BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

December 2016

around the bremer

Special points of interest:

Next BCA Operational Meeting 16th February 2017

Inside this issue:

President's Report	1
Rainforest and Riparian Weeds	2
CASA develops new regulations for drone operation	4
Summer Means Natural Disaster Season	5
Report on SEQ Catchments' Upper Warrill Creek Streambank Erosion Field Day	6

President's Message by Bill Steentsma

Who said agriculture technology is not there?

That includes total environmental behavioural issues are being studied and methods improved.

Let us call it "a technical perspective" toward looking at indicators of catchment health.

BCA had a very rewarding year during 2016, receiving Grants for new and continuing Projects. All members volunteered in their own individual way towards the creation and sustainability of a healthy productive catchment.

At our AGM we applauded Gary Cochrane and his Committee for their positive leadership. Gary has accepted the Vice President position for the coming year.

The end of 2016 for the new Executive Committee several commitments were met i.e.

- 3rd November, SEQ Catchments Members Association Board Meeting. (I am representing the Bremer Catchment). Approximately 30 Landcare representatives meet four times at different venues during the year.
- 16th November – Waterways Report Card – Secretary Marianne and I travelled to Kilcoy. Bremer River received a D+ (previous year D-) that is an improved condition.
- 25th November, Brisbane for the "Branding Meeting". The amalgamation of Healthy Waterways and SEQCatchments. This meeting was about the new logo.
- 30th November, Aratula – I attended the SEQCatchments' Upper Warrill Creek Streambank Erosion Field Day. Our Grant Officer, Jocelyn Clarke attended also and prepared a fantastic report about the day's events. She wrote:"It is now realised that it is good to have vegetation and logs (Logjams) in the waterways". A full copy of the report will be presented to all Members.
- 2nd December, Brisbane I was invited by the Qld. Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) to attend their AGM.

BCA works in partnership at local, state and national levels to manage the Bremer Catchment. It has originated from local government wishing to have a link to the community within the Catchment.

I am wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous/healthy 2017.

RAINFOREST & RIPARIAN WEEDS By Martin Bennett

Some of the more common Rainforest, and Riparian weeds to be observed in SEQ.

Common Lantana and Creeping Lantana - *Lantana spp.*	Madeira vine - *Anredera cordifolia*
Cats claw creeper - *Dolichandra unguis*-cati	Balloon vine - *Cardiospermum grandiflorum*
Glycine - *Neonotonia wightii*	Climbing Asparagus, Basket Asparagus - *Asparagus spp.*
Mile a minute, Morning Glory - *Ipomoea spp.*	Coral berry, or milk taint - *Rivina humilis*
Brazilian night shade - *Solanum seaforthianum*	Green panic - *Megathyrsus maximus var. pubiglumis*
Prickly pear, Velvet tree pear, Tiger pear	Harrisia cactus - *Harrisia martinii*

Cats Claw Creeper

Mile-a-Minute

A rampant climber or creeper with hairless slender stems. Its very distinctive leaves have 5-7 finger-like lobes.

Balloon vine is a restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014.*

PLAN

Always make a plan when attempting to carry out weed management. Survey the area, and determine what species of weeds are occurring, and rank them for invasiveness. The important criteria for ranking are often those plants that are doing the most damage, e.g. strangling vines, dense thickets of lantana. If your time is valuable you may want to cut the vines and treat them first, and then concentrate on any weed species of a seeding age, this will slow down their re infestation into the site. If fire is a threat to your site then Lantana and Green panic are a real threat, so you would look at treating these areas first.

HERBICIDE

There are many types of herbicides available ranging from those considered low level toxicity e.g. Glyphosate biactive, Weedmaster Duo, and Metsulfuron, to the medium level like Dicamba, Amicide, fluroxypyr, picloram, and triclopyr. Always be careful when using herbicides in waterways, non-bioactive Glyphosates can contain surfactants that can be 10 times more environmental damaging. Use the internet to browse the product labels, and always read through them thoroughly, and always follow their directions for volumes and mixing. Good advice can be obtained from the better Farm Supplies, they often employ Agronomists that can answer your questions.

METHODS

There are many methods, they don't all work the same and different sites, and different growth stages will require a different method and approach.

Foliar spray

Foliar spray is the application of herbicide via a tank and pump with a pressure hose and applicator gun, herbicide rates are usually quite low. The applicator gun has an adjustable nozzle to vary spray pattern. The method requires the application of herbicide to the entire foliage usually to run off, and some herbicides require the stems and branches as well as the ground at the base of the plant to be sprayed .

Is when a shrub or tree is cut off as low to the ground as possible, and a strong mix of herbicide is applied within 15 seconds.

Cut Stump

Is when a shrub or tree is cut off as low to the ground as possible, and a strong mix of herbicide is applied within 15 seconds.

Splatter gun

This method can be used using a gas operated 5 litre back pack, the application gun can be calibrated to deliver different amounts of herbicide, and herbicide rates are relatively high. This method can cover large areas as a heavy stream every 1m is applied and is enough to treat large areas of Lantana.

Basal barking

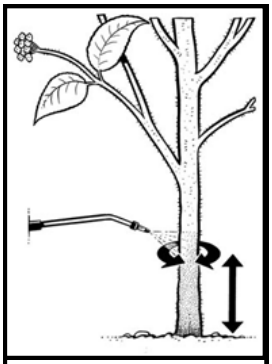
This method is typically a low mix of herbicide in diesel, the tree or shrubs trunk is sprayed completely up to the knee height on smaller diameter trunks, to chest height on large trunks. This method is best carried out on flat ground, it can be hard on backs and knees on sloping banks etc. In those rougher terrains "Stem injection" works well. Using a small axe, and a 5 litre backpack with injector gun, make shallow cuts apply the herbicide, leave a space and keep repeating this method.

Manual removal

This can be a very useful method in environmental situations where other methods would prove to damaging to off target species. Hand pulling, chipping, mattocks etc can prove a very good method.

Biological control

There are a number of biological controls available from some Councils and Landcare groups. There is approx. 25 Lantana bugs out there, most are a nuisance to the plant, but several appear to be working well, locally at least. There are 3 biological controls for Cats claw creeper, the Jewel beetle showing the most promise at present. There is one biological control for Madeira vine, I have seen some of the damage to the leaves and this one shows promise. Salvinia and Water Hyacinth both have a biological control agent, the Salvinia weevil works exceptionally well, whereas the Water hyacinth one doesn't seem as affective. Brisbane City Council, Gympie Landcare, and Biosecurity Qld are suppliers of these biological agents.



Basal barking

The BCA Management Committee is wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and Prosperous 2017

CASA develops new regulations for drone operation

By Jodie Gunders and Cassandra Hough ABC Rural News

Farmers will soon be able to fly drones weighing up to 25 kilograms over their property without an unmanned aircraft operators certificate, provided they are not paid for the work.

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) has changed to the rules governing the use of commercial drones to make it easier for farmers to use them on private properties.

CASA spokesperson Peter Gibson said it would reduce a lot of the red tape associated with drones.

"A 25-kilogram drone is actually at the larger end of most commercially available drones at the moment. That's a drone that can take a pretty good payload, could carry a fair bit of chemical around for crop spraying, could easily carry cameras and other gear to do visual inspections," Mr Gibson said.

The community grant funded 'Eye on the Sky' project investigated the use of drones in agriculture.

Mr Chapman believed drones would be a game-changer in Australian agriculture.

"It's a fantastic win for farmers working on their own land, being able to adopt some of the most exciting tools that have hit agriculture in the last 20 years," Mr Chapman said.

Some farmers had started to dip their toes into hobby drones, the new CASA rules would give them the confidence to invest in drone technology that was tailored to agricultural use.

New regulations and penalties in place

Commercial users of drones that weigh less than two kilograms will no longer need to obtain a number of regulatory approvals, such as an operators certificate and remote pilot licence.

"CASA will make sure there is a notification system in place so people will have to go to an online form, tell their details, tell what they're going to be using their drone for, where they're going to be using it so we'll have a record of those people out there," Mr Gibson said.

"In terms of farmers using drones on their own properties, it is very clear in the new rules that the drones must only be used on their own properties without money changing hands," he said.

"People intending to utilise the new very small category of commercial operations should understand this can only be done if the standard operating conditions are strictly followed and CASA is notified."

New rules will make it easier for farmers to use drones on their private properties.

Drones at work

Summer Means Natural Disaster Season Approaches

Be prepared

As we welcome in December, it's good to note that we are also welcoming the official start of the cyclone season. Australia's cyclone season runs from November through to April with Queensland being a regular feature. This is why it is so important that all farmers within cyclone regions undertake a Stocktake, watch the forecast and get your individual plans finalised.

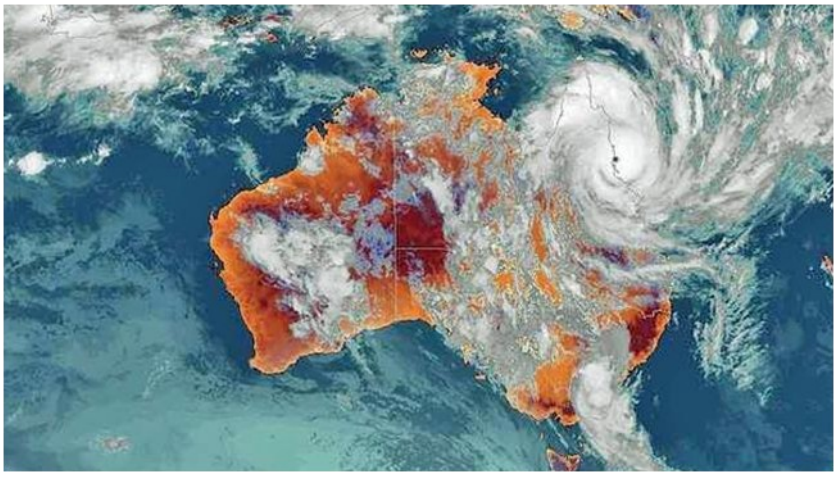
Queensland is no stranger to cyclones which are having devastating and long lasting impacts on rural communities. On average Australia has 11 cyclones per season, with 4 of these crossing the coast. The BOM 2016–17 season outlook predicts an average to above-average number of cyclones this season. This is in part due to the La Nina or La Nina-like conditions predicted over the summer months. These seasons mean warmer waters around northern Australia which is one of the key ingredients for cyclone development.

It is important to remember that cyclones are only part of the problem. Flooding is another common disaster throughout Queensland, and can occur with low pressure system, storms or even just prolonged rain through the wet season.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) has taken a lead role in natural disaster recovery and resilience by supporting affected farmers throughout the state. Further information on the assistance available to farmers post natural disasters is available on a purpose-built QFF website: **farmerdisasertsupport.org.au.**

Natural disasters are an unfortunate and difficult reality for all Landholders. It is essential to take the time to prepare and stay vigilant during natural disaster seasons. Don't let another year pass being unprepared. I encourage you to use the services that are available in both preparation and in recovery.

A synopsis from an article of Stuart Armitage, QFF President



Not just Farmers are affected

REPORT ON SEQ CATCHMENTS' UPPER WARRILL CREEK STREAMBANK EROSION FIELD DAY held on Wednesday 30th November 2016.
This is a synopsis from notes prepared by Jocelyn Clarke (BCA Member)

9.15am participants gathered at the Aratula Hotel. Several speakers (including Nat Parker) explained the history of the 'Healthy Country Project' from 2007 through to 2011 that covered various catchments in Queensland. Maps and videos were shown on screen.
Warrill Creek Catchment had a number of streambank, gully and hillslope erosion problems that had been identified through input from locals.
In 2012, funding was provided by the Queensland Government with the Warrill Creek Catchment gaining the first High Priority on the list of problems.

Maintenance programs in Logan, Lockyer and Warrill Creek Catchments showed that Warrill Creek was the worse affected in the 2013 major flood, (*Jocelyn's Note - this came after the 2011 flood that affected Brisbane and elsewhere).*
It was obvious that there was a need to shore up Warrill Creek in the upper and lower regions.
Hillslope erosion as the result of grazing had to be considered along with the goals of:-Engaging the community, landscape recognition, improving riparian management, reducing sediment export to local creeks and waterways and building knowledge through management of sites.

THE PROCESS of a LOGJAM

Logs are inserted in a horizontally row into the bank at the base of the creek at an angle towards the upstream flow in the erosion site, with the next row across these and continuing in this manner until the desired number of rows are completed. Logs are 10-12metres long with only 5metres visible.

Wooden piles are driven 3metres into the creek bed. Cables are inserted through holes at the top of the piles and tied (bolted down) across the top row of logs. It has been determined that this cabling will suffice for the whole structure. There have been 30 new logjams created in the Upper Warrill.

Constructed Logjam

There have been 30 new logjams created in the Upper Warrill.

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-