

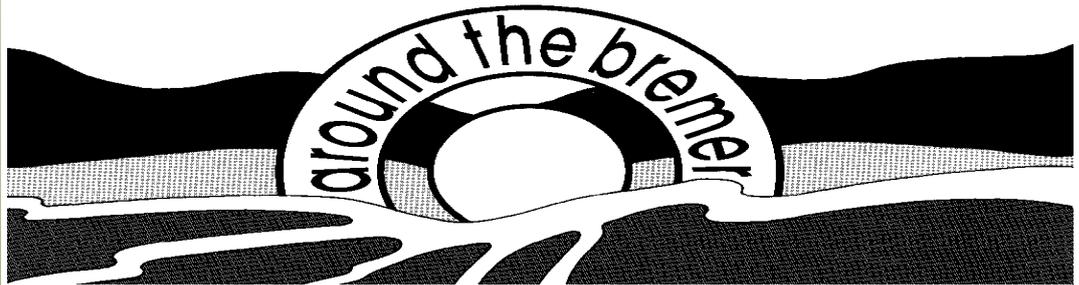


October 2013

**The Bremer
Catchment
Association's
AGM
is held on
17th October
2013
at
Queens Park
Education Centre
starting at
7.00 pm.
All welcome**

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President's Message

Another year (the 4th) of my presidency of our Bremer River Catchment Association will come to an end on the 17th October at the AGM. I urge all members to attend this important meeting.

At the recent Operational Meeting, it was suggested that Members invite a friend or acquaintances to meetings in view of increasing membership and gaining input of new ideas.

BCA members have worked very hard during the past years. The Management and Operational Committees liaised with Local/State Governments, as well as SEQ Catchments.

Personally, I wish to express sincere appreciation for the assistance received from all.

Bill Steentsma

President 2012/2013



Managing Grasses and Weeds—Free Workshop

What's it all about?

Effectively managing your property will ensure long term pasture health, improve the health of your livestock, save you time and money and will benefit the environment. Topics include: Pasture grasses: identification and management. (Damien O'Sullivan).

Weeds: identification and management. (Bill Wickmann, Scenic Rim Council)

Who should attend?

Landholders who graze any type of livestock.

Date & Time:

9am—12pm, Saturday 12th October

Location:

Roadvale State School,
111 Roadvale Road, Roadvale,
Qld 4310

Additional Info:

Lunch will be provided

Please RSVP for catering purposes to:

Jean Bray, 0409 004 832 or 07 3816 9722 email: jbray@seqcatchments.com.au

South East Queensland Firefighters Burn off ahead of Bushfire Season



Burn Off



Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

Vigilance the key to safe hazard reduction burns in South East Queensland



South East Queensland residents may notice a large amount of smoke in the air over the coming weeks as firefighters finalise their preparations for the upcoming bushfire season.

Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) Acting Regional Manager South East Tony Johnstone said each year local firefighters identify a number of areas where the level of vegetation or fuel for a bushfire posed a possible risk to the community.

While there are a number of ways to reduce this fuel load often the most effective and efficient course of action is to burn the fuel in a controlled fire, this is known as a hazard reduction burn or a controlled burn, Mr. Johnstone said.

“The RFSQ spends months analysing fire weather conditions and planning and preparing for bushfire season. Hazard reduction burns are a vital component of the preparation process.”

Fire mitigation is a joint initiative with hundreds of hazard reduction burns coordinated by not only RFSQ but other agencies such as the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (NPRSR), the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), HQ Plantations Queensland and local councils. Mr. Johnstone said residents could do their part to prepare their own properties by obtaining a Permit to Light Fire and conducting their own controlled burn where conditions are ap-

propriate.

“This is a simple process and residents can apply for a permit through their local Fire Warden,” he said.

Hazard reduction burns are just one part of preparation and residents should take steps now to protect themselves through the bushfire season.

Every household should download and complete a “Prepare.Act.Survive” Bushfire Survival Plan from the RFSQ website.

For details on your local Fire Warden visit www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au or contact your local area office.

Contact: Fire Warden

BCA Member Ian Harsant
Phone: 07 5464 6518

Managing for Climate

Continuing from “Property Management—Previous Newsletter”

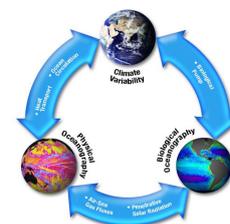
An important aspect of property management is climate. Climate forms part of your Business Plan and can often be over looked. It is vital that managing for climate be addressed as it can and will place restrictions on your property and management at a local level and have an impact on prices and markets at a larger regional and State level.

Why do we need to know more about climate?

> Australia has one of the most variable rainfalls of any country.

- > Climate is the major factor that affects the profitability of rural enterprises.
- > Soil erosion, weed invasion, health of river systems and development of salinity are all influenced by climate and climate variability.
- > helps to manage the sustainability of our natural resources.
- > Assists in better planning for effective use of recourses such as labour, stock, capital and water.

See the Summer Prediction on page 4



Mulching with large round bales between covered beds using an offset round-bale un-roller for weed control

Mulching between rows of plastic used for vegetable production can be an effective practice for controlling weeds. An existing round-bale un-roller was modified to create an offset bale un-roller, allowing round bales of hay to be un-rolled between planting rows with a tractor. This modification has made the practice of mulching with round bales of hay or wheat straw more efficient. This offset round-bale un-roller was used to apply hay and wheat straw mulch to between-row areas of ‘Crimson Sweet’ watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*) in 2009 and 2010. Hay and wheat (*Triticum* sp.)

straw mulches were applied at two thicknesses, corresponding one and two layers of mulch from the round bale, respectively. All of the hay and wheat straw mulch treatments controlled weeds significantly better than the non-treated controls in both years. There was a significant mulch-type by year interaction for weed control, with 1-year-old hay having less weed control in 2010 compared with 2009, whereas other mulches had improved weed control in 2010. One-year-old wheat straw and new hay had the lowest levels of weed biomass present compared with

new wheat straw and the no-mulch control. Mulch thickness significantly affected weed control, with mulches applied in two layers having significantly less weed biomass than those applied in one layer. Weed pressure was significantly less in 2010 compared with 2009. The offset bail-unroller that has been developed to apply mulches to between-row areas of plastic-covered beds is a useful tool that can be used to efficiently unroll round bales of a variety of organic mulches for weed control.

By: **Zheljana Peric**
WeedsNews / September 2013



Un-roller at work between the rows

*Mulching
saves water
and energy*

It's been a warm, dry winter and with emergency preparedness and disaster management meetings currently underway across south-east Queensland, long range forecaster Ken Ring has given his weather predictions for this summer.

Ken predicts weather patterns by planetary cycles and orbits of the moon and sun.

In an interview with ABC broadcaster Mary-lou Stephens he said dust will be a problem this summer season.

"Particularly for the inland districts over the coming months, including fire risks in the Nurimbah Valley region in October and the Mt Tamborine area in November.

"As for rain, I'm expecting above average rainfall for the first half of the summer season, easing the dust and fire risks in the south-east quarter of the state, but instead bringing high humidity and discomfort in its place" .

As for temperatures this summer, his predicts are as following.

It will be consistently in the high 20's throughout much of the summer (and in fact settling in with consistency from early November onwards and even reaching into the early 30's around November 2 and November 19).

There will be a milder spell, likely over the first week of January (but still daily maximums are not expected to be lower than 23-24 degrees).

There will be a brief cooler day around January 14, as a result of widespread cloud and heavy rain at this time.

January 31 may see daily maximums soar above 30 degrees and by the end of the first week of February above 30 degree daily maximums are expected to be a daily reading - until the start of the third week of March - when maximums are likely to ease back into the upper 20's once more for a brief respite.

An above 30 degree peak is once more expected in the first couple of days of March and again possibly on three occasions in April (around April 1 and April 12 -14) with daily maximums not expected to drop into the lower 20's until early May. The hottest period of summer will be in early December.

"Between December 4 and 10, when daily maximums may reach between 35-40 degrees over these few days, peaking around December 8.

"The Christmas to New Year week may also see a few days when daily maximums are close to 30 degrees or more."

He says the current dry spell will continue for the next month.

"Then towards the end of November, rains kick in and the talk will turn instead to above average rainfall for the first half of summer. January is pretty wet, especially in the second and third weeks. However, below average rainfall is expected to be the trend for February" .

Spring season for 2013

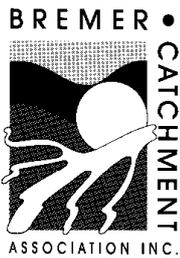
As for this year's spring season, Ken says there will be below average rainfall over the first half of the season, but it will end with above average rainfall.

"With good regular rains; often heavy in November.

He says the wettest periods during spring will be October 18-20, November 4-6, and the last week of November - that will be an early flexing of the monsoon trough.

"In fact, between now and the end of this year, I'd say that's the most significant rainfall in that last week of November and into the first week of December.

"The thing to watch out for is the chance of flooding in the Wide Bay and Burnett region in the first week of November and again in the last week.



Working Together

**Remember
the AGM
on 17th
October 2013**

Disclaimer

While we hope that you will find this publication informative, BCA does not guarantee 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.

Flooding during summer 2013/14

From these predictions, Ken expects storms and flooding to be later than usual this summer.

"Rain should be below average in February. March is also going to be quite dry in the second half of the month west of Bundaberg.

"Not much rain in April, but May gets a whopping dump, more than in all of the summer months combined for Toowoomba and Brisbane, and well above average rainfall in most other south-east districts during the storm period over the second and third weeks,"

With five floods in two years and plans to build a levee by 2015, Ken says localised flooding in Gympie may be a problem in the last week of November and into the first few days of December for Gympie and Toowoomba districts.

"I've got 100mm plus possible to fall over a couple of days around November 26 with the passage of a thundery front and a further 80-100mm possible a couple of days later around December 3."

Some more November rain predictions from Ken include:

Central Highlands November 6.

Southern districts - Bulloo River to Bremer River November 14-16.

Wide Bay - Burnett districts and Gympie November 27.

Darling Downs, Toowoomba, Bremer River and Warrill Creek areas around November 30.

There will be flooding risks in Queensland in December, "in the Bremer River, Warrill Creek, Dawson River, Herbert, Capricornia, Darling Downs, Wide Bay, Burnett districts and Gympie around the December 1".

"And for Paroo River, Moonie River around December 13; and Balonne River, Kingaroy and Brisbane areas around December 22."

He says January may see some flooding around the 19th when a further 100 plus millimetres may fall over a 24-hour period from the 19-21; with similar amounts also expected from Caloundra to Brisbane.

He says flooding may affect Bundaberg and around Kingaroy on January 16. Further periods when flooding in the south-east of Queensland may be a concern "include mid-May around the 15th, with particular risk for Bundaberg to Brisbane and into the Darling Downs and Toowoomba".

As for cyclones, Ken says there is some activity that "won't amount to much".

From the Editor: All readers, please note the next newsletter will be in February 2014.

Have an enjoyable Festive Season in the presence of Family and friends

