



Catchment News

Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc

October 2006

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Enclosed:

Workshop flyer

Grab your free copy:

Updated FRCC Natural Resource Management Plan – a document developed by the community to guide activities and investments.

Committed to natural resource management

The year seems to have flown by with our Annual General Meeting approaching on Friday, 24th November at Kershaw House, North Rockhampton. For FRCC, this means the election process has commenced with a Returning Officer overseeing the postal ballot. Results will be announced at the AGM.

In line with the Association's Rules:

- four members of the Management Committee will serve another term
- four seats will be elected by Group Members
- three seats will be available to fill specific needs identified by the Committee.

The Management Committee is pivotal to the organisation as it directs activities, formulates policy and approves funding for on-ground projects. Members of the Committee represent a wide cross section of stakeholders and bring extensive experience and knowledge to the table.

The level of commitment shown by Members, Committee, staff and project participants throughout the year has been remarkable and has resulted in positive outcomes for the region.

The latest happenings

FRCC has been involved in a number of public events in recent months which has increased our exposure, particularly within the urban community.

- Bush Tucker Forum – 36 people enjoyed the morning at Kershaw Gardens
- Eco-Living Expo – A public event attended by over 1000 people in Yeppoon
- Neighbourhood Catchments Muster – FRCC projects were showcased to an audience of 200 people hailing from the Fitzroy Basin and beyond
- Rangelands Conference – National exposure with a poster "*Grazing Land Management at the Catchment Scale – a neighbourly approach*".



Above: The Bush Tucker Forum included interesting displays.



New staff member: It is with pleasure that we welcome Moira Close to the team. Moira will be working on the new wetland project and is based in the Rockhampton Office. Her previous experience as a DPIF Project Officer and a background in science and education has meant that she has hit the ground running.

The **Environmental Management Systems Incentives Program** was raised at the FRCC Members' Forum in July. The program is Australian Government funded and delivered by Centrelink. It provides primary producers with up to 50% reimbursement of costs associated with developing and implementing an EMS. For further information call [1800 050 585](tel:1800050585) or visit www.centrelink.gov.au

Work continues in priority Neighbourhood Catchments

Upper Fitzroy

An additional five landholder projects have been approved, bringing the total number of projects in the Upper Fitzroy River Neighbourhood Catchment to 23.

Landholders in the catchment have selected **Giant Rats Tail Grass (GRT)** for a strategic weed control project. The project is focussed on two properties and includes the aerial application of selective herbicide. DPIF have achieved promising results with aerial applications in recent field trials and it is believed that this method of control will be suited to the Upper Fitzroy situation.

Hedlow Creek, Alligator Creek and Woodbury Bungundarra

Monitoring sites linked to on-ground projects have been in place for 12 months and these sites are being revisited. FRCC staff provide landholders with technical support and collate monitoring information in a database. Congratulations to those who have already sent in photographs and condition ratings for groundcover! Water samples have also been collected by some landholders and the results will soon be published in the **Water Quality Network** newsletter.

Three new projects have been approved in this Neighbourhood Catchment.

Raglan Creek

Landholders have grasped the opportunity to develop catchment management projects in this area. Eight on-ground projects have been approved so far.



Above: An aerial view of Raglan Creek

Styx / Herbert

One project has commenced in the Styx Herbert Neighbourhood Catchment. An Information Session will be held in November – people who own land within the Neighbourhood Catchment should keep eye on the mail box for more info!

Partnerships expand opportunities: Wetlands

FRCC has received funding through the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetland Protection Program to deliver a coordinated program of wetland habitat restoration activities across the Southern Fitzroy Floodplain.



Above: Interpretative signs about the endangered yellow chat (Capricorn species) on show at Twelve Mile Creek. Photo from CQU

Although in the early stages, it is anticipated that the project's on-ground works will focus on weed control, revegetation, riparian fencing, improving fish passage and interpretative signage. The project will also look at using cattle (grazing) as a tool for managing wetlands and reducing fuel load.

Representatives from a diverse range of groups have been involved in the planning phase: private landholders, Fitzroy Shire Council, Wetland Care Australia, Fitzroy Basin Association, Central Queensland University, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland and Birds Australia.

The project area extends from Gracemere to south of Raglan and presents an opportunity for various land managers to work together to restore important wetland systems.

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Download the Upper Fitzroy Neighbourhood Catchment Snapshot from our website.

FRCC is featured in the Aug/Sept edition (Issue 48) of Outback magazine! Copies available from your local newsagent.