



BCCA

BURNETT CATCHMENT CARE ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE LAND
MANAGEMENT IN THE BURNETT

Annual Report

Incorporating:

- Reef Trust III—Grazing
- Reef Trust III—Cropping
- Building Better Regions Fund—Monto Ag Strategy
- Building Better Regions Fund— SMART—Hub
- Natural Disaster Resilience Program
- Community Sustainability Action Grant—Barambah Weeds



2018-19



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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

CR PAUL LOBEGEIER



BCCA have again had a very fulfilling and rewarding year. All of our major programs have met their milestones and it is pleasing that we haven't had a flood, which in previous years has dominated our persona. Another natural disaster, which visits us from time to time, is the dreaded drought. Many of the programs we have completed in the past, have achieved considerable work within the confines of the two natural phenomenon; flood and drought. I feel confident that the future will include much talk about drought and its effect upon our whole community. It is a pertinent topic in parliament as it is seen as one of Australia's greatest challenges. It will be interesting to see what comes out of all of this discussion and I feel confident that our BCCA team, if called upon to give some expertise, will take up the challenges. We do need to have a better understanding of how to deal with these dry times, including those who are deriving income from our land and those that live in our urban areas. The possibility of many communities running out of drinking water in the near future is extremely high.

The Australian Government's—Building Better Regions Fund program, delivered an agricultural strategy for the Monto district. It was very pleasing to see our state and federal members at the launch of the strategy, but more importantly, so many of those who live and work in the Monto district. These people played a very active role in formulating the strategy and building resilience into the future of the district.

Fortunately we have received sufficient funds once again to ensure that our core staff have been able to maintain their level of commitment to the programs. Our General Manager, Katie Muller, is now on maternity leave. Katie oversaw the majority of last year, with Marisa Young and Melinda Clarke stepping into the role temporarily while Katie is on leave from July 2019. Katie is very dedicated to BCCA and regularly drops into the Monto office.

For the long term viability of BCCA and similar organisations, the commitment from all levels of government need to be consistent to ensure that the expertise and personnel that have been built up

within these organisations is maintained for the long term benefit of this nation. So, if I could ask you as members, if you could lobby your local member, whomever that may be, about the good work that BCCA has done, that would go a long way towards securing a bright future for everyone.

We are very pleased to have received a substantial grant from Queensland Reconstruction Authority. We wish to thank Kirstie Roffey for the primary work on this project as the initial Community Resilience Officer and now Sarah Shaw, will be completing this program. This program is built around resilience and providing support to North Burnett landholders on the topics identified in a needs analysis. This program is tackling the large ticket items in agricultural business in the North Burnett, which, if managed badly can see the viability of an enterprise eroded very quickly.

We still have an officer, Misty Neilson-Green, dedicated to sourcing future works and projects that will benefit the Burnett Catchment. Misty, along with Marisa Young, recently completed their remote pilot operating licence training in Toowoomba. BCCA's drone, purchased this year via a Gambling Community Benefit Fund, will prove to be invaluable for vital data collection. The drone is also capable of carrying a reasonable amount of weight to do other targeted projects. The sky is the limit as to what it can be used for and I look forward to seeing it in action.

One thing that I feel we need to be looking at is data collection, sharing and collating. I hope that somewhere in the future, adequate funding is made possible in this area; as there is so much data being collected, I'm confident that in that data may lay the answer to many of our issues.

Once again, I would like to thank all our dedicated staff for fulfilling their programs and being great community members. To our board of management, thank you for your service to BCCA. I hope you consider doing the same in the year ahead. I genuinely believe that our small organisation is achieving great things. I wish you all well in the future.

Paul Lobegerier

TREASURER'S REPORT

MELINDA CLARKE



The Burnett Catchment Care Association's (BCCA) books, have been independently audited by Moore Stephens Audit Team Queensland and Northern New South Wales —Chartered Accountants based in Monto.

BCCA received a total of \$474,588 in contracts and sundry income (disposal of cars and drone funding), for the 2018/19 financial year through contracts from Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), Australian Government, Queensland Government, Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA), Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) and Australian Government's—Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF). This is \$75,915 less than last financial year.

For the Reef Alliance—Growing a GREAT Barrier Reef - the Cropping project, contracted through FBA, was completed in June 2019 and the grazing contract with BMRG was extended until December 2019.

Expenditure has remained similar to the previous financial year and reflects the continuation of activities performed within the existing funding contracts. A reduction in expenses for the completion of three major projects last financial year were counter balanced by an increase in expenditure in two newly acquired grants from QRA and the Australian Government's—BBRF.

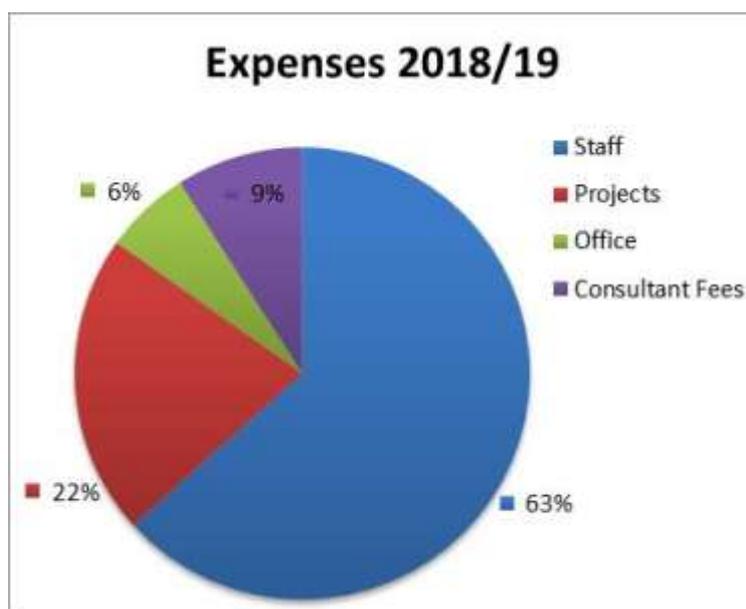
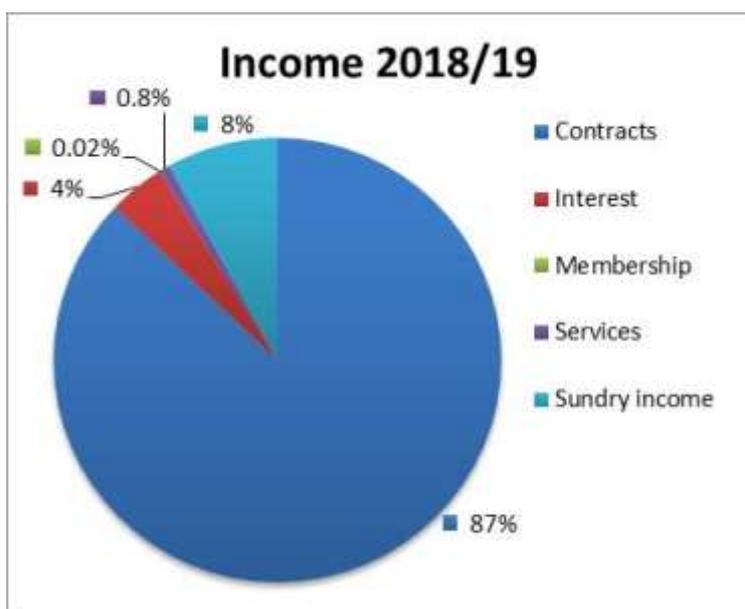
The graphs below illustrate the breakdown of income and expenditure for the financial year including contracts, interest, membership, services and sundry income and staff, projects, office and consultant expenses.

The anticipated reduction in funding for this financial year was partly due to milestone payments being paid in arrears for the BBRF project. This reduction in contract income was also contributed to by no longer having multi year projects; Better Catchments and Baffle Reef System Repair.

BCCA will continue to attempt to source more funding to carry us into future years. We are also anticipating we will receive our Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status early next year, opening up many more funding opportunities.

I would invite any member of the BCCA who wishes to view the full financial reports of the Association the opportunity, to do so, by appointment with the Associations Treasurer or Secretary/Administration Manager.

Melinda Clarke



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

MARISA YOUNG & MELINDA CLARKE



Our General Manager, Katie Muller, who oversaw the majority of the 2018/19 financial year, has been on maternity leave since the end of June 2019. Marisa Young and Melinda Clarke are filling in as Acting General Manager while Katie gets to spend some well-deserved time with her growing family. Katie and her husband Kendall, welcomed a baby boy—Darcy Glen on 1 July 2019. All are doing well and we look forward to Katie's return to BCCA.

BCCA has continued to deliver our funded projects, carried over from the 2017/18 financial year. We are also lucky to be the recipient of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) funded project - North Burnett Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) and also an Australian Government's - Building Better Regional Fund (BBRF) project - Agricultural Strategy for the Monto District.

Reef Trust III Cropping project, which BCCA delivered on behalf of the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) was a major project which came to an end in June 2019. Well done to the project officer Naomi Purcell, for achieving the project milestones and delivering on time and in budget.

Reef Trust III Grazing project will continue into next financial year due to an extension of the existing contract to December 2019. With the addition of project targets; additional landholder projects, case studies and workshops, the extra deliverables are well underway and we look set to finish this project on time as well.

In March 2019, BCCA were the recipients of Round 3 of the Building Better Regions Fund through the Australian Government. BCCA is in the process of 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 officially begin next financial year and continue for

12 months.

The Monto Agricultural Strategy, another Australian Government—Building Better Regions Fund project, was also a major project undertaken this financial year. The project aimed to empower growers in what was once the Monto Shire. Landholders were surveyed to collect data in order to better understand the existing agricultural situation and direct the Ag Strategy. The final published document was launched in Monto in August 2019. Collating the document was a mammoth task, undertaken by Naomi Purcell and Misty Neilson-Green.

Hannah Vicary also played a major role in the initial stages of the Ag Strategy project. Hannah joined the BCCA team as a Project Support Officer in September 2018, providing support to the delivery of the Ag Strategy and Reef Trust III—Grazing project. Hannah finished with BCCA in May 2019 and took up a position with the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries at Brian Pastures. We are happy that we will still see her out and about in the Burnett region.

Our NDRP project kicked off with a newly employed Community Resilience Officer (CRO) Kirstie Roffey, in September 2018. Sadly for BCCA, Kirstie returned to a career in banking in late August 2019. BCCA wishes Kirstie well in her future endeavours. The CRO position was then filled by Sarah Shaw on 30 September 2019. It is great to have Sarah on board the BCCA team. She will continue on with Kirstie's great start to the program, with intensive workshop planning and one-on-one support relating back to the results from the 'Needs Analysis' in the months ahead.

We would also like to thank the dedicated staff of BCCA who continue to 'go the extra mile' to provide the very best support to landholders in the Burnett Catchment. Thankyou also to the Management Committee who continue to guide us in our efforts to support landholders in the Burnett Catchment under our various projects. For this we are most grateful.

Marisa Young & Melinda
Clarke

REEF TRUST III - GRAZING

MARISA YOUNG



Reef Alliance – Growing a Great Barrier Reef 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. Reef Alliance – Growing a Great Barrier Reef is funded by the Australian Government and delivered through the Reef Trust.

For grazing in the Burnett Mary region under this Program, there was the requirement to work with at least 18 graziers to achieve a minimum of 6500 ha of practice change resulting in improved water quality outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef. In our region, the Program is coordinated by BMRG with Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) and BCCA as joint delivery partners.

Under the Burnett Grazing component of this Program, BCCA aimed to work with commercial-scale graziers, with property located within the priority area (Paradise Dam to Walla Weir and the Baffle catchments), which are keen to retain valuable soil on their property and, therefore, reduce sediment movement to the Reef. The project commenced in July 2016 and was to conclude in June 2019. However, a 6 month extension was granted and the project now concludes in December 2019.

As part of an approved project, BCCA has worked one-on-one with graziers to help identify ways to reduce soil movement and improve grazing land management. Unlike previous Reef projects in our region, the emphasis of this Program is to provide

individually-tailored technical expertise and training to participating graziers. In addition, grant funds have been available to participants to help implement strategic on-ground works that will reduce soil loss from the property such as riparian fencing and associated off-stream watering points and gully erosion remediation.

16 on-ground projects and 3 extension only projects previously approved in 2017-2018 are now completed. The programs target hectares and number of landholders has been exceeded. From the projects completed in the 2018/2019 period; improved practice change in the priority area occurred over a number of different areas, including 72 ha and 11 km of riparian management, 27 ha of erosion management and 4,412ha of ground cover management totalling 4,511 ha.

However, with the six month extension to the program, BCCA has developed projects for five additional landholders. These additional projects consist of riparian fencing and streambank erosion rehabilitation projects. Projects have subsequently been assessed and approved by the Technical panel. Although on a tight timeframe, all five projects are expected to be completed by the end of November 2019.

In addition, under the program, BCCA has coordinated two workshops, one Soil Erosion Field day at Biggenden in August 2019 and also a Resource Consulting Services (RCS) Grazing Clinic in Biggenden in October 2019. Both were well attended and received positive feedback from participants. One final Soil Erosion field day is planned under the program for November in the Miriam Vale area.

For the 2019 period, BCCA will continue to work with landholders providing extension support and project follow up.



Participants at the RCS Grazing Clinic at Biggenden

Marisa Young

REEF TRUST—CROPPING NAOMI PURCELL



Reef Alliance – Growing a Great Barrier Reef Program 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 has worked in partnership with Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. to support grain growers through the Reef Alliance ‘Growing a Great Barrier Reef’ project. The project was funded by the Australian Government and delivered through the Reef Trust.

Commencing in July 2016 and continuing until June 2019, the project aimed to improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef from broad-scale land use to increase the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. Working closely with FBA, Burnett Catchment Care Association was responsible for delivering the Cropping aspect of the Reef Alliance Program for the Catchment area.

“...reduce sediment run-off was recorded over 1231ha for ten operations.....”

In the final two semesters of the project, practice change to reduce sediment run-off was recorded for 641ha over seven operations. Five Landholders achieved practice change to reduce sediment run-off over a total of 374ha by improving “repeatability” of wheel traffic while a further two Landholders opted to improve tillage practices over 267ha by allowing planting into standing stubble and greater moisture retention. Five Landholders achieved practice change to reduce herbicide run-off by ensuring greater accuracy of application and minimising overlap.

Over the course of the entire Reef Trust III Grains program in the Burnett Region, practice change to reduce sediment run-off was recorded over 1231ha for ten operations and practice change relating to herbicide run-off was recorded for 618ha over six operations.



Growers inspecting David Peters’ sorghum crop

Throughout the 18/19 financial year, interested growers had the opportunity to attend two separate events, the first being a bus trip to Allora and Dalby in February 2019 where a group of 12 Landholders headed to David Peter’s farm in the Allora District. David was awarded the Grain Grower of the Year award from GRDC in 2018 and is well known for growing high yielding dryland crops. The next 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.

The second event saw 29 participants from 20 operations attend a soil Health Assessment evening with David Hall in April 2019. Local Growers who participated in the Reef Trust III Soil Testing project attended a group presentation by Agronomist, David Hall. After carrying out soil testing on various farms and discussing individual results with each Grower, David met with the group to discuss the summarised results and provide strategies for maximising soil health and minimising insufficiencies.

End of financial year reporting was submitted to FBA without issue and the project is now complete.

Naomi Purcell

BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND—MONTO AG STRATEGY

NAOMI PURCELL



The Monto Agricultural Strategy was a new project, thanks to the Australian Government's funding through the Building Better Regions Fund – Community Investment Stream. The project aimed to empower growers in what was once the Monto Shire by providing relevant information regarding diversifying income streams, reducing financial risk and ensuring more reliable farm incomes.

The concept for the Monto Agricultural Strategy came from our local Monto farmers following the October 2017 flood event. When the aftermath of the October 2017 flood set in, local producers' resilience had been pushed to the absolute limit and they were left somewhere in between melancholy and despair. As a result, the application for the Monto Agricultural Strategy was born.

The Monto Agricultural Strategy aims to support the development of meaningful and long-lasting resilience by addressing the fundamental economic and Natural Resource Management foundations of the region. By carefully researching current agricultural practices, economic, market, consumer and environmental trends, the strategy provides a plan for long-term success that delivers a vision for the region's agricultural and environmental sustainability. The strategy seeks to determine the support and infrastructure required for existing

markets and examine value-adding opportunities to drive productivity and growth along the supply chain, ultimately empowering growers and yielding financial rewards for individual operations, the local economy and the wider community.

“...support the development of meaningful and long-lasting resilience....”

As part of developing the Ag Strategy a survey was mailed to all landholders within the Monto district as well as circulated on the Burnett Catchment Care Association Facebook page. This survey was used to collect data from Monto residents in order to better understand the existing agricultural situation and to direct the Ag Strategy going forward. All valid responses to the survey went into the draw to win a \$500 gift voucher at a Monto rural supplies store.

On Thursday evening, 29 August 2019, a crowd gathered to see the official launch of the Monto Agricultural Strategy. Mr Ken O'Dowd MP, Federal Member for Flynn performed official opening duties as local supporters watched on. Also in attendance was Mr Colin Boyce NP, State Member for Callide and Mr Paul Lobegeier, North Burnett Regional Council Division 1 Councillor. Representing the Burnett Catchment Care Association Board were Mr Paul Lobegeier and Mrs Beth Shanks.

Approximately 45 guests from the Monto district attended the official launch and had a wonderful time learning about the Monto Agricultural Strategy and mingling with fellow producers. A highlight of the night was listening to guest speaker Mr Rob Cook. Rob humbly led guests through his life journey and included an insight into his multi-faceted and successful agricultural business.

The Monto Agricultural Strategy was developed by Burnett Catchment Care Association in partnership with the North Burnett Regional Council, Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation, Monto Growers Group and Farmstuff Monto.

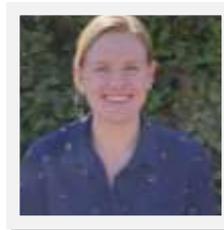


BCCA staff and Mr Ken O'Dowd MP, at the official launch

Naomi Purcell

NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM

SARAH SHAW



Building Resilience in the North Burnett project is funded under the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP). This project aims to build and enhance natural disaster resilience in the agricultural North Burnett, through assisting agribusinesses to examine their operations and determine ways to mitigate the impact of natural disasters and flooding events on their businesses and in turn improve overall production and profitability.

Kirstie Roffey was employed as the Community Resilience Officer (CRO) in September 2018. In the initial stages of the project Kirstie completed a Situation Analysis Report and subsequent Needs Analysis Study, in consultation with local landholders, as well as local and industry organisations/groups. This ensured we were able to deliver support, resources and solutions that are relevant to and required by our local producers.

In April 2019, BCCA hosted a Business Edge workshop, which is part of MLA's EDGENetwork suite of courses. 16 North Burnett members were subsidised by the NDRP program. Participants gained practical learning opportunities to help improve their enterprises through building business/financial resilience.

Project Officer, Kirstie Roffey left the position in late August 2019. The Community Resilience Officer (CRO) position was filled by Sarah Shaw on 30 September 2019. Sarah will continue on with Kirstie's great start to the program, with intensive workshop planning and one-on-one support relating back to the results from the Needs Analysis in the months ahead.

In July, an expression of interest (EOI) was distributed to landholders in the North Burnett for a free property visit by a soil conservation specialist and development of an individual erosion rehabilitation guide. Seven EOI's were received, with all property visits completed and their erosion rehabilitation guides drafted by November 2019.

Nineteen individuals (17 businesses) attended



John Day with North Burnett landholder, inspecting erosion site

'Managing Risks in Agriculture' workshops in Monto and Coalstoun Lakes in August 2019. These workshops assisted producers to identify and manage risks within their business and also covered the topics of insurance and climate. Positive feedback was received from both workshops.

Thirty one participants (28 businesses), were subsidised to attend a 2 1/2 day Resource Consulting Services (RCS) grazing clinic in Biggenden from 9 to 11 October. The RCS' workshop assisted producers to develop their skills as grass managers by increasing practical knowledge, as well as controlling grazing outcomes by using planning tools and refreshing the basic principles of essential grazing management. The workshop was very well attended and great feedback was received.

NDRP will continue to assist producers to connect with industry professionals regarding, insurance, mapping, resilience development and innovation. Through support and promotion of educational opportunities for resilience and disaster preparedness training, the NDRP project aims to implement practical actions outlined in the Needs Analysis to assist landholders into next financial year.

written by Melinda Clarke

BUILDING BETTER REGIONS FUND—SMART-HUB MELINDA CLARKE & MISTY NEILSON-GREEN



In March 2019, BCCA were successful in Round 3 of the Building Better Regions Fund through the Australian Government. 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 project began in July 2019 and will continue for 12 months.

BCCA started the project by asking landholders to complete a short survey, to identify the type of information they are currently accessing for their business and what information they would like

access to which is specific for the Inland Burnett.

The findings from the survey will ultimately be used to create a website (SMART-Hub), with regionally specific information. The online hub is designed to enhance the users accessibility and connection to regionally relevant, smart farming resources.

Melinda Clarke & Misty
Neilson-Green



COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ACTION GRANT MELINDA CLARKE

BCCA successfully obtained a 'Community Sustainability Action Grant' to collaborate with Gympie Regional Council (GRC), to monitor current infestation levels of Rubber Vine (RV), Parthenium Weed and Honey Locust (HL) in the Barambah Creek, Boonara Creek and also sections of the Moonda Waamba Creek located in the GRC area. The project was funded by the State Government acting through the Department of Environment and Science.

A weeds contractor treated approximately 50m either side of these identified areas of invasive weed infestation, covering an area of approximately 800ha and 70km of riparian area. Weed control contractors commenced Parthenium treatment in December 2018, after the area received adequate rainfall to promote weed germination in mid October 2018. The project areas were found to have a higher Parthenium infestation level than initially anticipated, therefore due to the vigorous nature of the species, a more thorough initial treatment was undertaken to reduce the extent of the follow up treatment required.

This project will include monitoring the treatment areas and landholder and community education as

part of the long term activities. Extension will focus on increasing the awareness of these weeds (identification, vectors of spread and control) to provide the community with the ability to keep the catchment free of these weeds, and promote the need for early intervention to build the desire of the community within the project area to respond to new infestations in the future.

Initial Rubber Vine and Honey Locust treatment on the Lower Barambah and Boonara Creek was conducted in December 2018. The conditions were favourable for weed treatment and has been finished ahead of schedule. The drone survey, conducted on 14 May 2019, was used to establish the levels of Rubber Vine and Honey Locusts infestation in deep gorges and difficult terrain areas. No Honey Locust was located in the treatment area. Rubber Vine was located on the Boonara Creek banks at the upper end of the region, just prior to where Boonara Creek flows into North Burnett Regional Council. Next financial year will see the treatment of the remaining Rubber Vine and also follow up treatment of the Parthenium.

Melinda Clarke