



Catching Up

In the Brisbane and Moreton region — September 2011

Images of the Pine Rivers flood



Building Resilience after the Pine Rivers Flood

Eight months have passed since the flood events that had a profound impact on the landscapes of the Pine Rivers catchment. Anecdotal evidence from some landholders was that the creek levels during the January 2011 flood event were up to six feet higher than in the 1974 flood event. The rainfall in the Mt Glorious area (in the upper catchment) was recorded at 1170 mm between 01/12/10 and 11/01/11 which equates to approximately 30 mm short of the area's usual annual rainfall falling within a 41 day period. Earlier this year, SEQ Catchments, PRCA and SEQ Water surveyed the catchment, both aerially and on-ground (particularly North Pine River and Lacey's Creek), to gauge the extent and impact of these flood events.

Pine Rivers Catchment Association is now working with landholders to restore parts of Lacey's Creek and the North Pine River through a project funded by SEQ Catchments, SEQ Water and Energex. PRCA is also managing a National Green Jobs Corps flood recovery team involved in ongoing flood recovery actions including weed control and native species planting.

The project, "Building resilience after the Pine Rivers flood", aims to build on long-term management and monitoring of the catchment, increasing resilience through adaptive learning and implementation techniques. It involves on-ground works as well as awareness raising, education and future planning.

On ground works are taking place at properties that have undergone an SEQ Catchments Rapid Flood Assessment, properties that suffered significant flood damage, or properties that have received prior NRM investment, particularly from Pine Rivers Catchment Association or SEQ Catchments.

On ground works include flood debris removal, replacement of riparian fencing, riparian revegetation and/or creek bank profiling and reshaping

The project also included a Flood Seminar, hosted in Dayboro, and featuring Grant Witheridge as the keynote speaker. Grant has significant experience and expertise in erosion and sediment control, and spoke of common misunderstandings about the flood, the impacts on the landscape and on Moreton Bay, the benefit of plants and the lessons learnt for the future. Short presentations were also given by DERM, who outlined the legislative responsibilities of landowners in regard to works in riparian areas, and by SEQ Catchments who highlighted the properties that are having flood restoration work undertaken on them.

The project will continue over the next few months. For further information please contact Pine Rivers Catchment Association on 07 3325 1577 or Louise Orr, SEQ Catchments on 0439 024 400.

Riverine Protection Permits

If you wish to remove vegetation, excavate or place fill within a watercourse, lake or spring, you need to comply with the *Water Act 2000 (QLD)*. You may need a Riverine Protection Permit. Information on your rights and obligations under this legislation can be found at the Department of Environment & Resource Management:

www.derm.qld.gov.au/water/management/rpp.html

Australian Wild Law Conference 2011 – Earth Jurisprudence – Building Theory and Practice

As natural resource managers, environmental practitioners, landholders, or just lovers of nature, we must all work and live within a legislative framework. Environmental legislation, which governs how we treat our natural resources and environment, is relatively new. The legal system that underpins it however dates back many hundreds of years. Communities have always used laws to express the ideals to which they aspire and to regulate how power is exercised. As a complex social system our modern legal system therefore reflects the culture and values of societies of the past. The 3rd Australian Wild Law Conference, held at Griffith University from 16 – 18 September, explored how the modern legislative framework can, and is, transitioning to one that reflects our evolving understanding of the environment and how we can live more sustainably upon the earth.

With the theme “Earth Jurisprudence – Building theory and Practice” the conference focussed on the concept of Wild Law and its emphasis on giving rights to nature, using global examples of ‘wild law’ in practice. For example, Ecuador recently developed a constitution that recognises the natural environment as having the same rights as humans. The first challenge to the Ecuador Constitution took place in the Provincial Court of Loja earlier this year. The Provincial Government of Loja were depositing material into a river system, in effect ‘filling up’ the river, completely changing the hydrology of the catchment and the ecosystems reliant upon it. The court recognised the rights of nature and instructed the Provincial Government of Loja to respect these rights and ‘put the river back’.

Significant interest and research in Wild Law and Earth Jurisprudence is happening here in Australia. Keynote speakers at the Wild Law Conference included Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe, Dr Chris McGrath, Senator Larissa Waters, and NSW Chief Justice Preston. More information on Wild Law can be found at Griffith University: <http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/wild-law-2011> and at Southern Cross University: <http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/law/index.php/36/>.

Suggested Resources and Websites - Earth Jurisprudence and Wild Law

Cormac Cullinan, ‘If Nature Had Rights’

<http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/500>

Australian Wild Law Alliance

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Wild-Law-Alliance/250157398335531>

Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature

<http://therightsofnature.org/>

Earth Jurisprudence Resource Center

<http://www.earthjurisprudence.org/>

Thomas Berry

<http://www.thomasberry.org/>

CATCHMENT GROUPS CORNER

Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee (B4C)

07 3420 4800

b4c@bulimbacreek.org.au

www.bulimbacreek.org.au

Northern Catchments Network

07 3407 0865

donna.edwards@brisbane.qld.gov.au

www.northerncatchmentsnetwork.org.au

Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network

07 3878 4581

0407 583 441

cwcn1@bigpond.com

www.cubberlawitton.org

Kedron Brook Catchment Network (Inc.)

enquiries@kedronbrook.org.au

www.kedronbrook.org.au

Bayside Creeks Catchment Group

07 3893 2332

0419 726 543

info@baysidecreeks.org.au

www.baysidecreeks.org.au

Moggill Creek Catchment Group

07 3374 4240

mccgsecretary@live.com.au

www.moggillcreek.org

Norman Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee (N4C)

07 3324 8307

normanck@bigpond.net.au

www.n4c.org.au

Oxley Creek Catchment Association (PRCA)

07 3278 2899

occa@flatrate.net.au

www.oxleycreekcatchment.org.au

Pine Rivers Catchment Association

07 3325 1577

catchmentcoordinator@prca.org.au

www.prca.org.au

Pullen Pullen Catchments Group

contactus@pullenpullencatchment.org.au

www.pullenpullencatchment.org.au

Save Our Waterways Now (SOWN)

0423 763 361

info@saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au

www.saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au

Wolston and Centenary Catchments (WaCC)

07 3178 9816

info@wacc.org.au

www.wacc.org.au

Redcliffe Environmental Forum

peter@redenviroforum.org.au

www.redenviroforum.org.au

Pumicestone Region

Catchment Coordination Association (PRCCA)

07 3888 8209

prcca@bigpond.com

www.prcca.caloundra.qld.gov.au

Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association (BIEPA)

07 3410 0757

0400 627 477

biepa_mail@gmail.com

www.biepa.org

Mt Nebo and Mt Glorious Environmental Protection Association (MEPA)

07 3289 0093

askmepa@yahoo.com.au

www.gloriousnebo.org.au



RESOURCES — GRANTS — EVENTS

Green Heart Fair — Sunday 16 October: 10 am-3 pm

Mt Gravatt Showgrounds 1644 Logan Road, Mt Gravatt

www.citysmart.com.au/greenheartfair

A free, fun family day out with a sustainable twist. Stalls, markets, entertainment and loads more at Brisbane's premier sustainability event. Hosted by Brisbane City Council, the Green Heart Fair features:

- Over 40 sustainability displays with lots of prizes and giveaways
- Sustainable cooking demonstrations with celebrity chefs including Ben O'Donghue, South Bank Surf Club, the Junior MasterChef twins Isabella and Sofia Bliss and Ellie Paxton-Hall, series 3 MasterChef finalist
- All day entertainment including performance by James Reyne on the main stage
- Children's entertainment including a native wildlife show, an all-day Kids Hub with a jumping castle, rock climbing wall, face painting and much more
- Channel 10 personalities
- Nova Sandmans, giveaways and games
- Football workshop with Brisbane Broncos
- The Peter Hackworth Group markets

And much more!

Sustainability Centre Open Day — Saturday 1 October: 9 am-12 pm

Corner Wright Street and Old Cleveland Road, Carindale

A day of gardening, weeding and talking with friends. Join B4C volunteers and other locals in B4C's nursery, community garden and native gardens for a bit of weeding, planting and whatever else needs doing around the site. Morning tea and drinks provided for all, but don't forget to bring your own hat, closed in shoes, water bottle and gloves.

Hays Inlet Festival — 1-7 June 2012

www.haysinlet.com.au

Celebrating the people, places and environment of the Hays Inlet Catchment. Date claimer only—more information coming soon.

Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund

<http://www.olgr.qld.gov.au/grants/JCCBF/index.shtml>

One-off grants of up to \$150,000 are allocated to approved not-for-profit organisations to help them provide community services or activities that benefit the community. These grants are not intended to replace existing sources of support for these organisations. The JCCBF has four annual funding rounds. The closing dates for applications are 28 February, 31 May, 31 August and 30 November.

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation Small Environmental Grant Scheme

<http://nwf.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/>

The objectives of the Small Environmental Grants Scheme are to support **Australian biodiversity** projects that are concerned with one or more of the following: monitoring and recording data, community education, community capacity building (training) and research and science.

The NWF has funded projects ranging from supporting local communities to maintain or restore habitat; to the production of education kits; and the publication and widespread dissemination of research information essential to species preservation. Projects that involve collaboration with a number of partners across a region are of special interest. Small grants are generally around \$5,000-\$10,000, but some strong projects are more than \$10,000. Closing date is 15 December 2011.

The Bjarne K Dahl Trust is currently operating a Small Grants Program focused on eucalypts

<http://dahltrust.org.au/grants/>

The principal purpose of this program is the protection and enhancement of eucalypts as a significant aspect of the natural environment and the provision of information or education about eucalypts. Through small grants the Trust will provide support to the community for the undertaking of eucalypt education, promotion, cultivation, establishment and conservation.

Grants are capped at \$15,000 and are generally made for up to a 12-month period – timeframes may be flexible depending on grant seekers needs and the approval of the Board of Managing Trustees. The requested amount may be part of a project budget of any size – but for projects where only part of the budget is requested, the Trustees may decide to request proof that other funds have been secured before funding is released. Round 4 Closes 4 November 2011.

Louise Orr

SEQ Catchments

Community Partnerships Manager | Brisbane and Moreton region

0439 024 400

lorr@seqcatchments.com.au