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ENVIRO NEWS

For Bowen and Burdekin

June 2010

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EnviroNews



BBIFMAC Project Reports – May 2010.
Kate Gosney - Acting Projects Manager

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIELD DAY- EVALUATING ALTERNATIVE IRRIGATION FOR A GREENER FUTURE

Field Day-Evaluating
Alternative Irrigation for a
Greener Future
Friday 4th June 2010 from
8.30-11.00am at Chris Hesp's
Shed, Mulgrave Rd (opposite
Freeman Rd).

Information Session and Field
Walk. Morning Tea Supplied
For more information contact
Kate Gosney: 47 834 344.

MAFIA GROUP AGM

4th June 2010 Chris Hesp's
Shed- Mulgrave Rd (opposite
Freeman Rd)

6.30am-8.00am - Cooked
Breakfast Supplied

Evaluating Alternative Irrigation Project.

Due to farmers concerns about the water usage figures for the project two meetings were held at Clare for the members of the MAFIA group. During the first meeting discussions were held with the growers about the water usage and their concerns were addressed. The second meeting was held so that Mark Poggio could talk about the economics of the project and also discuss the paper that will be presented at the ASSCT Conference in May. This paper has now been presented

WQ Pixel Project.

Jacinta has resigned from BBIFMAC to take up a position with DERM in Brisbane. We wish her all the best. Dennis will take over the pick ups and creek sampling in Bowen.

The number of samples collected by the growers has been increasing over the last few weeks, but will again slow down a little as many growers are now drying down paddocks ready for harvest.

Growers have taken advantage of the free soil test to sample

PROJECTS

E.A.I.

Field Day - See Notice Above



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their blocks before planting to comply with the new regulations. Once harvesting commences we expect more growers to use their free tests.

We have now received the results from pesticide tests taken during the wet season. The preliminary analysis showed most creek sites tested in the lower Burdekin had moderate levels of pesticides present during November, December and January except for two sites that had very low to no pesticides present. The results for February showed very low to low levels of pesticides for all creek sites. The Bowen sites had no pesticides present in any samples. Palm creek which is used as a reference site for natural systems has had no pesticides detected

A report card for creek systems is being developed and we will be working with NQ Dry Tropics and ACTFR to confirm ranges for nitrate, phosphate and turbidity for highly modified, modified and natural creek systems. Ambient and event monitoring have now been undertaken and this will enable baseline values to be established.

We will be doing a water quality testing demonstration on 17th June for two groups of students from Ayr State School as part of a water quality day along with other demonstrations.

Caring for our Turtles

The electrician has been given the go ahead to install the lighting shrouds at Queens Beach and will be installed this week. The brochures have printed for this project and the magnets have also been received. These will be distributed to the households via letterbox drops in high risk areas of Bowen over the coming weeks. Pamphlets will also be distributed at information centres, caravan parks and other relevant places.

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