

the burnett buzz...

Autumn 2019

Clifton Dalby Bus Trip

A group of 12 Growers from the Monto district climbed aboard the bus for a couple of intense days of learning.

The group departed for Dalby on Tuesday afternoon and had an early start on Wednesday morning. First up, a scenic drive from Dalby to Allora via Cecil Plains with the final destination being David Peter's farm near Allora. David was the awarded the Grain Grower of the Year award from GRDC in 2018 and is well known for growing high yielding dryland crops. While at David's the group got to inspect his sorghum and corn crops up close and David happily answered many questions. The group spent time inspecting David's precision planter and discussing his zero till methods.

David had organised a meeting of the Killarney/Allora Top Crop Growers Group to coincide with our visit. This presented a great networking opportunity and many a farming conversation occurred over a lovely morning tea. There was a great rapport

formed between the Top Crop and Monto Growers Groups.

Wednesday afternoon involved a group exercise "Better Results Together". Our lovely facilitator, Heather Ellis, took the group through a Colour Spectrum personality exercise that allowed everyone to understand their own personality and the personalities of those around them. It was a great professional development exercise to promote group cohesion and to facilitate peer to peer learning into the future.

After some further socialising on Wednesday night with Top Crop Group members, the bus departed Clifton for the PB Agrifoods facility in Toowoomba. PB Agrifoods is a specialist trader in pulses, grains and planting seeds to which some of our local growers have marketed their product previously.

It was a great opportunity for Growers to witness what happens to their produce when it leaves the farm as well as discussing current market demands for individual varieties. The visit included a tour of the "gluten" facilities in Toowoomba and the "gluten free" facilities at Maralong as well as inspecting



the company's own soybean trials.

Our final stop on the tour was the Rasmussen Bros Engineering workshop in Dalby. After demonstrating the latest technology in precision planting and spraying, Marshall and Darren Rasmussen fielded a barrage of questions from the growers around how the technology can be applied in the paddock. For many, this was the highlight of the trip – getting to see the equipment first hand and ask questions relevant to each grower's own operation.

The feedback at the end of the tour was positive with several attendees suggesting it was our best bus trip yet!

Reef Alliance – Growing a Great Barrier Reef is a partnership between agricultural industry groups and regional NRM bodies and is facilitated by the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF), with a common goal of securing the future health of the Great Barrier Reef. Burnett Catchment Care Association is working in partnership with Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. to support grain growers through the Reef Alliance 'Growing a Great Barrier Reef' project. The project is funded by the Australian Government and delivered through the Reef Trust.

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- Getting the EDGE in Business



Monto Grower Group members inspecting David Peters' sorghum crop



Contact Naomi @
P: 0417 008 769
E: naomi@betterburnett.com

Launch of the new Gully Erosion manual

The much anticipated launch of the 'Gully Erosion - Options for Prevention and Rehabilitation' manual will take place in Biggenden and Kingaroy this month. The soil conservation manual, which incorporates the experience and knowledge of two of Queensland's expert soil conservation officers - John Day and Bob Shepherd.

Burnett Mary Regional Group's Soil Conservation Officer, John Day will launch the manual during a field day hosted by Burnett Catchment Care Association on Thursday 16 May in Biggenden 9am-12.30. John will lead participants through a number of field examples with reference to the book. Please RSVP to BCCA for catering purposes.

The manual is based on experiences from the Burnett and Mary Catchments in Queensland and provides a comprehensive guide to erosion and options for its prevention and rehabilitation of gullies. As quoted in the manual "Erosion occurs when wind or water forces the movement of soil and

rock particles. These natural processes have, over time, shaped the topography of the landscape. The amount of soil or rock displaced at a site depends on the natural vegetation cover on the land, the intensity, duration and frequency of the wind and rain events and the erodibility of the soils and rock at the site. All human activities, including food production with domesticated animals and crops, have the potential to initiate and exacerbate erosion to varying degrees. One of the most visual and destructive forms of erosion is gully erosion."

For your copy of the book, visit <http://www.bmrg.org.au/our-programs/sustainable-landscapes/sustainable-grazing-conserving-soils/>



The manual and field day has been funded from the Reef Trust III, Reef Alliance project - 'Growing a Great Barrier Reef'.

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



Contact Marisa @
P: 0439 032 253
E: marisa@burnettcatchment.org

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the recent Monto Ag Strategy Survey.

In total we received 50 responses that covered a range of industries including beef, grain, hay, pork, dairy and some small crops.

The key findings will form a great basis for the production of the Monto Ag Strategy.

When asked to rank the top five factors that affect profitability of Monto business, the most common answers regarded:

- Market reliability
- Pest, weed and disease issues
- Increased scale of enterprise
- Electricity cost
- Input costs

These factors align well with the aim of the Ag Strategy to provide relevant information regarding diversifying

income streams, reducing financial risk and ensuring more reliable farm incomes for farmers in the Monto District.

Congratulations must also go to Ben Salisbury who won the \$500 rural store gift voucher to be spent in the local Monto community.

The Monto Agricultural Strategy is delivered by BCCA thanks to the Australian Government's funding through the Building Better Regions Fund - Community Investment Stream.

Monto Ag Strategy Survey

What's on 'round the Burnett...

08 May Stocktake Workshop—[Goomeri](#)
08 May Generation to Generation Workshop
09 May More Grass, More Beef—[Gympie](#)
10 May Agrotrend—[Bundaberg](#)
10 May Agforum & Agrotrend bus trip
10 May Harvesting Field Day—[Monduran](#)
16 May Gully Erosion Field Day—[Biggenden](#)
17 May Cooloola BioBlitz
20 May Regional Forum—[Rockhampton](#)

21 May Soil Health & Your Wealth—[Rockhampton](#)
21 May Gully Erosion Field Day—[Kingaroy](#)
22 May Our Future Recovery & Regeneration—[Bingara](#)
28 May Energy Forum—[Mulgildie](#)
01 Jun Bush Spirit Festival—[Eidsvold](#)
04 Jun CRT Farmfest field day—[Toowoomba](#)
23 Jun RCS—Grazing for Profit—[Emerald](#)
19 Aug Northern Beef Research Conference—[Brisbane](#)
21 Aug RCS—Grazing for Profit—[Kingaroy](#)

Farming Smarter, Not Harder

Agriculture is fast becoming more knowledge intensive and having access to timely, accurate information, that is specifically tailored to the Inland Burnett conditions, is critical for farmers to be able to make the most of their resources in often changing circumstances.

This is the founding concept behind the “Inland Burnett: Resource Audit and Strategic Gap Analysis” project recently funded by the federal governments *Building Better Regions Fund*.

However, with the increase of online access and content, the inevitable ‘information overload’ and lack of internet connectivity in regional and

remote areas means reliable resources needed to continually improve farming businesses, if they are available, may be difficult to search and obtain.

For this reason, the findings obtained via the comprehensive regional resource audit and strategic gap analysis of Inland Burnett farming resources will be presented via ‘SMART-Hub’ (Sustainable Management & Agricultural Resources & Tools) - an online hub designed to enhance landholder accessibility & connection to regionally relevant, smart farming resources.

Fundamentally, over the following year, this project aims to determine the gaps in resource availability and effectiveness,

along with identifying the impediments landholders face in accessing and engaging these resources, and to then assist landholder accessibility to available resources by the development a centralised resource tool.

The ‘Inland Burnett: Resource Audit and Strategic Gap Analysis’ is delivered thanks to the Australian Government funding through the Building Better regions Fund – Community Investment Stream and in conjunction with North Burnett Regional Council, South Burnett Regional Council, Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation and Monto Growers Group.

Contact BCCA@
P: 07 4166 3898
E: admin@burnettcatchment.org

Getting the Edge in Business

BCCA was excited to subsidise 16 North Burnett members to attend a Business Edge – *Know Business, Grow your Business* Workshop, hosted by Bush Agribusiness in Monto on 29-30 April.

The Business Edge is part of MLA’s EDGenetwork suite of courses which aim to offer practical learning opportunities to help producers improve their enterprises. The workshop challenged producers to really consider whether their business is providing them with more than just a job and assess whether it is providing sufficient returns given the capital and time invested.

Participants included grazing and mixed-enterprise producers, and ranged from multi-generational businesses to those just entering the industry. All were able to acquire a broad range of business management knowledge and skills to



improve their own business efficiency and profitability. Some of these included - preparing and understanding key financial information, economic sustainability, managing agricultural business risk, managing working capital, understanding and managing enterprise performance, key profit drivers and how to influence them, as well as what effect they have on overall business performance. These skills will be highly beneficial to producers and assist in building whole of business

‘... practical learning opportunities to help producers improve their enterprises.’

resilience to a number of external factors, including natural disasters.

Subsidies were funded by the 2017-18 Natural Disaster Resilience Program, proudly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments.

Contact Kirstie @
P: 0488 411 808
E: kirstie@betterburnett.com





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.



General Manager:

Katie Muller M: 0428 753 338

Administration Manager

Melinda Clarke P: (07) 4166 3898

Officers:

Marisa Young
Kirstie Roffey

M: 0439 032 253
M: 0488 411 808

Naomi Purcell
Misty Green

M: 0417 008 769
M: 0414 909 060

Office: 6 Lyell St Monto Q 4630 **Post:** PO Box 8 Monto Q 4630

P: (07) 4166 3898 **F:** (07) 4166 3897 **E:** admin@burnettcatchment.org

W: www.betterburnett.com

Last word...

A very dry start to 2019 left the Burnett looking to the sky for relief. Eventually rain did come in March although I am sure plenty more is needed to ensure we get through the winter.

We were very excited in March to see we were successful in Round 3 of the Building Better Regions Fund through the Australian Government. This time BCCA will be conducting a regional resource audit and strategic gap analysis of Inland Burnett farming resources. It aims to determine the gaps in resource availability and effectiveness, along with identifying the impediments farmers face in accessing and engaging these resources. The findings will be presented via 'SMART-Hub'; an online hub designed to enhance user accessibility and connection to regionally relevant, smart farming resources. The project will begin in

July 2019 and continue for 12 months.

We are saddened yet excited for Hannah Vicary who will be leaving us in May for a position with the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries at Brian Pastures. It has been a joy and privilege to have her youth and enthusiasm with us in the Monto office, and we are so glad that the Burnett will still benefit from her desire to make agriculture prosper in the Burnett. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

Keep abreast of the many workshops that BCCA will be running or supporting in the future by liking our facebook page or jumping on our calendar at: <https://>



betterburnett.com/events/2019-05/.

We are excited to be part of the Gully Erosion Field Day in Biggenden on 16 May. To RSVP, phone Melinda on (07) 4166 3898 or email admin@burnettcatchment.org.

Katie Muller

2018/19 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