the Board, I am sure that the relationship will continue between CHRRUP and both Colin and Lindsay.

Finally, I would like to farewell Rhys Kellow, and wish him well as he heads off on 12 months overseas travel.

New Direction for AACC

Tim Mulherin, Minister for Primary Industries, recently announced the implementation plan for the Australian Agricultural College Corporation. Mr Mulherin met with an industry advisory group in Emerald in April to unveil the \$20m

initiative, *Reconnecting Agricultural Education*.

Under the new scheme, full-time residential training will receive significant upgrades, and will be consolidated into the Emerald and Longreach campuses. AACC and DEEDI will reinvest up to \$3M into an upgrade of the Emerald campus, including the co-location of DEEDI research and development capabilities. This investment will include upgrades to plant, teaching and residential infrastructure, and improvements to the existing irrigation farm, including best-practice farm machinery and a capacity to fully utilise allocated irrigation water. The productivity and training capacity of 'Berrigurra' will be enhanced with a vegetation regrowth control program and upgrades to stock-handling facilities. The re-named Emerald Agricultural Research and Training Campus will specialise in intensive beef handling, dryland and irrigated cropping, horse breeding, and agricultural engineering.

AACC will introduce a new local leadership model at both Emerald and Longreach campuses. The Director of Residential Training will be based at Emerald, to provide overall educational, industry, community and team leadership for both campuses. Each campus will be led by an Education and Training Manager who will facilitate engagement with local industry. In addition, industry advisory committees will be established to provide input and advice on key curriculum and production planning matters for each campus.

For more information on the plan, visit the website at www.aacc.edu.au

Students Get Hands-on at NRM Expo

Over 880 students in Years 6 & 7 attended the recent Natural Resources Management Expo, held at the Emerald Showgrounds on April 28. Organised by CHRRUP, with funding support from the BMA Community Partnerships Program, the Expo is designed to highlight the importance of managing the natural resources in our local communities.

The event was very well attended, with 16 schools across the Central Highlands travelling to the event. Feedback provided from staff

Date Claimers

3-4 June – Grazing Bestprac, Soil & Plant Nutrition Workshop in Emerald. Contact Mick Alexander on 4938 3919. Farm Ready Approved to all eligible primary producers.

2,3 June – AgForce Computer Mapping Course, Clermont & Alpha. Contact Bree Hough 3238 6039.

15 June – CHDC Grant Writing Workshop, Capella.

15 June – CQ Beef Billaboo Group Field Day "Breeder Reproductive Performance and Management." 10am-4pm. Venue TBC in Lochington School area. RSVP by 8 June to Gina Mace, FBA on 0429 992810.

16 June – CHDC Grant Writing Workshop, Rubyvale.

17 June – CHDC Grant Writing Workshop, Springsure.

23 June – CHDC Grant Writing Workshop, Emerald.

to the event. Feedback indicates the day was well received, being relevant to the curriculum and engaging for students. Exhibitors travelled from Brisbane, Townsville and Rockhampton, as well as the local area, to share their knowledge about sustainability and the environment. Students had the opportunity to learn about the diverse ways resources are managed in their local region by talking to local cotton growers, horticulture and grazing, mining companies, CHRC, DEEDI, DERM and many others. The local community also donated time and resources to ensure the day was successful. All marquees were donated by local businesses; labour was provided to erect the marquees by local growers and AACC students, and the Emerald Show Society provided the venue. CHRRUP would like to extend a huge 'thank-you' to all those who participated in making the day such a success.

Farm Ready Eligibility

FarmReady Reimbursement Grants provide funding of up to \$1500 to eligible primary producers, wild game harvesters and Indigenous land managers to attend approved training courses. The grant can be used to cover course costs and additional funding is available for travel, accommodation and childcare. Over 520 training courses are registered with FarmReady, on a variety of topics including: climate change, whole farm planning, financial management and farm business management. Training needs to be completed by 30 June 2010 and all necessary paperwork needs to be submitted by 30 July 2010 to access available support in the 2009/10 financial year. To see what courses are available, confirm that you are eligible and claim your reimbursement, visit www.farmready.gov.au or phone 1800 087 670.

Grant Writing Workshops

CHDC (Central Highlands Development Corporation) will host a series of free workshops in the region in June, in an effort to assist local groups and not-for-profit organisations. Representatives from Rio Tinto Kestrel Mine, BMA, Regional Arts Development Fund, Gambling Benefit Fund and the CHRC's Community Grants Program will be providing information about their programs. Workshops will be held from 5:30 till 7:30pm on 15,16,17,22 and 23 June at Capella, Rubyvale, Springsure, Blackwater and Emerald respectively. Please contact Robyn Matheson, CHDC, on 4982 4386 to register.

CFOC Community Action Grants

Community Action Grants are the small grants component of the Federal Government's Caring for our Country initiative to help conserve and protect the natural environment. It is anticipated an announcement for the 2010-11 round will be made soon, so check the next CHRRUP newsletters for details, or go to the website www.nrm.gov.au



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Phasing out Faxstream

Due to the rising costs of faxstreaming our monthly newsletter, and the fact that the majority of people now use email regularly, we will be phasing out the faxstream as of **30 June 2010**. The newsletter will then be delivered via email, and it is also available on the website www.chrrup.org Please contact Sally Murden on 49822 996 or admin@chrrup.org to ensure we have your current email address.

Hello from Joshua

I grew up in the Northern Burnett region living in Biggeden and Bundaberg. I developed an interest in agriculture, particularly grazing, from a young age through working on my grandparents property in the North Burnett. I combined this interest with an aptitude for science to complete a Bachelor of Applied Science (Agronomy) through UQ. I have previously worked as a junior agronomist in the St George region, working with irrigated and dryland cropping enterprises. I have just started a Masters of Rangeland Management which I envisage will fit in very well with my new role here at CHRRUP. I'm very excited by the opportunity I have been presented with at CHRRUP; I see it as a great opportunity to help effect practical change in agriculture and to assist landholders in moving towards a more sustainable and profitable future.

Joshua Bell, Field Officer, 0409 522297 or email: joshua@chrrup.org

Grains BMP

Hey everyone! Getting cold again - out come the jumpers and the woolies! Well I have been busy getting projects ready for tech panel on the 17th and trying to find time to do some completions. I'll be on track to do some visits after next week. For last year's GBMP projects which were contracted in January - anyone who has completed their project please call me and I will get out to you. I will be in contact with everyone at the end of next week. We will be sending out Expressions of Interest for GBMP at the end of May, but if you want any information please don't hesitate to give us a call. Maybe we will see you at the shows. Stay safe.

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

Neighbourhood Catchments

The annual field officer catch up meeting was held in Emerald last week, and provided the opportunity for all the field officers across the Fitzroy River Catchment to get together for some training and information sharing. I have also been preparing projects for the Technical Panel. The last panel was very successful, with 23 projects being approved, resulting in 14,748 hectares under improved practices and 79.25km of protected stream bank. Landholders have contributed \$586, 232 and FBA funding has seen a further \$380, 827 invested in sustainable land management in our region.

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