



Capricornia Catchments Inc.



NEWSLETTER June 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michelle Hanrahan

Capricornia Catchments continues to achieve positive results for our members and our communities. As the three year Reef Rescue Program draws to a close we acknowledge the professional support our staff have provided to plan and develop projects with landholders as well as the significant contributions made by property owners to improve land management practices. Over the three years, this program delivered 120 projects valued at more than \$3.7million, with landholders accessing almost \$1.3million in incentive funding to deliver land management practice change to reduce sediment and run-off to our waterways and the reef.

Capricornia Catchments has again awarded our "Best Projects" in recognition of the excellent contributions of our land managers in achieving agricultural best practice and sustainable land management with details of our nominees and winners included in this newsletter. Our Management Committee congratulates everyone involved with the program for their efforts.

Our staff have delivered many successful events and projects across a broad range of programs. This included projects across 11 program areas through FBA, funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments.

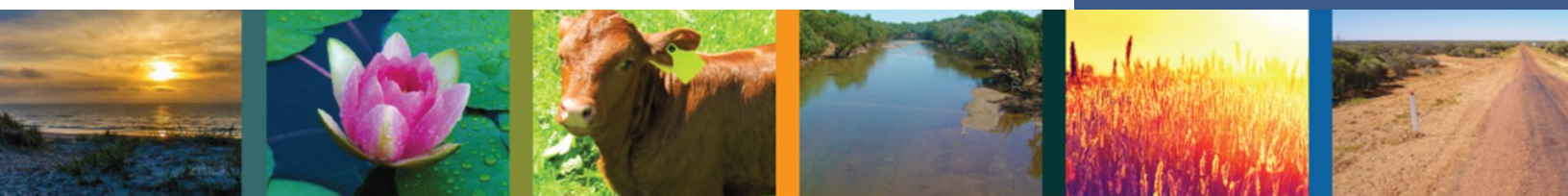
The new financial year will see staff working across at least 14 program areas including some existing as well as new programs. The State Government funded Pest and Weed program will not operate across our areas in 2016/17, though there are new programs such as the Australian Government's Gully Remediation Program aimed at reducing sediment from 30 high priority sites in the Isaac/Connors, Mackenzie and lower Fitzroy catchments.

FBA has introduced a new Community Grants process for delivery of urban and coastal system repair which has reduced time for our staff to work with groups to plan and deliver projects. While this creates difficulties for us in the short term, we look forward to working with our many partners to continue to deliver quality projects in the future.



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CAPRICORNIA CATCHMENTS WEBSITE

Our website is now **LIVE** with a fresh look. The website covers our three areas in the Capricornia Catchments, Three Rivers, Fitzroy and coastal catchments and Boyne Calliope with information about the organisation, how you can get involved through events, funding opportunities, to becoming a member of Capricornia Catchments. A couple of new features on the website are the online booking for upcoming workshops and events, scrolling photos and videos. We now have an SMS messaging service reminding participants they are booked in to an event. Positive feedback on this service has been appreciated by the participants.

To see our website go to www.capcatchments.org.au

Like us on Facebook to keep up with events and activities.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Cap Catchments is fortunate to continue to receive funding for much of our operating costs through our partnership with FBA, though in 16/17 we will experience a reduction in funds through our contract of close to 30% over that received in 15/16 with the majority being the result of reduced staff time based on reduced project numbers. This will see a reduction in time for many of our staff including, some Project Officers as well as the position of the Executive Officer and Executive Assistant until additional funding can be secured.

We are fortunate to be in an area that links directly to the Great Barrier Reef and we hope to be able to gain access to funds for future reef protection programs as well as the regional focus to grow the agriculture industry. I look forward to ongoing planning and discussion with our partner organisations to continue to contribute to more sustainable land management practices and improved water quality outcomes.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Jeff Krause

Hearty congratulations to all our staff and volunteers for the efforts in achieving good outcomes in each of our program areas in the lead up to the end of the financial year. Projects valued at over \$2.25million were delivered across our three areas in the past 12 months with around 65% contributed by landholders and in-kind, indicating the value of the incentive funding leveraged to deliver improved natural resource management outcomes.

It is a testament to our dedicated and professional staff, that over the past few months as we have been working through changes to our services and structure to better meet the new programs and future direction of our organisation we have continued to deliver quality services and project outcomes.

As Michelle has mentioned, we will see some staff reduce their hours from July with one leaving us. Anne Alison finishes in a full time position from the end of June, but will continue on short term project work. In particular, I acknowledge Anne's contribution to our organisation over the past five years as her networks, knowledge and passion for the agricultural industry have contributed significantly to the planning and delivery of our programs and individual projects.

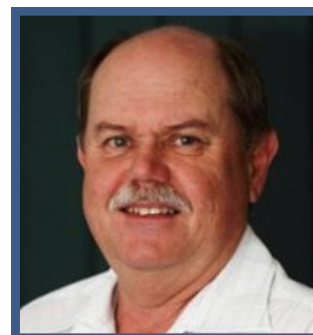
Shelly McArdle also has reduced hours which will be focussed on working with groups and partner organisations on

the Capricorn Coast to deliver projects in coastal ecosystems and in the Fig Tree Creek catchment.

Capricornia Catchments staff will continue to offer services from our three office locations, Calliope, Middlemount and Rockhampton, though with reduced hours in Calliope and Rocky you may need to leave a message, but we will respond. Lisa Del Riccio continues for two days a week in Boyne Calliope and John Rodgers continues based in Rocky, while a new position to coordinate the increasing range of programs is about to be advertised.

Our Middlemount office will increase staff levels due to increased projects across the Three Rivers area. Sam Moger will continue in a support role with Marina Wall in Middlemount until the new position is filled.

The Cap Catchments staff look forward to continuing to support our more than 850 members with quality services, which we aim to enhance, through future funding opportunities to supplement our extensive range of products and services.





OUR VOLUNTEERS

Janeen Whiting

Do you know more than 6 million people give of their time to organisations in Australia? There are many benefits to volunteering such as connecting you with others, making new friends and contacts, enhance your social and relationship skills, team building and bonding, good for your career and provides career experiences, learn valuable job skills and is fun and fulfilling.

Over the years Capricornia Catchments volunteers have contributed many hours in assisting with administration or organising events.

In May this year it was National Volunteers Week where we can acknowledge and celebrate the generous contribution these volunteers give to organisations. We would like to thank Lauren Clein and Mary Kaminski for their contribution to our organisation and to our CC community in recent months.



Lauren Clein

OVERVIEW OF GULLY REMEDIATION PROGRAM

Marina Wall

Over the next three years Capricornia Catchments and Fitzroy Basin Association will work with landholders in the Isaac, Connors, Mackenzie and lower Fitzroy sub-catchments to undertake on-ground work to reduce sediment delivered to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon through gully erosion processes.

Specific high risk areas have been identified and the focus of the on-ground work will be on construction of sediment filtering structures and revegetation of gullies and gully catchment areas to improve groundcover. Through partnership with landholders this project will help to reduce the levels of sediment lost from these priority areas. With the uptake of improved land management practices long term protection will be provided to

gullied areas reducing the levels of sediment lost in the future.

Gully erosion is a problem which current land holders have largely inherited as most gullies in the catchments of the Great Barrier Reef would have formed in an era when the focus was on opening up new agricultural land. The main gully erosion control strategy is to fence around the gullies to enable vegetation to grow, with negligible or very light grazing pressure. Gully fencing can assist with better grazing land management by excluding cattle from gullied areas to enable ease of mustering; improve the condition and appearance of the property and to rehabilitate areas of active erosion.



2014-2015 BEST PROJECTS AWARDS

Anne Alison



The Oakvale fencing team—Angus, Maggie, Max and Jack Finger

At the Members Forum held on 15 April, the 2014-2015 Best Project Awards were announced.

The aim of the awards was to identify and celebrate the best Reef Programme projects approved in 2014-15 to improve our catchment for future generations. The criteria were:

Assessed by the Committee in the 2014-15 financial year and completed;
Good environmental/NRM outcomes;
Overall property planning benefits;
Partnerships established while undertaking the project;
How the project fits into the 'bigger picture' (providing 'Stewardship' for the Land);
The winner can be a 'Champion' for CC and the work we do, as well as promoting good land management;
Total in-kind contribution from the landholder.

Fitzroy Catchment projects nominated were:

Bindaree, Garnant
Edithvale, Kalapa
Separation, Gogango

The winners of the award for this catchment were Glen and Nikki Kelly, Edithvale. Glen and Nikki have now undertaken several projects, which have greatly reduced the amount of sediment leaving their properties as well as providing management benefits.

The highlights of this project were 2.4 km of fencing, splitting a paddock into three along ridgelines; a tank, trough and 750m of pipeline protecting 221 ha of 221 ha of gully/riparian area and better grazing management of 499 ha.

Coastal Catchments projects nominated were:

Bald Hills, Ogmoo
Oakvale Stage 1, Marmor
Toorilla Stage 1, Stanage
Wongrabry, Ogmoo

Victoria and Scott Finger, Oakvale, Marmor won this category. They purchased a property in late 2013 which was extremely rundown, with no effective fencing, severely infested with weeds and overgrazed near the limited and inadequate water infrastructure.

One of their many activities included this project. It featured 2.5 km of riparian fence, a tank, two troughs and 1.6 km of pipe, protecting 5.7 km of streambank and better grazing management of 214 ha. This project was then followed by a Stage 2 project.

In the **Boyne-Calliope Catchments** one stand-out project was nominated:

Radleigh, Ubobo

Robert Jenkinson's untimely passing did not deter his resilient wife, Julie, and their daughter and son-in-law, Kellie and Glen Humble, from implementing his dreams on Radleigh. Rob had developed a detailed Action Plan when he participated in a Grazing BMP workshop not long before his accident.

The project featured 3.8 km of riparian fence, a tank, trough & 155m of polypipe, protecting 9.2 km of stream bank, 360 ha of riparian vegetation and 479 ha of improved grazing management.



Glen Kelly and Barb McKechnie looking over the Edithvale project area. Notice the damage from Cyclone Marcia which caused delays to the project's completion.



COMPLETION OF REEF RESCUE II

John Rodgers

Over five years to 2012/13 the Australian Government committed \$200 million Dollars to improving water quality flowing to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. In the ensuing three years \$64 million was provided to assist all catchments discharging onto the Reef to improve water quality. This component has been known as Reef Rescue 2.

Across the three sub-catchments which make up Capricornia Catchments, 92 projects have been completed in the last two years employing our share of this funding to

reduce sediment flows. This reduction of sediment is achieved by increased groundcover as a result of improved management. Changed management has been facilitated by fencing and water improvements as well as the introduction and expansion of minimum till technology by our grain growers.

Landholders reliant on Horticulture have also received funding for a variety of projects including, chemical free insect pest control, reduced chemical & fertilizer usage by application in dripper tape and increased mulching under trees.

All projects that improve groundcover and reduce sediment loss assist landholders by keeping their major asset, soil, on their properties. Improved groundcover also equates to more grass available as fodder for livestock which improves carrying capacity and long term sustainability of the business.

All of the above combine to reduce the overall flow of sediment, nutrients and pesticides to the Reef.

This is the reason for taxpayer funding of the Reef Rescue Program.



BOAT CREEK UPDATE

Lisa Del Riccio

The Industry Working Group working bee was in April, with over 30 volunteers, representing 5 industry groups, 2 community groups and the Gidarjil Development Corporation. The revegetation work involved a new technique – Long Stem Planting – where advanced tube stock is trimmed of lower foliage and planted much lower than usual encouraging

lateral root development. Burying the root-ball so deeply also reduces the need for follow up watering, and helps the plant withstand flood events. It will be interesting to monitor these plants' growth, and compare to previous plantings using the traditional method.

Weed control has continued on the woody and herbaceous weeds that are suppressing native recruitment,

mainly Lantana and Rivinia. Areas previously weeded are showing strong natural regeneration under the canopy.

We also have welcomed a new working group to the site. A Gidarjil sponsored Green Army Skillset Team will be undertaking weekly weed control measures, and have already been working on Lantana removal.

OUR COASTAL AND LOCAL WATERWAYS —TOO LOVELY TO LITTER

Shelly McArdle

A number of environmental groups joined together with the Keppel Coast Arts Council's Fig Tree Markets to launch a 'Too Lovely to Litter' campaign as part of World Environment Day celebrations.

'Too Lovely to Litter' aimed to raise awareness about the environmental impacts that marine debris has on our coastal and marine wildlife.

The idea for this event emerged after Capricornia Catchments' Project Officer Shelly McArdle was approached by Julie Robertson of Wildlife Rockhampton after a particularly harrowing failed rescue attempt of a local seabird that had ingested debris. In considering how to reduce these incidents, the idea was explored further at a recent Source Reduction Workshop hosted by Tangaroa Blue, Livingstone Shire Council and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. This workshop saw a number of stakeholders come together to discuss local marine debris concerns with a view to identifying ways to mobilise community to stop this debris ending up on our beaches in the first place. The result was the formation of an organising committee that set about planning this World Environment Day event.

Heidi Taylor from Tangaroa Blue said "Most Australian's love heading to the beach or spending time out on the ocean, Too Lovely to Litter is a great way to engage the community in ways to both enjoy and protect the environment. If all we do is clean-up, we'll be doing that forever, this event

highlights the impacts of litter in our environment, but also provides information and ideas on how everyone can reduce their impact by making easy choices in their daily lives."

Julie Robertson said wildlife rescuers see first-hand the devastating effects that marine debris has on shorebirds and marine life. We see their pain and distress and know that their suffering is preventable. Now, with so many groups standing together under one campaign, we feel we can make a positive change along our beautiful coastline."

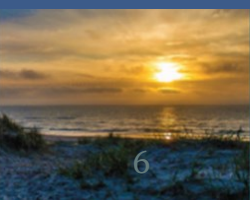
Fitzroy Basin Association's Engagement Manager and organising committee member Rebecca French said "The Too Lovely to Litter Committee and its volunteers provide a great example of what can be achieved when a number of groups collaborate to achieve a common goal. This passionate group seeded and have nurtured an idea, with limited resources, to enhance community awareness around the impacts of litter on our coastal and marine ecosystems, and to encourage behaviour change to stop the debris at

the source."

Too Lovely to Litter was an event that encouraged everyone to take stock of their own behaviours and consider how they can contribute to ensuring our coastal environments are cleaned up, cared for and kept as natural as possible.

Too Lovely to Litter was launched as part of the Fig Tree Markets and offered great family-friendly activities that included a beach clean-up and marine debris survey, presentations by members of Wildlife Rockhampton and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, along with information on Cash for Containers. Participants enjoyed the fun of a thong toss, a fishing line casting competition, and explored ways to manage fishing tackle waste. There was also the opportunity to be part of creating a community art sculpture with local artist Amber Countryman and a great time was had by all!

This event is supported by Fitzroy Basin Association through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and Queensland Water and Landcarers.



NRM EXPO

Shelly McArdle

A recent Environmental Expo hosted by the Yeppoon State School and Capricorn Coast Landcare saw a number of NRM organisations including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Fitzroy Basin Association, Capricornia Catchments, Livingstone Shire Council, Native Plants Capricornia, The Frog Society, Wildlife Rockhampton and Capricorn Conservation Council join together to share information on the ecological importance of our urban waterways.

Students heard about the threats posed to native vegetation by garden escapee weeds as they toured the schools environmental trail under the care of Alby Wooler of Capricorn Coast Landcare. Dr Bob Newby and Margaret Hale from Native Plants Capricornia shared info on insects including butterflies and their local host plants.

Environment and Heritage Protection Officers explained how to Croc wise so that we can safely coexist with these magnificent reptiles.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority explained about the impacts of land based activity and the importance of our local wetlands in improving the quality of water flowing to the Reef.

Allan Briggs from Bird life Capricornia shared their passion for birds and explained how students could minimise negative human impacts on their habitats. Bethlea Bell spoke about frogs and the importance of local waterways for their survival and Capricorn Conservation Council presented on biodiversity.

Team members from Bunnings Warehouse Yeppoon also supported the day educating you students on the



recycling benefits of worm farming.

Wildlife Rockhampton spoke about their experiences in rescuing and caring for injured native wildlife and empowered participants to take action to help protect them.

Capricornia Catchments executive officer Jeff Krause said " It is so important that our young people are made aware of the importance of our natural environment and the complexities that exist within it so that they can be effective managers in the future."

GRAZING AND WETLAND PROTECTION WORKING TOGETHER

Anne Alison

Several grazing properties close to priority wetland areas around the Capricornia Catchments region have received funding from the Queensland Government over the last two financial years. The funding was provided to improve management and condition of prioritised wetlands and waterways that contribute to the discharge of nutrients, sediments and chemicals to significant inland or coastal waterways.

Project activities included pest animal control, weed control, wetland fencing, off-stream watering and riparian fencing as well as community engagement with the St Lawrence Recreation Group. The location of projects undertaken ranged from south of Clairview and around St Lawrence down to the Greenlakes area, Iwasaki wetland and Kinka wetland.

One project conducted was an aerial shoot which controlled feral pigs and wild dogs on properties adjacent to the coast from the Ogmoo area and mouth of the Styx River to St Lawrence.

Weed control activities included the

treatment of prickly acacia, GRT (Giant Rat's Tail grass), lantana and rubbervine. A range of methods were utilised – aerial granular treatment and manual spraying of GRT; mechanical (skid steer with a cutter bar) and chemical treatment (basal bark and cut-stump) of prickly acacia; mechanical (bulldozer) combined with foliar spraying of lantana; and basal barking of rubbervine.

Other projects involved fencing of wetlands areas; creeks within tidal range; and subdividing a marine plain. Fencing provides for enhanced grazing management through seasonal spelling or exclusion of stock from these areas. Off-stream water provides clean water for stock and reduces the damage they cause to the vegetation and water quality of wetlands and streambanks.

As a result of these wetland projects, the regeneration of wetland and riparian vegetation will provide better water quality in these fragile ecosystems, while also improving grazing management through pest control and/or fencing.



A fence protects active erosion on Serpentine Lagoon, New-Eden



A huge prickly acacia treated by the cut stump method on Branhholme, which had been within a forest of large trees, all now controlled.



EVENTS

Watch for workshop and field day opportunities in your area over coming weeks and months.

JULY

04—10 NAIDOC Week

22 Grazing BMP, The Business of Grass, Nebo

AUGUST

10 Gladstone Show

28 The Hall SS Environmental Festival

Please contact the Capricornia Catchments office or visit our website for more information or to register.

THREE RIVERS BEST PROJECTS AWARDS PRESENTATION

During the Three Rivers Members Forum Capricornia Catchments will be presenting the **Best Projects Award for 2014/15** celebrating the achievements of the graziers who are onground natural resource managers of our region. Eight projects were shortlisted from the 2014/15 financial year.

The four categories and nominees are listed below:

Isaac Catchment Grazing

Jim & Janet Curran "Warwick Park"
Russell & Sheryl Purvis "Waterford"
John & Donna Finger "Meadowbrook"

Mackenzie Catchment Grazing

Peter & Toni Frame "Barnett"
Paul & Judy Wroe "South Karamaea"

Grains

Lawson & Cherylee Kemp "Eungy"
Trevor Dunne "Wallbury"

Pest Management

Donald Black "Langley"

We wish them all well as they continue achieving industry best practice with a strong emphasis on improving the natural resources of our region.

Keep an eye out for information regarding the upcoming Three Rivers Members Forum which will be held in Middlesmount in the new financial year. The best project awards will be presented at the forum.

Congratulations to Lisa Del Riccio and Kelly Smith (FBA) for receiving the award for the best display by community groups at the Gladstone Ecofest event on June 5. It was a huge community event and a wonderful opportunity to catch up with so many of our partner groups.



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Australian Government



Queensland Government

