

CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

March 2007



CHRRUP Board Meeting Update

The CHRRUP Board met on the 20th February with much interesting dialogue about mining in Central Queensland, and Climate Change. Our guest speaker was Rachel Mitchell from Moranbah, who delivered a presentation called "Australia's Inconvenient Truth", an adaptation from the movie. Rachel has been personally trained by Al Gore, and her address stimulated lively discussion among the audience. The CHRRUP Board has also committed to canvassing the idea of a Central Highland Mine Planning Taskforce to help the community and landholders to be better prepared when mines develop or expand.

Emerald Hosts FBA Stakeholder Meeting

The FBA held their regular stakeholder meeting in Emerald on the 2nd of March. A broad cross-section of the community was represented, with landholders, AgForce, mining, cotton, indigenous and conservation sectors in attendance. Local councils, state agencies and service sectors also sent delegates. An important outcome was the introduction of a regional goal for water quality, based on data collected from on-ground works funded by FBA, and creating a model to set a realistic sediment target for the Fitzroy River. The FBA provides funding for the on-ground and operational work in the Nogoia and Comet Catchments, so this was a great opportunity for CHRRUP to showcase the major production industries in the Central Highlands to the stakeholders.

Speakers were recruited from Cotton Australia, IAWM, Ensham Resources and DPI&F to illustrate how production processes in the major CQ industries of cropping, cattle, cotton and coal are being driven by a renewed awareness of natural resource management.

The CHRRUP team demonstrated their commitment and impact on natural resource management across the highlands. A humorous role play, starring 'Nick-ole', showed the day in the life of a Field Officer, interacting with landholders in Property Management Planning, and applying for project funding.

Support Citrus Growers

The Human Services Sector on our Board is currently promoting a raffle to raise money for citrus growers who were affected by Citrus Canker and now want to replant. You could win 999m² of prime residential land at 5 Mooney Crescent, Emerald. Tickets are available from the Emerald Neighbourhood Centre, 17 Yamala Street or Ph 4982 1696. Tickets are \$100 each, so ring now, or form a syndicate with family and friends.

What Weed is That?

After the recent rain, there have been increased reports of new weeds that landholders are unable to identify. If you have any new weeds appearing that you do not recognise, please contact Catrina Wolski at the Central Highland Natural Resource Management Group on 0419 672 900.

CHRRUP Tech Meeting

CHRRUP's technical panel met on the 27th February to assess recently developed projects from the Cona, Humboldt and Capella Neighbourhood catchments. Most projects were approved for funding, some with minor changes to better meet natural resource management outcomes. The technical panel consists of staff from DNR&W, DPI&F, FBA, agricultural service providers, and landholders. Two new members have been recruited; another landholder, and an agribusiness advisor, who increase the breadth of the technical base. The next and final technical panel meeting for this financial year will be on the 1st May.

PMAV Workshop Opportunity

CHRRUP is encouraging landholders who are yet to lodge a Property Map of Assessable Vegetation to attend one of two workshops being made available on the Central Highlands. PMAVs are property scale maps that, when lodged with DNR & W "lock in" non-remnant vegetation areas coloured white on Regional Ecosystem maps. These PMAVs, when lodged,

Date Claimers

PMAV Workshops. PMAV & Vegetation Management Training in the Fitzroy Region.

27 March – Moura

28 March – Emerald

29 March – Clermont

Contact Bree Robertson, Agforward, 3238 6039.

27-28 March – Contaminated Machinery/Clean down and inspection Certificate Course, Emerald. Contact Belinda Shaw, Greening Australia on 4923 7542. No charge.

27 March – Weather station meeting. 4:30pm at Gindie Tennis Club. Contact Anna Keetels 4982 2996.

ClimEd Workshops. Course & accommodation costs discounted 50% through FarmBis.

16 - 17 April – Alpha

19 - 20 April – Clermont .

Contact Bronwyn Roberts on 0428 776 249.

18 April – QFF Enhancing Sustainable Agriculture Forum, Parliament House, Brisbane. Contact nick@gff.org.au

CHRRUP Board Meeting Dates: 8th May 2007, 14th August 2007 & 20th November 2007.

supersede any future RE maps. New RE maps are due to be issued from the Herbarium in August 2007, which may change the base maps on which landholders can lodge PMAVs. Workshops are being run in Emerald on the 28th March and in Clermont on the 29th March. Places are limited and landholders must register for the workshops with Bree Robertson from AgForward on 07 3238 6039. Workshop costs \$100 per enterprise with rebates for AgForce members.

Nogoa News

So far I have had 30 property visits in the Capella region, with about 10-15 to go. I encourage landholders who have put in an Expression of Interest or have received a call from me, to make an appointment as soon as possible as I am running out of time. The deadline is mid-April to get these projects together.

For the Clermont catchment, please contact if you have received contracts that need to be returned after you have signed them. You may have already finished your projects, and we can do the relevant paperwork for completion and subsequent payment.

There are some people in the Emerald catchment who have received Variations and extensions on FBA projects. I need to have these signed and returned as soon as possible please, bearing in mind that the deadline is June 30, 2007. There will be no chance after that!

I am looking to organise a Stocktake workshop in Capella for both Clermont and Capella landholders, so please let me know if you are interested. Some are already down for the day however I need more numbers. I am looking at the end of May at this stage. It might be an idea to let me know when there is a lull in planting, harvesting and mustering!!!

Take care, and don't work too hard. Remember to take a little time out to spend with your families because time goes too quick and you can miss out on a lot of important stuff!
Vicki Kuhn, Nogoa Catchment Field Officer, 0427 320539.

Comet Tales

The next and final tech panel for the Cona Ck & Humboldt Ck catchments is on the 8th May 2007. I am keen to get all property visits completed at least a fortnight before hand. If you want to have a property visit and submit projects whilst I am still working in these areas please contact me as soon as possible so that I may organise a visit.

For all landholders who have a contract with FBA to complete projects, please contact me if you have finished any of these projects and have not yet received the funds. I will visit your property, view the project area and do a completion report so that you are able to access these funds.

Kellie Cover, Comet Catchment Field Officer, 0427 326400.



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Belyando Byline

The Belyando Suttor Implementation Group met on the 6th March in Clermont. The meeting was very interesting with a presentation given by Peter O'Reagain on the Wambiana Grazing Trial and its findings. Peter and the DPI are conducting studies at 'Wambiana' Charters Towers on different grazing styles and their long term affect on profit and ground cover. Grazing styles included low, varied and high stocking rate and rotational grazing. Low stocking rate was the clear forerunner for both profit and ground cover. Tom Coughlin was also a guest speaker with his presentation on Grazing Land Management Best Practices. Tom is from JCU in Townsville and in conjunction with the BDTNRM has compiled a Grazing BMP draft, on which he is seeking landholder feedback. A copy of this draft was sent to all landholders in the BSIG group so just a reminder to them to get their feedback to Tom ASAP. Please give me a call if you would like a copy of the presentation.

I traveled to Charters Towers 22nd & 23rd February for the BDTNRM 'Link Up'. There I met a lot of people either involved in the BDTNRM itself, or in projects such as ours that receive funding from the BDTNRM. It was very interesting to hear what everyone else is up to in their projects and to get to know everyone that is associated with our group.

The Sub-Committee nominated by BSIG to assess on-ground projects will meet again on Friday 27th April. I am currently working on a number of projects and am scheduled to visit a number of landholders in the coming weeks. There is a good variety of projects in the works but we need more people interested to get this funding on the ground. There was a good response to the expressions of interest sent out, but if anyone is interested in doing a project or knows of someone who might be interested then it's not too late – give me a call and we can arrange a visit.

A reminder to all those who are members of the Burdekin Solutions Ltd – there is a special Board Meeting being held on the 2nd April to vote on the new constitution. This may affect our area, particularly BSIG, so if you are a financial member be sure to read the constitution and have your vote!
Bronwyn Roberts, Belyando Field Officer, 0428 776 249.

Ka Ka Mundi Tour

For anyone looking for a different experience these Easter holidays, Lindsay Black will be running a Ka Ka Mundi tour from 11-13 April. The 4WD camping tour includes visits to Aboriginal art sites, the spectacular scenery of Mitchell and Belinda Springs, and stories of the unique history of this area.
For bookings and information, contact Lindsay Black on 4984 1644.