

the burnett buzz...

Summer 2018

It's so electric...

Graziers across the North and South Burnett gathered at workshops in Wondai and Mundubbera in October 2017 to learn about what's new with electric fencing technology.

Paul and Kayleen Thompson from JVA Technologies presented to producers on the essentials of electric fencing, Energiser basics – how they power the fence, what's new in electric fencing with product demonstrations and their applications along with discussions on time saving mechanisms with internet connectivity, monitoring from a distance—which can all be tailored to suit individual needs.

The workshops were supported by the Burnett Mary Regional Group and coordinated locally by BCCA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. The

workshops were held under the Better Catchments Grazing component of the program, which involves working with graziers on projects which will result in improved practice changes in line with industry standard and the long term sustainability. To enhance this, producers attending the workshops had the opportunity to apply for funding to undertake an electric fencing project.

'...discussions on the time saving mechanisms with internet connectivity...'

Projects will consist of improving sustainability of their grazing practices through such activities as; subdividing a paddock/s to promote rotational grazing, fencing off eroded or bare areas to exclude cattle to encourage revegetation or fencing off riparian or other



sensitive areas to exclude cattle and better control grazing of these areas.

Thirteen projects have been approved with producers undertaking their electric fencing projects over the coming months. Funding will be provided for electric fencing equipment to assist these producers improve their grazing practices. JVA Technologies will be providing one-on-one property visits to these producers to ensure installation and operation of the equipment is complete. BCCA will also be providing one-on-one follow up support to ensure the projects result in improved grazing practices through long term benefits of improved ground cover levels, improve soil condition and soil health, address erosion or erosion risk and/or improve pasture condition.

Landholders have provided positive feedback and are particularly grateful for the support the program is providing, assisting them fast tracking their priority to improve grazing practices.

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Paul & Kayleen Thompson talk about what's new in electric fence technology.

Highlights

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- Soils workshop with Mark Sugars and Jim McGlurg
- Seeking your ideas for workshops and training events
- Cover Cropping Workshop with Graeme Hand and Colin Seis

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Soils workshop a success at Miriam Vale

Farmers and graziers from the Baffle catchment attended an informative and interesting soil properties workshop at Miriam Vale in October 2017, presented by DNRM soil scientists Mark Sugars and Jim McGlurg. Prior to the workshop Mark and Jim conducted soil coring on different soil types at local graziers Frank and Joan Noonan's property, and these cores were on display for hands on assessment.



Mark Sugars introducing the workshop program

'.....how the underlying geology and landforms determines a soils properties.....'

An overview of local geology kicked the workshop off, to inform participants how their soils were formed, and how the underlying geology and landform determines a soils properties. There is a wide range of geology in this region, and subsequently there a wide range of soil types that landholders manage

on their properties.

The physical, chemical and biological attributes of various soil types was discussed, and participants were led through a range of soil assessment techniques on the soil cores, including pH testing, soil structure and testing for solubility of clay types. As there are soils in the area that are very sodic, and therefore also very prone to erosion, the importance of managing these soil types for erosion control was emphasised by Mark and Jim.



BCCA Field Officer Peter Crawford said *Participants hands-on experience with a soil core profile* that as soils were

the fundamental basis of land management, it is important that landholders understand their soil properties, and the management actions needed for their various soil types. "Because there is such a large range of soil types in this region, it is crucial that landholders understand the best practice management and limitations of each

soil type they have on their properties", he said.

This workshop was organised and funded through the Baffle Reef Systems Repair program, which is an initiative of the Burnett Mary Regional Group with funding from the Australian Government Reef Program. BCCA would like to thank Mark Sugars and Jim McGlurg for their detailed presentation, based on an obvious high level of knowledge and skills in this important field.



Jim McGlurg explaining how pH varies through the soil profile



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Seeking your ideas for workshops and training events

In 2018, Burnett Catchment Care Association (BCCA), who is part of the Burnett grazing component of the Reef Trust Phase III: Reef Alliance 'Growing a Great Barrier Reef' (GGBR) project, is facilitating workshops and training events to help graziers better retain topsoil on their property and improve land condition. These events will be open to anyone interested – not just graziers eligible to participate in the project - so we are keen to hear your suggestions for relevant topics. The priority area is the sub-catchment downstream of Paradise Dam to Walla Weir. An example of a recent event was a workshop held



in Booyal led by Paul and Kayleen Thompson from JVA Australia. They presented on the topic of Electric Fencing Technology. Workshop participants learnt how electric fencing could improve their grazing management and ground cover and the information presented aided in determining which fencing technology could suit their requirements.

'.....events to help graziers better retain topsoil on their property....'

In addition, as part of Growing a Great Barrier Reef 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 provided. Grant

funds are available to help implement strategic on-ground works such as riparian fencing and off-stream watering points and gully remediation that will reduce soil loss.

For more information on the eligibility requirements to participate in the Growing a Great Barrier Reef project or to discuss your workshop or training ideas please contact Veronica Chapman, Project Extension Officer, on 0448 114 502 or veronica@betterburnett.com. The project will run until June 2019 so there is still time to be involved.

The Reef Trust Phase III: Reef Alliance – 'Growing a Great Barrier Reef' project is a partnership between agricultural industry, regional NRM bodies and is facilitated by the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF). The project is funded by Burnett Mary Regional Group through funding from the Australian Government Reef Trust Program with the common goal of securing the future



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Cover Cropping Workshop—Monto

On a warm Monday in November an enthusiastic group of 17 met in Monto to learn about multi-species cover cropping with Graeme Hand and Colin Seis.

Colin Seis is a pioneer of Pasture Cropping and recipient of the Bob Hawke Landcare Award. He discussed the advantages of annual cover cropping and perennial cover cropping and proposed that both techniques can be used to create mulch, control weeds and improve soil health and carbon levels. Colin has done extensive trials in multi-species cover cropping including plants such as radish, turnip, sunflower, brassica, cereal rye, buck wheat, oats, millet, vetch and clover.

Graeme Hand is CEO of Stipa Native Grasses Association and advocate for the benefits of native grass for pasture. He advised the group on selective and rotational grazing techniques that maximise the production of perennial natural pastures and hence improve landscape function, soil health and overall profit.

After Graeme and Colin's presentations, the group attended Gary & Lyn Muller's property to assess pasture condition and discuss practical cover cropping techniques. Many thanks to Gary and Lyn for their hospitality.

This workshop was funded by the Reef Alliance 'Growing a Great Barrier Reef'



Paddock assessment with Graeme Hand.

project (funded by the Australian Government and delivered through the Reef Trust). Burnett Catchment Care Association worked in partnership with Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. to deliver this Cover Cropping workshop.



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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...

- 2 Feb [Soil Pit Day—Monto](#)
- 13 Feb [Soil Pit Day—South Burnett](#)
- 17 Feb [RCS Grazing Clinic—Murgon](#)
- 25 Feb [Storm Recovery Community BBQ—Kumbia Memorial Hall](#)
- 4 Mar [Storm Recovery Community BBQ—Mondure Hall](#)

Last word.....

Hoping everyone enjoyed the Christmas and New Year's break with family and friends!!

We welcome back our General Manager, Katie Muller, from maternity leave following the birth a beautiful baby girl, Eva May.

As regular readers would know, our current projects are 20 Million Trees, Better Catchments, Baffle Reef System Repair and the Reef Trust III Grazing &

Cropping programs. In recent times, BCCA has secured two additional projects; water monitoring at Mt Lawless which is funded through the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI), and a weed control project collaborating with Gympie Regional Council in the Barambah and Boonara catchments funded through the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP). As has

always been the case, we are endeavouring to secure additional project funding to help us provide ongoing support to land managers in the Burnett. We welcome Misty Green as a Research and Funding Officer to assist in this process.

Here's hoping for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018 for all our landholders.

Melinda Clarke & Veronica Chapman

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