



ENVIRO NEWS

For Bowen and Burdekin

March 2010

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UPCOMING EVENTS

BBIFMAC General Meeting

Next Meeting to be held on the 28th May 2010, Haller Wealth Building 15 Queen St Ayr, commencing 9.30am.

PROJECTS

- *Pixel Project
- *Macro -invertebrate sampling in primary schools
- *Caring for our Turtles - Bowen

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Children from various schools looking at Macro-invertebrates.

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

WQ PIXEL Project.

The recent rains have meant that there has been a significant drop in the number of water samples being collected by growers. Some growers have managed to take rainfall run-off samples, but for many it is not possible due to the conditions of their paddocks. The photometer from the lab was sent off for calibration during this quiet period and has since been returned. Adam developed a set of guidelines and a report card for pesticide and nutrient levels leaving cane farms in run-off water. These guidelines are sent to growers along with their pesticide results. The nutrient report cards will be printed and laminated and given to all growers to help them understand what their results mean and if they can change their practices to improve results. An information session was held on 29th January after the general meeting. This session was well attended. Many of the growers were particularly interested to hear the guest speakers Craig Cruickshank and Shane Hunter from Department of Environment and Resource Management speak on the new Queensland Governments Reef Regulations. Adam and Kate gave an update on the Pixel Project including results from on-farm monitoring and nutrient and pesticide from creek sampling.

Macro-invertebrates and waterway health in Schools

BBIFMAC has received a grant from The Burdekin Shire Council to purchase equipment to demonstrate macro-invertebrate sampling and identification to primary school children in the Lower Burdekin. Many schools have shown an interest in this program with Burdekin Christian College booking a demonstration on the day the funding was granted. The school is doing some revegetation work at Sheepstation Creek and feel that the macro-invertebrate demonstration would fit in well. Kate will be contacting other schools in the area to inform them of the project and organising demonstrations.

Caring for our Turtles

Jacinta has designed a brochure titled 'Sea Turtles – a guide to helping ensure their survival' and is currently designing fridge magnets. These will be sent for printing shortly and will be distributed to households in the Bowen region. The brochures will also be displayed at Tourist Information Centres and various accommodation venues in Bowen. The electrician has been given the go ahead to install the lighting shrouds at Queens Beach.

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