

LOCAL NEWS and EVENTS

Mt Mee Grazing management & PMP workshop # 2 - Follow up workshop **Saturday 17 th July** at Mt Mee Hall 9 am – 1 pm including smoko & lunch

Overview of key points land condition, utilisation, land types

Long term carrying capacity calculation exercise

Introduction to Property Management Planning

Property mapping – Map 1 Natural resources & map 2 – Existing Property infrastructure – fences, roads, etc.

Introduce Environmental review exercise

Contact **Simon Brown 0400 910683** or **Bruce Lord 0427 013284**

9 July Buaraba Vegetation Fire, Forestry Information Session. AgForce Vegetation Management information sessions include :

Regrowth vegetation clearing laws
Native Forest Practice Code on Freehold land
AgForce Project services : Mapping, GPS
Seq Catchments overview of the Somerset & Lockyer valley regions

Craig & Mary Firrell's Buaraba Creek property between Esk-Gatton

Sessions are open to all Landholders and are FREE of CHARGE Contact Sam Ellis 0427 694771 Kate Dunn 0429 123099

10-11 July Basic Biodynamics- Clifton, Qld

A two day Workshop for commercial farmers seeking a viable alternative to conventional agriculture. Registration/prepayment essential, Cost of 2 day workshop, including morning /afternoon tea and lunch: \$77 per person - family couple \$132, GST inclusive Tax invoice, venue, directions will be provided on receipt of registration. *Coordinator Louise Skidmore email workshops2010@aapt.net.au phone 4697 3148*

Future activities – Field day - promoting the Yeoman plough - **a joint BVK / SEQC field day** planned for late August – September which will incorporate visits to a couple of properties to look at areas treated with Yeoman plough and a visit to look at pasture cropping demo site at Sandy Creek.

Pasture cropping farm walks Friday 25th June, 20 landholders visited 6 properties in the Cooyar Creek catchment to look at recently established crops which have been direct drilled into existing pastures as part of a number of pasture cropping demonstration sites across SEQ. A follow-up day will be held in the coming months to revisit a number of these sites and discuss outcomes and challenges encountered by farmers participating in the trial. The day was organised by SEQ Catchments through its Sustainable Agriculture program which is supported by Australian Government and Woolworths.

Inspecting pasture cropping



Pasture cropped oats – Kooralgin



Barley in lucerne - Kooralgin



More Local Events

Botanical Information Field Workshop – a practical site by site guide to understanding the local vegetation and geology of the South Coast Region. Eight sites will be visited from the Sunshine Coast to the Gold Coast and hinterland. **Tours commencing soon, for more details and bookings contact Paul Daly, SEQ Catchments 0429 003556**

The 13th **International River symposium, 11-14 October 2010** will bring together a diverse audience for interactive and vibrant discussion. Managing our rivers has revolved around altering the movement of water – obviously through dams, extraction for irrigation, mining, water supplies, industry and water transfers and more cryptically when we consider groundwater use, virtual water, water sensitive urban design, water recycling and adjustments to environmental flows. Full details of the conference program are available on the *Riversymposium* website. www.riversymposium.com

Life is a garden' expo

The annual Queensland [Home Garden Expo](#) is being held in Nambour from 9-11 July 2010. With more than 360 exhibitors including 60 nurseries, this three day gardening event is the perfect scene for green fingers and home gardeners to gain first hand information, innovation and inspiration.

July Land for Wildlife Newsletter – download from the SEQC website : www.seqcatchments.com.au

Highlights in the July edition: Incorporating vines into revegetation projects, fig ecology, how to turn a pool into a healthy pond, weed profile on mistflower, how to use strangling figs to replace weed trees, some lovely front cover photos of grass yellow butterflies and good news on the re-discovery of the yellow-spotted bell frog.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ??

The Role of Sulphur Sulphur is one of three nutrients that are cycled between the soil, plant matter and the atmosphere. The carbon, nitrogen and [sulfur cycles are all dependent upon specialist bacteria](#) and if these creatures are compromised, the recycling potential is reduced and farmers are forced to increase inputs to compensate for the short all.

New Culprit for Bee Decline? researchers claim to have identified a new potential cause for Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) in honeybees. They say [the pathogens to blame are a fungus and a family of viruses](#). It was only recently that they were able to determine that it is when bees are infected both with *Nosema* and with a group of RNA viruses that it is likely to lead to a collapse of a colony. They believe the infection is spread primarily through pollen on flowers.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

Hygrophila costata is native to the Americas from southern Mexico to Argentina and has naturalised in many tropical and subtropical areas around the world. It is listed as a noxious weed in North Carolina. This weed has had a number of names including *Hygrophila brasiliensis*, *Hygrophila guianensis*, *Hygrophila conferta*, *Hygrophila rivularis* and *Ruellia brasiliensis*. In Australia *Hygrophila costata* has naturalised and become weedy in south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales. It is an aggressive semi-aquatic herb, especially in shallow water, forming mats of dense growth around the margins of freshwater lakes and watercourses where it can dominate and out-compete more desirable vegetation.



POSSIBILITY OF A LA NINA YEAR AHEAD THE Bureau of Meteorology has reported that a La Niña event is now 'more likely than not' to occur this year. Dr Andrew Watkins, Manager of the Bureau's Climate Prediction Services, said that if recent trends in Pacific climate patterns continued, a La Niña event would be established before the end of winter. However, it is still possible that recent trends may stall without La Niña thresholds being reached. Even if this did occur, parts of Australia may still experience wetter than average conditions, especially if the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) remains positive. Historically, La Niña events have often, but not always, brought above average rainfall to much of Australia, particularly inland eastern and northern regions. Night time temperatures are also usually warmer than average. Tropical Cyclone risk for northern Australia also increases during La Niña events.

Rainfall Data There have been many record rainfall events in SEQ over the last few weeks so we have included this Bureau of Meteorology site for your interest for tracking details in your own area. <http://www.bom.gov.au/hydro/flood/qld/seast.shtml> Hover over the site of interest and click, this will provide you with both river heights and 24hr rainfall totals across catchments. **Weather report** Queensland forecast areas Maps [Bureau of Meteorology website](#).

Dam Levels	Full Capacity	Current	%	As at 1 July 2010
Somerset Dam	379,849	379,016	99.8	
Wivenhoe Dam	1,165,238	1,094,879	94	

GENERAL INTEREST

Net Carbon position of the Queensland beef industry

The purpose of this technical assessment is to use the Queensland pastoral beef industry at the farm gate level as a case study to determine the 'net carbon' position (i.e. total on-farm emissions minus total sequestration of agriculture) using the latest available data. It assesses the biological process only and, as such, is a scientific approach that does not encompass current international policies. This assessment is not definitive; it is an attempt to help us understand the issue of net carbon position in relation to agriculture. Download the document at:

http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/27_15803.htm

NEWS FROM DEEDI

A new free downloadable manual on soil health will help vegetable agronomists, consultants and growers. [Soil Health for Vegetable Production in Australia](#) is helping farmers better understand the soils beneath their feet. It takes a holistic view of soil health, considering the interaction of physical, chemical and biological soil properties. Author [John Bagshaw](#) encourages growers to think beyond the standard nutrient analysis of the top 10cm of the soil.

GRANTS & FUNDING

[Caring for our Country Community Action Grants Application Period Announced](#)

The Australian Government has announced up to \$8 million in additional funds to help community groups protect the environment and support sustainable farming through its 2010-11 Caring for our Country Community Action Grants program. The applicant guidelines and application form will be available from **Tuesday 6 July 2010** by calling 1800 552 008. or www.nrm.gov.au Applications will close 31 August 2010.

Junior Landcare Grants Program

Through the Junior Landcare Grants Program, any school or organisation that would like to involve their students in landcare projects, in conjunction with local landcare groups, can apply for grants to assist them with the cost of their projects. **2010 Closing Dates**
Round 3: 5pm Friday 6th August (Yates and Coles)
Round 4: Friday 22nd October

SOME INTERESTING WEBSITES :

It is time to reduce this senseless waste and say "No to Junk Mail" – read your favourite catalogues online at Eco Voice - www.ecovoice.com.au

<http://morevolunteers.com/index.htm>

CSIRO publication, Debating Climate Change.
<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/6207.htm>

<http://www.matteroftrust.org/>

<http://birdsinbackyards.net/>

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

BELLTHORPE PROGRESS ASSN/ENVIRO GROUP
phone 5496 5002 for enquiries, next meeting at the Bellthorpe Community Hall commencing 7.30pm

BRISBANE VALLEY-KILCOY LANDCARE phone 5497 1253 for all enquiries Next Meeting will be at the Hub Kilcoy, Wednesday 28th July commencing 7.30pm

FEAT (Friends of Earth, Animals & Trees) meetings are held at Blackbutt Sports Centre on 2nd Saturday each month . Next Meeting 10th July

CROWS NEST CREEK CATCHMENT GROUP Phone Frank Burgess 4698 4161 Meetings held 2nd Wednesday per month. Next Meeting 14th July

EMU CREEK CATCHMENT LANDCARE GROUP
phone 4698 4748 for all enquiries. Meeting held 2nd Monday per month. Next Meeting 12th July.

RAVENSBOURNE & DISTRICT LANDCARE GROUP
Next Meeting to be held at the Old Ravensbourne School off Post Office Road starting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th August. Phone 4697 8047 for all enquiries.

ROSALIE NORTH LANDCARE GROUP
phone 4170 0158 for all enquiries. Meetings held 2nd Tuesday each month. Next Meeting will be 13th July

UPPER BRISBANE REGION CATCHMENT NETWORK
Next Meeting to be held Thursday 29th July, Esk or Wivenhoe (to be confirmed) Enquiries to Ronda at The Hub, Kilcoy, phone 54 220516

DO YOU HAVE A PHOTO/S OF A SPECIAL PLACE (LANDSCAPE, BUSH, or WATERWAY) THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS??

WE WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE SOME SHOTS OF SOME OF THE WONDERFUL SCENERY AND FEATURES OF THE UPPER BRISBANE AND STANLEY CATCHMENTS.

Contact Ronda at The Hub on 54220516 to include your Group's information and events here

EVENTS CALENDAR

Healthy Cities Conference | 12 & 13 July 2010

The Healthy Cities Conference will be held over two days at Stamford Plaza Brisbane, with optional tours being conducted on the 14th July 2010. We invite you to submit an abstract on the Healthy Cities website, For further details go to <http://www.healthycities.com.au/Default.asp>.

National Tree Day is on Sunday 1st August

1-6 August 19th World Congress of Soil Science – Brisbane, presented by AgForce

National Landcare Week | 6-12 September 2010

2010 Queensland Landcare Conference | 15-17 September 2010 This years conference will be hosted by NaRLA (Nature Refuge Landholders Association) at Caloundra, Sunshine Coast www.naturerefuges.com

13th International River Symposium | 11-14 October 2010, Brisbane
www.riversymposium.com

Coastcare Week | 6 - 12 December 2010

Increasing Soil Organic Carbon Under Pasture This NSW DPI booklet aims to provide [a practical guide to soil carbon under pastures](#). It is the product of a three year project looking at soil carbon levels under pastures, and the researchers have taken the opportunity to expand it from a simple report of project results to include further information on soil carbon that will be of interest to farmers, particularly graziers. *Click on link for more details and download.*

Hunt is on for Richmond Birdwing vine seeds The hunt is on in the Gold Coast area for seeds from the rare Richmond birdwing vine, *Pararistolochia praevenosa*, essential food source for the magnificent yet threatened Richmond birdwing butterfly, with landholders asked to search their properties for the rare vine. Most Richmond birdwing vines seed in February and March, though some do all year round. As part of a project to restore Richmond birdwing habitat on the Gold Coast, Gecko Regen, in partnership with SEQ Catchments and ENERGEX, are propagating the Richmond Birdwing vines at their nursery. So far, Gecko Regen has grown 600 vines which are already attracting the butterfly. As it is a rare plant, the Richmond Birdwing vine is protected under the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and seed collection can only be undertaken under permit. Gecko Regen has a permit to collect Richmond birdwing vine seed. For more information on the project can be found at [SEQ Catchments website](#)

Community Water Quality Monitoring update: Some of you would know SEQ Catchments has been working with Unidap Solutions to create a web-based database to house the water data collected. The aim was to house SEQ Catchments collected data in a central, accessible location and allow groups to view, enter and manage their own data. Another was to link the equipment maintenance to the readings to give a level of confidence to the data ie data validation. This little idea from the SEQ Catchments Community Water Quality Monitoring team has blown very quickly into a very successful idea which has created interest from all over Australia. In conjunction with this, was the passing of the water Act 2007 which required all water q data to be transferred to the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to be housed and managed. For more information see website <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/regulations/index.shtml>. The problem which then presented for the BoM, was to receive all data in one format. The BoM then gave out funding for groups to do this. We were successful in receiving some funding which we could upgrade our data base to do this. In summary, the web database now services catchment type groups all over Australia, with multiple functions not just water quality data storage, and the ability to automatically transfer data to the BoM in an acceptable format. To preview the web page go to <http://www.unidapwaterq.com.au/>. For more info contact Cheryl Mcleod Ph: (07) 5422 0516 or 0400 919 250, Email: cmcleod@seqcatchments.com.au

CONTACT INFORMATION

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