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Black Mountain Range on the Mend

An exciting proposal was put forward by Noosa District Landcare Group in the BMRG's first round of implementation funding. The proposal aims to improve biodiversity by protecting and restoring vegetation in the Cooroy, Blackfellow and Happy Jack Creek sub-catchments, all of which are linked by the Black Mountain Range.

The proposal also fits clearly within the aims of the Country to Coast NRM plan by working to improve water quality, manage land based weeds and improve both terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity in our region.

Currently the riparian zone along Cooroy, Blackfellow and Happy Jack Creeks, although continuous, is narrow, leaving it highly vulnerable to rapid degradation. There is a need to increase the width of the riparian zone to ensure ecological thresholds are not crossed and further degradation within each catchment is greatly reduced.

It is also important to establish corridors of vegetation linking differing regional ecosystems (designated vegetation communities) to enable seasonal and regular migratory movement within the catchments, particularly from lowland to upland areas. This will also improve the ease with which wildlife can move during flood and drought events.

Noosa & District Landcare will be working with over 40 local landholders to safeguard bank stability and to improve the existing water quality of each catchment. Fencing of vegetation along each water course and the strategic positioning of off stream watering points will also limit livestock access to each waterway, therefore reducing current rates of stream bank erosion, disturbance of creek beds and consequential increases in sediment loads.

Working with landholders in achieving this aim is not only practical but allows for greater insight into the issues and a long-term improvement in the management of this area.



Landholder Harry Kirk beside one of the fig specimens on his property.

The Project Officer appointed to coordinate these activities is Joel Bolzenius. Please contact either Joel (NDLG 5485 2468) or Josie Kelman (Biodiversity team leader, BMRG 5483 7718), if you would like more information about the project.

Monto Hosts New BMRG Office

The Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc (BMRG) celebrated the official opening of the North Inland Burnett Office in Monto on Saturday, 13 August.

Celebrations took place at the Monto Public Library where the BMRG Team was joined by local BMRG members, BMRG Board Directors past and present, as well as the broader community. Deputy Mayor Trevor Gleeson, on behalf of the Mayor of Monto Shire Council, spoke on the significance of the strong partnership that Council has with BMRG and the importance of community involvement in natural resource management.

Roseanne Campbell, Chair of the Burnett Catchment Care Association, Northern Catchment, addressed the gathering, as well as Les Turner, President of the North Burnett Landcare Group. Dean Power, BMRG's Community Coordinator based in the Monto Office, detailed on-ground activities happening in the Upper Burnett catchment, including Water Quality

Monitoring, and the need for involvement from local landholders and the community to carry out these vital works.

Dr Deborah Scott, BMRG Executive Officer, thanked Monto Shire Council for providing the office accommodation and spoke of the importance of protecting the natural assets of the North Inland Burnett. The new BMRG office aims to target natural resource management issues in the area and serve as a facilitating link between landholders, community groups, government and other stakeholders.

BMRG Community Coordinator, based in the Monto Office, Dean Power, details on-ground activities at the Monto office opening.



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Coastal Vegetation to be Preserved

The biodiversity values of more than 300 hectares of the Bargara Pasture Reserve will be targeted for conservation through a partnership agreement between the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc (BMRG) and Burnett Shire Council.

The site, which is used as a local grazing reserve, contains large areas of remnant vegetation and has been identified by Council as a significant opportunity for recreational use and conservation.

The project has received funding under BMRG's Priority Action Plan 3.4, dealing with Native Vegetation.

BMRG will support the council to summarise and build on existing information, as well as identify what further information is needed to effectively manage the area for multiple uses.

Any current information gaps will be addressed by surveying and assessing the natural areas of the reserve and identifying locations in which works should begin.

The planning process also will involve designing options for cattle exclusion zones and potential reduction in herd size before the process enters its public consultation phase.

This project will build on considerable local community group input and existing Council works.

Silver Lining for Aboriginal Project

BMRG has joined an active and exciting community initiated partnership established by Silver Lining Foundation with members of the Aboriginal Community, Cherbourg Aboriginal Council, Wondai Shire Council, Edmund Rice Foundation, Catholic Education, Murgon State School and, more recently, Green Corps.

In March, Silver Lining Foundation (SLF) and its Indigenous Advisory Group from Cherbourg met staff of BMRG and DPI&F to talk about ways they could get help in planning the development of their 500-acre Barambah Creek frontage property between Murgon and Wondai.

Arrangements were made to develop a partnership between the groups. BMRG and DPI&F will help SLF to develop property management plans that incorporate all of the social, economic and environmental objectives.

Silver Lining and its Indigenous Advisory Group have been planning the development of a facility to cater for the special educational needs of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth of the Murgon/Wondai area.

Facilities are being built on the ironbark ridge overlooking the Barambah Creek frontage. The facilities are almost complete and ready for

rehabilitation and landscaping works by a Green Corps Team that will include young people from Cherbourg as part of their broader activities in the region.

A MoU was negotiated mid-year between the groups and future meetings planned to coincide with SLF's own strategic planning processes.

BMRG provided property scale air photos to assist in property management planning. DPI&F's Dave Brown helped facilitate and provide an understanding of how the air photos could be used.

Issues of stock management on the property and the development of materials for further planning and action will be the focus of future meetings, including a SLF planning retreat later in the year in the Bunya Mountains.

Members of the Silver Lining Indigenous Advisory Group, Ian Saltner, Beryl Gambrill and Mischia Fisher from Cherbourg, look at an air photo of the Foundations 500 acre property between Wondai and Murgon.



Indigenous Representation on Board of Management

The induction of BMRG's first interim indigenous directors on to the Board of Management was a feature of the Board Meeting in August.

The inductions of Lurlene Henderson, of the Kabi Kabi people, and Mal Collinge, of the Djakunde & Jangerie Jangerie Corporation, followed a concerted two-year consultation period to encourage and support indigenous representation.

Leading up to this momentous occasion, BMRG has held a series of Aboriginal Representation Forums and undertaken extensive consultation with the Indigenous Community.

The new board members will represent the interests of the Indigenous Community in the region in relation to Natural Resource Management.

Lurlene and Mal performed their first official duties at the meeting by accepting certificates of donation of two computer systems from BMRG Independent Chair Harry Bonanno on behalf of the Kabi Kabi People and Bundaberg Media Aboriginal Corporation.

Following an upgrade to some of its computers, the BMRG decided to donate the computers to community groups in the region.

The group received Expressions of Interest from several associations in the Burnett Mary region and will donate three computer systems in total.

Gayndah Landcare also was chosen to receive a computer system.



Lurlene Henderson and Mal Collinge perform their first official duty as Interim Board Members of BMRG by accepting certificates of donation of two computer systems from Independent Chair Harry Bonanno.

Getting Coastal with Water Quality Monitoring

Under the water quality Priority Action Plan 2, the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) and Centre for Environmental Management (CEM) undertook a review of State, Local Government and 'community' water quality data in the Burnett Mary region.

One finding was that little was known about estuaries and marine waters. The Baffle, Burnett, Burrum and Mary have some estuarine EPA ambient water quality monitoring.

Other rivers and estuaries have very limited data from local government, industry and community groups or ad hoc data gathered for other purposes. Monitoring includes environmentally referable activities where data could be considered 'sensitive' or commercial in confidence and Seagrass Watch.

As a part of *Country to Coast – a healthy, sustainable future*, BMRG has committed to improve coastal and marine water quality monitoring networks aligned to GBRMPA and EPA data collection by 2007.

As a start, two groups have been provided with priority action plan funding to strengthen current estuarine and marine water quality monitoring.

Woongarra Marine Park Monitoring & Education Project (WMPMEP) is undertaking a review and gap analysis



Sherry O'Brien, Project Officer, Woongarra Marine Park Monitoring and Education Project measuring ambient estuarine water quality adjacent to the Bulk Sugar Terminal at the Port of Bundaberg (Burnett River) using a Horiba water quality probe. Project Officers and volunteers monitor water quality monthly at six sites in the river and along the adjacent Woongarra Marine Park. Monitoring usually requires a 6am start - hence why Sherry is rugged up in this August photo!

of current regional marine water quality monitoring, including its own program. From this study, it will prepare a plan for expanded marine water quality monitoring effort between Tannum Sands and Burrum Heads.

The group will provide training and support to two trial programs for three-month trials before undertaking a full trial of up to six sampling nodes along the coast for a further three months. A review of this program will inform future investment.

Friends of the Burrum River System Group (FBRSG) will shortly commence pilot surveys of spatial and temporal variation in estuarine water quality during dry weather conditions in the Gregory, Isis, Cherwell and Burrum Rivers. They will also assess the impacts of flood inflows on water quality in the Burrum estuary.

FBRSG will undertake routine monitoring of the estuary to increase coverage and complement the EPA monthly monitoring program. The group is also planning a 'Burrum Catchment Crawl' to build capacity through a shared learning experience.

A Coastal Water Quality Alliance has been formed for the Lower Mary, Great Sandy Strait and Burrum supported by BMRG and State Level Activity WQO5. The alliance has met twice and participated in a training workshop on the development of water quality monitoring plans.

They will develop a proposal to support their technical and coordination needs. Alliance members include local government, industry, community groups and schools.

For more information, please contact BMRG at admin@burnettmarynm.org.au.



LRAM consultant Peter Shields demonstrates the use of water monitoring equipment at a groundwater bore site during the Dry Land Salinity Field Day.

Salt and Water

More than 25 people attended a salinity and water quality field day hosted by the North Burnett Landcare group in Monto last month. The group visited several salinity outbreaks and both BMRG and DNR&M groundwater monitoring sites in the Mulgildie Plateau and Luthje Road areas.

Mr Bruce Pearce from DNR&M discussed the findings of the SA 02 State Wide Groundwater Investigations program which integrated monitoring with BMRG investigations. Mr Pearce provided chip samples collected in the drilling process which allowed participants to visualise the various layers of geology at each of the sites.

Mr Peter Shields of Land Resource Assessment and Management Pty Ltd demonstrated the use of water quality monitoring equipment supplied to the Monto community by the BMRG. At a number of the sites, participants got to try their hand at using the new equipment.

Discussions during the day highlighted that not enough is currently known to accurately predict the threat posed by dryland salinity in the Monto area. Several times the point was made that it was vitally important for data to be shared between all stakeholders. All agreed that it was important to continue to research the problem and several community members indicated their enthusiasm to participate in community based water quality monitoring.

Surface water was also discussed and monitored during the course of the day. A plan for BMRG to install a network of rising stage samplers to sample major rainfall events across the Burnett was outlined and well received by the group.

North Burnett Landcare President Mr Les Turner said he was delighted with the attendance and hoped more activity would lead to an understanding of salinity, water quality and other sustainable land use issues.



Burnett Mary Regional Group

...for Natural Resource Management Inc

Local Government Partnerships Strengthened

The Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc (BMRG) is working to support Local Government Authorities (LGAs) during the implementation of the region's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan *Country to Coast – A Healthy Sustainable Future*.

In addition to activity specific devolved grants and incentives, BMRG has established a Local Government Support Network (LGSN) to further strengthen partnership arrangements between LGAs and BMRG.

The BMRG is co-sponsoring the salary and on-costs of four full-time equivalent LGA Natural Resource Management Officers with specific sub-regional responsibilities. These positions will work closely with BMRG staff who have primary responsibility for the LGA sector. These positions will also be fully integrated into BMRG business and will receive relevant training at BMRG's cost.

LGAs in the region have formed natural clusters for a variety of reasons and the BMRG has encouraged these clusters to host one each of the proposed staff. The LGA clusters are: Burnett East, Burnett Inland South, Burnett Inland North, and Mary.

All Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been executed between BMRG and

- Burnett East (6 shires – Biggenden, Bundaberg, Burnett, Isis, Kolan and Miriam Vale)
- Burnett Inland South (6 shires – Cherbourg, Kilkivan, Kingaroy, Murgon, Nanango and Wondai)
- Burnett Inland North (6 shires – Chinchilla, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Mundubbera, Monto and Perry)
- Mary (6 shires – Cooloola, Hervey Bay, Kilcoy, Maryborough, Tiaro and Woocoo)

NRM Reference Panels have been established under the Cluster partnerships and provide strategic direction and guidance to the NRM Officers and BMRG on investments to achieve NRM Plan targets.

Benefits of joining the LGSN include:

- An increase in communication and coordination between LGAs and BMRG. This will lead to increased effectiveness of



Burnett Inland North Local Government Cluster MoU signing in Mundubberra (from left, Bill Mellor, Mayor Gayndah, Bruce Seresier, Mayor Mundubbera, Harry Bonanno, BMRG Independent Chair, Warren McLachlan, Mayor Monto, Peter Webster, Mayor Eidsvold, Joy Jensen, Mayor Perry). Photo courtesy of Central and North Burnett Times.

NRM Plan investment monies.

- Greater influence in the strategic direction of BMRG. This will be accomplished through the NRM Reference Panel's role to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the position and investments within each Cluster sub-region.
- Current Federal and State funding programs are increasingly investing at the regional level. An applying Cluster will have more success in obtaining funds in this climate, increasing the ability to leverage NRM Plan investments.
- An important role of the position is to ensure BMRG is aware of issues within, between and across LGAs for inclusion in forward planning of investments.
- An increase in cost-efficiencies and impact or effectiveness of investment (eg eradication of weeds across LGA boundaries to eliminate future impacts, coordinated improvement of water quality).

The LGSN is detailed in *Country to Coast* and will contribute to the resource condition target (RCT) IA1.3 that Local Government are recognised and appropriately resourced as leaders in NRM by 2015.

For further information on the LGSN, contact the office on 4132 8333 or admin@burnettmarynrm.org.au or visit www.burnettmarynrm.org.au to download a copy of *Country to Coast*.

Melissa Brien

South Inland Burnett Local Government Natural Resource Management Officer

Local Government authorities have an ever increasing role as natural resource management leaders in the community, and as such this presents new challenges for Local Government.

I am new to the South Burnett region, originally hailing from the Northern Rivers region of NSW. Spending my childhood in such a beautiful part of the world greatly influenced my future career path, dedicated to the management of these natural resources that supports our livelihoods, lifestyle and ultimately life itself. I graduated from Central Queensland University in 2001 with a degree in Environmental Science. My previous positions have included a short stint with Blair Athol Coal Mine in Central Queensland as an Environmental Officer, an employee with the Winton Shire Council Stock Routes Department, and the Landcare Coordinator for the Tara and District Landcare Group Inc. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead and working in an area graced with so many natural assets.



Lee Dorahy (left) and Melissa Brien.

Lee Dorahy

North Inland Burnett LGA Natural Resource Coordinator

I will be working with the shires of Mundubbera, Monto, Perry, Gayndah, Eidsvold and part of Chinchilla. The position will support them in their partnership with the Burnett Mary Group for Natural Resource Management and the implementation of *Country to Coast – A Healthy Sustainable Future*, the Burnett Mary region natural resource management plan.

I will be based in the Qgap/Commercial Centre in Mundubbera, but will be regularly travelling and working closely with these councils, otherwise known as cluster members, to coordinate NRM activities.

I am a recent Environmental Resource Management graduate from Southern Cross University in Lismore. Please look out for NRM activities, meetings and workshops in your local area. I look forward to exploring the region and working closely with your council and you, the community.

Local Role Model for Indigenous Projects

A group of Indigenous organic gardeners and land managers from Bundaberg believes Scrub Hill Community Farm in Hervey Bay shows what can be achieved in their own lands after visiting the outstanding Indigenous project.

Group members have taken the lessons of Scrub Hill back to their own communities as they develop management plans that address Natural Resource Management issues under their "Caring for Country" objectives.

BMRG coordinated the tour in partnership with representatives of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, which also included some of its members and directors, plus Indigenous representatives from Cherbourg.



BMRG Independent Chair Harry Bonanno, BMRG Local Government proxy director Dianne Baker (squatting) and Lorraine Briggs, from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (centre), meet members of the K'gari Gownga Dance Group at Scrub Hill Community Farm.

Representatives from the South East Queensland Regional Coordination Group (SEQRCG) from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines joined the tour with Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries staff.

Scrub Hill is a joint initiative of Dhugamin Community Development and Employment Program and Korrawinga Aboriginal Corporation.

They have struggled with a range of land management and development issues since 1995, including acid sulphate soils, arsenic presence in soils, bare rocky quarry site, sparse remnant vegetation and water quality.

Despite this, they have developed a community centre, market garden, nursery, farm enterprises (including tea tree, lemon myrtle and native flowers), bush plants cultural trail and cultural arts centre as part of a cultural tourism venture.

Workers have re-vegetated bare slopes, established an organic garden, produced essential oil and natural cosmetics, developed tours for community and school groups and provided foreign student with farm stays.

A community run day care centre also has been established to cater for mothers working at "The Hill".

Landcare Lowdown

Landcare Lowdown is a monthly e-newsletter that provides information on all things Landcare as well as information regarding BMRG activities, funding opportunities and upcoming events.

If you are not on this mailing list and would like to subscribe please send a blank email to admin@burnettmarynm.org.au with lowdown subscribe in the subject line.

Can You Help?

BMRG is still on the hunt for photos which typify our region.

It could be a photo of your town's cityscape, landscapes, native plants and animals or rural working life – anything which you think documents the unique characteristics and way of life in our diverse region. The photos will be stored and could be used in the many BMRG publications or other promotional opportunities.

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.

Parthenium Proactivity

Parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus* L.) is a branching annual herb native from subtropical North and South America. It has also been named one of the 10 worst weeds in the world and costs Queensland an estimated \$22m a year.

Eidsvold, Perry and Monto Shire Councils have a long standing partnership (over 13 years) to control the weed in their shires. The "Burnett River Parthenium Walk", as the venture has become known, involves landholders and weed officers from participating shires walking the river banks to control the weed.

The working group that oversees the partnership recently agreed to develop a seven-year management plan for Parthenium upstream of the Goleby weir. The group will seek to have the plan endorsed by the national Parthenium Weed Management Group and BMRG. This will ensure the weed is being tackled in a technically robust manner and will assist in attracting further funding and support.

Monto Shire Council recently hosted a visit to Boyd and Michelle Johnson's property at Cannidah via Monto. Boyd and Michelle own a property that has been dealing with Parthenium for about 18 years and have been getting better results with a new technique.

Representatives from Perry and Monto Shire Councils, Landcare, interested Landholders and BMRG inspected infestations that had been controlled using a combination of innovative methods. The techniques focus on improving pasture competition and minimising reinfection by seed spread.

The BMRG is developing a regional response to Parthenium with support from the Parthenium Weed Management Group, University of Queensland, CRC for Australian Weed Management and Department of Natural Resources and Mines.



The team to inspect the Johnson property at Cannidah includes (from left, back) Dean Power, Cr Ian Briggs (Perry Shire), (front) Cr Trevor Gleeson (Deputy Mayor, Monto Shire), Mr Charles Pollock (Landholder Rep), Lee Dorahy and Cr John Pott (Eidsvold Shire)



When the Outback Spoke 2005 Landcare Conference & Awards, Barcaldine

When hundreds of dedicated 'Landcarers' have the opportunity to converge on a town like Barcaldine, you know from the start you are in for a treat. This year's conference, with the theme *The Outback Speaks*, was a novel event, when the conference moved from the coast and headed west to the outback.

This opportunity to get away from the Eastern strip also provided a refreshing reminder of how prominent and true the Landcare movement remains in Queensland, particularly in rural and remote areas.

The topical conference program reflected the changing nature of the Landcare movement in Australia and reflected the community-based atmosphere of Landcare in outback Queensland.

Topics covered by the conference program included Landcare and regional natural resource management (NRM) arrangements, the integration of indigenous interests into NRM and the importance of retaining and encouraging the active participation of youth in rural and regional areas, with the intention of ensuring the future of Landcare.

Field trips and tours were a highlight of this year's conference, with delegates enjoying tours of local properties showcasing on-ground nature conservation and EnviroFund projects, weeds and pest animal eradication trials and indigenous and cultural heritage.

Topical workshops and forums also ensured the active involvement of participants, with the opportunity to deliberate on a number of issues, which included Aboriginal people's connection to country, cultural heritage legislation, native wildlife harvesting, sediment and nutrient run-off into the Great Barrier Reef and the Vegetation Management Act.

The Queensland Landcare Awards proved to be a lucrative haul for the Burnett Mary region, with Wartburg State School taking out the Westpac Landcare Education Award. Wartburg State School was rewarded for adopting and embracing the Landcare spirit, and the significant success enjoyed by the school with limited funds.

Activities undertaken by the school that were reflected at the Awards included waste minimisation projects, recycling activities, active community education and engagement, waterwise initiatives and the undertaking of revegetation projects as part of the school curriculum. Projects involved students, teachers and the community.

Special acknowledgement must also go to Gympie & District Landcare and the Cooloola Coastcare Association for their achievements as finalists in their respective categories of Alcoa Landcare Community Group Award and the Australian Government Coastcare Community Award.



STAFF PROFILE Josie Kelman

Land Coordinator

Originally a Queensland, I have come back to work and live in the Burnett Mary where my parents also live.

I hold a Bachelor Degree in Natural Environment and Wilderness Studies, from the University of Tasmania.

I have worked in the environmental management and plant science field in Queensland for the Environment Protection

Agency, in Tasmania for the Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment and most recently in South Australia for the Renmark to Border Local Action Planning Association, a community managed organisation.

This work history has enabled me to gain a broad range of experience in working with landholders and community groups on issues such as biodiversity conservation, whole farm property planning, vegetation management, water use efficiency and salinity issues.

I will be using this experience to provide support and technical advice to the community on terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity issues for the BMRG.

It is my hope that I will be able to continue to build on the working relationships established between the BMRG and the community on Natural Resource Management, as well as forging new links with community members and conservation groups.



STAFF PROFILE Clinton Muller

Community Support Officer

The opportunity to contribute and be involved with NRM issues in the community at the regional scale prompted Clinton Muller to accept a position as part of the Burnett Mary Regional Group team.

Childers local Clinton was actively involved in the sugar industry of the Isis District for the past three years prior to accepting a position with the BMRG. Clinton had been

working with CANEGROWERS Isis, including a conditional employment of a secondment to the Isis Landcare Group.

Clinton's active participation in the Isis Landcare Group enabled him to gain an appreciation and understanding of the importance and value of the Landcare Sector, particularly with respect to the role of Landcare Groups working with Industry.

Clinton is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities of working with BMRG, particularly with the Landcare Groups of the catchment. He is also keen to develop his experience and involvement in the intensive industries he will be working with, including sugar and horticulture, in relation to NRM issues.

Clinton is hoping weekend meetings aren't going to consume all his free time, and is hoping to get the opportunity to hit the water and wet a line more often with his old man. He still remains keen on convincing himself he will one day return to the family cane farm, although he knows he never will and is always up for an argument on why men are now the downtrodden sex.

Course Whets Appetite for Reef

Getting kids' hands wet in the marine environments they are learning to protect is one of the methods St Mary's College in Maryborough uses to engage its Reef Guardians of the future.

Under the coordination of Dean of Maths/ Science Bruce King, the school provides, and inspires, students with an array of opportunities to experience our natural resources and their management.

St Mary's can boast about 60% of senior students doing marine studies—a reflection of the exciting program being supplied by the school.

An opportunity to study and snorkel off Lady Elliot Island every year is just one of the learning aids.

St Mary's Reef Guardian Coordinator Bruce King said each year the school takes about 50 Year 11 students on a three-day trip to Lady Elliot Island, where they study the marine life from plankton, coral and the animals that inhabit the reef through to snorkelling on the reef and underwater filming and still photography.

Management of Lady Elliot Island shows the students how fresh water is produced in its desalination plant and how waste management challenges are handled on the island to keep the reef waste free.

Prior to the trip, students study and practise snorkelling at the local pool and at inshore reef systems in Hervey Bay.

Year 11 Marine students are involved in boating and environmental management camp in the Sandy Straits.

While there, they look at environmental issues, how mangroves form, marine boating and zoning and recreational fishing laws.

They also study inshore coastal systems on another camp during Year 12 at Inskip Point and Rainbow Beach.

The next step is to obtain funding to assess water quality in greater depth during each of these camps and give results over a period of years so comparisons about the water can be made.

But the lessons learned about NRM don't stop there.

Year 10 students too will soon participate in a newly written curriculum unit on plastic bags, Year 8 look at the Mary River Turtle and lessons on vermiculture, while growing vegetables through hydroponics is undertaken by the Year 11s and 12s in another Science course.

While boating on the river and camping out may sound like all fun and games, the students often become most motivated when they witness the seriousness of NRM.

Mr King is a firm believer that experiences like these cannot be taught in the classroom.

He believes that by providing opportunities for students to be involved in variety of marine environments, they are able to relate to issues and impacts on these complex ecosystems.

"Sometimes, one of the best impacts is made turning up somewhere and seeing it polluted. While this should never happen, it leaves a lasting impression on the students, who learn the importance of becoming proactive in the care of our marine environment," he said.



St Mary's College Year 11 students get ready to snorkel the reef off Lady Elliot Island.

New Address for Bundaberg Team

BMRG's Bundaberg head office has moved location!

The office moved out of the CBD in July to its new address, 8/32 Wyllie Street, in Thabeban.

While in a quieter area, the new premises are already proving an asset for the Bundaberg team, as they offer more space and storage facilities, as well as providing a conference room.

The office still has its "open door policy" and BMRG members and the general public are welcome to drop in for a chat or to access the enormous amount of reference material available from the BMRG library.

Those wanting to keep up to date with the news and activities of other groups throughout Queensland are also welcome to access the range of external newsletters BMRG receives through its offices.

Each month, we receive a variety of newsletters, both through the mail and electronically, each filled with the initiatives and stories from their respective areas.

Members are welcome to make use of these newsletters or, where possible, can be provided with details of how to subscribe online to receive e-bulletins.



Agreed Indigenous Representation on Board

The BMRG Board of Management (BoM) has undergone a few changes in recent months. Following negotiations with an Indigenous Working Group made up of Traditional Owners from our region, favourable outcome has been achieved with Mrs Lurlene Henderson and Mr Mal Collinge being elected via a very rigorous process to sit on the BMRG BoM.

There is a compelling case for Indigenous Representation on our BoM. The Indigenous people have great experience at handling our fragile environment and in the main their culture has been one of restraint on development rather than expansion at all costs.

Working together with our Indigenous Representatives will be a practical experience for all and the results will bring about a balanced outcome. Welcome Lurlene and Mal, your views will be considered and a working partnership should be the agreed result and our environment will surely be the winner.

Following the departure of Ms Linda Silburn as Secondary and Tertiary Industry Direction, Mr Neil McPhillips was elected to fill the vacancy on the Board. Neil has had considerable experience in assisting various organisations within our area.

It was with regret that the Board of Management accepted the resignation of Trevor Harvey who represented the Community Catchment sector. Trevor's resignation will see the group aim for an election to find a suitable replacement after a review of our election policy and procedures. His decision was for personal reasons and he will be greatly missed.

Yours in service to the environment,



Harry R Bonanno
Independent Chair



No Boundaries for New NRM Officer

An area near Maleny where the boundaries of three regional NRM bodies converge has been unified by the creation of one common position, jointly supported by all groups.

The new position, Regional Arrangements Coordinator (RAC), will assist the community to engage with the three regional bodies regardless of official boundary lines.

Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in July with South-East Queensland Western Catchments Group (SEQWCG) and Natural Resource Management South East Queensland (NRMSEQ) to create the Coordinator's position.

The position will be hosted in Maleny by Barung

Landcare Association Inc, which will supply office accommodation and professional support.

Under the MoU, the salary of a full-time equivalent NRM Coordinator will be supported by BMRG. SEQWCG has agreed to fund travel expenses and NRMSEQ will contribute computer equipment.

The new RAC, John Muir, has a long history in the area which ensured that maximum support to local groups, in all three regions, was able to start immediately.

John works out of the "other" Barung Office at 27 Coral Street, Maleny, and can be contacted on 07 5499 9518 or 0429 943 153.

New Regional Arrangements Coordinator John Muir will work with groups in three adjoining NRM regions

Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Location/Further Info
Great Artesian Basin Community Consultation Meeting	27 September 2005	Mundubbera CWA Hall, Mundubbera www.nrm.qld.gov.au/wrp/gab.html
Wartburg Bush Festival	1 October 2005	Wartburg State School swood130@eq.edu.au
Discovering Landcare Conference	2 – 4 October 2005	Toowoomba ldc@landcare.org.au
World Habitat Day	4 October 2005	www.habitatplatform.nl/engels/activities/whd/
National Weedbusters Week	9 – 15 October 2005	www.weedbusterweek.info.au/
BMRG Board of Management Meeting	12 October 2005	admin@burnettmarynrm.org.au
The War on Cobomba	15 October 2005	Noosa Botanical Gardens mrccc@ozwide.net.au
World Rural Women's Day Event	15 October 2005	Baldwin Swamp, Bundaberg whalleysfishing@bigpond.com
Noosa Festival of Water	16 October 2005	Noosa Botanical Gardens and Lake Macdonald sep@noosa.qld.gov.au
National Water Week	16-22 October 2005	www.savewater.com.au/waterweek/
9th Annual Queensland Power 2005 Conference	19-21 October 2005	Brisbane www.terrapinn.com/2005/qld_au
National Recycling Week	7 – 13 November 2005	www.planetark.com/campaignspage.cfm/newsid/9/story.htm
Coastcare Week	1 – 7 December 2005	www.nht.gov.au/nht1/programs/coastcare/index.html
International Volunteers Day	5 December 2005	www.ifrc.org/voluntee/volday.asp



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