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The CODLine

Incorporating NEWS of the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

Electric fences speed flood recovery

by Mick Seeney
Landholder, Sexton

Electric fences are changing the fencing landscape on our Mary Valley farm, Benrien. Situated 20 kilometres north-west of Gympie at Sexton, the farm consists of 200 acres of prime river flats and 150 acres of undulating country which is invaluable in the floods. The farm has a three kilometre frontage to the Mary River.

With the help of my wife Donna and my youngest son, Ben, we run Benrien as a small cattle operation, carrying around 100 breeders and 15 replacement heifers. We purchased the farm 11 years ago. It was previously run as a dairy farm.

With a background of larger family cattle properties in the North Burnett my concept of fencing was that of 4 barbed wires with wooden posts at a spacing of 5 metres. I had great admiration for my father, his brothers and my grandfather who fenced the hard mountainous country using basic tools – crow bar, shovels and axes – to construct miles of fencing.

When we purchased Benrien, the fencing was mainly 4 barb/5 metre-spaced wooden post fencing. Electric fences were used, but mainly for strip grazing associated with the dairy enterprise. Our property has a good set-up for electric fencing because the homestead and dairy complex are centrally located.

Electric fences started to become an important management tool in our early years on the farm when we started having trouble with a neighbour's cattle crossing the river to graze our pastures. The river forms the boundary between the properties. Our early years were dry and it was very difficult to keep the neighbour's cattle out.

Electric fencing has a different sort of beauty from traditional fencing - particularly when recovering after floods.

Fencing along the river was makeshift, usually consisting of two or three barb wires and old steel posts. Because of the nature of the river, we were hesitant to put the time and expense into new fencing that would likely disappear in the next flood.

The solution was a hot wire. Electric fencing, consisting of only one wire and steel posts, was easily and quickly constructed along the river and for some parts in the water. This worked a treat. The neighbour's cattle only needed one hit and had respect. We ended up running electric fencing the length of the river, criss-crossing it from one side of the river to the other.

From this beginning we started looking more towards the hot wire to replace existing fences or subdivide larger paddocks for better pasture use.

Electric fences are cheap and so easy to construct. Electric fence on Benrien consists of either 1 or 2 wires with 5'6" steel posts as supports and wooden

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Electric fencing ...

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strainer posts. Steel posts are spaced a maximum of 15 m apart and we are presently experimenting with a larger spacing. Putting up the electric fence requires little machinery – just hand-held post drivers and the old crow bar and shovel are all we use.

We have found a huge benefit using the electric fencing on the flood plain. Over the past 3 years we have had over 8 major floods, which meant between 120 and 160 acres going under water each time. What a mess this makes of the traditional barbed wire/wooden post fencing! Rubbish, trees, mud and the occasional old fridge find their way into the barb; the posts are lucky to stay upright, often ending up at a 45 degree angle.

We've found having electric fencing speeds up the recovery after a significant flood. In high flow areas we install only one wire and posts are only driven 6" (150 mm) into the ground. As soon as we know a flood is possible, it is only a matter of dropping the wire onto the ground and walking along and removing the posts. With minimal clean-up and a little sweat, the fence can be standing again in no time after the water recedes.

Cattle learn to respect electric fences very quickly. We do little in terms of specific training to teach cattle about the hot wire – they seem to learn themselves. Cattle that are born here learn respect for the hot wire as calves and maintain this respect for life. Brought-in cattle are always inducted into the paddocks where fences are highly charged and with two wires. I find that keeping the electric fence with the correct charge eliminates any problems with cattle walking through. I carry a digital voltmeter with me and check the fences regularly.

Even with all the benefits of electric fencing on our farm, I admit I still prefer the aesthetic appearance of the barb wire traditional fencing. From my early years on those large pastoral properties I learned to picture traditional fences as part of a farm's landscape.

But over the years this picture has slowly been losing its appeal, and when it comes to the crunch electric fencing will win out. As the old traditional fences here need replacing, electric fences will become our major form of fencing.

Carving with water

by Ian Mackay, Chair
Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

Years ago in teacher's college we set up a stream table, a long metal box on a bit of an incline and filled with sand, into which we ran a garden hose. Once the sand was wet, we created a bit of a river in it and watched what happened.

I'd assumed that our 'river' would take the shortest possible route from the hose to the drainage plug but was amazed to see it starting to make meanders, and that these kept changing. Moving sand grains blocked off some meanders, the moving water created new channels. Nothing was static or fixed about our river.

I went looking at the six or seven metre high sand cliffs carved by the river near Kenilworth where locals had told me the river 'had taken a lot of our park'.

It was like a giant version of the stream table, classic deposition of sand and gravel on the one bank, active cutting away on the other.

And the fact that the cliffs were sand meant that the river had worked it, had deposited it there, during earlier times. Was the river in the process of creating a new bend? Was I looking at devastation that had to be countered, or was it a natural process?

There's a wide range of responses following flooding. Many don't see the fine silt deposited after a flood as the source of fertility for the river flats and almost begrudge the fact that the river dared to enter their territory, or worse still, carried some of it off downstream.

Some seek ways to get floodwaters away more quickly, of straightening rivers and removing snags, but both these simply add to the destructive energy of moving floodwaters.

Some see the build-up of sand in the river bed as a problem and see its removal as the solution. They see this as a way of getting back to the ' river of old' without realising it is more likely to result in further bank collapse in subsequent floods.

And then there are the many who've engaged in commendable efforts to stabilise river and creek banks, some of whom might feel disheartened after floods as the river seems to mock their efforts and their expenditure. There seems to be no shortage of cynics or conflicting theories about what should be done.

After floods is the best time to learn from the river, to focus not so much on the most 'in your face' areas of devastation, but rather to look for the areas of resilience and to try to understand what made them that way.

Water movement is a powerful and ancient process that shapes, and always has shaped our landscape. We can learn much from the natural systems that result from water flow.

Mary River Restoration Stories project

by Tanzi Smith, Mary River Coordinating Committee

This project is an opportunity to take stock of the past 20 years of riverbank restoration works in the Mary – more than 650 projects undertaken by landholders in collaboration with MRCCC! – to reflect on what has and hasn't worked and to strengthen future restoration projects.

We will soon be distributing a survey about restoration activities among landholders.

Feedback from the survey will help shape a series of forums toward sharing information and developing strategies for improving future riparian restoration activities.

This project is supported by the MRCCC through funding from the Australian Government's *Caring for our Country*.

For more information contact Tanzi at MRCCC on mrccctanzi@ozwide.net.au *or (07) 5482 4596.*

Attracting native birds to rural properties

A few ideas about retaining and creating native bird-friendly habitat on your property

by Kelvin Nielsen, COOLOOLA NATURE

Male Scarlet Honeyeater. [Photo: Amelia Nielsen]

- When slashing or burning, retain strips of grass connecting dams or water courses to timbered areas. This will provide a corridor between the water and the haven of the heavier vegetation for grass-frequenting bird species such as wrens, finches, cisticolas and quail.
- Rotate slashing and burning practices across paddocks to retain habitat, breeding and feeding areas for grass birds.
- Plant or allow the regeneration of reeds, sedges and other fringing vegetation around dams or water bodies. This provides habitat for reed-warblers, snipe, and moorhen as well as grass birds.
- Retain (or re-introduce) rocks, boulders, fallen timber and branches in forested areas. These will favor understory species such as whipbirds, scrub-wrens, and babblers which require these structures for shelter and also for the food that is attracted around them (beetles, larvae, worms etc).
- In farm forestry, retain as much of the original undergrowth as possible. Most forest-frequenting birds rely on the undergrowth for food, cover and nesting.
- Retain hollow and dead trees; many parrots and kingfishers require hollows in dead trees for breeding. (The thinning and 'cleaning up' of forests has directly contributed to low numbers of Red-tailed and Glossy Black Cockatoos.) Possums and related species and bats also use hollows for refuge and breeding.
- Don't remove lantana if it isn't in the way, or if you're not ready to replace it with native vegetation. Lantana provides habitat, food and cover for birds such as honeyeaters, whipbirds and wrens and mulch for otherwise barren soils. To retain the bird and fauna species that use lantana habitat, replace the lantana gradually with natives of a similar growth habit.
- Similarly, if wattles aren't in the way, leave them in place. Wattles assist with erosion control and provide mulch and cover for other native plants to regrow – and provide habitat and food for birds such as thornbills and silvereyes. Native plant species can also be replanted in areas where wattles are retained for cover.
- For the fruit, seed and insect eating birds, plant syzygiums, casuarina and other native fruit and seed producers, not just callistemons for the nectar feeders!
- Wherever possible use local natives plant species, preferably from seed sourced locally, ensuring you are using plants best suited to local conditions.
- Consider installing nest boxes in appropriate places. You can build them yourself or buy ones designed to suit parrots, owls, kingfishers and so on.

BIRDING COOLOOLA MOUNTAINS TO SHORE

COOLOOLA NATURE has launched the website *Birding Cooloola Mountains To Shore* www.birdingcooloola.org.au

The website introduces the birding community (Australian and worldwide) to the diversity of habitat and avian fauna in the Cooloola region, assisting in the sustainable promotion of the natural assets of the Great Sandy Biosphere. Avi-tourism is a growing sector of the Eco-tourism industry, and the website is a positive initiative supporting the Mary Valley's renewal too.

- Shorebirds & Seabirds of the Cooloola Coast highlights migratory and resident shorebird and tern species frequenting the Cooloola Coast.
- Bird Trails of Cooloola maps optimum sites for viewing the diversity of bush birds, with many of the featured birding sites being in the Mary Valley.

The website includes links to accommodation facilities for visiting birders, such as camp grounds, motels and B&Bs.

Kelvin & Amelia Nielsen operate COOLOOLA NATURE and can be contacted via 5482 6721 or cooloolanature@spiderweb.com.au or www.birdingcooloola.org.au

Looking forward to a brighter future by learning from the past

by Tanzi Smith, MRCCC

This history-gathering project has encompassed six public meetings throughout the catchment in early 2013, interviewing some 35 local identities, reviewing historical documents, and digitising old photos. All this material will come together as an archive and a short documentary style film that encourages reflection on the way we have used and related to the Mary River and her tributaries. The film will be screened later this year, providing an opportunity for people to get together and have a few laughs and reflect on what we can learn from the past.

Past floods have been a frequent topic of conversation. People have spoken of the 'flood grapevine' by which people would phone around to find out where the rain was falling and how much the river was rising. Some have reflected on how they coped with being isolated during floods with just some flour and sugar, and there was 'none of this panic buying we see now'. On the other hand floods (and droughts) have caused major upheavals and contributed to changes in agricultural production and industries.

It's also apparent the timing of the big floods throughout the catchment can vary greatly. A flood devastating in one area was sometimes barely noticed in another. For example, the January 2013 flood was the biggest in living memory in the Munna Creek area.

Local identity, Margaret Beresford, grew up on a block selected by her family back in 1889. Floods heights have been marked on a post at the house over the years. As the photo shows, the 2013 flood is way higher (about 16 inches higher) than the previous biggest flood in 1955 and the third biggest in 1954. The legendary 1893 flood, which predated all the gauging in the catchment, would not have reached this post. The 1999 flood which was the biggest recorded in Gympie and the 1974 flood which was the biggest recorded in Maryborough did not come close to the house. Photos taken by Margaret's brother, Hugo Schmidt, of the 1955 flood have also been digitised.

Records such as these offer huge potential for helping us to understand how the forces at play differ from district to district, how the landscape has changed and what has driven this change, and people's understandings around all of this.

In 2012, the MRCCC secured a grant from the Australian Government's Your Community Heritage program to document history in the Mary River catchment. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share your stories. We hope this project will spur greater investment in collecting people's stories and using our rich history to honour our special area and gain insights toward future management.

Watch the MRCCC website and the Looking Forward, Looking Back Facebook page for details. For more information contact Tanzi at MRCCC on mrccctanzi@ozwide.net.au *or* 5482 4596.

Photo copy

by Ian Mackay

The old river photograph (above) caught my eye. It was on display at one of Tanzi Smith's 'Looking Forward, Looking Back' meetings. 'Kenilworth Station 1906' had been written on the back. There was a good deal of discussion about how denuded the river banks were even back then.

Some made comment of the mountain in the background, the Kenilworth Bluff, they said. But having lived in the foothills of the Kenilworth Bluff for thirty years I begged to differ. It wasn't lumpy enough I thought. I couldn't put that picture out of my mind though, and determined to solve the puzzle.

I hunted and viewed and considered... and then by accident I found the mountain. I was down by the river behind the police station in Kenilworth photographing some of the bank collapse and tree loss following recent flooding when I got this eerie sense of déjà vu about the mountain in the background…

It was Walli Mountain, and while I was happy to have the puzzle solved at last I felt more than a trifle humbled as to my failings as a detective. I shot a similar view from the Kenilworth bridge (below). I did try to stand in the same spot as the 1906 photographer but a cluster of camphor laurels now obscure what mountain view hasn't been blocked by the bridge.

106 years on, and I know it's an obvious pun, but there's been a heck of a lot of water under the bridge!

Enhancing the Mary River Koala Corridor

by Tanzi Smith
Greater Mary Association Inc.

Those big blue gums that line the banks of the Mary in the lower catchment not only help stabilise the river bank but they also provide forage and refuge for koalas.

In fact, mapping from the Australian Koala Foundation (AFK) indicates the Mary River is effectively a koala corridor from about Netherby (a few kilometres south of Tiaro) northward, where a band of what the AKF has designated 'primary habitat' follows the river. Indeed, Tiaro and District Landcare identified the importance of this area for koalas as part of their koala corridor and koala survey work a few years back.

Koalas appear to be in decline on the Fraser Coast. In the past they have been regularly sighted in Petrie Park (north of Tiaro) and on surrounding properties with 'essential habitat' for koalas.

The Mary River Koala Corridor project is helping to provide more habitat for koalas by undertaking weed control (Cat's Claw especially), revegetating, and increasing riparian fencing on up to five properties north of Petrie Park.

Two landholders have been involved in riparian restoration for more than a decade, so this project is building on past activities and ultimately aims to contribute to improved water quality and riparian habitat along this section of the river.

We hope the project will encourage other landholders to get together and create corridors along the river for koalas and other species, creating a healthier ecosystem.

We have regular working bees in the corridor and are undertaking the 'Tenderly Tending Tingids in Tiaro' project, raising tingids and jewel beetles for biological control of Cat's Claw Creeper.

We'd love you to come along to one of our working bees (above right) to give us a hand. To find out more, follow the project at maryriverkoalas.blogspot.com.au

This is a project of the Greater Mary Association Inc, supported by an Australian Government's Caring for Country Community Action Grant.

Did you know

that koalas in different areas prefer different foods?

We have it on good advice from local koala carers, Natalie and Val Richardson, that koalas around Tiaro prefer to eat:

- Queensland Blue Gum *Eucalyptus tereticornis*
- Narrow-leaved Ironbark *Eucalyptus cerbra*
- Tallowwood *Eucalyptus microcorys*
- Brush Box *Lophostemon confertus*
- Swamp Mahogany *Eucalyptus robusta*
- Flooded Gum *Eucalyptus grandis*
- Casuarina species
- Queensland Peppermint *Eucalyptus exserta*

Love Mary Day

Petrie Park, Tiaro (entry via 34 Vandoorn Road)

12 May 2013 (Mothers' Day) 11 am to 3 pm

The Greater Mary Association is inviting the Mary River catchment community to help us celebrate our local, amazing environment and in particular the efforts of three landholders who have turned their riparian zone into a koala corridor near Petrie Park, on the river at Tiaro.

Love Mary Day will have something for everyone, with community stalls, workshops and speakers covering Butchulla stories, lungfish, Mary River turtles and cod, Richmond birdwing butterfly, cat's claw creeper, koalas, and our local iconic Bauple (Macadamia) nuts.

Special features of the day include an interpretive walk through a section of the koala corridor, and a presentation and display by the Gecko Man, Martin Fingland.

More info: Follow the Greater Mary Association Inc on Facebook, contact Tanzi Smith on 0405 848 375, or see greatermary.wix.com/riverlovers

This event is made possible with funding through the BMRG and the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program.

Frogs of the Obi

by Eva Ford, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

Spotted by the Obi (from top): Male Stony-creek frog Litoria wilcoxii*, Giant barred frog* Mixophyes iteratus*, Great barred frog* Mixophyes fasciolatus.
[Photos: Eva Ford]

Sometimes the human diet can be similar to that of frogs – interesting because we don't often associate ourselves with eating insects, frogs and maybe the odd snake.

However I found proof of this along Obi Obi Creek at Maleny in March where I ingested a frog's allowance of gnats, bugs and moths, all of which struggled to get out again with whatever wings and legs they had, with very audible results on my part! I have a new appreciation of the ability of the frog's digestive system to tame sharp, bone-hard, wriggling insects as a matter of course.

But my martyrdom was not in vain as Matt Bateman (who does not seem to attract the same quantity of flying banshees as I do), Jono Hooper and I searched for amphibians along the Obi and its tributaries at the Maleny Community Precinct as part of the ecological monitoring program MRCCC has recently embarked on with Barung Landcare and the Sunshine Coast Council.

Over the years I have surveyed several times along the lower reaches of Obi Obi Creek. While frogs were always encountered, I could not find the endangered Giant barred frog *Mixophyes iteratus*, even when the habitat appeared suitable. During those surveys I was focusing on land below Baroon Pocket Dam, particularly amongst dairy and grazing properties where landholders were undertaking projects to rehabilitate their riparian zones. Sixteen frog species have been found along the Obi below the spillway, including the vulnerable Cascade treefrog *Litoria pearsoniana* and Tusked frog *Adelotus brevis*.

However, during the initial pre-monitoring frog survey along the Obi Obi at the Maleny Precinct in late 2012 we found our first Giant barred frog, as Matt reported in the December 2012–January 2013 *Barung Landcare News*. Since then we have found males, a female and a juvenile during monitoring visits and have an idea where the favoured breeding areas are.

Now this makes me very excited for several reasons. Finding the first Giant barred frog at the Precinct coincided with finalising known habitat areas in the Mary River catchment for the Mary River Threatened Species Recovery Plan (see page ?). Adding a blotch of colour to the map in the upper Obi also has implications for the Blackall Range human community because the Giant barred frog is a species that is desperately hanging on and could do with a whole lot of help.

The Council, to its credit, is already taking the presence of this species at the Precinct very seriously and altering its activities to protect and enhance critical habitat for the Giant barred frog.

Landholders can take up the cause of increasing this species' chances of persisting locally and spreading to other parts of the Obi catchment where it probably was in days gone by. Fragmentation of riparian vegetation is disastrous for waterways and the species that depend on them. However, we can improve river health by increasing habitat area and connectivity.

Jump in and join the 'coalition of the willing' – start a project on your property or expand an existing one. I look forward to hearing from landholders in the Mary catchment to discuss possibilities that will help this and other species.

Eva Ford can be contacted at the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee on 5482 4766 or via mrccceva@ozwide.net.au

Brownwater Classic

Saturday June 22 from 1 pm
Pickering Bridge, Moy Pocket

Blackbean pod boat building and racing, rock-skipping competitions, friendly company. Boat building materials supplied, everything else BYO.

More info: Ian Mackay on 5446 0124

Controlling weed vines in the Cambroon corridor

by Susie Duncan, Coordinator Hinterland Bush Links

Hinterland Bush Links is underway with control of Cat's Claw Creeper, Madeira Vine and Dutchman's Pipe at Cambroon in the Upper Mary Valley. This complements revegetation works by landholders in the Cambroon wildlife corridor between the Blackall and Conondale ranges. Burnett Mary Regional Group has provided funding for this project through their Healthy Habitats program.

A workshop was held last November at Little Yabba Park to share information on the significance of the Cambroon corridor for native animals and plants and the threats posed by weed vines. Some 23 landholders attended and weed control works will be carried out on several properties when the rain stops. A key target is a major infestation of Cat's Claw between Little Yabba Creek and Booloumba Creek Road.

Mapping work by Barung Landcare has clarified the extent of each weed vine invasion at Cambroon and this information will direct further control works when funding is available.

Although the smothering effects of Dutchman's Pipe are less evident than those of the other weed vines, this species poses a great threat to the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly whose larvae feed on the toxic leaves. Right now the vine is setting its spectacular crimson-veined trumpet flowers so keep an eye out for them.

The good news is that a massive native Birdwing Vine was found recently on Booloumba Creek and is probably the source of numerous Richmond Birdwing butterflies seen by landholders in the area.

Hinterland Bush Links is planning another workshop on weed vines this year, this time in the Conondale district. We need to tackle these vines at their headwater sources to prevent re-invasion of sites where control efforts have been undertaken by landholders downstream. Depending on funding, it is intended to undertake mapping and control measures in these upper tributaries.

If you would like to participate in the Conondale workshop, please contact Susie Duncan on (07) 5429 6622 or wilderness@hotkey.net.au *for details.*

HBL is hosted by Barung Landcare. More information at
www.hinterlandbushlinks.org

Dutchman's Pipe vine (currently flowering) is toxic to the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly.

Hinterland Bush Links
connecting restoring protecting

Connecting Our Bush

10 am Saturday 11 May 2013

The Deck, Crystal Waters Eco-Village, 65 Kilcoy Lane, Conondale

- See our local wildlife up close and personal with Geckoes Wildlife
- Hear Susie Duncan talk about the importance of wildlife corridors for native plants and animals
- Find out how to get involved with connecting & restoring your local bush

All welcome

Please register with Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 or www.barunglandcare.org.au

For more information, contact Susie Duncan on 5429 6622 *or* wilderness@hotkey.net.au

Visit the Hinterland Bush Links webpage:
www.hinterlandbushlinks.org

Hinterland Bush Links is hosted by Barung Landcare

Barung Landcare
WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Weed alert: Tecoma stans

In the Gympie region, Yellow Bells has increased a hundred-fold in recent years and is set to explode. Other south-east Queensland areas have been overrun by this weed.

The light papery seeds of Yellow Bells are spread by wind and water and in garden waste.

As with many weeds, it flourishes in our best environments, especially along creeks. However it will also invade drier areas and has been noted in the Mary catchment infesting a range of locations including spotted gum ridges and most particularly riparian areas.

A common ornamental plant, it grows as a shrub or small tree to 5 m. The bright yellow tubular flowers grow in clusters.

Yellow Bells is relatively easy to control compared to some other weeds, but follow up is essential to control regrowth, suckers and seedlings. Small plants and seedlings can be hand-pulled. Larger plants might require chemical treatment.

Photo: www.northcoastweeds.org.au/weed/yellow-bells/

If preventative measures are taken now the current Yellow Bells infestations in the Mary Catchment could be effectively controlled.

Noosa Festival of Water

Noosa Botanic Gardens, Lake Macdonald, Cooroy
on SUNDAY 30th JUNE 2013 from 10 am until 3 pm

Set in the Noosa Botanic Gardens on the shores of Lake Macdonald, the Festival's activities and displays celebrate the unique and special attributes of the adjacent Noosa and Great Sandy Biospheres.

Free activities includes boat trips on the lake, top entertainment in the Amphitheatre, snake and reptile show, Geckoes Wildlife native animals, canoeing & kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, kid's fishing clinic and art activities, jumping castle, and displays from community and commercial organisations.

- A major attraction at this year's Festival is Sunshine Coast jazz/folk ensemble, the **Flumes** featuring Kayt Wallace (right) on electric harp.
- Popular permaculture presenter **Tim Lang** will be demonstrating how to grow herbs and vegies.
- A first for the festival this year will be the inaugural Lake Macdonald Catch & Release **Fishing Comp.**

For more information, visit the Festival's Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/noosafestivalofwater
or contact the MRCCC on 5482 4766

[Photo: ShellyM Photography]

Lake Macdonald Community Catch and Release Bass Fishing Competition

Cooroora Scout Camp, Collwood Rd, Cooroy
Preregister or register on the day from 6.30 am

The competition will kick off with a briefing at 7 am and finish at 1 pm. Winners will be announced in the Amphitheatre at the Noosa Festival of Water at 2 pm. Paddle power only (fishing kayaks and canoes are permitted) and fishing from the shore.

The Cooroora Scout Camp offers a range of facilities and plenty of space for camping so bring the swag and stay the night.

Top prizes on offer include a 3.5 metre Espri Fishing Kayak from Viking Kayaks, Kunda Park (pictured).

Entry is $20 per adult and $10 per child. All proceeds will help support the Noosa & District Hatchery Association which breeds the Mary River cod for species recovery.

Entry forms: download from www.mrccc.org.au or contact the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee on 5482 4766 for a mailed or emailed copy.

Hosted by Lake Borumba Fish Stocking Association in conjunction with the Noosa Festival of Water.

The Noosa Festival of Water is supported by the Sunshine Coast Council, Seqwater, Burnett Mary Regional Group, MRCCC, Noosa Landcare, Viking Kayaks, and more than 100 volunteers from community organisations in the Noosa hinterland.

Flood reflections

by Glenda Pickersgill
Landholder, Kandanga

No two floods are the same. Our 27th January flood had high intensity rain up in the Kandanga catchment causing Kandanga Creek to flood rapidly. It surprised us with how quickly it rose across the alluvial flats before the Mary River had flooded. This flood took out a number of fences that had been in place for over 20 years, caused a great deal of damage to the creek vegetation, and showed up some high risk areas where cattle can get trapped.

In fact, our 120 head herd did became trapped on an island and chose to swim back 400 metres with the current in the back water to higher ground on another island. Cattle float amazingly well and even when tired will do side kick to keep moving along. A few stragglers needed some encouragement from the canoe to head back to the herd and keep from floating into trees and the main current of Kandanga Creek. The herd refused to budge from this island and fortunately the flood peaked that night with only half a metre to spare before the whole island would have been covered. Remarkably we didn't lose any stock and even a small three-day old calf that had become separated from the herd somehow made it back a day later (to the relief of his mum).

The second flood on 26th February had more intensity higher up in the Mary catchment, resulting in less damage to fences along Kandanga Creek and much more damage to the riverbanks which were already saturated from the January flooding. A number of significant circular slips have started and trees along the banks have been snapped off, pushed over or removed.

Sure, my initial reaction to the damage to the streambank vegetation was one of dismay. But as I start to spend more time down by the Mary River fixing electric fences and planting out seedlings from our farm nursery of local riparian species, I've gained some positive insights.

- A significant amount of the inexpensive electric fences (wooden tomato stakes, garden hose insulators and 2 strands of wire) was retrievable and relatively easy to repair.
- In areas where mature sheoak remained high on the banks, sheoak seed could be seen on the bare, exposed banks and had a good silty seed bed.
- A circular slip which had started in the 2010 flood event had actually not got worse and natural recolonisation by sheoak and weeping bottle brush had stabilised the toe of the slip well through this recent flooding.
- An area that had been recently planted with riparian species last November still had the plants intact with most of the other weedy groundcovers removed.
- Many weeping lillypillies planted in March 2000 at 3 to10 metres from the water line and spaced about 4 metres apart were still standing.
- Compared to the other side of the river where the banks have not been protected from cattle grazing, it is quite obvious that on our side there has been less bank eroded, fewer circular slips, lots more large woody debris protecting the toe and middle of the bank, and more remnant trees still standing, particularly sheoak and weeping bottle brush to provide seed for natural recolonisation.

Above: Heading out in the canoe to muster cattle during the flood. Below left: Sheoaks laid over by the flood waters still contribute to riparian stability and habitat.

Again we have decided to move the electric fencing further away from the river banks to broaden the riparian plantings on top by at least 10 to 20 metres, depending on the location and bank stability.

We had fenced the cattle off the riverbanks and started restoration after the 1992/94 floods where we saw good natural colonisation of sheoak and weeping bottle bush. We enhancement-planted with sandpaper figs, weeping lillypilly and lomandras, and direct-seeded black bean and a variety of other riparian rainforest plants over a number of years.

The sheoaks had been a good pioneer species, shading out weeds and giving frost protection to other sensitive species. Now many sheoak have been laid over and, combined with the weeping bottle brushes, have become large woody debris to help stabilise the toe of the river bank.

It appears that Chinese elm, although few in number 15 years ago, has been one of the most prolific weed colonisers. Many of the Chinese elm too have been pushed over and maybe they have played a part in helping to protect the banks from more severe scouring and slumping in the short term. Certainly now is a great time to continue enhancement-planting with native riparian seedlings and selectively eliminating the seed-bearing mature Chinese elm trees.

Although there is lots of work to repair fences, the mighty Mary has deposited fertile silt across the paddocks which will no doubt benefit the pastures for years to come.

Mary's turtles

by Marilyn Connell
Mary River Turtle Project Officer
Tiaro Landcare

Tiaro Landcare members were very excited to receive a phone call from Hon Anne Maddern MP to advise that our Everyone's Environment Grant was successful. This will help fund our Mary River turtle recovery project for 2013 which will include developing some curriculum material for Grade 5 students, working with researchers from The University of Qld Eco-lab in Obi Obi Creek, and protecting key nesting banks along the main stream of the Mary River.

Nests of the endangered Mary River turtle were protected during the 2012/13 nesting season in the Tiaro, Traveston and Kenilworth reaches of the Mary River. The first clutches were laid on 12th October 2012.

Tiaro Landcare members fencing a turtle nesting site.

However, with such a dry season, there were very few days when nesting conditions were suitable. The season ended with just 27 clutches laid in the Tiaro reach, which is around 50 less than the previous nesting season. Fortunately all clutches had hatched prior to the Australia Day flooding.

Our project has attracted international volunteers from Brazil and USA. Unsuspecting wildlife was captured at the water's edge by wildlife cameras loaned by Burnett Mary Regional Group: foxes, hares, cattle, wallabies, crows, turtles, nankeen night-heron, white faced heron and brush-tail possum.

Interpretive signage about the creatures of the river has been installed beside the Mary at Kenilworth by the Sunshine Coast Council.

In late January, two freshwater Kreffts turtles were found in the sea at Dayman Point, Hervey Bay. Unfortunately, one was deceased. Where did they come from, stormwater drains or down the Mary or Susan Rivers? No doubt the floodwaters washed them there.

Turtle updates are regularly posted on the Facebook page: Mary River Turtle Project – Tiaro Landcare. Please 'like' it and share with your network.

Australian Geo turtle promo

Exciting news just to hand is that Australian Geographic Society, in conjunction with Australian Geographic Retail stores, has agreed to conduct an Australia-wide fundraising appeal during May/June for Tiaro Landcare's Mary River turtle conservation project.

Everyone who purchases goods at an Australian Geographic shop during May and June (all around Australia) will be given a Mary River turtle magnet and a flyer about the turtle. Promotion of the Mary River turtle fundraising campaign will be in every Australian Geographic store, in their magazine, and on their internet site.

Donations can be made at each Australian Geographic store or via an online donation facility through the Australian Geographic website, in conjunction with the fundraising organisation Everyday Hero. Funds raised will be used for conservation and research to benefit the turtles of the Mary River.

Tiaro Farming & Lifestyle

Field Day

Saturday July 13 from 9am
Tiaro Recreation Grounds

A day when folk keep their boots and hats on and head to Tiaro to soak up some good old fashioned country atmosphere and hospitality! $5 entry, children free.

This year's theme is Sustainable Agriculture Supporting Disaster Recovery.

Workshops will cover financial management, mental health, gardening, cattle health, weeds, and choosing the right horse. Hugh Lovel, American Sustainable Agriculture expert, will be presenting.

The Field Day is also an opportunity for local community groups and businesses to showcase their products and services.

This year in the Photo Gallery marquee people's photos of this year's floods will be pinned on a map of the Mary River catchment. You're invited to email up to three photos per household to pjami3@bigpond.com prior to the day.

Follow updates for the Tiaro Farming & Lifestyle Field Day on our Facebook page.

Mullet in the Mary

By Dale Watson
Mary River Catchment
Coordinating Committee

The splash of a jumping mullet is a sound and sight often observed by those spending time on the Mary River. Upstream of the estuary, the sometimes startling jump of a mullet is attributed to one of two species, either the Freshwater Mullet *Myxus petardi* (also called Pinkeye or River Mullet) or the Sea Mullet *Mugil cephalus* (also called the Bully or Mangrove Mullet).

The best way to determine which mullet has graced you with a show of acrobatic skills is to look deeply into its eyes. The Sea Mullet has a transparent eyelid which the Freshwater Mullet does not have. An easier trick to inspect their snouts: the Freshwater Mullet has a more pointed snout; the Sea Mullet's snout is more rounded and short.

Both species can live in freshwater and both need to move to estuaries or the sea to spawn. However, as the names suggest, the Freshwater Mullet is thought to be more restricted to freshwater rivers and creeks when not spawning.

To confuse things a little, Sea Mullet are more abundant than Freshwater Mullet in the Mary River Catchment, meaning that the splash of silver you saw was more likely to be a Sea Mullet.

Freshwater Mullet are found between Georges River in NSW and the Burnett River in Queensland, though they appear to have almost vanished from the Burnett, Kolan, Gregory, Burrum and Isis Rivers.

Freshwater Mullet have a pointed snout (longer than eye diameter) and are usually an olive green colour from above. You will often see them in small schools in deep slow-flowing pools. They are typically 400 mm long but can grow up to 800 mm in size. They are generally more abundant near well-vegetated banks and close to in-stream woody debris as these are their preferred habitats.

Freshwater Mullet are omnivorous, taking a wide variety of foods. They feed mainly on algae and other plants and sometimes snack on decaying organic material and invertebrates. It's not uncommon to see Mullet in the Mary grazing on algae-covered underwater logs, moving along like they are chewing corn on the cob.

Freshwater Mullet. *[Photo: Gunther Schmida]*

The Freshwater Mullet is recognised as a key species in the new Mary River Threatened (Aquatic) Species Recovery Plan due to their ecological requirements and because they are in decline. The Freshwater Mullet is an important link between the ocean and the upper reaches of the catchment. The species also has important community values due to its high visual impact, its value in historic and present recreational fishing, and its significance for indigenous connections.

The Freshwater Mullet faces many threats to its survival. The mature adults move downstream to spawn in estuaries and the sea in late summer to early autumn, and barriers to this movement can have dire consequences for the population. These barriers can include physical structures like weirs, dams and barrages, or alteration to flow levels. Degradation to their preferred habitats of good riparian vegetation and in-stream wood (snags) is also placing pressure on this species. The Freshwater Mullet are perhaps more threatened than other mullet species; replenishment may be low as they do not utilise ocean waters often and do not grow well in estuaries.

Although we know a bit about these fascinating and important fish, there is still a lot more we do not know. We do not really know where the mullet move to when they are not spawning, and we do not know how they respond to changes in salinity, temperature and flow regimes.

But perhaps most fascinating of all, we do not really understand what causes them to perform their spectacular acrobatic jumps we are all so familiar with!

Mary River Threatened Species Recovery Plan

Update by Tanzi Smith, MRCCC

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee has handed over a draft of the recovery plan to staff in the Recovery Planning section of the Department of Sustainability Environment, Water, Populations and Communities.

As reported in the last *CodLine*, this plan considers the overall ecology of the Mary River through the lens of the habitat requirements and threats to five priority species: the Mary River Cod, Mary River Turtle, Australian Lungfish, Giant Barred Frog and Freshwater Mullet.

Perhaps most importantly the plan contains a list of actions gathered through consultation with scientists, community members, landholders, indigenous people and local decision makers that we can use to guide future river recovery activities.

We are hopeful the plan will go before the Threatened Species Scientific Committee later in the year and become an endorsed plan under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999).

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the plan. If you would like to find out more about any aspect of the plan, please contact Tanzi Smith on 5482 4766 or mrccctanzi@ozwide.net.au

You can follow the plan on our Facebook page: Mary River Threatened Species Recovery Plan.

Caring for native wildlife

by Tracey West

Caring for native wildlife is very rewarding; to nurse animals back to health and release them into their habitat is our aim.

If you encounter an injured animal:

- Do not attempt to handle snakes, bats, or adult koalas or kangaroos. Contact wildlife carers to arrange a rescue.
- Contain the animal to reduce the risk of further injury or of it being predated upon. Pick it up using a towel, jacket or whatever you have available at hand. Place the animal and towel into a box for transport. Make sure the box has ventilation holes and that the animal will be warm – you may need to provide a heat source.
- Keep the animal quiet and secure. Do not offer any food or water because native animals have very specific diets.
- Check the pouch of injured or dead marsupials – joeys have been known to survive in the pouch for days. Do not attempt to remove the joey – transport mother and baby together to a wildlife carer or local vet.

If you are interested in becoming a carer, join a local wildlife carer's organisation. You will be required to undertake a few courses before you can start caring for animals, including orientation, first aid, general caring principles, and specific courses for the types of animals you are interested in – gliders, birds, reptiles, macropods and so on.

Caring is very rewarding. Your options are only limited by the time and effort you put in.

Boof and Bear, two Mountain Brushtail Possums taken into care by Rachel Lyons of Wildcare during 2012.

Who do you call?

Injured wildlife can be reported to these wildlife carer groups (most numbers are attended 24/7). Wildlife carers do many rescues every week and their groups are largely self-funded, accepting donations and carrying out fundraising to cover the cost of medications, milk formulas, rescues and rehabilitation.

Wildcare Australia (Burnett and Wide Bay)	**5484 9111**
Wildcare Australia (Tweed Heads to Gympie)	**5527 2444**
Wilvos (Sunshine Coast)	**5441 6200**
Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital	**1300 369 652**

Fencing for floods, cattle and deer

by Elke Watson
Landholder, Conondale

The riverbanks at our Conondale farm have been fenced off for 25 years. We run dairy cows on the flats and run a single electric wire to keep the cows out of the river.

The single wire does not keep out deer but this is only a problem in areas where we have intensive plantings. A lot more damage is done by cattle coming in from neighbouring farms.

With single wire electric fencing it is easy to move the fence to accommodate a larger tree plot or to move out a stray cow. We simply take the fence off the post and drop it to the ground, putting a log or rock on it to keep it down.

We train the cows as calves to respect the electric fences. For the first months of a calf's life they are kept behind mesh while they are fed milk, grain and hay. When they are weaned off milk they are moved to small paddocks with two electric wires maintained in a 'hot' state. Most calves touch the fence a few times and get a shock so they learn not to touch the wires. After this most will not even test a single string to see if it is hot.

However cows brought onto the farm that have not been exposed to electric fencing will walk through the fences. We rarely buy in cows so this is not a big problem.

We have also fenced off large areas of wetlands and replanted them. In these areas we have used six foot tall mesh fences – not because of the cows, but because of the large herd of feral deer that live in the area. Deer do a lot of damage around here. Trapping them has proved ineffective and shooting makes little difference to their numbers. Rusa deer (the species prevalent here) have three fauns every two years so the numbers build up quickly.

Mary River Waterwatch

by Steve Burgess, MRCCC

The MRCCC has received a State Government Everyone's Environment Grant to support community Waterwatch throughout the Mary Catchment.

The MRCCC has supported Waterwatch in the Mary since the late 1990s, mostly relying on local government support.

With this funding in 2013/14 we will reorganise and analyse all the water quality data we have collected, improve the coordination of volunteer networks, upgrade the Waterwatch field equipment, train volunteers and run a series of workshops.

We will run 7 public workshops throughout the catchment in July and August. These workshops are for existing Waterwatch volunteers, potential new volunteers, and members of the public interested in learning more about the health of our local waterways in a practical manner.

If you are interested in these workshops, contact the MRCCC on 5482 4766.

Biocontrol news!

by Peter McAdam, MRCCC

Tingids tackling Cat's Claw

After a slow start Tingids seem to be taking off, with wild populations working away successfully in a few places around the catchment sucking the sap from the dreaded Cat's Claw Creeper leaves. These populations are turning up either where we don't think they were intentionally introduced, or where they were released years ago but without apparent success.

We won't really know how the wild populations have weathered the recent floods until the Cat's Claw leaves are rinsed off by rain and the insects can get back to work down at our eye level. Previous flood experiences indicate that they will return successfully. Let's hope so.

Several places around the Mary are now producing Tingid-infested plants, most notably Gympie Landcare's *Lyn Browne Biocontrol Facility* (the Mothership) which is growing its capacity to over 5000 infested pots per annum.

This has prompted Gympie Landcare to seek some cost recovery from those able to pay, with a charge of around $4 per pot. This barely covers Landcare's material and wages costs. Much of the work is done by volunteers.

For more information or to pick up your infested plants, contact Gympie Landcare on 5483 8866 or email admin@gympielandcare.org.au

Several other voluntary groups are producing Tingids too, including Friends of YOUR 3 Mile Creek at the Palms, and Greater Mary Association (GMA) at Tiaro.

The GMA's *Tenderly Tending Tingids at Tiaro* project has a very good modest-sized facility which is starting to produce faster than they can give them away.

The GMA needs Cat's Claw tubers for their nursery. If you have tubers or would like to collect tubers and pot them up please get in touch with Ross on 0429 624 600.

You can look for Greater Mary Association on your favourite search engine or see http://tiarotingids.blogspot.com.au/

Precious new Jewels

These three facilities are raising the new Jewel Beetle too. These voracious feeders are much bigger than Tingids, although still barely the size of a 'ladybug'. They mine into the leaf as small larvae, pupate in pockets in the leaf, and continue to eat the leaves at their various life stages. We wish them well (the little darlings).

At this stage most of the Jewel Beetle nurturers are very protective of their brood stock, wanting to build up numbers in captivity prior to releases in the wild. Having the beetles in captivity provides us with an opportunity to learn more about their behaviors and preferences.

Landcare stalwarts Wendy Macpherson, Bruce McCulloch and Gillian Crossley at Gympie Landcare's 'Bug Farm'.

Once released they are ***very*** hard to find and remain cryptic until they build up enough numbers to start having a significant impact on the Cat's Claw Creeper.

A few early releases have been made around Tiaro, Wonga, Widgee and Gympie Creek but you will have to be very keen or willing to do some good monitoring to get your hands on this precious breeding stock. Of course if you want to raise your own populations for later distribution, you're just the people we want to talk with.

Madeira munchers

Releases of the beetle for Madeira Vine are continuing, although still in small numbers of 50 to 100 adults and babies at select locations. Gympie Landcare is starting out with their captive breeding program too and it will take a while for numbers to increase sufficiently.

Weaning from DAFF

Nearly all our insects have come from the DAFF Biosecurity group. Primarily a research body, the Biosecurity group works on quarantine and rearing techniques then helps with early releases. They no longer have funding to produce the Cat's Claw and Madeira Vine agents but they continue to help us with advice.

It is now up to community groups to carry the biocontrols forward into the future. That was always the plan. BMRG, Caring for our Country, and Gympie Regional Council have provided support to the community groups raising and distributing biocontrol agents.

In the meantime, you can help by taking infested pots and releasing the insects into the weed-infested areas.

WoNS needs support

When Cat's Claw Creeper and Madeira Vine were listed as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) last year, a National Coordinator was appointed to help with their management.

However the WoNS coordinator positions all end at the end of June 2013. So if we want them to continue, we'll need to let State and Commonwealth governments know.

Some of the key initiatives, such as strategic plans, best practice manuals and community guides, are still works in progress and more time is needed to complete them for ongoing benefit.

A community effort

The Cat's Claw Crusaders program has been continuing with weekend gatherings in weed-affected areas. The aim is to increase awareness and help with management techniques including manual, chemical and biological controls.

The most effective and resilient weed control projects involve clusters of neighbours working together to tackle the problem. People bring different skills and interests to the task, and all contributions are welcome whether it is boiling the billy for other workers, getting down and dirty, or leafleting the neighbourhood to raise awareness of the problem.

For assistance in setting up local groups, contact Don Maskell of Gympie Landcare on 5483 8866 or admin@gympielandcare.org.au

Earth Smart Science Wrap Up

by Sue Gibson, Barambah Environmental Education Centre

The end of 2012 saw the close of The Earth Smart Science (ESS) program, a three year Education Queensland initiative in which state primary schools were supported in writing and implementing school environmental management plans or SEMPs. Facilitators at Barambah and Stanley River Environmental Education Centres and Maroochy Waterwatch supported North Coast region schools.

Barambah facilitators Zela Bissett, Peter Menzies and Sue Gibson worked with almost 100 schools to achieve the goals of the ESS program:

"It has been an amazing privilege to work with so many amazing people throughout the region, across educational, local government, natural resource management and Indigenous organisations. We have had an exceptional opportunity to gain an overview that few ever have; not through reports or statistics, but through actual personal contact, in the course of real environmental work: troubleshooting problems with gardens and worm-farms, solar panels and tanks, sorting rubbish and spotting birds, planting trees and testing water.

There is no doubt in our minds that the Earth Smart Science program has helped many schools to improve their practices regarding waste reduction, energy efficiency and water conservation, and boosted both biodiversity and teachers knowledge of their local ecosystems. It has been an exciting and awe-inspiring journey together with many teachers, teacher aides, field experts and, especially, hundreds of kids. We never found the role as facilitator to be a job – there was always something exciting to do, talk about or think about!"

The Barambah ESS facilitators were determined to finish the program with a bang! In late 2012 we ran multi-school events in both Gympie and Bundaberg and a tree-planting day at Cherbourg, and we visited some of our more remote schools to complete their SEMPS. We also worked with Coast Care representative Maree Prior at two coastal schools, Tin Can Bay P-10 and Rainbow Beach State School, to achieve SEMP goals around understanding local ecology.

The Gympie South State School Sustainability Symposium in October was indicative of the incredible support offered to our schools by partner organisations throughout the Earth Smart Science program. Students experienced a range of hands-on activities including water quality testing with MRCCC's waterbug expert Steve Burgess, making habitat boxes with Peter and Heather from Gympie Landcare, encountering Renee Crilly's EATSIPS Tent Embassy presentation, Meet the Movie-maker with Butchulla film-maker Luke Barrowcliffe, making compost with Cleanaway educator Elli Webb, helping extend Gympie South's Native bee wall with Glenbo and Dan from Valley Bees, creating a yarning Circle with Uncle Eugene and Mark from Bush Skills for Country, and Bush Tucker lore and tasting with Auntie Paula Wootton.

Nearly 700 students gather in Gympie for the first of many Sustainable Schools Symposiums facilitated as part of the Earth Smart Science program.

For the second year running, the Bunya Mountains Murri Rangers visited the school and took students on a school grounds tree ID walk.

Jones Hill SS Year 7C adopted a baby orangutan with Sharon Roberts of TOP (The Orangutan Project). For just $55, which the students raised, carers will be able to provide food for one of the many baby orangutans orphaned during clearing for palm oil plantations in Borneo.

This is only a snapshot of the rich and diverse activities in which schools have participated during the last three years. To all who have contributed their time, expertise and resources we say a heartfelt thanks. We are confident many schools will continue with their local communities to create a sustainable future for all.

Something about Mary Book and poster

An inspiring and educational perspective on the Mary River and its remarkable inhabitants.

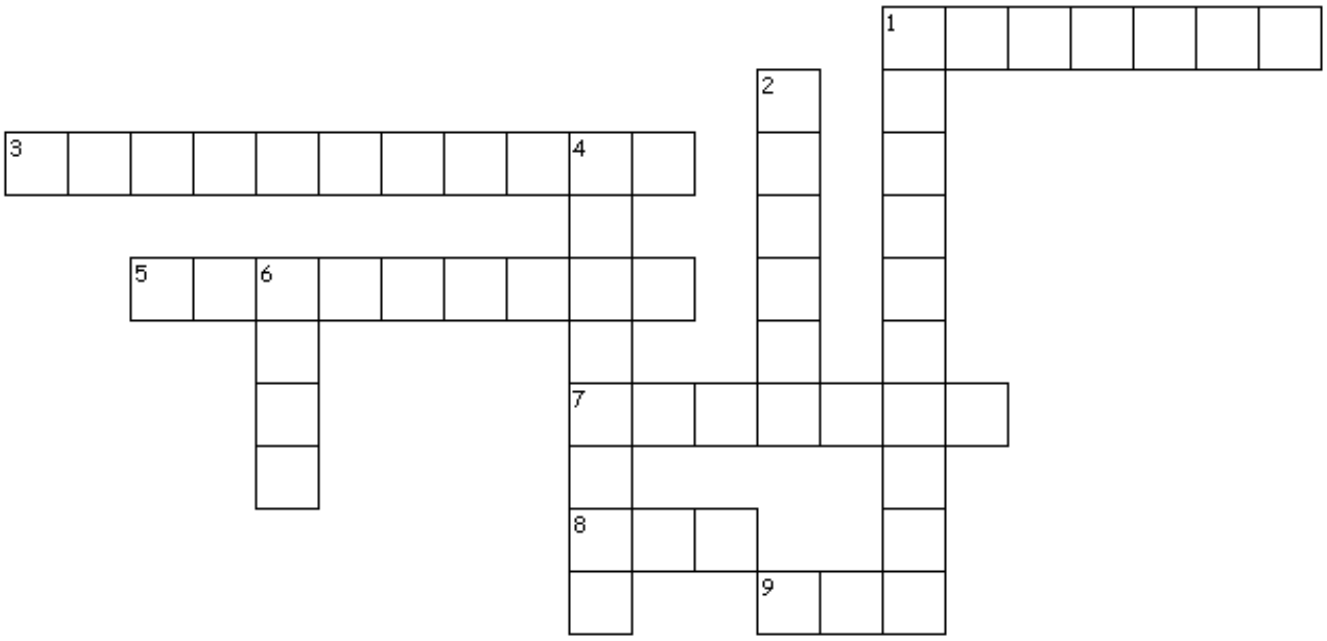
Available on the MRCCC Website – follow the links from the home page – www.mrccc.org.au

Also available in hardcopy for $5.50 from the MRCCC Resource Centre (Gympie), Fraser Coast Discovery Sphere (Hervey Bay), Save the Mary Museum & Education Centre (Kandanga) and Barung Landcare (Maleny).

Animals of the Mary River

Activities provided by Sue Gibson, Barambah Environmental Education Centre

Answers to both activities can all be found in "Something About Mary" which can be downloaded from the MRCCC website (see previous page).



Across

1. This is one threat to the habitats of the Mary River.
3. This is when you need to release an Australian Lungfish if you accidentally catch one.
5. The name given to a baby turtle.
7. The average number of eggs in a Mary River Turtle nest.
8. The number of species of turtles in the Mary River.
9. This Mary River species is an ambush predator.

Down

1. The status of the Giant Barred Frog.
2. This freshwater fish is believed to eat biofilms of algae and bacteria.
4. This Mary River species is vulnerable to extinction.
6. This physical characteristic is much bigger in a male Mary River Turtle than in a female.

A River of Life

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

U S	F O R	A U S	R Y	C A R	T H E	H E	.
E F	E S	M A	W E	E S	C A R	B E C	O R

PUZZLE ANSWERS. ***Animals of the Mary River*** Across: 1. erosion 3. immediately 5. hatchling 7. fifteen 8. six 9. cod Down: 1. endangered 2. mullet 4. lungfish 6. tail. ***River of Life*** We care for the Mary because she cares for us.

The CODLine

Good news for the Mary River Cod and the Mary River Turtle

is hosted and suported by Barung & District Landcare Group and the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee with funding support by the Sunshine Coast Council gratefully acknowledged.

Barung Landcare

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

Sunshine Coast Council

Mary Landcare on Facebook

- Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
- Noosa and District Landcare
- Mary River Turtle Project – Tiaro Landcare
- Mary River Threatened Species Recovery Plan
- Noosa Festival of Water

"Like" the pages to keep in touch with information and events relating to natural resource management in the Mary River catchment.

This issue ...

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