

2011 Queensland Landcare Conference PROGRAM

20 – 23 September 2011, AYR



Tuesday 20 September	
1500	Registrations open
1800 - 2030	Welcome reception, Burdekin Theatre Forecourt sponsored by Burdekin Shire Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to Country • Mayoral address and formal welcome • Entertainment
1930	Community screening GASLAND Sponsored by Wombat Creative and Mackay Conservation Group
2000	Tina Turner show commences at Burdekin Theatre – discounted tickets available for delegates www.burdekintheatre.com.au (enter code LANDCARE). Tickets available beforehand or at the Burdekin Theatre box office on arrival.
Wednesday 21 September	
0915	Junior Landcare Conference field trip departs. Sponsored by Sucrogen . More information at http://www.landcare.org.au/JUNIORLANDCARECONFERENCE.htm .
0830 - 0930	Conference opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by Master of Ceremonies John Woods • Welcome by Graham Andersen, Chairman, Lower Burdekin Landcare Association, • Opening address by Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Penelope Wensley AC
0930 – 1030	Can we secure our food whilst maintaining our environment? Dr John Williams, NSW Commissioner for Natural Resources and Member Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists Sponsored by NQ Dry Tropics
1030 - 1100	Morning tea and HANDS ON WILDLIFE

1100 -1230	<p>Land-related stories from across the Burdekin</p> <p>Facilitator: Kathy Cogo, NQ Dry Tropics Chair: Tom McShane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olindo Lazzarin, arrived in Ayr in 1951 from Italy via Uruguay • Ian Spence, joined his Scottish mother in Australia in 1961 at the age of 17 • John Constantine Christofides, born to Greek parents in 1936 has farmed in the Burdekin his entire life • Cecilia Swindley, now 75 is Burdekin born and bred and recalls battles between unions, workers and farmers • Delfina Hocking nee Escriva, born in Australia to Spanish parents with a long history in the Burdekin • James Gaston, Gudjuda man 	<p>Landcare & Catchment community case studies</p> <p>Sponsored by Powerlink Queensland</p> <p>Chair: Murray Abel, Powerlink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mulgrave Landcare & Catchment Group Bruce Corcoran • Towards sustainability in Springbrook Linda Durham (SEQ Catchments) and Ray Cavanough (Springbrook Landcare) • Mooloolah River Waterwatch & Landcare Jan Kesby • BLOG – Border Landcare Organic Growers Douglas Fox • 20 years of Landcare in the Burdekin – Lower Burdekin Landcare Association Graham Andersen 	<p>Community engagement and education</p> <p>Sponsored by DERM</p> <p>Facilitator: Jody McDonald Chair: Bob Spiers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does good community engagement look like? Jody McDonald Fitzroy Basin Association • Reef Guardian Schools, Councils, Farmers and Fishers Karen Vohland, GBRMPA • Innovative strategies for engaging landcare volunteers Laura Dunstan, NQ Dry Tropics • Treehenge, celebrating Life Phil McCullough, Condamine Alliance 	<p>Regional showcase: landscape health and resilience</p> <p>Sponsored by FBA</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of compost tea for improved soil health and farm productivity Kristjan Sorensen, NGRMG • Healthy habitat – improving Townsville’s semi-rural areas Amanda Laurie, NQ Dry Tropics • The Great Sandy Biosphere Reserve Darryl Stewart, Burnett Mary Regional Group • How science from space can save soil Suzie Christensen, Fitzroy Basin Association
1230 - 1330	Lunch and HANDS ON WILDLIFE			

Wednesday 21 September

<p>1330 - 1500</p>	<p>Natural disaster response</p> <p>Sponsored by Terrain NRM</p> <p>Chair: NQ Dry Tropics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural disaster response, Landcare Style, Geoff Penton QMDC • After the deluge: a community driven response to restoring Murphy's Creek Nigel Kimball, Yarramine Environmental • Lessons from Yasi – the role of Terrain in supporting cyclone response and recovery Carole Sweatman and Penny Scott, Terrain • Community flood recovery stories from across Queensland Karen Vidler and Mark Dwyer, Conservation Volunteers Australia 	<p>Engaging young people</p> <p>Sponsored by DERM</p> <p>Chair: Bob Spiers, DERM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking Youth with Landcare, Matt Brown and Chris Gaschk • Youth Leadership in Environmental Art, Natasha Odgers • Junior Wild River Rangers Steve Smith DERM • Engaging young people to manage wetlands Tammy Small and Tahlia McGregor, Goondiwindi-based landcare volunteers 	<p>Carbon in the landscape</p> <p>Chair: Mike Berwick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative Lucy Butterfield, Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency • Leveraging carbon opportunities to deliver local outcomes, Andrew Wilson, Carbonhouse • Talking dirty on Carbon Douglas Fox, Border Landcare Organic Group • Biochar: its potential to reduce nutrient leaching and to improve plant growth Associate Professor Nanjappa Ashwath, Central Queensland University 	<p>Sustainable agriculture (Regional showcase)</p> <p>Chair: NQ Dry Tropics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native plans: their potential role in biodiesel production from rangelands Associate Professor Nanjappa Ashwath, Central Queensland University • Grains BMP – delivering profitable and sustainable farming practices for industry, Rod Collins and Hayley Eames DEEDI • Good research and participative development and extension: improving banana nutrient management and improving water quality John Armour, Stewart Lindsay and Jeff Daniels • Innovation and Precision leading the way for sustainable sugar Phillip Trendell, Reef Catchments Mackay-Whitsunday and Rob Sluggett, Cane Grower
<p>1500 - 1530</p>	<p>Afternoon tea Sponsored by FBA</p>			



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1530 - 1630	Measuring success Chair: Mike Berwick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Barrier Reef Report Card – Measuring progress towards the Reef Plan goals and targets Chris Chinn, Reef Plan Secretariat Measuring the success of nearly 30 years of tree planting in Far North Queensland Moni Carlisle and Rohan Wilson, School for Field Studies – Centre for Rainforest Studies 	Innovations in delivery Chair: Natasha Odgers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web-based delivery for Grains BMP Hayley Eames DEEDI Gungu Research project: partnerships, Traditional Knowledge and national exposure for a threatened species Cliff Cobbo, WWF 	Water and soil Chair: Geoff Penton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reversing the adverse trends in the Burdekin Aquifer John Blackwell and Reg Houston. Soil health – choosing the right organic soil conditioner for farming Richard Armstrong, John Daly and Dennis Baker. 	Regional showcase Sponsored by DERM Chair: Bob Spiers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland’s first strategy for biodiversity Jane Moroney, DERM Planning for Natural Resource Management on the Cape Bob Frazer, Cape York NRM 	Water quality Sponsored by QWaLC Host: BBIFMAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn skills to monitor stream health and water quality Brooke Corrie, BBIFMAC
1630 - 1650	Lucky draw and closing plenary				
1830	Lagoon spit roast – shuttle buses leave at 1800 and 1830 Sponsored by QWaLC with special guest, Rosemary Menkins MP, Member for Burdekin				

Thursday 22 September	
0830	1. Northern Exposure tour - Visit the Cromarty wetlands encompassed by the Ramsar listed Bowling Green National Park, where local identity and grazier Mark Stoneman has worked tirelessly to have the area acquired and protected in the national interest, along with coordinated grazing as management tools. Then on to the Australian Institute of Marine Science's Cape Ferguson facility to find out the latest on marine research in the Great Barrier Reef area. We then travel back towards Ayr calling in at Australia's latest and world's largest exotic fruit plantations growing the Achacha fruit from south America. Further on we note weed/pest problems in creeks and lagoons, and then Peter LeFeuvre invites us to inspect their composting and selective grazing operation. Sponsored by WetlandCare Australia.
0830	2. Best of Burdekin – We begin the day at the Sucrogen cogeneration mill to look at their operations before moving on to the Pacific Prawn Farm. While the prawn farm won't be in full operation given the season, we'll be able to check out their ponds and talk about their farming practices before stopping for lunch. The afternoon sees us stop by another mill at Kalamia and a lagoon popular for bird-watching before we visit a capsicum farm supplying to the Australian pizza industry. Our final stop will explore weevil cultures for control of salvinia. Reef Rescue and Project Catalyst growers will join us on the bus to talk about their work as we drive through Burdekin cane fields.
0830	3. Burdekin & Houghton Irrigation Area tour - Join Sunwater staff as we look at the history of the Burdekin irrigation scheme and the water reticulation system, including infrastructure and water management. We'll stop at a pump station as well as view a fish ladder around the Clare Weir. The tour then moves on to the Hesp's cane property where we'll check out a travelling irrigator and their farming operations before moving on to the Rapisarda's and their rockmelon farm. While there, we'll explore their impressive horticultural operations and visit their rockmelon packing shed. After lunch at the Clare Club, we'll drive past some water-logging hotspots caused by rising water tables before stopping at the Davco property to look at some salinity and groundwater research. If time permits we'll return to Ayr via Mt Kelly for panoramic views of the Burdekin floodplain and a drive over the famous Burdekin Bridge. Sponsored by Sunwater.
0830	4. Coastal and Indigenous Burdekin tour - Join local Traditional Owners for a cultural tour of the Burdekin which includes the Juru Walk and birthing site, local bush-tucker, birds and other fauna. We visit Gubulla Munda at Plantation Park – the iconic 60 metre carpet snake and hear about how Traditional Owners have been engaging their young people in hunting turtles and other cultural practices on the coast. We then head south over the Burdekin Bridge to Home Hill and Mt Inkerman (conditions permitting), with fantastic views over the district (steep walk required). On our way to Wunjunga, where we'll look at fenced middens and explore walking trails, we will pass through grazing properties with birdlife, wetlands and coastal areas. Sponsored by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program.
1800	Gala Conference Dinner, Home Hill Memorial Hall - polish your boots and join us for a fine meal, great company and local entertainment at the Home Hill Hall. Sponsored by NQ Dry Tropics.

0830 – 1000	<p>Plenary session</p> <p>What sponsorship means to landcare management Julian Moore, SMS online</p> <p>The National Environmental Accounts Dr John Williams, Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists</p>			
1000 - 1130	<p>Guardians of the Rangelands</p> <p>Sponsored by Rangelands Australia</p> <p>Chair: John Taylor, Rangelands Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing Rangelands for the future John Taylor, Rangelands Australia Stewarding the Desert Uplands – an intergenerational partnership Robyn Adams, Chair Desert Uplands Build-Up and Development Committee Meating the future: sustainability in the Rangelands Roger Landsberg with his daughter Kate Landsberg, graziers 	<p>The miniature landcare boot-camp</p> <p>Sponsored by Wombat Creative</p> <p>Chair: NQ Dry Tropics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tips for effectively lobbying for change Nick Heath, WWF 10 grant writing tips to win funds and influence panels Samantha Morris, Wombat Creative grassroots tips for working with corporate sponsors Heather Barns, B4C Understanding Gen Y Justin Ward, Landcare Queensland Best practice volunteer management Karen Vidler and Mark Dwyer, Conservation Volunteers Australia 	<p>Indigenous engagement</p> <p>Chair: NQ Dry Tropics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation and Land Management Training: an Indigenous community capacity approach, Kate Greenwood John Pearson Consulting / Look Now Training and Employment Indigenous Land Management: the Native American experience Tim Knox, Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Engaging Indigenous communities through Landcare in the Torres Strait George Saveka, Torres Strait Regional Authority Working on the Mountain: opportunities, challenges and successes of managing the Bunya Mountains Murri Ranger Project Chris McCarthy and Steve McCarthy, Burnett Mary Regional Group 	<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Sponsored by Ecofund Queensland</p> <p>Chair: NQ Dry Tropics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping the Guardians of the Forest, Louise Saunders President Bat Conservation & Rescue and Dominique Thiriet, James Cook University Powerlink Greenworks with SEQ Catchment – enhancing habitats and biodiversity Murray Abel, Powerlink and Bruce Lord, SEQ Catchments Protecting the Ramsar Wetlands of Bowling Green Bay Scott Fry, NQ Dry Tropics Biodiverse carbon forestry projects: mitigating climate change, providing income for rural landholders and generating benefits for Queensland's biodiversity Darren Grover, Ecofund Queensland
1130 – 1200	Morning tea			
1200 – 1300	<p>Landcare and the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Australian Government and Landcare Michelle Lauder, Landcare and Regional Delivery Improvement Branch, DAFF Supporting landcare into the future Brett de Hayr, National Landcare Facilitator <p>Closing comments and conference wrap-up</p>			
1305	Lunch			
1400	Buses begin departure for Townsville			