



Local Government Clusters Sign On

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Local Government Authorities in the Burnett Inland South and the Burnett East Clusters were the first to sign historic Memoranda of Understanding with the BMRG during the official Plan launch ceremony last month.

The Burnett Inland North and Mary Clusters are expected to follow suit soon.

Under the agreements, the salary and on-costs of a full-time equivalent LGA Natural Resource Management Officer in each of four sub-regional clusters will be co-supported by BMRG and the LGAs.

Many of the Mayors of all four Clusters were present for the launch and both Kilkivan Shire Mayor Ron Dyne and Bundaberg City Mayor Kay McDuff addressed the function before the signing by their partner LGAs.

South Inland Burnett Local Government Association chair Cr Dyne, a self-confessed man of few words, thanked those involved for allowing smaller councils of his area the opportunity to actively participate.

"This plan has committed us to be part and parcel of the improvement for our environment in this area – and that's critical for all of us," he said.

BMRG Executive Officer Dr Deborah L Scott



Representatives for the Burnett East Cluster (from left) Kolan Mayor Eddie Stone, Isis Mayor Bill Trevor, Biggenden Mayor Betty Johnson, Burnett Deputy Mayor Maurice Chapman and Bundaberg Mayor Kay McDuff take part on the day. (Not present – Miriam Vale Shire Council.)

replied paying tribute to the smaller councils of the South Inland Burnett as "leaders in our region" for their example of working together.

She said they had already formed an association – "a natural cluster" – which BMRG recognised as a foundation for involving local government in a meaningful way in a regional plan.

Cr McDuff spoke about the importance of the day and how Bundaberg City was in the unique position as the largest urban centre in the Burnett East Cluster with the smallest rural area.

She explained that while this meant its impact on the environment, and in particular the Burnett River, may be different to others on a number of issues, they all shared common problems too.

She believed the MoU would facilitate the planning to maintain or improve natural resource management in the area to preserve our "enviable lifestyle".

"Informed and holistic decision-making by an engaged regional community will, long-term, sustain our lifestyle, industry and environment," she said.

The proposed LGA model is detailed in the BMRG's Natural Resource Management Plan, Country to Coast ... A Healthy Sustainable Future, and will contribute to the resource condition target (RCT) that Local Government is recognised and appropriately resourced as a leader in NRM by 2015.



(From left) Nanango Shire Mayor Reg McCallum, Murgon Shire Mayor Warren Hubner, Kilkivan Shire Mayor Ron Dyne, and Wondai Shire Mayor David Carter sign the MoU for the Burnett Inland South Cluster. (Included in this cluster but not present on the day are Kingaroy Shire Council and Cherbourg Community Council.)



Burnett Mary Regional Group

...for Natural Resource Management Inc

Dear Members and stakeholders,

Do you think that a return to having government-run NRM investment will be an improvement?

Do you think that NHT2 regional arrangements in Queensland have been given a chance to see if it brings better positive impacts and cost-efficiencies?

If your answer to either question is NO, please let your opinion be heard by following the links below.

Your opinion is vital.

Currently, the future options (post June 2007) for community engagement in regional natural resource management are being considered.

Last month, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines announced the release of the discussion paper on Options for future community engagement in regional natural resource management.

This paper is currently available on the regionalnrm website at (http://www.regionalnrm.qld.gov.au/options_paper/index.html) and your response can be registered via a link to the online survey at (<http://www.esurveys.com.au/getinvolved/naturalresources>).

Responses can also be made in writing to:

**The General Manager
Strategic Policy and Regional
Arrangements
Department of Natural Resources and
Mines
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001
Or by faxing your response to 07 3224
2363**

The deadline for community input is 24 June 2005. Your support for your Association and the current arrangements will be greatly appreciated. Please call any of our offices or Board members if you would like to discuss the options or need assistance in making a submission.
Kind regards



Deb Scott

Looking after Our Land, Sea and River Country

The Burnett Mary Regional Group hosted a forum in Bundaberg in March for Aboriginal people to talk about ways to be better heard and actively involved in the management of Burnett and Mary River country.

The gathering followed on from a meeting in Bundaberg in November last year. During both gatherings, people talked about common problems in becoming actively involved and being heard in the many different planning and management processes for land, sea and river country that have happened over the past few years.

The two main issues spoken about during the forum were:

- ✦ How to get a strong representation to the Board level of BMRG.
- ✦ How to develop a good representative group that recognises and supports Traditional Owners doing their own business on country.

Another issue raised was how to get a clearer understanding of levels of governance in planning and management processes. That is how do all the processes work and fit together? The need for strategic planning skills and a shared long-term vision for Aboriginal people in the region was also identified.

Getting beyond personal conflicts, finding a shared vision, moving from the experiences

of old consultations to be involved in the new process, inclusion, communication, getting support, and the different levels of capacity were also points of discussion.

Directors on the BMRG board attended a workshop at the gathering with their Independent Chair to explain how the Board of Management works. The Executive Officer gave a talk and answered questions on the organisation's constitution.

Phil Rist, Executive Officer of Giringun Aboriginal Corporation in Cardwell, spoke about the development of strong Aboriginal organisations and representation. Phil is a Board Member of the Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Body, an organisation like the Burnett Mary Regional Group. His talk was very well received.

On the second day, an Interim Working Group was established by the Community Representative Group (those who attended the forum). This is acknowledged as a good start to achieving everyone's shared goal of appropriate Aboriginal involvement in the regional arrangements.

The next forum was to be at the Tropical Gardens Motor Inn, Bundaberg, on May 30 and 31. For more information contact Viv Sinnamon, BMRG Aboriginal and Indigenous Coordinator – 4169 0720 or 0429 462 039.

Landcare Groups Share Ideas

Collaboration and communication were the strong themes to come out of a regional Landcare meeting held in Gympie, in mid March.

Gympie District Landcare Group (GDLG) played host to a get together of groups from right across the Burnett Mary region.

From the region's newest group Boyne Landcare Group based at Durong to some of the oldest and largest, representatives spoke of the importance of getting together to share ideas.

Sam Morris from Queensland Landcare Foundation gave an informative presentation on how to find funding, write funding applications, and how to acquire funding.

Queensland Land and Water Carers Directors Esma Armstrong and Paul Marshall gave an update on Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWALC) business. The meeting also unanimously endorsed Paul Marshall's nomination on the Landcare Australia Limited board.

A great day was had by all and the BMRG sincerely thank GDLG for doing such a super job of hosting the day.



Representatives at the Regional Landcare Meeting in March.



Our Main Vision is Realised

Over the past two years the Burnett Mary Regional Group has worked tirelessly to develop our Natural Resource Management Plan for the region and put together our Regional Investment Strategy to progress into the future.

On 22 April 2005 we had our plan Country to Coast – A Healthy Sustainable Future launched by the Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Warren Truss MP with the approval of the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, the Hon Stephen Robertson MP.

Now we move into the implementation phase. Our Executive Officer and Staff must be congratulated for their mammoth efforts in the planning process. The willing community support that has been evident in developing our plan will help us to actively achieve our management actions addressing the cause of the threats to our resources rather than using stop-gap measures to cover the symptoms.

We have now also successfully implemented a formal partnership agreement or Memorandum of Understanding with the Burnett Inland South and Burnett East Local Government Authorities (LGA) and we are well on the way to formal arrangements with the Burnett Inland North and Mary Local Government Authorities. This formalises the cooperation between the BMRG and the LGA's as representatives of our communities.

Yours in service to the environment



Harry R Bonanno
Independent Chair

Regional Partnerships to Keep It Great

The Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management (BMRG) has joined forces with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) to help protect the Reef into the future.

GBRMPA National Education Manager Angela Colliver said the partnership would see the BMRG become the first regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) body in Australia to be used as a partner in the Authority's Reef Guardian Schools program.

BMRG will provide \$10,000 a year to promote environmentally friendly activities and educate students about one of the nation's most cherished icons.

Six schools in the Burnett Mary region have been named as Reef Guardian Schools: St Mary's College (Maryborough), Sharon State School, Woongarra State School (Bundaberg), Yarrilee State School (Hervey Bay), Burnett Heads State School and Agnes Water State School.

BMRG Executive Officer Dr Deborah L Scott said the new partnership was an excellent way to reach out to the broader community and raise the awareness of residents about their connection to the marine environment.



GBRMPA Communications Coordinator Kate Bowmaker and National Education Manager Angela Colliver supply the latest information on the program to (from back left) BMRG's Administration and Communications Officer Tunja Cottier, Schools, Education and Training Officer Tamara Boland, Coastal and Marine Coordinator Sue Sargent, Community Coordinator Dean Power, Reef Guardian Coordinator from St Mary's College in Maryborough, Bruce King, and BMRG's Aboriginal and Indigenous Coordinator Viv Sinnamon.

Journal Seeks Local Input

Natural Heritage – The Journal of the Natural Heritage Trust highlights the work of local groups who contribute to the success of environmental programs under the Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. The journal comes out quarterly and, if you would like to receive a copy, simply send your name and address to Natural Heritage Mailing List, PO Box 650, Fyshwick ACT 2609 or email heritage@canmail.com.au.

If you or your group are undertaking activities that may be appropriate for an article, BMRG would be happy to provide support to develop a feature article for submission to this nationally distributed journal.

Strong Support at AGM

A wide cross-section of the community was represented among more than 50 attendees at the BMRG Annual General Meeting in March.

During the meeting, BMRG Executive Officer Dr Deborah L Scott spoke about the 2005 election.

The election will be for representatives from the Community Landcare, Local Government – Burnett East and Secondary/Tertiary Industry sectors and nominations from members in these sectors are encouraged.

Formal thanks was offered to all staff for their hard work and commitment to preparing the Integrated Regional NRM Plan and, in other business, both the Executive and the Directors of the Board of Management were formally confirmed.

Those present included representatives from local councils, industry, government agencies, the indigenous community, environmental groups, BMRG staff, directors and members of the public.

Profile on Priority Action Partner – The CEM

The Centre of Environmental Management (CEM) is one of many institutions working in partnership with BMRG on the Priority Actions for this region. In coming newsletters, we will highlight more of these groups.

What is the CEM?

The CEM is a Central Queensland University designated research centre. CEM is a research provider offering integrated, unbiased and impartial advice on the appropriate management of land and water resources.

The Centre aims to conduct research in the regional environment, use the fundamental understanding derived from that research to inform the community and to assist in the management of human influences on the environment.

The vision of the Centre is: Provision of research skills and knowledge to allow regional development to achieve environmentally sustainable goals.

What do they do?

The Centre works with organisations, and primary and secondary industry, to provide a clear environmental picture of the area in which they operate.

The group is running the Water Quality, Rivercare and Biodiversity assessments for the Burnett Basin and near coastal waters. Staff include Dr Alistair Melzer, Dr Kevin Wormington, Victoria Rogers and sub-contractor Dr Bert Bamberg.

The CEM functions through a range of disciplines, providing expertise in the fields of Marine Ecology, Terrestrial Ecology, Exotoxicology and Freshwater Aquatic Ecology.

Director of the CEM, Dr Alistair Melzer, is a terrestrial ecologist with expertise in plant and animal ecology. His personal research interests lie in the ecology of koalas, the capacity of fragmented landscapes to sustain fauna and the indicators of rehabilitation success.



Alistair Melzer (centre) Victoria Rogers and Bert Bamberg see first hand the weed problems being faced at Barambah Creek.

Barambah Creek – a Case in Point

Barambah Creek is just one of many in our region facing the effects of our actions – and our inactions according to Dr Melzer.

He says that with its banks littered with piles of decomposing Salvinia weed, and its water surface covered in it, the creek is another all-too visible outcome of not looking holistically at natural resource management in our region.

"What we are seeing is the inevitable end point of the extensive settlement and use of our lands," he said.

"It is not any one person's fault – nor am I saying it is in total collapse.

"However this basin has had a long history of farming and families using it, and it has been fully exploited, as have many other drainage basins in Australia.

"The waterways are stressed from that utilisation and we need to be aware of that and modify our practices to sustain both our lifestyle and our waterways."

Share Your Successes

All organisations depend on the quality of their membership – and BMRG is no different.

In the coming months, we would like to highlight some of the achievements and objectives of our amazing member groups in a series of member and partner profiles.

This is an opportunity for your fellow BMRG members to get to know you better.

So if you would like to feature your views as an individual member of BMRG or your group's achievements and what they are doing, please contact Communication and Administration Officer Tunja Cottier.

Contribute to Photo Library

Do you have a photo of your town's cityscape, landscapes, or native plants and animals?

BMRG is establishing a photo library documenting the unique characteristics and beauty of our diverse region.

If you have an image you would like to share with us and you are happy for it to be used in future publications, please contact the BMRG office.

War Declared on Weeds

The development of a Regional Weed Management Strategy for the Burnett Mary region is under way with stakeholder workshops recently held in Gayndah, Bundaberg and Gympie. A review of the region's existing management plans, priorities and practices is being compiled.

When completed, the Management Strategy will incorporate all known aquatic and terrestrial invasive weed species occurring in the region, identify their distribution and prioritise actions to best complement existing weed management.

Current management practices will be reviewed and incorporated into a framework for Integrated Weed Management which will address Declared, Environmental and Economic Weeds across the region.

To progress the strategy, the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) has engaged the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC). Weeds CRC Project Manager Scott Edwards said consultation had begun with stakeholders including primary producers, landholders, environmental organisations (Landcare, Bushcare and community groups), and State and Local Government bodies with land management responsibilities. This consultation aims to identify the priority actions for weed management that will provide the 'best bang for the buck' by the BMRG.

Following the first round of workshops, a wide range of weed issues and perspectives of how best to address their management has been compiled. This will be provided to stakeholders for comment, followed by a second round of workshops to detail priority actions.

The difficulty is finding the middle ground that will best address the wide range of weed issues and impacts in the region. When complete, the strategic plan will –

- ≪ provide a detailed list of invasive weed species in the region;
- ≪ identify priority species and management actions based on current and potential impacts;
- ≪ provide a framework for the integrated management of these species throughout the region and across the full range of stakeholders.

It is important to note this strategy complements existing weed management in the region.

For further detail, or to provide information on Invasive Weed Species in your area, please contact: Scott Edwards, Project Manager: Weeds Strategies, CRC for Australian Weed Management. Mob: 0437 520 293; Ph: 07 3896 9298; Fax: 07 3896 9623; Email: scott.edwards@nrm.qld.gov.au

Searching for Landcare Heroes

Landcare Australia is calling all environmental heroes to step forward and nominate for the prestigious 2005-2006 National Landcare Awards.

The search is on for local projects and people who have done something to help save Australia's precious land and water resources.

Ten categories covering everything from schools, local government, individuals and primary producers are now open for nominations.

According to Landcare Australia's Chief Executive Brian Scarsbrick, there are more than 4000 landcare groups in all states and territories and the awards are designed to salute the literally thousands of unsung heroes of the Landcare movement.

"The immune system of Australia is breaking down. So much has to be done. That's why our Landcare movement is so vital. It's critical we salute the people who are doing something positive," he said.

"We've lost many of our wetlands. Our land and water is severely degraded. We're losing soil at a much faster rate than it can ever be formed.

"We've lost 20 billion trees since 1788. The indicators are that some of our rivers will have undrinkable water in the coming years."

Last year's finalists clocked up a remarkable 35,000 hours of voluntary time on Landcare projects, and planted a staggering 14 million trees, shrubs and grasses.

All state and territory winners will be flown to the National Landcare awards.

Full details are available at www.landcareaustralia.com.au.

School Embraces Nature

Tin Can Bay P-10 State School has started to develop an environmental policy for the school. The school, nestled in Cooloola's magnificent bushland, has about 520 students and a growing population in the area may see the school expand to Year 12 by the end of the decade.



The policy will allow the school to incorporate the natural environment into the school's landscaping, as well as introducing it into the curriculum.

Tin Can Bay's Environment Committee convened a workshop in April to discuss the framework for the policy. The meeting was facilitated by BMRG Coastal and Marine Coordinator Sue Sargent.

Peter Baker, Principal of Tin Can Bay P-10 State School, and Maree Prior, Coordinator of Cooloola Coastcare.

BMRG Leverages Statewide Investment for Social Research

To identify ways to form effective partnerships BMRG initiated a research partnership with the School of Natural and Rural Systems Management (NRSM) at University of Queensland (UQ).

Funding of \$15,000 was received under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality Statewide Investment Program in the first round in 2004-2005.

Additional success in the second round call for research proposals will enable BMRG, NRSM and the Centre for Rural and Regional Innovation, Queensland (a consortium of UQ, DPI&F and CSIRO) to extend the research.

The first phase identified and tested opportunities for partnership formation and agreements in selected sectors using interviews, literature review, workshops and piloting agreements.

These investigations will continue in the extension research. Continuing research will also identify capacity building needs.

BMRG has completed several new partnership agreements with the Landcare Sector, Priority Action Program implementers and Local Government Authority Clusters.

The Landcare/BMRG Partnership Agreement developed in 2004 will be used as a working example during the 2005 research trials.

The partnership agreement signed by Landcare groups with

BMRG included a workshop to find common ground for a regional project proposal.

The wording in all of the partnership agreements emphasises the elements of trust, cooperation and respect needed in a partnership agreement.

The processes applied to developing these partnerships will also be assessed to evaluate the effectiveness of approaches during the 2005 research.

Key outcomes sought are:

- an understanding of the readiness of each of the sectors to form partnerships.
- building relationships and trust to consolidate sector groups.
- partnership agreements that meet a 'checklist of excellence'.
- capacity building activities to strengthen relationships and equip sector groups to implement activities.
- multi-party investment activities.



SE03 Research Team
(L to R): Ken Keith (NRSM),
Helen Ross (NRSM), Scott
Goringe (CRRIQ)

Local Projects Secure Funding

The latest round of Envirofund applications has been announced with the Burnett Mary Region community securing more than \$200,000 for 13 worthy projects.

Successful applications include:

- ✦ BJ & GT Semple, Rehabilitating and Protecting Holsworthy Creek Riparian Areas on Wollowra, \$21,481.82
- ✦ Gary and Sharon Barbour, Stuart River Stage 2 Riparian and Water Quality Protection Project, \$8231.82
- ✦ Friends of Baldwin Swamp, Restoration and Protection of Woongarra Scrub Remnants in Baldwin Swamp, Bundaberg, \$8770.05
- ✦ Fred Milham, Paul and Karen O'Neil, Liz Riley, Friends of Commissioner Gully Revegetation Project, \$22,981.82
- ✦ Woongarra Marine Park Monitoring and Education Project, Coastal Biodiversity and Stormwater Management on the Woongarra Coast, \$13,627.27
- ✦ Devils Rugby League Football Club, Gympie Cricket Association, Gympie Recreation Association, Stabilisation of At-Risk High Profile Riverbank in Gympie, \$27,272.73
- ✦ Poona Ratepayers and Progress Association, Poona Remnant Vegetation and Foreshore Planting Project, \$24,310.00
- ✦ Isis Landcare Group, Isis Landcare Weiss Salinity Site – Stage II, \$10,472.73
- ✦ David Quinton Clark, Native Vegetation Protection and Riparian Regeneration on "Latoona", Bellthorpe, \$8477.27
- ✦ Maroochy Landcare Group Inc Enhancing Biodiversity and Improving Water Quality Through Sustainable Natural Resource Management \$3,455.62
- ✦ Noosa and District Landcare Group, Cooroy Creek Riparian Protection and Restoration, Cooroy, \$45,013.64
- ✦ Rainbow Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, Rainbow Beach Fore-dune Stabilisation and Rehabilitation, \$7318.72
- ✦ Gympie and District Landcare Group, Amamoor Creek National Country Music Muster Rehabilitation Project, \$27,272.73

Planning for the Future – Recognising the Region's Coastal and Marine Resources

The EPA is developing a Wide Bay Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan (WBCRCMP) to recognise the coast's resources and manage them sustainably for the future.

The plan, one of 11 for various sections of the Queensland coast, must describe how the coastal zone is to be managed and identify 'coastal management districts' in particular regions. Regional coastal management plans also implement the State Coastal Management Plan's policy framework at the regional level and identify key coastal sites requiring special management within the region.

The Wide Bay Coast extends from the northern boundary of Miriam Vale Shire to the southern boundary of Noosa Shire. It also includes the islands of the Bunker Group: Lamont Reef, Fitzroy Reef, Llewellyn Reef, Boulton Reef, Hoskyn Islands, Fairfax Islands, Lady Musgrave Island and Lady Elliot Island.

But what's special about the Wide Bay Coast? The area has some 500km of coastline including landforms ranging from high-energy surf beaches to extensive sheltered embayments and estuarine areas.

Large dunal formations occur in the Cooloola area and world renowned Fraser Island. Areas such as Tin Can Bay, Great Sandy Strait and Hervey Bay contain extensive mangrove stands, mudflats and seagrass beds supporting substantial populations of dugongs, marine turtles, shore birds and commercially important marine and estuarine fisheries species.

Scenic rocky headlands include Round-Hill Head, Burnett Heads,

Elliott Heads, Indian Head and Waddy Point. Rocky foreshores support a high level of biodiversity and untapped biodiscovery potential.

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area extends into the Wide Bay Coast. Mon Repos and other beaches on the Woongarra Coast, and the northern part of Fraser Island, are major nesting sites for marine turtles. The coast also includes fringing coral reefs offering one of Australia's best shore-based scuba diving and snorkelling sites.

A major nature-based tourism industry exists in the region with tourism centres including the Town of 1770, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Cooloola and Noosa. Significant industries include commercial fishing, grazing, sugar cane farming, commercial forestry and the Port of Bundaberg exporting mainly sugar. Significant Indigenous Traditional Owner and South Sea Islander cultural resources are common throughout the region. Important cultural heritage values are also associated with historical processes such as coastal exploration, early Aboriginal-European contact, coastal navigation, timber-getting, the sugar industry and the positioning of Aboriginal missions and reserves.

BMRG is fully committed to assisting with the development of the WBCRCMP and has nominated Coastal and Marine Management board director Randal McLellan to the WBCRCMP Steering Group. We look forward to liaising with the EPA and all interested Members to ensure their feedback is represented in the development of the plan.

Staffing Restructured

The transition from planning to implementation has led to changes to BMRG's staffing structure in recent months.

Existing staff are taking on new challenges and new faces have joined the BMRG team bringing with them a wealth of valuable knowledge.

Positions are:

Executive Officer	Deborah Scott
Office & Finance Manager	Denise Della-Torre
Executive Assistant	Ruth Nemeth
Administration & Communications Officer	Tunja Cottier
Administrative Assistant	Kerrie Green
Information Management Coordinator	Carolyn Taylor
Water, Education & Training Coordinator	Tamara Boland
Social & Economic Coordinator	Glenda George
Aboriginal & Indigenous Coordinator	Viv Sinnamon
Coastal & Marine Coordinator	Sue Sargent
Land Coordinator	Josephine Kelman
Community Coordinator	Dean Power
Science & Industry Coordinator	Colin McCoull

Staff Profile

Denise Della-Torre
Office and Finance Manager



The desire for a better quality of life for herself, her husband John and 10-year-old daughter Amy led Denise to move to the Burnett Mary Region 12 months ago.

Before this, Denise has had a wealth of experience both in and outside of Australia. Originally born in England, Denise emigrated to New Zealand as a young child.

It was there Denise grew up, married and started her working life as a proof-reader in the print media.

After a break to have a family, Denise retrained and returned to the workforce as a data entry operator when her children started school. One of her managers there recognised her natural talent for accounting and started training Denise for her new career.

Denise moved to Australia in 1988 and worked in Sydney at an engineering firm.

It was a productive time for Denise, which also saw a new addition to her family with the birth of her daughter Amy.

The family is enjoying the Queensland lifestyle with their two canine family members and an acreage at Sharon.

Denise first joined BMRG temporarily in February, but enjoyed it so much she applied for, and was chosen for, the full-time OFM position.

While it is her first time working in the NRM field, Denise says she enjoys knowing she is contributing to the future conservation of the area her family now calls home.



BMRG Community Coordinator Dean Power and consultant Ross Ridge sink monitoring bores which will test water quality and ground water levels, as well as enhance local knowledge of hydrological processes.

Groundwater Monitoring Expands

More than a dozen groundwater monitoring bores are providing groundwater data in a joint initiative between Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM (BMRG), Monto Shire Council and the Monto community.

The drilling will complement a number of shallow groundwater monitoring bores recently established by the BMRG in the Mulgildie Plateau and Luthje road areas.

Under a memorandum of understanding with Monto Shire Council, BMRG is providing funds to assist the community to monitor ground and surface water.

Data and analysis will allow better understanding of local salinity and water quality issues and assist the design of remedial action.

BMRG Executive Officer Dr Deborah L Scott said the Monto region had been identified as a key sub-catchment for monitoring of water quality.

"Our main objective is to ensure landholders and the community get the information they need to best manage the region's spectacular natural resources," she said.

In coming months, initial findings will be presented at a number of community meetings and field days.

Anyone interested in being involved in water monitoring or attending the field days should contact Monto Shire Council on 4466 9999 or BMRG Community Coordinator Dean Power on 0429 328 333

Fine Native Timbers on Show

The beauty of Australian native timber was showcased again at the 10th annual Maleny Wood Expo – from Chainsaw to Fine Furniture.

BMRG was once again a proud sponsor of the festival which highlights the superb work of the region's wood artisans in sustainably harvested native timbers, recycled timbers and weed timbers.

All styles from the finest fine furniture to rough bush furniture were featured over three days at the Maleny showgrounds in May.

The expo was born from Barung Landcare's recognition of the need to educate the general public about the sustainable use of native forest timbers.

Now the expo attracts more than 60 exhibitors and more than 11,000 visitors. The Blackall Range straddles the planning regions of three regional bodies who all participated in an information booth.

Calendar of Events

Event	Time	Location
Reconciliation Week The theme for 2005 is: Reconciliation – take the next step.	Friday, 27 May - Friday, 3 June	www.reconciliationaustralia.org/
The Biennial Cooloola Environmental Awards 2005	Friday, 3 June	Gympie Civic Centre. Further information: Gympie & District Landcare. admin@gympielandcare.org.au
Caboolture Sustainable Living Fair	Saturday, 4 June 10am-4pm	CREEC Centre, 150 Rowley Rd, Burpengary. Further information: Wayne on 3888 8751 or Joe on 3888 1309.
World Environment Day	Sunday, 5 June	www.unep.org/wed/2005/english/index-flash.asp
General Meeting – Lower Mary River Land and Catchment Care Group Inc	Monday, 6 June	Maryborough
Kidzone 2005	Wednesday & Thursday 8 - 9 June	Gympie Showground Pavilion. Further information: Gympie & District Landcare. admin@gympielandcare.org.au
World Day to Combat Drought and Desertification	Friday, 17 June	www.unccd.int/publicinfo/menu.php
Save the Koala Month	July 2005	www.savethekoala.com
NAIDOC 2005 – Our Future Begins with Solidarity	Sunday 3 - Sunday 10 July	www.naidoc.org.au
Schools Tree Day	Friday, 29 July	www.planetark.com/treedaypage.cfm?pageid=6
National Save the Koala Day	Friday, 29 July	www.savethekoala.com
National Tree Day	Friday, 31 July	www.planetark.com/campaignspage.cfm/newsid/3/story.htm
AGM/General Meeting, Lower Mary River Land and Catchment Care Group Inc.	Monday, 1 August	Tony Coutts-Smith's farm - Bonfire and walk around farm Further information: Lower Mary River Land and Catchment Care Group Inc.



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

ACTIVIST 018 1 42 3447

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