BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

around the bremer

May2020

Special points of interest:

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President's Corner by Bill Steentsma

I received a phone call from farmer Mal, our BCA member. "Bill, us farmers within the catchment are chasing for water."

I know this Bremer Catchment with its good soils. It has also great potential for agriculture/horticulture/grazing/eco-tourism.

But water? Urban development, like in many parts of Queensland, will demand for this precious resource. Likewise, rural and industrial activities are competing for the liquid "gold".

Management of urban growth, actions are to adopt "Water Sensitive Urban Design" principles for future urban development. Through modifications to the appropriate Strategic Plans and Development Control Plans.

Throughout the years, many studies and reports have been produced. Between urban cities and rural activities, competition is fierce and a balanced management is important.

Water, for both Councils, Ipswich and Scenic Rim, is a critical resource for the environment and economic well-being. The Water Integrated Strategy establishes a framework for the management.
In this newsletter we have referred to the potential shortage of water. If the Bremer Catchment wish to "stay –on-top" of this valuable resource, the communities within must work together.

Integrated Water Strategy (Information taken from available Reports)

Water is essential for human survival

Water is essential for human survival; however, risks such as water shortages, water quality degradation and the increasing impacts of flooding mean communities require a new approach to water management.

Ipswich City Council's and Scenic Rim's Integrated Water Strategy establishes a framework for the management of both water cycle in accordance with a total water cycle management approach.

They combine a complex and interrelated mix of people, industries, catchments, rivers, dams, reservoirs, water service provider assets of the stormwater drainage features and flood mitigation works.

Integrated water management seeks to cost effectively improve water management in a way that meets community expectations while maximising social and environmental benefits. It recognises all the elements of the water cycle and considers the interactions between them when decisions are made.

Their master plans consider all elements of the water cycle that Ipswich City Council (ICC) and Scenic Rim are responsible for such as stormwater, flooding, waterways, Council water use, and catchments. It also considers areas where each Council's decision making impacts on the water cycle - for example water supply, sewerage and groundwater.

The strategies aim to take the first, most significant step towards a water-sensitive future for both Councils within the Bremer Catchment, by developing a shared understanding of the water cycle issues .It will provide a framework to identify and deliver strategic solutions to achieve long-term outcomes.

Addressing all issues in a unified way, while working towards one clear direction for water management, will help optimise benefits to the community. It also influence innovative solutions, reduce waste and avoid duplication across water cycle stakeholders.

Recycled Water for Local Farmers

Based at Rosewood, just west of Ipswich, the husband and wife hay farmers recently signed up to use recycled water on their 300-acre property.

We're supplying them with Class C water, which isn't suitable for consumption but works wonders on non-food crops.

"Our lucerne hay is thriving," said Darren, (a son of a BCA member) adding "the nutrition's in the water are great for our yields

"It's good for the environment too because fewer nutrients end up in local waterways," he said. Recycled water is wastewater, that has been highly treated so it can be beneficially re-used. Safe and sustainable, its use reduces pressure on our potable water supply.

A growing number of our commercial, industrial and agricultural customers are, like Darren and Leanne, turning to recycled water to either supplement or replace their existing water sources.

"By having better water security, we also have better financial security, which means we can plan more accurately and that's a massive benefit for a farmer in drought," said Darren.

A win for our customers and Mother Nature.

(By permission of Urban Utilities)

" By having better security, we also have better financial security

Recycled Water

Water recycling involves treating wastewater from our homes and businesses to remove impurities so it can be reused. We can use recycled water at home to flush toilets and water gardens, in our community to irrigate parks and ovals, and for agricultural and industrial use. Recycled water must be treated to a level that is appropriate and safe for the particular end use.

Changes are coming to stop the spread of fire ants

If you, your staff, your colleagues or sub-contractors are involved in the movement of materials such as soil, mulch, quarry products, hay, animal manure, turf and potted plants, the way you currently operate may need to change.

Fire ants

The rules controlling the movement of materials in South East Queensland are being beefed up to help prevent the spread of one of Australia's most invasive pests.

From 27 May 2020, amendments to the Biosecurity Regulation 2016 will reduce the chance of fire ants catching a free ride through human-assisted movement and provide extra protection for areas that have undergone fire ant eradication activities.

The changes are necessary to protect the Australian way of life and make it easier for industry to do the right thing when working in areas with fire ant infestation.

What does this mean?

If you, your staff, your colleagues or sub-contractors are involved in the movement of materials such as soil, mulch, quarry products, hay, animal manure, turf and potted plants, the way you currently operate may need to change.

Below is a summary of the changes being made to the Biosecurity Regulation 2016:

The number of biosecurity zones in the region will drop from three to two. The zones will encompass new suburb areas and will accurately illustrate the distribution of fire ants and correspond with the program's treatment activities.

A soil movement guideline will be implemented to provide clarity on how individuals and businesses can satisfy their general biosecurity obligation when working with soil.

Amendments made to the risk mitigation strategies that people need to follow if working with or disposing of materials that may carry fire ants. In some situations, this will reduce the need to apply for a biosecurity instrument permit (BIP

These changes will reduce the regulatory red tape and assist in reducing instances of human-assisted movement — providing greater protection for areas that have been subject to eradication treatment activities.

With initial reports from the current eradication area, in parts of the Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and the Ipswich City local government looking promising, the program needs to protect the area from re-infestation.

What do I need to do?

The program has created a eHub to help you and everyone else impacted better understand the changes to the Biosecurity Regulation 2016.

Please take some time to visit the Fire ant zones eHub to familiarise yourself with the content, including easy-to-follow fact sheets for each of the high risk materials and maps. You will also have the chance to ask questions about the changes. \

How can I help?

The program has produced a range of communication material to spread the word about the changes.

If you would like to join the fight against fire ants and would like to share the message via your networks, by please send us an email at fireants@daf.qld.gov.au.

The more people get to hear about the changes the greater the chance we have of preventing the spread of fire ants, and ultimately eradicating them from our backyard once and for all.

Freshwater Crayfish Farming

Redclaw crayfish are a species of freshwater crayfish indigenous to Queensland and the Northern Territory. Originally, they were confined to waterways associated with the Gulf river system in Australia, but today they are present in most water catchment systems in Queensland.

In the Bremer Catchment, located at Tarome (Aratula), Redclaw have been commercially farmed in south-east Queensland since 1986. They are available in limited quantities throughout the year, and can survive and prosper in a wide variety of environmental conditions.

Our Redclaw are cultivated in a **'clear water' production system** and hence the product is of the highest quality.

Of the over one hundred species of freshwater crayfish indigenous to Australia, Redclaw are one of only three species that are commercially produced.

The Product as Food

In the early 1980's, Redclaw, then known as Queensland Marron, were identified as a potential for aquaculture because of its desirable biological characteristics and the high quality of the product for human consumption. In particular, it had an **appealing flavour** and a **high meat yield**.

By 1986 the first commercial Redclaw farm, Freshwater Australian Crayfish Traders (FACT) was turning out commercial quantities of Redclaw for human consumption. The farm had been producing Western Australian Marron. Since then it has produced Redclaw.

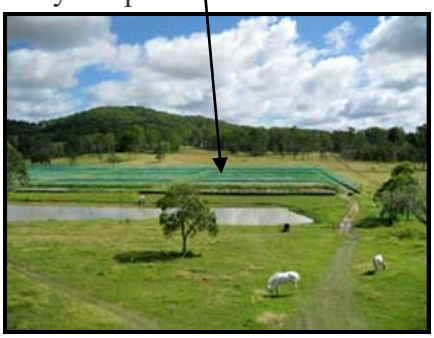
Availability of Redclaw crayfish are commercially farmed throughout the year. There is no seasonality to supply.

Packaging and Delivery

Adult Redclaw are graded, purged, chilled and packaged into Styrofoam boxes before being delivered from the farm to premises. The product is always sold live unless other arrangements have been made.

They can be delivered directly to businesses, homes and shops, in most areas of South-East Queensland.

Crayfish pond



Redclaw crayfish farming is a great lifestyle and has a bight future in these times of exploding global population and growing demand for out of the ordinary food items.

The industry is coming of age taking responsibility for itself in the areas of research and refining farming methods. But it has a job like anything else and to be successful one has to be prepared.

Reptiles of the Scenic Rim Region by Steve K. Wilson

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It is hard to believe how lucky we are in the Scenic Rim to have such a diverse and beautiful assemblage of fauna, flora and landscapes. We are now very pleased to have an informative and colourful publication created for us by the well-known herpetologist, researcher, author and photographer Steve K. Wilson.

The book is designed as an introduction to the reptiles that live in the region. It seeks to highlight some of the more familiar and interesting species and draw attention to reptiles as an integral component of the broader biodiversity of the region.

Steve has set this book out in an interesting and enjoyable manner, with each section covering several species of reptiles. Under those sections there are descriptions and interesting information on behaviour, diet, habitat and breeding. The sections covered are Identifying Reptiles, Dangerous Snakes, Town Dwellers, Homes and Gardens, Along the Waterways, The Mountain Retreats, Eucalypt Forests, Little Snake Lost, First Aid, and a complete list of the reptiles of the Scenic Rim

Blue-tongue Lizard

Karroo thorn

Wattle-like flowers

Prohibited invasive plant: *Vachellia karroo* (karroo thorn)

Karroo thorn is southern Africa's most widely spread species of 'Acacia' (now renamed *Vachellia* in Africa). Accordingly, it is adapted to a wide range of environmental conditions. In southern Africa, Karroo thorn thrives from sea level to 1800 m on a range of soil types and is tolerant of an annual rainfall ranging from 200 to 1500 ml. It is considered a significant weed even within its native range, where it can reach densities of 2000 individuals per hectare. Such densities here would threaten biodiversity, threaten agriculture and be extremely costly to control and manage. It has the potential to become a major pest of Queensland's subtropical rangelands, able to invade watercourses, native grasslands, shrub lands, sand dunes, open forests and woodlands.

Karroo thorn is able to produce up to 19,000 small seeds per large tree per year, and these can remain viable in the soil seed bank for up to seven years. Seeds can be dispersed by wind, water or by animals ranging over large areas. It is resistant to drought and fire and can outcompete grasses, native shrub and tree species. Karroo thorn has the potential to transform large areas of Queensland's rangeland environment and reduce agricultural potential.

2019 Mother's Day Planting Inspection

The Ipswich City Council organised Mother's Day plantings for the last few years along creeks and in parks within the area.

One of these locations is the George Palmer Park along the Bundamba Creek. Sadly this year no planting was undertaken due to the corona virus situation. But the previous activities have not been forgotten.

Marianne our Secretary of the Bremer Catchment Association, went to inspect last year's plantings, she and many other families did. Despite the severe dry time during last summer, Trees, Shrubs and Lomandra stand well, thanks to the regular watering by the Ipswich City Council .

Marianne checking the growth of last year's planting.

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