



## August 2015

### Special points of interest:

**Next BCA Meeting**

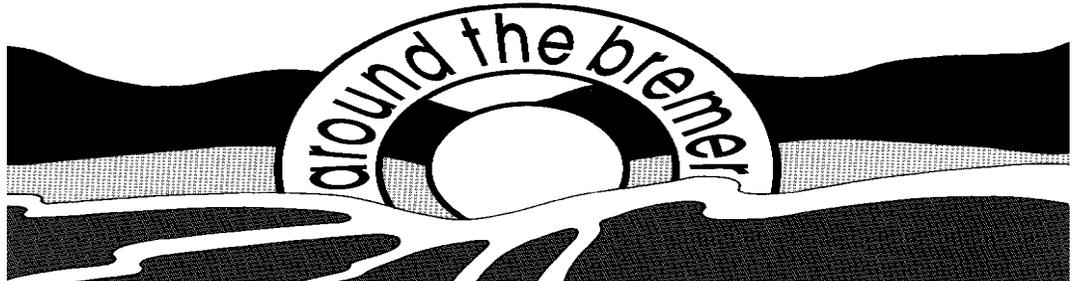
**Thursday 20th**

**August**

**6.00pm**

### Inside this issue:

Vice President's Message	1
Roadvale Salinity Project	2
Trees and Shrubs	3
NSW Gov. promotes cancer causing Herbi-	4
Bundamba Creek Corridor Plan	5
Meeting Dates	5
Disclaimer	5



## Vice President's Message

Our President Gary is on a "Charity Car Bash" until the last week of the month. We wish him a safe and successful time.

No doubt he will see many landscapes affected by environmental impacts. These impacts can be positive such as good rainfall to agricultural and grazing lands. On the other side of the picture, are drought affected areas. We, within the Bremer Catchment, too have become concerned with the lack of rainfall. Recently when I drove through the Catchment, I have become concerned for potential out of control fires.

The 6th August, I attended the SEQCatchments Members Association Inc Board Meeting, held at the Toowong Bowls Club venue. Being the BCA nominated representative for the Bremer Catchment among approximately thirty (30) other members. These member representatives are from about thirteen (13) landcare sections. At our Operational Meeting (20th August) I will report on a few topics.

The Roadvale Salinity Project Field Day (8th August) was very informative. Over thirty (30) people came along to hear what the lo-

cals have done on their properties. It was fantastic to observe the enthusiasm and trials the landholders have been doing. Presentation of observations on their properties were accompanied by diagrams and plant material. Well done!

BCA acknowledges the hard work and devotion by Jean Bray, representing SEQCatchments.

BCA has had their Upper Mount Walker Hillslope Erosion Project (UMWHEP) acquitted last month. The organisation received a certificate of appreciation and letter of congratulation for all work involved in this project.

Discussions within the Twinning Oxley-Bremer project were held at a recent meeting. A number of groups in the Bremer Catchment Region came together to exchange ideas of programs they currently conduct in the catchment. Additional consultation and communication with these groups will take place before formalising a plan for future partnerships and programs.

Bill Steentsma, BCA Vice President.

## Roadvale Salinity Project

### *The Vision*

*To prevent, minimise and, where possible, reduce the extent and impacts of salinity on Roadvale's economic, social and natural resources.*



**Salinity landscape**

A recent Field Day was held at Roadvale with over 30 interested Landholders attending. It was supported and funded by SEQCatchments, Scenic Rim Regional Council and Bremer Catchment Association Inc.

**Background:** The 4369ha Roadvale sub catchment is located in the upper Purga Creek catchment. This is a hydrologically sensitive catchment with a long history of salinity. Since settlement land management activities have increased the salinity. Landholders have embraced the challenge with own initiatives to correct the problem.

The main causes of salinity in upper Purga Creek and an estimate of their relative contribution to the salinity issues have been determined.

1. Increased recharge to the groundwater from clearing and changed land use (including farm dams) over many years (30%)
2. The discharge of artesian water associated with the Clarence-Moreton sub-basin of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) (40%)
3. Geological restrictions upstream of Milbong which act to restrict down-valley groundwater flow in the Purga creek catchment (30%)

This indicates that approximately 70% of the causes of salinity in Purga Creek are due to landscape features.

Upper Purga creek catchment is like a bathtub, the tap is turned on and can't be turned off (artesian input) and the plug hole is mostly blocked (geology) and very hard to unblock. As a result, water inputs into the catchment's groundwater (both from rainfall and the GAB) are greater than the groundwater outflow, causing the groundwater level to rise.

The subsequent shallow groundwater results in increased evaporation and increased stream flow into the creek. These factors act to bring the bathtub back into equilibrium.

The evaporation of the shallow groundwater through the soil results in salt being left behind on the soil surface which is the major cause of increased salinity in the catchment.



## Trees and Shrubs in Gullies (by Bruce Carey—deceased)

This article was sent to Bill Steentsma prior to his colleague passed away.

Trees are desirable in the areas surrounding gullies but are not likely to be successful in stabilising an actively eroding gully head. Trees growing in gullies should not be too dense and should have an open canopy to allow protective vegetation to grow on the soil surface. Where subsurface flows are contributing to gully erosion, trees in the area above the gully head should assist by helping to dry out the soil profile and provide structural support to subsoils prone to slumping.

As discussed, tree roots help to stabilise streambanks in a similar manner to reinforcing rods in concrete. However, the banks of gullies are generally not prone to slumping like streambanks which become saturated and heavy during a flood. Most gullies have far more capacity than they require and flooding may never occur in many gullies.

Shrubs can provide erosion control if they are closely spaced so that their interlocking branches prevent high velocity water from coming into direct contact with the soil. This can occur on the outside banks of channel bends. Shrubs on and above the bank will increase its strength while

shrubs at the bank base can reduce toe erosion and undercutting.

Where subsurface flows are contributing to gully erosion, trees and other deep rooted vegetation above and beside the gully should assist by helping to lower the water table and drying out the soil profile. They may also provide structural support to subsoils in gully walls prone to slumping.

The branches of low growing trees and shrubs in the beds of gullies may reduce flow velocities and their roots may help stabilise the bed. However, if trees suppress the growth of surface vegetation, they can create a higher risk of erosion. Trees are not likely to be successful in stabilising an actively eroding gully head.



Planting of advanced trees

*Shrubs can provide erosion control if they are closely spaced*

## Gully Erosion

Small grooves or "rill" erosion become so large that they cannot be crossed with farm machinery. They have now become gullies and present a major and immediate problem to farm and grazing land. Gullies can develop in any situation where water is concentrated into an unstable area. Gullies form along cattle tracks, or near poorly located roads or any structure that diverts water flow and allows it to concentrate. If gullies are not attended to, they may become many metres deep and several metres long.



UMWHEP project under restoration

*The Department's new publication [Weed Control in Winter Crops 2015](#) carries several full-page promotions for herbicides and pesticides, including a full-page advertisement for glyphosate, the chemical recently declared a "probable carcinogen" by the World Health Organization*



## NSW Government Promote Cancer Causing Herbicide

(TWN 30 July 2015] The NSW Department of Primary Industries has transformed itself into an agri-chemical lobby group and is now promoting cancer causing herbicides via full-page advertising in its publicly funded publications. The Department's new publication [Weed Control in Winter Crops 2015](#) carries several full-page promotions for herbicides and pesticides, including a full-page advertisement for glyphosate, the chemical recently declared a "probable carcinogen" by the World Health Organization expert group, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). "In South Australia, government bodies are not permitted to carry advertisements for private-sector companies, as this could be interpreted as a form of government endorsement of a private-sector company," commented Dr David Low, senior adjunct research fellow at Monash University and general manager of The Weed's Network. "The amount of assistance being given to private agri-chemical companies in Australia is becoming unbalanced. Funding and assistance for non-chemical weed and vegetation management methods and training, especially by state governments keen to tout their 'clean green' credentials, is non-existent," he said. The release of the DPI report containing chemical

company advertising follows on the heels of a [recent Australian Federal Government decision](#) to allocate A\$45 million directly to Bayer in Germany to research new weed killing chemicals due to increasing herbicide resistance to currently used herbicides. "The Bayer allocation of Australian public research funds will support the bottom line of an overseas company and does nothing to assist Australian farmers wanting to manage their operations without the use of cancer causing herbicides" Dr Low said. The Weed's Network has released a strategy to address herbicide pollution in Australia, which can be downloaded by [clicking here](#). The strategy calls for a national specialist agency or unit to coordinate and advise all level of Australian government on methods to reduce the amount of toxic synthetic herbicides used in agriculture, amenity horticulture, maintenance (cosmetic uses) and vegetation preservation and/or restoration. "The chief tasks of this agency or unit could be to strategically research and educate Australian herbicide users about Chem-Free methods of weed management, and to implement, monitor and report on progress towards meeting an agreed national herbicide reduction target for Australia." said Dr Low.

The Weed's News Digest \_ July 2015

## **The Bundamba Creek Corridor Plan—Prepared by Ipswich City Council**

A common vision was developed through a collaborative planning process, bringing together the community, developers, industry and government to identify the key-objectives for the corridor transformation.

The vision developed by the collective stakeholders group is that:

**“Bundamba Creek and its catchment is cherished and embraced for its cultural, community and natural values”.**

The key objectives for the corridor were developed to support this vision:

1. Working as one, 2. Embracing the environment, 3. We all benefit, and 4. Making it happen.

The catchment has been divided into three (3) corridors: Lower/Middle/Upper.

The **Middle Corridor’s Landuse** includes the main development areas for the Ripley Valley ( including the town centre) and industrial land uses.

The **Corridor Condition** is mixed with some areas having reasonable riparian vegetation, remnant wetlands and channel condition.

The **Directional Focus** for this area is integration of water management with the open space corridor to provide multi-functional spaces.

### **Disclaimer**

While we hope that you will find this publication informative , BCA does not guar-anty that the informa-tion herein is without flaw, or is wholly ap-propriate fr your par-ticular purpose. We therefore disclaim all liability for any error, loss or other conse-quence , which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

### **Meeting Dates—Everyone Welcome**

**Our Operational Meetings for August and September are as follows:**

**The August Meeting will be held at Queens Park Educational Centre on Thursday 20th starting with light refreshments at 6.00pm and the Sep-tember Meeting will be on the 17th at 6.00pm**

**All Members of BCA**

**Please mark your Calendar**

**The BCA Annual General Meeting will be held on**

**Thursday 15th October 2015**

