



# Annual Report 2013/14



Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc.

## Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc

Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc (FRCC) 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.

The organisation has continued to grow and expand its membership base to over 600 individual and 43 group members and now coordinates the delivery of a range of on-ground projects and capacity building activities across the Fitzroy River and the coastal catchments of Broadsound and the Capricorn Coast. Since July 2013, further changes occurred following negotiations with the Fitzroy Basin Association with FRCC now providing services across the Three Rivers and Boyne Calliope catchments.

During 2013/14 FRCC employed 10 people in fulltime, temporary and casual capacities based on seven full-time positions. The pictures below are of some of FRCC's staff members during the year.



## President's Report (Michelle Hanrahan)



2013/14 has been a time of considerable change for FRCC as planning continued to develop service delivery opportunities associated with new funding programs through Governments and the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA). The Service Delivery Review conducted by FBA and the sub-regional groups introduced changes from 1 July 2013 with FRCC delivering management services for staff in the Boyne Calliope and Three Rivers sub-regions. These new arrangements also included a strengthened partnership between FRCC and FBA.

I extend my appreciation to the Chairs and Committees of Boyne Calliope and Three Rivers for their contributions throughout the year for their support of staff and advice regarding the new arrangements.

This realignment allows FBA to focus on regional policy and program management with the sub-regions having responsibility for all on-ground service delivery to landholders, local groups and communities. During the financial year staff engaged with landholders for the planning and delivery of more than 90 projects with a total budget in excess of \$2.1 million across the three areas.

Changes include, our Executive Officer and Executive Assistant now provide services to the three committees and manage staff and corporate services across the three areas. Field staff levels have reduced since 2012/13 in line with reduced program funding levels while the areas serviced has increased from around 22,000 to 60,000sqkm.

FRCC 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 weed management. We also delivered the very successful Small Landholder event again in 2013 supported by external grant funds and a long list of partner organisations, with over 300 people attending.

The flash flood event produced by ex-tropical cyclone Oswald and the extended wet weather during the summer presented some challenges for landholders as well as our project planning and delivery last year. The flood disaster was followed up with funding being made available by government through the FBA network to assist landholders to bring properties back into production and restore damaged infrastructure. Again, our staff assisted landholders to access available funds.

FRCC continued to develop links and partnerships with community groups, increased its membership and contributed to the development and strengthening of networks across our area to assist in delivering services to landholders and the wider community. One example is our staff contribution to the roll out of the Grazing Best Management Practice Program in conjunction with partner organisations with landholder engagement levels exceeding expectations across each of our three areas.

A particular feature during the 2013/14 financial year was again the considerable investment that FRCC has made into building capacity within the region to look after our land and water for future generations.

Water quality remains an issue for many in our community, with FRCC Management Committee strongly supporting the provision of more concise information that is updated regularly for the general public on the quality of our water and the overall health of the river. The Management Committee is encouraged by the publishing of the second report card on the health of the Fitzroy by the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health and look forward to ongoing report information as well as the first report about the health of the Gladstone Harbour being produced by the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership.

Also our volunteer support grew again during the year with hundreds of hours contributed by Daniel Krause to support events, marketing and project activities. Other tertiary students completed up to 50 hours of work placements with us. Our gratitude is also extended to ongoing volunteers for their contributions.

The FRCC Management Committee continues to consider local needs and advocate strongly for resources and initiatives aimed at improving services and outcomes for our members and our clients.







## Executive Officer's Report

(Jeff Krause)

### Expansion and Program Delivery – Developing the Partnership

The partnerships continued to strengthen with FBA and the wider network during 2013/14.

I am extremely proud to be part of a team that includes our dedicated and enthusiastic staff who work with great passion to deliver our programs.

This was a year of considerable change for our staff with new program guidelines and processes being developed and implemented. The expertise of our field staff including Anne Alison, Marina Wall, Vicki Dart, John Rodgers, Sam Schottelius, Lee Maycock, Lisa Sutton, Kelly Smith and Shelly McArdle ensured delivery of a comprehensive range of services, though changing program budgets required staff reductions. Lee, Lisa, Kelly and Sam moved to other employment during the year and again we thank them for their valued service with us. Robert Doyle from Growcom continued to deliver quality services to the horticulture sector in our area.

The team also included an increased number of casuals and volunteers who assisted with technical and administrative services again guided very capably by Janeen Whiting. CQU science student, Stephen Donaldson provided his skills which further highlighted the value of tertiary science study to the local community.

The enthusiasm and networking abilities of Shelly McArdle further developed our partnership opportunities with community, media and promotion of FRCC activities. Media and promotion opportunities have again been significant this year with 55 individual television or print media items reporting FRCC events and associated activities.

In addition our staff, particularly Shelly and Vicki are involved in the delivery of the Urban and Coastal Program thorough FBA in the Capricorn Coast, Rockhampton and Gladstone areas collaborating with government agencies and groups to support ecosystem restoration and community engagement activities.

Once again the annual strategic planning activity reviewed our achievements and identified priorities for the future with the organisation's strategic direction and vision. The links with lecturers and students at Bond University assisted greatly in developing web site and marketing materials in support of the change processes. Similarly, the legal advice through Minter Ellison has provided valued guidance through our changing governance requirements.

The State Government Pest and Weed funding through FBA allowed FRCC to continue to

provide incentive funding to landholders for the management of parkinsonia and prickly acacia in the Three Rivers area and community groups and landholders engaged in field days and events that included a focus on bio-control methods as part on an integrated approach to weed management plans. Links with researchers from the University of Queensland, Bio-security Queensland and local landholders continued to deliver levels of enthusiasm and interest in bio-control measures.

In addition FRCC staff and Management Committee members have supported over 46 workshop and community events including: Grazing and Grains BMP, erosion control, flood recovery, weed and horse management workshops, our Small Landholder Day and the major school engagement activity Moo Baa Munch in conjunction with Agforce and Rockhampton State High School with over 750 students attending over the three days. Local agricultural producers and organisations are to be congratulated for their support for bringing this successful event to regional Queensland for the first time. FRCC worked closely with FBA staff, local and state government agencies, businesses and community groups to coordinate support for many of these events.

2013/14 has been a year of significant change for our organisation, but looking to the future, the wider service area provides us with the opportunity to strengthen our position and develop greater networks across our local communities. 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 create opportunities to build our services.

## FRCC on-ground projects

Across our three areas, Boyne Calliope, Three Rivers and FRCC 43 projects were recommended to FBA and received approval across grazing, grains and horticulture in the 2013/14 financial year having a total value of \$856,000 comprised of 62% landholder contribution and 38% FBA incentive funding to support management practice change over more than 13,500 hectares.

2013/14 was the first year of the Reef Programme funded by the Australian Government and a small number of projects developed under the previous program that met the new guidelines received approval along with new projects developed using the new guidelines. All projects have outcomes aimed at reducing erosion and sediment or pesticide runoff into streams and waterways and ultimately to the reef.

The floods following exTropical Cyclone Oswald caused significant damage across the Fitzroy, coastal streams and Boyne catchments of our area which resulted in funds being made available to FBA through Government to focus on restoring farm productivity and to increase resilience against

future flooding. FRCC staff worked with over 44 landholders and many stakeholders including councils to deliver advice and financial support through this program. This program is on track for completion by June 2015.

State Government funds to support pest and weed treatment was also made available with \$54,000 for parkinsonia and prickly acacia control in the Three Rivers area following the delivery of the significant program in the Fitzroy and lower Mackenzie in the previous year. Funding was also made available to support improved management options for Cats Claw Creeper in the Boyne catchment.

During this year FRCC also played a significant role in the planning and delivery of the Urban and Coastal Program funded by the Australian Government through FBA, through engagement with local groups, government agencies and local councils to deliver community events and a range of habitat and landscape restoration activities along the Capricorn Coast and Gladstone area as well as creek corridors in these areas and in Rockhampton.

## FRCC Management Area



## Member organisations of FRCC

Agforce Rockhampton Branch		Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		CQ Forest Association		Raglan Creek Catchment Working Group	
Australian Braford Society Inc.		Greening Australia Qld (Inc).		Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry		Rockhampton Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association	
Australian Brahman Breeders Association Ltd.		Healthy Soils Inc.		Department of Natural Resources and Mines		Rockhampton Regional Council	
Capricorn Branch, Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld		Isaac Regional Council		Droughtmaster Stud Breeders Society		Rockhampton Australian South Sea Islander Community Inc.	
Capricorn Caves		Jemena		Emu Park Community Bushcare Group		SeaSpray Project Management Pty Ltd	
Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc.		Livingstone Shire Council		Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.		Stanwell Corporation Ltd	
Capricorn Conservation Council		Livingstone Remnant Veg. Study Group		Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee		The Caves Landcare Group	
Capricorn Pest Management Group		Marlborough Landcare Association Inc.		Fitzroy River Fish Stocking Association		The Leucaena Network	
Capricorn Enterprise Ltd.		Morinish Landcare Group Inc		Fitzroy River Water		Wycarbah & District Landcare Group Inc	
Capricornia Beekeepers Club Inc.		Qld Fire and Rescue Service		Gladstone Pacific Nickel Ltd		Yeppoon Fruitgrowers & Local Producers Association	
Charbray Society of Australia		Qld Parks & Wildlife Service		Gladstone Regional Council		Yeppoon Organic & Biodynamic Growers Group	
Conservations Volunteers		Qld Rural Adjustment Authority					

## FRCC Management Committee Activities

	Management Committee meetings (attended / held)	Management Committee workshops (attended / held)	Project assessment panel (attended / held)	Interests of Management Committee members
Michelle Hanrahan (President)	6/6	1/1	3/3	Landcare & Industry
Don Black (Vice-President) from 6.12.13	4/6	0/1	2/3	Grazing & Cropping
Rob McArthur <sup>1</sup> (Vice-President)	1/2	N/A	N/A	Grazing & Landcare
Peter Baggett (Secretary)	6/6	1/1	3/3	Grazing & Weeds
Leise Childs (Treasurer)	4/6	1/1	2/3	Conservation
Sarah Becker	3/6	0/1	2/3	Finance
Ian Dare	3/6	1/1	1/3	Local Government
Ian Groves	6/6	0/1	3/3	Horticulture
John Wall	6/6	1/1	3/3	Grazing & Landcare
Wade Mann	6/6	0/1	3/3	Cultural Heritage
Dan Carney	2/6	1/1	1/1	Natural Systems Farming

<sup>1</sup> Rob McArthur ceased 6.12.13



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The images to the left are some of those featured in our newsletters and other publications during the year.

Additional images can be found on our web and our facebook sites.

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