



April 2005

Inside this issue:

- Around the Region** 1
- TLG Team Profile** 2
- Draft Escarpment Plan** 2
- Fauna Workshop** 3
- Attracting wildlife to...** 3
- Weed management...** 4

Toowoomba Landcare Group Inc.



Get Your Hands Dirty!

Practical Action for Environmental Awareness

Chairs Corner

Hi All,

Hope you all had a joyful and safe Easter! The Draft Escarpment Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plan is progressing well with the stakeholder meeting on the 18th well attended. Please see page 2 for details. Now to other news. Toowoomba Landcare Group were fortunate to receive another NRM community Activity Grant to help raise community awareness in relation to water quality and creek health issues. The activity will be held in May in partnership with Toowoomba City Council. Date forth coming. I look forward to seeing you around the tracks!

Cheers, James McKee

Chair

Did you know?

Did you know that Australians use 6.9 billion plastic bags per year and if these were tied together they would stretch around the world 42 and a half times!

AROUND THE REGION

CONDAMINE CATCHMENT

(Regional Investment Strategy)

Condamine Alliance launched its Regional Investment Strategy on the 8th of April detailing \$10.7 million of investment in natural resource management in the Condamine Catchment. This investment (from programs including the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, the Natural Heritage Trust and National Landcare Program) aligns with targets developed through the recently accredited Condamine Catchment Natural Resource Management Plan. The themes of investment include salinity; water; vegetation communities, biodiversity and nature conservation; land use and management; and community. Projects will be implemented through varied partners including community, industry, environmental and research groups, local governments and business.

QUEENSLAND MURRAY DARLING BASIN

The QMDC is busy implementing their Regional Investment Strategy, reviewing targets in their NRM Plan and rolling out the sub-catchment planning process. QMDC also organised two highly successful "Shave for a Cure" events, shaving 5 heads coloring many others and raising nearly \$1500 for cancer research.

SEQ WESTERN CATCHMENT GROUPS

The SEQ Western Catchment Groups are now entering the implementation phase and their focus is now very much upon delivering investment in the most efficient means to achieve targets within 'Healthy Land – Our Future', the regional natural resource management plan for the western catchments of South-east Queensland.

Visit the Toowoomba Landcare Group at www.tlg.org.au

Friends of the Escarpment Park activities – every Monday 9am to 12 pm (Contact John Swarbrick 4632 5850)

TOOWOOMBA LANDCARE GROUP TEAM

PROFILE: SARAH LEWIS (COMMITTEE MEMBER)



Sarah Lewis is the Planning Support Officer for the Queensland Murray Darling Committee Inc. Sarah worked for 3 years as South Australian Farmers' Federation Natural Resources Executive Officer and then at the Department of Environment and Heritage, South Australia (Native Vegetation Section). In past roles, she had experience in a broad range of natural resource management issues, including vegetation and water resource management, native title and cultural heritage. Sarah holds a Bachelor in Environmental Management (Flinders University). s.lewis@landcare.org.au

Draft Escarpment Natural Resource Management Plan (NRM)



The stakeholder meeting for the Draft Escarpment Plan was attended by 15 people representing local government, Department of Defense,



Landcare, regional bodies, bird observers and catchment bodies. Since the meeting strategies have been developed and are available for comment. A steering committee will be formed with representatives from Technical, Landcare, other community, Industry, local government and freehold landholder. The steering committee will direct Toowoomba Landcare Group in plan development and seek and approve any opportunities that may arise to further progress the plan and on ground activities. Please contact Rachael on 07 4637 6285 or rachaelp@landcare.org.au.

WEED STAND AT FREE TREE DAY - RESULTS

Results were gathered at Free Tree Day held at Highfields, in conjunction with Crows Nest Shire Council, in May to see what weeds were recognised by attendees. See below for results. For more information contact Rachael on 07 4637 6285 or rachaelp@landcare.org.au

HOW MANY WEEDS ARE RECOGNISED BY 90 PEOPLE

- ?? 11.1% of people recognised 0 weeds.
- ?? 16.6% of people recognised 1 weed.
- ?? 24.4% of people recognised 2 weeds.
- ?? 16.6% of people recognised 3 weeds.
- ?? 11.1% of people recognised 4 weeds.
- ?? 4.4% of people recognised 5 weeds.
- ?? 7.7% of people recognised 6 weeds.
- ?? 3.3% of people recognised 7 weeds.
- ?? 4.4% of people recognised 8 weeds.



Rick Galbraith (Crows Nest Shire Council)

Fauna Monitoring Workshop

!!! Was A Huge Success !!!



Saturday April 2 2005

The Fauna workshop held on Saturday April 2005 at Ravensbourne attracted 15 participants. The group were fortunate to catch a range of wildlife for monitoring in the traps that were set as part of the day. A number of mice, rats, marsupial critters were caught along with a scrub turkey. The day covered types of native animals living in the area, the use of pitfall and Elliot traps for catching frogs, small mammals etc, spotlighting and invertebrates (insects and related critters).

Attracting Wildlife to your !!! Backyard !!!

Did you know?
Australians use more than
1 million litres of fresh
water per person each
year, or about
24, gigitalitres. That's
enough to fill the Sydney
harbor 48 times over.

Ten people attended the workshop in April which covered plant identification skills and environment weed control techniques. Participants were shown which native plants were appropriate for attracting wildlife and about how to control common environmental weeds found in the Highfields area.



Highfields/Cooby
Landcare Group

'Weed Management - Making a Difference'

The Weed Society of Queensland Inc.

invites you to

**New
Innovations**



**Field
Visits**



**8th
Queensland
Weed Symposium**

**19-22 June 2005
Townsville**



**Community
Initiatives**



**Weed
Updates**



to be held at

Jupiters Townsville Hotel & Casino

Registration and Program

For more information go to www.conferenceplanners.com.au/QWS/tropical%20weed%20symposium.pdf

Toowoomba Landcare Group was formed by a group of people interested in seeing the community of Toowoomba become more responsible and involved in looking after our natural resources.

Landcare is a well recognized and respected concept which is non political, but rather, focuses on giving all community members the opportunity to take responsibility for their environment in a practical way.

The group provide a focus for raising awareness of environmental issues and promotion of practical action. It will also provide the opportunity for community members to "get their hands dirty" in looking after the natural resources in Toowoomba and surrounding areas and provide links to other like minded groups.

Activities include local animal & plant investigation, tree planting, bush regeneration, weed control and native animal habitat.

If you wish to unsubscribe please contact us on these details.

Phone: 07 4637 6285
Fax: 07 4632 8062
Email: rachaelp@landcare.org.au
PO Box 1773
TOOWOOMBA 4350

