

Baffle Creek Couple Host Wetland Rehabilitation Workshop

On Saturday the 3rd October, Kenton Bowden and Kathryn Dupuy opened their home and property to interested community members. Kenton and Kathryn have recently undertaken a wetland rehabilitation project on their 45 hectare property which borders the beautiful Baffle Creek.

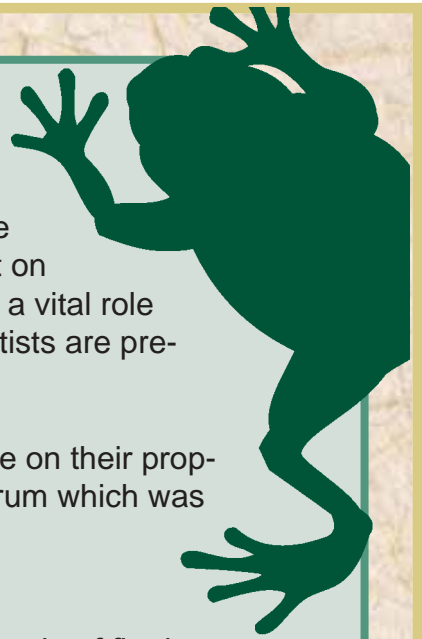
The Burnett Mary Regional Group under the State and Federal Governments Healthy Habitats project, provided financial incentives and technical support to the couple. To qualify for funding Kenton and Kathryn agreed to sign onto the voluntary nature conservation program Land For Wildlife. They then received on-site technical support from BMRG Officers and from a WetlandCare Australia representative on what were the best methods to rehabilitate the existing wetland system on the property. It was decided that revegetating the emergent and riparian zones with 1000 native wetland species, coupled with targeted weed control of lantana would best achieve the outcome of improved habitat value for the wetland area. Kenton and Kathryn also planted a variety of local native tree species to help decrease the erosion that is occurring on banks directly fronting the creek.

Participants at the workshop included representatives from Bundaberg Landcare and local residents from Bundaberg and Elliott Heads. BMRG Regional Liaison Officer Rachael Nasplezes was also on-site to lend a hand. The morning included a fascinating walk and talk hosted by Kathryn and Kenton through the artificial canal system on the property where the group looked at the success of the revegetation project. Rachael Nasplezes from BMRG said: "We had a terrific morning, the canal system has created some beautiful wetland habitat areas and we saw that very clearly when we came across a red-belly black snake sunning on the banks, which allowed us all a good view of this beautiful creature before it quietly moved off into the water. A little further on we came across a long-necked freshwater turtle constructing its nest on the banks of the canal. We saw flocks of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos feeding within the wetlands and identified a large variety of indicative wetland flora species."

For more information contact Rachael Nasplezes at BMRG on 4181 2999



Thinking outside the Matchbox



The wild fires at Gaeta west of Bundaberg are a reminder that fire is a part of our rural landscape. Fire can have a devastating affect on vegetation, property and infrastructure or if well planned, can play a vital role in renewal and regeneration of our native vegetation. Many scientists are predicting an increase in fire as an impact of climate change.

To assist property holders in making decisions about the use of fire on their property, the Burnett Mary Regional Group had a Fire and Science forum which was held in Maryborough on the 5th November.

A range of high quality presenters discussed issues ranging from



understanding the role of fire in the landscape, identifying key fire management issues and fire behaviour to practical advice on burning for biodiversity, pasture or timber production and lantana control.

The forum was very well received with excellent attendance and some great discussions.

Noosa & District Landcare now on board !

Noosa and District Landcare are now part of the team to help deliver the Healthy Habitats, and other programs throughout the Burnett Mary Region.

Noosa Landcare has an extensive resource base and an excellent diversity of skills within the organisation so their input into the running of BMRG initiatives will be extremely valuable.

If you would like more information about Noosa Landcares involvement please feel free to contact Paul Sprecher at Noosa Landcare on ph: 07 54852155 or email projects2@noosalandcare.org

