



# Annual Report 2014/15



Capricornia  
Catchments Inc

## ► President's Report (Michelle Hanrahan)

2014/15 has again been a time of considerable change for our organisation as planning continued to develop with new funding programs through Governments and the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA). These ongoing partnership arrangements with FBA continued to develop with a further increase in the numbers of programs funded through FBA and delivered by Capricornia Catchments.

I extend my appreciation to all who were involved with our committees across the three areas for their commitment and dedication to the providing quality input and advice on project and governance matters.

Our second year of operation with the extended service area has posed challenges given the area has increased three fold, however 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.

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. We also delivered the very successful small landholder event again in 2014 in conjunction with the Regional Landcare Facilitator. This was the third consecutive year for the event and this time was held on the Capricorn Coast with around 180 people attending the range of industry seminars, workshops and information displays

A significant aspect of our operations this year was our support for Beef Australia 2015, with staff, committee and volunteers contributing to numerous events and in the lead up to and during Beef week. We supported the FBA network with displays at Beef and assisted with

property tours to Melrose and Old Station as well as hosting a breakfast for staff and members at our office in Rockhampton.

The increased incidence of extreme weather events such as the flash flood events produced by ex-tropical cyclone Oswald in 2013 followed by the impacts of Cyclone Marcia in February this year continued to present challenges for landholders as well as our project planning and delivery. While the earlier 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, there was no significant support provided through governments for the natural resource management sector to assist landholders following the devastation caused by Cyclone Marcia even though substantial reports were produced by staff and the wider network on the extent of the impact on the environment and agricultural production.

Capricornia Catchments continued to develop links and partnerships with community groups, increasing its membership and contributing to the development and strengthening of networks across our area to assist in delivering services to landholders and the wider community. Again our contribution to the roll out of the Grazing Best Management Practice Program in conjunction with partner organisations with landholder engagement levels exceeding expectations across our areas.

Water quality remains an issue for our community, with the Capricornia Catchments 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 additional reports on river health and water quality in some of our larger communities by the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health. We also appreciate the work shared to date about the first report being produced by the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership.

Our volunteer base continued again during the year with over 800 hours contributed to support events, marketing and project activities. Specific thanks to Morgan Somerville, Mikala Maloney, Morgan Ells, Jim Price 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 outcomes.



## Executive Officer's Report (Jeff Krause)

This year has seen partnerships continue to develop with FBA and the wider network during 2014/15.

Following the previous year of organizational change, we turned our focus to program planning and delivery. With an increase in the range of programs, staff applied their expertise to plan and deliver projects across nine program areas. We continued our partnership with Growcom with Robert Doyle contributing his expertise to develop water quality improvement projects.

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

The diverse backgrounds and expertise of our field staff including Anne Alison, Marina Wall, Vicki Dart, Lisa Cullen, Lisa Del Riccio, John Rodgers and Shelly McArdle ensured delivery of a broad range of quality natural resource management services. During the year, Vicki Dart and Lisa Cullen moved on and we thank them for their valued work with us.

Again our finance and support services were capably managed by Janeen Whiting with assistance from Jodi Anderson as well as valued volunteers 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 developing for an initiative to partner with these groups to work on a joint project.

This year also saw the establishment of the GenYadaba group for younger people on the Capricorn Coast with an interest in environmental action. Congratulations to the group of key people for their insights and energy to establish the group and follow through with projects at Mulambin, North Keppel and Kemp Beach as well as support for other groups events. Also congratulations on a successful presentation to the State Landcare Conference.

In addition, Shelly and Vicki continued to facilitate the delivery of the Urban and Coastal Program with FBA in the Capricorn Coast, Rockhampton and Gladstone areas collaborating with government agencies and groups to support ecosystem restoration and community engagement activities. We also coordinated landholder sites to benefit from Work for the Dole programs conducted by NEATO for support following Cyclone Marcia.

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 community groups and landholders engaged in field days and events that included a focus on bio-control methods as part of 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.

Our staff and Committee members have supported over 50 workshops and community events including: Grazing and Grains BMP, erosion control, flood recovery, resilience and weed management workshops, our Small Landholder Day facilitated by Kate Wilson from FBA, beach clean ups and awareness events, displays at local shows and Beef Australia 2015. Our staff worked closely with FBA staff, local and state government agencies, businesses and community groups to coordinate support for many of these events. We also delivered a range of property tours and information sessions to University groups and International delegations visiting the area.

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.



## ▶ Capricornia Catchments Inc. (formerly Fitzroy River and Coastal 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 47 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 this year to better represent and be more inclusive of the wider service area.

During 2014/15 Capricornia Catchments has 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.



## Management Committee Activities

Committee Member	Management Committee meetings (attended / held)	Project assessment panel (attended / held)	Interests of Management Committee members
Michelle Hanrahan (President)	7/7	4/4	Landcare & Industry
Don Black (Vice-President)	6/7	3/4	Grazing & Cropping
Peter Baggett (Secretary)	7/7	4/4	Grazing & Weeds
Leise Childs (Treasurer)	6/7	4/4	Conservation
Sarah Becker	2/7	2/4	Finance
Ian Dare <sup>1</sup>	2/7	2/4	Local Government
Ian Groves	5/7	3/4	Horticulture
John Wall	7/7	4/4	Grazing & Landcare
Wade Mann	7/7	4/4	Cultural Heritage
Brett Nicholls <sup>2</sup> (Commenced 17.10.14)	5/7	3/4	Industry
Melanie Findlay (Commenced 5.12.14)	4/7	2/4	Rural, Legal
Catherine Hayes (Commenced 5.12.14)	3/7	2/4	Local Government

<sup>1</sup> Ian Dare ceased 5.12.14      <sup>2</sup> Brett Nicholls ceased 2.6.15

## Member organisations of Capricornia Catchments

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

## ▶ On-ground projects

More than 94 projects were developed during 2014/15 in support of an increased number of programs funded through FBA.

Across our three areas, Boyne Calliope, Three Rivers and Fitzroy, 46 projects were recommended to FBA and received approval across grazing, grains and horticulture in the 2014/15 financial year to a total value of \$1,273,000 comprised of 63% landholder contribution and 37% FBA incentive funding to support management practice change over more than 15,000 hectares.

2014/15 was the second year of the Reef Programme funded by the Australian Government with an increase in project numbers and a 48% increase in the overall value of projects over the previous year. All projects have outcomes aimed at reducing erosion and sediment or pesticide runoff into streams and waterways and ultimately to the reef.

The completion of the program to assist the producers following exTropical Cyclone Oswald in early 2013 which caused significant damage across the Fitzroy, coastal streams and Boyne catchments of our area and resulted in funds being made available to FBA through Government to focus on restoring farm productivity and to increase resilience against future flooding.

Our staff worked with over 50 landholders and many stakeholders including councils to deliver advice and financial support. This program was completed successfully by June 2015. Unfortunately no government funded programs through the natural resource management sector eventuated following the devastation experienced by Cyclone Marcia in February 2015.

State Government funds to support pest and weed treatment continued with incentives offered to landholders for parkinsonia and prickly acacia control in the Three Rivers area with the focus along the Mackenzie River. Funding was also made available to support improved management options for Cats Claw Creeper in the Boyne catchment. These projects also supported awareness raising events and release of biocontrol agents made available through the University of Qld and State and Australian government agencies for weed control.

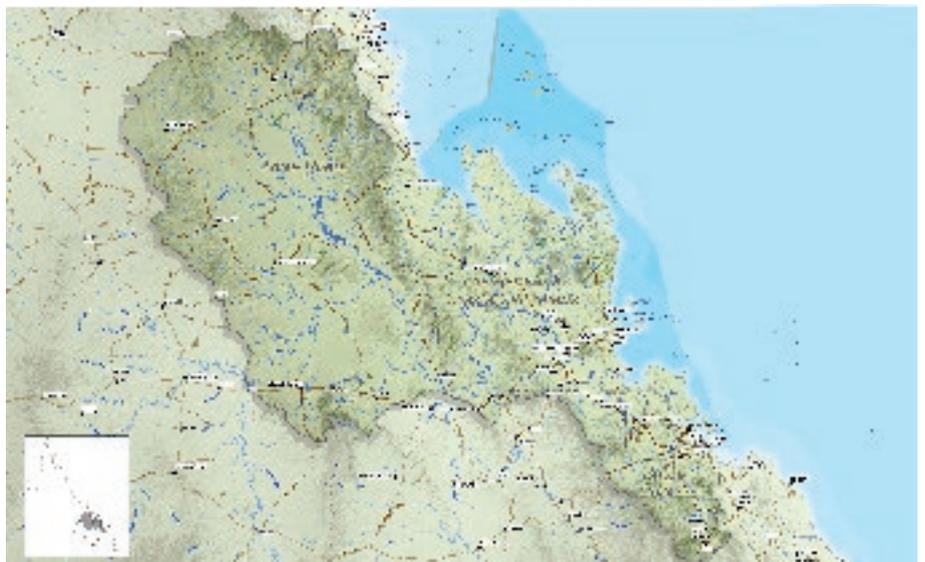
During this year Capricornia Catchments again played a significant role in the planning and delivery of the Urban and Coastal Program funded by the Australian Government through FBA, through engagement with local groups, government agencies and local councils to deliver community events and a range of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

A program aimed at improving connectivity for fish species in the Fitzroy saw eight projects developed to assist with weed control and strategies to better manage lagoon areas on the Fitzroy Floodplain to improve habitat.

Species protection programs continued in the Boyne and Three Rivers areas once again engaging landholders to develop and deliver projects such as feral animal control near Kroombit Tops National Park and habitat protection in areas around Taunton National Park.

Projects funded by the State Government to support sustainable agriculture through trials in pasture restoration were developed in the Three Rivers area with six trial sites identified.

## ▶ Capricornia Catchments Management Area



## Images from 2014/15

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.

