

# Burnett Catchment Care Assoc Inc NEWSLETTER 16 July 2008

## Program Manager

A change of government has not diminished a federal commitment to Natural Resource Management but it is changing the playing field. While the Rudd government has done spectacularly well to have a number of funding calls available, there is conjecture over what flavour Caring For Our Country will have. The BCCA team are working hard to prepare submissions for the current Open Grants Round. The team are examining strategic partnerships that we hope will ensure maximum investment into the Burnett. The short time lines and the relatively small pool of funding make development of the application challenging, however the funding guidelines are complimentary to Better Burnett's Catchment Recovery focus.

Recently Member for Flynn Chris Trevor visited our Mundubbera office, as BCCA has always had a good relationship with local members it is very pleasing to see the tradition continue. Chris Trevor and his team were given a comprehensive briefing on current activities and made some very helpful suggestions.

Preparations for the Queensland Landcare Conference to be held in Monto 21st - 24th September, are in full swing. It is an honour to have the event in our catchment and BCCA will manage and deliver 2 field trips as our contribution. The trips will showcase BCCA activities and partnerships both recent and long term. Registrations for the conference can be made via [www.qldlandcareconference.com](http://www.qldlandcareconference.com)

Our treasurer Ian Jones made a comment to Chris Trevor that "BCCA do professional development particularly well". I would like to pay tribute to the entire team who have lifted their performance in the last 6 - 8 weeks, as they have dealt with a hefty workload on a slippery playing field. I also congratulate the executive for keeping a full compliment of staff while others in the industry are laying people off. I believe that the staff are and will repay gesture and continue to grow sustainable agriculture and a healthy catchment into the future.

While the road ahead is somewhat uncertain, it is clear to me that agriculture and environment are important to the people of the Burnett and BCCA is well positioned to continue to deliver in both sectors.

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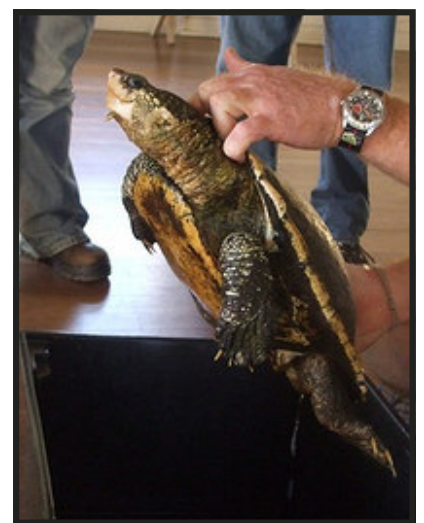
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*"BCCA do Professional development particularly well".*  
BCCA Treasurer  
Mr Ian Jones



Right: A special appearance at the WTST information session morning was none other than *Eseya albagula* and above: onground works protecting the nesting sites along the Burnett River



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## NEWSLETTER 16 June 2008

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### What's On

14: July – Info session for GLM graduates, Wondai  
15: July - Info session for GLM graduates, Eidsvold  
15: July Meet Chris Trevor in BCCA Office, Federal Member for Flynn  
23: July GLM project assessments  
28: July BCCA general Meeting  
30-31: July – ARC GIS training, Bundaberg  
July Caring For Our Country application  
July WTST nest area Protection  
21–24: Sept Landcare Conference Monto

### Better Beef

The last few weeks have been exciting ones for Katie, with her transferring from BMRG to become a full time employee of BCCA as the Better Beef Coordinator. Katie spent June reading many final reports completed by landholders who were funded and completed their Better Burnett sustainable grazing projects. She was very impressed by the outcomes of the sustainable grazing projects and is happy to see the majority completed before schedule.

In the last half of June, Katie has been coordinating the release of a new program, the Grazing Land Management Incentives Project, specifically for graduates of the recent round of the DPI&F GLM workshop series. So it will be a busy next few months, rolling out this new grazing project.

### Better Bush

This month has seen the end of the Pilot, but not the end of our projects! The White Throated Snapping Turtle has been a major focus this month as the BCCA hosted an Information Session South Kolan. The Parthenium Trial Demo Site near Monto is travelling slowly, as the current chilly conditions slow the development of the competitive pastures. The Blue Heliotrope Demonstration Site near Kingaroy, which was put in place last Spring has had the chance to establish, and the results are positive. All of our Demonstration sites will be maintained for monitoring in the near future, to see some of the long-term benefits we hope they will achieve. There have also been a number of biocontrol field releases for Cats Claw Creeper in our catchment, with fantastic results as we roll into the Winter.

### Better Waterways

It's that time of year again when our aquatic weeds such as Salvinia, Water Hyacinth and Hymenachne have started to slow down their growth and chill for a bit, but rest assured while the weeds are having a slow down, we are not, you can still see us out on the river checking for weeds and keeping a check on the maintenance of our river systems in regards to aquatic weeds.

Also in the world of waterways we are well underway in the protection of the White Throated Snapping Turtle (*Elseya albagula*), found in the Burnett, Mary and Fitzroy river systems. These little guys are almost finished nesting and are now just playing the waiting game for the warmer weather to appear so that their eggs can hatch and bring new life into our river systems.

That's all for now in our waterways for the cooler months, stay tuned for more up dates.



Burnett River Sunset  
Photo Courtesy: Louise Newman