

# intro

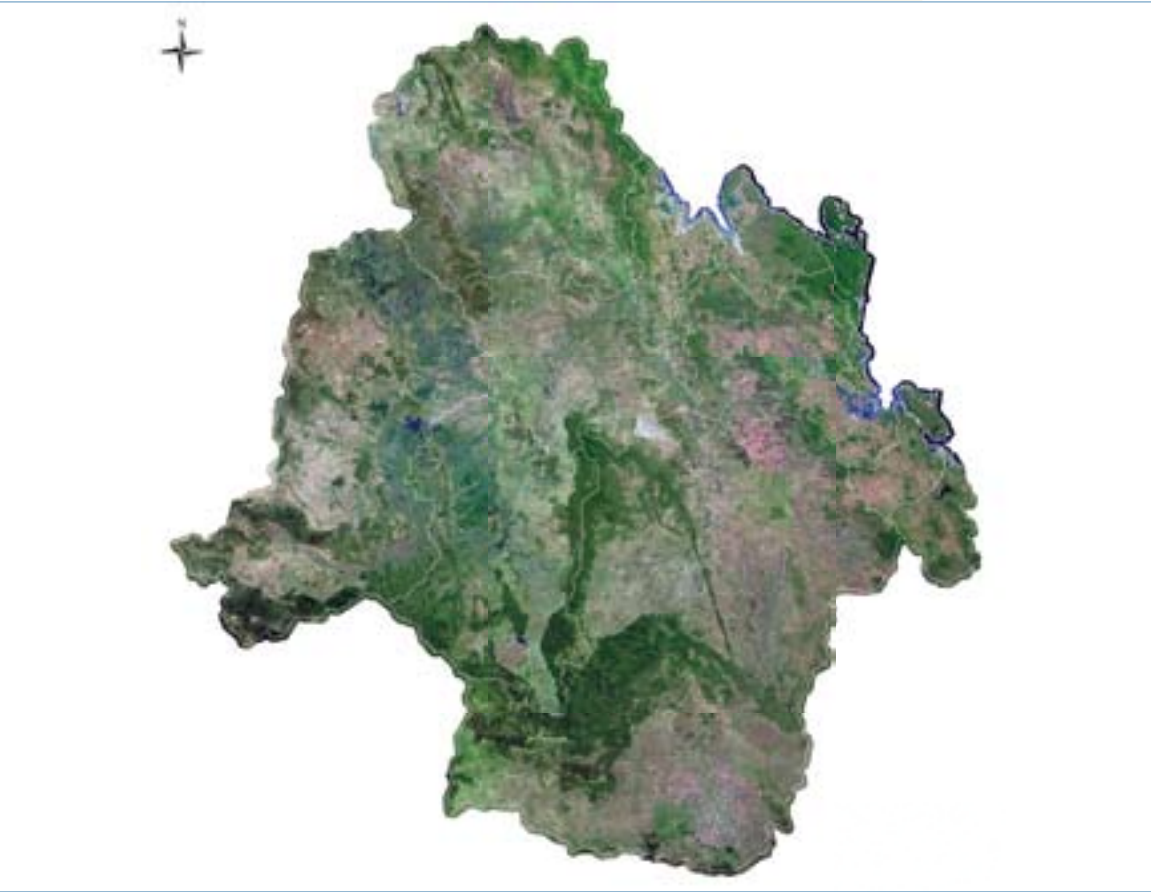
## Introduction

The Fitzroy Basin is a vast region, covering approximately 156 000 square km of land, from Nebo in the north to Wandoan in the south. Land use is based on the largest river system draining to the east coast, with 20 850 km of waterways, 1052 km of coastline and a range of habitats from forest to grasslands, mangrove swamps to wetlands.

The Fitzroy Basin Association is not only proud to be one of Queensland's 14 natural resource management bodies but this year it celebrates its 10th anniversary and a decade of growth and change in response to community needs. The FBA is supported by the Queensland and Australian governments through the Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

A proactive organisation, it is engaging with communities in the five sub-regions of the Fitzroy Basin, with field officers and sub-regional groups providing information, resources and technical support.

FBA's vision is for empowered communities in Central Queensland using our natural resources in a sustainable and balanced way to ensure the continuing prosperity of our communities.



As the SPOT satellite orbits the earth, it passes over the Fitzroy region every 26 days. This image of the whole of the Fitzroy Basin and coastal catchments area was taken from an altitude of 822 km above the earth. Sub-regional boundaries are marked in white.

# Chair's Report

Ted Scott



**Ted Scott**  
Chairman

Since my appointment as chairman in 2006, understanding the depth, breadth and complexity of FBA's regional activities and wider partnerships has proven a refreshing challenge. I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members and Suzie and her team for their efforts throughout the year.

Other new faces at October's AGM were Cr Ellen Smith, Christine Rolfe, Charlie Wilson and Warwick Sheldon. We then undertook an induction workshop which helped us to hit the ground running. I thank my deputy chairman, Charlie Wilson for his continuing support throughout the year. He also chaired the newly formed NRM committee, in our more shared approach to Board representation this year. Christine Rolfe and Ellen Smith fulfilled their nominations to the Finance and Audit Committee very effectively. Cathy Herbert, assisted by Warwick Sheldon, has chaired the third board committee in operation, Human Resources and Workplace Health and Safety. Over the year, these committees have been able to discuss issues more deeply than might be possible at a full Board meeting. They are part of an approach of continuous improvement in Board effectiveness.

Governance and strategy remain core activities for the Board. Company Directors' training was undertaken in December – a refresher course for many but an important skill to maintain. Serious strategic planning and review took place at the February retreat at Rosslyn Bay, as well as more light-hearted socialising. FBA has found these occasions invaluable in building Board solidarity and a shared vision.

The adoption of a new constitution seems fitting in FBA's tenth anniversary year. While the Board needs to be strategic and accountable for FBA's growing budget, staying connected to the grass roots is of paramount importance to our ongoing success. This now occurs mainly at the property interface, with direct interactions by FBA field officers, however, there will continue to be opportunities for larger gatherings like the community dinner held recently in Biloela. Feedback was positive, constructive and will help us improve similar events in future so that the community will still have a direct line to decision makers of the organisation.

In their local areas, our sub-regional and partner groups are now undertaking much of the communication and information exchange activities that FBA once facilitated – we believe this is a strength that should continue to be supported. The opportunity for involvement in action and on-ground activity is now increasing through the sub-regional network. This in turn is generating greater involvement and a broader base for the network. The deputy chair and senior staff meet regularly with the chairs and coordinators of the sub-regional groups to keep FBA grounded in community needs and issues.

The organisation has continued to actively promote the good work and positive stories of the collaborative regional approach. We have attended delegations to Canberra, met with our local members and kept the opposition informed.

Now as never before, it is evident that taking action to protect our natural resources has become vital. Facing an uncertain and increased climate variability, it is imperative to ensure we are all part of planning for and living within a sustainable development framework. I urge your continued support for FBA.



## FBA Board Members (right):

**Back row:** Peter Dunne,  
Warwick Sheldon.

**Fourth row:** Bob Muir,  
Damian Pearson, Bob Miles.

**Third row:** Charlie Wilson,  
John Grimes, Ross Ingram,  
Owen Becker.

**Second row:** Ted Scott, Suzie  
Christensen, Chris Rolfe.

**Front:** Joy Deguara, Ellen Smith

**Far right (top to bottom):**  
Ken Adsett, Cathy Herbert,  
David Brimblecombe and  
Geoff Bethel

# board

## FBA Board

The role of FBA's Board is to set strategic direction and build partnerships with the community to maintain Central Queensland's sustainability. Members ultimately hold the Board accountable for FBA's direction.

Under the newly adopted constitution, fourteen board members, elected at the Annual General Meeting, will serve a maximum of two three year terms from 2007. The men and women of the FBA Board bring not only a wealth of experience in business, industry and agriculture but are also passionate about the environment.

**Chris Rolfe:** "We are the custodians of this land. My passion is to see that our generation, the baby boomers, do everything we can to manage our land and resources well, to ensure we leave it in great shape for the future."

**Owen Becker:** "I like being involved in responsible and sustainable land development so that at the end of the day, you can look back at what you have achieved with pride and satisfaction, knowing you have done your best".

**John Grimes:** "I had a wonderful experience this year traveling through North America and Europe - but there's no place like home - we really do live in a fantastic place with great people and a lifestyle to be envied."

**Bob Miles:** "I am involved with FBA because of my interest in sustainable regional development. I am passionate about the global problem where the environment is degraded by over exploitation and that the poor people are the ones who suffer the most. When I'm out and about, I enjoy studying eco-systems and when relaxing, I go boating."

**Ted Scott:** "It is gratifying to be associated with FBA because it is instrumental in not only improving the productivity of our natural assets but preserving them in good condition for future generations."

**Warwick Sheldon:** "From thirty years spent trawling to full time conservation, but with a continued need for adrenaline - enter one motorbike!"

**Ken Adsett:** "My family (wife, daughter and son) love our rural lifestyle especially growing mangoes. My interests range from wood working, with Central Queensland hardwoods, and dancing (the waltz) to the stock market."

**Peter Dunne:** "I really enjoy being able to support the community through working with FBA and the challenges of applying new technologies to agricultural practices."

**Joy Deguara:** "Apart from spending time with friends and reading a good book, I love to walk, taking in the scenery and appreciating the cattle we have grazing our land. I'm passionate about helping to maintain good services and encouraging people to come and stay in rural Australia. I believe FBA offers the opportunity for landholders and the community to work towards sustainability for future generations."

**Charlie Wilson:** "My passion is agriculture-sustainable agriculture. I hope to leave a legacy of land which can be farmed profitably for centuries. I love FBA for the people involved and the energy they give to achieving my passion."

**David Brimblecombe:** "As the Central Highland Council representative on FBA, I love living and being actively involved in a small but vibrant community. With the Peak Downs Range as a backdrop, I enjoy working on our farm and for my recreation, I play social tennis and travel."

**Ross Ingram:** "I can still enjoy raw, unspoiled, peaceful, landscapes within this vast Fitzroy catchment that future generations deserve to inherit. They will know we cared enough and I'll know I played my small part."

**Ellen Smith:** "FBA looks after the land that gives us our wonderful animals like cattle and chooks that feed the world every day."





# Chief Executive Officer's Report

## Suzie Christensen



**Suzie Christensen**  
Chief Executive Officer

FBA reaches another milestone in its history this year, turning 10 years old, though it's about 15 since its inception. It's interesting to reflect back on that journey; I am fortunate enough to have been around FBA for most of it. FBA's growth, success, influence and credibility were probably not envisioned by the pioneering few who came together and fanned a fire that culminated in formal incorporation in 1997. Since then, the budget has grown from nil, up to a few hundred thousand dollars managed by one staff member and a tireless unpaid committee, to expenditure this year of \$9.3 million. With 88% of those funds being used toward direct project costs, we have clearly remained true to the desire of stakeholders to ensure that money hits the ground and is not wasted in unnecessary administration.

In the early days, FBA meetings were often characterised by conflict between sectors, fear, and 'patch' protection. Our critics were sure that FBA was nothing more than a talk fest, our plan was a toothless tiger and that money we received through NHT should have gone 'on ground'. I admire those who had the courage and vision to continue. The planning FBA facilitated in the past ten years culminating in the CQSS and CQSS2, were the precursor to various projects and more recently the regional investment strategy (RIS). We have directed over \$30 million into the region over those 10 years – no mean feat for an organisation so young. The map adjacent shows the area of properties in our region that have undertaken on-ground projects since 2001. FBA has worked with primary producers on 706 properties, covering 2 914 587ha of land (19% of our region). This momentum looks likely to continue with all incentive schemes applied through Neighbourhood Catchments oversubscribed. Property mapping and planning in the region has increased through FBA's purchase of Spot 5 satellite imagery for the region on behalf of every landholder. Since November 2006, 172 maps covering almost one million ha of land have been produced and distributed.

The ability to influence major state government planning decisions, for example, in the lower Fitzroy Agricultural precinct, would not be possible without solid foundations. FBA is also playing a leading role in guiding investment in core science required to plan and manage into the future, such as our commissioned salinity

risk assessment delivered this year. Work continues on remote sensing of ground cover and acid sulphate soil mapping. The further refinement of Sed-net modelling has allowed us to facilitate establishment of a regional water quality target. Activities since 2004 have improved management on over 750 kilometres of creeks and rivers. Based on the achievements of landholders working with FBA, we can expect a 4.1 million tonne reduction in soil loss to streams over the next ten years. We are also partners in a project looking at evaluating risks to Central Queensland from climate change. The information prepared will assist land managers to manage the risk of likely increased climate variability.

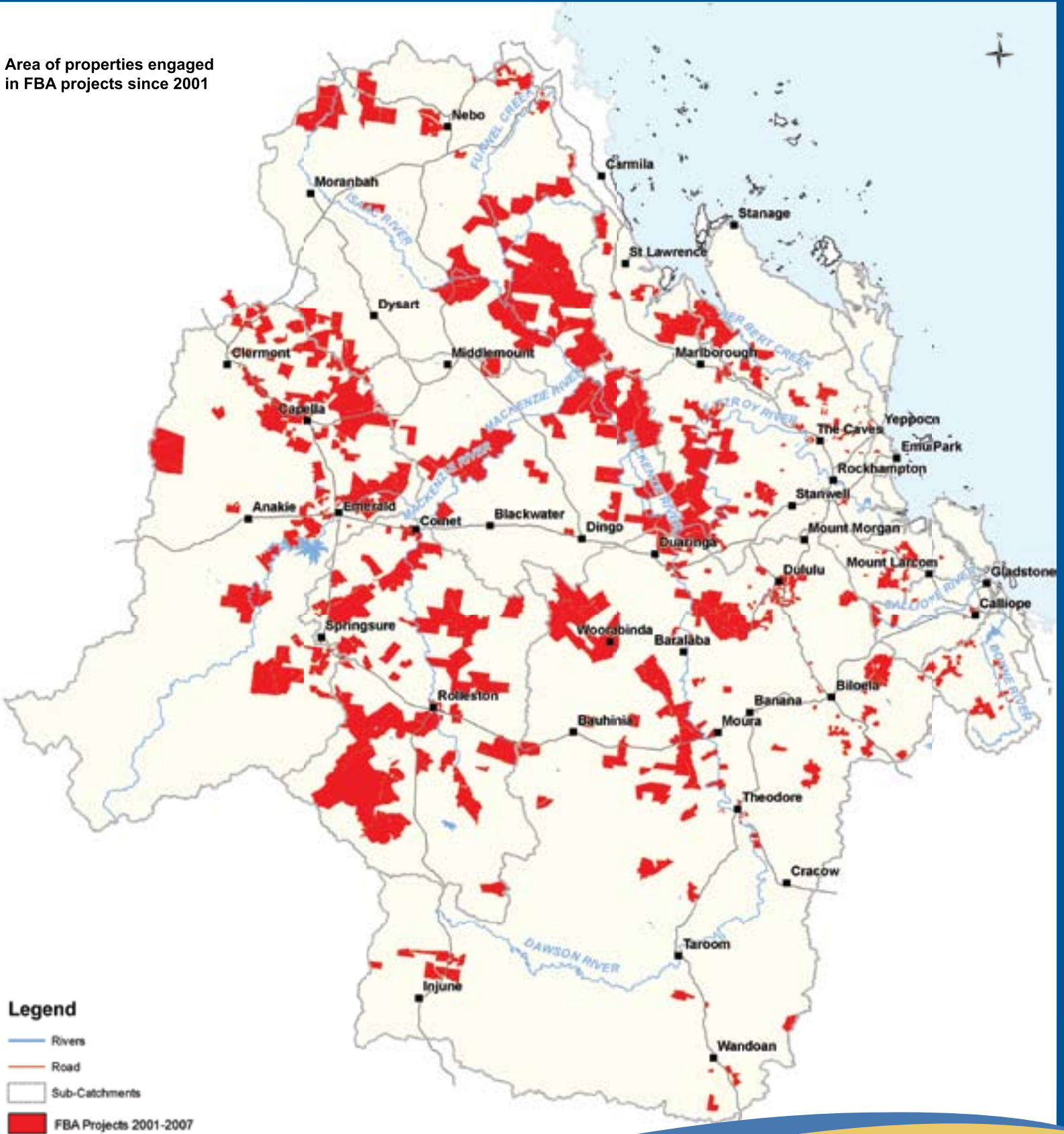
FBA continued to play an important role in bringing together stakeholders from all spheres to share information, build understanding and resolve conflict. We celebrated our success with over 200 stakeholders and staff at the Neighbourhood Catchment Muster in September. In October we held a forum with representatives of the agricultural and mining sectors to discuss issues related to cumulated impact of mining on the landscape.

Collaboration between FBA, AgForce and DPI&F to develop a Farm Management System for the grains industry has been fruitful, as has the Futurebeef partnership between FBA, DPI&F, Beef CRC and Resource Consulting Services. This is developing a systems approach to improving beef business management in Central Queensland.

FBA has also seed-funded DPI&F, Rural Property Design consultants and Traditional Owner Pastoral Companies to assist them to develop holistic property plans under the TOPP project.

FBA is certainly a larger and more influential organisation that it was ten years ago. It has built on the strength of grass roots connections to enjoy successes brought about by strong partnerships, well-established relationships with resource managers and the hard work and dedication of our stakeholders, Board Members and staff. This year's announcement of NHT3 and commitment to the regional community natural resource management model is a clear indication that the next 10 years will be just as positive for the organisation and its people.

### Area of properties engaged in FBA projects since 2001







## OUR Team

### Row One (from left to right):

- Claire Rodgers, NRM Manager
- Julia Callaghan, MERR - Coordinator
- Bronwyn Fryar, Librarian
- Glyn Cummings, Education Officer

### Row Two:

- Michael Bent, Implementation Manager
- Kristian Smith, GIS Regional Coordinator
- Anthony Vize, GIS Officer
- Sharlene Blakeney, GIS Officer

### Row Three:

- Leanne Dinsdale, Business Manager
- Janeen Whiting, Administrative Officer
- Sandra Croyden, Financial Administrator
- Bev Hall, Contracts Administrator

### Row Four:

- Sheree Press, Relationships Manager
- Pamela Jeffrey, Management Assistant
- Gillian Ferris, Management Assistant



**Row One** (from left to right):  
• Celebrating 10 Years  
• GIS Day

**Row Two:**  
• Jill Lyons  
• Gavin Peck  
• Catrina Wolski  
• Liz Alexander

**Row Three:**  
• Fundraising for deaf kids  
on loud shirt day  
• Farewell for Jo Rodney

**Row Four:**  
• Mittsy Voiles  
• Shandelle Hancock  
• Shannon van Nunen  
• Vanessa Woods







# Program Reports



# Land

## Sustainable Landscapes

The Sustainable Landscapes program addresses land use and management practices affecting ground cover as the primary pressure affecting soil condition, production, water quality and biodiversity. Through the program's investments, soil loss from the region is diminished with a subsequent decrease in sediment delivered to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

### Major Achievements

- 206 property action plans and projects with landholders covering 967 025 ha.
- Management of 45 036 ha of grazing lands has been improved through fencing and managing grazing to land types.
- Improved farming practices have been adopted on 35 890 hectares of dryland cropping land.
- Strategic control of 19 143 ha of weeds.
- 172 maps covering 861 606 ha have been produced since the SPOT 5 satellite imagery became available in November 2006.

To achieve ongoing improvements in management, four new collaborative projects have commenced:

- Grains BMP– collaboration between FBA, AgForce and DPI&F to develop a Farm Management System for the grains industry.
- FutureBeef – collaboration between FBA, DPI&F, Beef CRC and Resource Consulting Services for a systems approach to improving beef business management.
- Monitoring of ground cover through remote sensing.
- Traditional Owner Property Planning - an agreement between FBA Inc, DPI&F, Rural Property Design and multiple Traditional Owner pastoral companies now provides for technical support to develop holistic property plans.



Gavin Peck  
Technical Manager



More than half a million dollars have been invested in integrated pest management. This investment has been levered by further investment from local governments, landholders and national weed initiatives. An aerial survey of weeds is being used to implement successful Blueprint for the Bush Pest Offensive applications.

Long term success in weed control is supported by new wash down facilities nearing completion at Calliope and Emerald. Construction of another two wash down facilities, currently under negotiation with local governments, will further limit spread of weed seeds.

Top Left:  
Trudy Baker, Capricorn Pest  
Management Group





**Cameron Wearing**  
Regional Coordinator Salinity

## Salinity

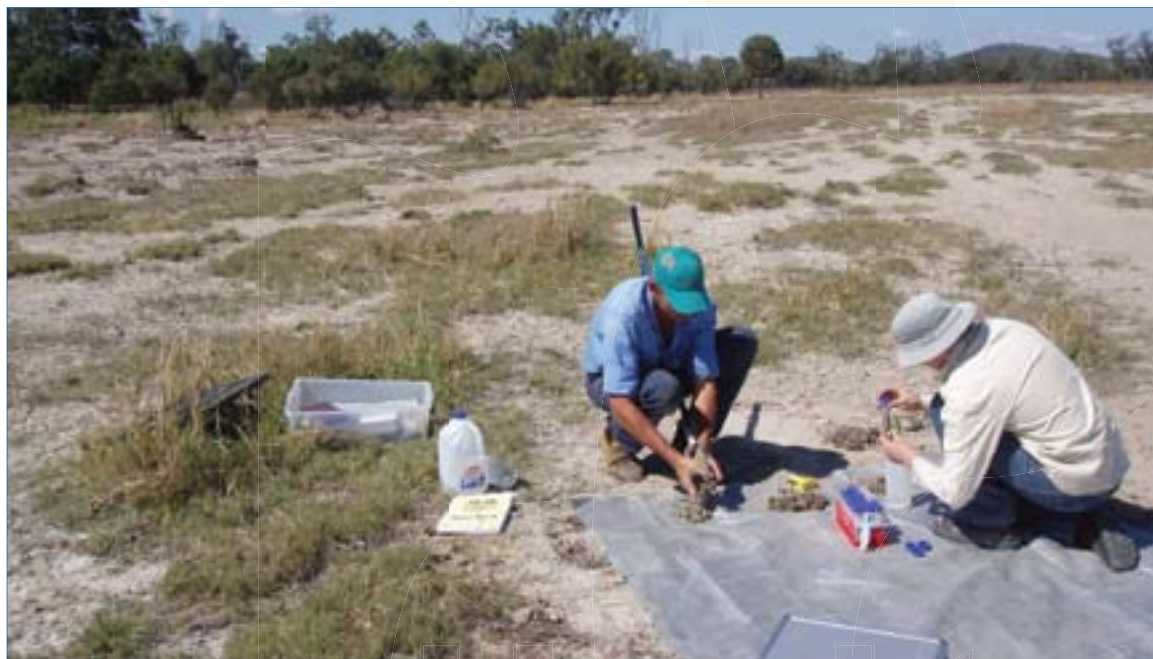
Salinity is still one of the most significant long-term threats to the economic, social and environmental assets in the Fitzroy Basin. The early focus has been to develop knowledge to determine areas and drivers of risk. The program now shifts its focus from assessing risk to addressing risk and provides a strategic approach to managing current outbreaks and high risk areas.

### Major achievements

- The salinity risk assessment has now been completed and presented to the community of Central Queensland.
- Preliminary data sets from the risk assessment have been used in the Priority Neighbourhood Catchment program and the final product will be used in the next round of prioritisation workshops.
- The risk assessment is also being used for land use planning in the Fitzroy Industry and Infrastructure Study (FIIS) and CQ Land Use Study.
- Risk assessment will be used by land managers to improve salinity management on-property.

The risk assessment process and output is demonstrative of FBA's desire to assist our land managers to develop and use leading edge technology to manage for improved outcomes. Regional land managers are now able to use more closely targeted and locally-relevant information to manage resources for reduced risk of salinity outbreak. Since the early work became available, landholders have become increasingly interested in its capability and are keen participants in its use. Media exposure, including radio interviews, has helped to build awareness and the process is featured on the FBA website.

FBA has also contributed towards the development of the draft State Salinity Strategy.





# care

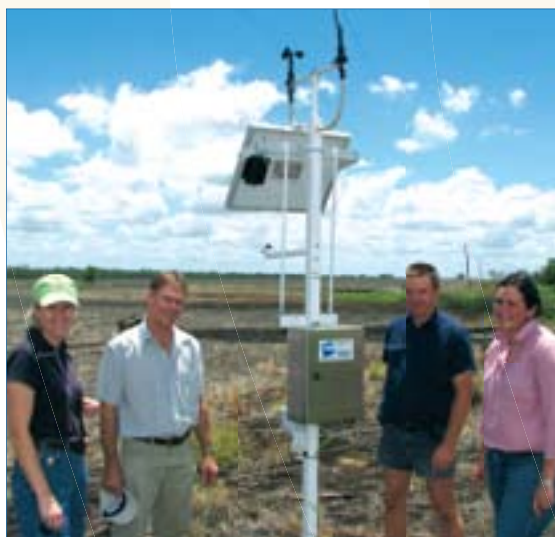
## National Landcare Program

The National Landcare Programme (NLP) is a long-standing program funded through the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. NLP funding encourages landholders and community groups to undertake Landcare and sustainable agriculture related projects. NLP also funds coordinators to assist applicants to develop projects for investment.

National Landcare projects continue to provide valuable assistance in achieving regional targets and to augment funds invested through the Regional Investment Strategy. The Strategic Regional Facilitator project assists FBA by the provision of resources to link with Australian government programs and to assist FBA to maximise investment of these programs in the region.

### Major Achievements

- Collaboration with Agforce and DPI to develop and implement a spray management module for the best practices program for the grains industry.
- CINet – a pilot in the Comet catchment, using a telemetry network of thirteen weather stations to assist management of spray drift.
- Fifteen Landcare and other volunteer groups have undertaken Landcare education and awareness activities through the Reinvigorating Landcare Project.
- A Greener Future, a DVD developed by landholders in the Morinish and Wycarbah Landcare groups assisted by consultant Mick Alexander, was launched at the Mackay Landcare Conference. It showcases landholders undertaking property management planning, mapping, GPS training and on-ground works such as fencing and off stream watering systems.
- Sixty-one applications for Envirofund Rounds 9 and 10 – double the number received for Round 8.



Both the Grains BMP and CINET projects assist sustainable production in the grains/cropping industry through management of spray drift. CINet has been developed by the Comet Sustainable Farming Systems Group Inc who are now involved in extending implementation of best practices in spray management to farmers in the Big Bend Landcare Group and others through on-farm consultancies, field days, training and machinery modifications. The State Landcare Coordinator aims to use the project as a case study in a national promotions publication highlighting sustainable agricultural practices in our region.

Continuing the successful Landcare approach to improved natural resource management through education and awareness, the program supported Landcare newsletters, web sites, DVD production, signage and materials for displays, the Baralaba Landcare Forum, Young Farmers Day at Gordon Downs near Emerald and an Intergenerational Grains Study Tour visiting farms in the Duaringa, Orion and Theodore districts. The products have been distributed to key stakeholders including industry groups, sub-regions and used as promotional material at field days and forums.



**Jill Lyons**  
Strategic Facilitator

**Top Left:**  
Jill Lyons, Rick Kowitz, Murray Melville and Anna Keetels

## Healthy Waterways, Rivers & Wetlands

The Healthy Waterways program invests in development of new knowledge related to water quality; protection of riparian and other wetland areas to improve condition and improves passage of fish through artificial barriers.

### Major achievements

- Water quality target set to cumulatively reduce sediment delivered to in-stream aquatic habitats by 4 100 000 tonnes over 10 years.
- 750 km of streams and rivers and 41 239 ha of wetland and riparian native vegetation (482 km and 27 142 ha this year alone) are now protected.
- Five pondage banks on the Fitzroy River Floodplain have been removed to improve fish passage.

- Nineteen water quality monitoring workshops were attended by over 2500 people.

- Mount Morgan Water Treatment Plant is complete and has been commissioned.

Modelling work is currently underway to help set targets for water entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

The high demand from landholders to improve the condition of riparian areas and water quality has outstripped the funding available.



**Nathan Johnson**  
Regional Coordinator  
Water Quality

**Right (from left to right):**  
Rachel Bryan  
Water Quality Officer

Nick Kirby  
Water Quality Officer

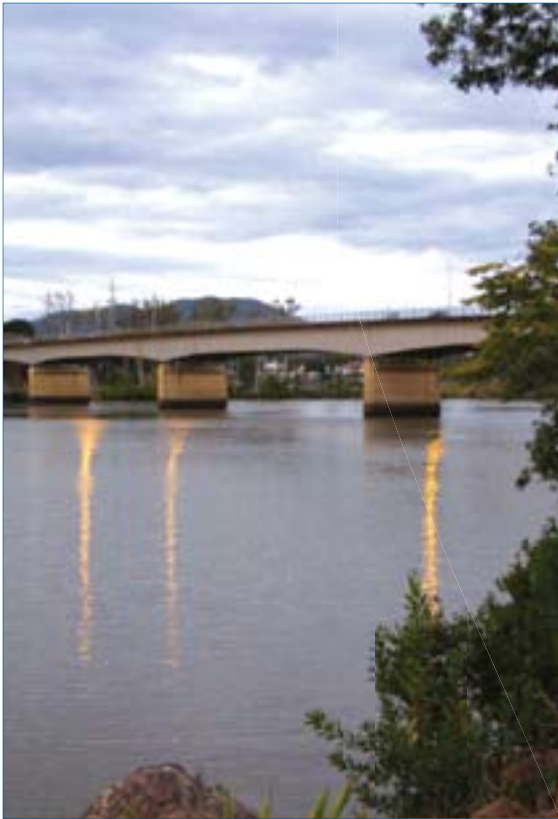


**Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.**  
Annual Report 2006 - 2007

water



## Water Allocation & Management



Reliable and secure water is essential for viable primary production, industrial development and an urban population. A balanced approach is necessary to maintain economic viability and growth while allowing sufficient environmental flow for the region's ecosystems. This program focuses on three main areas: increased water use efficiency in irrigation, change management in areas of decreasing water availability and allocation of water.

### Major achievements

- 80% of Dawson Valley Irrigation Area is now irrigating more efficiently.
- Increased knowledge of groundwater modelling and recharge has helped the community to participate in the amendment to the Fitzroy Basin Water Resource Plan for the Callide subcatchment.
- FRCC, Yeppoon Co-op and Growcom are extending a water use efficiency trial in pineapples giving other growers the edge in sustainable production.

This program continues to invest successfully in high return activities designed to improve both the environmental outcomes and economic returns of irrigation and water use in Central Queensland.



## Biodiversity & Vegetation

Central Queensland has a rich and diverse range of terrestrial biodiversity and vegetation, falling across four bioregions: Brigalow Belt North (52.5% of the region), Brigalow Belt South (43.5%), Central Queensland Coast (2.5%) and Southeast Queensland (1.5%). The region is noted for its rugged and beautiful sandstone Carnarvon Ranges, Krombit Tops rainforests, Dawson bogomosses, Central Highlands bluegrasses, Brigalow country, Marlborough Serpentine vegetation and the Lower Fitzroy floodplain wetlands.

While these valuable assets remain under pressure from agriculture, mining and urban development, through incentives and education, the Biodiversity and Vegetation Program benefits overall ecosystem health and helps to conserve species.

### Major achievements

- Twenty five landholders have signed Voluntary Conservation Agreements to protect 12 247 ha of high biodiversity value remnant vegetation.
- A cross-regional project is providing incentives in the Boyne/Calliope region to manage remnant rainforest.
- Biodiversity and Coal Mining project has been completed with a set of recommendations for governments and the mining industry.
- Projects investigating threatened species provide recommendations for management.

Threatened species work has concentrated on the Yellow Chat, Crimson Finch, Fitzroy River Turtle, *Cycas ophiolitica* (a Cycad) and the Bridled Naitail Wallaby. Publications include a brochure highlighting management for better outcomes for the Pygmy Cotton Goose, a Broadsound NRM condition report and reports on Marlborough Serpentine area as well as Restoration of Remnant Brigalow. Strategic investment in threatened species work will now be possible once the report from the Biodiversity – Back on Track workshop run in partnership with EPA is delivered.

Several workshops were held regarding the vegetation management framework and regional ecosystems. Through increased understanding, landholders and staff can integrate this knowledge into property management planning.



**Graham Lightbody**  
Regional Biodiversity Coordinator

**Right (top):**  
Vanessa Wood and Rhys Kellow  
Biodiversity Field Officers



**Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.**  
Annual Report 2006 - 2007





# coast

## Coastal & Marine

The Coral and Coasts program continues to protect our coastal and marine assets from pressures associated with increasing population, development, tourism, agriculture and industry. Central Queensland's coastal and marine areas are diverse: marine plain areas used for grazing; coastal ranges under horticultural development; high population urban areas; intensive industry developments; and world class port facilities supporting fishing and export industries. Coastal areas are highly regarded for their intrinsic natural values and are critical habitat and breeding grounds for a huge range of terrestrial, aquatic and marine species.



### Major achievements

- Major project to deliver planning for future protection investment signed with Livingstone Shire Council and now almost complete.
- Research projects investigating Snubfin and Indo Pacific Humpback dolphins, beach scrubs and seagrass continue to influence management.
- Protection of inshore coastal water quality and rehabilitation of dunal and foreshore areas continues, particularly on Kemp Beach, Lammermoor Beach, in Capricorn National Park, at Zilzie and the St Lawrence and Iwasaki Wetlands.
- Major project developed in Herbert Creek estuary to protect 21 km of marine plains and mangroves.

The program also invests in public participation in coastal management. The Keppel Islands community coastal action group is monitoring marine condition surrounding the Keppel group of islands. The Boyne-Tannum Coastcare group is undertaking on-ground activities. Opportunities to be involved in zoning issues and management of the Southern Great Barrier Reef are also popular.

As momentum has been built in the coastal communities, many of the activities initiated in earlier years are gathering pace and nearing completion. Many research reports commissioned over the past few years are now completed and being incorporated into management plans. These will guide FBA's future investment in protecting coastal species and communities from pressure.



**Shane Westley**  
Coastal & Marine Coordinator

**Left (top to bottom):**  
Shane Westley

Daniele Cagnazzi  
PhD Candidate





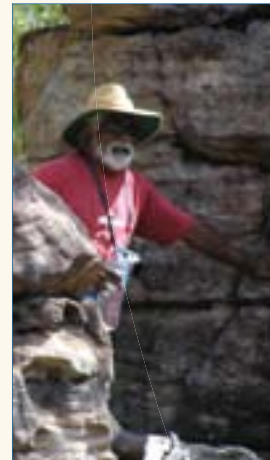
# Protecting Our Heritage

The Protecting our heritage program invests in intergenerational and cross-cultural transfer of traditional ecological knowledge in Central Queensland. Traditional Owners are assisted to pass on and preserve their knowledge and to incorporate their knowledge into natural resource management decisions.

## Major achievements

- Indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage has been incorporated into Neighbourhood Catchments process.
- Cultural heritage mapping and protection projects have been developed with Indigenous and non-Indigenous landowners and are providing important education and awareness opportunities for the wider community regarding duty of care for cultural heritage protection.
- Indigenous communities are engaged in water quality and wetlands management and are networking with Indigenous communities in adjoining regions.
- Indigenous pastoral companies are incorporating social, economic, cultural and environmental considerations into holistic property management plans which are attracting investment.

Two very important ceremonies to return country to the Traditional Owners took place at Gawula, or Mt Wheeler, for the Darumbal people and at Great Keppel for the Woppaburra people. As well, Traditional Owners travelled to Taroom for the 150th anniversary of the Shire and visited the cemetery at the former mission on Bundalla Station. Warraburra and Darumbal people gathered at Gracemere, visiting cultural heritage sites on Gracemere Station and other sites within the area.



**Jason Pfingst**  
Project Officer  
Natural & Cultural Resources

**Right (from top to bottom):**  
Reggie Jia and Louise Willie  
FBEC Staff

Wappaburra people celebrate  
Great Keppel Island handover  
with Ministers



**Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.**  
Annual Report 2006 - 2007



# region

## Healthy Region

The Healthy Region program delivers and supports healthy regional arrangements and institutional capacity necessary for effective regional planning. Elements include: community based coordination; networks and leadership at local, sub-regional and regional scales; integration of and access to best available science and knowledge; sound sub-regional and regional planning capacity; monitoring, evaluation, review and reporting systems; and effective two-way communication.

### Major achievements

- Neighbourhood Catchments Muster demonstrated regional success in investing funds on-ground and was attended by more than 200 people: landholders, community, natural resource management groups, government and consultants.
- The CQ Mining Forum involved over 100 delegates from the government, mining, agriculture and community sectors to discuss issues from policy to practice.
- Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Catchments approach is underway to enable timely adaptation.
- FBA and sub-regional staff and Board members are involved in a range of regional, state and national initiatives making important and long lasting contributions to the future of natural resource management in Australia.

The increased capacity of sub-regional groups has been instrumental in attracting investment from other investors, as well as providing the platform for additional government funding becoming available to the region in initiatives such as the Great Barrier Reef Wetlands program.

The FBA constitution has been reviewed and incorporates changes to both the Board election process and the Stakeholders Council. The organisation will communicate more effectively with sector groups and individuals through conduct of Board meetings away from Rockhampton and special purpose engagement such as the Mining Forum.

Our media profile has been lifted considerably, providing many more opportunities to publicise the good work of our stakeholders in managing the region's natural assets.







# Sub-Region Reports





# Curtis

## Boyne Calliope

### Neighbourhood Catchments

In August 2006, the Boyne Calliope Sub-Regional Committee met to establish their Priority Neighbourhood Catchments. The areas that were selected were Bracewell, Degalgil Creek, Ridler Creek and Upper Calliope River. Several keenly interested community members from these catchments met in October to discuss ways of involving landholders and other stakeholders in improved catchment management. Twenty five landholders have signed contracts over the past 12 months, covering riparian and land type fencing, salinity management, healthy waterways and wetlands and weed control. A total of \$193 674 was allocated to these projects.



### Rainforest Recovery Program

The goal of this program is to assist landholders to manage their land to protect and recover rainforest/scrub areas on their property. Under this program, the Biodiversity Field officer is working to increase the amount of private land

managed for conservation in the Boyne Calliope by offering technical support and resources to support landholders.

### Giant Rat's Tail Project

Giant Rat's Tail Grass is an aggressive species that can dramatically reduce the carrying capacity of areas that have become infested. It is very difficult to identify as a number of native species are quite similar in appearance. In October 2006, a project was initiated in the Boyne Valley area to assist landholders with the spraying of GRT. Funds in the form of subsidised chemicals, equipment and labour were made available to landholders in strategic areas to assist with the control.



**Andrew Schweitzer**  
Former Catchment Officer



# Three Rivers

This past year saw considerable change and progress in the Three Rivers Sub-Region. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with FBA and the Three Rivers name and logo were adopted. While Three Rivers will continue to implement the CQSS2 plan in the Isaac/Connors and Mackenzie, the region also identified their own focus, namely the promotion of best and innovative natural resource management practices.

## Neighbourhood Catchments

Twenty four landholders initiated projects within the Three Rivers catchment region. \$219 321 was allocated to neighbourhood projects with landholders contributing \$399 216 worth of in-kind funds towards them. Projects included riparian fencing, land type fencing and strategic weed control.

## Giant Rat's Tail Grass (GRT) Strategic Weed Control

As a directive of the Three Rivers Committee and in partnership with Nebo Shire Council, CPMG strategic weed control was implemented in the upper Isaac/Connors catchment. Apart from initiating GRT control projects with Three Rivers, a significant number of landholders also committed to ongoing control of this weed by voluntarily signing pest management agreements.

## Partnerships

Three Rivers has been working with the DPI&F on the Future Beef program that has been implemented throughout Central Queensland. The project encourages landholders to take a holistic approach towards their beef production that examines both economic and natural resource sustainability.



**Ruth Anderson**  
Former Coordinator



**Right (from top to bottom):**  
Katie Elder hands over to  
Kate Wilson

Michelle Right and Kate Wilson  
Three Rivers Field Officers







# Fitzroy River & Coastal

FRCC has 88 Individual and 36 Group Members, who represent Landcare, Grazing, Horticulture, Pest Management, Fishing, Local Government, Water Supply, Cultural Heritage, Industry, Tourism, Conservation and Forestry.

## Neighbourhood Catchments

Raglan was the initial focus Neighbourhood Catchment for 2006-07. The Raglan NC work coincided with the delivery of the \$130 000 Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetland Protection Pilot, which focused on the health and connectivity of streams and lagoons from Gracemere to Raglan Creek. Many sites on camping and water reserves, involved close interaction with trustees and lessees, for example the controlled wetland grazing trials.



Engagement with landholders in the Styx-Herbert catchments followed early in 2007. Good use was made of Marlborough Landcare's network and relationships built through the ReefLink partnership with DPI&F. The focus was on increasing interest in property mapping and planning, leading to sustainable beef production partnerships. The strong uptake of Property Action Plans from the Styx-Herbert indicates a good commitment to economically and environmentally sustainable grazing.

FRCC remains heavily involved in the 2004-06 priority areas of Alligator, Hedlow and Woodbury-Bungundarra, with a major focus on project completion, monitoring and evaluation of communication and engagement successes or gaps.

## Partnerships

FRCC has worked closely with Landcare in delivering our Capacity Building program and we received DNR&W – Community Awareness Grants for Wetland Connections at Springer's Lagoon and Mt Archer State School's Educating for a Sustainable Future.

Stanwell Corporation Ltd. (SCL), supported the development of management plans extending the GBR Wetland pilot at Gracemere Lagoon and examining the potential uses of the former St Joseph's Home on Neerkol Creek. The SCL partnership is supporting the Gracemere Lagoon Restoration Project, coordinated by FRCC Catchment Services, Fitzroy Shire and Green Corps.



**Michael McCabe**  
Business Manager

**Left (from left to right):**  
Darcy Murray, Field Officer

Murray Bullock and Chantelle  
James chat with landholder



# Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association

## Neighbourhood Catchments

Hutton, Palm Tree, Bell, Oaky and Banana Creek were all selected as Priority Catchments this year by the DCCA Committee. Staff hit the ground running and worked with landholders to develop projects which not only improve natural resource outcomes but also result in profitability for the landholder in the future.

Landholders concentrated on riparian and wetland management, machinery conversion to develop no till cropping, managing to land type, weed control and water use efficiency.

DCCA and FBA committed \$367 000 in the sub region, with landholders contributing in kind to the value of \$611 000 for on ground activities with a total value of just less than one million dollars.

## Natural Sequence Farming

The Dawson hosted Peter Andrews for three days of in-service on his Natural Sequence Farming methods of managing and rejuvenating the land. About 70 landholders attended the two rolling field days between properties from Thangool to Theodore. The third day culminated in Peter addressing the Dawson Land and Water Forum in Wandoan.

Landholders, local Landcare Groups and DCCA travelled north to Bowen to investigate a property where Peter's methods of rehydration have been used for the past four years. This trip generated plenty of discussion about the return of native pastures, the use of the leaky weirs and how these practices could be implemented at the local level.

## Other

DCCA provided landholders with information about such issues as legal implications when dealing with the mines; the latest in property planning; how to make the best use of some technologies; the NSF information; and progress of local soils studies. The latter led to a field day on soil biology and compost tea brewing at Baralaba, with joint presentations from two leaders in the Dawson area.

DCCA worked with irrigators in the Theodore Irrigation Area to purchase soil moisture probes and provide property mapping which has fed well into FBA's continuing Water Use Efficiency project. DCCA worked with 4T Consultants to provide the property mapping which assists property planning and complements the IAWM project.

DCCA continues to work with QMDC around the Injune area, to assist landholders in property planning and to prioritise on ground works.



**Jennifer Gleeson**  
Catchment Coordinator



**Right (from left to right):**  
Robyn Mapp, Kris Trevilyan, Alec Breckenridge, Claire Breckenridge and Jennifer Gleeson





# chrrup

## Central Highlands

### Neighbourhood Catchments

CHRRUP has strengthened its position in the community over the past 12 months and continues to build its reputation through successful partnerships with landholders and community members. During this year, CHRRUP engaged with priority neighbourhood catchments around Capella, Cona Creek and Humboldt Creek, launching the work in each catchment with a local BBQ and an information session about our goals and processes.

CHRRUP has also successfully developed projects across 67 properties. These cover 47 projects in the Capella NC, 17 projects in the Humboldt NC, and 18 projects in the Cona Creek NC, committing \$795 218 to on-ground projects with in-kind contributions from landholders of \$2 578 464.

Landholders built their skills and knowledge base by participating in a variety of workshops about regional ecosystem mapping, GPS and GIS mapping and management of cropping systems and grazing land.

### Major Achievements

CHRRUP values its partnerships with local groups and helps build a stronger community through links with grower groups, local organisations and diverse funding partners.

CHRRUP has:

- Continued to support the network of Weather Stations and the Comet Sustainable Farming.
- Continued to work with Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM group in the Belyando-Suttor Catchment funding a full-time field officer.
- Worked with Clermont and Lake Maraboon Landcare Groups to support their activities, through on-ground work, funding for members to attend Landcare conferences and preparing submissions for awards.
- Actively worked with the CHNRMG Project Officer to build community awareness about the economic and production losses of weed incursions, through field work and local media.



- Played an active role in local AgForce Branches; Rural Services Committees; Fitzroy Basin Food and Fibre and the Central Highlands Cotton Growers and Irrigators Association.
- Presented information about sustainable communities and agricultural practices to the mining sector's Queensland Resources Council Environment Committee.

CHRRUP continues to place importance on technical and business partnerships with local consultants and State Agencies.

The staff team and the Board are making great advances in working together to provide the Central Highlands with a proactive and productive community owned NRM group.



Anna Keetels  
Executive Officer

Left (from top to bottom):  
Vicky Kuhn and Susie Bate

Sally Murden



## Contact Details

### **Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.**

Suncorp Building,  
Level 4, 34 East Street  
PO Box 139, Rockhampton QLD 4700  
Ph (07) 4999 2800  
Fax (07) 4921 2860  
Email: Browse staff email addresses at  
[www.fba.org.au/about\\_fba-staff.htm](http://www.fba.org.au/about_fba-staff.htm)

*Visit us online at [www.fba.org.au](http://www.fba.org.au)*

### **Central Highlands Regional Resource Use Planning Cooperative (CHRRUP)**

PO Box 115, Emerald QLD 4720  
Phone (07) 4982 2996  
Fax (07) 4982 2985  
[www.chrrup.com](http://www.chrrup.com)

### **Fitzroy River & Coastal Catchments Inc (FRCC)**

PO Box 288, Rockhampton QLD 4700  
Phone (07) 4921 0573  
Fax (07) 4921 0528  
Email: [info@frcc.org.au](mailto:info@frcc.org.au)  
[www.frcc.org.au](http://www.frcc.org.au)

### **Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association Inc. (DCCA)**

PO Box 165, Theodore QLD 4719  
Phone (07) 4993 1004  
Fax 4993 1089  
[www.dawsoncatchment.com](http://www.dawsoncatchment.com)

### **THREE RIVERS & BOYNE CALLIOPE:**

Contact Fitzroy Basin Association

© Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.  
ABN: 30 802 469 401