

# the burnett buzz...

Autumn 2018

## Healthy Soils / Healthy Crops

**T**he rainy weather held out just long enough for 29 enthusiastic growers to attend the Healthy Soils/Healthy Crops workshop on Friday 2 February at Russ & Dieta Salisbury's shed at "Braeside", south of Monto. Facilitated by experienced field agronomist David Hall, the one-day workshop provided information on different soil types and the physical properties of those soil types, including filtration properties. David gave advice on how to interpret soil test results and how to use those results to formulate a plan to manage or improve that soil based on its intended use. Following the initial session, growers attended a soil pit specifically dug for the workshop. David described different aspects of the soil from the top of the pit to the bottom and demonstrated

different ways to sample, nourish and work the soil. The workshop offered very practical learning, encouraging

*'...different aspects of the soil from the top of the pit to the bottom...'*



**Growers listening intently to David Hall discussing Soil Properties.**



**Growers attend the soil pit.**

Growers to take a hands-on approach. David provided opportunity for all attendees to seek individual advice regarding their own soil tests and remedies and feedback from the event was very positive. Sincere thanks must go to Russ & Dieta Salisbury for being our hosts for the day, arranging the soil pit and allowing us the use of their shed.

Thanks must also go to local agronomist, Kendall Muller of Farmstuff Monto for pre-arranging the soil tests.

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



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### Inside this issue:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Additional priority area for Reef Trust Grazing. | 2 |
| Pasture Budgeting and Plant ID workshop.         | 3 |
| Electric fencing option booklet.                 | 3 |
| 20 Million trees wrap up.                        | 4 |

### Highlights

- David Hall, experienced field agronomist.
- Are you in the new Reef Trust Grazing Priority area?
- Importance of being good grass farmer!
- Thinking of going electric?
- 130 tubestock species with 79% survival rate!



# Additional priority area for 'Reef Alliance' in the Burnett

**W**e are pleased to advise that an additional priority area has opened up under the Burnett grazing component of the 'Reef Trust III: Reef Alliance - Growing a Great Barrier Reef' project. Graziers in the Baffle catchment may now participate in the project.

*'.....identify ways to reduce soil movement and improve grazing land management.'*



*John Day, BMRG, discusses practical ways to improve ground cover on bare areas with a participating landholder.*

BCCA works with commercial-scale graziers who own property located within the priority areas and who are keen to retain valuable soil. Retaining valuable soil not only improves production but reduces sediment movement to the Reef. As part of any approved project, BCCA will work with graziers to help identify ways to reduce soil movement and improve grazing land management. Funding is now available for Baffle catchment

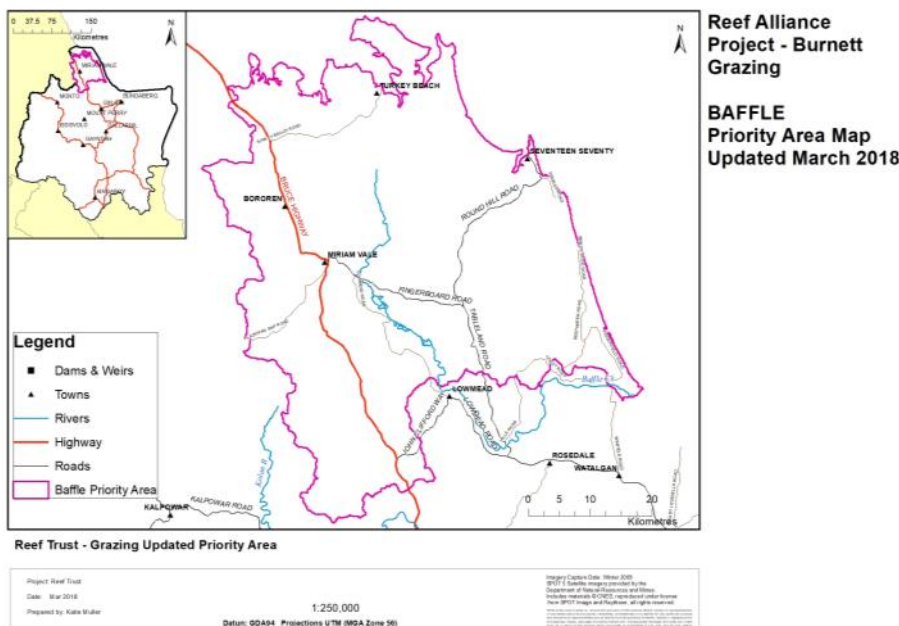
graziers to implement on-ground works that will reduce soil loss from your property. Such works include, riparian fencing and associated off-stream watering points and gully remediation. Individually-tailored technical expertise and training may also be provided free of charge.

Several landholder projects are currently underway with participants receiving property visits from grazing consultants and erosion specialists as well as

support to implement on-grounds works that reduce sediment movement into waterways.

*'.....technical expertise and training may also be provided.....'*

If you wish to be part of this project, please be quick, as time is running out! For more information contact Veronica Chapman on 0448 114 502 or [veronica@betterburnett.com](mailto:veronica@betterburnett.com)



*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 health of the Great Barrier Reef.*

**Baffle & Lower Burnett—Priority Area Map**

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## Pasture budgeting and Plant ID Workshop

**G**raziers across the North Burnett gathered at Hayley Webster's property at 'Lorray' near Monto to learn from Col Paton at *EcoRich Grazing* on how to effectively identify pasture and weed species, assess and manage land condition and learn how to undertake forage Budgeting.

"The importance of being good grass farmers was the key take home message from the day," said Hayley. Col Paton demonstrated some very quick and easy techniques for determining pasture availability—a great tool to have for planning stock flows. Pasture budgeting enables us to estimate carrying capacity and helps with early adjustment of stocking rates to suit different seasonal and pasture

conditions year in year out. This allows us to be able to use our land more effectively while minimising the risk of running short of grass.

The workshop emphasised how much more productive our land is when key grazing principles are used to improve or maintain land condition. Rotating cattle to provide rest, strategic use of

**'.....importance of being good grass farmers was the key take home message.....'**

fire, increasing the number of legumes and managing weeds where appropriate can all work towards improving soil, land and pasture condition. As land condition improves we automatically see an increase in desirable grasses, which ultimately means more feed, therefore more stock leading to, of course, hopefully more money.

Col provided ways to identify key pasture species and spent some quality time out in the field identifying and evaluating plants and having some great conversations about previous experiences and observations of

plant and pasture behaviour.

The day was very relaxed, however, very informative. Col has a wealth of experience, stemming from his days at DPI doing trial work and presenting their Grazing Land Management program, and culminating in him forming his own consulting business "EcoRich Grazing", which he runs in conjunction with his wife Liz. He has a great gift in passing on his knowledge in an easy to understand way and has some really simple but reliable techniques for managing and monitoring pasture to get the best out of it.

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



**Graziers attend the field day at 'Lorray' near Monto**

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## Thinking of going electric? A useful booklet available

**B**CCA Extension Officer Peter Crawford has put together a brief handbook on permanent electric fencing, with important basic fundamentals and principles, and tips and tricks. Peter has based the information on his extensive use of electric fencing, currently on Peter and Lenore's property at Mount Maria, and previously in another life on their farming property in northern NSW.

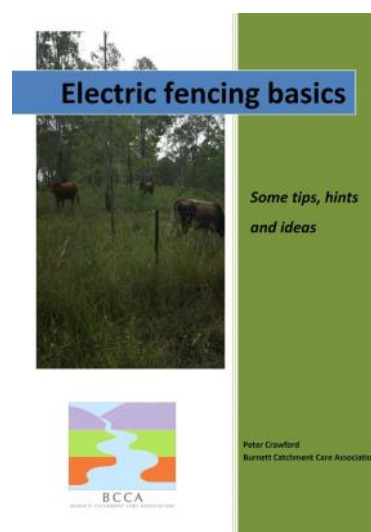
"Many landholders say they haven't had any success with electric fencing to control cattle," Peter said. "This is generally for one of two reasons: they haven't built the fence properly, or they don't have enough feed and the cattle are hungry".

Commonly used conventional fencing in the Burnett can be very expensive.

Most landholders use a split post and four barb type of fence, which can cost up to \$10,000 per kilometre, where as a good quality permanent electric fence can be built for less than \$2,000 per kilometre.

However, boundary fences are the exception. Peter says that boundaries should never be electrified, as a stout and strong fence is needed to control the most hard to control livestock from getting on to the road or into the neighbours place, and also the risk of litigation from someone being shocked is probably not a good idea.

The booklet can be downloaded from the BCCA website, or if you call the office a printed copy can be sent to you in the mail.



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20 Million Trees revegetation site.  
Blue gum regrowth with maturing tubestock in the foreground.

## 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...

26-27 Apr	<u>Robots, Drones &amp; Sensors—Agrotrend</u>	3 May	<u>North Burnett Community Agricultural Network</u>
28 Apr	<u>Growing Native Foods—Mundubbera</u>	8 May	<u>Using Manures &amp; Compost—Mundubbera</u>
1 May	<u>Fundamentals of Farm Management—Wondai</u>	10 May	<u>Rural Minds—Mundubbera</u>
1 May	<u>Fundamental of Farm Management—Mundubbera</u>	26 May	Rocky Creek Rainforest Field Walk
2 May	<u>Improving Resilience &amp; Risk-based Decision Making</u>	26 May	<u>Management Field Day—Boonah</u>
2 May	<u>Using Manures &amp; Compost—Biggenden</u>		

## Project completion—20 Million Trees

**J**uly 2016 was the beginning of Burnett Catchment Care Associations (BCCA) 20 Million Trees project; **Restoring Riparian Habitat in the Inland Burnett**. This two year project aimed to revegetate, stabilise and protect riparian sites identified as key habitat for two threatened species, *Elseya albagula* (white throated snapping turtle) and *Neoceratodus forsteri* (Australian lungfish). As June 2018 draws near we have some great outcomes to report from the end of the project. Two consecutive Green Army teams and site supervisor Mark Cachia, planted 6377

tubestock over three sites on the Burnett River. Revegetation of these locations will help to connect existing remnant vegetation and restoring poor condition remnant vegetation patches. 130 different species of native vegetation were used to stabile riverbanks and increase overhanging vegetation along the river banks for shade, spawning and food supply for *N. forsteri* and *E. albagula*. Community awareness of these local endemic species was raised by a visit to a local school to highlight the importance of riparian vegetation in the catchment to

support threatened species habitat. A final plant survival survey conducted recently has shown that we had a survival rate of 79% of the tubestock planted. BCCA would sincerely like to thank the landholders involved, Green Army, St. Joseph's School, John Fourro (Reveg training) and Mark Cachia (20MT Site Supervisor). This project was funded under the Australia Governments 20 Million Trees project, which aimed to re-establish green corridors along water ways by planting 20 Million trees by 2020.

Melinda Clarke

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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