



Catchment News

Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc

July 2005

In This Issue

- What's happening
- Poned pasture update
- On-ground projects
- Catfish Derby
- Funding grant successful

Do you wish to become a member of the FRCC?
Contact the office for a membership form.

Contact Us

FRCC
PO Box 288
Rockhampton Q 4700

Ph: 4921 0573
Fx: 4921 0528
Email:
info@frcc.org.au

Office location:
Shop B, 31 East St
Rockhampton
(Century 21 Building)

What's been happening at FRCC?

The last few months have been extremely busy for the Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments team. Staff have focused on developing Neighbourhood Catchment projects with landholders, supporting the Catfish Derby with the Wycarbah & District Landcare Group and partnering with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to liaise with landholders about a ponded pasture project.

The ten members of the FRCC Management Committee have continued to meet monthly to guide the organisation and its activities. Recently the Committee has been involved in assessing on-ground projects to determine value for money and ensuring that projects have substantial natural resource management outcomes. Additional projects will be assessed in coming months.

The FRCC has been fortunate to receive extensive media coverage in recent times with a number of articles in the newspapers and airing on the radio. The FRCC also established a display at the Rockhampton Show. As FRCC is a relatively new organisation the media coverage has aided tremendously in raising our profile.

Poned pasture project update

The Sustainable Coastal Agricultural Systems project is rolling out across various locations in Queensland. The local component of the project is focusing on ponded pasture systems, particularly in the coastal catchments near Marlborough and St Lawrence, and is managed by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. The project is expected to begin early in the new financial year.

The FRCC has close linkages with the project and was instrumental in organising a Forum in the Field with over 50 people attending the day. To enable the project to have direct input from local landholders the FRCC went on to organise a project Steering Group meeting at Marlborough. Seven landholders were part of the Steering Group and identified a number of activities that they would like to see occur to gain an enhanced understanding of relevant legislation and develop best practice guidelines for the management of coastal ponded pasture grazing systems.



Participants standing on a pondage bank.



The contrast of the ponds was remarkable.

On-ground landholder projects approved

There has been an overwhelming response from the community within the Alligator Creek, Hedlow Creek and the Woodbury Bungundarra Neighbourhood Catchments to undertake on-ground projects. The FRCC Committee approved 19 projects in the first round and there are more projects to be assessed in July and August.

Funding provided through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the Natural Heritage Trust, to the value of \$114 550, has been approved for projects submitted by landholders. Projects focus on:

- Fencing to landtype and fencing areas affected by salinity to better manage grazing pressure for increased ground cover.
- Fencing riparian areas and installing water points to better manage sensitive areas along waterways, wetlands and creeks.
- Installation of soil monitoring equipment to improve water use efficiency on horticulture farms.

A Giant Rats Tail Grass project, focusing on non-chemical weed control options such as pasture management, will also occur across the Neighbourhood Catchments. Other catchment wide activities such as workshops, training and monitoring will be rolled out over the next six months.

What a great day - the Catfish Derby

Congratulations to the Wycarbah and District Landcare Group for organising and running a very successful Catfish Derby Day on the banks of the Fitzroy River.

The day got off to a promising start when a good sized fish was landed by a contestant sitting comfortably close to the BBQs and eskies. This sent families scrambling for a position on the bank and a few serious punters took off in tinnies. For those left without a line in their hands there was plenty to do, be it kicking back in the shade of the paper barks, catching up with family and mates or checking out the water quality and bugs in the river with the Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments' Monitoring Officer.

For some, the business end of the day came around all too quickly, as families lined up to see who would take home a prize. The biggest fish of the day looked like it had swallowed a pair of boots - a 6kg monster catfish. The Catfish Derby did a great job of bringing families together from a range of communities to enjoy and appreciate our local river.



Children enjoyed testing the water.



The largest catfish caught on the day.

Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant secured

The FRCC are pleased to announce that an application of \$1347 to the GCBF was successful. The grant will be used to purchase a fridge and information display stands.