BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

June 2015

around the bremer

Special points of interest:

- **June Meeting Thursday 18th**
- **July Meeting Thursday 16th**

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Presidents Message

In a recent round of interstate travelling trips I was able to observe 'first hand' erosion issues (*from the cosy comfort of my aircraft seat*) being faced by a number of property owners. Many of these properties were located in Dubbo (NSW), Portland and Hamilton (Vic). The main concern certainly appeared to reflect similar conditions which have been experienced in the Upper Mt Walker Hillslope Erosion Project (UMWHEP).

For the want of a few trees and shrubs in these gully environments, many of these gullies have now become unstable based on limited vegetation essential to deter erosion issues from initialising. How pleased I was to reflect on the successful UMWHEP work which BCA has been involved through Project Officer (Dr John Jackson). Although this UMWHEP work is slowly drawing to a pause as funding has now been spent on the site, results from the successful and effective diversion banks and groyne have been amazing.

This is of course until further funding can be secured for future work on the UMWHEP site. At the time of writing this message up John (Jackson) has provided all documents now for auditing purposes, which has been signed off as part of BCA's obligation and commitment. In retrospect of funding and securing grants it would appear that a continual stream of other like-minded community groups will also contend for essential funding. Like these other groups this funding is vital for much needed BCA projects for without funding projects and achieving set goals will not be met.

Be rest assured that the Bremer Catchment Association will continue to apply for funding through various grant applications. While community group applications for funding are highly sort after, it may occur in the future whereby two (or three) community groups combine their resources to continue in seeking such funding. Often financial set-backs are to be considered especially when a shift in organisation focus occurs or when changes in government are evident.

On a lighter note Bill Steentsma and I toured the Wivenhoe Dam area back in April as part of the 2015 Ipswich Enviro Forum. We were hosted by SEQ Water as a lead up to Ipswich Enviro Forum and the visit proved most informative. The Wivenhoe Dam is certainly a 'jewel in the SEQ Water crown' and I was quite enthralled with the information delivered to stakeholders, visitors and guests. Especially interesting were the dam design, its enormous water holding capacity including that of flood mitigation capacity.

We were also taken to the historic Mt Crosby Water Treatment site where over a significant number of years this site has catered for potable water for both community sprawls of Ipswich and Brisbane. While modernisation has now surpassed the capabilities of water treatment at this site, it still plays a significant part in supplying water for both communities. With future urbanisation and greater land development greater stress on our current water supplies will need to be managed very carefully by these authorities.

Until next issue I look forward to meeting with you all soon.

Stay safe, well and warm.

Gary H. Cochrane

"Hazard reduction burns are a key tool used to remove accumulated ground fuel across large areas thereby reducing the hazard a potential wildfire may pose to life and property,"

Burns planned in Natural Area Estate this Season by Cr. Morrow

FIRES planned and controlled to achieve hazard reduction and ecological goals are an important component of Ipswich City Council's natural area estate fire management program.

Ipswich City Council Environment and Conservation Committee Chairperson Councilor Heather Morrow said this season's program will concentrate on hazard reduction and ecological fire management requirements within the Flinders-Goolman Conservation Estate.

"Hazard reduction burns are a key tool used to remove accumulated ground fuel across large areas thereby reducing the hazard a potential wildfire may pose to life and property," Cr Morrow said.

"Ecological fires attempt to replicate pre European fire regimes in the Australian landscape and assist in stimulating and maintaining appropriate environmental conditions for the retention of threatened species, ecosystems and biodiversity values.

"We're focusing on this area because some fire management blocks around the Hardings Paddock Campground are known to have been unaffected by planned or wild fire activity for over fifteen years.

"The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Training and Emergency Management Unit will again be engaged to deliver the 2015 program of planned fires. Council personnel will assist with burn block preparations, bulk water supply and field support.

"Timing of the planned burns is completely weather dependent with optimal soil moisture, fuel curing, temperature, humidity and wind speed critical for a successful outcome.

Property owners adjoining the burn blocks will be notified by Council letter with further notices placed on Council's website and Info page.

"It is anticipated that burns will occur between May and September," Cr Morrow

From the International River Foundation CEO Dr Nick Schofield

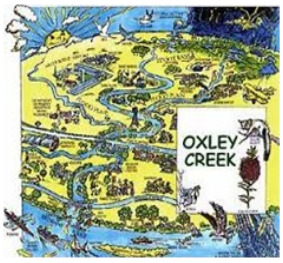
"To address the many challenges related to water, we must work in a spirit of urgent cooperation, open to new ideas and innovation, and prepared to share the solutions that we all need for a sustainable future."

Within Australia, our Bremer River Recovery and Twinning with Oxley Creek will be showcased at this year's EnviroForum in Ipswich, focusing on *Sharing Water Wisdom for a Sustainable Future* .

Bill Steentsma said:"In relation to the CEO's remarks, like water quality attributes, landscape attributes potentially provide integrated responses to land management practices at the catchment scale. The environmental aspects that can be affected include productive and profitable farms, clean and safe drinking water, lands that buffer or protect against natural environmental hazards (floods & fires) and lands that provide a range of recreation opportunities."

Twinning with the Bremer Catchment by Hanna Collins

Oxley Creek Catchment Association (OCCA) is a not-for-profit community catchment group who has been working with members of community, government and industry to make a difference to the tributaries and waterways of Oxley Creek since 1996. The catchment of Oxley Creek extends north from Mount Perry and Greenbank in Logan City to Forest Lake, Acacia Ridge, Moorooka and Graceville. The pressures on the catchment of Oxley Creek from a growing population and loss of green space are similar to those of other parts of SE Qld including the Bremer Catchment, with added pressure from un-remediated sand mines.



OCCA has established various partnerships with industry, government and community groups and believes that these connections are vital for the health of the creek and the catchment, not only in relationship building but from a financial point of view. In recognition for its successful partnership approach, OCCA was awarded the Australian River*prize* by the International RiverFoundation in 2009 and from that prize, has come the wonderful opportunity to 'Twin with the catchment of the Bremer River'. The Twinning Program is an initiative of the International RiverFoundation and has a focus on sharing knowledge, skills and ideas for engaging industry and encouraging community involvement in waterway health projects.

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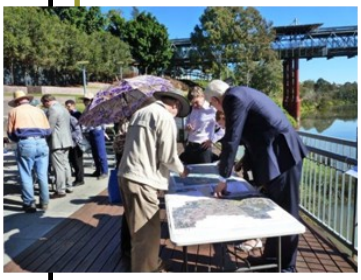
In July 2014, OCCA and Ipswich City Council began an exciting partnership with the formal signing of a Statement of Understanding. The Twinning Program Launch was held later that month as a part of the 'Peaks to Points Festival 2014', at the beautiful River Heart Parklands, overlooking the urban reach of the Bremer River.

Anne Clarke, Executive Officer of OCCA, attended the 17th International River*Symposium* on behalf of the Twinning Project, presenting on the importance of engaging the community and industry in protection of our waterways. She also attended the Bremer Catchment Association's (BCA) final meeting for 2014, providing information about our project and the attendees expressed their interest in a closer working relationship in 2015.

Hannah Collins joined the project officially in December of last year as the Oxley-Bremer Twinning Officer, to liaise between Ipswich City Council (ICC), OCCA and other potential partners, and to aid in the transfer of knowledge, experience and ideas for future projects. The role involves developing new initiatives for community involvement, organising events and monitoring the progress of the program to reach specific goals. Hannah was pleased to attend BCA's general meeting for May this year and provided a brief report on the Twinning project and was able to learn about the various projects and activities that BCA has been working on within the Catchment.

Ultimately as a part of the twinning project, we are working towards developing robust and ongoing programs for industry and community engagement in the catchment of the Bremer River that can continue after the completion of the Twinning Project. The next stage of the project will be to bring together the various Landcare, community and catchment groups within the Bremer Catchment, to share experiences and local knowledge and to encourage collaborative works aimed at improving the health of the Bremer River.



Sharing knowledge of the Bremer River Catchment at the Twinning Launch in July 2014

Farmers would arrive to town with a load of produce to be sold by 'Dutch auction'.

Getting to know our areas which are covered by the Bremer Catchment

The Fassifern Valley

The Fassifern Valley, which stretches between Boonah and Aratula, is one of the region's most fertile and productive horticultural areas. The quaint town of Kalbar is in the centre of this Valley. Kalbar's history dates back to the 1870s when farmers – predominantly German immigrants –began to select the fertile land bordering the Warrill and Reynolds Creek flats.

Ancestors of these pioneering families – the Pennells, Krugers, Peters, Surawskis, Dieckmanns and Mullers – continue to live and work in the area today. The town of Kalbar straddles Edward Street and is dominated by the historic and beautiful

Wiss Emporium and Wiss Cottage, which stand at its gateway. Both buildings, and the nearby Wiss House which is being run as a B&B, were built by the entrepreneurial Wiss Brothers, who did very well out of trading a variety of goods to the locals. Legend has it that the Wiss Brothers and the town's other general store – Bickertons – enjoyed fierce competition.

Farmers would arrive to town with a load of produce to be sold by 'Dutch auction'. The Bickertons buyer would stand on one side of the wagon and the Wiss

Bros buyer on the other side. Each buyer would write his price down and the farmer would shake his head until a deal was done.

Produce deals continue to be done in the paddocks around Kalbar, which at any time may be growing pumpkin, corn, carrots, onions, beans, potatoes and

lucerne.

In recent years Kalbar's main business area has enjoyed a resurgence, thanks to the restoration of some of the original buildings and the arrival of new and dynamic businesses. This town presents many options for visitors – morning tea at the local café, a cold beer and a great meal at the historic Kalbar pub, or a pampering session at the beauty salon. Browse the unique range of gifts, clothes and jewellery at the Wiss Emporium and the Teddy Bear store. Just over the hill you'll find Roadvale, another early settlement.

At its peak Roadvale featured two hotels, banks, a butcher, baker and branches of the Wiss Brothers and Humphries & Tow general stores.

But in 1915 most of the town was destroyed by fire and since then life in Roadvale has been a little more sedate. There's still a great pub, with facilities out the front to tether your horse.

Up the road you'll come to Peak Crossing, a rural township situated on the Purga Creek at the base of Flinders Peak Mountain.

This town is located 20km south of Ipswich and is surrounded by prime agricultural land. Stop at the Peak Pub for a hearty country pub meal and a cool drink. Meet the locals, enjoy the views.

Be sure to wander through the antique store – you never know what might turn up.

While you're in this region look out for the roadside produce stalls. You'll go home with some fabulous fresh Scenic Rim vegetables.

These articles below are from the June 2015 - Food Chain e-newsletter

New Queensland Agribusiness Hub

A new agri-food innovation hub is being developed in Southern Queensland to position food producing and processing businesses to reach global markets.

Launched on 15 May 2015, Food Leaders Australia (FLA) aims to provide a framework for producers, processors, logistics firms and other stakeholders to work collaboratively to develop new technologies and innovations and projects to capitalise on the growing international demand, particularly from Asia, for premium food.
Initiatives in the coming months will include an Export Master Class, market research and supply chain work, including a feasibility study into the establishment of a **perishable goods facility** at Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport. The group, which is led by the University of Southern Queensland and Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise, is also seeking feedback from food businesses regarding the assistance they need to reach their full potential. Visit **Food Leaders Australia.**

To be eligible for consideration a completed application form must be submitted by 12 June 2015. Visit Coles

Coles Nurture Fund

Coles has introduced a new Coles Nurture Fund to assist small Australian food and grocery manufacturers and producers to innovate and grow their business.

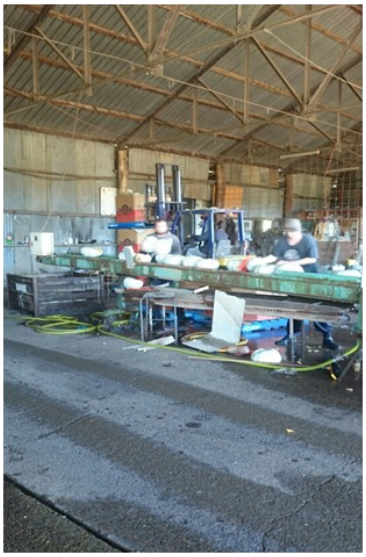
The program will offer $50 million through grants and interest free loans over five years to help companies to fund the development of new products, technologies, systems and processes. To be eligible for consideration a completed application form must be submitted by 12 June 2015. Visit **Coles**

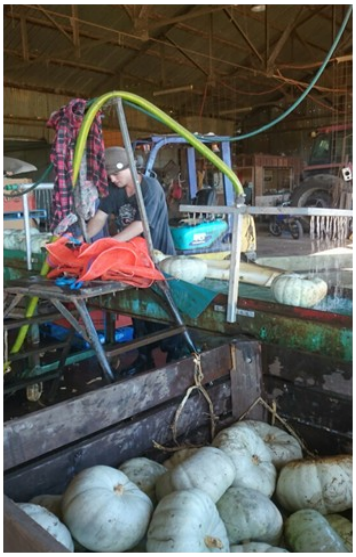
Queensland grains an international hit

Queensland grains including corn, barley and mungbeans are being well received in the South Korean market, thanks to the development of two popular snack foods made from locally grown product.
One of the snacks enjoying popularity is made with Darling Downs corn grits brushed with honey and cheese. Translated in English as 'peaked hat', demand for the product is so high that storekeepers are struggling to keep their shelves stocked. The other product is mungbean pizza (pictured on right), made from mungbean flour imported from Queensland.
Queensland grain industry representatives including growers, packers, shippers, exporters, researchers, and agronomists were able to observe the value-added products, and their grain products in all aspects of the Korean market on a recent trade mission to South Korea. The trade mission was jointly organised by Trade and Investment Queensland, Austrade and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) to look for opportunities to build on and develop high value Korean grain markets as a result of the Korean-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

For more details on Queensland's grain exports contact **Trade and Investment Queensland on 07 3514 3147.**

Local Farmer in Full Action





Washing, sorting and packing to send to the market were the activities when Bill and I visited Mal Abbott's farm

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Disclaimer

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Our Local Producers

Third generation farmers, brothers Tony and Nick Gibb started their Peak Crossing farm in 1997 and their team tend to over 50 acres of broccoli and crisp Iceberg Lettuces all year round.

Broccoli and Iceberg Lettuce grows well in South East Queensland as it likes the temperate climate – cool nights, fresh mornings and warm days are all perfect conditions for the crop. Broccoli is harvested in the cooler months through to October and their Iceberg lettuce is harvested all year round.

Nick's fresh tips:
"When selecting broccoli, look for a dark green head and tightly packed florets – both signs of a top quality broccoli. Store broccoli in a plastic bag in the fridge for 3-4 days."

Tony's fresh tips:
"When choosing Iceberg Lettuce look for crisp leaves that are free from discolouration and a lettuce that is heavy for its size – meaning it's fresh and full of water. Store lettuce in the crisper section of your fridge. Wrap loosely in plastic to prevent evaporation of moisture and help keep your leaves crisp."

Tony in a field of Iceberg Lettuce