BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

around the bremer

December 2012

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Important Dates:

Christmas Break-up

13th December

First Operational Meeting in 2013 will be held on 9th February.
Please take note of change of date

President's Message –Bill Steentsma

Greetings BCA Members,

Another year has passed. BCA is a volunteer organisation and lead by community members. I am proud of the members' skills and experiences. They are the core strengths required to help our stakeholders with issues as environmental and land use objectives.

Technology improvements within these issues have taken a much faster speed and we should embrace them.

Recently I was one of the speakers to 80 Geology students. It was enlightening to note the interest of these students and lecturers. These students will again, after many more years come forward with new technology.

BCA had an interesting year with many positive gains within our objectives. I acknowledge the good liaison with SEQCatchments Ltd, Ipswich and Scenic Rim Councils as well as other kindred institutions.

Happy Holiday Season to All.

Salinity in South-East Queensland

Salinity is a challenging natural resource issue as it is affected by different spatial and temporal scales. Salinity expressions and effects of salinity may appear long after and some distance from where the causes originated.

Its harmful effects include lost agricultural production, stream salinity and damage to infrastructure, urban households and environmental costs. Saline soils occur naturally in parts of Queensland. However, salinity can be induced by unsuitable land management practices.

To help understand salinity, its effects and how it can be prevented visit

http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/salinity

types of salinity

contributing factors

salinity indicators

preventing salinity

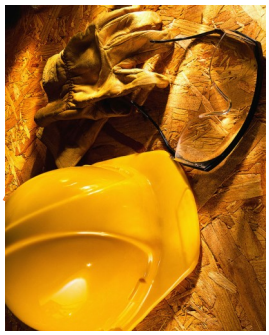
managing salinity.

Salt scalding in the Lockyer Valley, South-East Queensland

Cat's Claw Creeper

Biological Control

The tinged bug *Carvalhotingis visenda* and the leaf-tying moth *Hypocosmia pyrochroma* have been released widely and field release of the leaf-mining jewel beetle *Hylaeogena jureceki* commenced in September 2012.



Gloves, goggles and hard hats

Cat's Claw Creeper

The problem

Cat's claw creeper is a native of tropical America, and is an aggressive climber which was used as an ornamental in older-style Queensland gardens. This vine has the ability to completely smother native vegetation, even growing up over trees, and many bush land areas already have serious infections of this weed. The vine has a vigorous root and tuber system, and this adds to the difficulties of controlling the weed.

Description

Cat's claw creeper is a vine with large, bright yellow bell shaped flowers in spring. Its leaves each have 2 leaflets, with a three clawed tendril (the cat's claw) growing between them. The vine bears very long, narrow and flat pods containing many seeds.

Choosing your Insurance

When operating a farm or grazing business there are some important types of insurance you need to have but may not know about. Are you paying extra for insurance which may not provide the cover you need?

The types of insurance you choose depend upon your needs and the advice you receive.

Types of insurance you could need:

Personal accident and illness; Public liability; Transit policy; Hay, livestock and fencing; Machinery breakdown; Farm, dwelling and contents; Motor vehicles; Trade debtor insurance.—**Which one is for you?**

Workplace Health and Safety Tips—General

Make the workplace safe by:

Finding what is unsafe in the workplace

Deciding what is highest risk and needs to be fixed

Training workers how to do the work safely

Designing and supervising safe work procedures

Providing appropriate safety gear (hats, reflective vests etc.)

Provide a "First Aid Kit" and have a trained person on hand.

For more detailed information see:

Health and safety information for Farmers and Farm managers

Land Management

At the time of writing the newsletter, many landholders are in the process of preparing their cultivations for maize (corn) beans and sorghum planting. It is hoped that rain will soon be received for suitable planting conditions. Lucerne growers also are looking for good rains to supplement irrigation.

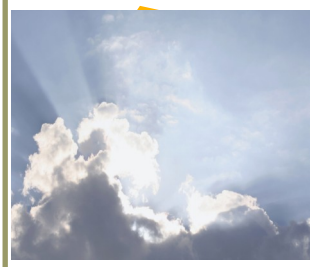
Determining Land Suitability

Land can be put to use in a huge variety of ways. Responsible landholders aim to use their land appropriately. This includes making wise land use and land management decisions. For instance, an intensive small crop operation is not well suited to an area with a 20% slope due to the severe erosion risk.

To determine land use options suited to a particular area three sets of information are required:

1. Detailed description of the soil characteristics and other features of the area in question.
2. Detailed information on the requirements and production options of the crop or grazing enterprise.
3. Detailed information on the design and requirements suitable for urban development.

An area of land may be suitable for a number of uses such as forestry, grazing, cropping, wildlife habitat, or tourism depending on its attributes.



Promise for rain

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SOS—Scenic Rim Regional Council

Here is an SOS from the Natural Resource Officer—Scenic Rim Council. This fits with the article on page 2 of this newsletter. Quote:

"This is the weed season. So be vigilant with treating weeds such as Ragweed, Cats Claw and Celtis. Ragweed is now powering away and should be treated with an approved chemical or manual control. Now is the time for killing Cats Claw Vine before it sets seed. Focus on those vines that are growing up into trees as a matter of priority. We need weed free river banks to enable healthy native forests to establish. Call Council for advice on weeds and how to treat them".

Flower and young leaves of *Celtis*

Picture of a young ragweed plant above and mature Celtis tree below

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Working Together

WE ARE ON THE WEB:
ww.bremercatchment.org.au

Editor:

Marianne Steentsma

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Contact:

msteent@ngvemail.com

Or

PO Box 418

Ipswich Q. 4305

Bundamba Creek at Blackstone

Overview of Bundamba Creek Think Tank Workshop

The President and Secretary of BCA have attended the "Bundamba Creek Think Tank" planning workshops. These meetings are prepared and facilitated by Kaye Cavanagh (ICC). The current 'Draft for comment' is as follows:

Bundamba Creek has been identified as a priority urban catchment for rehabilitation in Ipswich, and is the first waterway to be addressed in Council's River Recovery Program. This is based on:

•Multiple stakeholders involved in a wide range of past and present projects and programs to achieve multiple benefits, with a strong need for collaboration and coordinated investment

•Major sub-catchment of the Bremer River, and contained solely within the Ipswich City Council LGA

•Opportunities for university research to inform future land management decisions, and monitoring and evaluation needs

•Identified for major urban development within the upper catchment area of Ripley Valley

•Highly dispersive soils located within the upper catchment

•Contains a series of important wetlands, regional ecosystems, koala habitat and conservation areas

•Headwaters are located within the Flinders Karawatha Corridor

•Existing urban development in the mid and lower catchment with flood mitigation studies and works underway

•Swanbank Industrial Precinct (Swanbank Enterprise Park) and proposed future industrial development

•Connected open linear space and recreation opportunities along the length of the water way

For more information see: www.ipswich.qld.gov.au

Mal Abbott after a hard day's work

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