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Landcare members from across the Burnett Mary region descended on Tiaro late last month for their last meeting for 2005. More than 30 people attended, including representatives from 15 of the region's Landcare groups. A highlight of the meeting was hearing the groups outline their achievements and specific activities for the benefit of other members. A full report on the meeting is on Page 2.

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## Let the Works Begin!

More than \$2 million worth of on-ground projects is already under way throughout the Burnett Mary Region as *Country to Coast – a healthy sustainable future* is put into action.

Local Government, industry, catchment and community groups are partnering in the initiatives which span the highest priorities in all the five natural asset areas.

BMRG Executive Officer Dr Deborah L Scott said these on-ground works were of critical importance to the environmental health of the region and were chosen with a holistic view of the natural

resource management in our region.

Region-wide, BMRG has allocated more than \$440,000 on biodiversity assessment and more than \$100,000 on salinity and groundwater investigations and water quality monitoring,

About \$416,000 has also been spent to bolster the valuable work of regional Landcare groups.

These are the first projects in an unprecedented \$14 million to be spent during the next three years and BMRG is striving to increase this amount.

Projects across the region include:

### Burnett East

- \$85,000 for a pilot study with, Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, to trial an integrated management program to encompass the area's horticulture industry.
- \$50,000 for works by the Woongarra Marine Park Monitoring and Education Project.
- More than \$45,000 supporting the work of Landcare groups in the area.
- \$38,000-plus to monitor and protect our marine turtles through the work of Wreck Rock Turtle Monitoring Program and the Queensland Turtle Research – Lady Musgrave Island Project.
- \$8,500 to propagate native species for revegetation by Agnes Water Landcare group.

### Mary

- The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee's 2005 Program of Rivercare has received in excess of \$300,000 – the largest allocation so far (see page 6 for more details).
- More than \$113,000 invested in Landcare groups in Tiaro, Noosa, Maroochy, Gympie and the Barung group at the top of the catchment.
- Funding for projects of the Dhugamin Community Development and Employment Program, the Lower Mary River Land and Catchment Care Group, and Friends of the Burrum.
- \$120,000-plus for the Black Mountain Range project by Noosa and District Landcare.

### Inland Burnett

- The Inland Burnett is one of the major targets of salinity and groundwater investigations and water quality monitoring works implemented under the plan. Total expenditure on these water focused activities throughout the region has surpassed \$100,000 and is continuing.
- \$824,834 allocated to stakeholders for initiatives including the Burnett River Parthenium Walk, and projects being undertaken by Wondai and Proston schools, Local Councils, the Silver Lining Foundation, the Central Burnett Land Management Advisory Group and Auburn River Catchment Landcare.
- A combined funding boost of close to \$75,000, for Landcare groups in Gayndah, Nanango, Kingaroy and St Johns Creek.



## Landcare Fever Hits Tiaro

Tiara was, by all accounts, the place to be on November 28 for the last Regional Landcare Meeting of 2005.

These quarterly meetings are proving to be a popular event on the regional Landcare calendar. The November meeting was no exception with more than 30 people attending, representing 15 of the 20-plus groups in the region.

The format for the day was slightly modified from the traditional approach, with Sam Morris from the Queensland Landcare Foundation delivering her *Partnerships for Success* workshop.

Attendees during the morning session were encouraged to be confident and committed in establishing their identity and seeking out partners for support in activities to be undertaken.

Attendees also had the opportunity to be introduced to Fiona McCartney, Community Education and Engagement Officer with CRC for Australian Weed Management, and get an update on the Vegetation Incentive Program (VIP) from Greening Australia's Brad Jeffers.

The highlight of the day, however, was the opportunity for groups to update each other on their achievements and outline specific activities being undertaken.

While groups involved have always initiated some fantastic pro-active activities within their communities, there was a common trend at this November meeting where groups had really gone above and beyond expectations with their activities on-ground.

All groups in the region are to be congratulated on the tremendous effort they have made during 2005 with some tremendous community focussed activities having been undertaken within our region.

The next Regional Landcare Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 6, to be hosted by the Bundaberg and District Urban Landcare Association in Bundaberg. This is guaranteed to be one date not to miss on the BMRG calendar.

## Beetles Whacked Out On Weed



Beetles that hopefully will be a success as a biological control agent for Blue Heliotrope are bred in a nursery at Eidsvold.

Blue Heliotrope in one stretch of the Northern Burnett River is teeming with beetles. No, not the "fab four", but an army of beetles used for the biological control of Blue Heliotrope, an invasive perennial weed.

Blue Heliotrope, *Heliotropium amplexicaule* Vahl, originally from South America, competes with native pasture and is toxic to stock.

In October, Eidsvold Shire Council staff were joined by staff from Perry Shire Council and BMRG for the first large scale release of the beetle (*Deuterocampta quadrijuga*) in the region.

Earlier this year, Eidsvold Shire Council received funds from the BMRG to establish a breeding facility for the peculiar looking beetle which attacks the leaves of the weed.

Terry Haupt, Eidsvold Shire Weed Officer,

is enthusiastic about the potential of the beetle to assist in defeating the weed. "The beetle is very good, but it is only one string to the bow. We hope to use it in an integrated manner with chemical control and careful pasture management," he said.

Terry said the biggest challenge was keeping the weed up to the rapidly expanding population in the breeding facility. The beetle's voracious appetite may make it difficult to baby-sit, however its appetite is what makes the beetle so successful as a control measure.

The weed team will now monitor the release site hoping the beetles will establish a self-sustaining population. Additional releases will be made during the growing season.

## Seasons Greetings

**The BMRG Board of Management  
and Staff would like to wish all  
BMRG Members and the broader  
community a Merry Christmas and a  
happy and safe New Year.**



**All BMRG Offices will close for the Christmas  
break on December 23 and reopen on January 3**

## Ancient Mariners and Endangered Species



*Volunteers are monitoring the breeding of turtles, such as this flatback, as they lay their eggs on sections of the region's coastline this summer.*

Monitoring marine turtles sounds like an exciting job for any volunteer – sun, sea, sand and endangered reptiles. But the volunteers on the Wreck Rock and Lady Musgrave Island turtle monitoring programs face a lot of challenges.

There can be the problem of timing. Most turtles nest at night between December and January, so monitoring means gruelling night shifts right over Christmas and the New Year.

There is the problem of pests including everything from the smallest sand flies and mossies feeding on volunteers, to dingoes, foxes and dogs preying on the eggs and hatchlings themselves during their dangerous dash to the sea.

Finally, if all that isn't enough, to measure the success rate of nests (how many eggs hatched, how many didn't and why) volunteers have to dig up a nest of rotten eggs and hatchlings.

In the heat of February, no matter how passionate you are to find better ways to conserve these ancient mariners, it's hardly a glamorous task. You are advised to take along a clothes peg and a pair of strong rubber gloves!

But it IS rewarding work. Besides getting to spend time at the beach, project coordinators Nev McLachlan (Wreck Rock) and Jim Buck (Lady Musgrave Island) wouldn't have it any other way.

They've been taking their families away every year to monitor turtles for a couple of decades! That's real commitment.

Numerous people are keen to see the turtles and hear about how they can help protect them through their own care. The promotion of the plight of these species and enlisting the help of the community adds to the important work the McLachlan and Buck families do.

"The problem is that turtles can take between 30 and 50 years to reach sexual maturity. What we are monitoring now are the results of management changes in the 1960s and '70s when we had so much less knowledge about marine turtles," said Jim.

"It'll be interesting to see how management changes like the Recovery Plan [for Marine Turtles in Australia 2003] and the proposed Code of Practice [for the sustainable management of dugong and marine turtle tourism] affect future numbers," he added.

This year also sees the Lady Musgrave Island project expand its volunteer activities to BleachWatch, a GBRMPA program to monitor Great Barrier Reef coral for signs of stress.

The Queensland Turtle Research Program is an initiative of the Environmental Protection Agency and proudly supported by Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc (BMRG).

## Great Success for Landcare at Muster

Gympie Landcare's involvement in the Toyota National Country Music Muster has gone from strength to strength over the past four years.

In addition to its very successful Muster tree planting the weekend before the Muster, in which more than 80 people were involved in planting 1500 native plants, the group also runs a Landcare Information Tent during the event.

This year, Gympie Landcare ran the Muster Landcare Information Tent for six days (Tuesday to Sunday inclusive) and was able to provide information and resources to hundreds of Muster patrons.

In some cases, those who visited the Landcare Information Tent were just seeking reassurance they were on the right track, but most were seeking help with a range of natural resource management issues.

Thanks to the wide range of information resources provided by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Weeds Cooperative Research Centre, they were able to take away a bundle of relevant and helpful brochures, and in some cases books and CD-ROMs.

This year, the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc (BMRG) was invited to participate and two BMRG staff assisted Gympie Landcare staff in the Landcare Information Tent to attend to the needs of the Muster patrons.

Clinton Muller and Dean Power were also able to speak to Muster patrons about the BMRG's NRM Plan and Regional Investment Strategy and distribute information about how BMRG could assist landholders.

Gympie Landcare has invited BMRG to participate in both staffing the Landcare Information Tent next year and in helping to defray the considerable costs of staging the event. This is an example of how collaboration between BMRG and the Landcare groups in the region can bring about positive benefits for all.



## Vital Works for Obi Obi Creek

A project submitted for funding under the Burnett Mary regional Natural Resource Management Plan, *County to Coast – a healthy sustainable future*, aims to improve and protect the tributaries that form part of the headwaters of the Obi Obi Creek.

The Obi Obi headwaters are south-west of Maleny close to Montville. The creek flows through the township of Maleny and continues on to Lake Baroon and then joins the Mary River near Kenilworth in the south of the Burnett Mary region.

Desley Shoenberger, in cooperation with other residents of Narrows Road and surrounding areas, will be working to improve the water quality and quantity of Obi Obi Creek.

This will be done by a combination of works, including the removal of an unused and unproductive small dam, weed control and active regeneration works. The removal of the dam which saddles one

stream and connects with another small creek that flows into the Obi Obi should also create a more stable water flow.

Desley has planned revegetation activities that will protect and stabilise the contours of the creek and provide vitally important habitats for the creek's inhabitants. The removal of non-native vegetation and aquatic weeds in the creek will also be undertaken to improve the area's biodiversity values.

Barung Landcare has been instrumental in delivering advice and support to the local community of the Maleny region for the past 12 years. Barung's revegetation officer Ed Surman visited the Narrows Road site with Josie Kelman, BMRG Biodiversity and Forestry Coordinator, and provided invaluable advice and recommendations in regards to the restoration and management of the area.

BMRG and Barung continue to work in partnership to support environmental works in the Maleny district.

## Water Quality Monitoring Handover

"Seeing is Believing" is the premise behind a new initiative to assist farmers and students in the Maryborough and Hervey Bay areas.

Lower Mary River Land and Catchment Care Group is engaging farmers through the use of water quality monitoring equipment which will enable them to see the quality of surface water on their properties and investigate local groundwater salinity.

The equipment is one of seven new sets of water monitoring equipment and training provided by BMRG to community groups in the past three months. Overall, a combined estimated value of \$130,000 has been invested in equipment for community-based water quality monitoring.

In the long term, this equipment will be vital to the creation of a region-wide community water quality monitoring network and all groups have been provided with basic training in how to operate, maintain and calibrate their new equipment.

The Lower Mary River Land and Catchment Care Group received its equipment to undertake key activities identified in its area.

One of these activities will help landholders develop property management plans and increase landholder awareness of the effects of their management by demonstrating the importance of monitoring water quality first-hand.

Nutrient loss off farm is a substantial ecological and environmental issue, and it is also a financial issue for farmers. By gathering their own information, they can make sensible decisions to modify their practices to be more cost-efficient.

One of the community benefits of this activity is that on-site



BMRG consultant Ross Ridge (left) hands over water monitoring equipment to volunteers from the Lower Mary River Land and Catchment Care Group (from second left) Ben Stillaway, Terry Layt, Don Bradley and Lesley Bradley.

work of Landcare volunteers will have real meaning to local landholders.

The group also plans to use this monitoring equipment to give Hervey Bay students the chance to see science in action through school programs.

Students will be able to monitor parameters such as nutrients and dissolved oxygen in stormwater runoff, which runs off streets and into catchments.

This monitoring is aimed at creating an awareness of the connectivity of water sources throughout their local area.



## Darren McPherson

**Mary LGA Cluster  
NRM Coordinator**

I have always had a keen interest in the natural environment and how these resources are managed with the pressures of the built environment.

Having grown up on the Sunshine Coast, I am only too aware of the increased need for management regimes in this rapidly growing region. When I was presented with the opportunity to work as the Natural Resource Management Officer in the Mary Local Government sub-region, I jumped at the opportunity.

I believe this position brings together the studies I have completed in Town Planning and Applied Environmental Management, and work experiences in Nature Conservation and Horticulture/Forestry.

My perspective on the Mary River Catchment is now of a more northern orientation, being based in the city of Maryborough. This will form the base for my support of all the Mary Local Government Authority Cluster (MLGAC), which comprise the catchment area.

I sincerely believe the partnerships formed through this position, and the increased accessibility to all of the stakeholders, will have a tangible benefit across the whole catchment, and to all of those who use this region's natural resources in day-to-day life.

I look forward to seeing you all out and about in the Mary River Catchment.

## Derani Sullivan

**Burnett East LGA Cluster  
NRM Coordinator**

Growing up on the coast of Western Australia fostered my love of nature and the environment.

Becoming a mother in 1999 strengthened my resolve to try to help retain our beautiful natural assets for future generations. I therefore proceeded to obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree in Conservation Biology, at Murdoch University, from which I graduated last December.

The new Local Government NRM liaison officer positions have been developed to facilitate an effective working relationship between the regional bodies and Local Councils of Queensland.

This is my first full-time position in my new chosen field and I am looking forward to not only further developing my skills and knowledge, but to playing an integral role in NRM coordination between the shires of Biggenden, Bundaberg, Burnett, Isis, Kolan and Miriam Vale that form the Burnett East Local Government Authority Cluster (BELGAC).

It will be very fulfilling to see these shires work collectively to achieve NRM outcomes that benefit not only the environment, but also the community.

## Gympie Hosts Fourth Office

The Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc (BMRG) recently established an office in Gympie.

The space is shared with Private Forestry Southern Queensland at 224 Mary Street.

Josie Kelman, BMRG Biodiversity Conservation Team Leader, is based in the Gympie Office and is the first point of contact for stakeholders in the Mary Catchment.

A Water Quality Coordinator for the Mary Catchment is currently being sought to assist Josie in community support in the Mary.

The BMRG now has four regional offices. The Head Office Team is located in Bundaberg and Weeds and Grazing Coordinator Dean Power is based in Monto.

Viv Sinnamon, Aboriginal and Indigenous Coordinator, and the newest member of the BMRG Team, Nora Brandli, Community Support Officer, operate from the Wondai Office.

Vikki Evans provides administrative support for the three regional offices and also works out of Wondai.

For further information on the BMRG Regional Offices, visit the BMRG website [www.burnettmarynrm.org.au](http://www.burnettmarynrm.org.au)

## New Catchment Officer

BMRG signed a Memorandum of Understanding in July with AquaGen Water and Renewable Energy and Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group to create a new Catchment Officer position for the Lake Baroon Catchment on the Sunshine Coast.

The position will be hosted in Maleny by the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, which will supply office accommodation and professional support.

The Catchment Officer will be involved in aligning the Lake Baroon Catchment Management Strategy with the region's NRM Plan, *Country to Coast – a healthy sustainable future*, to develop an Implementation Plan. This document will identify specific strategies for the improvement of water quality in Lake Baroon.

The implementation plan will provide a framework for the protection and enhancement of the riparian lands in the Lake Baroon Catchment. Draft copies of the document will be available from the Lake Baroon

Catchment Care Group office for public comment this month.

The new Catchment Officer, Murray Dunstan, has a history of consulting and teaching water-related environmental issues on the Sunshine Coast. Murray is interested in projects that maintain commercial activities and production in the catchment, while sustaining or increasing water quality. Murray is interested in novel approaches to water quality improvement.

"My objective is to facilitate projects that improve water quality while continuing to build on the relationships already established between LBCCG and the Maleny community," he said.

Murray's position will complement the services already offered by Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group. He is based at the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group's office at 19 Coral Street, Maleny, and can be contacted on (07) 54 943 775 or 0438 448 508, or [murraydunstan@iinet.net.au](mailto:murraydunstan@iinet.net.au)



# Burnett Mary Regional Group

...for Natural Resource Management Inc

## \$300,000 To Boost Rivercare In The Mary

A 2005 Program of Rivercare for the Mary Catchment has received approval for funding in excess of \$300,000 – the largest amount allocated by BMRG for an on-ground project.

The recently approved funding is for high priority projects of critical importance to the environmental health of the upper Mary basin. The priorities were defined by MRCCC under an earlier \$154,000 grant provided by BMRG.

The new funding supports the efforts of partner community organisations, including Barung, Gympie and District, Noosa and Tiaro and District Landcare groups, which are undertaking river bank restoration.

It will also provide part-time salary and operational costs for six Waterwatch groups in the Mary. These groups are spread throughout the catchment and include Cooloola, Noosa, Upper Mary, Kenilworth & District, Western Catchments and a combined Maryborough, Woocoo and Tiaro Waterwatch.

An array of projects which target issues such as water quality and the preservation of threatened species will be implemented and will support 17 landholders and 16 partners, including Caloundra, Cooloola and Maroochy Shire Councils, to make changes on properties to achieve sustainable management and improved river health.

Over the next 12 months, almost 80,000 seedlings will be planted to restore or protect more than 70 hectares of country. Hundreds of water samples from local rivers and creeks will be collected and analysed by community volunteers through the MRCCC program.

The program's many facets will be powered by the extensive volunteer and knowledge bases of the groups involved and will achieve real and measurable progress toward sustainability targets for the region.

The initiative is one of a number of major activities currently funded by



*The Moy Pocket section of the Mary River will be one of the areas enhanced as part of the Rivercare project for the catchment that has attracted funding of \$300,000.*

BMRG in the Mary catchment, including riverbank rehabilitation, water quality improvements and improved land management.

Other activities include rehabilitating and conserving threatened species' habitats, expanding farm forestry and revegetation efforts and weed control.

The MRCCC and partners have operated a quality assured Waterwatch Program since 2002 and the new program will expand on this to monitor the success of the on-ground rehabilitation efforts.

The rehabilitation of the Mary River and its tributaries has been identified as a priority action by BMRG.

## Groundwater Monitoring Project

A community-based groundwater monitoring project jointly funded by the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc (BMRG) and Natural Resource Management South East Queensland Inc (NRMSEQ) aims to expand groundwater monitoring in the Maroochy and Mary Catchments.

The project is going strong, with about 20 sites identified within the upper Obi Obi and Walkers Creek sub-catchments (Mary Catchment) and another 22 sites identified in the Eudlo sub-catchment (Maroochy Catchment).

Response from landholders has been generally very good, with a high level of interest and concern for the sustainability of groundwater resources expressed by most people. The high response rate is a positive step towards one of the main objectives of the activity, which is to build capacity, awareness and understanding of groundwater monitoring within the community.

An information manual and monitoring kit are being put together to

ensure monitoring can begin as soon as possible. Development of monitoring networks in the Maleny area is being coordinated by the Sunshine Coast Groundwater Investigation Group (GIG) in conjunction with Barung Landcare and the Lake Baroon Catchment Group.

The focus will be on this area initially to get the ball rolling before expanding to include the rest of Lake Baroon catchment. A similar trial is being done simultaneously in the Eudlo Creek catchment on the coast.

The objective is to monitor groundwater levels and water quality in as many private bores as possible. Landholders are being asked to either make their bores available and/or get involved in monitoring water levels in their own bores. Access to the many springs in the area has also been requested, so these may be mapped.

For more information about the project, please contact the Project Coordinator Andrew Todd on 54412938 or 54467025, or John Muir at the Barung Landcare office.

## Event and Professional Development Sponsorships

The BMRG is calling for another round of applications for Event and Professional Development Sponsorship in January.

The Community Capacity and Partnership Action Program in *County to Coast – a healthy sustainable future* outlines activities to be implemented that strive to establish links between government, industry, community and R&D organisations and increase regionally focused research and the regional skill-base in NRM.

Applications will be called for event sponsorship from all

Members on a quarterly basis until June 2007. An application form is available in hard copy, but can also be downloaded from the BMRG website [www.burnettmarynrm.org.au](http://www.burnettmarynrm.org.au)

The application process will be open for one month from the start of each quarter and all applications received will be assessed and applicants advised within two months of submission of application.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the BMRG Office on (07) 4132 8333.

# Growers Given Green Light to Demonstrate Green Commitment

The proactive response to natural resource management among the region's horticultural producers received a boost when the BMRG gave the green light for funding of more than \$85,000 to the Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers Co-operative Limited (BFVG) at the October Board of Management meeting.

The funding is targeted at trialling Integrated Area Wide Management (IAWM) practices in the diverse farming systems typical of the coastal Burnett region. IAWM involves an industry and community coordinated approach to monitoring and learning, which ensures all partners involved retain ownership of their actions.

The IAWM activity is a positive initiative of the horticultural industry as growers are being proactive about not just implementing, but also evaluating, their on-farm natural resource management practices.

This activity will complement a number of management changes already made by the growers involved, who have identified the commercial and environmental benefits of implementing changes such as improved fertiliser scheduling and water use efficiency practices.

The activity is to involve stream water quality monitoring in the Coastal Burnett, Elliott and Gregory catchments and will assist in benchmarking the performance of the horticulture industry in sustainable natural resource management.

In addition to this, models of IAWM will be applied to these cropping environments to collate and align a number of on-going activities occurring in these areas.

The 18-month activity will be coordinated by BFVG with a core component of the on-ground work provided by the Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries (DPI&F) AgSIP16 team.



*Scott Coleman (left), of the Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers, and Clinton Muller, of the Burnett Mary Regional Group, are pleased that their organisations will partner in a significant monitoring trial.*

Other partners include the Australian Macadamia Society, Growcom, DPI&F AgSIP05 and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

There is also provision in the activity to collaborate with a soil ameliorant project being undertaken by the Isis Landcare Group in partnership with Childers Concrete & Haulage and Isis Target 100.

## Information Needs For Reef Catchments

The Consortium of Integrated Resource Management (CIRM) has prepared a Discussion Paper on water quality and catchment management information needs to support the objectives of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

The Plan aims to halt and reverse the decline in water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef within 10 years. A copy of the discussion paper is available on [www.cirm.org.au](http://www.cirm.org.au).

The Discussion Paper was prepared by the Reef Catchments Working Group of CIRM, which includes representatives from government agencies, research organisations and regional natural resource management bodies. Comments on the Discussion Paper are welcomed.

The Discussion Paper considers biophysical, social and economic information needs to support implementation of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

The Working Group has also compiled brief descriptions of more than 350 research projects under way in the Reef catchments (see [www.cirm.org.au](http://www.cirm.org.au)). It is intended that this information will be available on a web-based searchable database in the future.

For further information, please contact Robin Clark, Executive Project Officer, Reef Catchments Working Group, Consortium of Integrated Resource Management, on 07 4039 8332 or [robin.clark@nrm.qld.gov.au](mailto:robin.clark@nrm.qld.gov.au).



## ‘What If...?’

The first two of four “What If...” Workshops have been held with Local Government (LGA) Clusters in the Burnett Mary.

The BMRG asked the LGA Clusters to collectively decide what action they would take to tackle their sub-regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) issues if they were allocated \$500,000 to address the problems.

Weeds, Water, Waste and Education are the priorities for the Monto, Perry, Gayndah, Mundubbera, Eidsvold and Chinchilla Councils with regard to NRM. On October 13, the councils of the Burnett Inland North LGA Cluster (BINLGAC) and BMRG staff met in Mount Perry to determine the priorities for NRM in the North Inland Burnett region.

End results proved the power of cooperative thinking. As the day drew to a close, a number of areas including weed control, water management for town water usage, waste management and education were the issues identified as most important to the region. A number of projects were discussed and developed under these areas.

Weeds are a large concern for the community as they have social, economic and environmental consequences and are considered top priority for most Councils, including the South Inland Burnett Local Government Cluster which met on November 4 in Murgon.

Key common issues identified by Kilkivan, Murgon, Wondai, Kingaroy and Nanango Councils related to water quality, coordinated weed management, biodiversity conservation and aquatic weeds.

The Burnett Inland South LGA Cluster (BISLGAC) has committed to progressing action to address these common issues in a joint manner. With the assistance of the BMRG, it is anticipated a number of outcomes will be achieved within the next 12 months.



Attending a Burnett Inland North LGA cluster meeting in Mt Perry are (from left) Derani Sullivan (Burnett East LGA Cluster coordinator), Russell Currie (Monto SC), Cr Trevor Gleeson (Monto SC), Lee Dorahy (Burnett Inland North LGA Cluster Coordinator), Trevor Clarey (Perry SC), Cr Noela Clarey (Perry SC), Cr Dianne Baker (Gayndah SC), Elaine Richmond (Facilitator), Cr Arthur Dingle (Perry SC), John Pieters (Mundubbera SC), Judith Renshaw (Gayndah SC), Grant Dingle (Perry SC), Glenda George (BMRG), Cr John Pott (Eidsvold SC) and Terry Haupt (Eidsvold SC).

The South Inland Burnett Local Government Natural Resource Management Coordinator, Melissa Brien, said: “Most of the Natural Resource Management issues highlighted in the ‘What if’ workshop don’t respect shire boundaries, so it is fantastic to see the six local governments of the South Burnett are more than willing to cross borders and work together to achieve outcomes.”

A series of Activity Concepts have already been submitted by BISLGAC and BINLGAC. Council technical staff in collaboration with LGAC and BMRG Coordinators will develop the approved concepts into full Activity Details for funding early in the New Year.

The Burnett East and Mary Local Government Clusters will have their workshops in the next few weeks.

## Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Location/Further Info
World Wetlands Day	2 February 2006	<a href="http://www.deh.gov.au/water/wetlands/day/">www.deh.gov.au/water/wetlands/day/</a>
BMRG Board of Management Meeting	8 February 2006	Bundaberg (07) 4132 8333 or <a href="mailto:ruth.nemeth@burnettmarynrm.org.au">ruth.nemeth@burnettmarynrm.org.au</a>
Australian Agricultural Economic Society 50 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	8 – 10 February 2006	Sydney <a href="mailto:merilyn@aomevents.com">merilyn@aomevents.com</a>
Water 06	1 – 3 March 2006	Brisbane Convention Centre <a href="http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au">www.nrm.qld.gov.au</a>
11 <sup>th</sup> National Conference on Volunteering	7 – 10 March 2006	Melbourne <a href="http://www.volunteering2006.com/">www.volunteering2006.com/</a>
The Clifton Weed and Pest Show for 2006	18 March 2006	Clifton Recreation Ground <a href="mailto:cpaws@icr.com.au">cpaws@icr.com.au</a>
World Water Day Celebrations	22 March 2006	Brisbane <a href="http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au">www.nrm.qld.gov.au</a>
Veg Futures 2006 – The conference in the field	19 – 23 March 2006	Albury-Wodonga <a href="mailto:hburgess@greeningaustralia.org.au">hburgess@greeningaustralia.org.au</a>
Seaweeek 2006	2 – 9 April 2006	<a href="http://www.mesa.edu.au/seaweeek.asp">www.mesa.edu.au/seaweeek.asp</a>



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### Wondai Office

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### Monto Office

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