BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

November 2021

Special points of interest:

The First Operational Meeting will be

17-02-2022

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around the bremer

President's Corner by Darren Close

. Hello

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are on today and pay my respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

I would also like to acknowledge the past President and Secretary Bill and Marianne Steentsma for their decades of dedication and Service to the Bremer Catchment Association and have been subsequently become lifelong members of the Association. I look forward to many more years of wise council from them.

For those of you who I haven't met, I'm a proud and passionate supporter of the environment and Its volunteer communities, which led me to become a candidate in the 2020 LGA elections. Although unsuccessful, it gave me a deeper appreciation of the work our State, local and volunteers do to make our communities a better place for all.

It's often said that elections are the greatest form of democracy and whilst this is true, I would suggest it is volunteering that is greater. It is every 3 – 4 years that we get to exercise our democratic right to vote, however, every time you volunteer you are voting for the type of community you want to live in.

I hope, during my tenure as President to build on the great foundation that has been laid and lift the profile of the Catchment Association in the wider community and grow the ranks of our wonderful volunteers to have a better and more sustainable environment for future generations to enjoy.

I look forward to catching up with you all to discuss how we can assist you in achieving a Better Bremer for all.

Keep fighting the good fight.

Darren

President's Report – BCA – 2020/2021 Bill Steentsma

We have to be proud to read in a BCA brochure "working together for commerce, conservation and community". Yes "together" they are all stakeholders, including businesses and environmental interests groups.

BCA has been involved during the years, calling for action to the Catchment Action Plan (CAP). Within, I have identified several potential projects for our members' input.

It has been a busy year, mostly with issues like pressures to the Catchment's resources. In particular mentioning are: Urban growth and development, recycled material, rivers and creeks, health, caring for our Water, agriculture/grazing and eco-tourism.

To endeavour to meet these, my Management's main focus this year has been on inviting relevant excellent guest-speakers to our meetings. Up-to-date articles within our bi-monthly Newsletters we regarded essential, to provide current information to our membership.

I have attended and spoken at various Field Days in the Catchment area, mostly organised by Healthy Land and Water (HLW). It is encouraging to note that our Logo is added to the Flyers.

Two Projects undertaken by BCA have drawn much Public attention i.e. the ongoing "Garden of Eden" (Cribb Park) and Pepper Tree Hill Erosion" (Scenic Rim). The latter, BCA managed through a successful Grant application. It was urgently required to fence off an extremely eroded gully.

Owing to the trend of smaller property subdivisions, management decided to sell one big Spray Unit in exchange of a smaller. The Secretary applied for a Grant to the Scenic Rim River Trust and was successful to receive $2,000 to cover the cost, as well as Chemicals.

I have nominated Brian Pepperall on the "Flinders Peak Koala Project", and Tom Cole "Healthy Catchment's Program". Both BCA members are very experienced for these positions.

My gratitude goes to my Management Committee. Each individual provided their time and skills to their utmost.

I wish BCA success in all Projects for the benefits of a healthy Bremer Catchment where the community is able to gain economic sustainability living.

Explore the 2021 Report Card Results

The 21 year story

For 21 years the health of South East Queensland's waterways has been monitored via the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP), providing a snapshot of the health of waterways of the region in the form of an annual Report Card.

With 21 years of monitoring comes 21 years of data. Trends in this data are now showing clear early warning signs that we are struggling to keep up with the escalating population growth to the region. More investment and action is needed so we can restore streambank vegetation and effectively manage pollution and urban run-off.

Explore the 2021 Report Card results to learn more about the health of your catchment, discover the on-ground work happening in your area, find out how you can play a part, and discover the 21 year story of South East Queensland's waterways.

The Bremer scored a D

The Bremer River catchment is located west of Brisbane and flows into the Brisbane River. It is mostly urbanised with areas of rural land use the majority of which has been cleared for cattle grazing. Some areas of natural bush remain in the upper catchment.

Riparian vegetation is significantly modified with little vegetation remaining. Widespread channel and gully erosion occurs in the river and its tributaries. Four waste water treatment plants and other point sources discharge into the catchment's waterways, contributing to sediment and nutrient loads.

https://reportcard.hlw.org.au/results?currentYear=2021

For more information Visit the Report Card website

Weeds and volunteer species

Pasture weeds may be grass ar broadleaf plants. They may be annuals or perennials. Control differs with the type of weed involved.

Perennial weeds are controlled by managing pastures so that desirable species first suppress and then dominate the weeds. Annual weeds can florish in a new pasture or when a pasture has become run down and weakened by mismanagement. Annual broadleaf weeds can be controlled by slashing before the weeds have set viable seeds. Spraying with herbicide should only be done if all other methods fail

For advice on weed control, contact Brisbane Herbarium.

Managing the Pastures

Management involves manipulating the pasture to give desirable species a competitive advantage. An example is the use of improved pasture in the Moreton Region. Once soil fertility levels are raised, improved pastures have the capacity for greater growth than native pastures. They will smother native species, as long as the pastures are not over-grazed.

An important objective with pastures is to maintain the balance between grasses and legumes. Grasses have the potential to outgrow legumes in ideal conditions, but since they depend on legumes for nitrogen a balance can be achieved.

In an improved pasture that is being grazed at an annual average of more than one adult beast/ha, tropical trailing legumes will be over-grazed and disappear. This almost always happens on a small farm.

Therefore it is often better, where land is limited and stock numbers are large, to plant a grass-only pasture and rely on applying nitrogen fertilizer to stimulate grass growth.

On a more extensive scale, legume/grass mixtures are recommended, as grazing pressures should not be as heavy. Stocking rates even on the best dry land pasture should not exceed one adult beast to 1 ha so that the legumes will persist.

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What is the Resilient Rivers Initiative??? - Anna Shera

The ***Resilient Rivers Initiative*** was developed by the Council of Mayors South East Queensland (CoMSEQ) in response to the large scale environmental and water quality impacts of the 2011, 2013 and 2015 flood events. These events saw extensive damage to local rivers and waterways, loss of productive agriculture land, and sediment impacts to the main water supply for Brisbane, Ipswich and surrounds. The Initiative is a partnership between CoMSEQ, the Queensland Government, Water Utilities, key regional waterways and catchment organisations and the community.

The Initiative aims to improve the health of our waterways by achieving the following goals:

- To promote partnerships with strong leadership to deliver a coordinated approach to catchment management in South East Queensland.
- To keep soil on our land and out of our waterways.
- To help protect our region's water security so it can support the current and future population of South East Queensland.

To improve the climate resilience of our region.
The Resilient Rivers Initiative vision is that "*By 2045, the catchments of South East Queensland will support a resilient, productive, liveable and growing region.*"

Under the Resilient Rivers Initiative, several ***Catchment Action Plans (CAPs)*** were developed across South East Queensland, including the Bremer River CAP.

The objective of the CAP is to facilitate the whole of the catchment planning; collaborative working arrangements; list strategic projects and programs; and ultimately to protect and improve waterway stability and resilience in the Bremer River Catchment. Many of the catchments in South East Queensland, including the Bremer River Catchment, cross multiple local authority boundaries and as such require a whole of catchment management collaboration and partnership approach.

The Bremer Catchment contains dispersive soils which are highly vulnerable to erosion and thus are a major source of sediment entering the Bremer River. Hillslope and gully erosion are also significant issues for the catchment. The legacy of extensive land clearing and channel modifications and the variety of land uses throughout the catchment means a range of different solutions need to be considered. These include both hard and soft engineering measures, riparian fencing, off-stream watering points, weed control and revegetation, contour banks and constructed wetlands to name a few.

Building collaborative partnerships with rural landholders, Healthy Land and Water, and other key stakeholders including the Bremer Catchment Association is a high priority under the Bremer River Catchment Action Plan.

"By 2045, the catchments of South East Queensland will support a resilient, productive, liveable and growing region."

Southeast Queensland horticulture update

Southeast Queensland farming districts have experienced unusually high rainfall this winter, sparking joy and strong prices among crop producers.

So says Greg Teske, agronomist at Elders Gatton, who gives the following seasonal update on horticulture crops in the southeast and an outlook for spring planting.

The extra rainfall, particularly at the end of February, bought welcome relief, helping to increase yields and crop quality. Yet there is still some concern over the green drought impacting many areas, with many creeks and waterways still not flowing – resulting in lower dam levels.

Crops have been growing well, nonetheless. Many Iceberg lettuce growers are particularly pleased with abundant crops and very high prices, yielding fantastic returns for growers.

Troublesome pests have also been low due to the extra wet weather. This is quite unusual for this season and has provided farmers with a welcome bonus.

However damp loving microbes and bacterial diseases such as bacterial leaf spot have been prevalent, causing some extra challenges for growers.

Potato growers have just recently got their seed stock in the ground for the forthcoming season. Potatoes did go in a fraction later than normal due to the continuing wet weather; however, it shouldn't cause too much of an issue overall to harvests.

The outlook for spring planting is strong. Crops planted in spring include sweet corn, onions and shallots, to name a few. Broccolini is a particularly profitable crop that also does really well in the climate in southeast Queensland.

Growers are now hoping for a healthy summer, with plenty of good rainfall, to make the most of spring planting and ensure their crops continue to thrive.

There is an overall feeling of positivity in these farming districts for the coming season.

Fresh mixed vegetables

Lettuce ready to harvest

Roadvale Salinity

Why control salinity?

All water, including rain, contains salts. Salinity is a natural process caused by weathering of rocks and concentration of salts by evaporation and plant transpiration. Human activities in developing land and water resources can change the hydrological balance in sensitive areas resulting in salinity problems.

Salinity becomes an issue when the concentration of soluble salts in soil or water increase to levels that affect water quality, soil properties, plant growth, ecosystem diversity and built infrastructure.

- Impacts on assets and infrastructure
- impacts on farming productivity
- Impacts on the environment

Research has shown that, dryland salinity is imposing large costs on local governments, households, businesses, agricultural producers, state government agencies and utilities, the environment and cultural heritage.

Whether and how salinity becomes evident at a particular location depends on the interaction of many factors such as characteristics of the landscape itself, the climate and the effect of human activities.

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