BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

Octobert 2014

around the bremer

Date Claimer:

16th October

AGM

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Presidents Message

Where-oh-where has the year almost gone? Wow...who believes that time moves just a little too quickly these days. The days and weeks sometimes appear as a blur. It is just me or does everyone feel the same? An old friend once mentioned that he "believed there were six months in every year". I'm beginning to think his philosophy is quite apt.

As an update work on the Upper Mt Walker Hillslope Erosion Project (UMWHEP) has been progressive. Additional earthworks have been implemented by John Jackson (UMWHEP Project Officer) who also has been busy liaising with earthworks contractor - Klan Earthmoving. The establishment of extra groynes and diversion banks for the site have been established via careful planning by a group of people. I'll be visiting the site shortly to view additional work and update the UMWHEP Report. I'm especially looking forward to the planned BCA field day on the site, as well as planting necessary trees, shrubs and grasses on the site.

In recent weeks I attended the Rosewood festival. The Bremer Catchment Association was invited by the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) to provide a stand at the festival. Together with Bill Steentsma we established a moderate BCA stand for the day. Throughout the day we were able to discuss the catchment region with various people (Fig. 1). It was an informative festival and a number of ideas were obtained for further community displays.

Figure 1. BCA Members (Gary Cochrane & Bill Steentsma,) discussing the catchment with local residents.

The BCA received an email from Denita Muller (Goodstart Early Learning - Peak Crossing Kindergarten) in regards to environmental damage and amassed rubbish in Purga Creek. Together with Bill Steentsma our visit to meet up with Denita will allow us to assess and evaluate the issues of Purga Creek. It's encouraging to have groups such as this become involved in environmental management. We are all hopeful that some work maybe undertaken to assist this eager group.

Stay safe and I look forward to meeting up with each and everyone at the BCA AGM on the 16th October 2014.

Gary H Cochrane
President
Bremer Catchment Association

The Photo was supplied Courtesy Heather Knowles

It has been found that native bees can produce 1 kg of honey each year which is definitely a great reason to establish your own native bee hive

Leaf Cutter Bee

CR HEATHER MORROW
CHAIRPERSON - ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL

Native Bees

As part of the Land for Wildlife partnerships and Ipswich City Council's Voluntary Conservation Agreements, Council invited a local South East Queensland entomologist, Tim Heard, to deliver a practical workshop titled 'Native Bees'. The workshop was well received with over 33 landholders who attended.

Tim delivered a practical and theoretical workshop focusing primarily on the several species that are found in our natural environments. This included the large variety of solitary bees and our native stingless social bees. A majority of the Australian native bees are solitary and many of us were fascinated to discover the Leaf Cutter Bee and the Carpenter Bee. Both species leave traces of their presence that can be spotted in our parks and Conservation Reserves and Estates.

The common social bees, the European Honey Bee, that are used in the Australian commercial market for honey production, are not native and were introduced from Europe in the early 1800's. Discovering the large difference between how the native stingless social bees establish their colony and work their hives in comparison to the introduced Honey Bees was another great discussion point of the day. Tim demonstrated his live working native bee hive and taught many landholders how to establish their own hive on their properties. This included examining the structure of the hives, safely separating the sections and finally extracting the honey. We also had the privilege in tasting the honey at the end of the workshop. It was delightful and was enjoyed best over ice-cream.

It has been found that native bees can produce 1 kg of honey each year which is definitely a great reason to establish your own native bee hive in the backyard. As their common name implies, Stingless Native Bees, do not sting but they can bite. Any work conducted with insects and animals must be treated with caution and care.

Native bees play a crucial role in our natural environment as pollinators for unique wildflowers and are a vital contribution to protecting our Australian bush. Studies have found that many crops are heavily dependent on pollination from bees (Sullivan 2012). Pollination by bees has increased food production in canola and almond crops, with Canola crops having an increase of 20% more seeds (Sullivan 2012). Food production could be potentially threatened if bee population's drop, reinforcing the importance that Australian native bees must be protected (Sullivan 2012).

For more information on Australian native bees and establishing your own stingless bee hive please visit
www.sugarbag.net and/or
www.aussiebee.com.au
Ellie Pobjoy – Environmental Education Officer (Natural Resources)
IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL

References
Sullivan, R, 2012, The Buzz on Keeping Bees Safe, ABC Environment, accessed on 15 May 2014 http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2012/06/12/3517774.htm

Herbicide resistance leads to rethink on weeds as fodder in cropping

— Broadacre cropping in Victoria's high-rainfall zone is facing a 'ticking time bomb' of herbicide resistance as recognised weed control techniques fail to overcome the looming problem. This has been the impetus behind a project investigating the use of fodder rotations with cropping to manage weeds. One of the researchers involved with the project, David Watson from Agvise Services, says despite southern Victoria being relatively new to cropping, over the past decade or more the region has developed one of the highest rates of herbicide resistance in Australia. "Some of the reasoning behind that is the propensity of the area to grow both good crops and weeds," he says. "Regularly wet and windy weather makes for tough spraying conditions and our cropping rotations have been lousy to the point where almost the only break crop we have – with the exception of a very limited area of faba beans – is canola. We are in a situation where there is a big problem coming at us and the more recognised solutions don't always work." While southern Victoria may struggle with weed control in broadacre cropping, the region has a high capability to produce livestock and, with that, good fodder crops. It also has the advantage of being close to Victoria's largest dairy region, the south-west, which has a high demand for fodder. "Nearly every farm in southern Victoria has livestock and they have to eat," Mr Watson says. "Most mixed farms in our region are maybe 50:50 in their ratio of crops to livestock, so there is a need for feed and we can grow a lot of it – up to eight or nine tonnes a hectare in a fodder crop. "To me, it makes sense that if you've got a weed problem, you don't have a range of break crops and you have livestock that need feeding then why not grow fodder as the break crop?"

Herbicide Resistance and Herbicide Tolerance Definitions

Herbicide resistance: "Herbicide resistance is the inherited ability of a plant to survive and reproduce following exposure to a dose of herbicide normally lethal to the wild type. In a plant, resistance may be naturally occurring or induced by such techniques as genetic engineering or selection of variants produced by tissue culture or mutagenesis."

Source: *Weed Technology* Volume 12, Issue 4 (October-December) 1998. p. 789.

Weeds as fodder

Regularly wet and windy weather makes for tough spraying conditions

Herbicide Spraying

2014 Report Card Launch Invitation

Bremer Catchment

Join us at the 2014 Ecosystem Health Report Card launch on Wednesday 22nd October at 11:15am (11:30am start) until 12:30pm at the Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre. Find out the health of your local waterway. The annual Report Card provides 'A' to 'F' health ratings for the waterways of South East Queensland. It is the culmination of twelve months of scientific monitoring at freshwater, estuarine and marine sites across the region. The launch is a high profile media event held simultaneously at four locations**.**

'Bremer River subcatchment results reflect the impact of rural and urban activities. Lack or insufficient vegetation in the riparian zone have and will continue to make the river susceptible to continuing deterioration of pH, turbidity, conductivity and DO levels. Results show a baseline deterioration of conductivity levels over the past 8 years'.(Bremer Catchment Ambient Water Monitoring Project Report, 2013, Liz Tilbrook, funded by BCA)

Bill Steentsma (Vice President) will represent the Bremer Catchment Association Inc. (BCA) at the Report Cart Launch at Gatton.

Water quantity must be managed together with water quality, surface water with groundwater, and the water economy with town and country planning.

Towards an ecological assessment of watercourses

Due to a fast decline in the ecological quality of watercourses combined with the threat of human functions, policy makers started to legislate water quality objectives for watercourses and to set up water purification programs. The description of universal quality objectives is too limited as a frame of reference and a policy only based on water quality cannot guarantee the goals of river restoration as a whole. In most countries the need for a more integrated approach of water management is growing. Water quantity must be managed together with water quality, surface water with groundwater, and the water economy with town and country planning.

To restore and maintain the natural diversity of watercourses, together with the natural species richness, policy makers need a frame of reference based on the natural functioning of the ecosystem. The highest level of reference is called the 'ecological naturalness'. Based on the present and the potential ecological value and on the intensity of human uses, policy makers together with a group of scientists should decide on the ecological quality objectives of watercourses. The lowest quality level that must be reached in all watercourses can be described as the 'ecological basic quality'. Together with a frame of reference, there is a need for a refined ecological evaluation method for ecological quality as a whole, and especially to evaluate 'potential ecological values' in an objective way.

From: Journal of Aquatic Ecosystem Health

FIRE and Rescue services ...

...**have issued warnings for areas south west and north of Brisbane today as dry conditions and strong winds threaten to put these regions at risk. 9/10/14**

Emergency services have forecast a high to very high forest fire danger rating for areas near Wide Bay and Kingaroy while the danger rating around Ipswich has been and is now very high to severe.

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service South Western Regional Manager of Rural Operations Wayne Waltisbuhl said firefighters had already seen small blazes in the area.

"This is one of the last chances residents may have to prepare their homes and properties, as the bushfire season is upon us as conditions will soon be unfavourable for any hazard reduction burns," he said.

"If they haven't done so already, I urge residents to finalise preparing their property and visit the Rural Fire Service website to download a bushfire survival plan so that no one is caught off guard.

Mr Waltisbuhl said firefighters were mostly preparing for potential vegetation fires.

"We are expecting strong south-westerly winds which will bring with them very dry conditions and make the containment of any wildfires extremely difficult," he said.

An Emergency Services spokeswoman said it was expected the high danger ratings would continue up to the weekend.

http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/bushfire-warnings-issued-for-parts-of-southeast-queensland

Residents risk lives by waiting for smoke

Climate change

Australia's climate has been trending toward more bushfire weather over the last 30 years. The Climate Commission found that "The intensity and seasonality of large bushfires in south-east Australia appears to be changing, with climate change a possible contributing factor."Climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of heat waves in Southeast Australia and the probability of extreme fire risk. As the fire seasons become longer, there is less time for fuel reduction burns to control the bush fuel load. In 2007, a study by the CSIRO , found evidence that climate change will lead to increases in very high and extreme fire danger rating days and earlier onset of the fire season.

Choose a Barley

variety, which is

high yielding and has

some lodging resistance

Making Quality Silage –Mid Warrill Catchment - Morris McInnes

These photos below were taken recently by Bill Steentsma, while attending the process.

1.) The Barley Crop

2.) Loading slashed Crop into Truck

3.) Dumping into Trench

4.) Pushing it into the right location

5.) Compacting is essential

6.) Close example of compacting

Making barley silage is the process of taking green wet whole plant barley and processing it so that it can be stored.
When the whole plant barley is stored, bacteria ferment plant sugars to produce acid.
Proper acidification occurs when there is no oxygen present.
If done properly, this process occurs easily and with little spoilage.

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