

the burnett buzz...

Spring 2017

Let's talk bull!!

Graziers across the Burnett gathered in Monto in August to undertake training as part of the Better Bull Selection Course, coordinated by Farmstuff in Monto and led by John Bertram and Alan Laing, industry leaders in the field of reproduction and genetics for the beef industry.

The course was deemed a great success with participants giving the presenters and course rave reviews and very satisfied their time off farm, was well worth every minute.

The three day course consisted of the importance of knowing exactly where producers want to go with their herd and why. Accurately defining where we are now, what our market specifications are; strengths and limitations of our operation and importantly what areas have the greatest potential to drive our profitability. Allowing graziers to develop a smart and strategic plan for the future

direction of their herd.

The workshop then moved onto bull and female fertility, and the keys to reproductive success. Based on a scientific, but easy to understand breakdown of how the male and female reproductive system works then moved onto the basic principles for selecting reproductively sound and fertile animals. Structural soundness and temperament are the foundations. For bulls, a full Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BBSE), including morphology, done by a qualified practitioner is essential.

For females it is more a numbers game, with a primary focus of looking after the underlying drivers of fertility

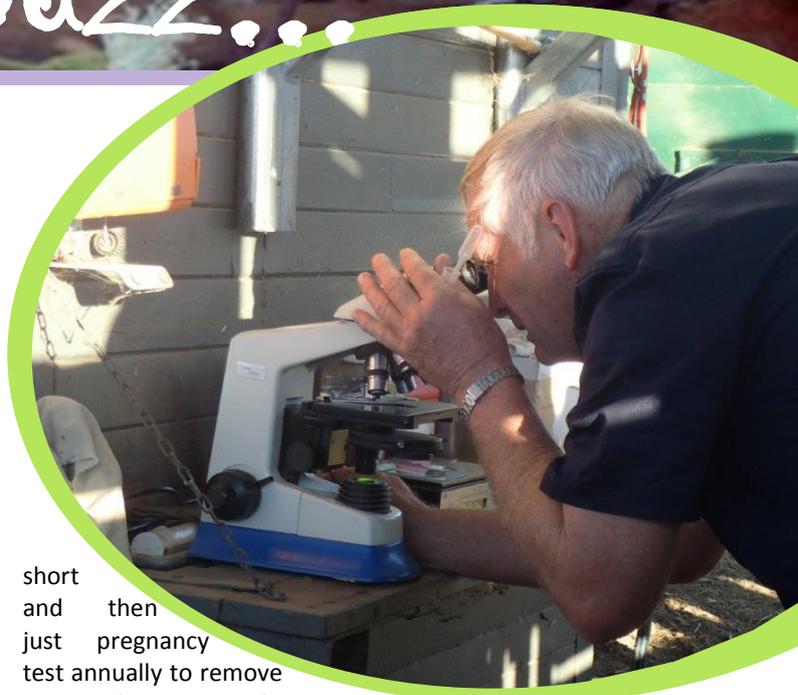
'...a smart and strategic plan for the future direction of their herd.'

(weights in heifers and condition score in cows), control parasites and disease, keep your breeding season

short and then just pregnancy test annually to remove non-productive animals. And finally, how to choose a bull that will drive your herd where you want it to go. The three days were jammed packed with information and practical demonstrations with information on cross breeding, comparisons between breeds, various trials and research data integrated throughout the course. This enabled participants to see for themselves how different management tools work on the ground and how they might fit into their own operations.

These workshops were held under the Better Catchments Grazing program which involves working with graziers on projects which will result in an improved practice change in line with industry standard and the long term sustainability. These projects are supported by BMRG and coordinated locally by BCCA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. The Better Catchments Program will continue working with Graziers to implement an improved practice changes.

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John Bertram educating the participants on bulls.

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Highlights

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- Roger Stone on climate
- Meet inspirational Richard Kinnon
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Roger Stone climate workshop at Rosedale

BCCA was offered the opportunity to host a climate workshop at Rosedale with Professor Roger Stone in June, and 25 local landholders attended a very interesting and informative day. The workshop was organised by BCCA extension Officer Peter Crawford as part of the Baffle Reef Systems Repair project.



Roger Stone and Damien O'Sullivan fielding questions at the workshop

Roger Stone is one of Australia's leading climate scientists, and his knowledge of weather and climate systems is well known to landholders throughout Queensland. Roger was ably assisted on the day by DAF extension officer Damien O'Sullivan, who is known for his no-nonsense approach to weather and its impacts on grazing and pasture management.

With the drought in Queensland refusing to go away, it was informative to learn about the weather and climate patterns leading to this ongoing and serious dry

period. Landholders were led through a series of exercises based on recent and historical climate data, focussing on the SOI and its effect on El Nino and La Nina events. The systems leading to the current dry were very well explained by both presenters.

Although long-term weather forecasting is still a bit problematic, by looking at the signs and patterns landholders are in a much better position to assess the outlook that they were 20 years ago. By making a calculated assessment of the climate outlook early in the season, landholders can be better informed as to how to manage their stocking rates for the rest of the year. Managing feed supply with stocking rates is essential for not only sustainable grazing management practices, but also for animal welfare.



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Richard Kinnon meets the North Burnett

On September 5, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Richard Kinnon at the North Burnett Agricultural Forum presented by the Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation (BIEDO) and the North Burnett Regional Council.

I watched a very humble man present his life story to a captivated audience. Although modest in describing his achievements, Mr Kinnon is a very successful business man in Western Queensland who diversified into tourism in 2006 from a grazing operation that was doing it tough in the drought. While still maintaining his grazing operation, the Kinnon family offer Cobb & Co. Coach tours, river cruises, traditional station experiences and so much more. Richard's words were inspirational as he shared his personal stories with those in the room. The recurring themes throughout the morning were:

- Anyone can achieve success despite their background, education or bank balance as long as they use the

resources they have at hand, have a positive attitude and always look for small changes along the way. In fact, looking for small changes along the journey is Richard's definition of "Innovation".

- Watch your mates back! Although claiming to not know what "karma" is, Richard was driving home the message that if you watch your mates back, good things will come back to you tenfold. He believes he can prove this over and over again in his lifetime and encourages everyone to do the same.

- Learn from nature and the environment around you. Richard had many a story to tell of his childhood and the valuable lessons he learnt from his pony and working dog. For me, this was the most entertaining part of his presentation.

After Mr Kinnon's presentation, attendees had the opportunity to introduce themselves to everyone in the room and briefly describe their motivation for attending. There were many responses around the room from a

varied cross-section of the North Burnett Community with the majority of them being positive and referring to a bright future for the district.

Many different industry bodies attended the forum allowing participants to discuss any issues pertinent to their individual operations on a one-on-one basis. The likes of QRIDA (formerly QRAA), Agforce and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries were present on the day.

There are already plans underway for another North Burnett Agricultural Forum in the near future. I urge you all to attend as it is certainly a worthwhile event.



Richard Kinnon



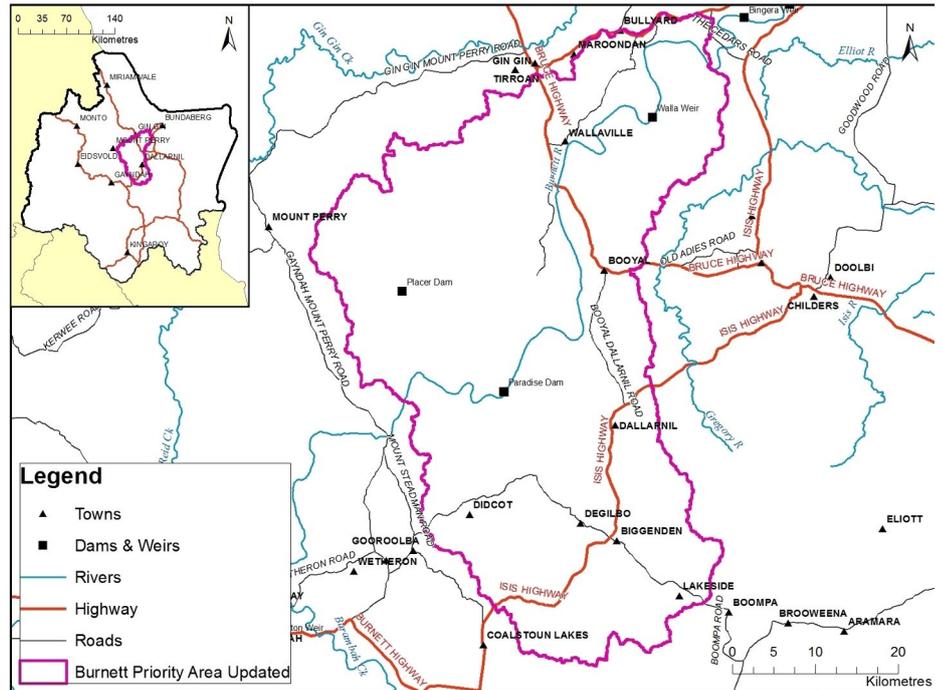
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Practical assistance for graziers

Under the 'Reef Alliance - Burnett Grazing: Growing a GREAT Barrier Reef' project, BCCA is seeking to work with commercial-scale graziers, with property located within the priority area, in the sub-catchment downstream of Paradise Dam to Walla Weir (refer to map), who are keen to retain valuable soil on their property (and, therefore, reduce sediment movement to the Reef).

If your property features damaged or vulnerable streambanks and/or gully erosion - give us a call to see if we can help. You may be able to join several other graziers who are already benefitting from this project.

As part of an approved project, BCCA will work one-on-one with graziers to help identify ways to reduce soil movement and improve grazing land management. Free, individually-tailored technical expertise and training is also provided. In addition, grant funds are available to help implement strategic on-ground works that will reduce soil loss from your property such as riparian fencing and off-stream watering points and gully remediation.



Reef Trust Grazing priority area map.

Eligibility to participate in this project includes completion the Grazing BMP program. The Grazing BMP program is an industry-led process which helps graziers identify management practices which may improve the long term profitability and sustainability of their enterprise. It also helps identify the steps to take to incorporate best management practices into your business operations.

The good news is we have an accelerated 2-day Grazing BMP

workshop being held in Gin Gin on October 11 & 12. This allows you to complete the entire Grazing BMP program over two days with the help of specialist grazing extension staff. If you are interested, be quick to register as there are limited places.

For more information on the 'Reef Alliance - Burnett Grazing: Growing a GREAT Barrier Reef' project or the upcoming Grazing BMP workshop contact Veronica Chapman, our Project Extension Officer, on 0448 114 502 or veronica@betterburnett.com

The Reef Alliance Program is a partnership between agricultural industry, regional NRM bodies and facilitated by the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF), with the common goal of securing the future health of the Great Barrier Reef. The Reef Alliance Program is funded by the Australian Government and delivered through the Reef Trust



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Photo credits: Gorden Taylor

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.



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What's on 'round the Burnett...

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|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 to 8 Oct | <u>Advanced Livestock Management & Dog School—Glastonbury</u> | 17 Oct | <u>Grazing fundamentals—Kingaroy</u> |
| 11 & 12 Oct | <u>Grazing BMP workshop—Gin Gin</u> | 24 Oct | <u>Electric Fencing Technology Workshop—Wondai</u> |
| 11 Oct | <u>Native Forestry Management Workshop—Monto</u> | 26 Oct | <u>Electric Fencing Technology Workshop—Mundubbera</u> |
| Oct 12 | BCCA Annual General Meeting | 6 Nov | <u>Cover Cropping Workshop—Monto</u> |
| 12 & 13 Oct | <u>Native Forestry Management Systems Workshop—Gin Gin</u> | 21 Nov | <u>Pest animal management & chemical training—Gin Gin</u> |
| 19 & 20 Oct | Native Forestry Management Systems Workshop—location TBC. | | |

This gorgeous girl pictured above is a Gayndah area koala called 'Chloe'. 'Chloe' was very lucky to survive a vehicle strike and on Friday 23rd June, Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital released her back out in the wild around Gayndah. Recently community members started an initiative aiming to raise awareness about koalas locally throughout the North Burnett region, with a preliminary gathering held at Gayndah last month. The group aims to increase awareness of koalas in the North Burnett as well as improve mapping of their

locations, particularly along the Gayndah Rail Trail.

We need to build a better picture of our local koala populations and their health. The more we know and understand about them, the better we can help koalas have a future in the North Burnett.

Koalas are unique animals not found in the wild anywhere else in the world besides Australia - and they need all of our help to survive and thrive!

For reporting koala sightings (alive or dead) **Koala Tracker**—is a free, user-friendly

database and past sightings can also be added! You can also fill in a 'Koala Sighting Record Sheet' and forward to sue.sargent65@gmail.com or upload to **Koala Spotting Bundaberg Burnett** via their facebook page. With a better understanding of koala populations and locations, it would be easier to look at specific threats and mitigation to keep the numbers from declining further in the Burnett.



2017/18 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

- \$1 cash stamps NEW \$5 for 5 year membership

CONTACT OFFICE FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT DETAILS!!!

Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Property Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____



Please return with payment (postage stamps acceptable) to: BCCA PO Box 8, Monto Q 4630