BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

around the bremer

December 2017

Special points of interest:

First Meeting in 2018 is on

15th February 2018

Everyone welcome

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President's Message by Bill Steentsma

Once again, this year's overall health of the Bremer River became D-

Yes, a D- (minus). Many meetings have been held during the years e.g. preparing for plans towards the coming 30 years. Many pages have been written in Reports.

The two (2) Councils are doing their best in order to observe the many Urban Developments throughout the catchment.

BCA has asked several times for a list of the "Hotspots". This way, landcare organisations are able to assist to improve the problem spots with available technology and know-how.

I participated with a bus tour group organised by the Bremer River Network (BRN). We visited four (4) main sites and the 35 participants contributed to good discussions.

Some of the BRN bus group at the North Ipswich Wetlands

In this Newsletter I have taken the opportunity to draw attention to some major general topics.

It has been an eventful year for BCA and a great one. I thank all members for their support during the year and look forward seeing you all at our first meeting on Thursday 15th February 2018.

Wishing you the gifts of the Festive Season—Peace –Joy—Hope and Happiness and a prosperous 2018

Country Streams and City River

Between Mt Cordeaux and Wilson's Peak, on the Great dividing Range, many of the creeks and streams of the Bremer River catchment begin. Reynolds, Warrill and Purga Creeks and the Greater Bremer River and others flow down from the Scenic Rim.
They flow past the townships of Aratula, Kalbar, Warrill View, Peak Crossing and Rosewood. Next time you go to the butcher, you may be buying a steak produced in the Bremer River Catchment. The catchment supplies water for irrigated pastures, crop, livestock, and for the towns and other smaller settlements.
Moogerah Dam was built in 1961 to supply water for agriculture, industry and urban use.
Much of the riparian vegetation has been removed to allow cattle access to the creeks and to make the best use of the flats and floodplains for grazing and agriculture.
Further down the catchment these creeks and streams merge into the Bremer River, which flows through the city if Ipswich, the second largest city in South-east Queensland.
By the time it reaches Ipswich, the Bremer River is a stagnant smelly soup, full of sediment and organic matter, with little dissolved oxygen.

This year's Report Card Healthy Land and Water, revealing the current condition and benefits of South East Queensland's waterways, has been released!

The Report Card provides an annual assessment of the pressures facing our waterways, their current environmental condition (A-F grade), and the level of social and economic benefit the waterways provide to local communities (1-5 star rating).

What's new?

Working with local and state governments, Healthy Land and Water has assessed each catchment to identify areas that are vulnerable to generating sediment pollution if they are not appropriately managed.

What do the grades mean?
The condition of our waterways impacts the social and economic benefits they provide. Understanding and reporting on the condition of our waterways is critical to identify these impacts and inform effective waterway management. The Report Card assesses progress towards:
The Bremer declined from 2016 from a D+ to a D-, due to an increase in pollutant loads and a decline in estuarine water quality.

The catchment retains a very low proportion of freshwater habitat, compared to pre-cleared.
Freshwater stream health remains fair.
Pollutant loads have increased from very low to low.
Riparian extent remains very poor.
Estuarine water quality declined from poor to very poor due to elevated turbidity and total nitrogen in the middle and upper estuary.
For more information go to: http://hlw.org.au/report-card

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AgDay a Celebration of Australia's Farmers

FARMERS make a massive contribution to Australia's society and economy and it is time to celebrate sector's vital significance to the country.

Agriculture generates $60 billion of on-farm production, feeds 61 million people globally, is our second largest export industry and drives local economies across the country, employing more than 1.5 million workers across the value chain.

"On AgDay there are many ways we can rejoice in our primary production prowess." A major aim for National AgDay is to light a fire in backyard barbecues and get prime produce sizzling in the city and country - from Brunswick to Brisbane, Bunbury to Birdsville and beyond.

National AgDay was held on November 21 and the official website has a bunch of handy tips on how to get involved. There is a social media campaign sporting the hashtag #AgDay, classroom materials to educate next year's school students and get them involved. This isn't just about agriculture for agriculture's sake.

To help celebrate AgDay, you can commit to eat only Australian produce for 24 hours on November 21, and post a picture of your menu and where the food came from with the #AgDay hashtag.

AgForce president Grant Maudsley welcomed the AgDay initiative and urged everyone to get behind it.

"National AgDay provides an opportunity for all Queenslanders to celebrate and be proud about our contribution to feeding and clothing the world," he said.

New figures reveal Aussies' shocking disconnect with life's essentials

Australian Farmers 20 November 2017 -

Startling new research has revealed that Australians have grown disconnected from where their food and fibre comes from, and are oblivious of the farm sector's economic contribution.

The nation-wide polling commissioned by the National Farmers' Federation in the lead up to National Agriculture Day, found that 83% of Australians would describe their connection with farming as 'distant' or 'non-existent'.
We live in one of the most urbanised countries in the world, but that doesn't mean food and fibre production should simply be 'out of sight, out of mind.

Farming is truly a driving force of the Australian economy, generating 1.6 million jobs across the supply chain. ***Only 4 percent of respondents correctly identified agriculture as our fastest growing sector.***
It is to be Australia's next $100 billion industry, having reached a record $60 billion farm gate return last financial year.

Farmers don't just grow calories, they grow salaries.

To learn more about how you can get involved in future AgDays, visit agday.org.au.

Dear Weed Spotters - From the - Bulletin November 2017

Ivy gourd (Photo: G. Calvert)

We're nearing the end of yet another very successful year of weed spotting! Our membership is continuing to grow, with almost 1400 Weed Spotters now on the lookout for weeds across the state.

Thank you for your photographs and specimens of weeds which have resulted in 77 notifications of new and emerging weed threats, including 32 records of Prohibited or Restricted (Category 2,3,4&5) invasive plants. Thank you also to more than 300 of you who took time to attend a weed identification workshop this year.

As always, our sincere thanks go to our hard working regional coordinators who continue to volunteer their time and knowledge to assist Weed Spotters and the community with education, weed reporting and identification.

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.

. **Are you ready to start spotting weeds in your region?**

South East Queensland

Keep an eye out for these weeds between November & January

***Acaciaella glauca* (redwood)** white ball-shaped flowers— Creek lines.

***Elephantopis mollis* (tobacco weed)** daisy to 1 m tall flowers white or pink

***Equisetum* spp. (horsetails)** primitive plant, no flowers

leaves reduced

***Limnocharis flava* (yellow burrhead)**

B. Waterhouse

yellow flowers— triangular stems—water bodies and margins

***Mikania micrantha* (mikania vine)**

heart shaped leaf— smothering habit

Fig.1 B.Waterhouse

Farmers Benefit from National Food Waste Strategy

This week, National Farmers' Federation (NFF) President, Fiona Simson, represented the farm sector on the National Food Waste Advisory Group that unveiled a national strategy that supports collective action towards halving Australia's food waste by 2030.

The country's first-ever National Food Waste Strategy was launched at the inaugural National Food Waste Summit on Monday.
Food waste has environmental, economic and social implications for all Australians.
The estimated cost of food waste to Australian economy is $20 billion per year.
Of the food waste disposed in landfill in 2014-15, 7.6 million tones of carbon dioxide equivalent will be released over the life of its decay.
Although we produce enough food to feed about 60 million people, one food rescue organisation is turning away over 65,000 people each month.
The National Food Waste Strategy identifies four priority areas – policy support, business improvements, market development and behavior change – that will help reach the 2030 goal.
NFF President Fiona Simson says all Australians, including farmers, will benefit from a focused, national effort to reduce food waste.
Ms Simson said it was estimated that overall on-farm losses represented about 10 per cent of gross food production, valued at $4 billion.
"The loss of fresh produce during agricultural production and in households during consumption constitutes the largest waste of food in Australia," Ms Simson said.

Increasing efficiencies is an ongoing aim of Australia's primary production as it strives to make more from less in an environment of changing climate and spiraling input costs.
There is very little to lose and a whole lot to gain, socially and economically, from adopting the steps to minimise food waste outlined in the Strategy.
The farm sector was already investing significant resources to investigate methods to avoid, reuse and recycle food waste through the Rural Research and Development Corporations and the Rural R&D for Profit Programme.

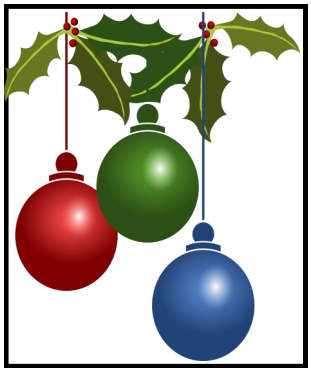
Implemented correctly, the strategy will deliver positive benefits for Australians for generations to come.
The initial funding commitment is $1.37 million over 24 months. This funding will be used to support:

1. an independent organisation (Food Innovation Australia Limited) that will develop an implementation plan as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework for the strategy and coordinate priority areas of work;

2. a voluntary commitment program that will initially engage businesses and industries to commit to actions that reduce food waste; and

3. a National Food Waste Baseline so that we can monitor and track progress towards our food waste reduction goal.
For more information go to: *https://farmers.org.au/news-updates*

There is very little to lose and a whole lot to gain, socially and economically



Ipswich "Garden of Eden"- Cribb Park

Project "Garden of Eden" - Cribb Park is a project supported and adopted by BCA.

A major planting day was held on 17th November. Yes, it was that rainy Saturday!

The girl and boy scouts and their leaders who were participating on the day continued their hard work despite the heavy rain.

Anthony Edwards, BCA member and Project instigator, was surprised about the runoff from surrounding streets, causing potential serious soil erosion.

Views of the "Garden of Eden" on the wet planting day

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 publication

I hope your holiday is filled with plenty of warmth, love, cheer, and happiness. Merry Christmas to you and yours

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