

# Annual Report 2015/16



Capricornia  
Catchments Inc

## ► President's Report (Michelle Hanrahan)

2015/16 has been a year of unprecedented demand for our services with this being the final year of the current round of the Australian Government's Reef Rescue II as well as some State funded programs. Change is ongoing and our organisation strives to be flexible and embrace change, therefore during the year we again reviewed our plans and made changes to align our services to better meet the ever-changing requirement for continuous improvement. Our ongoing partnership arrangements with the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) continued to develop with a further increase in the numbers of programs funded through FBA and delivered by Capricornia Catchments.

Last year we were fortunate to host the FBA Board and a community forum in the Three Rivers area in Middlemount which provided the opportunity for local landholders to hear about programs and projects as well as share and discuss local issues.

Again, I extend my appreciation to our Management Committee and the two local area committees across the three areas for offering their expertise to provide quality input and advice on project and governance matters. A special welcome to our new Management Committee member Ken Mason who replaced Ian Groves who was one of our inaugural committee members. We also welcome Lisa Cullen who replaces Brett Nicholls from the Boyne Calliope Committee.

Our third year of operation with the extended service area has developed a more resilient organisation able to meet increased demands from both our members and our funders and I wish to thank our staff for their willingness to collaborate and support one another to plan and deliver even more projects than in the previous year as well as promote more sustainable natural resource management outcomes.

We have continued to engage with regional councils to plan and deliver training and awareness opportunities for landholders and the wider community with a focus this year on disaster recovery, resilience and weed management.

This year Capricornia Catchments was fortunate to host a Green Army team through the Disaster Recovery round of the program following cyclone Marcia. This allowed us to work with Landcare Australia, Manpower and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) to engage a team of young people to develop their skills in conservation and land management to support the restoration of nature refuges on the Capricorn Coast and the Gawula Land trust with the restoration of these environmentally sensitive areas. Thank you to team leaders Alex Peters, Kylie Harris, DEHP, Shelly McArdle and Livingstone Shire Council for the delivery of a successful program.

Capricornia Catchments continued to develop links and partnerships with community groups, including a closer working relationship with Capricorn Coast Landcare, increasing our membership and contributing to the development and strengthening of networks across our area to assist in delivering services to landholders and the wider community.

Capricornia Catchments was delighted that the QWaLC Board held a meeting in CQ in early 2016 in our Rockhampton office which provided the opportunity to meet Board members and share information about local programs and projects.

Water quality remains an issue for our community, with the Capricornia Catchments Management Committee supporting the work facilitated by FBA for the development of the Water Quality Improvement Plan for the region.



The priority areas identified in the plan assist with the distribution of resources to higher risk areas across the basin.

The Management Committee appreciates the ongoing work by the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health with the production of an annual report on river health in the Fitzroy basin as well as reporting on water quality in some of our larger communities. The extensive work undertaken by the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership is also acknowledged.

Our volunteer base continued again during the year with over 700 hours contributed to support events, marketing and project activities. Specific thanks to Mikala Maloney, Morgan Ells, Lauren Clein and Jim Price who was a long term supporter of Landcare in the Calliope area and Daniel Krause for their significant contributions during this period. Our gratitude is also extended to ongoing volunteers for their contributions.

The Management Committee remains committed to supporting members and continues to consider local needs and advocate strongly for resources and initiatives aimed at improving services and natural resource management outcomes.



## Executive Officer's Report (Jeff Krause)

This year has seen partnerships continue to develop with our major funding body, the Fitzroy Basin Association as well as the wider network during 2015/16.

The past year saw an increase in the range of programs, and again staff applied their expertise to plan and deliver projects across 11 program areas. We continued our partnership with Growcom through Robert Doyle and we thank him for sharing his skills and expert advice with our staff and our committee to develop water quality improvement projects.

The management committee continued to provide the leadership and strategic direction for our organisation as well as to the team of dedicated staff who worked with great passion and enthusiasm to deliver our programs.

With the Australian Government's Reef Rescue 2 Program and the State Government's Pest and Weed Management Program in their final year, resourcing for the next programs had created concern for our future staffing levels with field and corporate staff time to be reduced at the end of the financial year. While some staff have reduced hours, time is expected to increase in other areas.

The expertise of our full time and part time field staff including Marina Wall, Anne Alison, Lisa Del Riccio, John Rodgers, Bec Finger, Sam Moger and Shelly McArdle ensured delivery of a broad range of quality natural

resource management services and the highest numbers of projects in recent years.

Reece Books moved on from a temporary position with us to a position with FBA to establish the Reef Trust 1 program supporting grazing landholders through training and business development opportunities and programs. Reef Trust II commenced implementation late in the financial year aimed at gully restoration and erosion control on 30 properties in priority areas for a three year period. We look forward to opportunities through the Reef Trust III program aimed delivering land management practice change to reduce sediment and runoff in priority grazing and cropping lands.

Our finance and support services continued to be well managed by Janeen Whiting with assistance from Jodi Anderson and on occasions from our valued volunteers, particularly Lauren Clein and casual staff.

The enthusiasm and networking abilities of Shelly McArdle further developed our partnership opportunities with community, media and promotion of our activities. Shelly's networking has also allowed us to develop strong links with groups on the Sunshine Coast with opportunities to partner with these groups to strengthen our networks.

The GenYadaba group for younger people on the Capricorn Coast continued to inspire people to engage with local



environmental issues and projects. The group continued to model good environmental practice and get their hands dirty to lead by example on many projects and at events along the coast.

Shelly and Lisa continued to facilitate the delivery of the Urban and Coastal Program with FBA on the Capricorn Coast and Gladstone areas collaborating with government agencies and groups and industry to support ecosystem restoration and community engagement activities.

The State Government Pest and Weed funding through FBA allowed Capricornia Catchments to continue to provide incentive funding to landholders for the management of parkinsonia and prickly acacia in the Three Rivers area and landholders engaged in field days and events that included bio-control trials which contributes to an integrated approach to weed management plans. Links with researchers from the University of Queensland, Bio-security Queensland, councils and local landholders continued to deliver levels of interest in bio-control measures.

Our staff and volunteers continued support rural shows as well as other community events to raise awareness and engage with local landholders.

Thank you to everyone for your participation and contribution to activities throughout the year and we look forward to working with our members and partners to deliver improved services.



## Capricornia Catchments Inc.

The organisation was established on 7 January 2005 as a not for profit incorporated association. For over two years prior, the catchment group operated as a sub-committee of the Fitzroy Basin Association and during this time received tremendous stakeholder support and input to develop a natural resource management plan.

Since then, the organisation has continued to grow and expand its membership base to over 700 individual and 43 group members and now coordinates the delivery of a range of on-ground projects and capacity building activities across more than 60,000 sqkm of Central Queensland including the Fitzroy River and the coastal catchments of Broadsound and the Capricorn Coast, and since July 2013 we have provided services to the Three Rivers area, Isaac, Connors and Mackenzie River catchments and the Boyne and Calliope catchments. The name change occurred to better represent and be more inclusive of the wider service area.

During 2015/16 Capricornia Catchments employed 11 people in fulltime, temporary and casual capacities based on seven full-time positions across our three office locations in Calliope, Middlemount and Rockhampton. Photos of some of our team are included below:

### Rockhampton Staff



### Boyne Calliope Staff



### Three Rivers Staff



## Management Committee Activities

Committee Member	Management Committee meetings (attended / held)	Project assessment panel (attended / held)	Interests of Management Committee members
Michelle Hanrahan (President)	6/6	4/4	Landcare & Industry
Don Black (Vice-President)	5/6	3/4	Grazing & Cropping
Peter Baggett (Secretary)	5/6	3/4	Grazing & Weeds
Leise Childs (Treasurer)	6/6	4/4	Conservation
Sarah Becker	1/6	1/4	Finance
Ian Groves <sup>1</sup>	2/2	2/2	Horticulture
Ken Mason (Commenced 4.12.15)	3/4	1/2	Horticulture
John Wall	6/6	4/4	Grazing & Landcare
Wade Mann	6/6	4/4	Cultural Heritage
Lisa Cullen (Commenced 5.5.16)	1/2	-	Grazing
Melanie Findlay	5/6	4/4	Rural, Legal
Catherine Hayes	4/6	3/4	Local Government

<sup>1</sup> Ian Groves ceased 4.12.15

## Member organisations of Capricornia Catchments

Agforce Rockhampton Branch		Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.		North Keppel Island Environmental Education Centre	
Australian Braford Society Inc.		Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee		Qld Fire and Emergency Service Rural Fire Service Queensland	
Australian Brahman Breeders Association Ltd.		Fitzroy River Fish Stocking Association		Qld Parks & Wildlife Service	
Birdlife Capricornia		Fitzroy River Water		Qld Rural Adjustment Authority	
Capricorn Branch, Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld		Gladstone Regional Council		Rees R & Sydney Jones Solicitors	
Capricorn Caves		Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		Raglan Creek Catchment Working Group	
Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc.		Greening Australia Qld (Inc.)		Rockhampton Regional Council	
Capricorn Conservation Council		Capricorn Pest Management Group		Rockhampton Australian South Sea Islander Community Inc.	
Capricorn Tourism and Economic Development		Keppel Coast Girl Guides		Stanwell Corporation Ltd	
Capricornia Beekeepers Club Inc.		Healthy Soils Inc.		Tangaroo Blue	
Charbray Society of Australia		Isaac Regional Council		The Caves Landcare Group	
Conservations Volunteers		Jemena		The Leucaena Network	
Central Queensland University		Livingstone Remnant Veg. Study Group		Wycarbah & District Landcare Group Inc	
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries		Livingstone Shire Council		Yeppoon Fruitgrowers & Local Producers Association	
Department of Natural Resources and Mines		Marlborough Landcare Association Inc.		Yeppoon Organic & Biodynamic Growers Group	
Droughtmaster Stud Breeders Society		Multicultural Development Association		Resource Consulting Services	
Emu Park Community Bushcare Group		Morinish Landcare Group Inc		Smart City Vocational College	



## ► Images from 2015/16

Capricornia Catchments publishes regular email updates and newsletters detailing many of the activities in our area. We also keep people up to date on our facebook page.

The images below are some of those featured in our newsletters and other publications during the year. Additional images can be found on our website and our facebook sites.

