BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

February 2016

Date claimer

Salinity Field Day

To be held on

Saturday

23rd April.

All welcome

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Indian Bluegrass	2
Transforming a Salt Scald	2
Controlling Weeds on your Property	3& 4
Harrisville	5
BCA Social Gathering	6

BCA Meeting

18-02-2016,

All Welcome

around the bremer

President's Message—by Gary Cochrane

Well what a spring / summer season we've had. The recent storm activities has provided some good reports of decent rainfall. A number of storms have been present in surrounding regions with reports of up to 80 - 90ml of rain received.

While those regions who've received good rainfall are now quite picturesque, spare a thought for the rest of the state. In early January 2016 reports confirmed 86 % of Queensland was drought effected and/or drought declared. Surely many of these regions must have received some rain by now .

On a lighter note I'm happy to report that Bremer Catchment Association (BCA) is progressing well. There are a number of projects in the early planning stages including a field day or two. Recent discussions were held in relation to securing a shipping container to store/house all of BCA's equipment. Monies obtained from a 2015 grant will greatly assist in purchasing some much needed equipment for BCA, with the opportunity to upgrade some existing (*but tired*) BCA equipment.

Discussions were also held recently with a small group of stakeholders, in the early development of a group referred to as '**Bremer River Network' (BRN)**. Concerns for future funding and intended environmental projects were outlined. As a *'not-for-profit volunteer based group of like-minded individuals',* BCA has provided significant support and funding for a number of environmental projects throughout the local community and greater catchment region. This work remains a major focus for BCA, and should BCA be successful in obtaining further grant monies, all of our time and expertise will definitely be required.

The opportunity to conduct a study on the Upper Mt Walker Hillslope Erosion Project (UMWHEP) was undertaken. This work has now been completed. John Jackson (UMWHEP Project Leader) has been doggedly discussing and liaising with appropriate people, in order to finalise the study (for further works progress). It is envisaged that the report will greatly support further grant applications and meet funding criteria.

A field day to a Kalbar Revegetation Site is currently being planned. BCA members involved in this revegetation site (Jocelyn Clarkson and Barry Jahnke) have been progressing along for many years and it will be a great opportunity to take in their hard work, listen to their experiences and view the exciting results. BCA members will be advised on the time and date for the Kalbar Revegetation Site soon.

Indian Bluegrass

Indian Bluegrass in seed heads

Come to the BCA Field Day on 23rd April to learn more about it.

Mature seed-head of *Phragmites australis.*

Indian Bluegrass *Bothriochloa pertusa*

Uses/applications

A permanent pasture for grazing systems in poorer soils. Generally too low for cut-and-carry. Can be ensiled or cut for hay. Little value for stand over as it becomes unpalatable with flowering. Can be used in no-till vegetable system in which B. pertusa stand killed with herbicide prior to introduction of vegetable seedlings, providing mulch . Also used for erosion control, reseeding eroded land, lining floodways, stabilising and revegetating mine waste, and for turf and amenity plantings.

Strength

- Provides a good groundcover
- Grows on infertile soils
- Competes well with weeds
- Produces good quality forage
- Tolerates heavy grazing

Limitations

- Awned seed, difficult to harvest, handle and sow
- Low growing and accumulates small quantity of forage for dry season
- Becomes unpalatable after flowering
- Competes strongly with legumes
- Stand reduced to individual tufts in severe drought exposing land to soil erosion.

Pasture type and use

Indian bluegrass is suitable as a permanent pasture on poorer soils. It can be cut for hay. It is used for erosion control, reseeding eroded land, waterways, revegetating mine waste and for lawns, sown by seed or from sprigs.

Transforming a Salt Scald to Wetland at Kalbar

Barry and Marjorie Jahnke (BCA) have transformed their 17 hectare property near Kalbar from a degraded, saline eyesore, to a thriving diverse wetland full of water birds.

On their property an area of 4 ha is under *Phragmites australis.* It is known as a Common Reed and considered to be native to large parts of the world. In Australia it is native to Queensland and other States.

Controlling weeds on your property

Some introduced weeds from other countries have become serious pests in Queensland. Weeds threaten Queensland's primary industries, natural environment, livestock, human health and people's livelihoods.

Under Queensland law, landowners, including state and local government, are responsible for controlling declared weeds on their property. Queensland's farmers spend more than $600 million each year on weed-related control activities. However, the total cost of weeds to Queensland's economy and your business can be much higher, including:

- direct control and management costs
- competition with pasture species to reduce available grazing
- toxicity to stock
- competition with crops for space, water and nutrients
- increased stock mustering costs
- loss of ecotourism values
- impact of aquatic weeds on water quality and irrigation.

This guide explains various methods to control weeds on your property and how this can benefit your business.

Declared weeds

There are 3 classes of declared weeds under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. Landowners are responsible for keeping their property free of declared weeds. Your local government and Biosecurity Queensland provide weed control support services but may also enforce landowner responsibilities if necessary.

Weeds that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

Class 1 declared weeds

- are not commonly present in Queensland
- would seriously threaten Queensland's primary industries, natural environment, livestock, human health and people's livelihoods
- if found in Queensland are subject to eradication
- landowners are required by law to keep their land free of Class 1 weeds

must not be introduced, kept, released or sold without a permit; penalties of up to $88,000 apply.

Report suspect weed sightings

To report suspect sightings of Class 1 declared weeds, contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or your local government.

Class 2 declared weeds

- are established in Queensland
- seriously threaten Queensland's primary industries, natural environment, livestock, human health and people's livelihoods
- must be controlled by landowners on their property

must not be introduced, kept, released or sold without a permit; penalties of up to $44,000 apply.

Class 3 declared weeds

- are established in Queensland
- threaten Queensland's primary industries, natural environment, livestock, human health and people's livelihoods
- must be controlled by landowners whose property is adjacent to an environmentally significant area

must not be introduced, supplied, released or sold without a permit; penalties of up to $22,000 apply. (PTO)

Caption describing picture or graphic.

Weeds threaten Queensland's primary industries, natural environment, livestock, human health and people's livelihood

BCA has two weed spraying units available for hire

Controlling weeds on your property (Cont.)

A weed is a plant out of place

For further info:

www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/land-management/health-pest-weeds-

Non-declared weeds

- are established in Queensland
- threaten Queensland's natural environment

landowners are encouraged to control non-declared weeds on their property to reduce their impacts.

1. **Weed control strategies**

Taking a proactive approach to weed control is generally much better than waiting for problems to occur. Deciding on a weed management strategy early allows you to plan your activities and allocate a budget for dealing with your weed problems.

Doing nothing may save you money in the short term, but your property may suffer from weed impacts, which may cost you in the long term. You may also face penalties for non-compliance with weed control laws.

Choosing a weed management strategy

To make cost-effective business decisions on weed control, you need to gather information on:

- the size of the weed problem on your property and how much it is costing you
- total costs of available weed control methods and likely benefits of each, including time frames.

Based on this information, you can perform a simple cost-benefit analysis on various pest management strate-

Planned, ongoing management

Planned, ongoing weed management strategies have high initial and ongoing costs. Yet, this approach is also likely to deliver long-term benefits with reduced weed incursions and impacts.

Local eradication

If you have a small property with a well-defined weed problem, you may consider local eradication strategies. This approach has high initial costs but limited ongoing costs as only monitoring will be required. If successful, local eradication can deliver long-term benefits for your property.

Crisis management

If weed incursions are high and their impacts are obvious, you may decide to implement crisis management strategies. This approach has high initial costs but no ongoing costs. You will probably see reduced weed impacts in the short term, but long-term benefits are unlikely.

How to identify weeds

In simple terms, a weed is a plant out of place. Weeds are able to spread rapidly and have unwanted economic, environmental or social impacts.

Weeds can be very difficult to identify, and may be confused with plants that are not weeds, including native or endangered species.

Some weeds also look very different in their juvenile and mature stages.

Some factors to consider when identify-

Harrisville

Harrisville is a town in the Scenic Rim Region of Queensland, Australia. At the 2011 Australian Census Harrisville recorded a population of 427. Warrill Creek, a tributary of the Bremer River, passes through the western parts of the town.

The town is believed to be named after brothers John Harris (1819–1895) and George Harris (1831–1891) who had a store and cotton ginnery in the area. Cotton was a valuable crop at that time as the American Civil War had created a worldwide shortage.

Harrisville Historical Society maintains a museum in Queen Street which includes a rain-gun used during the 1902 drought.

The centenary of Harrisville was celebrated in 1963 with a street parade and centenary ball organised by the *Harrisville Centenary Celebrations Committee*. In 2013 Harrisville commemorated 150 years with a street procession and unveiling of a plaque by the Governor of Queensland.

The locals are still planting and harvesting crops such as potatoes, raising a few head of cattle, and milking dairy herds.

The big change, of course, has come with sealed and multi-laned roads which have made it so much easier to travel to Ipswich and Brisbane and south-west to the towns of the scenic rim, such as Boonah and Warwick and the rainforest parks of the border ranges.

Along with so many Queensland towns, Harrisville has boasted a Royal Hotel since the early days of settlement. The first Royal burnt down in 1920 when the existing hotel was built. The 'new' Royal's veranda looks directly along the Harrisville main street and is a popular watering hole and meeting place for the locals.

Agriculture around the township.

Harrisville has also been home to some larger-than-life characters. Australian movie pioneer Charles Chauvel spent his childhood in Harrisville. Take a drive down Charles Chauvel Drive or read all about him at the local museum.

Harrisville is also home to two historic pubs and two wineries, which means you won't leave the place thirsty.

The Royal Hotel

Commercial Hotel

Harrisville has also been home to some larger-than-life characters.

BCA Social Gathering

Some of the BCA members were able to attend a social gathering on Saturday the 16th January. We met in the Ipswich Wetlands Park at 4.30pm.

While member took a stroll along the Creek, Gary prepared the BBQ. Sausages and onions brought the happy wanderers back and all had an enjoyable time.

With the recent rains the park looked very inviting and the grass was mowed. We were very fortunate with the weather as it was overcast and a slight breeze kept the temperature down.

Gary and Bill hard at work

It was such a peaceful gathering that we even had a visit from a Tawny Frogmouth.

The **tawny frogmouth** (*Podargus strigoides*) is a species of frogmouth native to Australia that is found throughout the Australian mainland and Tasmania. Tawny frogmouths are big-headed stocky birds often mistaken for owls due to their nocturnal habits and similar colouring. The tawny frogmouth is sometimes incorrectly referred to as "mopoke", a common name for the southern boobook whose call is often confused for the tawny frogmouth's.[

The **Tawny Frogmouth**

Photo by Barry Jahnke

Disclaimer

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