BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

around the bremer

OCTOBER 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commitment of the Association	1
Creekbank Managment-ment	1
Purga Creek Project	2
Tunnel Erosion in Pasture Land	2
Carbon Farming Initiative	3
To Burn or not to Burn	3
Ecotourism in the Bremer Catchment Area	4

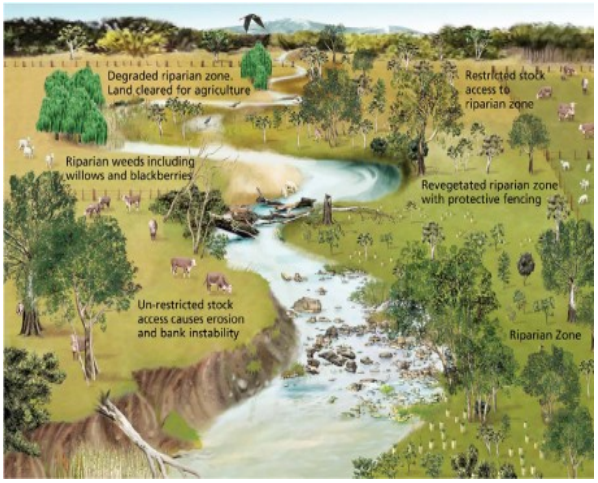
Date Claimer:

- AGM 20th October 2011
- All Operational Meetings are held on the third (3rd) Thursday of each month at the Environmental Education Centre Queens Park.
-

COMMITMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association is committed to providing support and expertise to subcatchment group, residents and community in their catchment management and promotion. This support is channeled through:

- Promotion of public awareness through field days, public forums, newsletters.
- Promotion of funding options to groups, individual landholders, industry and commerce.
- Support for subcatchment groups to undertake projects and programs.
- Assistance with funding submissions
- Act as a conduit for funding opportunities
- Referral/advocacy role providing direct liaison with key stakeholders and organisations.
- Offer expertise and guidance
- Spray units for hire.
- Herbicides for weeds.
- Assistance with streambank repair.



Website address:
www.bremercatchment.org.au

CREEKBANK MANAGEMENT BY BILL STEENTSMA

Stock Crossings:

It is recommended that to avoid excessive damage to stream banks, stock crossing points should be on the inside of gently sloping bends or at places where erosion controls have been installed and/or onto rocky "beach". Stock crossings should be placed so that stock move into the stream in the direction of water flow. This allows water at peak times to flow past the stock access point rather than into it, which can cause further bank erosion.

PURGA CREEK PROJECT WELL ESTABLISHED

Purga Creek Project

This year a project was undertaken by BCA with the help of a grant from "Caring for our Country".
Revegetation and fencing of riparian zones to protect the integrity of the severely eroded stream was essential.

Part of the electric fencing is supported by a solar system and suitable creek-crossings for cattle and equipment. This helps with the control of grazing practices and achieves the protection of creek-bank erosion.

The landholder has given many hours of in-kind work to the project, attending to weeding and watering of the new vegetation.

The Bremer Catchment Association is supported by the Ipswich and Scenic Rim Councils, SEQCatchments, and SEQ Healthy Waterways Partnership.

TUNNEL EROSION IN PASTURE LAND

Overgrazing, drought and fires have also contributed to tunnel and consequently gully erosion

Tunnel Erosion.

This is the removal of subsoil by water while the surface soil remains relatively in tact (Crouch 1976)

History.

In the Moreton Region many sodic duplex soils on pasture lands are found. Sensitive to sudden imposed stresses to these lands, tunnel erosion is the result by environmental changes and deforestation.

Overgrazing, drought and fires have also contributed to tunnel and consequently gully erosion. Many theories of tunnel erosion mechanism are not very clear and therefore difficult to reclaim. Locally experience has shown that tunnel erosion is a natural form of drainage.

Soil Types.

Tunnel erosion occurs in areas where the subsoil, or B-horizon resting on an impermeable C-horizon, erodes more easily than the topsoil (A-horizon). Water passes through cracks or holes in the topsoil, caused by drought, tree stumps and adverse vegetation management (incl. Pasture grazing).

A tunnel vacuum forms below the topsoil as rainwater disperses the subsoil. Very often one can see dispersed subsoil protruding further downhill. These 'tunnels' collapse and form open gullies.

Soil Groups.

Loamy Solodics or open forest carry narrow/silver leaved ironbark and Moreton Bay ash. These soils have Texture contrast profiles with clear division between the loamy brown/dark grey surface and heavy clay subsoil (brown/yellow).

Sandy Solodics – are open forest with spotted gum narrow/silver leaved ironbark, Moreton Bay ash and Bull oak. Texture contrast profiles. Plant growth is restricted by the impermeable clay subsoil and hard setting surface.

Soloths – vegetation are open woodland and open forest. Restricted plant growth due to poorly, structured subsoil and hard setting surface is also a contributing factor.

The C- horizon is hard and saline subsoil. Generally, these soils are not suitable for agricultural land.

Erosion.

These soils are very susceptible to tunnel erosion and consequential gully erosion.

Limitations are among these soils varied, from moderate to very severe.

CARBON FARMING INITIATIVE

The Carbon Farming Initiative will provide new economic rewards for farmers and landholders that take steps to reduce carbon pollution. It will do this by creation credits for each tone of carbon pollution which can be stored or reduced on the land. These credits can then be sold to other businesses wanting to offset their own carbon pollution.

The Carbon Farming Initiative will create a new income stream for farmers, new jobs for rural and regional Australia and provide strong incentives to identify and implement low-cost methods of pollution reduction.

Carbon farming projects can increase resilience to the impact of climate change, protect our natural environment, and increase farm profitability and food production. Increasing carbon storage in agricultural soils improves soil health and productivity. Revegetation will help restore degraded landscapes, provide biodiversity habitats and corridors, and help to address salinity, protects livestock and reduce erosion.

For more information see Chapter 9—Creating opportunities on the land.

For further information about the Australian Government's plan for the land see:

- **Boosting support for farmers and landholders**
- **Farming for the future.**
- **Supporting skills in land management**
- **Unlocking the benefits of biodiversity**

TAKEN FROM—"CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE—LAND USE"

Clean Energy future

land use

TO BURN OR NOT TO BURN

Fire can be a useful tool for pastures if used correctly. In the speargrass region, burning every 3-4 years is recommended; however, this depends on the season, stocking rates and the grazing intention for the pasture. Most of the vegetation in this region has developed under a regime of fire. Grasses like black speargrass are adapted to fire and can increase in density with correct and timely burning

Carry out burning in Spring when ground litter is damp and will not readily burn. Choosing the right time to burn can be difficult and dangerous. Remember, you require a fire permit for any burning. Spell burnt pastures until they go to seed. The green pick after burning pastures is very palatable and nutritious to stock but grazing at this time will damage 3P grasses.

Queensland Government
DEEDI

Back burning in Spring

We are on the Web:

Www.bremercatchment.org.au

BREMER • CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

Working together

Editor:

Marianne Steentsma
BCA Secretary
2010/2011

Contact:
msteent@ngvemail.com
Or
PO Box 418
Ipswich Q. 4305

Ecotourism in the Bremer Catchment Area

The population of this catchment continues to grow steadily as people discover the advantages of rural living within a natural playground.

What is Ecotourism?

"Nature based tourism that involves education and interpretation of the natural environment and is managed to be ecologically sustainable— this recognises that 'natural environment' includes cultural components and that 'ecologically sustainable' involves an appropriate return to the local community and long-term conservation of the resource".

Ecotourism occupies a niche section within the broader category of nature based tourism and utilises a number of principles to help define it:

- Nature Based—Ecotourism is expected to operate in the natural environment;
- Ecologically Sustainable—ecotourism should not degrade the recourse upon which it depends and should be managed to provide long term sustainable use of the resource;
- Environmentally Educative—ecotourism should provide all participants with the opportunity to learn about their environment;
- Locally Beneficial— ecotourism should provide an appropriate return to the local community, including providing economic, social, cultural and conservation returns; and
- Consumer Satisfaction—ecotourism should provide customer satisfaction to ensure the long-term sustainability of the operation.

From: Ecotourism Operator Guidelines; Boonah Shire Council 2001

Please Note:

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.