



April 2015

Special points of interest:

- Little Grey Fergie
- Roadvale Salinity Project

Next BCA Meetings at Queens Park:

23rd April 2015

21nd May 2015

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Presidents Message

At the time of penning this Presidential message, a small band of tireless workers have been busy preparing for the up and coming Bremer Catchment Association (BCA) Field Day at Upper Mount Walker Hillslope Erosion Project (UMWHEP). The Field Day scheduled for the 28th March 2015 and weather permitting promises to be an eventful day. It's quite heartening and encouraging to see BCA in partnership with SEQ Catchments forge ahead with its first Field Day.

SEQ Catchments must be congratulated for their generous support in providing this opportunity to showcase the UMWHEP. While the actual project itself has been in operation since late 2013, significant earthwork works and revegetation program has been performed on the UMWHEP site. Sadly without careful planning and hands-on management, such sites and financial budgeting can incur grossly overspending. Therefore the ability to share valuable information with folk on such problematic sites is one of BCA's objectives.

There are perhaps several ways to plan for significant projects like that of the UMWHEP, however what has been realised is that you can't underestimate climatic elements. Stages of work on the project site have clearly been addressed according to weather patterns. However just when you be-

lieve you have been successful with a certain stage on the project, setbacks are often felt like that of rainfall or the severe lack of it!

These setbacks need not be the end of intended projects, it simply provides an opportunity to reassess the situation before amending overall plans. A number of setbacks have been felt on the UMWHEP site and thankfully our Project Manager has been able to address the overall plan accordingly.

I realise BCA has discussed several times at various meetings, the prospects and interest to involve other stakeholders in revegetation programs, erosion control activities and sustainable land management. Therefore this opportunity to organise and arrange site activities on behalf of BCA has been one main goal and it is pleasing to see it come to fruition. It's time now for BCA and its members to remain vigilant, maintaining communication with other individuals and organisations, looking for other opportunities of community involvement to protect our environmental.

Until next issue I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Stay safe and well.

Gary H Cochrane

Boring down at Roadvale Submitted by Jean Bray



Luke Finn and
Jeremy Manders

‘The de-watering trial aims to monitor and record the level of salt affecting the ground water;

Installing piezometers on the Wenzel’s property at Roadvale was never going to be a “clean” exercise.

Wearing the clay splattered effects of their drilling activities, Jeremy Manders and Luke Finn from the State Government, took time out last week to discuss the planned works with landholder Trevor Wenzel, salinity expert Dr Roger Shaw and SEQC representative Tony McKew.

The piezometers were installed on the Wenzel property, as part of a de-watering trial being funded by Scenic Rim Regional Council and managed by SEQCatchment.

The de-watering trial follows the publication of an in-depth report by Dr Shaw and Lauren Eyre from the Dept of NR&M in 2014 that outlined the extensive technical and on-ground salinity investigations he and M/s Eyre had undertaken in a partnership arrangement with landholders in the Roadvale area over a 2 year period.

One of the key findings from the study was that the Roadvale area seemingly served as an outlet for the Clarence-Moreton basin, resulting in more water flowing through the area than was captured naturally through local rain events.

Salinity workshops at Roadvale School, and landholder led inspections of dams and historic bores also served to inform the investigations.

The de-watering trial aims to monitor and record the level of salt affecting the ground water, and to trial the use of groundwater of a suitable quality, to irrigate salt tolerant pasture grasses.

Dr Shaw acknowledges the effectiveness of the trial is heavily reliant on having piezometers installed at key locations around the Roadvale district, and the enthusiasm and willingness of landholders to carry out a monitoring program, as well as capture and report on their findings on a regular basis.

Other landholders involved in the trial are Mrs. Val Mocker and Les Draheim.

A field day to inform the wider community about the de-watering trial is proposed for later in 2015.

Roadvale School showing the extent of salinity on their play grounds →



My love affair with the little Grey Fergie

Growing up around these small tractors, and using them to work the farm, have sown the seeds for my fascination with these iconic machines.

Little did I realise then, that, in my retirement, I would be involved in the restoration and history of these tractors which would later become world renowned.

In the early 1940's, an Irish engineer, Harry Ferguson, who worked with his father on the family farm using horse drawn implements, saw the need to modernise farming methods by replacing horse power with machinery.

Eventually, he successfully approached the Standard motor company in England who agreed to adopt his patented Ferguson hydraulic system, commonly known as a three point linkage, which fitted a series of implements he had designed.

Then, using the standard vanguard car engine, the grey fergie was born. Between 1947 and 1956, over 500,000 were manufactured, including the three models, TEA Petrol, TED Petrol kerosene and TEF Diesel.

I am the proud owner of a fully restored 1953 TEA 20, and a TEF 1953 diesel which is currently being restored. During my restoration journey, I have had the pleasure of meeting other tractor enthusiasts who have been very willing to share their knowledge and expertise.



Submitted by Vince (Mick) Toohill



In the early 1940's, an Irish engineer, Harry Ferguson, who worked with his brother on the family farm using horse drawn implements, saw the need to modernise farming methods by replacing horse power with machinery.

Agricultural chemical group disputes weed killer cancer claim

A representative group for Australia's agricultural chemical sector is calling for a World Health Organisation body to clarify research that found one of the most common weed sprays 'probably' causes cancer.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer published a paper in the *Lancet Oncology* medical journal claiming that glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup weedkiller, was a probable carcinogen.

The agency reviewed existing research and said there was limited evidence of glyphosate carcinogenicity in humans for non-Hodgkin lymphoma from studies of exposures, mostly in agricultural settings, in the USA, Canada and Sweden, published since 2001 and there was also convincing evidence that glyphosate can cause cancer in laboratory animals.

Matthew Cossey, of Crop Life Australia, said glyphosate had been rigorously tested for more than 40 years and had been proven to be one of the safest farm chemicals. He claimed the report was irresponsible.

"It's really quite dangerous to undermine the integrity of the system, or any individual product, if it's not justified and that leads to a range of consequences, such as politicians perhaps knee-jerk reaction that would see very safe products removed.

"That is why I think this report needs to be taken into context, to be recognised that it's not really robust and that some of the conclusions are hard to justify."

Call for glyphosate review

The Australian Greens jumped on the report and called for a review of glyphosate use in Australia. Greens health spokesperson Richard Di Natale said the party had written to the Office of Chemical Safety to ask whether the report would trigger a review of glyphosate use in Australia.

Environmental toxicologist Peter Dingle told ABC Victoria's Statewide Drive program he expected the report would prompt health, environmental and agricultural groups around the world to reconsider their classification of glyphosate.

"It (The International Agency for Research on Cancer) is not just a wishy-washy body, but it is one that is respected and in a sense is probably the most highly esteemed around the world when it comes to looking at most of the chemicals, so our occupational health and safety authorities around Australia and around the world, the agricultural regulation authorities around the world, will look at what's been said," Dr Dingle said.

"On top of that, it's not based on just a study. There are hundreds of studies. The thing it is saying is adequate animal studies and there is a little bit of human evidence, particularly on non-Hodgkin lymphoma, that it's linked with cancer."

ABC Rural

By Catherine McAloon



The agency reviewed existing research and said there was limited evidence of glyphosate carcinogenicity in humans for non-Hodgkin lymphoma from studies of exposures

Caring for our Water Adapted by Bill Steentsma

To ensure the Bremer catchment and its tributaries maintain a healthy ecological system and provide an adequate and sustainable supply of clean water.

Outcome to achieve this goal

Water quality and the ecological health within the catchment's waterways are sustainably managed, maintained and improved for the mutual benefit of people, flora and fauna.	In-stream values and resources are managed and protected.	Demands on water availability and use are equitable managed.	Cultural and social values are an integral consideration in water care and management, with solutions arising from community understanding and ownership of problems.
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Key strategies to achieved desired Outcome

<p>Develop and implement policies, plans, practices and standards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sustainable domestic and industrial water treatment Sustainable land use and improved water quality Managing impoundment release patterns and flood risk Water extraction, efficient water use in agriculture, industry and urban areas, and environmental flow. Managing urban stormwater and developing plans for existing and new areas, eg. Ripley Development 	<p>Protect, manage and restore riparian corridors, including management of streambank areas.</p>	<p>Foster and encourage involvement and networking of community, industry, business and government in water resource management.</p>
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Examples of priority action to implement strategies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement wastewater reuse schemes to efficiently utilise finite water resources. Develop standards and implement systems and processes to reduce nutrient loads in waterways Develop and implement subcatchment management plans and appropriate water quality monitoring strategies for all important water systems. Develop and implement flood management plans for areas with severe flooding. Promote and adopt 'water sensitive' design principles for urban development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies, plans and incentive programs to protect, manage and restore riparian corridors. Identify significant riparian vegetation for protection under relevant local laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encounter community participation in managing water resources. Identify and involve stakeholders with interest in water and landuse. Expand community education programs on relevant topics, involving stakeholders including Regional, Landcare, e.g. BCA Local & State Government interests.
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The Soils and Erosion Field Day, 28th March, was hailed as a very successful day. The venue, Catering, Gordon Ross's property, contributing expert Speakers, state and Local Government representatives and the weather, all added to the success of the day.

The topic was an overview of the Upper Mt. Walker Hillside Erosion Project—Stage One. The objective, what has been achieved and learned from the experiences of the work activities done so far.

A highlight of the day was David Hill's (Agronomist) presentation, who explained soil development concluding with a soil texture profile probing in the field. See below



Bevan Klan, landholder Gordon Ross (green cap) and Trevor Wenzel above



Disclaimer

While we hope that you will find this publication informative, BCA does not guarantee that the information herein is without flaw, or is wholly appropriate for your particular purpose. We therefore disclaim all liability for any error, loss or other consequence, which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

The Notice Board

The Ipswich Enviro Forum 2015 will be held on

1st May under the title 'Sharing water wisdom for a sustainable future'.

Friday, 1 May 2015
8.00 am – 5.30 pm
Brookwater Golf and Country Club
1 Tournament Drive

Seqwater Field Trip
Thursday, 30 April 2015
9.00 am – 2.00 pm
Departing from the Ipswich CBD

Just a quick reminder that Membership fees were due last October. Kindly pay these at the next Operational Meeting.



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