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## 2005: A Year Of Action

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Dear Members,

Happy New Year! 2005 promises to be an exciting year as we begin really getting down to the business of sustainable NRM!

2004 was a year full of challenges, but also marked by a series of successes and accomplishments. Our Priority Action Plans (PAPs), after a bumpy start getting the funding and securing partners to undertake them, have now produced strategic priorities across a variety of NRM themes, including water quality and community capacity, native vegetation and biodiversity, sustainable production, salinity mitigation and social and economic analysis.

We have commenced enlisting partners for on-ground works within the remaining budget and have a few projects already in progress with several locations now equipped with groundwater and surface water monitoring equipment.

In 2004, our Landcare sector led the way in partnership development and integrated NRM within the community by successfully gaining funding for a truly regional effort at engaging industry and local government in NRM.

We're pleased to announce an extension of this unique partnership

between 15 of our Landcare groups in 2005, with the option for two more years.

The BMRG was also successful in gaining funding for a variety of smaller projects under the Statewide Investment Programs (SIPs) involving analysis of how we can improve our partnership building with community, state agencies and research and development organisations. These programs funded a highly successful, two-day Science Symposium, intended to increase the dialogue between the technical and lay sectors within our region.

Most exciting of all, however, was the release of the working draft NRM Plan in July and successful re-submission of the draft NRM Plan to go to Public Consultation in November. We were disappointed we were not allowed to extend our consultation period, but this was somewhat compensated by the extensive consultation between the working draft and the submitted draft. Thanks to all those members who took the time to provide us with input during this period!

Public consultation closed on 12 January and, by and large, the feedback indicates overwhelming support for the draft NRM Plan. The feedback will be a crucial element in the governments' decision to accredit the Plan, particularly the commitment of our Member partners to implement the management actions under the Action Programs.

The BMRG will be working to re-submit the Plan for accreditation by late January or early February. We have also already commenced negotiations with the Queensland Government regarding their "in-kind" contributions to the Natural Heritage Trust funds we may receive under our Regional Investment Strategy (RIS). We hope to finalise the RIS early in 2005 for commencement of the three years of funding on 1 April 2005.

The BMRG, and I personally, would like to sincerely thank all those Members who have worked with us through 2004 to get us to this exciting turning point!

Warm regards,

Dr Deborah L. Scott, Executive Officer



### Champagne Flows as Wondai Office Opens

Celebrating the opening at Wondai of BMRG's first inland office are (from left) BMRG Independent Chair Harry Bonanno, BMRG Executive Officer Dr Deborah L. Scott, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Warren Truss, and Wondai Deputy Mayor Wayne Kratzmann. Full Story on Page 3



# Burnett Mary Regional Group

...for Natural Resource Management Inc

A new executive will lead the Burnett Catchment Care Association in the coming year, following the group's Annual General Meeting.

The incoming executive includes Dianne Baker (Chair), Barrie McLellan (Vice Chair), Jan Darlington (Treasurer) and Judith Renshaw (Secretary). BMRG congratulates all office bearers on their positions.

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The importance of the role of BMRG was highlighted at a recent Maryborough meeting of the Wide Bay Burnett Area Consultative Committee. WBBACC Chair, Cr Bill Trevor, praised BMRG, describing it as one of the most important organisations of our time. The comments followed a report presented to the meeting by BMRG Independent Chair Harry Bonnano. The report detailed the progress of the Regional NRM Plan and discussed the effect of putting the environment at the forefront of how we do things.

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Tiaro and District Landcare is just one dedicated BMRG Member group contributing to the survival of the Mary River Turtle.

The group has reported in the "Tiaro Turtle Talk" that the nesting season has started with a huge amount of turtle nesting activity.

The rain which fell during October came at the right time and in the right quantity as far as the turtles are concerned. Nesting is dependent on rainfall, with enough rain needed so the nesting chamber keeps its shape as it is being dug by the female.

As at the beginning of November, the group's Project Officers David Parkes and Marilyn Connell had protected 40 nests.

Unfortunately, predators are also about, a large goanna and dog tracks have been sighted.

One nest is known to have been raided, with a goanna gorging on the turtle eggs, before the nest could be protected.

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## Landcare Groups in Action Across the Region

The 2003-2004 National Landcare Program has been under way for more than six months now and most Landcare groups across the Burnett Mary Region have a lot happening.

Minister Warren Truss announced in March that \$311,440 would be allocated for the Burnett Mary Region and the 14 Landcare groups in the region received an equal share of this funding.

Following a BMRG-facilitated workshop in Gympie in January 2004, a proposal was developed that supported the part-time employment of a Project Officer for each group and the development of sub-regional specific information kits. These are compiled entirely by the group and include what they see as being relevant.

The groups are also holding workshops or field days around the region to raise awareness in each of the Landcare groups' areas.

The 2003-2004 project is titled "Regional Landholders Ownership of Sustainable Land-Use Issues and Solutions".

Thus far, groups have had huge successes. There have been more than 25 workshops held around the region, including a successful launch by Isis Landcare Group of the first stage of its information kit that attracted more than 100 people.

Gayndah Landcare successfully organised a project officers' meeting that gave all project officers a chance to meet and exchange ideas on what they have been doing and what they hope to do in the coming months.

Many groups have been struggling for a number of years and have used this as a great opportunity to re-engage their members, and other relevant industry, local government and groups in the area.

All groups are at a different stage of development, but all have come up with some great ideas that are owned and implemented by the group. All groups tackle the priority issues for their local areas.

Groups are putting together kits for the "new landholder", sustainable irrigation solutions for canegrowers, property management planning workshops and much more.

## New Landcare Funding Approved

The Burnett Mary Regional Group recognises the importance of Landcare groups and has been doing all it can to support them.

After consultation with the groups, it is agreed one-off projects are ineffective and we need to build on what we have learned and gained from this present round of funding.

Our recent partner proposal submitted to the National Landcare Program has been approved.

This will allow groups to continue this project and give them a sound basis on which to build.

Raising awareness among our communities is vital, because without their support in managing our natural resources we have an uphill battle ahead.



Gympie and District Landcare Group's Paul Marshall and BMRG Director representing Community Landcare Darryl Stewart take a break from the State Landcare Conference in Toowoomba in September.

## Inland Office Officially Opens in Wondai

A commitment to equitable access and support for stakeholders throughout the vast Burnett Mary region led to the opening of a second office for the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management (BMRG).

The office, in Wondai, is situated more than 200km inland from the head office in Bundaberg.

The opening of the Inland Office places community support staff more central to the issues of upper catchment areas, according to Peter McIntosh, the BMRG Director representing Local Government Burnett West.

Mr McIntosh, also AgForce's South East Queensland Regional Chairman, said the upper catchment regions of the South and North Burnett were of vital importance in the management of natural resources, both in the Burnett, and throughout the region.

"Unless environmental problems are solved at the head of the catchment areas, the effect is not only damaging to our local area, but also flows on to damage the coastal and lower reaches," Mr McIntosh said.

"These lower reaches are not only combating their own local environmental problems, but the continuing negative effects of what is happening upstream.

"It is vitally important that these problems are targeted and Burnett landholders and community groups are supported. The opening of a full-time inland office is positive recognition of this."

The office was officially opened by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Mr Warren Truss, in August.

Mr Truss said he was confident the upcoming release of BMRG's Plan and Regional Investment Strategy would build on the significant progress to date in the region.

"The new office at Wondai will significantly enhance this process, by making it easier for community members to make their concerns and suggestions known," Mr Truss said.

BMRG Community, Schools, Education and Training Officer Tamara Boland began working out of the office full-time in July and was joined in September by BMRG Indigenous Coordinator Viv Sinnamon



BMRG Community, Schools, Education and Training Officer, Tamara Boland, and BMRG Indigenous Coordinator, Viv Sinnamon, in front of the new office.



## From The Chair *A New Year - A New Era*

With the year 2005 now with us and the BMRG with a Draft Plan for action being implemented, substantial change is now with us and the group will be judged by our interaction with our community

and priority actions which will be followed into the field to gain results and a positive review.

Our time spent in consultation and fine-tuning of our proposals will pay dividends in to the future with well-structured plans and targeted actions which should continue to meet community expectations.

The community, as well as State and Federal Governments, have a vested interest in getting value for money on funds expended. The best "Bang for the Buck" is the overall expectation for most funds put towards environmental projects.

Nationally, we pursue the objective of getting value for money and now must put forward programs that will bring credit on our organisation and benefits to the community and the environment.

Our Draft Plan has engaged the community in a positive manner and in general has been found to be supported by the community as a worthwhile plan to take forward in improving our environmental credibility.

Our Draft Plan is a line in the sand at this point in time and must have enough flexibility to be able to be adjusted to meet changing community expectations into the future. The Draft Plan has the benefit of the collective wisdom of our Board, of our staff and hopefully the community we represent.

With the enthusiastic support from this body of expertise, we must succeed and we will take the environmental debate to a new level of achievement.

Working with you in service of our Community

Harry R Bonanno, Independent Chair

## Do You Have Land for Re-vegetation?

Not-for-profit organisation Greenfleet Australia is seeking sites in Queensland that it can re-vegetate with indigenous trees.

"We are looking for sites, on public or private land, of 10 ha or more for large-scale plantings," says Greenfleet forester Jackie Waring.

"With a growing number of subscribers to our program, we are now keen to identify sites in Queensland."

The environmental organisation plants trees on behalf of participating motorists, to offset carbon dioxide emissions primarily from vehicles.

So far, more than 1.7 million trees have been planted across four states and the ACT to absorb greenhouse gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>).

According to Greenfleet, transport is Australia's fastest growing source of greenhouse emissions - the primary cause of climate change and global warming.

"In addition to absorbing greenhouse gases, the trees will also help to reduce salinity and soil erosion, and provide wildlife

habitat for native wildlife," says Ms Waring.

For suitable sites, Greenfleet enters into a carbon agreement with the landholder.

This specifies that the trees will not be harvested and that Greenfleet maintains the right to 'count the carbon' soaked up by those trees during their lifetime.

For qualifying sites, Greenfleet supplies both an agreed number of native mid-overstorey trees for planting and the labour to plant them.

Greenfleet plants 17 native trees on behalf of each motorist who makes a tax deductible donation of \$40 a year. Over their lifetime, those trees will soak up the greenhouse emissions the average car produces in one year (based on 4.3 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>).

If you know of land that might be suitable, contact Greenfleet on 03 5664 2220 or email [jackie@greenfleet.com.au](mailto:jackie@greenfleet.com.au). Website: [www.greenfleet.com.au](http://www.greenfleet.com.au)



# Burnett Mary Regional Group

...for Natural Resource Management Inc

## BMRG Receives Designation Status under the Trust

Burnett Mary Regional Group reached another important milestone in October with notification that it has been designated. BMRG was advised by the Joint Steering Committee that it has met designation criteria in accordance with the Natural Heritage Trust Bilateral Agreement.

The primary basis for whether a nominated group should be designated a regional body is its capacity to advance the overarching objectives of the Trust and fulfill the accountability responsibilities under the Bilateral Agreement.

In making its decision, the Joint Steering Committee ensures a regional body has the necessary skills and capacity to facilitate development of an NRM Plan and Regional Investment Strategy. It also must be capable of managing the implementation of the

Natural Heritage Trust programs Bushcare, Coastcare, Landcare and Rivercare.

Because of the level of Australian and Queensland Government investment in these programs, regional bodies seeking designation must be able to ensure investment returns will be optimised.

To be designated, an organisation's processes must be transparent, open to all who wish to nominate, impartial and conducted in a way which has broad community support and confidence.

A key objective of the designation requirements is to contribute to the development of healthy regional arrangements supported by the community.

## Staff Profiles



**Dean Power**  
Community Coordinator

I grew up quite literally on the banks of the Kolan River, on a cattle property north-east of Monto.

I completed my primary education there by correspondence and, when time came for classes, I was often found down at the river.

The many happy hours fishing, rafting and swimming started a life-long fascination

with the landscape and its many parts. I have enjoyed walking in, working with and, hopefully, giving something back to the bush.

My new role as Community Coordinator with BMRG will allow me to combine my passion for country with my interest in working with people.

My family has been grazing cattle for many generations in the Monto district, and my children now have cattle of their own - the saga continues.

I have worked in many rural industries, including contract fencing, horticulture, beef and pork.

I have travelled and sought a wide range of experience, living all over mainland Australia and Canada.

The past four years have been spent in community development roles, primarily in vocational education and community engagement.

As a member of the 2003 DPI Young People In Rural Industries Liaison Group, I got a feel for how government develops policy. Working for the Departments of Education Queensland and Employment and Training has allowed me to understand how government policy integrates with and impacts on community.

I hope the diversity of my experiences will give me the empathy and understanding I will need to support all members of the Burnett, Baffle and Mary catchments in their involvement with BMRG.



**Dr Colin McCoull**  
Science and Industry Coordinator

Having spent most of my life in Tasmania, moving to, and learning about, the Burnett Mary region is quite a challenge.

I grew up, studied and worked in Hobart prior to moving to Queensland with my wife and child only a few months ago.

After leaving university, I started working as a Zoologist for the Bushcare Technical program, where I gained experience working with government, community groups and directly with landowners.

I was able to see a range of rural operations in action, including grazing operations, cropping, timber harvesting and plantation development and I was able to learn how land managers successfully incorporated these operations into their property management.

Through this position, I was also involved in the development of a number of monitoring programs to evaluate the success of on-ground works on properties.

Following this, I started working for a program established under the Regional Forest Agreement in Tasmania.

My main role in this program was to work with landowners to incorporate conservation into property management and to help landowners deal with the complexities of working in a partnership environment with government.

Through this position, I was lucky enough to meet and work with people from all walks of life, including graziers, timber harvesters, horticulturists, land developers and those who manage their land for its lifestyle values.

I hope the experience I bring to the BMRG will allow me to assist local industries incorporate NRM into their day-to-day activities and allow the BMRG to develop a close working partnership with both regional industry and the community.

## Water Meetings Provide Valuable Feedback

The creation of a strategic and integrated monitoring network throughout the Burnett Basin moved a step closer after an enthusiastic response by the community late last year.

Community input meetings, held over four consecutive days at Monto, Gayndah, Wondai and Bundaberg in November, received good attendances overall - although Melbourne Cup Day activities provided stiff competition in Gayndah.

A wide cross-section of participants supported the meetings with representatives from Landcare groups, local councils, catchment and marine water monitoring groups, schools, regional groups, indigenous groups, industry and interested community members attending.

Through local knowledge gained at these meetings, gaps in water quality monitoring can now be better addressed as part of Priority Action (PA) 2.1.

The information will be used to develop strategies on aspects such as sites to provide appropriate geographic coverage, human resources to enable monitoring, and technology to support confidence in the data collected.

Possible and existing partnerships and links with existing monitors, as well as links with school groups for education purposes, were also investigated and developed.

The meetings also provided the opportunity to gain an appreciation of the community's knowledge of localised and regional water quality issues (hotspots).

Most participants were very enthusiastic and see development of a holistic water monitoring network as an opportunity for the community to embrace work that needs to be done, create avenues for change, and use the end results for all our benefit and knowledge.

A greater awareness of the importance of being able to see the whole picture - the link from the upper reaches of the catchment to the coast and marine waters - was a vital outcome of the day.

The Centre for Environmental Management and the Burnett Mary Regional Group thank everyone who attended for their time and participation in these workshops.

## Election, Celebration and Launch Combine in AGM

The election of the incoming executive, the launch of a new project and award celebrations were combined in the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee 2004 Annual General Meeting at the Gympie Civic Centre.

The election saw Brooweena grazier Harry Jamieson re-elected Chair of the organisation, while Maleny dairy farmer Margaret Thompson was re-elected Secretary and also elected as Treasurer. Gympie Landcare's Project Coordinator Paul Marshall was elected as Vice-Chair.

The meeting also proved an opportunity to celebrate the Group's recent success at the National Landcare Awards, where they won the National Rivercare Award for their work implementing the Mary River and tributaries Rehabilitation Plan. Guest speaker Mic Julian, from the CSIRO, gave a presentation on research efforts to find a biological control agent for one of Australia's worst aquatic weeds, Cabomba caroliniana. Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Warren Truss also attended to launch the Cabomba Bio-control project which has been funded by the Federal Government with support from the CSIRO and a range of other stakeholders.

Instead of traditional ribbon-cutting, the Minister was confronted with a large

"specimen" of Cabomba, an irate diver who had just returned from the Cabomba infested Lake Macdonald, and four small prototypes of a bio-control "secret" agent the Minister helped to release on to the unsuspecting Cabomba specimen. Information on Cabomba and the bio-control project will be featured in the next edition of NRW Watch.



"Cabomba" Conor Neville and Eva Ford. Launching the Cabomba Bio-control project are (from left) Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Warren Truss, Ronan Neville, Skyla Stockwell, Finn Neville, Kai Stockwell and (standing at rear)

## Water Monitoring Course Presented in Gayndah

Community representatives including teachers, regional Landcare members and representatives from local government took part in a course subsidised by the BMRG as part of its water quality Priority Action.

The Natural Resource Management "Fresh Water & River Health" & Water Monitoring Course was held in Gayndah in October and outlined the history of government involvement in Natural Resource Management, regulation, extension, and the new regional arrangements. Participants also learned about the role of vegetation, groundwater, cultivation and the effect of irrigation on salinity.

The parameters for water monitoring, how they relate to the landscape, how to measure them and how they affect the freshwater ecosystem were also discussed.





# Burnett Mary Regional Group

...for Natural Resource Management Inc

## Looking after Country

### Aboriginal Representation a Priority Action Issue

Aboriginal representation is a major issue. Michelle Maloney has been visiting Aboriginal people of the Burnett Mary to talk about their representation and involvement as a Priority Action.

"Indigenous Engagement" is not just about being involved in other people's projects. It is about finding ways to involve the Government and others in helping community-based programs.

Michelle's talks built upon earlier WAMP consultation and were used at a meeting of representatives in November 2004 to talk about interim representation on the BMRG Board while we take the time to get long-term Aboriginal representation right in the management of the natural resources in the Burnett Mary Region.

### The November Forum

A forum was held in Bundaberg over two days in November to discuss Aboriginal representation in the Burnett Mary Region.

The meeting was attended by 35 people from some of the mobs of the Wakka Wakka, Butchulla, Gurang Gurang, Taribelang Bunda and Kabbi Kabbi, including Aboriginal representatives from Cherbourg and Gayndah councils and Central Queensland Region of ATSIC.

Fitzroy Basin Elders, invited as observers, spoke about their work in Rockhampton. Presentations were also given on how Aboriginal groups in South East Queensland and Condamine Alliance Regions were represented in regional planning and looking after country business.

People agreed a voice on the BMRG Board was very important and a representative framework needed to be developed that recognised each mob's right to speak for their traditional countries.

### Aboriginal River Forum

An Aboriginal River Forum is planned for Bundaberg during the 2005 mullet season.

The gathering will bring guest speakers, families and neighbouring Traditional Owners together to talk about river country.

### Sounds and Stories of Burnett River Country

Funds have been obtained from Envirofund to produce a CD set of sound, pictures and stories depicting the importance of river country to Indigenous people.

The project is being jointly organised by BMRG and Central Queensland University, which will work closely with Aboriginal people to get a clear snapshot of their connection with river country as a living culture.

If you are interested or want to know more call Viv Sinnamon (Wondai) on 4169 0720 or Karl Neuenfeldt (Bundaberg) on 4150 7019.

### Contact with grassroots programs

Dhugamin CDEP will host members of the RCG and BMRG Board in an exchange between Scrub Hill Community Farm at Hervey Bay and representatives of Cherbourg involved in community development and land management programs.

Scrub Hill Community Farm is a successful joint Aboriginal Community initiative of Korrawinga Aboriginal Corporation and Dhugamin CDEP. The program includes ventures in organic farming, native flower and tea-tree oil production, cultural tourism, overseas exchanges, natural cosmetics production and community child care.

The event is being funded by one of the State level activities focusing on partnership development under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, known as CBO7.

### Cherbourg Land Management Activities

Cherbourg Council has employed a coordinator and a team of six Trainee Land Management Officers to work on projects throughout Cherbourg Aboriginal Lands.

The Cherbourg NRM Team has had talks with BMRG and attended the Childers Water Quality Monitoring Workshop. The team also travelled to Mackay where Indigenous NRM workers showed them how to use water monitoring equipment.

Talks with BMRG will continue this year about the team's involvement in water quality work in the local Barker and Barambah Creek system.

It was great to hear the Cherbourg School, P&C and Elders have been talking with a couple of different government agencies about a Cultural Learning Centre in the forest for students and Elders. They have been successful in getting some early funding to help develop the idea.

The Wondai Road property project sponsored by Silver Lining has appointed Colin Fewquondie as Manager and John Murundi as on-ground Coordinator for the Aboriginal Advisory Group for the Program.

A meeting and walk of the property will be held in February 2005 to bring together a team of minds to talk with Silver Lining Project Aboriginal Advisory Committee about their plans for the future and property management planning.

### Envirofund Information Tour

An information tour to explain the Envirofund Program was organised by Viv Sinnamon (BMRG), Ashton Berry (Federal Facilitator, Hervey Bay), Leah Saltner (Aboriginal Land Management Facilitator, Brisbane) and Michelle Maloney.

The group visited Cherbourg and Eidsvold to meet groups interested in hearing about the program. Talks have also been held with representatives from K'gari and Scrub Hill Farm at Hervey Bay.

### National Indigenous Land Care Awards

Congratulations to Taribelang Bunda mob. Jason Brown travelled to Canberra as a nominee for the Healing the Land Program at Paddy's Island in Bundaberg. Congratulations also to the Shark Bay mob in Western Australia who won the award.



## BMRG Board Oversees Progress

The BMRG Board of Directors at its first meeting, photographed with Executive Officer Dr Deborah L Scott.

Directors are (from left to right, seated) Tom Bancroft, Peter McIntosh, Harry Bonanno,

Randal McLellan, Kevin Mahoney, (standing) Trevor Harvey, Deborah Scott, Margaret Thompson, Tim Thornton, Linda Silburn and Darryl Stewart. (Anthony Ricciardi was absent).

The board will decide soon on a date for the BMRG Annual General Meeting, which is expected to take place in March.

## Leading Speakers Headline Symposium

A leading environmental scientist and an investigative journalist from the ABC Television program Four Corners were among the identities who engaged the public in Natural Resource Management at the BMRG Regional Symposium in December.

The symposium, "Farmland to Fraser: How to grow a region - science + community", featured Dr John Williams from the Wentworth Group as its keynote speaker.

The Wentworth Group received extensive media coverage following the release of its "Blueprint for a Living Continent" in November 2002, which delivered a message for fundamental environmental reform.

Well-known identity Ticky Fullerton, an investigative journalist from ABC's Four Corners program, also featured as a guest dinner speaker during the two-day program.

A host of speakers representing local government, community groups, NRM bodies, the Indigenous sector, and scientific perspectives also featured on the program.

The symposium, which was open to all at no cost, was attended by more than 70 people from throughout the Burnett Mary Region.

Sessions included Lifestyle and Heritage, Sustainable Use, The Way Forward and Best Practice NRM, featuring Dr Williams, with a performance by an Indigenous Dance Troupe from the Gooreng Gooreng people proving a highlight of the symposium dinner.



*Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries representative Andrew Berghuis delivers his presentation, entitled "Provision of fish passage beyond weirs, what else do we need to do?"*

## Salinity Highlighted in Annual Event

Participants throughout the region highlighted the seriousness of salinity as a natural resource management issue during Saltwatch Snapshot 2004 in October.

Saltwatch is an annual event that encourages hands-on involvement from the Queensland community in the fight against salinity.

Community participants can test water samples from any local water source, including dams, rivers, streams, water holes and bores.

Local data is then collated by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, alongside that of other participants across the state, enabling the production of maps for the participating group's interpretation and discussion.

Saltwatch coincided with National Water Week, and is run as a "snapshot monitoring event" driven by Queensland's community-based waterway monitoring network and supported by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Queensland has more than 50,000ha of land already severely salinised with more than 3.1 million ha considered at risk of salinisation.

Further information on Queensland salinity issues is available from <http://nrm.dnr.qld.gov.au/salinity/index.html>

This Department of Natural Resources and Mines site provides information on research into salinity management and current salinity programs, including the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAPSWQ).

This site also provides links to NRM Fact Sheets about salinity and salinity hazard maps.

A CD of proceedings from the National Dryland Salinity Conference in Bendigo in August is available for Members from the BMRG Resource Library.

Conference papers are also available, as well as additional CDs, National Dryland Salinity Program - Managing Dryland Salinity in Australia and Sustainable Primary Industries Research Report 2001.

The information was gained after BMRG provided \$500 to be used to send Kingaroy Shire Council NRM Officer Leanne Petersen to the conference.

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The success of the Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation (BIEDO) has been used as an international case study. The group recently hosted guests from Saudi Arabia, who visited them as a case study for a successful community development approach. Congratulations to BIEDO on the recognition!

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Information and updates on the Grazing Land Management Program were part of the agenda of the Burnett Mary National Landcare Program Project Officer Meeting at the Brian Pastures Research Station in Gayndah in November. The meeting was attended by Project Officers from 11 Landcare groups. First quarter results of the National Landcare Program included 11 workshops and three landholder toolkits at printing stage.

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## On-ground Work Funded

Fourteen projects spread throughout the Burnett Mary Region have been successful in the first round of the Australian Government Envirofund for 2004-2005.

The grants are to undertake an on-ground project or to help recipients increase their skills and knowledge about environmental protection.

Fourteen groups in the Burnett Mary region have been granted funds to undertake effective on-ground work such as tree planting, fencing and weeding to target local problems such as riparian degradation, the protection of native vegetation and the conservation of threatened native species.

Projects funded include:

- Protection and Enhancement of Riparian Vegetation along 6km of the Stuart River - Gary and Sharon Barbour
- Implementation of Riparian Management Activities along the Mary River - D.R. Burnett & R.M. Burnett, Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation
- Native Vegetation Fencing at Hanging Rock Creek Nature Refuge, Kilkivan - Michael and Isabella Cox
- Implementing the Mary River Cod Recovery Plan through Community Action - Mary River Catchment Coordination Association
- Indigenous Bush Food, Medicine and Native Vegetation Corridor - Gayndah District Land Care Group
- Landholder Capacity Building with On-Ground Riparian Restoration for Obi Creek - Barung Landcare Association
- Approved Adoption of Best Practice Nutrient Management: Bundaberg Sugar - Burnett Catchment Care Association

- Source to Sea - Sounds and Stories of Burnett River Country - Source to Sea Project Group, Central Queensland University
- Revegetation of High Profile Riverbank in Gympie - Albert Bowls Club, Gympie and District Landcare Group
- Demonstration of Cost Effective Control of Riverbank Erosion in Gympie - Mr Vince Brennan, Gympie and District Landcare Group
- Fencing to Protect Biodiversity Values - Lindsay and Noela Titmarsh, Hervey Bay City Council
- Restoration and Protection of Riparian and Dry Vine Scrub Vegetation in Baldwin Swamp, Bundaberg - Friends of Baldwin Swamp
- Management and Protection of Significant Vegetation Communities, Riparian Zones and the Rehabilitation of Gully Erosion Areas - Kingaroy Landcare
- Gully Erosion Control and Protection and Restoration of Dry Vine Forest Remnant within the Barker Creek Catchment - D.G. Petersen & L.G. Petersen

Congratulations to all recipients.

Envirofund, the community component of the Australian Government's \$3 billion Natural Heritage Trust, will activate 684 projects nationally totalling \$8.4 million in its first round of funding.

Applications for the next round of Envirofund close at 5pm on Friday, 18 February, 2005. For application forms, phone 1800 065 823 or visit [www.nht.gov.au](http://www.nht.gov.au)

## Calendar of Events

Event	Time	Location
Sustainability Month	February 2005	More information at <a href="http://www.sustainabilitymonth.org">www.sustainabilitymonth.org</a>
World Wetlands Day	Wednesday, 2 February 2005	More information at <a href="http://www.ramsar.org">www.ramsar.org</a>
BMRG Board Meeting	Wednesday, 2 February 2005	Contact: BMRG 07 4132 8333, <a href="mailto:admin@burnettmarynrm.org.au">admin@burnettmarynrm.org.au</a>
The 4th National Waterwatch Conference, Navigating the Rapids	Monday 7-Thursdays 10 February 2005	University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus. For more information, download the brochure at <a href="http://www.waterwatch.org.au/conference.html">http://www.waterwatch.org.au/conference.html</a>
Burnett Catchment Care Association Meeting	Tuesday, 8 February 2005	Gayndah Shire Supper Room
Planning, Designing and Rating A Sustainable Built Environment. A half day forum by the CRC for Construction Innovation and Brisbane City Council.	Thursday, 10 February 2005 2-6pm	Brisbane City Hall, 1st Floor, Windsor Room
Business Clean Up Day	Tuesday, 1 March 2005	More information at <a href="http://www.cleanup.com.au">www.cleanup.com.au</a>
National Landcare Facilitator Community Conference, Landcare - Linking Science to Paddocks	Wednesday 2-Friday 4 March 2005	Geelong, Victoria.
Schools' Clean Up Day	Friday, 4 March 2005	More information at <a href="http://www.cleanup.com.au">www.cleanup.com.au</a>
Clean Up Australia Day	Sunday, 6 March 2005	More information at <a href="http://www.cleanup.com.au">www.cleanup.com.au</a>
Sea Week	Sunday 6 - Sunday 13 March 2005	More information at <a href="http://www.mesa.edu/">www.mesa.edu/</a>
BMRG Annual General Meeting	Mid March - TBC	Contact: BMRG 07 4132 8333, <a href="mailto:admin@burnettmarynrm.org.au">admin@burnettmarynrm.org.au</a>
SEQ Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) Forum - Community and Government protecting natural values - making it work	Thursday, 17 March 2005	Brisbane
Banksia Environmental Awards 2005 - "Transformation through education". Categories for individuals, community and business groups and government organisations	Closing date for submissions Thursday, 24 March 2005	Full details at <a href="http://www.banksiafdn.com/index.php?page=10">www.banksiafdn.com/index.php?page=10</a> Finalists notified by Friday, 15 April 2005



**Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc**

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