

BURNETT CATCHMENT CARE ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

Incorporating: Better Burnett
Catchment Recovery Pilot
Program & Aquatic Weed
Management

2008



PO BOX 105 MUNDUBBERA QLD 4626

CHAIRPERSON REPORT – CR PAUL LOBEGEIER



2008 has been a milestone year for the Burnett Catchment Care Association, and as Chairman, I am pleased to offer this report to the executives and members as a summary of what great achievements have been reached over this time.

Over the past 12-14 months, BCCA has become a major delivery agent for NRM funds to landholders and others for on ground activities. In doing so we have gone from volunteer administration and one contract staff member to six dedicated staff members and a fully operational office. The change has meant that BCCA can shift into a new phase – offering more professional services, the ability to attract additional investment and roll it out across a greater area of our Catchment.

We have seen membership double over the past year to almost 100 members, which continues to grow as word spreads and more activities are put into place.

Strong partnership has been developed with many groups through out the region with many more to come. If we are to be a major player in the system and believe in good out comes for our community we must foster these partnerships as future funding is dependent upon the success in this area. We have built a good working relationship with the BMRG board and their officers and look forward to expanding this in the year ahead.

Our competent staff have continued vital Aquatic Weeds control, as well as the recently launched Better Burnett Catchment Recovery Pilot. As a result, **BCCA** are in a position participate in Caring for our Country projects, the Federal Government's Reef Rescue program, and Supergraze (the second

largest National Landcare Program project ever to be rolled out). In addition staff have recently completed application BMRG's Better Catchments tenders. The change of Government has seen some changes to NRM and the way funds are to be spent. I'm sure the changes are not over yet. We have been able to have very positive talks with C T [Chris Trevor]. I'm sure this relationship will prove to be good for **BCCA**.

After recording massive outputs and meeting all milestones, **BCCA's** Better Burnett project was awarded Burnett Mary Regional Group's *Outstanding Project Implementation Award for 2008*, at the Natural Resource Management Awards in Bundaberg in early September. My congratulations go to the staff and steering committee for achieving this standard.

No enduring success in NRM is achieved in isolation and the **BCCA** has been buoyed by a tremendous team effort. Along with our staff I must pay special tribute to Ian Jones for his outstanding efforts in managing finances. Barrie McLellan and David Rolfe have been absolutely tremendous as chairs of the Aquatic Weed Management and Better Burnett Steering Committees. David and Marion Denham have worked hard on reviewing and refining our model rules. To have them passed will prove to be a major step forward for **BCCA** in improving our corporate governance.

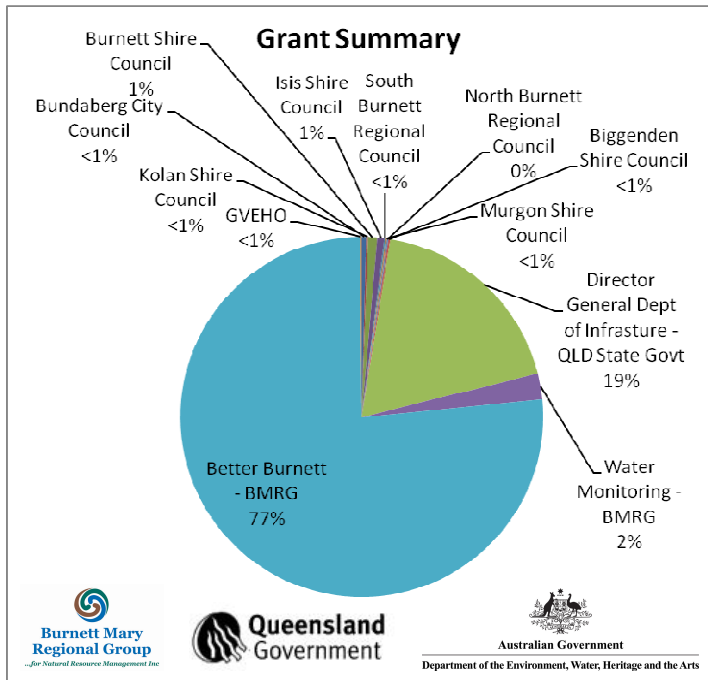
The year ahead can cement our role or it can dwindle the momentum from our recent wins. If we stay united, build on our successes and strong partnerships. Then **BCCA** will become what it was formed to do

TREASURER'S REPORT – MR IAN JONES

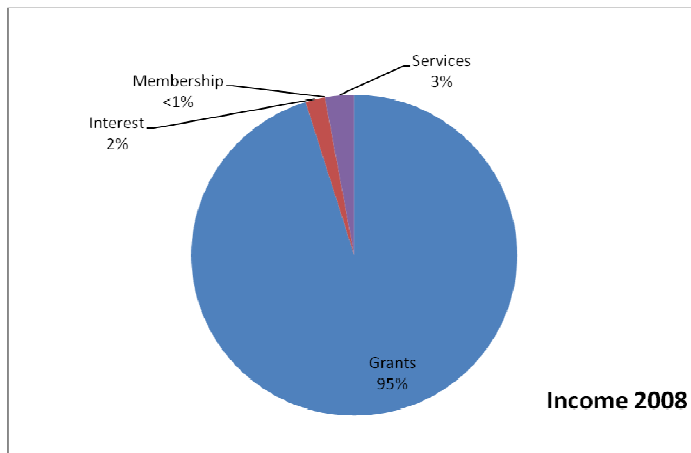
The association's books have been independently audited by Darren Hart & Co.

The association had received a total of \$1,249,529 in grants for 2007 / 2008 this would not have been possible without the major investors input.

A large percentage of funds received were from Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) for the Better Burnett Catchment Pilot and for water monitoring within the catchment area. The Department of Infrastructure and Planning contributed to 19% of the overall funds for the Aquatic Weeds Management program along with the Burnett Shire Council, Bundaberg City Council, Kolan Shire Council, Isis Shire Council, South Burnett Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council, Biggenden Shire Council and Murgon Shire Council also contributed to the Aquatic Weeds Management within the Burnett River.



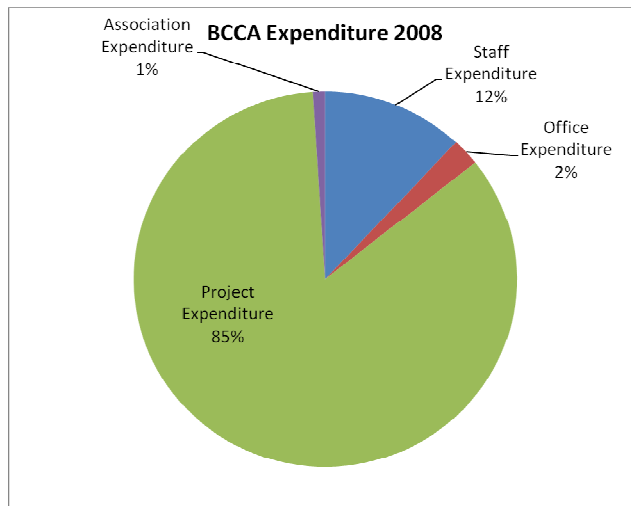
(Please note that not all investors logo are shown in the graph due to the amalgamations of the shire councils). The association was also successful in securing a small grant from Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for administration support for non-profit organizations.



"The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the

evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion, whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and the requirements of

the Association Incorporation Act, 1981, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements of the association's financial position and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows. The audit opinion expressed in the report has been formed on the above basis."



Qualified Audit Opinion

"In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and the requirements of the Association Incorporation Act, 1981 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements the financial position of Burnett Catchment Care Association Inc. as at 30 Jun 2008, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

I am unaware of any mortgages, charges or securities of any description affecting any of the property of the Association as at the 30 June, 2008."

Darren Hart & Co
Certified Practicing Accountant

I would invite any member of the BCCA who wishes to view the full financial reports of the association the opportunity by appointment with the association's Treasurer.

BETTER BEEF REPORT – KATIE MULLER

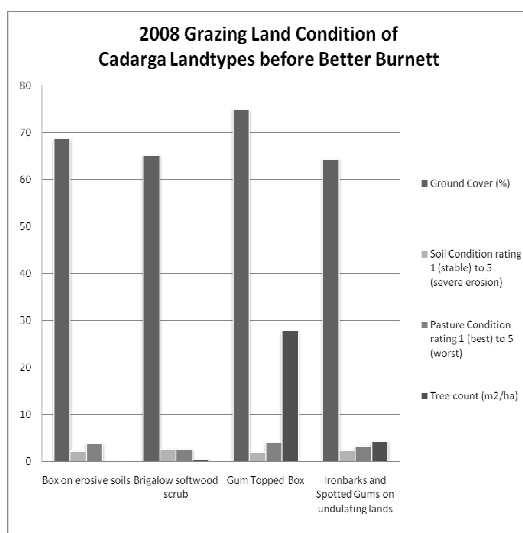
It's been a year for sustainable grazing in the Burnett, with almost 43 000 ha of grazing land enhanced in the inland Burnett through the Better Beef program. It has been my pleasure to see the process of engagement, incentives and outputs work so well in the three priority subcatchments that this program has focused on: the Cadarga, Auburn and Baywulla subcatchments.



The Burnett has long been an important beef producing region, and as climate and market pressures adding to the challenges that graziers in the region face, there has never been a more important time to focus on sustainable grazing. Together with the relatively good season over the past twelve months, Better Burnett is supporting better pastures and better water with the installation of 113 watering points and fencing as well.



It has been great to see the 'communities of practice' being built amongst the small grazing communities that support graziers in maintaining change and fostering adaptation.



Left - Condition of the grazing landtypes in the Cadarga subcatchment before Better Burnett projects were rolled out. The overall condition of Box on erosive soils: C, Brigalow softwood scrub: C+, Gum Topped Box: B-, and Ironbarks and Spotted Gums on undulating lands: C+. Thanks to new watering points and more paddocks, together with good rain, these conditions will improve greatly over the next 12 months.

BETTER BUSH REPORT – LOUISE NEWMAN

The Better Bush program, this past 12 months, has been working towards balancing catchment health with production. We know that the Burnett Catchment hosts two bioregions and has abundant biodiversity assets, but it must work in with the industries that also exist in the catchment that provide benefits to the community as well.



The Better Bush program has been supported by BMRG's Better Burnett pilot project to provide funding towards the biodiversity condition of the catchment's remnant vegetation which has led to the need for partnerships with quality forestry organisations:

Private Forestry Southern Queensland and AgForward Queensland. Through these partnerships BCCA were able to provide incentives to landholders together with the expertise of each organisation to provide outputs that would improve the condition of the native forests on private land, of the remnant vegetation.



Similar things were done with high value wetlands, and the implementation of recovery plans for threatened species on private land: landholders installed fencing to direct cattle and predators from these significant biodiversity assets.



The demonstration sites have gone up without a glitch as well. Our very own work placement student, on loan to us from the University of Queensland, Michelle Stumm, was able to set up the demonstration site for Blue Heliotrope near Kingaroy which has seen

promising results. One site was set up to demonstrate Parthenium management and another for Creeping Lantana management near Monto as well. We had success with the release of a biocontrol agent into an infestation of Cats Claw Creeper and were able to support the Blue Heliotrope biocontrol project in Kingaroy.



As a whole of BCCA project, the White Throated Snapping Turtle Nest Recovery Project has been the focus for Better Bush with the Aquatic Waterweeds project over the past 12



months in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency. BCCA funds have contributed to protecting 42 nesting sites and 10 radio tags to assist with tracking and research on the turtles.

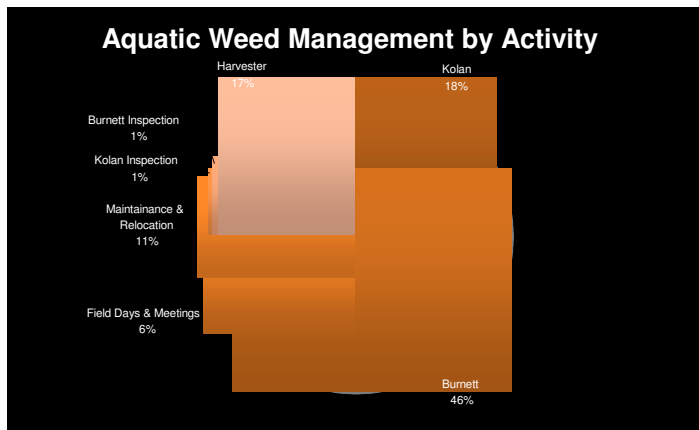
It's been a privilege to see so many projects achieving such great results for the Burnett Catchment's biodiversity!

BETTER WATERWAYS REPORT

In 2008 Better Waterways has built on the strong foundation of Aquatic Weed Management activities. As well as consolidating Aquatic Weed Control, Better Burnett funding has added industry partnerships that improve river health and production. Highlights for the year include the launch of a Bundaberg Soils Booklet as a result of a partnership with BSES, nutrient and sediment reduction works in partnership with Bundaberg Canegrowers, Isis Canegrowers,



and Growcom.



Prior to amalgamation of local governments the Aquatic Weed Management program enjoyed excellent financial support from many of the former local governments. Post amalgamation support, from some of the new regional councils is uncertain and may

result in a significant reduction in support from that sector. In addition at the end of August support from the **Burnett Program of Actions** through the **Coordinator General's** department of State Government has ended. Two years of investment through **BPOA** has been vital to the significant reduction of Aquatic Weeds. **Sunwater** have continued their long term support which is important. Presently there is a shortfall in funding for Aquatic Weeds for the 2008/09 year of approximately \$250,000.



Activities funded through partnerships with Bundaberg and Isis Cane Growers have seen growers undertake soil tests, complete sediments traps, install sub-surface drainage and other practical measures. In partnership with Growcom, horticulturalists in the Bundaberg, Gin Gin and Central Burnett have used a range of practises and new

technologies to improve production and water quality.

All these industry partnerships have not only improved primary production but have involved activities that reduce sediments, nutrients and salinity in our waterways. These efforts treat some of the contributing factors to Aquatic Weeds

