



# Capricornia Catchments Inc.

NEWSLETTER October 2016

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Michelle Hanrahan**

Congratulations to our exceptional people from GenYadaba, in particular, Mikala Maloney supported by



Morgan Ells for having been shortlisted for this year's Premiers Sustainability Awards for their valued leadership on environmental issues and projects on the Capricorn Coast. We wish them well at the awards presentation on 17 November, though to reach this level is a wonderful acknowledgement of their efforts and commitment.

We were also fortunate to have been acknowledged for our contribution to working with many landholders to repair damage and return agricultural production sooner after flood events following ex-tropical cyclone Oswald. While we do not expect this type of recognition for the work we do it is appreciated by our staff and volunteers and it helps raise the profile of our work in the wider community.

I acknowledge the support and strengthened relationships with many of our councils. We appreciate the strong support from either councillors or

council staff on each of our three committees in Boyne Calliope, Rockhampton and Cap Coast, and Three Rivers areas.

In Calliope we currently have a joint project underway with Gladstone Regional Council (GRC) and Gladstone Area Water Board, to construct a grow-tunnel to create the bio-control facility on the GRC Calliope site for the jewel beetle to help control cats claw creeper.

With Isaac Regional Council we have jointly funded projects to deliver follow up weed treatment through incentives for landholders to continue parkinsonia control as well as the provision of water testing kits for local groups to use.

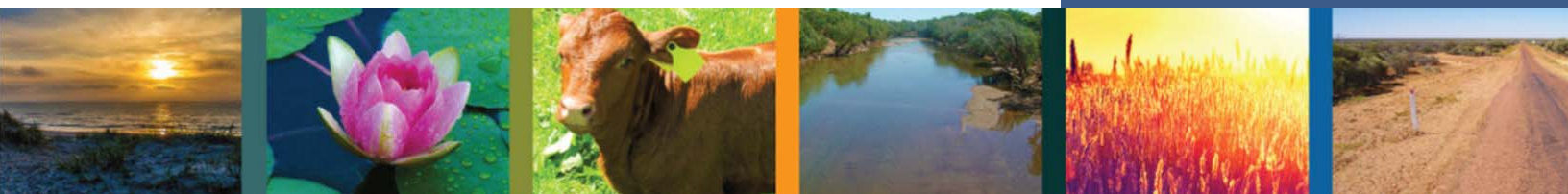
In Livingstone we have recently reaffirmed our Memorandum of Understanding with LSC as well as continuing to deliver many joint initiatives along the coast and our relationship with Rockhampton Regional Council continues with FBA funded projects on the Fitzroy flood plain to improve habitat and control weeds.

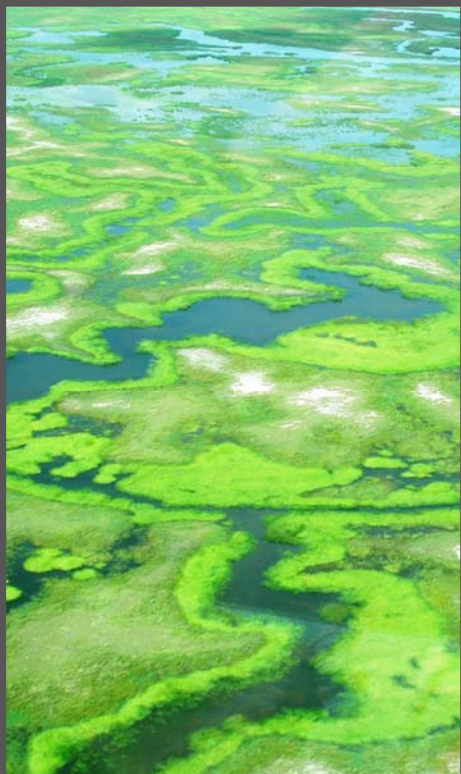
We encourage further interest from landholders in the recent Reef Trust programs targeted at addressing specific sediment reduction issues and water quality improvement in priority areas.

As always, please contact any of our committee members or our staff if there are ideas or matters you wish to discuss.

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## CAPRICORNIA CATCHMENTS NEW WEBSITE

Our new 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](http://www.capcatchments.org.au)

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

### Jeff Krause

I am particularly proud of the quality and range of initiatives and projects we continue to deliver to members and the wider community. Though we have reduced staff time and the number of activities may have declined in recent months, we continue to deliver and support many quality activities and events as outlined in further detail in this newsletter.

Our staff have continued their commitment and enthusiasm in all that they do.

As mentioned last time, Anne Alison had finished her time with us, though Anne returned part time during July and August to deliver a couple of quality field days and workshops.

The Gully Remediation Programme has Marina and John focussed on new contacts with landholders, new processes and new projects, and while this is time consuming, it is refreshing. It has also opened up the opportunity to work more closely with others in the FBA team, including Bernie Claussen and Rachel Bryan to identify and develop sediment reduction projects with landholders.

Our staff continue to support grazing best management practice initiatives and last week Marina, Bec and I supported the Grazing Expo in Blackwater coordinated by DAF, where we caught up with many of our members as well as made some new contacts.

We are also continuing to send out our fortnightly email updates to members with the range of events and activities on offer as well as regular posts on

facebook. Janeen continues to deliver her broad range of services including finance and administration, WHS and publications support and now works 4 days each week.

Capricornia Catchments is pleased to have been awarded 3 of the 6 Community Grants Program projects through FBA earlier in October.

Shelly has projects on the Capricorn Coast and Lisa in Boyne Calliope, with both well on the way to delivering restoration and erosion management projects on sites including Lammermoor Native Gardens and Fig Tree Creek catchment in Yeppoon, Mulambin Beach, and Boat Creek near Yarwun. We are privileged to work with and support our many partner organisations to deliver quality outcomes for the environment and the community at each of these sites.

We have recently appointed Mark Schulz to the new position of Project Coordinator and welcome him to our team.

I have been with Capricornia Catchments for almost six years and continue to appreciate leading the team and managing our services, however I plan to take time off for a few months from mid-December to mid-March to focus on family matters. I look forward to catching up with members at upcoming events.





## MLA WILANGI PRODUCTIVE PASTURES FIELD DAY

### Anne Alison

The Wilangi Productive Pastures Field Day on Thursday 1 September was attended by 60 people and considered by all to be very successful. People travelled from as far south as Mount Larcom and Bajool and from areas around Mackay and Sarina. The evaluation forms echoed the verbal feedback that people found the day's information and format to be practical and relevant to their businesses.

Despite people having to negotiate their seating around the normal plant and equipment within a standard farm workshop, they set up their chairs and eagerly awaited proceedings.

The program commenced by asking participants their expectations which were listed to ensure that those expectations were met. Then Stuart Buck, Senior Agronomist at QDAF, presented his Powerpoint presentation on Establishing of Legumes into Sown Pastures.

After smoko five brief topics including funding programs were presented by Capricornia Catchments and its delivery partners.

Ross Newman, Agronomist with Savage Barker and Backhouse, Rockhampton, provided an overview of what his trials were designed to achieve before the trial site inspection was undertaken. There

was much discussion at the trial site deliberating the pros and cons of each variety within the trial. It was followed by two paddock inspections of renovated pasture and a demonstration of the renovation technique.

All returned from the paddock for a BBQ lunch which accompanied a great deal of conversation about pasture establishment and various species. It gave participants ample time to ask the presenters any questions relevant to the own operation.

Kelly Butterworth from the Queensland Country Life posted a live video of Stuart Buck's presentation on Facebook. I am assuming that this week's QCL will include photos of the field day. Sharon Howard, AgForce, also posted several photos on Facebook and in her weekly CQ newsletter.

The delicious smoko and BBQ lunch was catered by the Marlborough Pony Club with succulent steak provided by Wilangi Brahman. Sponsorship of the catering was thanks to PGG Wrightson Seeds.

Capricornia Catchments acknowledges the great effort extended by Rob and Mandy White, Wilangi for the perfect venue; Ross Newman, SBB for having the foresight to initiate the trials; Stuart Buck, QDAF for his presentation and local knowledge; and MLA for sponsoring the whole event.



## THE HALL STATE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL FESTIVAL

The Hall State School held their second Environmental Festival on Saturday, 28 August. The school through their extra curriculum program has an environment section where they have a sustainable recycling program and a green team promoting the care of our environment. The P&C incorporates environmental community groups to this event as an information base to educate the wider community in an informal way.

This year we wanted the children to participate in an activity where they could learn but have fun too. Our activity was teaching the children the difference between good fish and a bad fish. The bad fish being the Tilapia. The Tilapia is a declared noxious fish in Queensland and is killing our local native fish where these have been found in our local waterways/dams. The children were given a fishing rod where they had to catch a lure (being a fish) matching it to the fish chart. In the pool of water was the Tilapia lure and if they caught that one we had models of the Tilapia showing them the characteristics of the fish and what makes them different to our native fish. This was a hit with the children as well as giving us an opportunity to talk to their parents at the same time.



A great day was had by all.





## COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM RECOGNISED IN STATE

A program that empowered Fitzroy Basin communities and organisations to work together to recover from ex-tropical cyclone Oswald and build resilience for future natural disasters has received a 'highly commended' award at the 2016 Get Ready Queensland Resilient Australia Awards.

Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA), Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association (DCCA) and Capricornia Catchments worked with over 100 landholders to repair damage to their properties, help them resume agricultural production sooner, and enhance their resilience to future natural disasters.

"FBA delivered almost \$1.5 million in flood recovery activities to landholders across the hardest hit parts of our region. Projects were developed directly with landholders, providing one-on-one support and expert advice to ensure the best outcomes," Mr Birch said.

"In a first, landholders were encouraged to work together in clusters on neighboring projects and are to be commended for their willingness to be open to practice change when their operations were hurting.

"Biosecurity, soil conservation and mental health services were also included in the program to ensure we were looking after both the wellbeing of the land as well as landholders, which is vitally important to both recovery and future resilience," he said.

The program's success was tested just two years later, when Category 5 severe tropical cyclone Marcia crossed the region's coast in February 2015.

"Severe tropical cyclone Marcia caused major flooding, particularly in the Callide catchment. However, damage to project sites was minimal demonstrating that landholders who participated in the project were indeed more resilient to natural disasters."

FBA has published a short film about the impacts from ex-tropical cyclone Oswald and the project's recovery and resilience achievements on YouTube, which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syplVTHiuRU>.



## FBA FLOW VISITOR CENTRE

Congratulations to Sharyn Lowth, Peter van Gestel and the rest of the team at the FLOW Visitors Centre on achieving another milestone: welcoming their 19,000<sup>th</sup> visitor last week since the centre opened.

They continue to deliver a great service for locals and visitors to our

region. Remember to drop in and say g'day any Tuesday to Thursday.



Photograph courtesy of FBA

## CASE STUDIES

A range of Case Studies on pasture rundown, innovations in grain growing, managing pests and improving water quality protecting the reef can be found on FBA's website:

<http://www.fba.org.au/case-studies/>





## BOAT CREEK UPDATE

**Lisa Del Riccio**

The past month has seen lots of activity at Boat Creek with the new Gidarjil sponsored Skilling Qld (SQ) team onsite. This enthusiastic group has carefully worked along Lot 1's northern creek line brush cutting and manually removing guinea grass, lantana and cats claw. They have working with the more experienced Rangers who assist

in plant identification and guide them to take care of native plant recruitment. Currently the SQ team is working through the lantana and guinea grass in Lot 2 which creates access to the creek for future weed control.

One of the challenges of more remote on-ground site work is the lack of amenities. Fortunately we have the support from local business Calliope Septics who have supplied a port-a-loo at a substantially discounted rate. We

greatly appreciate that the local community supports the riparian restoration work being carried out to deliver this project.



## TILAPIA eDNA TESTING WITH JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY TEAM

This month our new staff member, Mark Schulz had the opportunity to assist Dr Agnès Le Port and her research assistant Sowjanya Chandrasekhar from the James Cook University TropWATER eDNA faculty, with the collection of Tilapia eDNA samples in a number of waterways in the Fitzroy Basin area.

The team visited a number of sites where there have been Tilapia sightings in the past or where infestations may occur if given the right conditions.

Environmental DNA or eDNA sampling has been developed primarily to detect pest species and species of conservation concern by analysing water samples where the Tilapia or other targeted species may have left their DNA evidence.

eDNA sampling is similar in theory to the

DNA collection that is used to identify humans in criminal cases.

This eDNA is extracted directly from the water samples without the need to capture, handle or physically sight the target organism. The technology revolutionises the way that field surveys are conducted and is considered to be more cost efficient and less intrusive on the environment.

The testing procedure essentially involves the collection of water samples from rivers, creeks etc. Water samples are then processed in a field laboratory and the excess water is vacuum filtered and individual eDNA specimens are captured and stored in smaller specimen vials for further advanced testing back in the James Cook Universities Townsville laboratory.

eDNA "metabarcoding" is also able to be used to identify other species of fish, molluscs and even insects in environmental samples. This allows researchers to monitor areas threatened by pollution or other human influences and assist with eradication programs.



# Capricornia Catchments Supports Agricultural Science Education

Jeff Krause

Capricornia Catchments continues our support for the development of the Agriculture sector with the Management Committee signing a three year commitment to provide a bursary to support a student each year studying at Central Queensland University in the new Bachelor of Agriculture degree course. This follows similar support for science students in the past and provides a pathway for students for students from schools such as Rockhampton SHS where we offer a small bursary to the highest achieving student in year 12 Agricultural Science.

Information on the CQU bursary is available at the link below:

<https://www.cqu.edu.au/courses-and-programs/scholarships/offerings/the-capricornia-catchments-scholarship>

Further support continues to be provided by Cap Catchments staff who recently assisted with a field tour for students from Rockhampton SHS to Jeff and Karen Mill's beef cattle property "Melrose" at Morinish to highlight best



management practices in the grazing industry to assist students in compiling a report for their final assessment and consideration for the bursary.



## Wetland Assessments

The wetlands in the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) catchments play a role in maintaining the health of the GBR and its lagoon. They also have values of their own, independent of the Reef. The state and federal governments must report back to the people of Australia on the health of these wetlands, and on the progress in reaching the Reef Plan targets.

The state government currently provides funding to Regional NRM Bodies to work with the state Department of Science, Information Technology, and Innovation (DSITI) to collect information on wetland health. This information—from across the GBR catchments—is summarised in a report card format. Assessment information may also be

used to update existing wetland mapping. Wetlands being assessed in our area this year include those in the Pink Lily, Lower Fitzroy flood plain, and the Isaac River areas.

Capricornia Catchments members and staff have been assisting with these assessments with information then made available on the State Government Wetland Info website.

In addition we continue to assist with the development of case studies of significant wetland sites across our area. The most recent, a case study of Torilla Plain, is now available on the Wetland Info website. We encourage you to find out more about this unique area.

<http://wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/resources/static/pdf/resources/reports/case-study-torilla-plains.pdf>





# Reef Trust Programs

Capricornia Catchments is working with Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) to identify landholders and projects that we can support for up to 18 months supported by funds sourced from three Government programs. These programs are a little different to previous programs offered which you may have been familiar with. The programs are not solely focused on infrastructure improvements and are available for landholders who wish to improve their profit and performance in their grazing businesses.

## What steps should you take?

To first determine if your property might be eligible please check the map printed on the flyer you have or should receive shortly, or find the Priority Area map on the FBA website here: <http://www.fba.org.au/tenders-and-funding/> If you are unsure by viewing the map please send back to us your property location and Lot on Plan, and we'll be able to check for you.

Read the program summary below to assist in determining your eligibility, then please respond to this email to confirm your interest. We'll then send you the Expression of Interest Form (please note you should receive this from us within the week).

Under one of the funded programs a requirement for landholders is completion of Grazing BMP. Please note you can still apply, however your contribution may include undertaking this program prior to your participation in this project.

If your property is not within the identified priority area (as per the shaded area on the map), you may still be eligible for a one on one property visit along with events and workshops we offer free of charge to all landholders. You are invited to attend any events of interest. FBA also provide a reimbursement program which provides eligible graziers with reimbursement towards the cost of pre-approved training packages offered by leading agricultural consultancy firms and industry bodies. More information on eligible training courses and the reimbursement process can be found on

the FBA website here: <http://www.fba.org.au/grazing-training-reimbursement-program/>  
**Project Inclusions:**

**Project inclusions are variable and will be tailored specifically to the needs and circumstance of individual landholders and their properties.**

A property visit will be coordinated with landholders to discuss property practices and Grazing BMP plans. Prior to the property visit, landholders may be required to complete Grazing BMP. Discussions will lead to identification of landholder training priorities and recommendations for on ground work. Associated on-ground works by participating landholders may require an in-kind contribution of up to 50 percent with a maximum contribution of \$17,000 FBA incentive funds. The contribution from landholders may be in-kind labour and materials.

## Timeframes:

Please note that Expressions of Interest (via the EOI form) for the first round of funding offers is due **by 21 November 2016**.

Projects are expected to be carried out in timeframes across 18 months.

Additional funding rounds are expected to be advertised in 2017. Early expressions of interest are strongly encouraged.

## New Funds Target Gully Erosion Marina Wall

Reef Trust gully erosion remediation projects are underway in the high-risk areas of Capricornia Catchments. These projects aim to deliver a reduction in sediment delivered to the Great Barrier Reef through various processes focusing on fencing around gullies to exclude stock, construction of sediment filtering structures and revegetation of gullies and gully catchments with pasture to improve groundcover. Projects follow the CSIRO guidelines "The Gully Toolbox" (Scott

Wilkinson et.al., CSIRO Land and Water). This easy to read pdf document is available at the following link:

<https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/d597f340-04b3-4dfa-86eb-5672003d4a5b/files/grant-gully-toolbox.pdf>

The first contract has been generated and work has commenced in the Isaac sub catchment where the landholders have been provided with a site specific gully remediation plan. Practical extension and support will also be provided to these land managers to increase their knowledge and skills to implement on-ground works in these areas of active gully erosion and to improve their management in areas at high risk of gully formation. Significant in-kind time and expenses have been committed to by the landholder for these high quality projects. Approved project activities within the gully exclusion area have been funded at 100% as gullies are expensive to remediate and will not be productive grazing land in the short term.

To register your interest or find out more please contact the Field Officer for your catchment:

**Isaac, Connors & Mackenzie Rivers  
Marina Wall, Project Officer  
P: 4985 7511 M: 0428 985 440  
E: mwall@capcatchments.org.au**

**Fitzroy River  
John Rodgers, Project Officer  
P: 4921 0573 M: 0428 123 060  
E: jrodgers@capcatchments.org.au**



## FISH FRIENDLY FITZROY

### Shelly McArdle

The Fish Friendly Project has been operating across the lower Fitzroy flood plain since July 2013 and now continues to support landholders that have completed the initial weed treatment to build on the great work that has been achieved so far by providing incentives for follow up weeds treatment activities.

The project aims to engage and work with landholders in the lower Fitzroy floodplain to manage Weeds of National Significance including Prickly Acacia, Parkinsonia, Rubbervine and others in order to

work towards the restoration of the natural landscape of the area.

The treatment of these weeds can be particularly challenging due to the periodical inundation of target areas during floods and access difficulties during optimum treatment times, but with some of the completed work now yielding results we are sure that the benefits are sufficient reward for effort.

Landholders who have completed their initial project are invited to take advantage of the incentives now available through Capricornia Catchments and the Fitzroy Basin

Association for follow up weed management so that they can continue to see the positive results of treating remaining weeds before they have a chance to reproduce.

After completing the initial work it has been encouraging to see some landholders expanding their treatment areas and continuing with follow up treatment. These activities have a positive outcome not only for the local ecology but for the downstream estuaries and marine environments.

## GENYADABA—YOUNG LEADERS FOR LIVINGSTONE

### Shelly McArdle

Members of GenYadaba continue to contribute to social and environmental initiatives in our local area leading by example and taking part in a number of events around Livingstone.

Morgan Ells and Mikala Maloney ran the GenYadaba stall at Capricorn Coast **Landcare's Creek Awareness Day** conducting activities with the kids to decorate and use recycled milk bottles as pots for native plants to take home.

Work is also continuing at the **Mulambin** site with a working bee planned for October the 8<sup>th</sup> on top of the work that is being completed by Mikala's PCYC team who meet fortnightly to weed, revegetate and learn more about the ecology of the area.

Capricornia Catchments has recently been able to secure support from the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. through funding from the Australian Governments National Landcare Programme that will enable contractors to be engaged at

the Mulambin site to manage some of the more challenging weeds.

The group turned up in numbers to support the **Surfrider Foundation's Five Rocks Clean Up Event**, helping to collect debris, data and raising awareness about the Ramsar values of the Corio and Shoalwater Bay area.

An initiative that sees the group team up with the Livingstone Shire Council to host a free **Monthly Doco Night** at the Queen Street Hall showing documentaries that are themed around cultural, social and environmental issues is also proving very popular.

GenYadaba aims as a group to inspire young people to take action to create positive change in our local area and they have recently been invited to speak at an event hosted

by Intrepid Landcare called **'Putting the Soul into Sustainability'** about youth leadership in natural resource management.

They are not only inspiring young people... they are inspiring us all. Mikala and Morgan have been nominated for the Premier's Sustainability Awards as further recognition of their leadership in the community.



*Mikala Maloney and Morgan Ells  
GenYadaba*





## Five Rocks Clean Up Helps to Conserve Ramsar Sites

### Shelly McArdle

In an event that was hosted in partnership by the Capricorn and Sunshine Coast branches of the Surfrider Foundation over 50



participants removed more than a tonne of marine debris from Nine Mile and Little Five Rocks beaches.

The Corio and Shoalwater Bay areas are recognised internationally under the Ramsar convention (Wetlands of international significance) which makes it an important area of focus for many local conservation groups.

The weekend of September 3-4 that was supported by the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme started with a convoy of 4WD vehicles making the trek to Stockyard Point and on to the camping ground to set up, after which everyone signed up and headed down the beach to start collecting.

Surfrider Sunshine Coasts' President Craig McIntyre and Cleanwater Constructions Owner Arron Horsey were at first stunned by the remote beauty of Five Rocks beach as they stood on the headland but as they descended onto the beach they were soon shocked and saddened by the volume of plastic in all shapes and

forms deposited along the length of the beach and beyond.

It was then back to base for the educational component of the event where participant heard about the Ramsar values of the area from the Fitzroy Basin Association's (FBA) Tom Coughlin and from Cleanwater constructions about the innovation within industry that aimed at commercialising the plastic marine debris problem as a way of addressing the waste. Jeff Krause from Capricornia Catchments (CC) gave participants the bigger picture when it comes to catchment management and water quality to the GBR as did Holly Lambert from the GBRMPA and Shelly McArdle also from CC reminded us all about the importance of community action in conservation.

Prizes from local sponsors FBA, Guzman Y Gomes, Jumpstart Fitness, BCF and Keppel Bay Sailing club topped off a great day.

Surfrider Foundation Capricorn Coast President John McGrath said the weekend was a great success with the removal of so much debris, with participants knowing that there is less debris for fish, birds and other coastal and marine animals to ingest and entangle themselves in and that the beaches were left looking noticeably cleaner.

The data on the debris collected will be loaded onto the Tangaroa Blue AMDI database so that we can better determine where the debris is coming from in order to stop it at the source.





## EVENTS

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

### NOVEMBER

**16-17** Accelerated Grazing BMP,  
Blackwater International Coal  
Centre

### DECEMBER

**2** Capricornia Catchments AGM  
**10** Healthy Land, Healthy Horses,  
Rockhampton  
**10-11** Accelerated Grazing BMP,  
DAF Conference Centre,  
Rockhampton

Please contact the Capricornia Catchments  
office or visit our website to register online:

<http://www.capcatchments.org.au/events/>

## AGM GUEST SPEAKERS



### Joy McClymont

from Off the Track Training will be speaking at our AGM on 2 December 2016. Joy lives on a property 100km west of Longreach. Joy believes that creating a lifelong relationship with

exercise, no matter who you are or where you live is achievable. She believes that if people can take a sustainable approach to how they manage their body, food and the land, then they will be more likely to achieve and sustain great things for themselves, their family and business.

Joy has had to think outside the garden gate when it comes to keeping motivated to be fit and healthy. Living in a remote area has meant going without gyms, running groups, aerobics classes or fancy exercise equipment. Joy has worked with land owners needing to take control of their health and coached ordinary people to achieve what seemed like extraordinary fitness goals whether it's getting in shape or competing in a triathlon.

Joy has many hats including Teacher, Principal and Personal Trainer as well as achieving a number of personal goals, most significantly completing the Hawaiian Ironman Triathlon in 2002. Joy and her husband Paul have 4 children, 7 years and under.



### Dennis Bryant

Dennis is the Regional Manager for Master Builders in Central Queensland, providing Contractual, Technical and Legal advice to his members and is also an accredited trainer in the Removal of non-Friable Asbestos (Wall sheeting, roofing etc).

He was born and raised in Clermont and later returned as the Town Supervisor for Blair Athol Coal from 1983 to 1993. He moved to the Capricorn Coast in 2002, having completed a degree in Information Systems and is currently undertaking a Masters by Research at CQ University.

He has lived and worked with Asbestos all his life and is now a passionate advocate for the safe handling of Asbestos in all construction and maintenance work. He is particularly concerned with people putting themselves and their loved ones at risk in DIY activities by ignoring the hazard of Asbestos and the potential for long term harm causing death.



All members and guests are welcome to attend our AGM on Friday, 2 December 2016.

## Capricornia Catchments

14 Wandal Road, Rockhampton Q  
4700 T: 4921 0573 F: 4921 0528  
E: [info@capcatchments.org.au](mailto:info@capcatchments.org.au)



Australian Government



Queensland Government

