



MAY 2011

LOCAL NEWS and EVENTS

Esk Creeks Debris Clean-up and Restoration Project

Information Session and BBQ to be held on **Friday 13th May 2011** at 3pm in the Pipeliner Park, Esk. Bring yourself and your family. To learn more information about this project, all landholders adjoining Redbank Creek are invited to a BBQ Meeting together with the partners in this project and any other interested persons. The Construction Training Centre in conjunction with SEQ Catchments, Somerset Regional Council, Apex Australia and the Queensland Government are undertaking a debris clean-up and creek restoration project within the Esk township along Redbank and Sandy Creeks. For catering purposes, please call or email Jackie Cross on 3216 6711 or email jackie.cross@ctc.qld.edu.au

SEQ Catchments Community NRM on ground Activity Support Grants are open for Expression of Interest from Landcare Groups within the Stanley and Upper Brisbane River Catchments. Up to \$3,000 will be available to assist groups with equipment, materials and expenses associated with local on-ground projects. Contract Bruce Lord on 5422 0516 or 0427 013284 or email blord@seqcatchments.com.au

Celebrate the good life on May 13-15 as the high country village of Hampton hosts the award winning **Hampton Food & Arts Festival** for more information see the website <http://www.hamptonfestival.com/>



The importance of monitoring your pastures – quantity and quality

Remember, now is an ideal time to take stock of your pastures. I would encourage all landholders, particularly those who have been involved in SEQ Catchments grazing program and DEEDI Stocktake workshops to continue to actively monitor the condition of their pastures. By doing this you will not only be helping to determine whether your stocking rates are compatible with the quantity of feed on offer during the upcoming dry season (forage budgeting) but also for monitoring and recording some of those more subtle long-term changes to the condition of your pastures and soils in your paddocks. Ongoing monitoring at a few representative sites on your property is a very simple but valuable way to better understand the long term changes in land condition by looking composition of key indicator species, weeds, soil surface condition and groundcover levels to better plan and manage for sustainability and profitability of your grazing system.

Nutritional experts like DEEDI's Principal Beef Extension officer, Russ Tyler are reminding people not to alter normal management practices like delaying weaning and take care with stocking rates as large bodies of feed generated from the record wet season in many areas does not always equate to good nutrition. Russ says it is important that producers have an understanding of the protein levels and digestibility of their pasture after a big wet season, because even though there are large amounts of feed available, it will often have lower levels due to dilution of nutrients and the pastures reaching maturity more quickly. One of the ways producers can monitor pasture quality is through Faecal NIRS which provides an indication of what the animal is eating by analysing a dung sample , with interpretation of results from the Brisbane based company Symbio Alliance and further advice from DEEDI's beef extension staff.

If you would like any more information on monitoring your pastures or would like to be involved in future grazing initiatives with SEQC and DEEDI please give me a call – Bruce Lord 54220516, 0427 013284 or email blord@seqcatchments.com.au .



Photos left & right : Simple photopoint monitoring of the landscape and assessment of key indicators such as pasture diversity and % of desirable 3 P (Perennial , Productive , Palatable) pasture species, and groundcover levels at representative sites over time provides a wonderful record of the condition of your land, which ultimately reflects your long term management & drives your profitability.

New online mapping portal that will mobilise communities to help protect koalas and their habitats was launched by Esri Australia and the Australia Koala Foundation. The AKF's KoalaMap lets the public be part of urgent efforts to protect Australia's cutest national treasure. It provides the ability to enter information into easy to navigate maps of local areas, adding to research on koala sightings and habitat quality. AKF have developed the user-friendly portal that provides an accurate account of koalas' wild habitats, irrespective of land ownership. To view the maps, log koala sightings and much more...go to <https://www.savethekoala.com/koalamap.html>

The **Glossy Black Conservancy** is coordinating its 3rd annual census of Glossy Black-Cockatoos on Sunday 22 May 2011. The objective of the census is to gain a better estimate of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo population size regionally while also providing an opportunity to assess the long-term trends in the regional population. To contact your local survey coordinator or to find out other information about the census or Glossy Black-Cockatoos, visit <http://www.glossyblack.org.au>. SEQ Catchments has been a partner of the Conservancy since 2006.

The **Wild About Macadamias** project continues to make great inroads into improving understanding and conservation of wild macadamias – all of which are threatened nationally and at State level. SEQ Catchments is supporting the project, which is coordinated by the Macadamia Conservation Trust, with funding from Horticulture Australia Limited, Tweed Shire Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Logan City Council, Gympie Regional Council and the Australian Macadamia Handlers Association. The project aims to ensure the long-term conservation of the wild populations of Macadamias. For further details, contact Maria Matthes, Wild About Macadamias Project Officer, phone: 02 66879808 or 0400 209 214, email: maria.matthes@macadamias.org.

Professor Ross Garnaut's fourth update paper to the **Climate Change Review Update 2011**, [Transforming Rural Land Use](#), was recently launched and is now available online. The paper discusses the role that the land sector can play in climate change mitigation and the tremendous opportunities available which can both transform the Australian mitigation effort and improve the economic prospects of rural Australia. Previous Garnaut review updates at www.garnautreview.org.au.

Landcare conference focuses on Indigenous NRM

The 2011 Queensland Landcare Conference theme, **Generations of Guardians**, means more to land carers than just passing knowledge to the next generation of farmers. Australia's Traditional Owners have a long history of managing the landscape. The program for the 2011 conference will profile some of their recent work in helping others understand how to be 'good guardians of the land'. A field trip is planned to explore coastal and traditional land management issues around Ayr with visits to cultural heritage sites and presentations from local Traditional Owners. Several concurrent sessions are also planned to profile Indigenous NRM and conference delegates will be provided with an overview of Indigenous landcare work in the Burdekin and beyond. Session topics include:

- the Junior Wild River Rangers Program
- conservation and land management training tailored to Indigenous communities, and
- a Native American perspective on traditional land management.

Early bird registration for community groups is only \$380, so book today and don't miss out on this great conference. To view the first program announcement and registration package, visit the [Landcare Queensland website](#) or contact the conference manager on 5538 5109.

From the suggestions of participants in the Sydney Metro Catchment Management Authority (CMA) 2009 Community Forum, the CMA has recently produced [101 Secrets for a Successful Environmental Volunteer Group](#). For any additional information please contact Helen Kemp, Community Support Officer, Sydney Metro CMA 02 9895 6207 or Helen.Kemp@cma.nsw.gov.au.

Myrtle Rust Update The recently introduced Myrtle Rust disease is continuing to spread. The Department of Primary Industries has produced a six module training programme to raise awareness and - with luck - limit the spread of this disease. You can find details on the [DPI website here](#). Dr Carol Booth is well known to Queensland conservationists. She is currently working with the [Invasive Species Council](#) and she is very concerned about the the disease in its native South potential of this disease. The Council has released a factsheet detailing America and its impact on Australian native Eucalyptus, Melaleuca and Syzigium species there.

Myrtle rust affected sites tops 100

Myrtle rust has now been confirmed on over 100 sites across Queensland. Affected sites include public and private lands, businesses and national parks predominantly located around the south-east corner of the state.

Myrtle rust is a serious plant fungal disease that affects myrtaceous plants including many that are commonly found in gardens. View the [full list of known host plants for myrtle rust](#) and photo gallery of affected plants. Many of Queensland's coastal communities are at risk of myrtle rust infection and residents and businesses in these areas should be alert to signs of the disease which is expected to continue to spread northwards.

Please call the Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23 to report any suspected sightings of myrtle rust.

Turf triumphs in protection of slopes

Recent turf research has clearly shown the [value of turfgrass in retaining sediment on slopes](#) and reducing nutrient movement into waterways. As part of a project, it was found that sod was 100 times more effective in keeping soil in place during heavy rainfall than exposed soil. The project monitored soil losses during an eight week period, in January and February 2011 which encompassed a time of extensive flooding in south east Queensland.

GRANTS & FUNDING

Online Technology Provider for Non-Profit Organisations DonorTec provides donated and discounted technology products and services from companies such as [Microsoft](#), [Symantec](#), [Sophos](#), [Kaspersky](#) and [Cisco](#) to eligible income tax exempt (ITE) Australian nonprofit groups. Via this program nonprofits can access the latest technology via donations or generous discounts.
<http://www.donortec.org/>

EVENTS

Somerset Futures Community Plan – Validation Phase to finalise the community planning process, one of the final steps is the validation phase where there is an opportunity for community, government and business to look at the plan to ensure that it captures the views and visions of the community. All interested persons who have completed a survey or engaged in the process are invited to come along to give your views. Next Meeting **Wed 11 May** at the Fernvale Futures Complex, 6-8pm For further information contact Rachael Uhr, Fieldworx on 3257 0395

Brisbane City Council are hosting their "Connected to Forests" forum on **Sunday 22 May 2011 from 9.20 am to 3.00 pm** at :

**Walkabout Creek Conference and Function Centre
60 Mt Nebo Road, The Gap**

The forum is aimed at catchment, bushcare and conservation partners and will provide practical knowledge in forest habitat identification, restoration and resilience. The CEO of SEQ Catchments will be giving the Keynote address on 'Forests, catchments and climate – a regional perspective'.

Attendance is free and morning tea and lunch are provided. **Registration and more information is available through Brisbane City Council – please contact Emily on Emily.Brash@brisbane.qld.gov.au or (07) 3407 0136.**

SEQ Fire & Biodiversity Consortium

1 June - Biannual Full Consortium Meeting & Field Trip to be held at the Banksia Room – Walkabout Creek Function Centre, The Gap. There will be a range of speakers from interstate and regionally, talking on topics from the role topography plays in creating spatial heterogeneity in fire impacts on fauna and their habitats, fuel hazard identification methods and biodiversity conservation within Bush Heritage sites. The afternoon field trip will be hosted by local fire ecology specialists and is being run in conjunction with the Queensland Bushfire Consortium. RSVP by 13 May to cweldon@seqcatchments.com.au or phone 3503 1415

24 June - War on Aquatic Weeds Forum, Australis Noosa Lakes Convention Centre, Noosaville. This forum is targeting Lands Protection Officers, State Agency Research and Extension officers, Regional NRM groups, Catchment and Landcare groups, Academics and rural landholders. Register before the 6th June and be in the running to win a weekend accommodation package at Australis!. For more information, contact the Lake Macdonald Catchment Care group on 07 5482 4766.

19–23 July - 6th World Environmental Education Congress, Brisbane. Visit www.weec2011.org for more information or to register.

UBRCN - GROUPS CORNER

Meetings - Functions - Events - News

Upper Brisbane Region Catchment Network Group
www.upperbrisbanecatchment.com.au

BARUNG LANDCARE phone 5494 3151 for all enquiries The Barung Landcare Resource Centre is located at: Shop 3 Riverside Centre Maleny Qld 4552
Barung Landcare Nursery 26 Porters Lane, North Maleny

BELLTHORPE PROGRESS ASSN/ENVIRO GROUP phone 5496 5002 for enquiries, Next Meeting 17 May 7.30pm Community Hall Bellthorpe **Country Walk on 29th May 10am through Dave Clark's rainforest 200 Willet Road** Enviro Group meets 1st Sat each month 8am at Reserve

BRISBANE VALLEY-KILCOY LANDCARE phone 5497 1253 for all enquiries Next Meeting 18th May at The Hub Kilcoy

CROWS NEST CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP Phone Frank Burgess 4698 4161

EMU CREEK CATCHMENT LANDCARE GROUP phone 4698 4748 for all enquiries. Next Meeting 12 June 11

FEAT (Friends of Earth, Animals & Trees) phone 4170 0555 FEAT now has 2 special interest groups: A Wildlife Carers' Network and a Bushcare Group. There will be a combined meeting with "Soup in the Park" at Les Muller Park in Blackbutt on 28th May. There is an open invitation to people in the community to join in at about 11am to share the light lunch and find out more about FEAT and its activities through interaction with members and from the informative displays that will be set up by both groups.

RAVENSBOURNE & DISTRICT LANDCARE GROUP phone 4697 8047 for all enquiries. Next Meeting Wed 1st June **Field Day 5th June SHOW & TELL** at location tba NRM Booklet to be launched at Hampton Festival 15th May

ROSALIE NORTH LANDCARE GROUP phone 4170 0158 for all enquiries. Next Meeting Tuesday 10th May 11 Yarraman

UPPER BRISBANE REGION CATCHMENT NETWORK Next Meeting to be held **Thursday 28 Jul 11** at **Council Chambers, Emu Creek Rd, CROWS NEST** Commencing 9 for 9.30am. To assist with catering, please RSVP Ronda at The Hub, Kilcoy, phone 54 220516

WE WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE SOME SHOTS OF SOME OF THE WONDERFUL SCENERY AND FEATURES OF THE UPPER BRISBANE AND STANLEY CATCHMENTS. DO YOU HAVE A PHOTO/S OF A SPECIAL PLACE (LANDSCAPE, BUSH, WATERWAY) THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS??

Email rwilliams@seqcatchments.com.au to include your Group's information and events here

EVENTS CALENDAR

Come and celebrate at the 2011 Healthy Waterways Awards Gala Dinner! The evening will honour the champions of waterway health and announce the winners of the 2011 Healthy Waterways Awards. Check out the [social photos](#) from the 2010 Awards ceremony.

When: **Wednesday 22 June 2011**

Where: Marquee, Victoria Park Golf Complex
223 Herston Road, Herston 4006

Time: 6.30pm

Dress: Corporate Cocktail

Cost: \$115 per person - includes two course dinner and drinks

For further enquiries, please contact [Carla Mathisen](#).

3-11 September Bloomin Beautiful Blackbutt Festival A Spring Festival of art, garden and country. For more information visit the website at www.BloominBeautifulBlackbuttFestival.com.au.

28-29 July - 4th Making Cities Liveable Conference, Noosa,. The conference will be a platform for Government and Industry sector professionals to discuss causes, effects and solutions that relate to population health, sustainability, natural resource management, transport, climate change and urban design and more. Delegates will examine the impact of urban and transport planning on the health and well-being of the population and the planet.

Extensions to EPBC Act nominations: Koala listing - date for a decision extended until October 2011 to take into account findings from a Senate inquiry into the status, health and sustainability of Australia's koala population; Swift Parrot status - extended until 30 September 2011 to allow the Threatened Species Scientific Committee to consider the most recent survey data and expert comments, and incorporate these into its recommendation to the Minister. The decision timeframe for assessment of the key threatening processes 'The introduction of live native or non-native fish into Australian watercourses that are outside their natural geographic distribution' and 'Novel biota and their impact on biodiversity' are extended until 30 June 2011. For more information, visit <http://environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/nominations-fpal-extensions.html#koala>.

GENERAL INTEREST

The *health-e-waterways* [website](#) currently showcases over 70 water quality improvement projects (management actions) being undertaken by partners to improve waterway health across the region - check it out now. These actions fall under the management areas outlined in the SEQ Healthy Waterways Strategy (2007-2012). Partners are encouraged to update their project achievements on an ongoing basis. For further information please contact [Mara Wolkenhauer](#).

New Website www.fireandbiodiversity.org.au events, news and media, research projects, submissions and reports, supporting organisations, publications and reports and a forum in which you can post new items and discuss items of interest. For further information contact Craig Welden

SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium Coordinator (Acting) SEQ Catchments Level 2, 183 North Quay
BRISBANE Qld 4000 **M:** 0437 726 279 **P:** 07 3503 1415

Become a Wildlife Protector We know everyone loves Australian plants and animals, and wants to know how to contribute something positive to the environment. But how can you fit this into your busy life? If you are too busy to become an active member of Wildlife Queensland, you can still contribute by becoming a Wildlife Protector. By supporting us with a regular tax-deductible monthly donation, you will be ensuring that we can plan for long-term programs and campaigns to ensure a sustainable future for Australia's wildlife and its habitat.

Here is how you can [become a wildlife protector](#).



CONTACT INFORMATION

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SEQ Catchments Office – Upper Brisbane

The Office is now located at :

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www.seqcatchments.com.au