

# MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

## ANNUAL REPORT 2003

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### 2002-2003 MRCCC Office Bearers

Chair to December 2002	Jim Buchanan	Horticulture Sector
Chair from December 2002	Harry Jamieson	Beef Sector
Secretary	Margaret Thompson	Special Member
Treasurer	Sue Chapman	General Community (Lower)

### MRCCC Staff

Project Coordinator	Brad Wedlock	Rivercare
Project Coordinator to Jun 03	Phil Berrill	Waterwatch
Project Officer	Dale Watson	Friends of Kilcoy Ck & Large Woody Debris
Project Officer	Conor Neville	Cabomba Control
Project Coordinator	Eva Ford	Living with Threatened Species
Aquatic Nursery Manager	Phillip Moran	Revegetation after Cabomba control
Project Officer	Lee Field	Waterwatch Maryborough
Administration & Project Support	Debbie Seal	

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee  
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## Chairman's Report 2002 –2003

It is with pleasure that I submit the Annual Report for 2002 –2003.

The past year has seen our Chairman, Jim Buchanan, relinquish the position due to work commitments and health problems. This was a major set back for the MRCCC. Further family health problems have made Jim's contribution more difficult and we can only extend our best wishes and support to Jim in the months ahead. Being Deputy Chairman, I was asked to take over the role of Chairman and it has been a steep learning curve ever since. However with support from our knowledgeable Secretary and competent staff we made progress during the year but there are issues that we must confront with some urgency.

Our major problem is funding. We have dedicated and very capable staff. However we need secure funding sources to enable us to provide permanent employment with security. It is imperative that we initiate a much closer dialogue with the councils represented in the catchment. Population increases in the next 10-15 years in the area from Caloundra to Hervey Bay will be staggering. Some reports recently suggest the population in south east Queensland will increase by one million by the year 2021. Environment problems will be immense and a partnership approach between all levels of government, catchment groups such as MRCCC and Landcare groups will be required.

The MRCCC has fostered closer working relationships with councils by holding a Mayor's forum every year. This year Mayors Forum was hosted by Mayor Don Aldous of Caloundra Shire. I personally believe that this concept needs to be reviewed. We have outcomes of the Forum which cast doubt on the effectiveness of speaking with the Mayors in isolation. We should be speaking to Councillors, Mayor's and the people in charge of the environment sections. We have agreed that the staff will make a professional presentation to councils during this year. One such presentation has been undertaken and judged successful by staff. It should be possible to conduct a presentation within a 30 minute time frame including questions, with a well thought out brochure detailing what we can offer councils in a collaborative approach.

We now receive significant sums of money from the more environmentally aware councils. To be effective, we need funds at the commencement of the year, we need councils to discuss their environmental concerns and required outcomes and we need to be able to demonstrate that we have the ability to deliver the required outcomes.

Attendance at our regular meetings has shown a slight improvement, although we need some thought provoking ideas on ways to rekindle interest from those sector groups who do not attend. It is hoped that some discussion about this problem will take place today in our general business session.

The State government is now committed to the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the regional body set up to administer those funds, the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management. Unfortunately for our committee, all State Government support has now been withdrawn.

The BMRG has now been active for 2 years. For our group and the Landcare Groups who are the workers at the coal face we have so far been sadly disappointed. The bureaucracy has taken over and we now have nine sector staff of State Government Departments with a couple of commonwealth bureaucrats having to scrutinize every priority action proposal submitted from the regions. The delays that have occurred as the applications are referred back and fourth, compounded by the usual long delays to have both Commonwealth and State Jurisdictions agree and then sign is totally unacceptable.

The MRCCC also facilitated two Landcare Forums, firstly at Pomona in June, then in Gympie in July. These forums provide opportunities for Landcare groups in the Catchment to discuss a range of issues which affect us all, including a recently developed Memorandum of Understanding between the MRCCC and the BMRG. The Mary Consortium, which consists of representatives from the MRCCC, Barung, Noosa, Gympie and Tiaro Landcare Groups and Greening Australia Tiaro also met with Warren Truss, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, to discuss areas of concerns for our groups.

On the positive side, the MRCCC has been recognised for its achievements at the recent Queensland Landcare Awards held in Gympie, as the front cover of this report indicates. The MRCCC was awarded

the 2003 Landcare Catchment Award as well as the Rivercare Award, whilst our long serving Secretary, Margaret Thomson was awarded Runner-up in the Individual Landcarer Award and the Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group were awarded Runner-up in the Landcare Research Award. As winners, the MRCCC will go to Canberra in 2004 for the National Awards.

Since 2001, the Rivercare Project and the work Brad Wedlock has undertaken has generated over \$900,000 of riparian restoration works which includes over \$600,000 of in-kind contributions, a phenomenal achievement for a community organisation. Brad has been a driving force within the MRCCC, assisting the Management Committee and staff with development and implementation of a range of projects and activities, and cementing partnerships with local government and landcare groups throughout the Mary. One such partnership concerns Brad's recent marriage to Belinda Clarke, Catchment Officer for Maroochy Shire Council and on behalf of the committee, I extend our congratulations to Brad and Belinda.

Eva Ford joined the MRCCC this year to work with landholders and school groups in Maroochy Shire on threatened species projects, looking primarily at the rare frogs of the region. Eva's previous experience with Naturesearch has exponentially increased the MRCCC's intellectually capacity in relation to fauna and particularly rare frogs, and I am hopeful that funding will be secured to enable Eva to continue this valuable work and remain with the organisation.

Dale Watson also commenced employment with MRCCC this year, initially working on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Rivercare Project before moving on to the Friends of Kilcoy Creek Project for four months, as well as assisting Phil Berrill with Waterwatch. Dale is currently working on the Amamoor and Obi Creeks Large Woody Debris Projects, as well as voluntarily coordinating Waterwatch Networks throughout the Mary Catchment and delivering water quality education programs in Gympie schools.

Despite NHT funding ceasing, the MRCCC Community Waterwatch Network continues to operate in those Shires where local government contributes financially. Our Waterwatch network now encompasses over 50 volunteers who monitor 100 sites on a monthly basis, contributing to the establishment of base-line data from which trends and anomalies in water quality may be observed. My personal thanks to Phil Berrill, our previous Waterwatch Coordinator, who succumbed to the dreaded Ross River Fever and was forced to take extended leave to recover. Also thanks are due again to Brad Wedlock for compilation of the MRCCC's Quality Assurance Manual for Waterwatch. Lee Field also joined the team in Maryborough, coordinating this town's long awaited Waterwatch Network.

The Cabomba Inc team of Conor Neville and Phil Moran have finalised the first two Lake Macdonald Projects, and are now moving on to mapping the Cabomba in the Lake and exploring options for re-using harvested Cabomba. Together with Tom Anderson from the Alan Fletcher Research Station and members of the Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group, the Cabomba Bio-control project will commence this year with Environment Australia and a range of stakeholders providing funds to the CSIRO who are researching in Argentina for a bio-control agent. As a weed of national significance, this project has the potential for country-wide exposure.

This year also saw the MRCCC take on the role of Secretariat for the 2003 Queensland Landcare & Catchment Management Conference and Awards which were hosted by the Gympie & District Landcare Group and held in Gympie in August. I am aware that a tremendous amount of work was undertaken by staff and volunteers from both organisations, which led to a highly successful conference and numerous opportunities for exposure of MRCCC Projects as well as a great deal of networking between organisations from across Queensland and interstate.

Dairy Farmers continue to provide office space at the Resource Centre in Tozer Street, Gympie for the MRCCC and a range of associated groups. It is difficult to imagine how we would operate without the thousands of dollars of in-kind support which Dairy Farmers provide to the MRCCC each year and on behalf of our group I would like to express our deepest appreciation.

I would also like to thank Margaret Thompson and Sue Chapman for devoting so many voluntary hours to the work of the MRCCC Executive. Without their support our organisation simply could not function. Thank you also to our valued Committee members, I look forward to another fruitful and rewarding year working with you all.

Harry Jamieson

**MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 26TH AUGUST 2002  
Forestry Conference Centre, Fraser Rd, Gympie**

## **Minutes of meeting**

Opening: Jim Buchanan opened the AGM and welcomed delegates and visitors to the AGM including Harry Bonanno and Trevor Stillman from the Burnett Mary Regional Body for NRM.

Apologies: Elisa Roberts, Mark Cridland, Julie Walker, David Anderson, Stacey Brown, Carolyn Male, Andrew Macnamara, Peter Wellington, Allison Grosse, Betty Johnson, Joy Leishman, Bob Abbot, Marilyn Connell, Carole Innes, Brad Wedlock

### **Chair's report**

Jim Buchanan then presented his annual report

- The Water Resource Plan for the Mary;
- Council contributions – 5 local governments have contributed;
- Other contributions;
- Projects
- River Rehabilitation Project – Brad Wedlock
- Waterwatch – Phil Berrill
- Strategy Review;
- Finalist in National Landcare Awards;
- Number of representatives on other groups;
- Landcare forum;
- Administration funding – the difficulty in sourcing this is immense;
- Mayor's Forum – Maryborough;
- Burnett Mary Regional Body – the need to form working partnerships;
- Cabomba Projects with Lake Macdonald catchment Group;
- Gaming Machine fund benefits;
- Newsletter cooperation with Codline;
- Need for representatives to be more active with the ICM body;
- Provision of office space by Dairy Farmers Cooperative is a very valuable contribution to our endeavours and we acknowledge their assistance.

Jim Buchanan then moved the adoption of his report.

John Horrex in seconding the report commented on the contents of the report and congratulated Jim on the group's endeavours.

Graeme Elphinstone endorsed these remarks and thanked the staff as well.

Harry Bonanno, NRM Regional Body then spoke on behalf of the Regional Body.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Peter Dutton then delivered the Auditor's report as per attached documents.

Treasurer believes next year will be a very challenging one.

The Treasurer then moved the adoption of the Auditor's report and financial statements. Seconded Harry Jamieson. Carried.

### **Waterwatch Report**

- Volunteer network
- Working with EPA
- Displays
- Training days
- Quality Assurance
- Salinity and Water Quality testing for landholders

### **Lake Macdonald Cabomba Projects**

Conor Neville provided a picture of the Project. Replanting aquatic plants to replace Cabomba as it is harvested by Noosa Council. Cabomba is classified as a weed of national significance. Conor thanked Phil Moran for his support in the nursery growing the aquatic plants. Much of the work being done is new. There is not a great deal of information available. It is a very exciting project.

Graeme Elphinstone requested that breakdowns of Project Funding be including in the minutes of the General meeting

### **Water Resource Plan**

Scott Buchanan, Project Officer for the WRP for the Mary and other coastal rivers in the area outlined the community consultation process for the WRP. 11 Sector Representative groups. Last meeting was looking at Hydrology. Don Cocks studying influence of groundwater. MRCCC have played a significant role in including the coastal regions into the plan. A number of questions were asked of Scott.

David Burnett and Jim Buchanan congratulated Scott on the process that has been adopted.

### **River Rehabilitation Report**

Phil Berrill spoke to Brad Wedlock's report as Brad was unable to attend. He spoke very positively. This was supported by Phil Moran. Has also spoke of the multiplication effort of seed funding provided by the MRCCC.

John Horrex asked permission to raise the issue of Tiaro Council supporting the establishment of a Freshwater Interpretive Centre.

Paul Macdonald then spoke on changes in DNR & M, how structuring in DNR & M changed responsibility for ICM – now comes out of Bundaberg. He acknowledged the difficulties that have ensued this year but congratulated the Executive on maintaining the enthusiasm and business of ICM.

### **Nomination for Sector Group Representatives**

Nomination of Sector Group representatives as per sheet.

Some nominations were not available.

Moved Dave Sands, seconded Frank Sestak that nominations be received and adopted. Carried.

Margaret Thompson thanked the retiring delegates for their cooperation and contribution to the workings of the MRCCC.

NR& M nomination is pending. Mike Hoare or Rob Herd to continue as proxies.

Lower Mary Landcare Representative still to be decided.

### **Confirmation of Minutes of Previous AGM**

Moved Harry Jamieson, seconded Dave Sands that the Minutes of the previous AGM are a true and accurate record. Carried.

### **Election of Special Members**

Moved Margaret Thompson, seconded Peter Dutton that Nai Nai Bird be elected as a person with special skills. Carried.

Moved David Burnett, seconded Mollie Gilmour that Margaret Thompson be elected as a special member. Carried.

### **Election of Office Bearers**

Chair – Jim Buchanan nominated by John Horrex. There being no further nominations, Jim was duly elected. Jim made his acceptance speech and said he would really like to see certain

Deputy Chair

Harry Jamieson nominated. Moved Margaret Thompson seconded Jim Buchanan. There being no further nomination Harry was duly elected.

Secretary

Margaret Thompson nominated by David Burnett. Margaret Thompson was duly elected.

Treasurer

John Horrex nominated Sue Chapman. Sue Chapman was duly elected.

### **Appointment of Auditor**

Moved Jim Buchanan, that Brown Macaulay & Warren be appointed Auditors for the following year. Seconded Graeme Elphinstone. Carried.

Jim then thanked Peter as the outgoing Treasurer and Executive member for his assistance through the year.

### **Address by Trevor Stillman, Catchment Representative on the Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM**

Trevor started his talk with a history of catchment management, first in NSW then Victoria. These were primarily flood mitigation groups. Other groups were set up as soil conservation groups. Next an integrated approach was adopted. In 1987, salinity was a driving force in the formation. In 1984, NSW developed and instigated total catchment management. Trevor then proceeded to discuss where to from now.

He spoke of staffing and community involvement and the stakeholder panel etc and how the Regional Body intends to encourage the stakeholders to be actively involved.

Foundation funding

Business plan

Regional Communication plan has been developed.

Facilitator Coordinator bid

Priority action bid

Strategic Investment Plan (Statewide projects)

Social dimensions for NRM

Harry requested a copy of Trevor's address.

There were many questions of Trevor regarding the future role of Catchment Groups. Tony Harcourt Smith, Harry Jamieson and John Dillon made significant contributions. Graeme Elphinstone and Steve Barry also contributed to the discussion.

### **Lunch**

Jim Buchanan had to leave the meeting.

Meeting resumed at 1.20pm with Deputy Chair, Harry Jamieson in the Chair.

Discussion continued on the Regional Body functions. Questions on funding and implementation of the accredited plan. It was a most informative session.

Feedback from Sector Representatives

John Dillon spoke from the environment Sector. Need to explain the business of MRCCC and value to the Sector. Perhaps we need a weekly column in the paper.

Peter Dutton – Sector groups bring issues to the forum.

Bob Watson spoke of how MRCCC has stood on it's own feet but need to sharpen up on issues.

Steve Barry – reinvent the working groups. Perhaps geographic centred working parties. Working party operation (focussed and timely) maybe expanding the membership.

Harry closed the meeting at 2.30 pm.

**Scenario:** Impact of MRCCC Rivercare Grants per year - provided by Ian Prosser, of CSIRO Land & Water (SEDNET Model).

Sources of eroded sediment in the Mary River Catchment (source: CSIRO Technical Paper 37/02):

- Riverbank Erosion (87%)
- Gully Erosion (8%)
- Sheetwash & Rill Erosion (5%)

### Estimating Nutrient Reduction through Rivercare Grants targeting Riverbank & Gully Erosion

#### Mary Catchment Sediment Reduction

Current Mary River Catchment sediment export to River Heads = 445 kilotonnes / year

Reduction of sediment through MRCCC Rivercare Grants = 26 kilotonnes / year (6% reduction)

#### Mary Catchment Nitrogen Reduction

Total Mary River Catchment Nitrogen exported to River Heads: 1541 tonnes / year

Reduction of Nitrogen through MRCCC Rivercare Grants = **53 tonnes / year**

#### Mary Catchment Phosphate Reduction

Total Mary River Catchment Phosphate exported to River Heads: 344 tonnes / year,

Reduction of Phosphate through MRCCC Rivercare Grants - **16 tonnes / year**



*Mary River – Scotchy Pocket, May 2003*



*5 year old revegetation site  
Mary River, Gildora, 2003*

## Significant Findings from the 2003 Implementing the Mary River & tributaries Rehabilitation Plan Monitoring & Evaluation Report (Rivercare Devolved Grants) - Brad Wedlock & Dale Watson

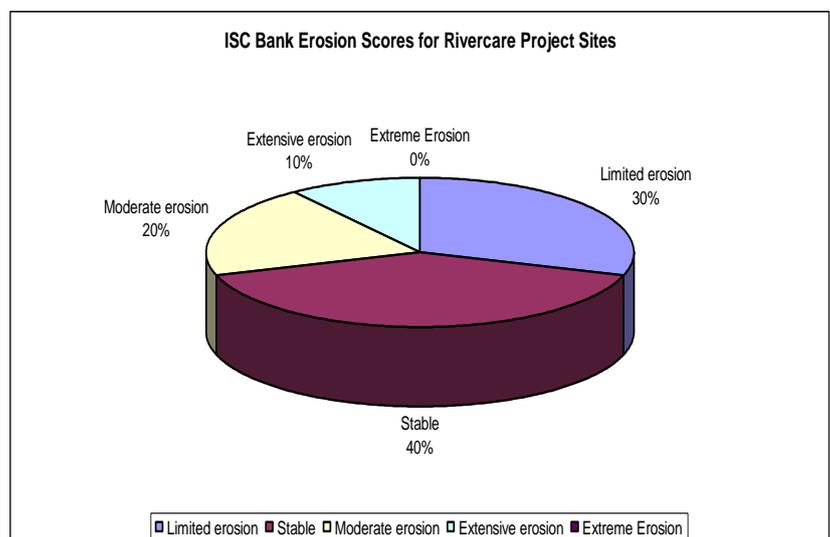
In early 2003 monitoring and evaluation of the MRCCC Rivercare project sites was performed. The monitoring program for the project sites involved the use of Index of Stream Condition, the Corridors of Green vegetation analysis and a landholder survey.

The Index of Stream Condition (ISC) provides a 'snapshot' of the condition of the riparian zone. ISC analyses the condition of riparian zone as well as the in-stream condition of the waterway. Corridors of Green examines the physical characteristics of the riparian zone, i.e. weed cover, native cover, leaf litter cover, species type and native plant regeneration. The landholder survey involved asking questions about their opinions on the success of the Rivercare project, and their major riparian zone concerns.

The use of the three monitoring techniques was carried out on 20 of the Rivercare Grant Scheme sites located throughout the Mary River Catchment. The methodology and findings of this monitoring can be viewed in the above-mentioned report. Some of the significant findings of this report are outlined below:

### Activities undertaken through Implementing the Mary River & tributaries Rehabilitation Plan:

- ❖ **Over 3000 people involved** in activities associated with MRCCC projects.
- ❖ Activities undertaken in **each Local Government area** within the Mary Catchment, with direct involvement by:
  - Maroochy Shire Council
  - Noosa Shire Council
  - Caloundra City Council
  - Tiaro Shire Council
  - Cooloola Shire Council
  - Maryborough City Council
  - Hervey Bay City Council
  - Woocoo Shire Council
- ❖ **Remnant Protection Works – 221 hectares** (target – 200 hectares)
- ❖ **Remnant Rehabilitation Works – 600 hectares**
- ❖ **Revegetation Works – 66 hectares** (target – 50 hectares)
- ❖ Number of **native riparian seedlings** established – **73460** (target – 60000 seedlings)
- ❖ Distance of **riparian fencing** – **72 515 metres**
- ❖ Area of **Voluntary Management Agreements** established – **719 hectares**
- ❖ Area of Covenants established – **58 hectares**
- ❖ Area of **threatened species habitat protected** – **131 hectares**
- ❖ **Number of head of cattle excluded** from the riparian zone – **2600**
- ❖ Number of **off-stream watering points** installed – **65**
- ❖ Area of **Woody Weed Control performed** – **90 hectares**
- ❖ **In-kind Riparian Rehabilitation generated (00-02) - \$627,544**



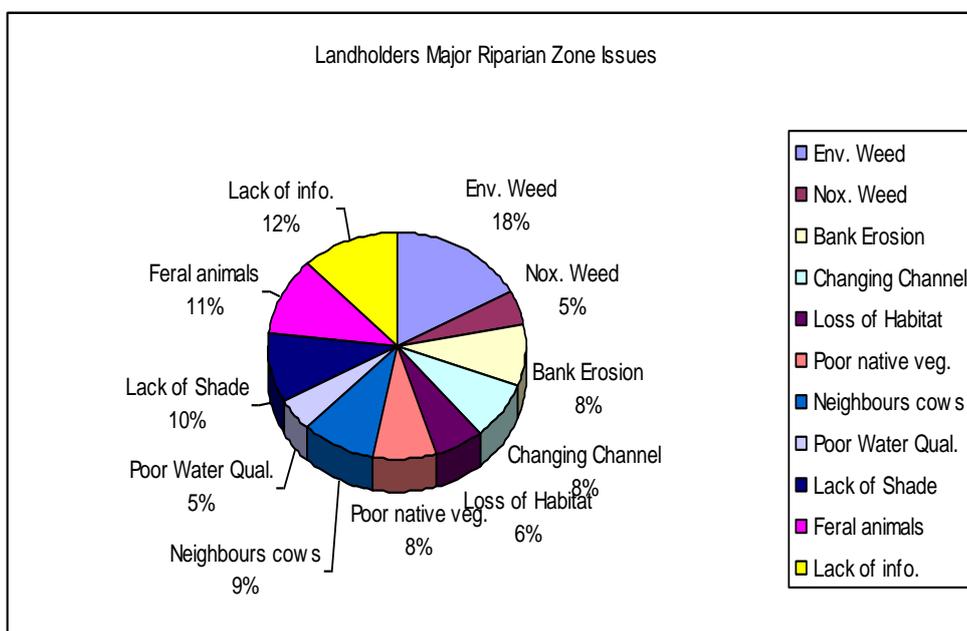
❖ **Total Riparian Rehabilitation generated (00-02) - \$941,644**

**What landowners achieved with the help of MRCCC:**

- The Rivercare Project sites monitored compared favourably with similar catchments in Victoria using the Index of Stream Condition, water quality being the only component to score lower.
- Priority actions outlined within the Mary River & Tributaries Rehabilitation Plan were being addressed.
- Weed control was the only priority action identified that was not adequately addressed.
- The average width of streamside zone was 10 to 30 metres, with the average being 26 metres.
- Bank stability among the sites monitored was found to be of fair condition, with 40 percent of sites recording a “stable” score.
- The average vegetation cover of the streamside zone for all sites monitored was found to be between 25-50%. The vegetation cover scores for the toe of the bank scored significantly higher than for the upper section of the streamside zone.
- The three major weed species occurring at the sites were; Lantana, Mistflower, and Cats Claw Creeper. The ground layer weeds were identified as the most significant problem in terms of weed coverage of the riparian zone, while the tree layer was of the least concern.
- Results showed evidence of significantly higher recruitment levels of naturally regenerating native plant species at sites where grazing has been excluded.
- Due to the drought some landholders have used the fenced off riparian zone as a source of emergency fodder. Also neighbouring livestock are accessing some Rivercare project sites due to low stream levels.
- The water quality results showed to be mostly within the ANZECC Water Quality Guidelines.

**Landholder Attitudes:**

- Of the sites monitored the 48% were located on beef grazing properties, 32% on rural residential and 21% on dairy properties.
- Environmental weeds, lack of information, and feral animals were rated as the top three issues of concern by the landholders.
- The general consensus of surveyed landholders was that they are interested in achieving further Rivercare goals, however they would appreciate both further financial and on-ground support, particularly in the area of weed control.
- Due to the drought many landholders viewed the riparian zone as emergency livestock fodder.



**Pryor Large Woody Debris Project  
Brad Wedlock & Luke Brown**

**Purpose of the Project**

The purpose of this project is to use reintroduced timber (Large Woody Debris, LWD) to:

- lessen the erosive processes acting upon the project site's southern bank by increasing the stream's geomorphic diversity back to a level closer to that of a pre-European state;
- provide habitat for the endangered Mary River Cod (*Maccullochella peelii mariensis*);
- Return the stream reach large woody debris loading (ie. the quantity of submerged timber) to original conditions for reasonably intact Australian rivers.



*Test Reach – pre-construction (June 2001)*

The large woody debris (LWD) project site is situated in an area called Kidaman Creek, and is located 32 kilometres from the Obi Obi Creek's source. The site is owned by John and Beverley Pryor. 'The property is a 200 acre cattle grazing property with 1000 metres of Obi Obi Creek frontage. The property has been owned by the Pryors since 1984' (Pryor, J., Pers. Comm. (verbal), 2002).



The project site has been chosen for LWD works as it exhibits an approximate 450 metre incised, over widened, regulated high energy stream (Dudgeon, 2000) with unstable, undercut, rapidly eroding and slumping southern banks to a height of up to four metres (Wedlock, B. pers. Comm (verbal) 2002). Being void of any natural riparian vegetation, the project site is exhibiting an erosion rate of 1.80 metres per year (Pryor, J., Pers. Comm. (verbal), 2002).

*Test Reach – post-construction (August 2003)*

Glenda Pickersgill (World Wide Fund for Nature, Mary River Cod Recovery) identified the Pryor project site as a degraded critical link for the endangered Mary River Cod during the Mary

River Cod mapping project. This strategic link exists between the protected Mary River Cod habitat area of the Kondalilla National Park and an area downstream of Obi Obi Crossing No. 2 (Pickersgill 1999), where a local resident recently caught a Mary River Cod (Trendell, P., Pers. Comm. (verbal), 2001).

**RESULTS**

**Stream Condition Assessment using Index of Stream Condition (ISC)**

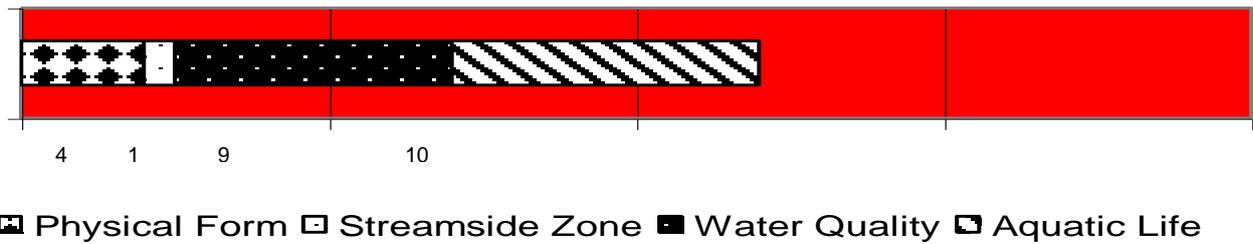
.Sub-index	ISC score (out of a possible 10)
Physical Form	4
Streamside Zone	1
Water Quality	9
Aquatic Life (SIGNAL only)	10
ISC project Total	24/40

*Table 1. Sub-index scores for the project sites ISC*

Overall ISC Score	Stream Condition
5 – 50	Excellent
35 – 44	Good
<b>25 – 34</b>	<b>Marginal</b>
15 – 24	Poor
< 14	Very Poor

*Table 2. Overall ISC classification scheme showing the position of the Pryor project site*

## Pryor LWD Project site ISC Results



Graph 1. ISC bar graph of results.

### Riparian Zone Rehabilitation

#### Vegetation Sampling

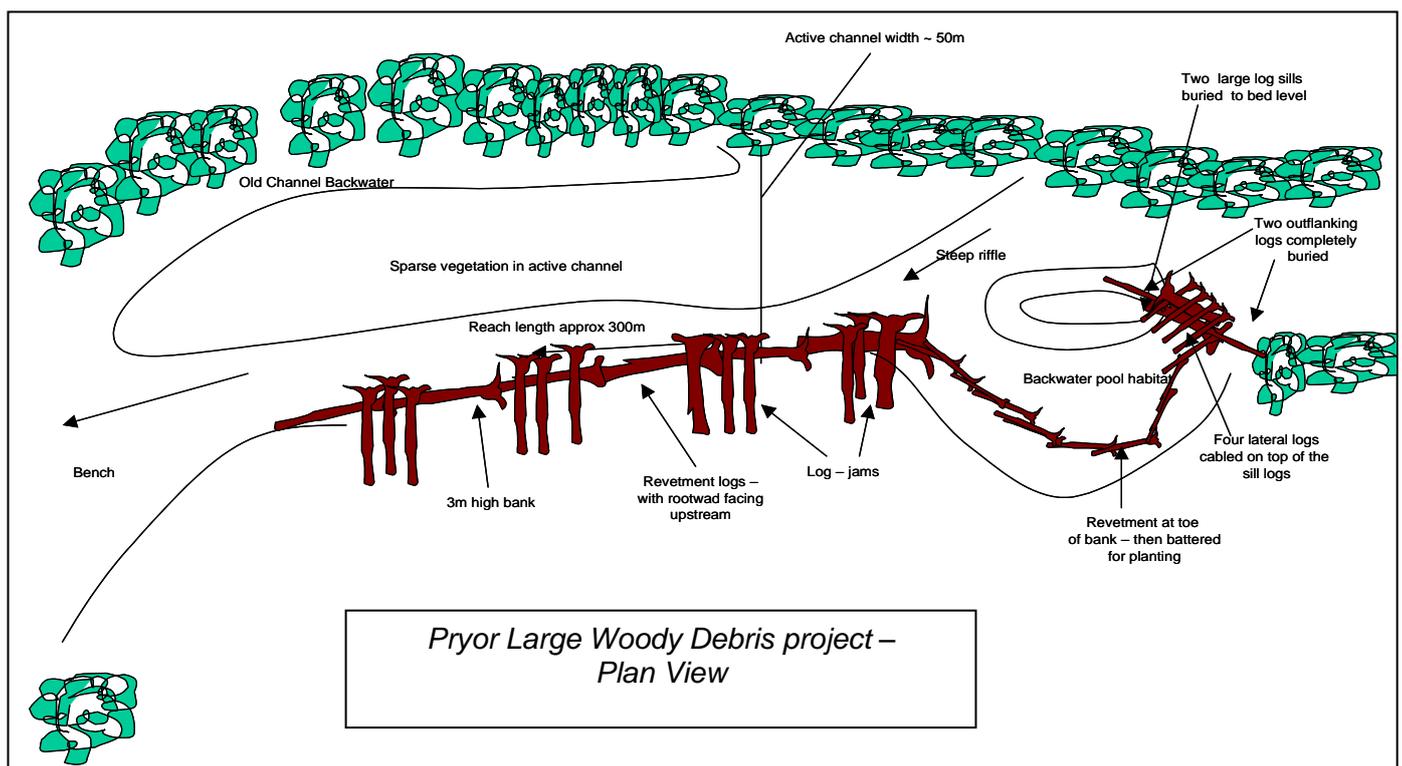
The sampling of five areas on the lower Obi Obi Creek revealed that the Lake Baroon Spillway exhibits a highly diverse ecosystem made up of 86 species, while the lower Obi Obi Creek Catchment shows very low species diversity with only 14 species.

The Lake Baroon Spillway Vegetation assessment identified one plant species, *Quintinia sieberi* at its northern limit and *Litsea lefeana* at its southern limit. Also identified were two other species near their northern limits, *Akania bidwillii* and *Notelaea ovata*.

One rare plant (under the Qld Government *Nature Conservation Act*) was identified – *Choricarpia subargentea* – Giant Ironwood on Obi Obi Creek, near Crossing No.2.

The common riparian species identified were:

- ❖ *Waterhousia floribunda* (Weeping Lilly-pilly)
- ❖ *Ficus coronata* (Sandpaper Fig)
- ❖ *Aphananthe phillipensis* (Axe-handle Wood or Rough-leaved Elm)
- ❖ *Castanospermum australe* (Blackbean)
- ❖ *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel)
- ❖ *Cryptocarya triplinervis* (Three-veined Laurel)
- ❖ *Mallotus phillipensis* (Red Kamala)





Overhead cover for fish from revetment logs



Length of cover provided – 1 metre

### **Telstra Countrywide Tree-planting – Maryborough**

MRCCC, Telstra Countywide staff and the Maryborough City Council planted 1000 native seedlings in Aquatic Park, near the Lamington Bridge, Maryborough.

Owing to the prolonged drought during the last half of 2002, the seedlings struggled and without the fantastic work of Debbie Terrell and Lesley Bradley who maintained the site the revegetation wouldn't be the success it is today.

The trees planted last October are now powering away due to good rainfall (and maintenance) in the first half of this year, and hopefully good follow-up rainfall will be received during Spring and Summer 2003.

In October 2002 the Lower Mary River Landcare Group in partnership with the

### **Dow Agrosiences Camphor Laurel Control Program in Strategic Areas of Noosa Shire Brad Wedlock and Phil Moran**

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, in partnership with Noosa & District Landcare Group and Noosa Shire Council has been working to rehabilitate the waterways of Noosa Shire for the last 10 years.

Cooroy Creek is a small tributary of Six Mile Creek that flows through the township of Cooroy. Six Mile Creek has a sustainable population of Mary River Cod, and ultimately flows into the Mary River at Gympie. The major problem on Cooroy Creek is the invasion of Camphor Laurel in areas that have been disturbed through human occupation. The Camphor Laurel then causes major water quality issues when leaf material breaks down in the water column, and depletes the water body of dissolved oxygen. This in turn then reduces the potential of the creek to host aquatic life, such as fish.

Dow Agrosiences through Landcare Australia Limited provided funding to remove and control Camphor Laurel from the test reach of Cooroy Creek within Cooroy township.



**Before**

The test reach of Cooroy Creek is used extensively for passive recreation by the town people, and is a high profile site as it is bounded by a major arterial road.

The Cooroy Scout Group has assisted with the project, as their scout hall is located on the test reach of Cooroy Creek. The scout group have helped with the revegetation after the Camphor Laurel was mulched, and also helped to shift mulch on-site.

Mill-able Camphor Laurel was transported to the old Boral Mill site (100 metres downstream of the Cooroy Creek test reach) The old Boral Mill (as it is



**After**

affectionately known in Cooroy) has been granted to a community group called the "Camphor Laurel Initiative". This group will value-add the timber using the equipment in the old saw-mill.

Water quality testing has been performed through the Cooroy Creek test reach for 3 months prior to commencement of the work for baseline data purposes. Water quality data was also collected after the Camphor Laurel removal, and will continue to be collected to monitor changes.

An 'Index of Stream Condition' assessment for 400 metres of Cooroy Creek (test reach) was undertaken in October 2002 to assess the condition of the creek before any Camphor Laurel removal was performed.

### Waterwatch Community Networks

During 2002/03 five Community Waterwatch Networks were formed throughout the Mary River Catchment. The five Community Waterwatch Networks are located in the following areas:

1. **Munna Creek Waterwatch (Woocoo Shire Council)**
2. **Gympie & District Waterwatch (Cooloola Shire Council)**
3. **Amamoor Creek Waterwatch (Cooloola Shire Council)**
4. **Upper Mary Catchment Waterwatch (Caloundra City Council & Maroochy Shire Council)**
5. **Maryborough & District Waterwatch (Maryborough City Council)**



During 2002/03 the MRCCC has also assisted the following community groups with Waterwatch :

- ❖ **Tiaro & District Landcare Group (Tiaro Shire Council);**
- ❖ **Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group (Noosa Shire Council)**

Today, MRCCC has trained 51 Waterwatch volunteers throughout the catchment that collect water quality information from 63 sites monthly. The breakdown of the Waterwatch volunteers and sites are:

1. **Munna Creek – 8 volunteers monitoring 9 sites**
2. **Gympie & District – 10 volunteers monitoring 16 sites**
3. **Amamoor Creek – 10 volunteers monitoring 9 sites**
4. **Upper Mary Catchment – 15 volunteers monitoring 19 sites**
5. **Maryborough & District – 8 volunteers monitoring 10 sites**



### 2002 Water Week Catchment Crawl – 21 & 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2002 by Phil Berrill & Brad Wedlock

During Water Week (October 2002) a 'Catchment Crawl' was held to capture water quality information from 14 freshwater sites along the main Mary River during the height of the 2002 drought. Sites were sampled from above Conondale to the Mary River Barrage, near Tiaro.

Sites were targeted on main creek junctions with the Mary River, to provide information on the effect the creeks are having on the main Mary River. The results of the 2002 Water Week Catchment Crawl were compiled in a report. For this catchment crawl the MRCCC was assisted by DPI and EPA.



Due to the prolonged drought conditions experienced during the October 2002 sampling period, some very interesting water quality results were obtained.

Very few of the creeks were flowing during this time, and therefore turbidity readings were very low.

However salinity levels were twice, to three-times, higher than normal levels experienced due to the lower than normal flow in the Mary River.

An interesting finding of the 2002 Catchment Crawl were the temperatures recorded at that time. October is the time of the year when the Mary River Cod is spawning, it is also the time of year when the lowest flows are experienced in the waterways due to lack of rain.

Mary River Cod require a temperature window of 20 – 23 degrees (water temperature) to initiate spawning, however only 1 of the sites tested in October was suitable for Mary River Cod spawning.

### **Quality Assurance of Waterwatch Data**

In early 2003 the “Mary River Catchment Waterwatch Quality Assurance Program” was developed to ensure a high standard of water quality data is collected by Waterwatch volunteers.

A Waterwatch Quality Assurance manual has been compiled that details the following information:

- Waterwatch sites in each Community Waterwatch Network
- Waterwatch Equipment within the Community Waterwatch Networks
- Water quality parameters tested in each Community Waterwatch Network
- Equipment calibration & maintenance procedures
- Waterwatch volunteer training procedures

The Waterwatch Quality Assurance program sets out procedures and guidelines that when followed ensures a high standard of data is collected.

The Quality Assurance program ensures that all steps in the Waterwatch process – from data collection by trained volunteers to data entry by MRCCC trainees – is documented and detailed records kept of procedures followed.

### **Mary River Salinity Catchment Crawl**

#### **May 2003 by Dale Watson & Brad Wedlock**



As part of the 2003 Salinity Fortnight the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee undertook another of its Mary River Catchment with a focus on salinity.

The crawl ran over the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, with over 15 participants, including local government representatives, MRCCC, Landcare members and local landholders.

The Catchment Crawls are designed to provide a ‘snap shot ‘ of water quality along the Mary River. This Salinity Catchment Crawl sampled 16 freshwater sites along the main Mary River trunk, from its headwaters in the Conondale ranges, downstream to the Tiaro Barrage.

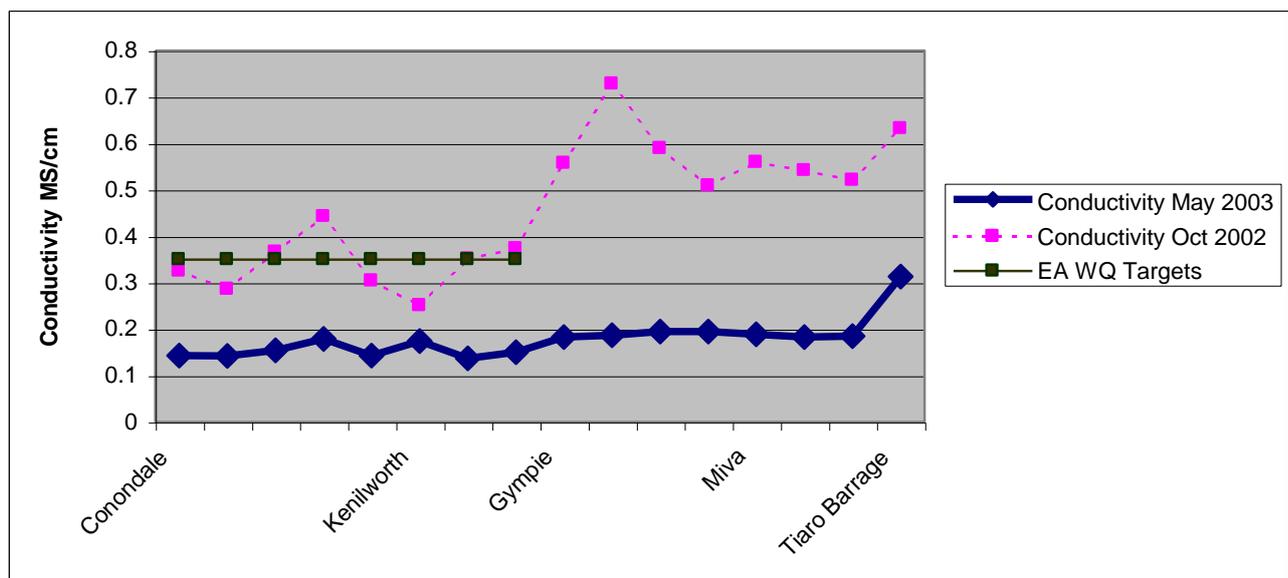
A report was written on the findings of the Salinity Catchment Crawl. Within the report comparisons between the October 2002 Water Week Catchment Crawl and the May 2003 Salinity Catchment Crawl highlighted the significant differences that may be found between

water quality parameters in times of drought and low flow and times of replenished higher flow.



The 2003 Salinity Catchment Crawl produced somewhat 'normal' results, with nearly all measured parameters falling within the ANZECC guidelines for a healthy river system. However, this is most likely due to the large amounts of fresh rain input into the system shortly before the 2003 Salinity Catchment Crawl, having a 'diluting' effect on the system. A special focus of this Catchment Crawl was on the salinity levels experienced at that time. When comparing the salinity levels taken during the drought, the May samples were up to four times lower than those recorded in the previous October sampling period, taken during severe drought conditions.

Finally it was noted that each individual catchment, and even individual tributaries and reaches, will display often very different water quality results. It is recommended that targets or guidelines be developed for individual areas, and that this may only be achieved with a combination of sufficient accurate and reliable data as well as a sound knowledge of the catchments characteristics and processes.



**Friends of Kilcoy Creek Rivercare Project  
Implementing the Mary River and Tributaries Rehabilitation Plan by Dale Watson**

Kilcoy Creek is located in the Conondale Ranges, just outside the township of Conondale. The Mary River & Tributaries Rehabilitation Plan identified Kilcoy Creek as an unprotected reach of regional conservation significance, a high priority for protection and rehabilitation. It is ideal habitat for the Mary River Cod and the Giant Spiny Crayfish.

The Friends of Kilcoy Creek Rivercare Group is made up of 16 landholders along Kilcoy Creek. Funds provided by the Caloundra City Council and the Australian Government Envirofund MRCCC has managed to involve all landholders along Kilcoy Creek in the Rivercare project.

**Caloundra City Council and Envirofund funded activities have included:  
Tree plantings and field days:**

- Power Plant at Peto Property:
  - 600 local native seedlings planted (trees, tree guards, rainsaver gel, expert advice and supervision supplied by MRCCC), large area of Lantana cleared, trees mulched and watered.
- Tree Planting and Education Field day at Kookaburra Hill with Conondale State School:
  - 800 trees planted,
  - Waterbug and Waterwatch demonstrations,
  - Frog walk with Eva Ford,
  - Sausage sizzle
- Tree ID Walk: Nick Willis and Ernie Rider provided walking commentary. Many interesting species noted, and questions asked by participants. Lunch provided.

**Working with landholders for riparian protection and rehabilitation:**

- Kookaburra Hill: 1km riparian zone fenced, Off-stream watering, Covenant application for fenced zone.
- Bellalea Stud: 1km of fencing along riparian zone, Off-stream watering.
- Beausangs Lane Dairy Farm: Incorporating large scale off-stream water program and sustainable riparian zone management written into property management plan, in order to protect Kilcoy Creek and to improve property management.

**Research and Monitoring:**

- Flora and Fauna data compiled for Kilcoy creek sub-catchment from:
  - Fauna data from Wildnet and Qld Parks & Wildlife Service,
  - Flora data from Qld Herbarium
  - Field visits by local botanists
  - Information packages assembled for landholders
- University of Sunshine Coast students undertaking site evaluation and rehabilitation plan along Kilcoy Creek.
- Monitoring:
  - Index of Stream Condition monitoring,
  - Corridors of Green vegetation analysis
  - Water quality monitoring at Rivercare sties along Kilcoy Creek

**Exposure for the project has included:**

- Custom posters developed for the Friends of Kilcoy Creek Project.
- Display at the Maleny show.
- Front-page article in the Codline Magazine.
- Display at the Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Expo.
- Front-page article in the Mary Valley Voice.
- Land for Wildlife Field Day: exhibiting Friends of Kilcoy Creek activities.
- Natural Heritage Trust Magazine article on Friends of Kilcoy Creek activities published in the Spring 2003 issue.
- Poster being developed illustrating achievements along Kilcoy creek (i.e. riparian corridor formed from Bellthorpe to Mary River, with all landholders along Kilcoy Creek involved in MRCCC Rivercare works)



**Future Directions:**

The formation of the Policeman Spur Rivercare Group is seen as an extension of the Friends of Kilcoy Creek group. The Policeman Spur Rivercare Group comprises of 12 landholders along Policeman Spur Road, with stream frontage along Geraghty Creek and the Mary River headwaters. All members share the common goal of protecting, rehabilitating, reconnecting and extending the riparian zones within this catchment. An Australian Government Envirofund Application has been prepared for Rivercare activities, and we are awaiting a response. It is envisaged the linking of these smaller groups will lead to the formation of the Upper Mary Rivercare

Group.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, the Bundaberg Rum Bushfund Field Day will be held on Kilcoy Creek. Activities will include tree planting, Waterwatch demonstrations, Mary River Cod releases and frog walks.

The Friends of Kilcoy Creek Rivercare Project has been an ideal working example of a Rivercare Group. With the MRCCC's support and the local landholder involvement and commitment, a protected riparian corridor has been created from the Bellthorpe National Park to the Mary River. All landholders along Kilcoy Creek have been involved in the Rivercare works, from rural residential landholders to large-scale

## **Living with Threatened Species in the Kenilworth – Belli Community**

**Eva Ford**

dairy farms and graziers.

### **Project duration - March to November 2003**

#### **Funding providers**

World Wide Fund for Nature – Threatened Species Network

Australian Government Envirofund

Maroochy Shire Council

#### **Project objectives**

- Raise public awareness of threatened species identification and habitat requirements and of general conservation issues.
- Engage local property owners in activities to conserve and rehabilitate riparian zones in potential threatened frog stream habitats on their properties.
- Map, monitor and research threatened species (particularly the Giant barred-frog and the Cascade treefrog) on private and Council land in the project area to compliment and extend the work being conducted in State Forests and National Parks by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Monitor stream condition and water quality through a new Waterwatch group based in the Belli, Cedar and Gheerulla Creek sub-catchments.
- Monitor weeds and recruitment plants in managed areas.

#### **Project highlights**

##### **Frog information seminar**

This seminar was held on the 17 August at Bellbunya Country Lodge at Belli Park with 25 people in attendance from the local area. The venue was provided free of charge by the owners, Peter and Karen Turner. Topics covered were local frog identification, global frog decline and fungal disease and progress of the Living with Threatened Species (LTS) project. Karen Turner, an avid frog enthusiast, delivered an entertaining frog identification segment. The seminar was well received and it is hoped that future opportunities for similar events will eventuate.

##### **Kenilworth Croakers**

As part of the project activities land owners and volunteers have been invited to be a part of the newly created frog group, the Kenilworth Croakers. As the group evolved it became largely made up of property owners from 2 distinct areas. The 2 groups are made up of 6 and 4 adjoining properties on Walli Creek and a Belli Creek tributary on Browns Road respectively. The formation and composition of the group provided an opportunity to seek funds on their behalf to encourage rehabilitation of damaged riparian areas. Having adjoining properties working towards a common goal adds strength and greater success to the rehabilitation process and to community capacity building. If funds become available the Kenilworth Croakers will still operate as a frog survey group, continuing the work of the current Living with Threatened Species project. Funding has been sought from WWF/TSN and Envirofund TO SUPPORT THE Kenilworth Croakers.

##### **Waterwatch group formed and in action**

In order to monitor streams that were not already targeted by the Waterwatch network a new group has been formed. The group consisting of 4 property owners and their partners cover 12 points along Belli, Cedar, Oakey and Gheerulla Creeks. Monitoring will begin in September 2003.

##### **Frog records**

5 frog surveys were undertaken before the winter months arrived. The following table provides a summary of frog records to date from these surveys and from incidental records. Surveys targeting the threatened frog species of the area begin again in September with 17 sites to be surveyed by the end of October 2003. Volunteers and property owners will be involved in the surveys.

In total 47 frog records have been provided to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and to the Recovery Team for Stream Frogs of SEQ. A further 30 fauna records and 182 flora records have been provided to QPWS.

### Frog records collected between March and September 2003 from the Kenilworth/Belli area

	Bufo marinus	Crinia parinsignifera	Limnodynastes peronii	Litoria chloris	Litoria dentata	Litoria fallax	Litoria gracilinta	Litoria latopalmeta	Litoria leseueri	Litoria pearsoniana (V)	Litoria peronii	Litoria rubella	Litoria tyleri	Mixophyes fasciolatus	Pseudophyrne major	Pseudophyrne raveni	Uperoleia laevigata
Gheerulla Creek	1		3														
Belli Park (Reserve)								f									
Belli Creek		m	f									m					
Walli Creek	m			f	f		f	1	1		4		1	1	f		
Cedar Creek		1							m								
Kilcoy Creek				f		f			1								f
Belli Ck tributary		m	m			f					1	m	1				
Imbil SF									1								

m=many

f=few

### Tree planting

Tree planting activities have been carried out on 4 properties with a total of 3000 trees provided by the project. Trees have been obtained from local Landcare groups and been planted with assistance from Green Corps and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) teams. A group of students from the Kenilworth school have also been involved at one of the sites. The property owners have provided all the ground preparation works and have obtained and planted many more trees using their own resources. Roundup bioactive (frog-friendly herbicide) has been provided by the project to the property owners as needed.



*Conservation Volunteers Australia tree planting and weeding at Eckley's, Walli Creek*

Tree planting has occurred along freshwater streams in likely or confirmed threatened frog habitat areas. It has been restricted to areas that have stock exclusion systems in place.

A monitoring transect has been established at one of the planting sites for long-term assessment of planting success and to monitor weed invasion.

## Community education

As frog surveys were not feasible during the cooler months efforts were concentrated on public awareness activities. These activities included:

- Frog education session with students from Conondale School
- Poster display at the Kenilworth Library for 5 weeks
- Frog information seminar (as previously discussed)
- Frog awareness talks with Green Corps and CVA teams involved in on-ground works
- Production of Frog identification flyer for distribution to property owners, volunteers and interested people
- Production of a flyer outlining trees suitable for planting to increase the food source for the Coxen's fig parrot
- Radio interviews about the project
- Articles about the project and frog requirements in the local Landcare and community newsletters
- Involvement of Kenilworth School students in tree planting activities
- Awareness tour of project sites with QPWS Conservation Officer who has been involved in frog issues in the project area in the past

There have been more than 60 requests for information about frog identification, habitat protection and related topics.

## Liaison with Maroochy Shire Council over the management of Pioneer and Belli Parks – works in progress

Early on in the project connection was made with Maroochy Shire Council (MSC) and Greening Australia staff to discuss the future of 2 of their bushland parks that contained potential or confirmed threatened frog habitat. These parks at Belli Creek Crossing Number 1 and at Pioneer Park on Gheerulla Creek are now subject to weed eradication programs and to vehicular and cattle exclusion fencing. Much of the work has been funded by MSC with this project providing public awareness signage, media coverage and volunteer labour.



At Pioneer Park an on-going monitoring exercise has been installed involving 5 plots within the riparian zone at various levels of degradation. An initial habitat assessment and flora list has been derived for each plot. Future assessments will be conducted annually by staff and students from the University of Sunshine Coast in collaboration with MRCCC.

The 2 parks provide excellent opportunities for education activities and for volunteer involvement in a community facility.

### Star pupils

A number of property owners have stood out of the crowd due to gross attitudinal change and/or great efforts to rehabilitate their riparian areas.

### *Volunteer, Megan Brady weeding at Pioneer Park*

and appears unstoppable! In his small neck of the woods he began amidst much criticism from neighbours. These neighbours now form a large part of the Kenilworth Croakers and if funding is available they too will be following Doc's example and regenerating their own stretch of Walli Creek. It is a credit to Doc that he has an open heart to new ideas and the determination to make his project work. He is always willing to accommodate groups and the effects of his enthusiasm on others is obvious. Ben Risby-Jones has worked with MRCCC for a number of years to extend his pristine riparian area throughout his property on Cedar Creek. He uses his property as an educational facility. He appreciates any help we can give him but puts in a great deal of effort himself to ensure that weeding and tree planting activities are not wasted.

Peter Turner has a large property with a highly degraded creek system. He is a visionary and wants to create an area that visitors to his conference complex can enjoy and where they can learn about the environment. This project has helped him to start the regeneration process. He has recently married

A year ago Doc Eckley was a great fan of the D9 and of seeing trees felled for any reason. He is a cattle farmer but now integrates his farming with provision of habitat areas for wildlife. He has planted 9,000 trees this year

Karen who is very enthusiastic about frogs, loves talking to people and who helped with the Frog Information Seminar as previously discussed. Together they prove to be very supportive of this project providing their facilities and their time.

All these people are also part of the Waterwatch network.

### **Project future**

The emphasis of this project until its end in November will be on:

- frog surveying in the project area and to the north into Noosa and Cooloola Shires
- mapping of frog records
- volunteer and property owner involvement
- Waterwatch activities
- Small-scale tree planting

The future of similar work beyond the life of this project depends on the availability of funding from various sources.



*Habitat for the Cascade tree-frog on Cedar Creek showing regeneration area. This pool had large numbers of Cascade treefrog tadpoles in it over winter.*

### **2003 Queensland Landcare & Catchment Management Conference, 22 – 25 August, 2003**

Almost two years ago, the Gympie & District Landcare Group started planning for the most ambitious project the Group had ever undertaken, hosting the Queensland Landcare & Catchment Management Conference and Awards. Since that time, this major exercise has involved hundreds of people undertaking a myriad of tasks to deliver an informative and successful Conference, which generated over \$250,000 of expenditure in the Mary Catchment and attracted 320 delegates from across Queensland and interstate.

After consultation with Conference Coordinator Leo Duffy, the MRCCC offered to take on the role of Conference Secretariat, with Debbie Seal working alongside Leo and Paul Marshall to finalise the Program, confirm speakers, presenters and field trips, prepare a Registration Brochure, Conference Program booklet, Landcare Awards Gala Dinner arrangements and provide information on the Conference.

The involvement of our organisation provided numerous opportunities to showcase MRCCC Projects throughout the Mary and to network with delegates and presenters from across the country, many of whom were representatives of funding bodies which have supported the MRCCC.

Among the many highlights of the Conference which was held at the Gympie Civic Centre and the adjacent Senior Citizens Centre, was the Civic Reception, which featured a magnificent buffet dinner prepared by Peg Berrill and supported by members of the Australian Filipino Organisation of Wide Bay utilising a range of bush foods and local produce. The Mary Catchment was also extremely successful at the Landcare Awards, with the following



*Frying Pan to Snags tour participants at Six Mile Creek*

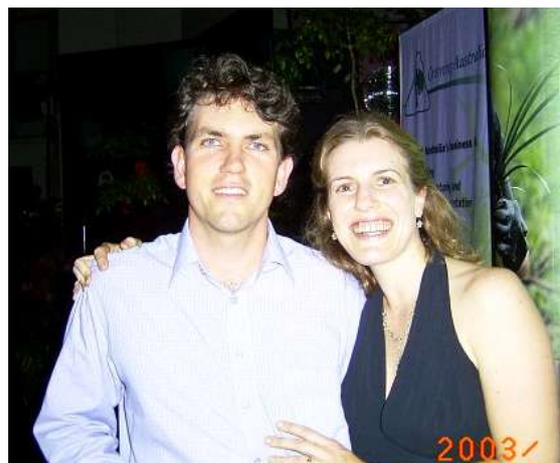
organisations and individuals recognised for their environmental achievements:

#### Mary River Catchment **WINNERS**

- Mary River Catchment Coordination Committee - Murray-Darling Basin Commission sponsored Queensland Rivercare Award AND the Sensis sponsored Queensland Landcare Catchment Award
- Wide Bay–Burnett Land for Wildlife - Nature Conservation Award sponsored by Bushcare
- Jim Viner (Gympie) - Landcare Primary Producer Award sponsored by Rural Press

#### Mary River Catchment **RUNNERS UP**

- Margaret Thompson (Gympie) - National Landcare Individual Award
- Greening Australia Qld/Tiaro & District Landcare - Bushcare Nature Conservation Award
- Noosa & District Landcare Group - Alcoa Landcare Community Group Award
- Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group - Telstra Country Wide Landcare Research Award.
- Koorawinga Scrub Hill Community Farm and Dhugamin CDEP - Landcare Australia Indigenous Award



*Dynamic duo, Brad and Belinda Wedlock at the Landcare Awards Gala Dinner*

### Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group

The Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group (LMCCG) is a natural resource management group pioneering ways into controlling the South American waterweed – *Cabomba caroliniana* as well as undertaking an array of catchment improvement techniques. LMCCG enjoys the collective participation, knowledge and enthusiasm of a diverse range of interest groups. Landholders, water managers, Noosa Council, Alan Fletcher Research Station, Maroochy Council, Mary River Catchment Care Committee, The Gerry Cook Fish Hatchery, Noosa Landcare, CSIRO and local birdos are all members of the LMCCG. This level of cooperation is the catalyst for the following projects undertaken in the years 2002/2003.

Project name	Funding body	Amount	Completion date
Strategic Cabomba Control By Community Action	Weeds of National Significant (WONS)	\$89,000	Finished 03/03
Aquatic Habitat Restoration after Cabomba Control	WONS	\$29,000	Finished 03/03
Adaptive Management	WONS	\$14,000	Current
Cabomba Re-use Project	Envirofund	\$10,700	Current
Cabomba Mapping	Envirofund	\$22,540	Current
Biocontrol	Stakeholders/Environment Australia	Over \$250,000	Developing

#### 1. Strategic Cabomba Control By Community Action

This project was a partnership with Noosa Shire Council, Alan Fletcher Research Station and Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group. The aims of this project were to control and monitor the growth of Cabomba. These aims were achieved by harvesting the Cabomba canopy. The impact of harvesting Cabomba was recorded by underwater video camera along designated transects. The video footage was analysed and a score ascribed to each infestation.

This project has facilitated a greater understanding of the ecology of Cabomba and the effectiveness of an intense harvesting regime which has enabled the Lake to be used safely for recreational purposes.

Another outcome is the increase in light entering the water column and increased wave action, caused by the removal of Cabomba canopy, which effectively allows for more aeration of the water body to occur.



## 2. Aquatic Habitat Restoration after Cabomba Control

This project involves the growing of *Vallisneria nana* and *Hydrilla verticillata* for re-introduction back into Lake Macdonald, after *Cabomba caroliniana* is harvested.

The development of small concrete anchors (“bombs”) has resulted in a far more productive propagation and delivery system. The time consuming process of making the anchors and attaching the plants, has been streamlined. The bulk of this labour is supplied by trainees and volunteers.

Conor and I also met with John Gooleby from the US Department of Agriculture, who is involved in a bio control project targeting *Hydrilla* in the US. A Victorian fluvial geomorphologist, Andrew Barker, has also heard about our work, and wants to share some information. It would appear that Cabomba Inc. is becoming “sexy”.



## 3. Adaptive Management

Supply of native aquatic plants to support the project is continuing. We have a well developed system and, with assistance from Noosa Landcare trainees, this task has been made less onerous.

Establishment of “source populations” using chicken wire cages has begun, with positions recorded by GPS points. These cages have been established at the head waters of Lake Macdonald, toward Noosa-Cooroy Road. The rationale for this is the possibility of fragments of vegetation establishing on the benthos.

*Hydrilla* relies on vegetative reproduction,

and if fragments of the plant settle in a suitable area, it may become established. Of course predation could still be a factor. In summary this project is progressing well.

## 4. Cabomba Re-use Project (AKA ‘Worm Hilton’)

This Envirofund project aims to investigate the suitability of 3 methods to turn the harvested Cabomba into a valuable product. The first method involves the drying out of Cabomba on racks. This product is anticipated to be used as a mulch/weed suppressant and will be trialled in the Noosa Landcare Riparian Nursery.

The second method involves anaerobic composting of Cabomba. The liquid produced will be tested on nursery plants as a liquid fertilizer.

The third method uses Nature's Micro Factories worms) to digest the Cabomba, and analyse the 'product', see if this process altered the concentration of metals in the Cabomba. This



the  
(earth  
has  
heavy  
has

not been previously tried. The Cabomba may kill the worms, or be unpalatable. The trials have been set up in old car tyres, housed in a small shed built using re-cycled timber and iron. This was deliberately done to re-enforce the "re-use" part of the project.

This is an interesting project which has created considerable interest across all sections of the community.

## 5. Cabomba Mapping

The Cabomba Mapping Project is funded under Envirofund Drought Recovery. Mapping of Cabomba through the Noosa and Maroochy shires aims to give water managers a snap shot picture of the status of Cabomba infestations across the two shires. The main water bodies mapped are at the intersections of roads and waterways, where infestations commonly occur. Concurrent to the document of infestations, an 'In Stream Condition' report and nitrate and phosphate analysis of the waterbody compliments the snapshot of Cabomba infestations. This information will assist water managers nationwide by logging the favourable conditions in which Cabomba occurs.

## 6. Biocontrol

The potential problems associated with the *Cabomba caroliniana* infestation in Lake Macdonald was recognized early by Keith Garrity (NSC) and Tom Anderson (AFRS). These two, via the LMCCG, were able to encourage Noosa Shire Council to act.

This led to an exploratory phase in researching various methods of Cabomba control. The purchase by NSC of the aquatic weed harvester marked a milestone in controlling Cabomba. The harvester is removing tonnes of weed from the Lake, and has many benefits. However, mechanical removal on such a scale is simply not feasible. This has led the LMCCG to look at other control options:

"Drawdown" - empty the Lake;

"Chemicals" - Noosa's main water supply;

Hand removal by divers - prohibitive cost.

After looking at these options it would seem that the only affordable alternative, with any hope of controlling this nefarious aquatic monster, is biological control. Tom Anderson (AFRS) and Conor Neville (LMCCG) are working with Mick Julien (CSIRO) to identify predators of Cabomba, within its natural range (South America). CSIRO and MRCCC are working on a contract covering funding of this next step in Cabomba control.

There is wide support for the biological control of Cabomba along the eastern seaboard of Australia. North Queensland Water, Pine Rivers Shire Council, Maroochy Shire Council, Noosa Shire Council, Cal Aqua, Sunwater, QDNR&M, SEQWC and Redland Shire have all committed funds over the next two years.

The total stakeholder funds committed are \$110,500 over the next two years and Environment Australia has committed \$148,000 to the project.

## Project Budgets 2002-2003

### Friends of Kilcoy Creek Rivercare Project - Conondale

Funding Provider	Amount
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Australian Government Envirofund	\$20 000
Caloundra City Council	\$6 000

The Friends of Kilcoy Creek Rivercare project is now almost completed, and has involved all landholders along Kilcoy Creek. A new group has now formed in the Policeman Spur Rd area, called Policemans Spur Rivercare Group. The two 'Friends' groups intend to merge to create the 'Upper Mary Rivercare Group'.

### Living with Threatened Species in the Kenilworth Area

Funding Provider	Amount
Australian Government Envirofund	\$9 000
Threatened Species Network	\$15 000
Maroochy Shire Council	\$15 000

The Living with Threatened Species project is working in the Kenilworth – Belli area of Maroochy Shire. It is expanding into the Noosa and Cooloola Shire's in 2003/04. The aim of this project is to locate and monitor rare frog populations, rehabilitate known and potential rare frog sites and undertake Waterwatch activities. The Waterwatch equipment is housed at the Belli Picnic Shop where landholders pick-up and drop-off equipment.

### Waterwatch – Mary River Catchment

Funding Provider	Amount
Natural Heritage Trust	\$15 000

The Natural Heritage Trust-funded Waterwatch project assists the:

- **Upper Mary Waterwatch Network**
- **Munna Creek Waterwatch Network**
- **Tiaro & District Waterwatch Network**

Natural Heritage Trust funding for a Waterwatch Coordinator ceased as of 30 June 2003.

### Maryborough & District Waterwatch – Maryborough

Funding Provider	Amount
Maryborough City Council	\$4 500

Since February 2003 the Maryborough & District Waterwatch Network has been formed. A part-time Coordinator is employed, and the equipment is housed in a shop in the main street of Maryborough.

### Gympie – Amamoor District Waterwatch – Gympie & District

Funding Provider	Amount
Cooloola Shire Council	\$7 800

In August 2002 the Gympie & District Waterwatch Network and the Amamoor Creek Waterwatch Network was formed. These Waterwatch Networks are administered from the MRCCC Resource Centre in Gympie. Waterwatch equipment is housed at the Amamoor Shop and the MRCCC Resource Centre, where landholders drop-off and pick-up from.

### Implementing the Mary River & tributaries Rehabilitation Plan – Catchment-wide

Funding Provider	Amount
Natural Heritage Trust	\$142 100
Maroochy Shire Council	\$40 000
Cooloola Shire Council	\$14 100
Noosa Shire Council	\$15 000

Telstra Countywide	\$5 000
Dow Agrosiences	\$5 000

The Natural Heritage Trust component of the project ceased as of 30 December 2002. Local government authorities are continuing to fund parts of this project. Submissions have been prepared to continue funding through NHT#2 and National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality (NAPSWQ).

#### **Mapping Cabomba in the Lake Macdonald Catchment – Cooroy / Pomona**

<b>Funding Provider</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Australian Government Envirofund	\$25 000

This project will map the infestations of the aquatic weed Cabomba throughout Noosa Shire, and part of Maroochy Shire.

#### **Cabomba Re-use – Cooroy / Pomona**

<b>Funding Provider</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Australian Government Envirofund	\$11 000

This project involves worm-farming of the Cabomba cut from Lake Macdonald. The cut Cabomba is dumped in the refuse tip at Cooroy, and has potential to be turned into a use-able product. The pilot trial of worm-farming Cabomba could escalate into a full-blown business providing compost to suppliers.

#### **Wonga District Drought Recovery – Kilkivan**

<b>Funding Provider</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Australian Government Envirofund	\$30 000

This project involves working with landholders in the Widgee & Wide Bay Creek sub-catchments to establish a Waterwatch Network, so that the landowners are better informed about water quality issues in their sub-catchment. It will also involve some revegetation and installation of off-stream watering points.

#### **Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund**

<b>Funding Provider</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund	\$30 000

## Funding Proposals Pending (03-04) as of September 2003

### Upper Mary Rivercare Group Project

Funding Provider	Amount
Australian Government Envirofund	\$30 000
Caloundra City Council	\$10 000
Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund	\$8 000 - confirmed

### Upper Mary Waterwatch

Funding Provider	Amount
Caloundra City Council	\$10 000

### Gympie – Amamoor Waterwatch

Funding Provider	Amount
Cooloola Shire Council	\$10 900

### Cooloola Rivercare – Implementing the Mary River & tributaries Rehabilitation Plan

Funding Provider	Amount
Cooloola Shire Council	\$18 000

### Living with Threatened Species Project (incl. Waterwatch)

Funding Provider	Amount
Australian Government Envirofund	\$30 000
Maroochy Shire Council	Proposal being prepared
Powerlink	Proposal being prepared
Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund	\$8 000 - confirmed

### Lunker Project (Artificial Under-cut Creekbanks)

Funding Provider	Amount
Myer Foundation	\$70 000

### Implementing the Lower Obi Obi Creek Rehabilitation Plan

Funding Provider	Amount
Maroochy Shire Council	Proposal being prepared
Powerlink	Proposal being prepared

### Maroochy Rivercare – Implementing the Mary River & tributaries Rehabilitation Plan

Funding Provider	Amount
Maroochy Shire Council	Proposal being prepared

### River Assessment Stream Reach Plans

Funding Provider	Amount
National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality	\$77 900

### Regional Community Water Quality Testing Networks - Mary

Funding Provider	Amount
National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality	\$140 000

### Implementing the Mary River & tributaries Rehabilitation Plan

Funding Provider	Amount
National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality	\$94 000
Natural Heritage Trust #2	\$150 00

### Tiaro Catch & Release Fishing Competition

Funding Provider	Amount
Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund	\$5 000 – confirmed

### Amamoor Creek Muster Tree-planting

Funding Provider	Amount
Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund	\$3 000 – confirmed

### Gerry Cook Fish Hatchery

Funding Provider	Amount
Bundaberg Rum Bush Fund	\$3 000 - confirmed

### 2003 Mary Catchment Mayors Forum

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 4 APRIL 2003, IN THE BEERWAH ROOM, LEVEL 3, COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1 OMRAH AVENUE, CALOUNDRA, WHICH COMMENCED AT 9.30 AM

#### PRESENT

Don Aldous	Mayor, Caloundra City Council
Mark Breen	Caloundra City Council
Lin Fairlie	Landcare Representative (Upper Mary)
Rob Herd	Natural Resources and Mines Water Planning
David Lahiff	Mayor, Kilkivan Shire
Graeme Elphinstone	Department Primary Industries
John Horrex	Mayor, Tiaro Shire Council
Ted Sorensen	Mayor, Hervey Bay City Council
Alan Brown	Mayor, Maryborough City Council
Councillor Dell Winkler	Caloundra City Council
Bob Abbot	Mayor, Noosa Shire Council
Brian Stockwell	
Harry Jamieson	Chairman, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
Margaret Thompson	Secretary, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
Brad Wedlock	Project Officer, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

**IN ATTENDANCE** Carmen Harris (Administrative Support Officer, Caloundra City Council)

1. **APOLOGIES** Mick Venardos (Mayor, Cooloola Shire Council)  
Kevin Mahoney (Mayor, Woocoo Shire Council)

2. **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS**  
Don Aldous welcomed all participants to Caloundra City.

Harry Jamieson thanked members for their participation in the forum and expressed that Local Government plays a major role in the affects of water quality and water quantity and it was proposed that during the forum, as much discussion as possible be held and the aim to reach conclusions with regards to the future of the Mary River Catchment.

3. **PRESENTATION – MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
Brad Wedlock, Project Officer, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, gave a presentation on the 10 years history of the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee.

Following the presentation the following comments and suggestions were made:

- Bob Abbot suggested that water use on river needs to be resolved, reality into flows, otherwise will struggle with other issues.

Mr Herd advised that the Department of Natural Resources and Mines was currently looking at scenarios and over the next 6 months would be submitting options to the Minister.

- Bob Abbot – reuse of urban water. Return to the River System – water resource planning suggestion. What is the State Government’s long storage plan versus water use efficiency. No further development until reuse, water efficiency and water trading are looked at. Department of State Development Infrastructure Plan. Will be part of WRP.
- Bob Abbot suggested to return Noosa water to Lake Macdonald – high nutrient problems – Cabomba Weed.
- Mark Breen – quality issues less of a problem to Caloundra – top of Catchment. Catchment issues and stormwater on site sewage disposal systems program. Hope to target key areas. At Annual Financial Plan process Discussion Forum recently held, key areas in City – waterways were a feature, water focus high in Caloundra and in Corporate Plan process. Water Management Plan.

Water quality impacts from septic – local sewerage. Recently appointed waterways operation team – weed control rubbish removal. Looked at environment land acquisitions and 2 parcels for catchment protection. The Vegetation Management Local Law has been signed off by Council and is awaiting comments from the Minister.

- Rainwater tanks on every new subdivision – rural are required to have storage tanks. Model catchment to ascertain storage size.
- Rainwater tanks – rural – rural residential.
- Margaret Thompson - the incentive will be the cost of water.
- Bob Abbot – Noosa Shire removing restrictions – urban
- Hervey Bay City Council – tanks – no reduction in town water use.
- Real cost of water in Australia / Queensland – 50 cents kilolitre untreated. Water is not fully valued.
- Underground versus elevated tanks, tricked water from town supply. No State regulations yet.
- Setback to rainwater tanks is State Regulations e.g. health.
- Desalination – 60-70/kl option for coastal Councils – also works inland e.g. Lockyer. Results in healthy waterways data base.
- Kilkivan Shire Council – Riparian zone degradation – Calsclaw Creeper – impact on water quality.
- Tiaro Shire Council – Water Hyacinth physical and water quality problems. Fresh water research centre.
- Tiaro Shire Council – water weeds – responsibility of riparian landholders – needs review.
- Brian Stockwell – future reinfestation related to increased nutrients.
- Problem not just Hyacinth in Lower Mary – Salvinia just as serious in Upper Catchment.
- Nutrients compound the WW problem.
- Hervey Bay City Council – stormwater – gross pollutant traps.
- Hervey Bay City Council - Downstream effects (Marine Seagrass) of Nutrient and other runoff.
- Hervey Bay City Council – Rainwater tanks – integrate into Planning Scheme – water quality problems – run through hot water systems.
- Lin Fairlie – schools are not be all, end all – water precious commodity.
- Hervey Bay City Council – redesign houses to have taps close to tanks (hot water taps close to hot water system).
- Maryborough City Council – water supply – Tinano Creek, Teddington Weir) supplemented from Lower Mary Borage – increased water quality problems and water treatment costs.
- Maryborough City Council – Since 1994 Council has lost full control of the Teddington Weir to Sunwater.
- Irrigation Water Masters.
- Increasing effluent water use – cane farmers.
- Urban use – 2 level tariff – increased use of rainwater tanks – no fees.
- Maryborough City Council – need for better management of water storages by Sunwater.

- Does Sunwater profits go to River Rehabilitation etc. (nil at present)
- Tiaro Shire Council – no Local Government representation on Sunwater Management.

In summary, quality/quantity weeds and control main issues with Shires.

4. **CHURCHILL FELLOW, BRIAN STOCKWELL – FUNDING OPTIONS – THE OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE**

At 11.15 am, Brian Stockwell gave a presentation on economic frameworks and funding options. Mr Stockwell completed his presentation at 11.50 am.

Following the presentation, the following comments and suggestions were made:

- Bob Abbot – how many people do save water. Small percentage will work on Conservation projects. People need to be educated.
- Pricing and valuing will encourage people to do something. Needs to be economic benefit.
- Brian Stockwell – need to look at the cheapest possible options e.g. wetlands versus engineering solutions.
- Hervey Bay City Council – need to support incentives to L/HS – are the land custodians and have knowledge.
- Focus subsidies in a different way e.g. payment for ecosystem services.
- Vegetation Management Local Laws (Caloundra and Noosa) are impacting on increased water quality (most cost effective).
- Responsibility of those at forums like this to go home and make things happen.

5. **MARY RIVER CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN – LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR MARY CATCHMENT**

At 12.05 pm, Harry Jamieson addressed the forum on options for Local Government Partnerships in Catchment Management in the Mary and Local Government support for the Mary River Catchment.

Following Mr Jamieson’s address the following comments and suggestions were made:

- Tiaro Shire Council – Option 1 – enabling a costing to be worked out.
- Proposal 1 – more about catchment management than just water use – consider the population base.
- Some Local Governments have more than 2 catchments to service e.g. Woocoo, Noosa and Mary Catchments.
- Margaret Thompson – a water use levy e.g. 4.5 cents /kilolitre would not just be restricted to the Mary River Catchment – total Mary Basin.
- Maryborough City Council – Proposal 1 is about urban water no rural – focus on all water users.
- Lin Fairlie – Urban sector does not currently contribute to catchment management.
- Water reuse projects (by Local Government) could be included in Catchment Management projects.

Brad Wedlock provided the current Local Government contributions:

- Maroochy Shire Council	\$60,000
- Noosa Shire Council	\$16,000
- Caloundra City Council	\$ 6,000
- Maryborough City Council	\$ 5,000
- Hervey Bay City Council	\$ 8,000 (up to \$2,000)
- Tiaro Shire Council	Nil
- Woocoo Shire Council	Nil
- Cooloola Shire Council	\$20,000
- Dairy Farmers	\$10,000 / year Administration inkind

- Tiaro Shire Council – suggest proposal to Local Governments for a direct contribution to the administration costs of Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee.
- Maryborough City Council – Local Government cannot absorb any more of these additional requests for funding (Tinana Creek is part of the Mary River Catchment).

**(Lunch Break from 12.40 pm to 1.40 pm.)**

- Tiaro Shire Council – look at population of catchment.

- Noosa Shire Council – water use proposal does reflect population.
- Noosa Shire Council – is this core business? Decrease capacity to rate core services.
- Tiaro Shire Council – under the Local Government Act, a levy needs to declare ‘a benefit area’ i.e. waterways.
- Noosa Shire Council – a contribution to water quality improvement included in water rates charges.

#### **Proposal 1**

- Noosa Shire Council – a contribution to water quality improvement included in water rates charges.

#### **Recommendation**

- Prepare letter outlining proposal to Councils
- Include in letter other contributors (in-kind)
- Send letter to Sunwater also.
- Send to Caloundra Maroochy Water Supply Board
- Need to separate water supply boards with Local Government
- Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee needs to lobby the Caloundra Maroochy Water Supply Board separately

#### **6. AN INTRODUCTION TO A DRAFT INTERAGENCY DECISION SUPPORT TOOL**

Brian Stockwell gave a presentation on an introduction to a draft interagency decision support tool aiming to assist councils to identify Natural Resources and Mines, Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Primary Industries Fisheries legislation and interests, with a specific relevance to catchment management.

Following the presentation, it was agreed that Brian Stockwell would send information to Councils to trial.

#### **7. REGIONAL NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR SALINITY AND WATER QUALITY**

Margaret Thompson and Brad Wedlock provided an update on the Regional National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the potential affected areas.

Following the presentation, the following comments and suggestions were made:

- Brian Stockwell – what’s happening now is deconstruction of progress. Local Government should be having a close look at what is happening in Burnett Mary, looking at model and representation of Mary River Catchment.

#### **8. CLOSE**

Mr Jamieson thanked all members for their participation and Mayor Don Aldous and Caloundra City Council for hosting the forum and declared the forum closed at 2.25pm.

### **Mary Catchment Landcare Forums**

**18 June 2003 Sunshine Coast Futures Centre, Pomona**

#### **Minutes of meeting**

**Attendance/Apologies:** As per list

#### **1. Welcome**

Harry Jamieson opened the meeting and invited Paul Steels, Chair of Noosa Landcare to provide an overview of the Futures Centre and Noosa Landcare’s involvement.

#### **2. Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management**

First speaker was Glenda George who presented an overview of the Regional Body’s activities to date and future planning.

Glenda was able to expand on a number of questions posed eg:  
Disparity between the activities in the Mary and Burnett Catchments  
Why Vegetation management and land management were combined

### **3. NHT #2 Sue Carstens**

Based on the Regional Body's investment plan.

\$16 million interim funding bucket to cover foundation funding. Priority given to (non? New?) NAP bodies. Nap Bodies may apply for foundation funding covering Biodiversity, Coastcare. NHT Priority Action Projects.

Pre??? Previous investment

No Regrets

Urgent and time critical

For a 12 month period

Interim Assessment Group:

14 Regional Body Chairs

4 advisors

1 indigenous

1 Independent Chair

Question on Commonwealth Funded Positions

Need to hold meeting at locations suitable for people to attend and participate.

### **4. Ken Stallman, Chair, LCMC on future arrangements discussion paper**

Landcare Catchment Management Council will cease on 21 August 2003. LCMC established in 1997.

Landcare is not really represented on any boards? After August 21.

The stakeholder based regional advisory group RAAG yet to be formed.

The question to be asked is "Do we need a peak Landcare & Catchment Management group?"

Each representative to go back to their landcare group to discuss the issue and have suggestion back by 27 June.

### **5. Mary Catchment Levy, Paul Marshall, Gympie Landcare**

Catchment levy based on 10 % of current water charges.

Brad Wedlock spoke of how the MRCCC's catchment levy proposal flagged at the Mary Catchment Mayors Forum is still being considered.

Suggestion that a paper be prepared as an option paper. This paper to be circulated for further discussion.

**Moved Darryl Stewart, seconded Paul Marshall, that we canvas the option of a catchment levy being imposed on reticulated water users. Carried.**

### **6. Representation of upper and lower Landcare on the MRCCC**

Gympie Landcare proposed that the present system remain in place. That the position rotate around the groups ie Barung, Maroochy and Noosa Landcare for the upper Mary and Lower Mary, Gympie, Tiaro Landcare for the lower Mary.

There was general agreement that the various Landcare groups should organise their representation.

In discussion on marketing MRCCC, each sector representative be asked to make a presentation to the landcare groups in issues in the Mary Catchment.

### **7. Peak Body Representation**

As LCMC is to be disbanded, the Mary Catchment Landcare Forum recommends the formation of a state representative Landcare body. Moved Darryl Stewart, seconded Lin Fairlie. Carried. (Barung, Gympie, Tiaro & Noosa Landcare)

**A great deal of discussion ensued over which groups should have representation and whether bushcare and Coastcare be included.**

**Proposal by Darryl Stewart is generally accepted to be circulated to the landcare groups for further discussion.**

Ken Stallman suggested that a letter be sent to Scott Spencer thanking NR & M for their financial contribution and arranging insurance for landcare groups.

#### **8. Report from Brad Wedlock**

Re response from Warren Truss's office to questions posed at 6 June meeting.

- K Mary River Consortium Proposal
- K Expressions of interest in NHT #2
- K Interim Coordinator/Facilitator bid (1 position for the Mary Catchment)
- K There may be sub-regional groups

It is recommended that the landcare groups meet again to discuss representation on the BMRG when appropriate. MRCCC to initiate the meeting. Moved Marilyn Connell, seconded Lin Fairley. Carried.

#### **Resolved that:**

**A meeting be convened with the BMRG and landcare and catchment management groups in the Mary to discuss development of PAFP Projects and other issues. Scheduled for 17 July in Gympie. Location to be advised.**

Harry Jamieson has undertaken to alert all landcare groups as to proposed changes to the BMRG.

Melissa Graham gave a brief rundown of her job, which finished at the end of June. The role of BCCA was also explained.

Meeting closed: 3.15 pm.

#### **Motion 1**

**The Mary Catchment Landcare Forum recommends the formation of a state representative landcare body**

#### **Motion 2**

**Representatives to be selected from a Regional Landcare Forum at which issues from that region are discussed and taken forward on a statewide basis.**

### **MARY CATCHMENT LANDCARE FORUM NO: 2, THURSDAY 17 July 2003**

#### **Minutes of meeting**

#### **Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Harry Jamieson	MRCCC
Margaret Thompson	MRCCC
Esma Armstrong	Maroochy Landcare
Paul Marshall	Gympie Landcare
Lin Fairlie	Barung Landcare
Mim Coulstock	Barung Landcare
Brad Wedlock	MRCCC
Graeme Elphinstone	DPI
Caroline Haskard	BMRG Landcare Representative
Glenda George	BMRG
Gordon Banks	Cooloola Forest Growers
Trevor Stillman	BMRG
Harry Bonanno	BMRG
Marilyn Connell	Greening Australia Tiaro

**Opening:** Harry Jamieson opened the meeting and welcomed Landcare Group members, MRCCC members and BMRGNRM Representatives.

Harry Bonanno, Chair of BMRG gave a short address and then Glenda George, Planning Officer of BMRG commenced sharing information as to where the Regional Group business is at.

Executive Officer Position has been readvertised. Applications close today. Coordinator/Facilitators positions to be advertised 26 July 2003.

State of the Region Report – Expressions of Interest have been called. A Working Group consisting of RB members and Technical Advisory Group will continue the process of drafting criteria and tender selection process.

State of the Region Report to start in August and completed in November 2003. An Information Report will then be released for consultation. The development of the NRM will then take place.

NHT2 Joint Recruitment for Coordinator/Facilitator bids with SEQ Regional Group for NRM. This should save a considerable amount of money.

NAP A formal response is yet to be received from the JSL on the Priority Action.

Responsibilities of Regional Groups - The Regional NRM Plan is based on best available scientific information and best practice with consultation and partnership with all stakeholders. Principle of all stakeholders having ownership through collaboration and working together towards solutions.

The Regional NRM Plan integrates all Regional Planning. Acknowledgement that there is significant NRM planning albeit at different scales, that has already occurred, which should be integrated into the Regional NRM Plan. The Regional NRM Plan set targets and monitoring and evaluation strategies to demonstrate implementation progress leading to no surprises for accreditation of the NRM Plan.

Commonwealth and State expectation for the Regional Plan

- well grounded information base for plan
- demonstrated participation and support from all key stakeholders
- consistent with and capacity to link with and inform other statutory and non-statutory planning processes (e.g. RVMP, Local Govt planning schemes, Regional Growth Management Frameworks)
- justification of strategies/actions and identified investments
- regionally based short, midterm and long term targets with practical progress milestones
- an impact statement, outlining the mitigation effects and trade offs
- monitoring and evaluation strategy
- pathway for adaptation and continuous development following evaluation of implementation progress
- MOU's Key Points – Operating principles – Trust, Equity, Respect without bias or prejudice for either party or their constituent sectors and clear and open communication.
- Nature of Relationship

**Resolved to ask Landcare groups to discuss the issues of MOUs and get back to MRCCC by 4 August 2003.** Need to contact LM Landcare Group.

Gordon Banks spoke of developing an accord process involving Principles of the Relationship & Commitment to Process, Activities Relationships, Preferred process on how to operate.

Harry Bonanno then summed up the proceedings of the day. It has been fruitful and we should be able to move forward. We all need to move forward together.

## Questions re MOU

Concern that in the agreement with MRCCC it would seem as though Landcare is represented by MRCCC.

MRCCC represents all interest sectors not just Landcare. Do Landcare groups require stronger representation MOU – List the principles of each of the groups, e.g. BMRG, MRCCC each Landcare group, other groups e.g. Forest Growers.

- The MC – Nap working group needs to be captured
- The need for an NRM working group incorporating groups and Industry in the catchment
- MRCCC and the Landcare Groups are the ones that do/will do most of the on ground NRM work in MRCCC
- Peak community NRM group on assumption ? Is this appropriate?
- Community NRM Groups Catchment Level
- Identify the key Roles of the BMRG – need a more detailed list (inc Economic and Ecology Sustainability)
- Regional Strategies Operate at a Regional not Catchment Level
- Sectors need more identification eg. MRCCC, Industry conservation etc.

Need to document an engagement Strategy Accord Process Principles of the Relationship and commitments to process activities relationships

Preferred Process on how to operate MRCCC agrees to this marriage Dowry

MOU contract needs a time frame requested by either party

Logos need to be included

Equity of Fairness Trust Respect

3 C's – Communication, Cooperation and consideration.