

the burnett buzz...

Autumn 2015

Composting pig manure

BCCA was successful in obtaining an Australian Government 25th Anniversary Landcare Grant, to run our "Monto Manure Composting and Soil Carbon Improvement" project. This project will run for 12 months and be completed by June 2016.



The view inside the one of the Ecosheds

This project focuses on using the anaerobic composting process (without oxygen).

We will use a barley straw and pig manure mix from one of Monto's local piggery Ecosheds and inoculate the pile with microbes from a compost builder supplied by our project partner, SoLife Australia.

The barley straw is used for bedding material for the pig weaners and is an ideal mix for composting containing a good ratio of carbon from the straw and nitrogen from the manure and urine.

Composting using this method normally takes around 16 to 18 weeks and is often considered less time consuming than aerobic composting as the microbes do not require oxygen, hence the compost pile is turned less often.

In the past, the Ecoshed waste has been spread on fallow land in its raw state and left to break down. When the waste is

composted however, the organic matter at the end point is in the form of humus which is a good soil conditioner, improving the organic matter content and soil carbon levels which in turn improves soil structure and water penetration, reducing the formation of clay pans. Any nutrients in the compost are in a form that is immediately available to the plants and over a few years the improvement of soil fertility has led to less reliance on chemical fertilisers, better plant health and better yields.

"an ideal mix for compost contains a good ratio of carbon from the straw and nitrogen from the manure and urine"

When the microbes in the pile begin breaking down the organic matter they produce heat. The temperatures in the pile can reach 68°C which is high enough to kill



Ecoshed waste : a good mix of carbon and nitrogen for composting.



most weed seeds and pathogens. The inoculum used begins to eliminate odour from the pile immediately after application which is a big advantage to anyone downwind.

As part of the project, we aim to use the pig compost on cropping land and grazing pastures in the Monto district that have been affected by flooding in 2013 and in 2015 and may need a boost in soil carbon.

One hectare of cropping land (spring sorghum and a summer bean crop) and three hectares of pasture will go under compost and the same area will be left under conventional practices. We will be tracking changes in soil nutrient status, soil carbon and soil biology as well as evaluating yield comparisons.

The compost itself will also be tested to determine final nutrient and microbe status by an independent laboratory. Results from the project will be presented in the form of a workshop before the end of June 2016 and we will keep you posted on our progress with regular editions of the Burnett Buzz.

Anyone interested in the project can contact Jenny on (07) 4166 3898 or email jenny@betterburnett.com.

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Highlights

- Update on carbon policy changes
- Flood Recovery Riparian project case study
- Grazing workshop to be held in Gin Gin
- Seed collection workshop a success in the Central Burnett

Action on the Ground - post Cyclone Marcia

On Friday, 20 February, 191 mm of rain was recorded at the weather station located at the Makadu trial site of our Action on the Ground nitrous oxide emission cropping project. Thanks to Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

The following flood water and inundation played havoc with both trial sites, ruining the trials, but thankfully all chambers and equipment were found in good working order.

This was the third season of the project with mungbeans and adzuki beans planted and not far off the flowering stage. Although most of the mungbeans have recovered at one of the trial sites and some sort of harvest is possible, the topsoil from the fallow strips has washed into the mungbean strips, which means the soil is no longer uniform for N₂O emissions recording.



Adzuki bean trial site—3 days after cyclone still under water



Mungbean trial site—3 days after flooding, mungbean and fallow strip

We have had to abandon the trial on both sites for a couple of months but have come up with a “cunning plan” to continue.

From April/May we are going to trial Faba Beans (*Vicia faba*), also known as Fava, Faber or Broad Bean. This will be a bit of an experiment as they have not been grown in the North Burnett much before and we will have to adapt sowing times to suit local conditions. Nitrous oxide emissions will be taken from both trial sites of faba beans.

Although not commonly grown in the Monto area (or Queensland in general), some growers in the Darling Downs made a foray into the pulse as reported by Queensland Country Life in October 2014. They obtained “quite positive results with consistent yields between 1 and 3 t/Ha” at 2014 prices of \$420 to \$435/t for Grade 1 seed. Egypt is our major importer, buying 60-70% of Australia’s faba beans as an important staple food.

Faba bean (*Vicia faba* Minor) and broad bean (*Vicia faba* Major) are both used for human consumption. The nutritional benefits include good levels of carbohydrate and protein with low levels of fat. They also meet a lot of adult requirements for essential amino acids and all of the daily requirements of essential minerals except calcium.

With the crude protein content of faba and broad bean ranging from 24 to 31%, No. 3 grade seed is also considered good for stock feed. They are highly digestible and have a metabolisable energy for pigs, poultry and ruminants similar to those of lupin, field pea any soybean meal.

Faba beans are a good rotational “break” crop for winter cereals; they decrease the occurrence of

Crown Rot and some Nematodes and are considered a good alternative to chickpeas. Optimal temperature for plant growth is 15 – 20°C. Faba beans are susceptible to frost at the reproductive phase and will not tolerate temperatures above 30°C, which causes flower abortion.

“...had to abandon the trial on both sites for a couple of months but have come up with a cunning plan...”

The pulse tolerates waterlogging and thrives in black clays (Vertisols) and alluvial loams; as long as there’s no salinity, compaction and clay pan issues. The deeper sowing depth requirement of 5-8cm means the seed can take advantage of any soil moisture at depth.

Another advantage is their high Nitrogen fixing ability. A study by GRDC in Northern NSW and Queensland (2012) found well grown pulses (chickpeas and faba beans) increase soil nitrate levels by 30 to 40 Kg N/ha and boost the yield of the following wheat crop by 0.5 to 1.5 t/Ha. As expected Nitrogen fixation of chickpeas and faba beans is enhanced by good agronomy, soil management and inoculation (group F).

Faba beans are more efficient at fixing Nitrogen than chickpeas, principally because of their nitrate tolerance. You can read more of this study by following the link to the GRDC factsheet www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-FS-Nfixation-chickpeas.

The project is an initiative of the Burnett Mary Regional Group and the Burnett Catchment Care Association, supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture through their Action on the Ground program.

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What's on 'round the Burnett...

- 22 April [Grazing BMP workshop](#), Kingaroy
- 23 April [Grazing BMP workshop](#), Durong
- 27 April [BMRG Expressions of Interest close](#), Inland Burnett
- 28-30 April [Innovation in Horticulture Study Tour](#), South East Qld
- 30 April [BCCA General Meeting](#), Mundubbera
- 4 May [Flood Recovery Herbicide applications](#) close, North Burnett
- 4-9 May [Beef Australia](#), Rockhampton
- 6 May [Farming Forward Forum](#), Murgon
- 26 May [RCS Keep In Touch Day](#), Durong

NOTICE:
If you are not a member, please complete the form on the back page! For more information please call Melinda at BCCA on (07) 4166 3898 or admin@burnettcatchment.org

Carbon policy changes



In November 2014, the federal Parliament passed the *Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Bill 2014* which amended the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011*. Amendments came into effect on 13 December 2014, establishing the **Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF)**.

The ERF aims to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by providing incentives for businesses and organisations to adopt new practices & technologies to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and/or sequester more carbon in the landscape. The ERF builds on the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) – which was the previous mechanism under which landholders could generate 'carbon credits' and participate in the carbon market.

What do the recent legislative changes mean for landholders in our region?

Primary producers that currently have a CFI project are able to continue their project as these projects will automatically transition into the ERF.

Through the ERF, the opportunity to participate in emissions reduction activities, and generate 'carbon credits', has been widened to the whole economy and therefore includes all businesses,



community organisations, state governments and other members of the community. This incentive scheme is no longer restricted to the land sector as it was under the CFI.

“the opportunity to participate in emissions reduction activities, and generate ‘carbon credits’, has been widened to the whole economy”

This expansion in the types of industries able to participate in emissions reduction activities, and generate carbon credits, will assist the Australian Government meet its emissions reduction target of a 5% reduction in GHG emissions of the 2000 levels by 2020.

The ERF improves a number of processes to support greater participation by primary producers. For example, a new 25 year permanence option is available for carbon sequestration (or storage) projects and

simpler reporting, verification and auditing processes will be in place.

More information can be found on the Federal Department of Environment website: www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-reduction-fund/about.

Marketing of carbon credits under the ERF

Under the ERF, the Australian Government is the primary market for 'carbon credits'. The Government purchases these credits by entering into Carbon Abatement Contracts which it purchases via a reverse auction system. The first auction is to be held on 15 - 16 April 2015.

The Clean Energy Regulator is the Government body responsible for administering legislation to reduce carbon emissions and increase the use of clean energy.

The Clean Energy Regulator website provides the latest information & resources on how to participate in the ERF: www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/Emissions-Reduction-Fund/About-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund/Pages/default.aspx.

Please note: as with the CFI, participation by landholders in the ERF is voluntary; individual businesses are encouraged to undertake their own financial & legal assessment processes prior to commencing an ERF project and/or entering into a Carbon Abatement Contract to check the feasibility and viability of the proposed activity.

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Final weeks of free herbicide offer

If you have an application form and map that you've received from BCCA for herbicide for weed control and you haven't yet returned it, then now is the time to do it!

The Flood Recovery Herbicide for Weed Control program in the North Burnett is coming to an end and no new applications will be accepted after **Monday 4 May 2015**.

The air is cooling, winter is coming and for most weeds now is the best time to treat with herbicide for maximum effect.

“The air is cooling, winter is coming and for most weeds now is the best time to treat”

floodplains in the North Burnett council region.

There are six weeds that are eligible for herbicide:

- Parthenium
- Giant Rats Tail Grass
- Cats Claw Creeper
- Rubber Vine
- Hymenachne
- Madeira Vine

If you're unsure of these weed species or would like a visit from someone to help you identify them in your creeks and floodplains, contact BCCA for more information.

All participants are to have treated their weed infestations at least once and submit photos back to BCCA by Friday 29th May 2015. A huge thank you to the 90+ landholders who have already been involved and who have treated almost 8000ha of weeds!



Cats Claw Creeper smothers native vegetation.

As part of the flood recovery program funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments On-Farm Productivity and Riparian Recovery program, this is the last opportunity to get hold of herbicide to treat weeds along creeks and

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Local seeds a success

What better day than Valentines day to learn about our local flora and harvest some seeds!

On 14 February, BCCA hosted a seed collection field day to learn how to collect, identify and store seeds from our local native vegetation. Thanks to local botanist Caroline Haskard from Vegetation Matters, both BCCA staff and attendees learnt the secrets of observing our natural vegetation to determine the critical times to harvest local seed as well as storage and propagation methods specific to plant types.

The aim of this field day was to encourage planting of local species, by discussing how native vegetation protects our landscapes and waterways from events such as the recent floods.

“...aim is to encourage planting of local species...”

Caroline Haskard said, “the damage created by the 2013 floods has created a shift in thinking and a new appreciation for the

protection that native species provide for our waterways.”

Over the past year, BCCA have been helping local producers on the Burnett River to reshape and revegetate areas of the riverbank damaged after the 2013 floods.

“One of the most difficult aspects of this program has been sourcing the right plants for the job,” said Fiona Morris, Project Coordinator. “We have been making sure we chose local species that not only recreate the natural biodiversity best but also are the best for stabilising the banks.”

The day was a great success with keen locals learning some basic bush safety, fruit types and storage methods. Armed with new knowledge, pens, paper bags, secateurs, the group walked down a gully leading to the riverbank at ‘Lynbrook’ Orchard keenly checking plants for ‘fruits’ and viable seed to collect. Later in the morning the group then moved on to collect more seed from a ‘dry rainforest scrub’ at ‘Gleneden Organic Farm’.

If you would like a copy of the ‘Seed Collecting training booklet’, or the ‘North



John Mellor, Caroline Haskard and Marion Denholm

Burnett Revegetation Guidelines’ please contact BCCA on (07) 4166 3898.

This field day was held as part of the On-farm Productivity and Riparian Recovery Program assisting flood impacted areas following ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald, funded jointly by the Qld and Australian Government, administered by the Burnett Mary Regional Group, and coordinated by BCCA in the North Burnett region.

The Riparian program is now drawing to a close with 11 projects completed. It has been a great challenge for the BCCA Riparian Project Team and Field Crew keeping young plants alive during the past years drought then intensely heavy rainfall season. We have a further 8 projects now underway and the June deadline looming!

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Reef Water Quality Grants nearing the final stage

The highly successful Reef Water Quality Grants (grazing) programme is approaching its final year. So far 56 landholders in the coastal Burnett have been approved for funding, totaling over \$320,000.

Grazing Extension Officer Peter Crawford said there have been a wide range of on-ground projects approved for funding in the first two years of this three-year program.

“...there have been a wide range of on-ground projects approved for funding ...”

“Projects that have been funded include fencing of creeks, installation of troughs, tanks and solar pumps for off-stream and improved grazing management, and additional sub-division fencing to allow

spelling and an improved rotational grazing program. It seems that graziers in the region are pretty keen to take up incentives to assist them to improve their grazing management, which is a really important land management priority for reducing sediment flow to the reef,” Peter said.

Expressions of interest are now being sought from graziers in the lower Burnett and Burrum catchments for the final year of the programme. To be eligible for funding, graziers need to:



Tank and trough setup for a cell grazing subdivision

- Have a grazing property in the lower Burnett River catchment (below Paradise Dam) or the Burrum River catchment (including the Elliott, Gregory and Isis)
- Have an ABN
- Complete two modules of the online Grazing BMP program
- Conduct a property capability assessment and map with a BCCA extension officer
- Complete a funding application with assistance from a BCCA extension officer
- Match funding requested (maximum \$10,000)
- Be able to complete projects no later than 31 March 2016.

For an expression of interest form please call (07) 4166 3898 or email admin@burnettcatchment.org.

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BCCA are on Facebook— Like our page!!

Yes, BCCA is up with the times and on Facebook. Just head to: www.facebook.com/pages/Sustainable-Burnett-Catchment/197863326932611 or search for ‘Sustainable Burnett Catchment News’ on Facebook!



CASE STUDY - Property Management Plan - Bruce & Ann Gossner

The people

Bruce & Ann Gossner run an 850 ha grazing operation near Gin Gin conducted across 5 properties. Currently they are running just over 200 breeders and, normally, non-replacement weaners are sold directly off the cow at 8-10 months of age.

The breeders are mostly Brahman or Angus –cross cattle with Brahman, Angus & Santa Gertrudis bulls. Generally, set stocking rates are used except at one of their properties where cattle are rotated between paddocks of improved pasture consisting of Rhodes grass, Green & Gatton Panics, Bluegrass, Wynn cassia and Seca stylo. The remaining properties have a mix of native grasses (eg. Black speargrass and Kangaroo grass) & improved species (eg. Rhodes grass and Wynn cassia).

Commercial harvest of timber is also conducted as part of the business and irrigated hay is produced on the home property. This hay is stored as supplementary feed for their cattle.

The opportunity

Bruce & Ann were interested in preparing a Property Management Plan, under the Carbon Farming Project, with the assistance of BCCA as they wanted to review current practices & land condition with a view to planning changes they would like to make in their grazing operation. This opportunity was particularly timely given the recent run of dry seasons and poor cattle prices have resulted in disruption to some of their normal grazing & herd management practices.

Carbon Farming in their grazing system

A review of carbon farming practices, relevant to extensive grazing in the Burnett, revealed that a number of these practices are already undertaken as a routine part of their business. However, they are keen to continue, and enhance, these practices for the benefits they bring to the business & the environment through improved resource condition and carbon storage & reduced greenhouse gas emissions intensity (ie. the amount of greenhouse gas emitted per kg of beef produced.)

They aim to retain good ground cover and healthy perennial pastures (for soil health & productivity) and carefully manage the significant stands of native vegetation which exist on their properties. These practices will help to maximise carbon storage within the landscape while operating a commercial grazing and timber-harvesting business.

The current & planned herd management practices, coupled with enhanced grazing techniques, will also help to ensure they are running an efficient cattle-breeding operation – thereby reducing the emissions intensity of the business & enhancing business viability.

The plan

As the operation is conducted over 5 properties, there is always something to do or to be fixed. Hence, the Property Management Planning process was used to identify the key activities which are likely to deliver the most positive benefits to their business.

The use of property maps during the planning process helped Bruce and Ann to discuss and prioritise their infrastructure & development plans. Planned activities include –

- Fencing projects – repairs to existing fencing & installation of new-sub-divisional fencing to create some additional paddocks,
- Upgrade of existing, & installation of new, watering points,
- Pasture improvement on the country most suited to improved pasture, and
- Stabilisation of eroded gullies.

The discussion around pasture condition was a chance to determine which paddocks need spelling for recovery and which ones are recovering well following a reasonable wet season this year. Some changes to grazing management are to be implemented such as incorporation of more rotational grazing & associated paddock spelling for pasture recovery on an ongoing basis. The planned fencing and watering point projects will help facilitate these grazing management



The Gossner's productive Wynn cassia and grass pasture

changes on their property.

Some herd management changes they would like to make have been identified. They are keen to move towards having all poll cattle and would like to see higher and more consistent calving rates particularly for the second-calf cows. They aim to better collect, manage and use herd data to ensure their culling and selection decisions are leading to herd improvement. Strategies to achieve these goals are to be put in place.

The planned improvement activities will be conducted over a number of years as not everything can be done at once. However, creating their Property Management Plan has helped to identify activities that will create a more efficient, resilient & viable cattle-breeding operation.

The future

Some of the items listed in the 'Action Plan' section of their Property Management Plan have already been started. Impact of the planned changes and actions on pasture & land condition and animal performance will be monitored over time.

BCCA is able to provide this one-on-one assistance with Property Management Planning to graziers in the Burnett Mary through the Carbon Farming Project. The Carbon Farming Project is supported by funding from the Australian Government and provides information to landholders on carbon farming practices that can reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and/or enhance carbon sequestration in soil and vegetation in addition to information regarding carbon policy.

Are you keen to know more about how you can manage methane emissions, store more carbon in the landscape and enhance productivity of your grazing operation? If so, the following research projects may be of interest...

There are several projects being conducted under the National Livestock Methane Program developing practical on-farm options for reducing methane emissions from livestock while at the same time increasing productivity. For more details regarding these projects & progress to date visit www.mla.com.au/Research-and-development/Environment-research/National-livestock-methane-program.

The "Climate-Clever Beef" project trialled and demonstrated practices that can reduce methane emissions from beef cattle and increase sequestration of carbon in soil and vegetation in six northern grazing regions through improved pasture and dietary management for livestock increasing herd productivity and lowering whole-of-life methane emissions. More information about the project is available on the Future Beef website <http://futurebeef.com.au/resources/projects/climate-clever-beef/>.



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Good grazing workshop in Gin Gin in May

Now is a good time to be making decisions on stocking rates for the dry season. To assist you to make the right decisions, and help you with some useful information on grazing management, BCCA are holding a free one-day workshop where we will discuss:



- The importance of maintaining good land condition in relation to your carrying capacity
- Recognising your land types, their strengths, weaknesses and capabilities
- How and when grass grows around here, and how much you should let the animals eat
- Matching livestock demand to your feed supply: how to do a forage budget and better prepare yourself and your property for the dry season
- Practical assessment of a local pasture paddock and estimation of carrying capacity
- Interesting and challenging exercises to get you thinking
- Local producers experience and management practices

Workshop booklets, resources and stocking

Contact Peter @
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rate calculators will be provided to all participants.

The one day workshop “The science and principles of good grazing land management” will be held in Gin Gin on Tuesday 12 May 2015 and will include presentations from BCCA extension officer Peter Crawford and local producers.

“... the importance of maintaining good land condition in relation to your carrying capacity.”

This workshop is being sponsored by the Australian Government Reef Water Quality Grants Programme. The workshop will also be an opportunity to be updated on the funding available for producers under this programme.

Interested graziers are asked to RSVP for catering purposes to Melinda on (07) 4166 3898 or admin@burnettcatchment.org.

Flood Recovery project survives TC Marcia's force

The 2013 floods caused by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald damaged the natural Three Moon Creek levee bank on the Radel property near Monto. Had the break in the natural levee been left unattended the adjoining productive agricultural land on the floodplain would have been exposed to scouring in future floods.

The project, funded under the Queensland and Australian Governments On-Farm Productivity and Riparian Recovery Program aimed to restore the natural levee to pre 2013 dimensions was recommended in the Three Moon and Monal Creeks Floodplain Management Plan.

Before being able to commence work on this project, a Riverine Protection Permit was required from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. Once this

approval was obtained, an earthmoving contractor was employed to undertake the rehabilitation works.

Suitable fill material (sandy silt to sandy clay) was sourced and placed in approximately 300mm layers and compacted thoroughly as the structure is restored. The final layer was topsoiled and seeded with grass and fertilised to promote revegetation.

“... aimed to restore the natural levee to pre 2013 dimensions...”

The restored natural creek levee was designed to prevent stream water exiting

the primary channel out onto the floodplain during moderate flood events.

In February 2015, Tropical Cyclone Marcia came with great force bringing extensive rain to the Monto region. Floodwaters entered the Three Moon floodplain at extreme velocities, with a number of reports of damage worse than the 2013 flood events.

The Radel's property was in the firing line again for extreme flooding. Thankfully the effectiveness of the project in restoring the natural levee, no damage was sustained to the bank and in turn no significant erosion and scouring on the productive cultivation paddocks.

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Natural levee bank break as a result of ex TC Oswald in January 2013



Natural levee restoration works completed in 2014



Natural levee bank after TC Marcia in February 2015

CASE STUDY - Flood Recovery - Riverbend Orchard

The people & property

Nick & Deb Ulcoq of Riverbend own a highly productive citrus orchard of approximately 7000 trees on the banks of the Burnett River.

They have owned this property for over 14 years and supply both the domestic and international markets.

The issues

Following ex-tropical cyclone Oswald in 2013, the Ulcoq's already steep and unstable gully located at the northern boundary of their orchard was severely scoured, leaving them with a sheer cliff directly below the corner of their orchard trees!

Nick & Deb were left with a risky situation to both their production and personnel, but feeling that "nothing could be done" they just hoped that it would hold...



Nick Ulcoq discussing remediation options with earthmoving contractor Trevor Taylor, and BMRG Soil Technical Officer, Peter Wilson.

The opportunity

BCCA contacted Nick & Deb to offer assistance after identifying their erosion 'cliff' from aerial photography.

Nick & Deb and their neighbours Ann & Warren Bayntun whose boundary also extended into this area, were one of more than 19 landholders who received help to stabilise eroded riverbank areas after the

floods. Landholders were identified objectively from high resolution digital photography by BMRG and BCCA staff.

The solution

BCCA linked Nick & Deb with the technical advice required, and helped them apply for the funds needed to stabilise the site. As well as earthworks to batter the eroded site, works also included fencing and replanting by BCCA's

riparian revegetation crew to encourage natural regeneration and increase the resilience to future flood events.

These works have now provided Nick & Deb with an opportunity to cost effectively maintain and protect their production from the force of the river.



Stabilised and revegetated site on Riverbend

"I thought nothing could be done, well what could I do? I didn't have the experience, staff or funds to restore the riverbank," Mr Ulcoq said. "It was money well spent on a dangerous spot. Some of our best land is in that corner."

This project was funded under the Queensland and Australian Governments On-Farm Productivity and Riparian Recovery Program through the Burnett Mary Regional Group.



The boundary erosion cliff – Riverbend orchard

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Rainforest ID with visiting botanists

In February, a group of keen would-be-botanists gathered in Mundubbera to hear from senior botanists and authors



Workshop participants

of several plant ID books, Mr Bill McDonald and Ms Gwen Harden, speak about their latest plant identification tool, used on a computer.

Their tool, 'Rainforest Plants of

Australia', uses a computer-based identification key to pick out which features plants have – the shape and design of their leaves, the colours of their fruits etc. – and pulls up those plants that fit that description with fantastic photos and great detail.

The key is available as a USB drive from www.rainforests.net.au for \$80 including postage; a great addition to your library.

"...Mr Bill McDonald and Ms Gwen Harden, speak about their latest plant identification tool, used on a computer..."

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Following on from some discussion and learning about the different forests of Queensland, the group headed out to a patch of scrub just out of Mundubbera to test out their identification skills and spot the number of different species, some of which were flowering!



Participants out in a local patch of Brigalow scrub near Mundubbera with Bill and Gwen



Burnett Catchment Care Association

BCCA is a member-based, not-for-profit organisation, employing professional staff to develop and implement natural resource management projects across the Burnett Catchment.

We work directly with landholders to support sustainable land management practices.

We partner with associated, like-minded organisations such as the Burnett Mary Regional Group and landcare groups where much of our funding is derived from State and Federal Government funding programs.



BCCA
BURNETT CATCHMENT CARE ASSOCIATION



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North Burnett weeds in the spotlight

This month weeds in the upper Burnett Catchment area will be the focus of a video podcast as part of the Flood Recovery program being wrapped up in the North Burnett council area.

The short videos will focus on the Parthenium weed and Giant Rats Tail grass outbreaks that are very prevalent in that area and will take a look at what some landholders are doing to control the weeds and what options are available.

“look at what some landholders are doing to control the weeds”

The videos will be uploaded online using YouTube and will be available by the end of June 2015! Stay tuned to see who's featured!

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I really didn't think that I would be staring at water views of our cultivation again in February this year, however that was the case thanks to Tropical Cyclone Marcia. Three huge floods in five years has really tested our resilience as farmers, however of course we will rebuild and replant. Having very good groundcover (a bumper mungbean crop and a beautiful Lucerne crop) meant that we had minimal soil loss which we are grateful for.

On behalf of BCCA, I wish anyone affected by

the latest flooding event all the best in their recoveries.

On a more positive note, many of our floodplain and riparian Flood Recovery projects held up quite well with this latest flooding event.

BCCA staff are currently working full steam ahead on completing all our flood recovery projects by May 2015 and we will unfortunately see our staff numbers decline with the ending of this program. We have however, been successful in obtaining some

small tenders which we will be providing support to graziers and grain growers in the inland Burnett during 2015/16.

Finally, BCCA celebrates our 20 year anniversary this year. We are very much looking forward to celebrating this huge milestone in August 2015.

Katie Muller

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2014/15 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renew your membership for only \$1 and keep up to date with BCCA activities

\$1 cash stamps

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