



CHRRUP Office: 07 4982 2996

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From the Executive Officer

Our first 2016 newsletter is written while we feel the dampness of a week of what has been very good rain over much of Central Queensland.

Some have missed out though and we hope for the skies to open for you very soon.

We have a busy schedule for you over the next six months and we look forward to seeing many of you at our events. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for dates and updates.

Claire Rodgers - Executive Officer



Planning and funding arrangements

Some of you will know that the current programs of funding of many of our activities and on-ground grants comes to an end on 30th June. Planning is well underway for future funding and, as we draw closer to the end of this six months, news of submissions for the next round will become available.

As well as future funding arrangements, our regional partners, NQ Dry Tropics and Fitzroy Basin Association, have been busy developing Water Quality Improvement Plans to drive future investment.

With these plans as the foundation for on-ground activities related to improving water quality, investment can be targeted at areas capable of delivering a high return. Other activities related to training and extension are likely to be delivered more broadly.

Both the Water Quality Improvement Plans are likely to be released in coming months: we will advise as soon as they become available.

Now's the time to rest your paddocks

The GRASS is GROWING!!

Now is the time to rest some of your paddocks! Your business will benefit by:

- Growing more feed
- Allowing the desirable grasses (productive, palatable and perennial species) to flower and set seed
- Increasing ground cover and this will: 1. Reduce erosion - particularly in heavy rainfall events, 2. Create competition for weeds - such as Parthenium, 3. Add organic matter for more resilient soils, better functioning ecosystems and healthier waterways.

To improve the long-term productivity of a grazing paddock, exclude cattle during the growing season.





Climate Resources

Forecasting is important to everyone whose business relies on the weather. Climate outlooks can be found on the [Bureau of Meteorology's website](#).

This page has a link to the Outlook videos, as well as analysis of lead indicators of weather such as Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) and Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), and many other interesting matters

that are associated with our weather and its forecasting.

[MetEye](#) is very useful for quick graphics on observations and forecasts.

Those with a keen eye for the BoM site will have discovered the new [satellite imagery](#) available from the [Himawari-8 satellite](#), which provides imagery of much higher resolution than previously available.



Plan for the next dry season by undertaking Stocktake course

It's never too early to plan for the next dry season...and now is the perfect time to start.

Adjusting stocking rates to meeting current feed supply, animal requirements and ground cover targets is considered best management practice for a grazing business ([Futurebeef.com.au](#))

Only one Stocktake course will be held in the CHRRUP region in April - initial plans were for two courses. The Stocktake course will be held on 20th April. The venue will be decided according to demand, so register your interest now and it may reduce your travel.

For further information, contact CHRRUP on 4982 2996 or admin@chrrup.org.au

Map your property using Google Earth

You can learn how to create your own basic property map utilizing free Google Earth Pro mapping tools and access relevant and up to date data through Queensland Globe.

Queensland Globe is an interactive online tool that can be opened inside the Google Earth application, and allows you to view and explore Queensland spatial data and imagery. Explore:

- Mapping property infrastructure such as fence lines and water points
- Calculate paddock areas and buffer zones
- See elevation profiles useful for planning of water infrastructure
- Learn how to access and use Queensland Globe data

Learn how to create your property map by contacting Stacey on 49822996 or stacey@chrrup.org.au.

Environmental legislation advice - thinning

Since the introduction of the Vegetation Management Act in 1999, legislation has reduced the ability of landholders to manage remnant vegetation on their property.

However, current amendments, including the self - assessable codes for clearing vegetation, have allowed landholders under certain guidelines to thin vegetation returning ecosystems back to its remnant condition. Other vegetation management activities

under the self - assessable codes include clearing for environmental purposes, clearing for encroachment of natural grassland ecosystems, clearing for high value agriculture and clearing for pest management activities. CHRRUP Consultancy has extensive experience in providing the right advice on all matters dealing with environmental legislation including the VMA, NCA and EPBC and offers services to aid in ensuring compliance under current legislation.

Contact: Benn Knott 07 4982 2996



The business of grazing...

A well run cattle business can be a satisfying job, a great lifestyle and offer a financially sustainable future. Do you want to improve your understanding of how the business side of the cattle industry works?

Steve Banney, a consultant to the northern grazing industry for the past 16 years in production, environmental and animal welfare matters, and Michelle Dewar, a small business advisor from Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, can offer you knowledge and information regarding:

- Why is only 20% of the northern cattle industry financially sustainable
- Why cost of production is important
- Importance of record keeping and budgeting
- The language of money
- Management records versus taxation records
- Cash flow, income statement and the balance sheet

What are the key drivers of a successful cattle business

- Why you should know your return on assets
- Management commitment and consultation
- Safe work procedures
- Training and supervision
- Reporting safety
- Workers' compensation and return to work.
- How to make better decisions with improved retained profits or borrowed money.

A training day has been scheduled by CHRRUP through funding from the Australian Government Reef Program. This training day will be held on the 29th February, 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Alpha Golf Club.

If you have any questions, would like to register for the training or are seeking further information please contact Stacey at CHRRUP on 07 49822996 or stacey@chrrup.org.au.



Snakes are on the move...watch your step!

Snakes find it profitable to hunt when rain begins and after it is over. They prey on the small critters running for shelter from the rain, or coming back out to forage after the rain has settled.

After so little rain for so long it is obvious why after such a huge rain event snakes would be out and about. Be visual and watch your step!

Getting to know your groundwater

Understanding your groundwater will help you improve your business performance. Don't miss your opportunity to access the experts in this field.

Fitzroy Basin Association Inc has contracted technical experts from 4T Consultants to run a series of groundwater workshops across the region. Due to funding, these workshops are provided free of charge.

Participants can expect to: gain a good understanding of how groundwater works and learn how to monitor their own groundwater levels. The workshop will include information on local geology and conditions, and enable landholders to recognise groundwater trends on their property.

Knowledge and expertise from a number of

groundwater experts around the country will be shared via Skype presentations.

Participants will have access to a central water level metre to measure their own bores or will be provided guidance to install leased or low-cost equipment for monitoring of water levels.

Workshops will be held at Dysart on 8th March, Clermont on 8th April and Rolleston on 15th April. To RSVP or for more information: Dysart - Marina Wall on 0428 985 440 or 4985 7511 or email mwall@capcatchments.org.au and Rolleston and Clermont - Vicki Horstman on 4982 2996 or email vicki@chrrup.org.au.

This workshop is supported by FBA through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme - Sustainable Agriculture.



What's coming up...

29 th February	Business of Grazing Workshop, Alpha
1 st , 2 nd March	Grazing BMP accelerated program, Clermont
8 th March	Getting to Know your Groundwater, Dysart
23 March	Contour Repair Field Day, Kilcummin
24 th March	Contour Repair Field Day, Arcturus Downs Road, Springsure
8 th April	Getting to Know your Groundwater, Clermont
15 th April	Getting to Know your Groundwater, Rolleston
20 th April	Stocktake course, Tresswell

Contact the CHRRUP office for enquiries

Other events...

8 th - 10 th March	Chainsaw Operations, Clermont - EAC 1800 888 710
8 th March	Grazing BMP Workshop, Twin Hills - 07 3238 6048
11 th March	International Women's Day Morning get-together, Lochington - Centacare 0407 392 952
18 th -19 th March	Low Stress Stock handling School, Blackwater - Melissa Vohland 0409 589 983
22 nd - 23 rd March	Accredited Chemical Course, Emerald Agricultural College 1800 888 710
29 th March	Vehicle & Machinery Wash-down Course, Emerald Agricultural College 1800 888 710
4 th April	Social Day, Bogantungan - Centacare 0407 392 952
3 rd - 4 th May	Accredited Chemical Course, Emerald Agricultural College - 1800 888 710
10 th May	Vehicle & Machinery wash-down Course, Emerald Agricultural College - 1800 888 710
17 th -19 th May	Pregnancy Test Animals Training, Blackwater - EAC 1800 888 710
26 th - 29 th May	Chainsaw Operations, Emerald Agricultural College 1800 888 710



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Disclaimer

CHRRUP works in partnership with the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. and NQ Dry Tropics, through funding from the Australian Government's Reef Programme and the Queensland Government. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information contained in this email, however, no guarantee, expressed or implied, is provided.