BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

April 2013

around the bremer

BCA Cleaning a Section of the Bremer River

BCA has been involved with a clean up and help conserve our local environment by participating in Clean Up Australia Day on March 3, 2013. Due to dangerous weather conditions on the Bremer River it was deferred to the 17th March. The day was lead by our member Sandra Burton. Sandra created a music video 'Beyond the Bridge'. The video featured 'River Crying Out', a song written and performed by John Williamson.

Water quality improvement, removal of environmental weeds and restoration of eroded riverbanks are just a few of the ongoing tasks.

This project focused on removing the large number of shopping trolleys/tyres/ building materials/plastic shopping bags/ tidal debris.

Our clean up project 'Beyond the Bridge' was focused on a six-kilometer section of the Bremer River. The Clean Up centered from the River Heart location below the railway bridge in Ipswich.

At the end of the four hours hard work, final photos were taken to provide evidence.

Special points of interest:

- **BCA cleaning-up the Bremer River**
- **Help for Landholders**
- **The recent flood damage**
- **The painful stings**

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April Meetings

Management Thursday 11th

Operational Thursday 18th

Upper Warrill Creek bank erosion

Flood Disaster Assistance

Here are three opportunities where you can apply for some funding to assist you after the recent flood.

These opportunities all are offered by the **QRAA.**

Contact: GPO Box211, Brisbane, Q 4001
Phone: (07) 3032 0100
Freecall: 1800 623 946

Email: contact_us@qraa.qld.gov.au

Website: **wwwqraa.qld.gov.au**

1. Special Disaster Assistance—Primary Producer
2. Special Disaster Assistance—Small Business
3. Financial Hardship Certificate

The first two grants are up to $25,000. they assist primary producers pay for costs arising out of direct damage caused by the recent flooding—21-29 January 2013

Salinity is the presence of salts such as sodium chloride, magnesium and calcium sulfates, and bicarbonates, in soil and water.

Salt scalding in South -East Queensland

Roadvale Salinity Project –Why?

Salinity has been a part of the upper Purga Creek catchment around Rosevale for all of living memory. Whether salinity was evident before land clearing is uncertain although the measured salt concentrations in the groundwater would suggest it has been there for centuries.

The Rosevale Salinity Project was prompted by concerns expressed and discussions held between officers of Scenic Rim Regional Council, SEQ Catchments, landholders in the area and Bremer Catchment Association about the adverse impact of salinity on recourses in the Roadvale-Milbong area of the upper Purga Creek sub-catchment. **The project objectives are to:**

- Identify the salinity processes operating in the upper Purga Creek catchment.
- Outline potential salinity management options to control, manage and/or reclaim salt affected areas.
- Consult with landholders, the community, Council and SEQ Catchment on preferred priority options for salinity management, and
- Propose appropriate planning principals and guidelines for future development of the area that will reduce the impact of salinity.

The project is being conducted in stages with decision points at key times during the project to evaluate progress and assess the next steps. Salinity processes operating in the upper Purga Creek catchment and identification of preferred management options are being addressed. (Roger Shaw)

A Project grant application to the Department of Environment & Heritage Protection (Everyone's Environment grants) will be prepared. (The Editor)

Flood Damage within the Bremer Catchment—January Floods

Sunday, January 27th severe wet weather conditions have caused havoc within the mid and upper catchments of the Warrill—Purga—and Teviot creeks.

Falls of over 600mm and high winds were reported. The Villis Bridge was totally wiped off with nearby agriculture riparian land, including areas of Mal Abbott's property. Creek beds have been widened and changed several natural meandering river features

.Bill, the BCA President visited the disaster areas and property owners accompanied by SEQCatchments', Jean Bray, (Community Partnerships Officer) and Peter Pearce (Soil Conservation Officer).

The Moogerah Dam catchment had rainfalls recorded between 1000-1400mmm. Bill observed the spillway overflowing to approximately 3.5 metres, acting as a flood mitigation structure.

Moogerah Dam overflow

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Below are some of the worst effected areas listed:

- Soil erosion at bends on the river bank opposite flow direction.
- Levee banks broken caused much soil erosion on riparian land.
- Cattle crossings and road structures have been affected.
- Warrill View area flood-borne soil deposited on floodplains to benefit agriculture. Excessive topsoil along highways truck loaded back—to spread on riparian lands.
- The replacement of native species by shallow-rooted vegetation could have contributed to creek bank erosion.

Issues

- Creek maintenance i.e.. obvious potential obstacles and weed control—to become a major attention.
- Bremer Catchment land use stakeholders/partners to coordinate regulatory principles i.e. creek & creek bank vegetation maintenance.

What can mankind do to avoid situations like the last flood?

Sheer frustration.

The elements have played havoc with mother nature

Paper Wasps

BREMER • CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

Working together

Above signs of the flood

Disclaimer

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.

Introduction

Families of Paper Wasps encountered when working in bushland, which also includes working around rural and urban habitat. Paper Wasps from such Families (i.e. *Polistes*, *Ropalidia, Vespula*) cause severe pain.

Description

Paper Wasps are from a large Family Group which has wide array of sizes, shapes and colours. These can be identified from Bees using a number of keys which focuses on their small head, medium sized eyes, and medium length antennae. They have two pairs of brownish wings (first pair larger), body conformation is slender with a narrow waist. The abdomen is usually black but can also have markings or bands which are yellow or orange. (Fig. 1.).

Figure 1. Identifying Bees from Paper Wasps can be a challenge (Courtesy of ACT TAMS)

Lifecycle

They construct a distinctive nest arrangement made by the wasps chewing small pieces of timber and mixing this pulp with their saliva. This 'paper-mache' mixture is then applied to construct rows of cells in which an adult female Paper Wasp deposits a single egg. Emerging from the egg, larvae forms then feed on collected caterpillars (O. Coleoptera [Beetles], O. Lepidoptera [Moths]) which have been caught by adult Paper Wasps. Adult Paper Wasps feed on plant nectar themselves, although they can be drawn to other sweet tasting foods (soft drinks, lollies).

Range

Unfortunately Paper Wasps vary greatly in size between 13mm - 30 mm in length. They can be found throughout much of Australia. Their flight range varies considerably as this is based on wind drifts and food availability.

Danger

Paper wasps become very aggressive when intruders invade their territory. They cause painful stings by injecting venom into their victim. Localised swelling is widely known and in some victims stings may also cause allergic reactions.

Basic first aid measures for stings can include applying a cold water or cold pack to relieve the pain of the sting. However it does depend on where the victim has been stung. This is especially evident with stings around the mouth or other sensitive areas. In such cases medical treatment is strongly advised to be sought from qualified medical personnel.

NOTE: European Wasps are more aggressive than Bees when disturbed and will inflict painful stings. The European Wasps attack in large numbers and sting repeatedly. Hazardous to attempt nest destruction which is usually located in the ground but can be in wall cavities. Notorious for getting inside soft drink cans and attacking the mouthparts of unsuspecting victims.

Gary H. Cochrane