



February 2015



**Special points of interest:**

This year promises to be filled with many challenges.

The Upper Mt Walker Hillslope Erosion Project (UMWHEP) has finally received some welcomed rainfall.

It has been suggested for some time to host a Field Day at the UMWHEP site to highlight the importance of soil stabilisation

**Presidents Message**

Well I trust many of you enjoyed the festive celebrations and were able to gather with your families and friends. The festive season seemed to be upon us before we all realised. 2014 was quite busy for many of us, so to have a week or so with family was most relaxing!

What can one say about the difference a little rain makes? Good to see there has been some decent rainfall recorded over the past several weeks. It's amazing to see how quickly the landscape changes, especially from October to present day. Typically the urban sprawl appears to be abound with the sounds of lawnmowers and whipper snippers now.

yours truly. It is understood from John that recent rain has been most welcomed and re-vegetation of the gully is establishing quickly.

It has been suggested for some time to host a Field Day at the UMWHEP site to highlight the importance of soil stabilisation, minimising soil erosion and establishing vegetation programmes on properties. For obvious reasons the proposed BCA Field Day would involve a small number of presenters on the day. Presentations based on a variety of topics to do with soils, soil stabilisation, minimising soil erosion and acceptable vegetation programmes will be suited. The proposed BCA Field Day would look to put on some refreshments and would look to attract both members and non-members to the UMWHEP site. Stay tuned for more development on the BCA Field Day.

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This year promises to be filled with many challenges, some good and sadly some not so good. It was evident that the BCA had a successful year last year and was able to face many such challenges. Development in targeting grant applications was administered well by Jocelyn Clarkson (BCA Grants Officer) and others, however not all applications were successful. We should not lose faith or hope with such news, as many environmental groups and organisations are facing similar difficulties. I believe that the BCA is quite strong and has the ability to overcome 'life's hurdles', producing a good result in the finish. Let's assist one another to overcome some of these hurdles.

The Upper Mt Walker Hillslope Erosion Project (UMWHEP) has finally received some welcomed rainfall. John Jackson (BCA Project Leader) is quite pleased with the development of the site. In recent weeks vegetation (i.e. Vetiver Grass, Lomandra) has been planted, thanks to the efforts of Bill Steentsma, John Jackson and

Reports of Paralysis Ticks (*Ixodes holocyclus* Neumann, 1899) have been evident in recent weeks. Unfortunately such pests cause a debilitating loss of health in many domestic pets (e.g. cats, dogs) and can also affect human health. Unfortunately without proper veterinary care these parasitic pests are responsible for deaths of many domesticated animals. So when working or enjoying the great outdoors, please ensure you familiarise yourself with first aid techniques when it comes to Paralysis Ticks.

Stay safe and drive steady on the roads.

Gary H Cochrane  
President  
Bremer Catchment Association



Adult Female Paralysis Tick



Wick population on the East Coast

## Some unwanted wildlife—Paralysis Ticks

### What you need to know about ticks.

From the twelve tick species which have been found on dogs in Australia only the paralysis tick (*Ixodes Holocyclus*) is a health hazard for small animals. It has a three host life cycle; which means it needs to find a host and engorge each phase of its development (larva, nymph, adult) during the year. (*Glen Coleman, 1996*)

The natural hosts are native wildlife such as bandicoots, possums, koalas and macropods but the tick occasionally will attach to domestic animals and even humans. Paralysis tick presents on the east coast of Australia only.

Humid conditions are essential for survival of the paralysis tick. Dry conditions, relatively high (32°C) and low (7°C) temperatures will kill all stages after a few days. An ambient temperature of 27°C and high relative humidity is thought to be optimal for rapid development.

The tick population in a given year is probably governed by the rainfall in the previous year if the temperature variations have only been moderate. If there has been a cold winter in South East Queensland and also drought, the coming season won't favour tick development.

### What to do if a tick is found

Immediately pull it off with forceps or a special tick remover device by grabbing and twisting in a clockwise direction.

Do not to use irritant substances such as turpentine, kerosene, or petrol. These

will kill the tick but won't make it any easier to remove and will also cause the tick to inject more toxin before dying. Chemicals will also cause a very nasty sore and unnecessary pain at the site of the tick bite.

If by any chance the head of the tick stays in the skin, scratch it out with your fingernail. The head will not inject any more poison once the body has been removed, but it may cause a foreign body reaction similar to a splinter.

### Effects of ticks

Tick saliva is neuro and cardio-toxic what means it has deleterious effect on the heart and nervous system causing ascending paralyses.

### Seasonal occurrence of life cycle of Paralysis Ticks

#### South East Queensland:

- **Larvae appear late Feb to April/May**(not causing disease)
- **Nymphs March to September/October** (occasional mild disease, opportunity to gain resistance in tick infested areas)
- **The adult population emerges in August to February, peaking around December**(disease – tick search daily!)

Dr Viki Dioszegi BVSc BHSc

## Upper Mount Walker Hillslope Erosion Project (UMWHEP)

The following was submitted by John Jackson, Project Officer of the UMWHEP Project.

Photo 1. Preparation for planting of Vetiver



grass on Contour

The project is going well. We had over 200 ml of rain in December and the main gully plantings ( 900 plants) could not have asked for a better start.

I have not been over for a few days- did my knee in- but there are some Lomandra that may be covered by silt and water but overall, really great.

From observation, the groyne have really held back silt and water flow, although the slower rainfall helps also. I do expect there will be some losses in the Lomandra, but the vetiver hopefully will all be fine.



Photo 2. Vetiver grass planted.

So far, we have had 1000 plants for free from the Prison and Council, with more to come from Council. This has saved a lot of money.



Photo 3. Vetiver grass planted in gully

View of a side batter of gully



Overview of main gully with four contours visible



Part of 800 Lomandra plants provided by Arthur Gorrie Centre

Work done until now is only a small start of the work still having to be done



Top of gully where floor raised about 3 metres to date.

### Some Photos from our Christmas break-up



Morris in Meier's shed

It was a small group who risked the weather to join us at the Peak Crossing Park just before Christmas.

Gary attended to the BBQ and all present enjoyed the meal.

Suddenly a huge storm developed and we had to pack-up in a terrible hurry. Barry Meier and his wife offered to come into their large shed and continued our celebration there.



Watching the storm from a dry position enjoying a beautiful watermelon and having a great conversation.

Nobody had a camera taken with us, so Bill tried to use his "ancient" mobile phone and the result ... you can judge for yourself.

#### The following short hints are from the latest "Urban Environment News"

### Get Ready & Survive: Plan for an Emergency

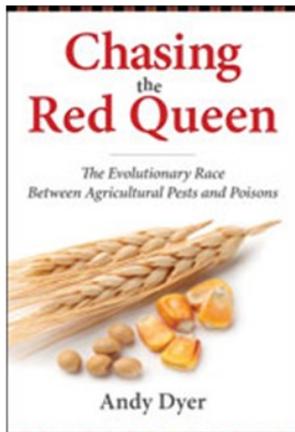
- Disasters will happen. Natural disasters are inevitable, unpredictable and have the potential to significantly impact on your community.
- The way to reduce this impact is to plan and become more resilient.
- ABC Emergency has sourced advice from emergency agencies on how to plan for an emergency including [preparing a survival kit](#).
- For more information go to: <http://urbanenvironmentnews.com/>

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#### THE EVOLUTIONARY RACE BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL PESTS AND POISONS

In the race to feed the world's seven billion people, we are at a standstill. Over the past century, we have developed increasingly potent and sophisticated pesticides, yet in 2014, the average percentage of U.S. crops lost to agricultural pests was no less than in 1944. To use a metaphor the field of evolutionary biology borrowed from *Alice in Wonderland*, farmers must run ever faster to stay in the same place, to produce the same yields.

With *Chasing the Red Queen*, Andy Dyer offers the first book to apply the Red Queen Hypothesis to agriculture. He illustrates that when selection pressure increases, species evolve in response, creating a never-ending, perpetually-escalating competition between predator (us) and prey (bugs and weeds).



The farmers are caught in a vicious cycle of chemical dependence, stuck using increasingly **dangerous** and expensive toxics to beat back progressively resistant pests.

## A PROFESSIONAL'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE CURRENT CONTRAVERSY ON AGRICULTURE AND MINING AND FOOD SECURITY

This is an excerpt of a presentation by Mr. H. S. Briggs given to BCA at the November 2014 Operational Committee Meeting

### What are the likely interests of the community in agriculture and mining?

I believe that the community expects to have:

Continued access to a reliable supply of quality food and fibre and energy based-mineral resources (coal, petroleum, gas) at a reasonable price.

The opportunity to use domestic resources, wherever possible.

Appropriate return to the community from the export of agriculture and mining products.

A balance between the use of resources (land and water in particular) for agriculture and other resource uses (such as mining, industry, transport infrastructure and residences).

It is important to use domestic resources wherever possible

### Contribution made by agriculture and coal and coal seam gas:

Contributions by agriculture are in terms of:

Production of food (essential to life).

Production of fibre (meeting clothing needs).

Major source of foreign exchange and trade.

Employment directly in its production or indirectly in terms of processing and support industries.

Provision of ecosystem services (including carbon fixation).

Production of energy (renewable).

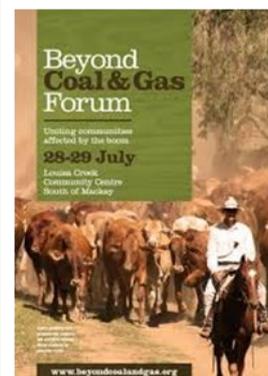
Contributions by mining through coal and natural gas are in terms of:

It is an important source of energy (essential for manufacture, transport, and domestic use).

Major source of foreign exchange and trade.

Employment directly in terms of its extraction or indirectly in terms of processing and support industries (including infrastructure).

Production of energy (non-renewable).



### **The expected need for food in the future - Global population - the driver for change:**

The world's population is expected to increase from 6.1 in 2000 to around 8.0billions in 2050 with the possibility of it reaching 9.2billions if there is a modest increase in human fertility.

The global food crisis of 2007–2008 provided the world with a timely reminder of the sensitivity in world food systems to physical, economic and political forces and the potential for these forces to interact and reinforce one another.

The large number of undernourished people in the world and the likelihood that these will have disproportionate growth in numbers has relevance in any consideration of food security.

### **Meeting future food needs can be met by increasing production on existing farmland:**

Increasing production through the development and adoption of fertiliser and water management regimes and through genetic manipulation.

While starvation levels are highest in Africa, where potential improvements in food production through enhanced fertiliser and water management regimes are greatest, the inferior economic situation of individual food producers and unstable political regimes lessens the likelihood of this occurring in the foreseeable future.

Within the more developed countries there is generally adequate food produced for domestic consumption with surpluses available for export (at a price). However, the potential for enhanced productivity from existing crops is limited.

However, this needs to be offset by the increasing use of crops for bio-fuels rather than food.

### **Meeting future food needs can be met by reducing food wastage:**

Household food wastage ranges from 0 to 29 % with the average between 10 -15%. Also, losses prior to reaching households are believed to be significant, although variation is known to be high and uncertainties considerable. [In a recent edition of New Scientist it was suggested that greatest water wastage was from food wastage because of the large quantities of water required for its production].

### **Meeting future food needs can be met by retaining existing farmland in production:**

Within Queensland, as within all Australian states and most countries, farmland is facing losses from water and wind erosion and from competition from other land uses. The latter applies particularly to rural areas in close proximity to urban areas that are undergoing rapid growth and areas being undergoing open-cut mining.

Morris McInnes offers a “vote of thanks” to Howard Briggs

To be continued.





Bundamba Creek Taken 24-01-2015

**Over the years, Bundamba creek has lost a considerable amount of its riparian vegetation**

### Bundamba Creek

The Bundamba Creek is part of the Bremer River Catchment. It begins its life to the East of Flinders Peak, flowing north through Ripley valley, Silkstone Raceview and Bundamba, before flowing into the Bremer River north of Booval.

On its way the creek flows through urban residential areas, old coal-fields and agricultural lands, each of which present different challenges.

A healthy creek relies heavily on the presence of native vegetation along its banks. Creek bank vegetation or riparian vegetation improves the quality of water by filtering any excess nutrients and toxic sediments. It increases plant and animal diversity and provides soil stability during potential flood .

With the development of the Ripley area it will be important to keep watch on the quality and height of the water level.

Ipswich City Council (ICC) has jurisdictional control of the catchment area. ICC is responsible for delivering programs to ensure that environmental needs are balanced with its development.

#### 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.*

### The Notice Board

BCA and SEQcatchment are planning a Field-day at the end of March at the "Upper Mt. Walker Hillside Erosion Project.

Just a quick reminder that Membership fees were due last October. Kindly pay these at the February Operational Meeting.

The first Bremer Catchment Operational meeting will be held on Thursday 19th February 2015. Please keep this date marked in your busy calendar.

We meet at the Queens Park Educational Centre at 5.45 for 6.00pm start. All welcome



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