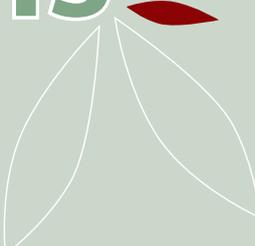


for
**future
generations**



Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc.
Annual Report 2009/10



Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc.

Fitzroy River & Coastal Catchments Inc (FRCC) was established on 7th 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. Through the implementation of the plan, the organisation has continued to grow and expand its membership base and now coordinates the delivery of a range of on-ground projects and capacity building activities across the catchments of the Fitzroy River and the coastal catchments of the Capricorn Coast and Broadsound.

Today FRCC employs a team of six full-time staff. The picture adjacent is of FRCC's current staff members, including our Vacation Student. The position of Executive Officer is currently vacant following Dr Cameron Wearing's departure in September this year.

President's Report (Michelle Hanrahan)

Looking after our land and water for future generations

Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc. (FRCC) is a community based natural resource management group, responsible through the Fitzroy Basin Association for the implementation and adoption of sustainable land use practices for the lower Fitzroy River and the Coastal Catchments of the Broadsound and Capricornia. As we look back on the 2009/10 financial year one thing that strikes is the considerable investment that FRCC has made into building the capacity of the region to look after our land and water for future generations. A central component of this capacity building was the activities undertaken as part of our "6 best things – help protect the river campaign" a summary of which we provide here. At the same time as FRCC was running this campaign we continued to run highly sought after workshops, and events designed to provide information, education, and inspiration for our members and the general public. In all over 1000 people have taken part in these workshops and events over the past financial year which is a fantastic achievement.

Another significant event in the past year is that Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC) and FRCC have agreed to work together to deliver viable and sustainable land use in the region, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), established between the two parties. The purpose of the MoU is to formalize our

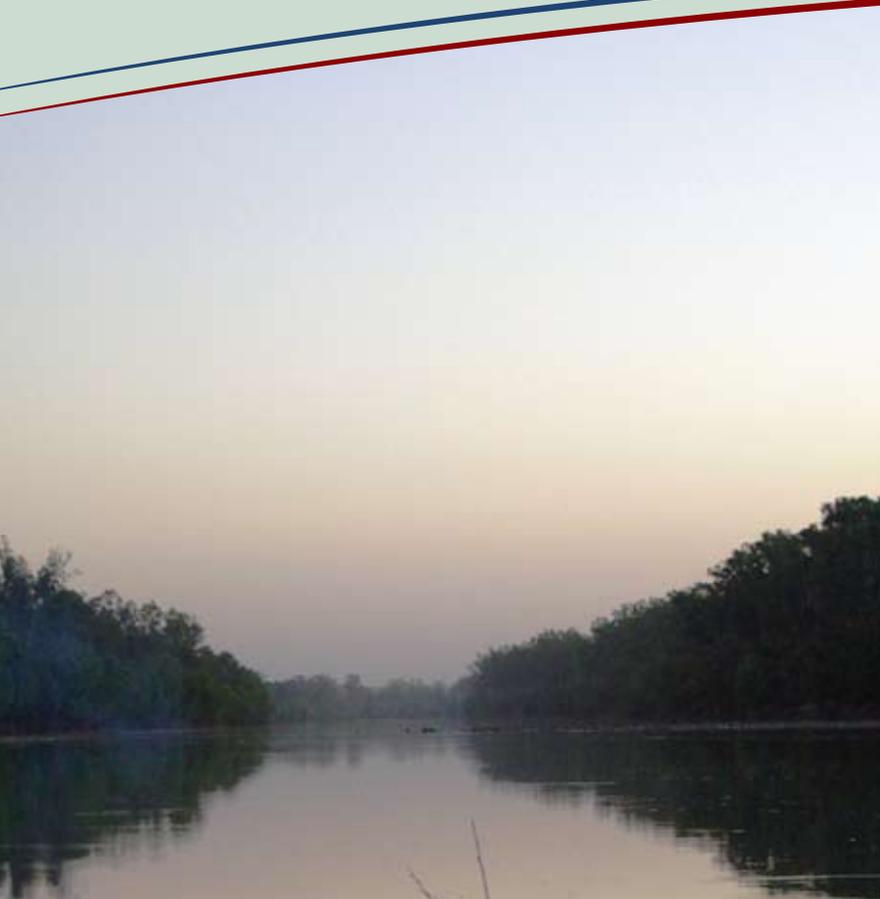
collaborative relationship, to enable and encourage our executives and officers to explore new business models and projects that will add value and enhance the outcomes for RRC and FRCC. The MoU between RRC and FRCC was endorsed by Council at its April 13th meeting.

FRCC has worked closely with RRC and its predecessors. Since 2002, when FRCC first came into being we have built fences and platforms, sprayed weeds, run workshops, and developed plans for the future. Not only have we worked well together but we have many common goals. For example we both aspire to have sustainable economic growth and to make this region the most liveable in the world.

FRCC has a shared footprint with RRC and shared interests. We work with the community to develop the region. We work to build vitality and viability which is underpinned by sustainable land use. We want to enhance livability and lifestyle and build capacity and capability.

The future holds many challenges and one of the most obvious is that there will not be enough resources to do the things that we need to do. We need to do things differently and we need to build smarter business models.





Executive Officer's Report (Cameron Wearing) Celebrating our Achievements

In August last year FRCC launched its "6 best things – help protect our river" campaign a response to our member's desire "we want a river, not a drain".

The six best things are:

- Get involved
- Recognize best practice
- Watch your drain
- Keep it clean
- Care for your catchment
- Keep your ground covered

It is timely to reflect on what has been achieved.

The first "best thing" FRCC identified was to get involved, to make the time to participate in local events and get to know the local landcare and environmental groups. To kick things off in September 2009 staff and committee attended the Q150 Wycarbah Catfish derby at Hanrahan Crossing on the Fitzroy River. This day of family fun, organised by Wycarbah Landcare and supported by FRCC (amongst a long list of others) involved free food, kite flying, rock painting, a mini auction, and the chance to catch a fish or two. It was a great opportunity to meet like minded people in a relaxed setting.

Then in October 2009 FRCC held a members forum which was an opportunity for members to come together and discuss how the region might develop over the next 10 years and determine how we might ensure that development is sustainable... socially, environmentally, and economically. As a discussion starter we were fortunate to have Mark Stoneman chairman of the NQ Dry Tropics speak on the recently

introduced Reef regulations, the likelihood of these regulations being transferred to the Fitzroy Basin, and what he saw as future challenges for agriculture. A summary of the member forum outcomes was provided in our January newsletter and if you would like to obtain a copy of Mark's presentation it can be found on our website: <http://www.frcc.org.au/publications/>

The second "best thing" identified was to recognise best practice. This is about seeking out the latest knowledge, learning from others as well as offering praise and encouragement to landholders at the forefront of best practice. To do this at our Annual General Meeting in December 2009 we recognised those projects from the previous financial year which stood out for their contribution to looking after our land and water for future generations. The winners were:

Ralph and Lorainne Bartlem and
James and Joanne Cullen
Grazing – Coastal Catchments

Richard and Victoria Moffatt
Grazing – Fitzroy

James and Kylie Skuthorp
Horticulture

The third "best thing" identified was watch your drain, that is don't turn our river into your drain. Be careful about water usage, watch what goes down the sink and think about how it will affect the river and reef. To coincide with our third best thing in January 2010 we gave away fridge magnets as a small reminder when you are in the home.

Next came "Keep it Clean", the fourth "best thing" and we saw many examples of individuals across the catchment taking part in "Clean Up Australia Day" activities in March 2010. Notably this year Yeppoon Beach was named Queensland's cleanest beach and we congratulate Rockhampton Regional Council and the work of local community groups in this success. For its part FRCC has worked closely with Fitzroy Basin Association, Rockhampton Regional Council and the coastal community groups to develop a large scale project proposal to support their award winning efforts which was submitted to the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program on 15th April.

The fifth "best thing" was to care for your catchment. FRCC's Management Committee members are local landholders dedicated to caring for their catchment and they met at the first FRCC meeting for 2010 on the 5th March. The committee members are elected by their peers to give the local community a voice in catchment management. The first meeting included presentations on governance, funding opportunities, and the current situation with regards to mine discharges to the river systems. They also considered funding applications for local on-ground projects with a combined value approaching \$125,000. FRCC's committee represents a wide range of interests including industry, landcare, finance, grazing, conservation, horticulture, indigenous, and local government. Some of our committee members have been with FRCC since its inception in 2002 and others have joined more recently – but what they all have in common is genuine concern for our region.

And finally the sixth "best thing" is to keep your ground covered. To deliver on this on 16th March we held a Stocktake workshop in association with staff of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) and Fitzroy Basin Association Inc (FBA). Landholders from different enterprises attended the event to learn more about determining the right carrying capacity for their properties. Most of whom have recently begun a ground cover stewardship with FRCC, where they have agreed to improve ground cover on a parcel of land over time. Adequate ground cover, especially at the end of the dry season, is essential for maintaining land condition which helps avoid erosion and run-off into waterways. The workshop was offered specifically to support landholders to achieve the goal of good ground cover, by providing expert advice on pastures, the ABCD land condition scale, and how to work out stocking rates.

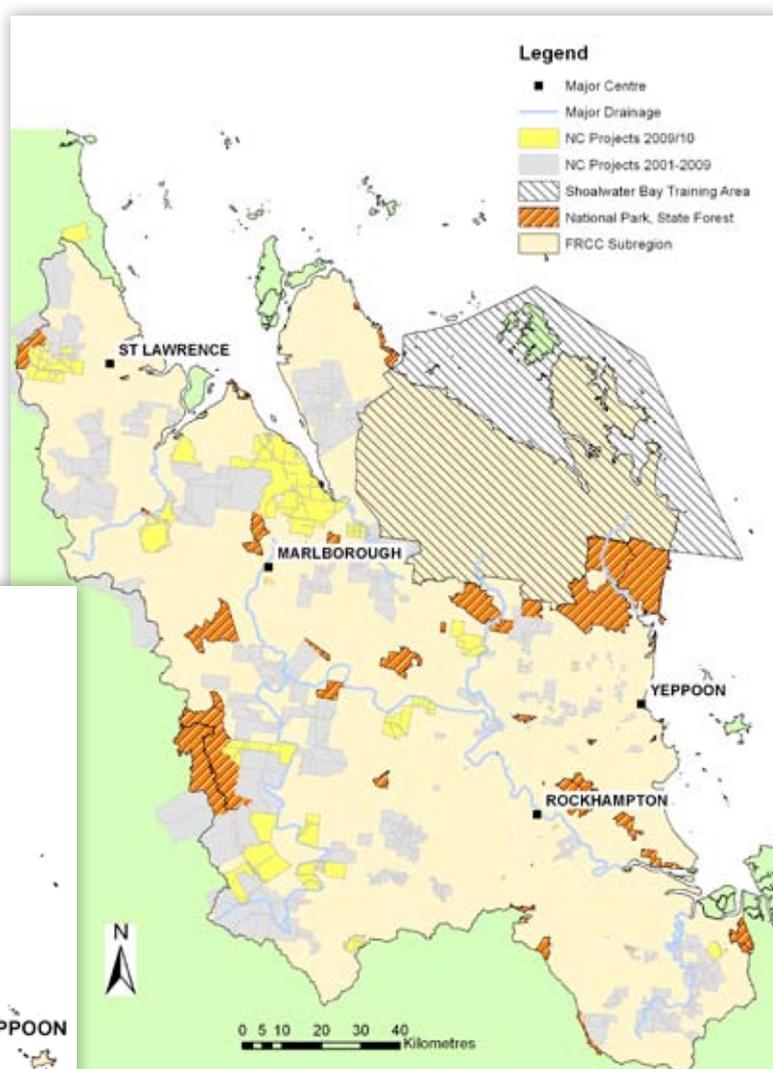
Thank you to everyone who participated in and made our "6 best things – help protect our river" campaign a great success and those who participated in FRCC activities more widely.

FRCC on-ground

Each year FRCC chooses new priority Neighbourhood Catchments in which to focus our efforts but at the same time we continue to provide support to past priority areas. In 2009/10 FRCC focused its efforts on the Lower Fitzroy, Louise Creek and Marlborough/Princhester Creek Neighbourhood catchments.



The map above shows the 2009/2010 properties which have undertaken Neighbourhood Catchment Projects.



The map above shows the properties which have undertaken projects with FRCC since 2001.

FRCC Management Committee activities

	Management Committee meetings (attended / held)	Management Committee workshops (attended / held)	NC project assessment panel (attended / held)	Interests of Management Committee members
Michelle Hanrahan	6/6	1/1	5/5	Landcare & Industry
Peter Baggett	6/6	1/1	5/5	Grazing & Weeds
Leise Childs	4/6	1/1	3/5	Conservation
Paul Birch	5/6	1/1	3/5	Finance
Donald Black	3/6	0/1	2/5	Grazing & Local Government
Ian Dare	5/6	1/1	4/5	Local Government
Ian Groves	5/6	1/1	4/5	Horticulture
Malcolm Mann	2/6	0/1	2/5	Cultural Heritage
Robert McArthur	5/6	0/1	5/5	Grazing & Landcare
Jeff Mills ¹	6/6	1/1	5/5	Grazing & Landcare
John Wall	3/6	0/1	2/5	Grazing & Landcare
Cr. Sandra O'Brien ²	1/6			Local Government

(¹) Commenced 5 March 2010

(²) Retired 27 November 2009



Images from 2009/10

FRCC publishes a quarterly newsletter detailing its activities. Following are some of the images that have featured in our newsletter and other publications and events over the past year. To obtain a copy of past newsletters please visit www.frcc.org.au



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CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY



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