

# the burnett buzz...

Summer 2019/2020

## Combined Growers Monto Tour

**O**n Monday and Tuesday 24 and 25 February 2020, growers from the Monto district, Monto Growers Group members and Isis Canegrowers members gathered together for the second tour of the Achieving Better Results Together Program. This program was funded by the Queensland Government Reef Water Quality Program with support from Burnett Mary Regional Group and Burnett Catchment Care Association.

Twenty-seven growers attended Salisbury's farm, "Glenbrae" on Monday for a morning with Mary O'Brien. Mary walked attendees through best practice chemical use, spray drift risk management (including risks associated with inversion conditions) and legislative requirements around the use of 2,4-D. Mary provided extensive reference material and provided practical demonstration of nozzle selection with her demonstration spray rig. It was great to have the theory reinforced via a hands-on demonstration.

### "..theory reinforced via a hands -on demonstration."

After lunch everyone went for a tour of "Glenbrae" with Ben Salisbury leading the way. While on tour, Mark Kurtz from Think Water Callide Valley gave a demonstration of Salisbury's newly installed lateral irrigation unit and discussed the pros and cons of various

irrigation systems with growers. Mark was a wealth of knowledge on all things irrigation and answered questions from growers around water efficiency, value for capital expenditure and energy costs.

### "....designing and using decision making matrices..."

Growers joined in for a social dinner on Monday night where Monto locals and Isis Canegrowers shared stories of their own cropping practices and debriefed each other on the days' learnings. It was great to finish off a good day of learning with a more relaxed atmosphere.

On Tuesday morning, Naomi Purcell from Burnett Catchment Care Association introduced the Growers to various decision support tools and demonstrated the practice of designing and using decision making matrices as a decision support tool. Growers then had to produce their own decision matrix that was relevant to their specific operation and the exercise was completed very successfully.

The next port of call was a run-down on the financial options on offer from QRIDA with Mark Barrett. Mark is a regular visitor to Monto and was able to tailor his presentation to the growers attending his session.

Tim Neale of Data Farming was the last "classroom" session of the day. Tim gave a run-down on the latest GPS and equivalent technology, easy steps to take towards controlled traffic farming and

effective ways to drain water from farming paddocks.

Tim's visit then extended to Sanderson Farm just north of Monto where he explained his high resolution satellite imagery mapping tool and gave a quick run-down on compaction and soil health.

While the group started to part ways for other commitments, a few (including Isis Canegrowers members) stayed on to visit the Muller's corn crop on Cania Road.

Feedback from the 2-day event included comments such as:

"Networking is really important at this early stage of farming for us"

"The socialising from a mental health point of view is very positive"

"The spray nozzle information was great and I will most probably change my practices on farm"

"Simple chit chat between growers is highly valuable"

Thanks must go to Salisbury Farming for their hospitality on day 1, Sanderson Farm for a site visit on day 2 and Mullers for allowing an impromptu visit at the last minute.



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## Highlights:

- Building Resilience in the Agricultural North Burnett program update and new Community Resilience Officer—Sarah Shaw
- Opportunity for Burnett Graziers through new program
- Red Earth Leadership Program sponsorship

# Queensland Regional Community Forum

**B**CCA Extension Officer, Naomi Purcell has been selected to represent the Wide Bay/Burnett/Fraser Coast region on the recently established Queensland Regional Community Forums.

A Queensland Government initiative, the program comprises of seven regions covering the whole of Queensland with approximately 20 people in each regional forum group. 144 members were selected out of a total of 330 applicants to represent various districts, industries and demographics.

**“...bring local regional stakeholders and government representatives together...”**

The forums are intended to “bring locals, regional stakeholders and government representatives together each quarter to discuss local priorities and opportunities, and consider what outcomes are most important to the community” (<https://campaigns.premiers.qld.gov.au/advancing-qld-regions/#wbfc>).

The first forum was hosted in Maryborough and chaired by Mr Bruce Saunders MP. Also attending was The Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister



*Second Queensland Regional Community Forum hosted in Cherbourg.*

for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and The Honourable Leanne Enoch MP, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. These Queensland Government representatives will continue with the Wide Bay/Burnett/Fraser Coast forums until the fourth and final forum.

The second forum was hosted in Cherbourg and built on the work carried out in forum one. All going to plan, the final forum will be hosted in

Monto in the second half of 2020.

Naomi has been advocating strongly for agriculture and rural liveability and will continue to do so for the remainder of the program. Small business and rural employment are also high on Naomi's agenda. It is great to have an opportunity to give rural and regional areas a voice amongst Queensland Government representatives.



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## Community Resilience Officer—Sarah Shaw

**H**i, my name is Sarah and I have recently come onboard with BCCA as the Community Resilience Officer, taking over the facilitation of the “Building Resilience in the Agricultural North Burnett” project.

I come from a rural background; our family owned a piggery on the Darling Downs since I was quite young. Since completing a Bachelor of Business Management degree, I worked as a Human Resource Consultant for a business advisory firm in Dalby. More recently, I managed our family piggery and cattle operation on the Downs before we decided to sell. I have also

worked in administration in a large-scale feedlot, so I have done my fair share of work in intensive industries!

My project's aim is to assist agriculturalists in analysing their operations and equipping them with the necessary skills to become more resilient in order to mitigate and respond to the negative effects of natural disasters in the region.

I really enjoy working within rural communities and am looking forward to coordinating workshops and field days that will provide valuable information for primary producers to become more resilient.



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# Opportunity for Burnett Graziers

**B**CCA has recently been contracted by BMRG to coordinate the Reef Water Quality – Burnett Grazing Project, which is funded by the Queensland Government through the Natural Resources Investment Program (NRIP).

The project will include undertaking Property Management Planning with graziers, one-on-one extension, workshops and landholder incentives in the Burnett Catchment priority area—

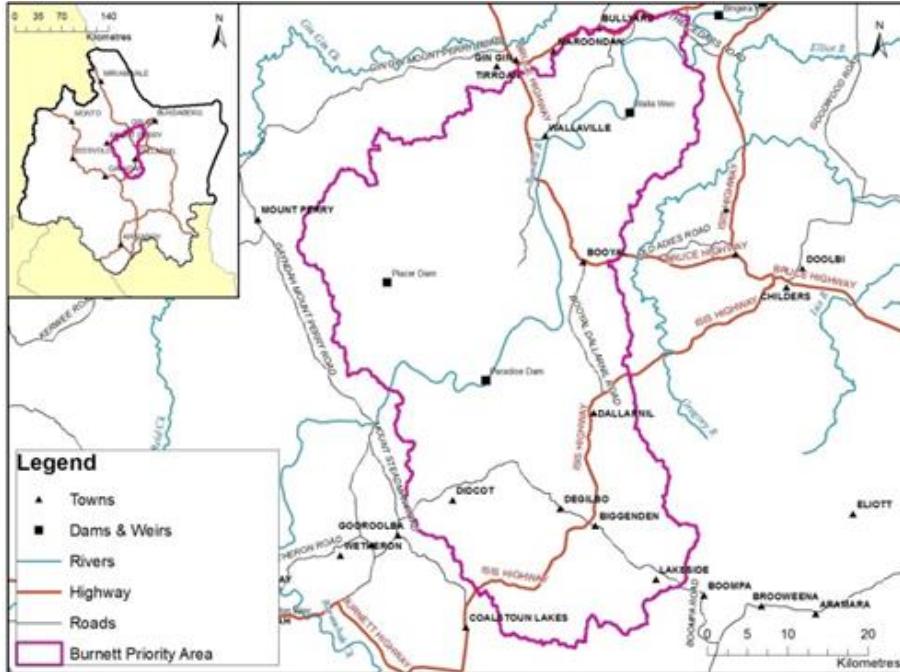
downstream of Paradise Dam—to improve Reef Water Quality.

A key objective of the program is to improve groundcover (particularly those areas of properties with poorer land condition), through improved grazing practices, within the priority area.

BCCA will assist graziers in the priority area to develop individual property management plans and identify priorities/areas, to work towards improving grazing practices. BCCA will be engaging with graziers in the priority area (downstream of Paradise Dam

through to Walla weir) to develop property management plans and potentially identify areas which may be eligible for on ground project funding to implement improved grazing practices (such as riparian fencing, land type fencing etc).

*"....improve groundcover through improved grazing practices...."*



**Burnett Grazing Priority Area—The Burnett River catchment, downstream of Paradise Dam.**

If you are interested in being part of the program and you meet the following criteria, please contact us at BCCA for an Expression of Interest [form](#), and return to BCCA.

- Is your property located in the Burnett Priority Area? The priority area is in the Burnett River catchment, downstream of Paradise Dam—see map.
- Are you concerned about poor ground cover, bare patches or erosion areas on parts of your property?
- Would you like to develop a Property Management Plan (PMP) with assistance from an extension officer?

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## Grains Research & Development Corporation

**B**CCA's Community Resilience Officer Sarah, attended a Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC) Update in Moura on 28 November. Road tripping with our local Agronomist and 2 local Growers.

It was a very full day of information sharing, however it was a great opportunity to hear some of the latest research findings and trial work that is happening and to keep up to date with what's happening in the wider regions.

*Chris Abbott—Bluffview,  
Kendall Muller—  
FarmStuff Monto, Jason  
Larsen—Larsen's Lucerne  
Supplies, Sarah Shaw—  
BCCA CRO & Cambell  
Hill—FarmStuff Biloela*



# Building Resilience in the Agricultural North Burnett

Sarah Shaw, our Community Resilience Officer, shares some updates on what's been happening in her busy part of the world, as she continues to deliver workshops under the 'Building Resilience in the Agricultural North Burnett' program that BCCA is currently running. This program is proudly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments through the 2017-18 Natural Disaster Resilience Program.

"...upskill farmers so they are better able to withstand and respond to natural disasters..."



*John Day visiting an erosion site north east of Monto.*



*Heather Ellis of BlueWren Connections*

In late 2019, Heather Ellis (BlueWren Connections) and Pam McAllister (McAllister Leadership) ran a two day 'Building Communication Skills' workshop in Monto on 29 & 30 October at the Colonial Motor Inn organised by team member Naomi Purcell.

The workshop was funded under the

Natural Disaster Resilience Program which aims to upskill farmers so they are better able to withstand and respond to natural disasters in the North Burnett.

One of the areas that was identified in the needs analysis as requiring attention, was further education and training in communication skills and personal development courses.

A group of 12 participants arrived bright and early on day 1, to learn among other things, about communication skills, self-analysing and understanding their personality traits.

"...communication skills, self-analysis and understanding their personality traits.

Pam and Heather took the group through various sessions ranging from 'understanding what personality type you were' and how each personality type interacts, learning the art of having a difficult conversation, what skills are needed as a leader and how to lead in the community.

It was a great two days of internal reflection as well as understanding the importance of effective communication for our participants.

In late 2019, we organised a Nutrition, Supplements and Drought Feeding Workshop which was presented by Roger Sneath from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. After a bit of a hiccup with location, 34 producers made their way to the RSL in Monto where valuable and necessary

# Building Resilience in the Agricultural North Burnett



**DAF Senior Extension Officer (Beef) Roger Sneath at the Nutrition, Supplements and Drought Feeding workshop in Monto.**

**“...how much energy is required from different classes of cattle...**

information was provided to the group. Roger facilitated a great workshop in discussing and understanding what nutritional value would be provided from different types of supplements, how much energy is required for different classes of cattle and some useful tips when feeding supplements. The level of attendance and the questions that were fielded throughout the day highlighted just how relevant this session was for our region during

this period.

In March 2020, we trialed a night-time workshop delivery method for rural producers in Mt Perry and Eidsvold on the topic of finance. BMO Business Centre delivered short, sharp and snappy finance segments on a range of topics including cashflow, farm diversification, financial structuring,



**BMO Business Centre presenters Adrian, David & Oliver with our CRO Sarah**

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business versatility, bookkeeping programs and swot analysis. Although attendance was low, this didn't detract from the value of the workshops as it allowed our presenters to tailor their presentation to suit what attendees particularly wanted to hear about.

We felt there was great atmosphere for

**“...short, sharp and snappy finance segments ...**

both sessions and lots of questions were asked with participants staying on to have further discussions with the BMO Partners.

## Erosion & Whoa Boy workshop

In early March, landholders gathered on a property south of Mundubbera to learn all about 'whoa boys' – the what, the why and the how.

John Day from Emu Ridge Pty Ltd kicked the day off with a great presentation on soil erosion and provided attendees with a copy of the recently published book 'Gully Erosion

– Options for Prevention and Rehabilitation' co-written by John Day and Bob Shepherd.

The second part of the workshop was presented by Darryl Hill from Soil Save. Darryl is an expert in whoa boy construction and it was great to hear his thoughts on how to construct a whoa boy from his many years of experience.

He provided a short video for viewers to watch and followed this up with a detailed session on the different factors to consider when constructing a whoa boy.

Practical demonstration and instruction for attendees was also done on the use of dumpy levels (and what to consider when purchasing one). After lunch we ventured into the paddock, where Darryl instructed the local landholder on how to construct a whoa boy using just a tractor and a pair of rippers.

This workshop was particularly useful in seeing how erosion mitigating techniques can be employed with equipment that may be more easily accessible in the area. A very educational and practical workshop!

*This workshop was supported by the Burnett Catchment Care Association through funding from the Queensland Government Reef Water Quality Program.*



*Whoa Boy construction using a tractor and a pair of rippers.*

## Red Earth Community Leadership Program

**Congratulations** to Clare Webb and Christine Scutt who successfully completed the 2020 Red Earth Community Foundation's Community Leadership Program. Clare and Christine attended two modules of the program, held in February and March at the beautiful Bunya Mountains.

The program aims to build confidence, capabilities and networks of people to promote leadership skills in order to facilitate the development of prosperity and resilience, which can then be transferred to their communities. BCCA are confident your new found leadership capacities and your ability to apply these techniques will make a difference in your lives moving forward.

Their sponsorship to attend the program was proudly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments through the 2017-18 Natural Disaster Resilience Program.



*Clare Webb and Christine Scutt attending the Red Earth Community Leadership Program at the Bunya Mountains.*

# Barambah & Boonara Catchment Weed Project

**B**CCA's Community Sustainability Action Grant (CSAG) —Invasive Weed Control in the Barambah and Boonara Catchments project has come to completion. The project commenced in 2018 and aimed to monitor and treat infestation levels of Rubber Vine, Parthenium Weed and Honey Locust in the Barambah, Boonara Creek and sections of the Moonda Waamba Creek located in the Gympie Regional Council (GRC) area.

This project built on previous project works which involved treatment of targeted declared plants (Rubber Vine & Parthenium) in the Barambah, Boonara and sections of the Moonda Waamba creek. Preliminary visual surveys in the GRC area, indicate that the distribution of these species was initially low due to previous control measures. Weed control work under this proposal led to a high chance of areas becoming weed free or at a manageable level for the participating landholders.

Initial chemical treatment of the project area for Parthenium, Rubber Vine and Honey Locust was 862 hectares. The project area was found to have a higher Parthenium infestation level than initially anticipated and the contractors felt it was best to do a more thorough initial treatment rather than spraying less of the infestation at the outset and

following up later due to the vigorous nature of the species.

Drone survey of the project area in May 2019 was conducted over 886 hectares. Rubber Vine regrowth was evident in a 100 hectare stretch of the Lower Boonara Creek. Treatment of Rubber Vine corresponded to the weed flowering, thus reducing seed pod formation which would subsequently be scattered by the wind and also carried downstream by water. Parthenium follow up treatment was carried out by contractors over a 54 hectare area on the Lower Boonara Creek which had a very high infestation of Parthenium. Continued local Council and Landholder involvement outside the grant will be required to maintain a control on the Parthenium.

The isolated infestation of Honey Locust along 3km of Ettrickdale Road along the Boonara Creek, was chemically treated in December 2018, follow up ground survey in May 2019 revealed no evidence of Honey Locust in the treatment area. Treating the Honey Locust when in flower prevented it from developing the characteristic long brown pods which are spread by grazing stock eating the pods and passing seed in dung and also



Weed contractor spraying Parthenium.

spread of pods downstream via floodwaters. Overall, 70 kilometers of riverbank was remediated during the project through chemical control of Rubber Vine, Honey Locust and Parthenium.

Extension and awareness was provided to landholders in the treatment area by GRC land protection officers, landholders will have the ability to identify these invasive weeds, with early intervention to new infestations will in the long-term give the community the ability to maintain the work achieved under the CSAG.

*This project was funded by the State Government acting through the Department of Environment & Science.*

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## Inland Burnett SMART—Hub

**I**nland Burnett: SMART Audit and Strategic Gap Analysis project is funded by the Australian Government through Building Better Regions Fund.

The founding concept behind this project is based on the fact that agriculture is fast becoming more knowledge intensive. Landholders being able to source timely and 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.

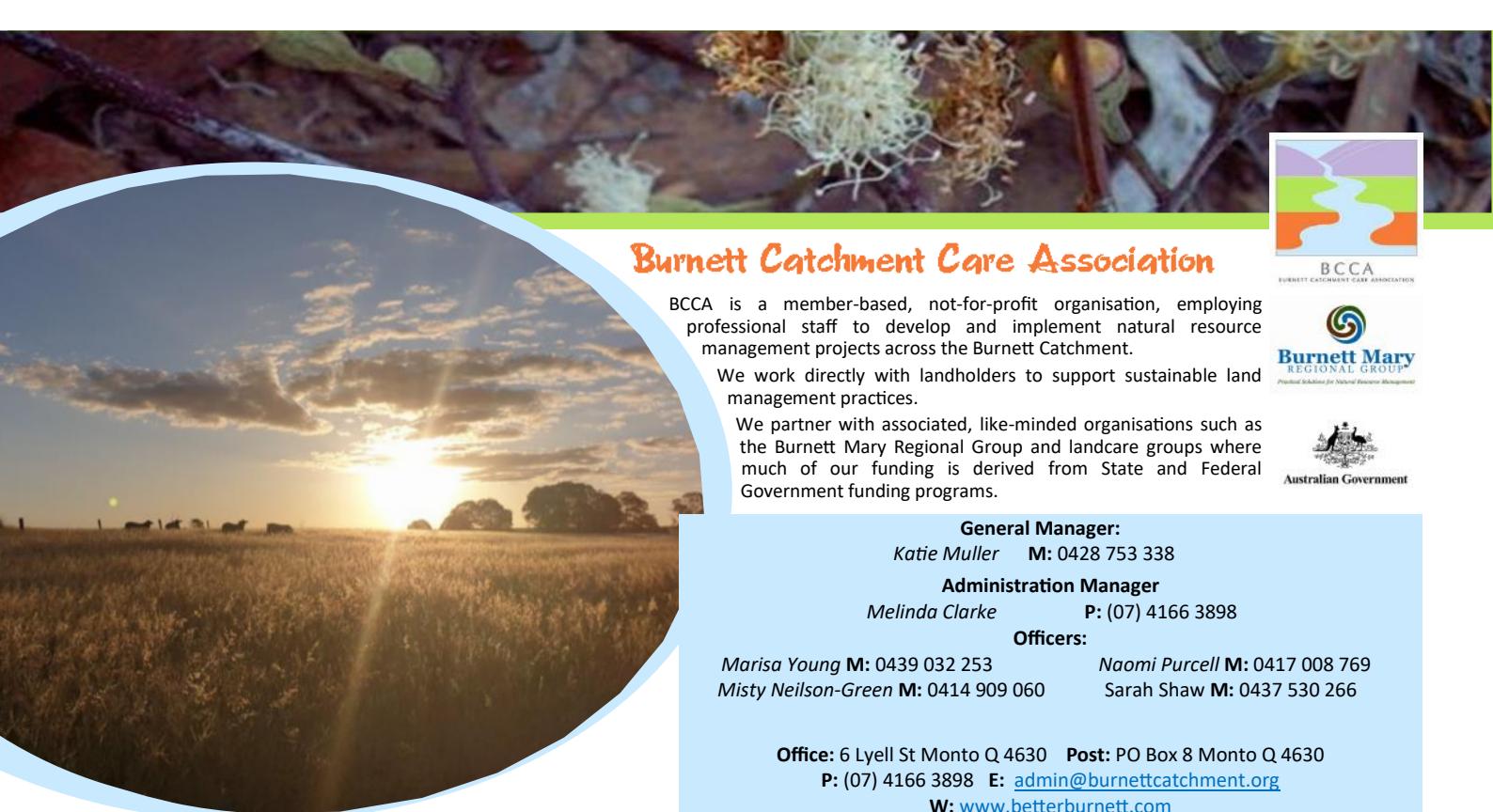
We have been busy gathering information from landholders and industry stakeholders to identify the type of information they are currently using and what regionally specific information they would like access to.

The resources that industry stakeholders and service providers are currently using to engage with clients/landholders/members within their

organisation are of particular interest. The resources identified via this project will be used to develop an on-line agricultural resources hub specifically designed for the Inland Burnett region.

If you are an industry stakeholder and service the Inland Burnett and would like to contribute to our program please complete our short survey by following the link—<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/39B5RVN>.

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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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### Administration Manager

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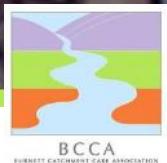
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## Last word...



**Katie Muller and Christine Scutt attending the 2020 Community Leadership Program dinner at the Bunya Mountains.**

**A** new decade and a new project and status for BCCA! In 2020, BCCA are excited to be part of a new project, The Reef Water Quality – Burnett Grazing Project, which is funded by the Queensland Government's Natural Resources Investment Program and another great project by BMRG. The Reef Water Quality – Burnett Grazing Project is offering graziers located within the Burnett priority area the opportunity to undertake Property Management Planning as well as access to one-on-one training and on-property cash incentives to help improve groundcover and grazing management practices.

The new decade also sees BCCA obtain Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status! This will hopefully open up many more funding opportunities for BCCA and we look forward to exploring the possibilities available. We welcome any members with any project ideas to contact any of the BCCA staff and we will

see what we can do. As always, we are constantly applying for new funding so we can continue to support land managers in the Burnett.

I was privileged to attend the graduation dinner of the 2020 Red Earth Community Foundation Leadership Program held at the Bunya Mountains in early March. I was lucky enough to do the program last year and it was pleasing to see another set of excited North and South Burnett community members discover their potential. BCCA were proud to sponsor two north Burnett graziers to attend as well as our own Misty Neilson-Green.

We hope everyone in the Burnett was blessed with some decent rain for the summer and we are hopeful for another good drop before winter sets in.

We wish everyone good health during this unprecedented time we face with COVID-19. As an organisation, we have made the decision to postpone any

workshops, meetings or property visits planned for the near future.

We however, are still all working remotely for now, so are only a phone call, text, email, facebook message or zoom video conference away if we can be of assistance.

Stay safe and stay home everyone!

*Katie Muller*

### 2019/20 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

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