BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

around the bremer

August 2018

Special points of interest:

Our next Meeting in 2018 is on 20th September 2018 Everyone welcome

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

President's Message by Bill Steentsma

We have some great topics within this Newsletter. An issue at the recent Ipswich EnviroForum, there was a call for the next year's Forum to include the topic of "Weeds". We have covered this subject numerous times in our Newsletter. Interested non-members/businesses/Councils are also receiving a copy.

EnviroForum 2018, covering some of the current issues by Keynote speaker Costa Georgiadis, discussing the meaning of "status quo" related to "disturbed media landscape". He concluded the philosophical oriented presentation with reminding all to the "Power of Backyard".
The Ipswich City Council organised the successful event.

BCA project highlights were "Scouts Francis Street" and "Cribb Park". These are the present projects adopted by BCA within the Ipswich City. At the Open Day of Cribb Park I spoke on "Why Urban Parks Matter".

The "Scouts Francis Street" project lead by Brian, the Project Officer, has changed greatly. We thank, in particular, the volunteers. Weeds, as e.g. "Mother of Millions" and other weeds have been "attacked". In one instance, a group of Scouts collected 40 garbage bags of weeds.

Early August, at the Healthy Land & Water (HLW) SEQ Members Board meeting, I represented the Bremer Catchment stakeholders. This time the meeting was held in Pomona at the invitation from the Noosa Landcare Group. Highlight was a presentation of the " HLW-Reconciliation Plan and Action Plan".

Sadly, a long standing Member, Ian Harsant, passed away. Ian was a keen Member, a real Agriculturist and Grazier. He used to manage one of the two BCA Spray Units and made sure to assist the landholders who made use of it. I met Ian some 30 years ago. He was a great cobber.

Talking at Cribb Park →

Warning: Don't eat fish caught in Warrill Creek, Bremer River near Amberly. QUEENSLAND Health has warned that fish caught in Warrill Creek and the Bremer River near Amberley, west of Brisbane, should not be eaten.

The advice comes after Federal Defence Department testing of fish in the south-east Queensland waterways found high levels of PFAS — per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances — used in banned firefighting foams.

A Queensland Health spokesman said preliminary testing on perch, mullet and eel had shown high levels of the controversial man-made chemical and consequently, possible elevated health risks for people who had eaten the fish over a long period of time.

"As an interim precaution, until Department of Defence can carry out further testing, people should not eat fish caught within this locality," the spokesman said.

"People who have eaten fish infrequently from the area should not expect to have elevated levels of PFAS."

Queensland Health said that as the polluter, the Defence Department had primary responsibility for notifying the public about the issue.
The Queensland Health spokesman said people with concerns should contact the Defence Department.

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Queensland was the first state in Australia to ban firefighting foams that contain PFAS in mid-2016.

The latest Queensland Health warning comes after the Defence Department provided the results of recent testing around its Amberley air force Base on PFAS levels in fish caught in nearby waterways.

PFAS stands for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances and are manufactured chemicals used in products that resist heat, oil, stains and water.

Bremer River (pictured)

This article abridged, was taken from the Courier Mail dated 15th June 2018

Fire Ant Identification

Throughout the Catchment we have reports of Fire Ant sighting.

Fire ants are dangerous, imported pests that could spread to large areas of Australia. Fire ants could severely damage the environment, our outdoor lifestyle, and the agriculture and tourism industries. They inflict a painful, fiery sting, which can in rare cases cause a severe acute allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

First detected in the Brisbane area in February 2001, these South American ants pose a serious social, economic and environmental threat. Fire ants are a category 1 restricted pest under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, so landholders must report suspected sightings of fire ants on their property to Biosecurity Queensland or they may face heavy fines.

Fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) are quite small (2-6mm) and come in an unusual variety of sizes within one nest. Their heads and bodies are coppery-brown and their abdomens are darker. They are aggressive, particularly near the nest, and can inflict painful stings.

It is vital that you are able to identify fire ants on your property. See the fire ant photo gallery or our fire ant identification video for identification help.
Fire ant nests have no obvious entry or exit holes.

Nests often appear as dome-shaped mounds, but these mounds are not always easily identifiable. They can be up to 40cm high, but may also be flat and look like a small patch of disturbed soil. They are usually found in open areas such as lawns and pastures, and along roadsides and unused cropland.

Nests can also be found next to or under other objects on the ground, such as timber, logs, rocks, pavers or bricks. Look near pots or any areas of disturbed ground as well as:

- in pot plants on the ground
- in stores of topsoil, mulch and potting mixes
- under landscape materials (e.g. logs, stones)
- under timber or pallets on the ground
- adjacent to buildings and other structures
- in untidy or overgrown areas
- near areas of permanent water (e.g. the banks of dams, rivers, ponds, aquaculture containers)

tufts of grass in open areas, where the soil is built up around the tufts.

Also consider...

If you see fire ants, you must notify Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or complete the online fire ant notification form.
Read more about fire ants.
Find out about your legal obligations if you are moving fire ant carriers in fire ant biosecurity zones.
Learn more about identifying fire ants by attending fire ant general awareness training .

We will have a Guest speaker at the September Meeting to cover the above subject.

Fire ant bite

Fire ants

Fire ant nest

Strip-burning—what is it? - To B… or not to B…By Bill Steentsma

I remember the DPI Workshop in Rosewood, the topic of "to B.. or not to B…"

As a Soil Conservationist, I organised this Workshop and invited very capable guest-speakers. Many landholders participated with the—sometimes heated—discussions.BCA is anticipating to organise a similar Workshop. The methods/ decisions of burning have changed over the years.

Ounce again, like previous August Newsletters, the topic is here again. Because the Bremer Catchment has always been fragile. Similarly, our neighbour catchment Brisbane Valley. There, the present trend of burning has "shifted" to September.

A landholder in the Upper Warrill Creek catchment mentioned to me that he saw a revived Indigenous use of a burning method on his Australian travels: "Strip-burning".

It is kin to "fuel reduction burning" but in areas of 2 to 3 km intervals. Caution must be taken as it depends also on the suitable types of vegetation and weather conditions.

One of the definitions quoted for strip-burning: The burning of strips of the general fuel layer in such a way that the fire goes out after a few metres . (e.g. burning uphill to a track or in conditions that a line of fire will go out completely as the day cools.

Well, some "Food for Thought" for to Burn or not to Burn. The final opinion of all landholders at the Workshop was "**to Be** Prepared". Consult your Fire Warden. Communicate with your neighbours.

A landholder in the Upper Warrill Creek catchment mentioned to me that he saw a revived indigenous use of a burning method on his Australian travels: "Strip-burning".

Bremer river basin, Warrill Creek and Purga Creek basins

The Bremer River and Warrill Creek are deeply incised into the Main Range Volcanic in their headwaters and form thin and comparatively narrow alluvial systems that overlie the Walloon Coal Measures throughout the rest of their river basins. The Purga Creek alluvium directly overlies the Walloon Coal Measures or other Clarence-Moreton bedrock formations throughout its entire course noted that Purga Creek is characterised by higher salinities than the Bremer River and Warrill Creek, and they have also observed that the Purga Creek and the Walloon Coal Measures have similar hydro chemistries. This was also independently confirmed by a report from the Bremer Catchment Association (2005), in which high electrical conductivities of approximately 6500 µS/cm were measured for Purga Creek in comparison to the much lower electrical conductivities of less than 1000 µS/cm measured for the Bremer River and the Warrill Creek. Indicated that this was probably due to a strong contribution of base-flow from the Walloon Coal Measures to Purga Creek, whereas interaction between the Main Range Volcanics and Bremer River and Warrill Creek generated fresher surface waters. A more detailed assessment of salinity issues in Purga Creek is currently being conducted (R Shaw, 2013, pers. comm.).

Ref: Context statement for the Clarence-Moreton bioregion

Below are some notices out of their current Newsletter which might be of interest to you.

ESSAY COMPETITION OPEN

The Australian Farm Institute invites submissions exploring the subject 'Who should determine the right to farm?' for the 2018 John Ralph Essay Competition. Winner of the open category will receive $5000 and the winner of the novice category will receive $1000. Winning entries will be published in the Summer 2018 edition of AFI's quarterly Farm Policy Journal. Both will also receive a one year's AFI membership (valued at $330) and complimentary attendance at the Australian Agriculture Roundtable Conference. Essays must be no more than 4000 words. Deadline 5pm, September 3.

http://farminstitute.org.au/news-and-events/upcoming-events/JR-EssayCompetition2018

RURAL WOMEN'S AWARDS TO OPEN

Online applications for the 2019 AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award open Monday, 3 September, and close 11pm AEDT, 31 October, or Sunday, 27 January 2019 (NT only).

More? http://www.agrifutures.com.au/people-leadership/rural-womens-award/

FREE FORUM FOR FOOD FUTURES

Discover hundreds of innovations to revolutionise how we produce food at a free major event, the Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture, 27-28 November at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. Find innovations to: Increase yields; manage energy use; Improve nutritional value; go organic; improve soil health; prepare for climate change; save water; control pests; reduce food losses; automate inputs and use ICT effectively. Register for free at www.gfiaaustralia.com and you'll also have access to environment/protected cropping and precision ag conferences as well as an innovators pavilion, **More?** www.gfiaaustralia.com

USEFUL FREE AG-RESOURCE LIBRARY

A free agribusiness-linked resource library is available from the Agribusiness Development Institute, which is also running some MLA and Queensland Government -subsided courses. **More?** http://www.abdi.com.au/resources

FREE MARKET RESEARCH FOR VEGETABLE GROWERS

Understand consumer buying preferences on a range of hort products from the innovative Harvest to Home website backed by Hort Innovation using national Nielsen sales data. **More?** https://www.harvesttohome.net.au/

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

Online applications for the 2019 AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award open Monday, 3 September

Follow a set feeding routine. It is common to cut two to three day´s supply, but daily cutting may be necessary in summer to avoid leaves withering.

Drought strategies Fodder trees for Beef Cattle Feeding

Successful scrub feeding is not limited to the more palatable and nutritious species, especially during dry periods. Scrub with a higher fibre content, and so lower nutritive value, can be used. Feeding urea molasses has broadened the range of trees that can be used for drought feeding.

The palatability of any one species may vary from paddock to paddock and from year to year. An assessment can be made only by offering a particular scrub to livestock and observing stock response in terms of palatability, feed intake and live weight change.

Points to note when scrub feeding

- Cut only one species at a time.
- Provide sufficient leafy material to minimise the eating of twigs and branches.
- Follow a set feeding routine. It is common to cut two to three day´s supply, but daily cutting may be necessary in summer to avoid leaves withering. As the drought progresses, the foliage on uncut scrub dries out and fresh scrub may need to be cut daily.
- While stock are strong, cut the scrub most distant from water. Then cut closer scrub.
- If acceptance is poor, spraying with a molasses-water mixture may increase intakes, but some trees in every stand of scrub are unpalatable. Generally, older mulga trees are preferred to young ones.
- Pulling with a chain or bulldozing can reduce acceptance because of high dust levels.

Consider the long-term environmental effects of pulling scrub. Leave strips of trees for regeneration, wildlife protection and the like.

Predisposing factors contributing to gastric impaction

- Cutting too little scrub, thus forcing cattle to eat twigs and branches.
- Scrub drying out, either through cutting excessive amounts or leaves wilting.
- Stock not drinking enough water.

Feed supplements

Research at Charleville Pastoral Laboratory has demonstrated that supplements providing protein nitrogen (cottonseed meal), non protein nitrogen (urea), sulphur (sulphate of ammonia) and phosphorus (dicalcium phosphate) can be very beneficial to animals consuming fodder trees. These additional nutrients stimulate the rumen and increase feed intakes.

Providing molasses supplements on an irregular basis assists the passage of fibre.

https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/environment/drought/managing

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