BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

August 2017

Special points of interest:

Next BCA Operational Meeting

21st September 2017

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around the bremer

President's Message by Bill Steentsma

Bill Steentsma

Enviro Forum: nature Conservation in the Digital Age – June 2017. I attended, on invitation by the Ipswich City Council. Discussing technology and innovation in nature Conservation used in the digital age was the main factor during the interesting day.

The Bremer River Fund (Ipswich) entered a new era with the appointment of an officer. This Officer is responsible for the forming of a 'Bremer River Network' (BRN)

Healthy Land and Water launched a new database for housing all existing and future water quality and environmental monitoring data collected by community and school groups throughout South East Queensland. To demonstrate how to use this new database, Healthy Land and Water and CoastalCOMS provided training to interested teachers and volunteers. Representing BCA I participated with the session at Southport. It was very well presented by the speakers. In particular the "hands-on "exercises have been very much appreciated. In particular, I was very appreciative, as data entered derived/available from several Bremer Catchment Association's water monitoring reports.

I have been very happy with our Operational Meetings. The guest speakers were of high calibre and provided much interesting information.
Each member attending the meetings participated in discussing their area of responsibility with great enthusiasm. We are looking forward for the usual cooperation from ICC for 2018 venue bookings on each 3rd Thursday of each months.

The BCA Horiba was used to demonstrate water quality testing to the senior geography students of the Ipswich Grammar School. (See photo below).

trees work

Trees work in amazing ways to shape the quality of our life. They provide real benefits to our family, our community and the environment. Did you know that being around trees:

Lowers your blood pressure and pulse?

Helps children perform better on tests and reduces symptoms of ADHD?

Saves you money! Shades from two trees can save you up to 30 percent on home cooling costs.

Trees contribute to higher public ratings of visual quality in cities

In a nutshell, Trees Work!

Trees work for our well-being just as much as they work for wildlife and our farm animals and they make our lives better every day. That is why educational campaigns are increasing awareness on the tangible benefits trees provide – for our health, our families, our wallets and more.

These campaigns helps us discover all the ways trees and forests are working for us. It also includes information about how you can promote good forest management, no matter the size of your property. Remember – if you care for the trees around you, those trees will work for you.

Views of nature assist at the workplace. Employees with views of nature report 15 percent fewer illnesses and feel more enthusiastic and less frustrated than those without a view outside.

Experiences of nearby nature can help reduce mental fatigue and restore one's ability to focus on tasks.

Hospital patients recovering from surgery who had a view of a bunch of trees through their windows required fewer pain relievers and left the hospital a day sooner than similar patients who had a view of a brick wall.

Those who commute along tree lined roads remain calmer (lower pulse and blood pressure) and drive less aggressively than those who drive along less tree-lined roads.

Park users report urban forests and parks offer a place for reflective thought, resting the mind and creative thinking even better than their homes.

Tree-lined streets are more walkable, encouraging more active lifestyles which decreases obesity and improves heart health.

Trees reduce noise. Living behind tall trees can reduce loudness by up to 50 percent.

Green is an aid to learning and cognition.

Lloyd Bird. (1929-2009) Submitted by Mark Edginton , BCA Member

Lloyd Bird was born on the 22nd of December, 1929. As a child Lloyd lived next door to a timber cutter. Lloyd would go on timber-getting excursions with the timber-getter to various areas including Woogaroo Scrub. Thus Lloyd gained a knowledge of botany at an early age. Very early on, Lloyd displayed the nous that would later put him in stead to become one of Ipswich's great amateur botanists and collectors. As an 11-year old, Lloyd and his mates infiltrated the U.S. Army's WWII base at Redbank Plains to hunt for munitions souvenirs. This restricted area was guarded by soldiers marching up and down the perimeter, but Lloyd and his mates crept up the creek-line and into the U.S. Army Base. Then when he was fifteen or sixteen, Lloyd and his mates crept up the Bremer River and under a barb-wire fence to examine the Dinmore high explosives dump at Dinmore. They were caught out in the open chasing the Army's lawn-mowing sheep, after which they were questioned by a red-faced detective on behalf of a very embarrassed military. Of this incident, Lloyd says that "we were villains, but good villains".

Lloyd Bird worked for 47 years as a coal-miner. He implemented revegetation projects at the mine where he worked. He also purchased land that contained an old clay pit that had been used for a brick factory. He decided to grow his own native rainforest - which has since been featured on "Burke' Backyard" - in the clay pit in his back yard. He collected seeds from rainforest beside the Condamine River, behind Boonah. He worked shift work at the mining company, and he could often be found sitting on the steps of the Herbarium waiting for it to open so that he could have his botanical specimens identified. He became a contributor to plant lists, starting by collaborating with the Herbarium's Paul Forster for a list at Pine Mountain. When a new Queensland Herbarium was mooted, Lloyd Bird wrote a letter of support to the Premier.

He went on to do many plant lists in his own right, especially in the Ipswich area. He sent many specimens to the Queensland Herbarium, and to John Wrigley at the Canberra Botanic Gardens. He discovered *Notalea lloydii*, *Notalea ipsvichiensis*, *Corynocarpus rupestris* subsp. *arborescens* and *Plectanthrus habrophyllus*. *Marsdenia lloydii* was named after him because he provided good specimens of the species. Lloyd provided the Queensland Herbarium with over 1000 specimens, including many of rare and threatened taxa.

He was a great believer in what he calls 'bush psychology'. This means knowing your audience when pitching your conservation message, as well as knowing how to deal with unruly or potentially unruly elements in the bush. For example, when an old battered 4WD encroached on the O'Possum Creek landcare projects site, Lloyd Crosby walked up to the vehicle with a brush hook on his shoulder and said "How's it going?" The vehicle left soon after. Taking out a notebook and pretending to take notes was enough to dissuade other potential bush vandals.

He received many awards as a result of his botanical work, including an Order of Australia medal. He received Ipswich City Council's Citizen of the Year Award. A number of places in Ipswich have been named in his honour, including Lloyd Bird Crescent, Springfield Lakes; Lloyd Bird Environmental Park, Mt Crosby; and Lloyd Bird Park, Springfield. He is sadly missed and fondly remembered by all that knew him, and he remains an inspiration to naturalists in Ipswich and beyond.

Lloyd displayed the nous that would later put him in stead to become one of Ipswich's great amateur botanists and collectors

Lloyd Bird

This is the type of information you can find in the monthly Bulletin of ***Farming Together***

Farming Together

Farming Together is a resource for primary producers to help you value-add, build marketplace strength and boost returns.

What we're about

Lifting on-farm profitability (at the farm gate and into the supply chain) by providing expert support and financial assistance to collaborative groups and cooperatives. The Australian Government has invested $14,934,000 (including GST) into Farming Together, the two-year Farm Co-operatives and Collaboration Pilot Program.

What's in it for you?

Your great idea gets independent professional advice, feedback and guidance from business experts in a variety of fields. If your idea shows promise, it will be considered for Farming Together funding to help bring your idea to fruition.

FARM SUCCESSION PLANNING REBATE

Up to $2500 rebate (up to half of total cost) offered for Queensland farming families to undertake farm succession planning. Deadline 30 June 2019. **More?** **https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/farm-management-grants-qld.**

Additional information see page 6 in this Newsletter

$2m LOANS FOR QLD START-UPS

Young primary producers in Queensland are being offered start-up loans of up to $2m. The no-fee, low-interest loans are available for terms up to 30 years. To be eligible you must have lived in Queensland for six months and hold 50% purchase equity, or 50% of set-up costs for leasing/share farming. Loans subject to funding availability. **More? 1800 623 946** or **First Start Loan guidelines.**

Giant Reed *Arundo donax*

Giant Reed Grass

A very widely naturalised species that is most commonly found in and around the major urban centres (e.g. Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide). It is also relatively common or scattered in other parts of eastern Queensland

Habitat

A weed of waterways, drainage lines, swampy areas, roadsides, wetter disturbed sites, waste areas, old gardens and urban bushland in temperate, sub-tropical and tropical environments. Also occasionally found in wetter locations in semi-arid regions.

Habit

A very large long-lived (i.e. perennial) grass that grows in dense clumps and reaches up to 8 m in height, but is usually less than 6 m tall. It sometimes grows partially submerged in water.

Giant reed is regarded as an environmental weed in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia and was recently listed as a priority environmental weed in at least one Natural Resource Management region.

Weed Spotters Network, Queensland

Reducing weed risks from fodder

A free guide to *Reducing weed risks from fodder* is now available from the Weed Spotters Network and AgForce. The guide highlights tools which can be used to help assess your weed risks when sourcing fodder and suggests simple strategies for reducing weed risk during fodder transportation, storage and feeding out. Ongoing monitoring for new weeds following the use of fodder is also recommended and this guide explains easy steps to monitor your weeds and have them identified. An information guide to weeds commonly associated with fodder movement is also included. The guide has been funded by the Australian Government National Landcare Programme.

Restricted invasive plants

Hudson pear—*Cylindropuntia pallida*

Hudson pear is the common name applied to two species of Mexican cactus which have become naturalised in Queensland, *Cylindropuntia pallida* (formerly *C. rosea*) and *C. tunicata*. Both are listed as restricted invasive plants in Queensland and are Weeds of National Significance (WONS). Hudson pear is a serious weed of semi-arid and arid subtropical rangelands which has caused serious degradation in north-western NSW since its detection in Lightning Ridge in the late 1960s. Hudson pear has the potential to dominate native pastures and prevent grazing and livestock movement. Wildlife and livestock can also be seriously injured or killed by the spines and native flora can be out-competed. To date, incursions into Queensland have been limited, but early detection is vital if we are to prevent Hudson pear from spreading further here.

Members of the Weed Spotters Network aim to find, identify and document new occurrences of potential weeds at an early stage so that preventative actions can be taken. Are you ready to start spotting weeds in your region?

Weed Spotters Network Queensland is a joint project between the Queensland Herbarium, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and local governments with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

Hudson Pear

Successful farming today is very much a business. We need to take a business-like approach when passing on the family farm.

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 publica-

Passing on the Family Farm

At some stage every rural family must deal with the issue of passing on the property, but unfortunately many people put it in the 'too hard basket'.

There are three reasons why the decision is made, to:

1,. Keep it in the family, 2. provide for your family's future and 3. allow you to retire.

What do you need to think about?

It is an emotional issue—you are dealing with people's feelings and their future, and conflicts can easily arise.

What you and the other members of the family want to do in the future.
Whether there is a future for any of the family on the land.

Whether you have made adequate provision for your retirement.

Government rules affecting passing on the family farm are frequently changing—you need to stay informed.

What are the alternatives?

The sell or lease option.

Borrowing against your farm to set up other family members.

Subdivision if the farm is large enough and doesn't result in uneconomic areas. It is also important to check any legal conditions relating to subdivision.

When should you start?

It is best to start early. Determine your family's needs—ask each one what they want and involve everyone in discussions. Make a plan and work out how to do it. You will need to document your future needs and make sure they are going to be met. If you think you might be subject to an assets test for pension purposes, consider a gifting program five years before you are eligible for the pension.

Who can help?

Lawyers, accountants, farm management consultants, bank managers and insurance advisers all regularly deal with the issues you will be confronting. Remember to seek a range of views as advisers will normally have a bias towards their own profession (e.g. solicitors will be most interested in legal issues and accountants in financial matters).

For more info see:
Family business concession – Primary production

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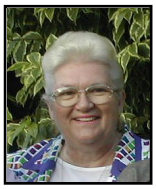
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