BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

Special points of interest:

Next BCA Operational and AGM Meeting 19th October 2017

October 2017

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around the bremer

President's Message by Bill Steentsma

Since our August newsletter, BCA members have been involved with many activities throughout the catchment. Thank you all.

I am sure that has also been appreciated by the two Local Governments' BCA representatives.

On the 23rd August I have attended the Bremer River Network Meeting. Some changes have been made with regard to their Executive. It was decided to arrange a "Field Visit Day" to one or two Projects in the area.

The SEQCatchment Members Board Meeting was held on 31st August, which was a fully packed day. A highlight of the day was a Healthy Land and Water Science Committee Presentation and Discussion. I expressed my disappointment for the lack of "hotspots" not being identified.

Please keep in mind the River Report Card presentation will take place on Thursday the 2nd November.

The Garden of Eden—Cribb park is taking shape under the leadership of Anthony Edwards and his volunteer group. A Working Bee was held on the 16th September and like everyone present I was working very hard.

Garden of Eden—Cribb Park

Brian reported at out last Operational Meeting that the Scouts project is starting to make progress. Fencing and earthworks have to be done in preparation for planting. The planning has to fit into the Scout's Plan.

Till next time and hopefully we will be getting some rain in our area.

Natural Creek Models

In the Bremer River Catchment particularly all creeks, at least in part, require some work to maintain a minimum standard function and aesthetics. their small size and the diversity of land ownership along their banks has made them more vulnerable to neglect and human generated changes, than are larger waterways. The attempted reconstruction of existing creeks as water carrying channels, developed purely on engineering principles, has failed to recognise the intricate inter-relationships of a creek environment.

As drainage systems they have become less effective and their contribution to environmental quality has been reduced. Flood channels and lowlands are filled, thereby lowering their flood retention capacity. Creek fringe vegetation is removed or neglected to the point where it becomes ineffective in control of erosion, water flow and water quality.

Alluvial material is extracted, changing creek flow and accelerating channel realignment through further erosion. Lack of planning and maintenance of creek corridors, and wrong land use, exacerbate flooding problems.

Bundamba Creek

Lack of planning and maintenance of creek corridors, and wrong land use, exacerbate flooding problems.

Warrill Creek Section

Nature provides models of creek landscapes which are both aesthetically pleasing and optimal in function. This can be understood by considering the creek environments as a whole. Methods of stream restoration based on natural principles are not only ecologically more desirable than simple engineering solutions, but are also time proven for their effectiveness and are often less costly.
A survey of the natural creeks in the Moreton Region resulted in the compilation of 23 models representing various creek types.

The Bremer River Catchment

The **Bremer River** is a river that is a tributary of the Brisbane River, located in the Scenic Rim and Brisbane regions of South East Queensland, Australia. The 100-kilometre (62 mi)-long Bremer River drains several Scenic Rim valleys in south-east Queensland, including the Fassifern Valley, with its catchment area covering approximately 2,032 square kilometers Most valleys within the catchment have extensive river terraces. The Bremer River system is extremely degraded.

The Bremer rises in the hills of the Scenic Rim, passes close to the town of Rosewood and winds through the city of Ipswich. The catchment area is bordered by the Little Liverpool Range to the west, with the Main Range lying to the south and south-west. Towards the east is Flinders Peak and the Teviot Range. The river has a number of tributaries including Deebing Creek, Bundamba Creek, Purga Creek, Reynolds Creek, Warrill Creek, Western Creek and Franklin Vale Creek. The town of Grandchester is situated on Western Creek and Rosevale was settled on the upper reaches. Its length is about 100 km.

Taking one of the Sub catchments let us concentrate on the Purga Creek area. The total major stream length within the subcatchment is approximately 72 km, in a total subcatchment area of 219 km². The area encompasses the catchment of Purga Creek which drains northward before joining Warrill Creek. The subcatchment lies within the Shires of Ipswich and the Scenic Rim and contains no major urban centres.

The most commonly identified land use classes in this area are grassland,, open woodland, cropping and improved pasture. The Flinders Peak Conservation Park is located within this area.

Grazing of native pastures within cleared areas is the most common land use recorded adjacent to sites within the subcatchment. Other land uses include grazing within thinned forested areas, grazing within improved pastures, rural residential uses, and rain-fed broad-acre cropping.

Purga Creek Subcatchment

The Peak Crossing School, which is situated along the Purga Creek, the January 2011 floods eroded a 70 meter length of the Creek along the school boundary, leaving a 7 meter sheer cliff that posed significant risks to student safety, threatened school infrastructure and, if left un-remediated, would result in future severe loss of school lands, the school tennis court and school buildings.

The restoration plan was of significant interest to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, which had a mandate to help the community rebuild following the floods. With NDRRA funding from the Reconstruction Authority and with the help of the school Parents & Citizens Association, which relocated the boundary fences and a number of small buildings, SEQ Catchments was able to remediate the site.

THE ROSEWOOD NATIVE PLANT SHOW & FESTIVAL 2017 by Jocelyn Clarkson

After a break of one year, the Rosewood Plant Show and Festival run by the Ipswich Branch of Native Plants Queensland was held on 2nd September 2017 at the Rosewood Showgrounds.

This year as in 2015 the Bremer Catchment Association had a stand in the pavilion along with the well known local Brisbane environment groups.

Festival time

Bill Steentsma and Anthony Edwards came along to help me during the day. We were placed between the Western Catchments Group and the Rosewood Protection Society. Although our allotted area was a bit limited, our thanks go to Jean Bray from Western Catchments for re-arranging their tables so we could fit in more easily and the Rosewood Protection Society for their friendliness. After all, we are all in this to-gather!

The major native plant display set up down the middle of the pavilion by a number of nurseries and societies contained a wide variety of species. The doors of the festival opened at 9.00am and an huge number of people flooded in, all eager to get the best of the plants. This continued until 11.00am when the enthusiasts paid for their purchases and headed home.

Although a steady stream of visitors buying plants and talking to environment groups continued until lunch time, it seemed that people either moved outside to the food stalls or had other activities planned for the rest of the day.

I always enjoy this event, as one gets to mingle with all our environment ‘cronies’, but talking to the visitors is even better. It was interesting to hear people’s comments about the Fireweed literature that we had to give away. Everyone, when asked if they had this nasty weed on their property, said they were aware of it and whenever they saw a plant, pulled it out. So it was heart-warming to learn that the general community, in that area at least, is doing the right thing by removing fireweed, to make sure they are not regenerating.

Our detailed photos of the Upper Mount Walker Project brought a variety of comments from passers by. While other landholders proudly advised of their tree planting in an effort to convert degraded land they either owned or had inherited.

Even though there was no street procession as in 2015, there was a variety of attractions outside of the pavilion, with a row of food stalls and eating area opposite. On previous time, the food and dining section was located inside the large building across from where we were situated.

This time, it held local craft groups, historical and WW1 displays, handmade quilts and art. A very successful and interesting collection of people’s, abilities and interests, was appreciated by many. As well as this there was activity in the ring with sheep dogs going through their paces.

Heather Knowles the hard working organiser from Native Plants Queensland and Councillor David Pahlke, (who moved around the grounds and buildings greeting people and was responsible for much of the promotion through sponsoring), are both to be congratulated on an excellent event.

While we weren’t overwhelmed by membership enquiries, I feel it is always worthwhile showing our presence in public. Otherwise, how does anyone know that the Bremer-Catchment Association is working to improve the environment in rural and residential areas of the catchment to the benefit of all people. Bill has vowed, next time he will book our area early and arrange for a bigger space in 2018.

Functions at the Queensland Herbarium by Mark Edginton

One of our functions at the Queensland Herbarium is to map pre-clear Regional Ecosystems i.e. the vegetation as it existed before European settlement.

When considering plant species for your project, it is best if you try to plant species that were part of the original ecosystem at your site. You do need to take into account that the mapping is at 1:100 000 scale, which means at times it will be too coarse to indicate the exact RE at your site, but it is a reasonable guide.

It will usually be fairly evident if your site is mapped correctly. Bear in mind that some remnant patches are too small to map at that scale. In this case heterogeneous polygons are used.

This means that more than one Regional Ecosystem may be listed in a polygon, along with their relevant percentages of the polygon extent. As well as pre-clear Regional Ecosystem mapping, the Herbarium releases Remnant Cover maps, which shows remaining Remnant vegetation, along with cleared, disturbed and regrowth vegetation.

If a landholder feels that his/her rights to clear have been affected by incorrect mapping of their property, they can challenge it e.g. incorrect Regional Ecosystem; incorrectly mapped as Remnant.

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Weed Watch. Fleabane *(Conyza spp.)*

There are three main species of fleabane weeds in Australia. Flaxleaf fleabane *Conyza bonariensis*, Tall fleabane *Conyza sumatrensis* and Canadian fleabane which comprise two varieties but are less prevalent: *Conyza canadensis var. canadensis* and *Conyza canadensis var. pusilla*.

Fleabane Flaxleaf and tall fleabane (Conyza spp.) are emerging weeds in Australia, germinating in spring and becoming major weeds in summer.

Historically, fleabane was primarily a weed of roadsides, particularly if the road shoulders were sprayed with glyphosate, leaving bare soil on which the fleabane (and other weeds) could germinate and flourish. Fleabane is now considered an important weed in bushland and agricultural areas.

Distinguishing Features Fleabane species are upright, tap-rooted plants in the daisy family. On maturity they produce compact seed heads with a parachute of fine hairs. The light fluffy seeds are readily dispersed by wind..**Flaxleaf fleabane** is a grey hairy plant, growing to 1 metre (m) tall and the inflorescence (cluster of seed heads) resembles a candelabra. **Mature plants of flaxleaf fleabane produce an average of 110,000 seeds each.** Flower colour is white to pink. The flower head of the plant forms a candelabra shape.

Tall fleabane has lighter green leaves and grows up to 2m tall. Flower colour is white. The flower head of the plant forms a pyramid shape with branches not growing taller than the main plant axis. Fleabane in Australia can germinate throughout the year, but is most common in spring. The seeds do not possess dormancy so they can germinate whenever temperature and moisture requirements are met. Early removal and secure collection of any seed heads are required to help with the control of this species.

Flaxleaf fleabane
Conyza bonariensis

Ipswich "Garden of Eden"- Cribb Park

Anthony, the driving force behind the park idea, has created a group of volunteers who are meeting once a month to beautify the park.

Anthony Edwards and Dani Andlemac, both members of the Bremer Catchment Association (BCA) have taken on the commitment to improve a small part of the bank of the Bremer River. Anthony, the driving force behind the park idea, has created a group of volunteers who are meeting once a month to beautify the park. This started with getting rid of weeds to make a new planting of shrubs and trees possible.

With the recent rain this task could be a little easier. BCA has a watering unit, which will be used after the planting, for the new vegetation to survive.

Brian Pepperall (left) and Anthony Edwards with some of the volunteers

Part of the Cribb Park

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