

25 August, 2008

On-ground opportunities boosted in Boyne Calliope

More than 30 landholders gathered at Jan and Ivan Stiller's 'Hilldale' property in Boyne Calliope last week to learn about opportunities to improve land management.

The Stiller's hosted an information session and BBQ organised by the Boyne Calliope Sub Region of the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA), which has chosen to work in the Ridler and Degalgil Creek catchment areas over the next year.

Boyne Calliope Sub Region Field Officer Rowan McKay encouraged landholders to take advantage of technical support, training, advice and funding incentives available to improve their properties.

He said the two catchments had been chosen because of high priority natural resource issues including weeds, sediment loading and high biodiversity values in the area.

"But in the end it comes back to community – we believe landholders in this area can effectively work together to make things happen," Mr McKay said.

He said the FBA's 'Neighbourhood Catchments' approach involved working with the whole community in priority catchments to achieve integrated and collaborative outcomes.

Mr McKay said developing a project often included using satellite imagery for better planning, identifying areas for improvement, and establishing monitoring points to track progress.

"Common projects include fencing to land type and installing watering points to relieve pressure on flogged out pastures to reduce erosion, fencing to manage recharge areas, or protecting riparian areas by fencing them to control stock access," he said.

Mr McKay said there was also the potential for landholders across the catchments to develop weed control projects, and in particular for the management of Giant Rat's Tail grass.

"We can assist you to manage areas for plants and wildlife, or help you access information and support in relation to farm forestry, which is a rapidly growing industry.

"We'd also love to hear from you with any ideas you have for holding field days, training or workshops."

Mr McKay urged landholders to get their expressions of interest in soon to have their projects considered. Forms are available from the Boyne Calliope office on 4975 6555 or by emailing rowan.mckay@fba.org.au.

For further information or interviews contact: Jody McDonald, Media and Communications Co-ordinator, 4999 2816, 0429 992 808, jody.mcdonald@fba.org.au.