BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

around the bremer

April 2018

Special points of interest:

Our next Meeting in 2018 is on 19th April 2018 Everyone welcome

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Have you all paid your BCA Membership for the current year?

President's Message by Bill Steentsma

BCA has been preparing their Newsletter for many years. Again, I am proud that we, as an organisation have been advocating related environmental issues. Main aim is to present topics to be informative and allow to build-on for further mind mapping.

The Bremer catchment Association works in partnership at local, state and national levels to manage the Bremer Catchment (2031 km²). Within the Catchment there are several organisations throughout the Ipswich and Scenic Rim Shires. Each representing business, research or assisting in landuse problems. How great would it be if these organisations met and present feasible projects. Any time is a wake-up call.

Last month we had Kim Markwell as our Guest-speaker. Kim presented an outline about the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan (CAP) 2018-2021.

The primary focus of the CAP is to address the very high risk of floods, erosion and sediment movement throughout the catchment.

The CAP has been developed with input from stakeholders, including your President, at two Workshops.

We saw the activities in the Garden of Eden Project)Cribb Park—Ipswich), where 1500 m² of weeds were removed over 4 fortnightly working bees.

It was inspiring to see the local community, young Scouts, students enthusiastically side by side with landcare groups to achieve local conservation outcomes. Also assisted by the Ipswich City Council. The driving force in organising the activities is Anthony Edwards, a keen BCA member.

Happy reading. Please submit topics you are interested for the next Newsletter.

Land for Wildlife

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary scheme which aims to encourage and assist private landholders to provide habitats for wildlife on their property.

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary scheme which aims to encourage and assist private landholders to provide habitats for wildlife on their property, even though the property may be managed primarily for other purposes.

If you wish to create or protect wildlife habitats on your property, then the Land for Wildlife scheme can offer you advice and assistance, whether you manage a farm, a bush block, a council park or school ground.

Land for Wildlife membership will not change the legal status of the property in any way.

What are the benefits of habitat retention to the landholder? Habitat retention can play a major role in sustainable agriculture, for example:

- It can assist in erosion and salinity control;
- Maintains a natural means of controlling pests;
- Provides shade and shelter for livestock.

What can we achieve?

Together, Land for Wildlife members can:

- learn about native plants, wildlife and ecosystems
- restore degraded lands through revegetation and natural regeneration
- reduce weeds and soil erosion
- create wildlife corridors
- improve water quality on creeks and rivers
- help to bring back our threatened species
- protect remnant forests, woodlands and grasslands
- integrate nature conservation with other farming activities
- inspire each other

Grants available for "Land for Wildlife"

The Community Sustainability Action grants (https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/pollution/funding/community-sustainability) is providing $12 million over three years to support community based projects which seek to address climate change and conserve Queensland's natural and built environment.

Review Farm Business SWOT

Discussed by Bill Steentsma

For many years I have been very much in favour of this method. During my DPI time, this was a great help on the Downs and the Ipswich/ Scenic Rim for many landholders. The principle of use can be modified suitable for landcare organisations, projects and businesses.

Why this is a good idea

Every rural property and business has its own Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT).

A SWOT analysis will help you to identify and external opportunities and threats that may impact on your business '*ability (*strengths and weaknesses) to meet these opportunities and threats.

Strengths

Competitive advantages such as good climate, no debt, and location or access to markets.

Weaknesses

Those factors your business needs to improve or compensate for, such as poor labour management skills, age of equipment, lack of direction.

Opportunities

Where your business can expand or refocus, such as developing new products, markets, and adopting more efficient technology.

Threats

Factors that may have a less desirable impact on the business, such as health hazards, high interest rates, and increasing number of competitors.

Start to think about the following questions.

- How can you capitalise on your strengths?
- How can you improve or manage your weaknesses? How can you turn them into strengths?
- What can be done to manage the threats, or turn them into opportunities?
- How can you make the most of the opportunities?

Focus on the strengths and opportunities of your business, while being aware of its weaknesses and threats.

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National Landcare Program (NLP2) process and submission

From July 2018 the Australian Government is investing $450 million over five years, Australia-wide, to deliver national priorities at a regional and local level. The investment will be delivered through the Regional Partnerships component of the next phase of the National Landcare Program. The Australian Government has chosen a different approach to past years insofar as this is no longer a grant process, rather the Australian Government is using a Request for Tender process to select and engage Service Providers to deliver Regional Land Partnerships services across Australia.

While there are still 56 "defined" areas, now described "Management Units" not Natural Resources Management Regional Bodies (RBs), anyone/company can apply to deliver these services of, and become, a Management Unit (it is no longer exclusive to the previous RBs). This provides opportunities for existing NRM Regional Bodies but also exposes to stiff competition.

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The Departments' will identify and contract Service Providers to deliver projects that support the achievement of the 5-year outcomes and investment priorities identified for that Management Unit.

There must be at least one agriculture and one environment project in each Management Unit.

The Department aims to contract at least 20% of the project budget to support small on -ground projects and related activities that are delivered by, or directly engage with, the local community.

Projects will meat the government's priorities and must be targeted towards key areas of Commonwealth responsibilities.

Investment Priorities have been mapped for each outcome within each Management Unit and these maps are very targeted and cover only parts of each Management Unit.

Regional Land Partnerships will ensure that there is national coverage of Service Providers supporting strategic natural resource management, and delivering projects that address the government's priorities for agriculture and environment.

Soil Health and Management

by Donald McMurrich (Farmcraft–Kalbar)

Our ability to grow enough food to feed the worlds growing population is reliant on a thin layer of soil covering the earth. Additionally soil filters water, provides support for plants, cleans toxins and houses an enormous range of organisms that degrade organic matter and provide nutrition to plants. Unfortunately this non-removable reserve is constantly attacked by water and wind erosion, compaction and loss of organic matter. Soil health can be easily ruined through mismanagement. Practises that can maintain or restore the health of soil are fundamental components of sustainable agriculture.

Structural problems with the soil limit root growth, cause surface crusting, and the decline of organic matter to the point it no longer holds nutrients or moisture.

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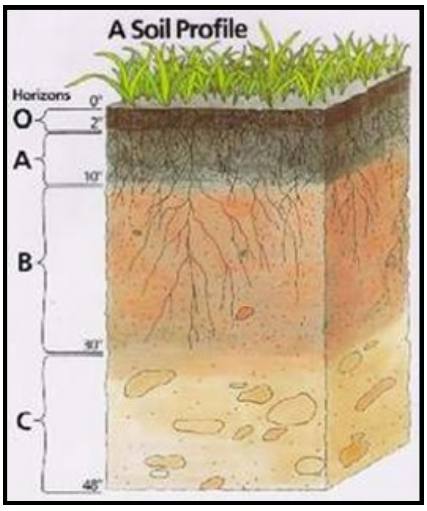
Farmcraft take a science based view of the soil environment as farmers are often given incorrect or unproven information on how to overcome soil related constraints that may be limiting their production.

To assist our customers in making informed, profitable science based decisions we have been working with David Hall, a highly respected independent agronomist. David has worked in agriculture for some 34 years; initially as a field agronomist and subsequently in soil fertility research, development and extension.

Donald McMurrich (Farmcraft) and David Hall have established a fully replicated field trial to investigate certain soil amendment products through the effect they have on the soil. These products were applied during cultivations before a Lucerne crop was established last spring. Measurements of Lucerne yield will be taken during the summer with these results available by winter. It is anticipated this trial will continue for 3-4 years to fully investigate the products.



How to use this Map Journal

- Use the navigation bar to explore the catchment story
- Click on the coloured text to see more information about that topic
- In the map area, click on features you see, zoom in and out, pan around and expand the Legend for more information.
- Images and graphics, such as this one, can be expanded by clicking this button at the top right corner
- YouTube videos may be used also to portray information. Wait for them to load, and pause and play as needed by clicking in the middle of the screen.

Disclaimer

While we hope that you will find this publication informative , BCA does not guaranty 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

Bremer Catchment Story

The catchment stories present a story using real maps that can be interrogated, zoomed in on and moved to explore the area in more detail. They are used to take users through multiple maps, images and videos to provide engaging, in-depth information. BCA participated with the Workshops.

Transcript

Understanding how water flows in the catchment

It is difficult to manage catchments unless there is collective understanding by all stakeholders of how the catchment works. This Map Journal gathers together information from expert input and data sources to provide that understanding. The information was gathered using the 'walking the landscape' process, where experts systematically worked through a catchment landscape in a facilitated workshop, to incorporate diverse knowledge on the landscape components and processes, both natural and human. It is focused on water flows and the key factors that affect water movement.

The Map Journal was prepared by the Queensland Wetlands Program in the Queensland Department of Environment and Science in collaboration with local partners.

Please note that the use of the terms 'Catchment' and 'Basin' are sometimes used interchangeably. In this map journal the term 'Catchment' has been used.

Map journal for the Bremer Catchment—water movement

This Map Journal describes the location, extent and values of the Bremer catchment. It demonstrates the key features which influence water flow, including geology, topography, rainfall and run-off, natural features and human modifications and land uses.

Knowing how water moves in the landscape is fundamental to sustainably manage the catchment and the values it provides.

For more information go to: https://wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/wetlands/ecology/processes-systems/water/catchment-stories/transcript-bremer.html

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