



UPPER MARY RIVERCARE

March 2024 Newsletter



Landholder, Kerry Murray with, Kyle (Noosa District Landcare), Alana (MRCCC) and Nicole (Noosa District Landcare) inspecting the condition of the creek bank after flooding at the Murray's Mary River Property

This season in the Mary, 12 **Mary River turtle nests were protected**, resulting in over 140 hatchlings being released back into the system. Look out for the presence of endangered Mary River turtles at your place. Scats containing eggshells, tracks on exposed sandbanks and traces of activity are all clues to the wonderful native animals you are helping care for as part of the Upper Mary Rivercare Program.

Find A Frog in February took place in waterways just like yours over the past month! This catchment-wide citizen science project encourages everyone to submit records of frogs to MRCCC from their local area. Even your humble Green treefrog is worthy of recording! Frogs are early indicators of environmental change and their welfare can directly reflect the health of the environmental support systems we rely on and enjoy. Discover how to find frogs at your place and become a frog finder by hopping on to the MRCCC 's website: www.mrccc.org.au/frog-in-february/.

Landholders working together for water quality

The Upper Mary Rivercare Program (UMRC) is a community driven water quality improvement program developed by upper Mary landholders in collaboration with the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) and Seqwater.

So far, 12 landholder groups with property on the Mary River and tributaries have signed up to the Upper Mary Rivercare program. With MRCCC support, landholders have completed 4 best practice management assessments on their land and created 5-year water quality improvement plans, with future projects mapped out for their properties. As MRCCC and Seqwater help to deliver these plans, landholders are continually improving the way they manage land and water on their properties and reducing runoff into the Mary River by putting these plans into action.

Landholders protecting their environment

During December 2023, Upper Mary Rivercare participants had an opportunity to release **Mary River cod fingerlings** into their waterways to re-establish self-sustaining populations. Waterways in the upper Mary catchment with good streambank vegetation, in-stream habitat of snags and fallen trees, and pool sequences are ideal for the release of cod fingerlings. These sites provide habitat for the little pioneers to hide, feed, grow and establish their own territory. Contact MRCCC to let us know if you would like to be involved in future cod releases.



Eva (MRCCC) releasing cod fingerlings in Obi Obi Creek



Seqwater's Goomong Water offtake on the Mary River

Seqwater Goomong Water Offtake- Coles Creek

Built in 1988, Seqwater's Goomong Water offtake is 38m high and 8m in diameter. The offtake is set within a 2km long, 2m deep pool which provides high quality habitat for threatened aquatic species, including the Mary River cod, Mary River turtle and the Australian lungfish. When required, water is "ordered" for the Noosa Water Treatment Plant (WTP), then released from Borumba Dam, flows down Yabba Creek, to be drawn from the river via the offtake. The water is then piped to the Cooroora Raw Water Reservoir, from where it is gravity fed to the Noosa Water Treatment Plant via a 20km pipeline. Lake Macdonald on Six Mile Creek also feeds into the Noosa WTP.

Landholders helping each other

Landholders are continuing to grow their knowledge and expertise about ways to protect water quality on their properties and gain benefits for their livestock and the Mary River. Already 12 grazing and dairy landholders have made themselves available to share their knowledge with other program participants. Sign up and be involved in Upper Mary Rivercare and tap into the local knowledge and experience of Upper Mary landholders. Join the program at www.mrccc.org.au/projects/upper-mary-rivercare-program.



Alana (MRCCC) and Jeanette talking Rivercare project ideas



Get to know the UMRC TEAM – Sarah Grimish

Sarah is a MRCCC Project Officer, helping you design and implement your Upper Mary Rivercare property water quality plan. Sarah loves exploring new parts of the Mary River catchment and drinking babycinos with her two-year old daughter. Sarah has 7 years' experience working at the MRCCC and enjoys helping with threatened species protection programs and planning projects with the many inspiring landholders who live on the river. Sarah has a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Environmental Health and helps to lead the Upper Mary Rivercare Program forward. Look out for Sarah's friendly face and energetic approach to supporting projects on your property.

Save the Date – Upcoming Workshops and Events:

Hinterland Bush Links Roving Restorers - meets fortnightly on a Friday morning. Visit www.hinterlandbushlinks.org for details.

Maleny Wood Expo - 4th to 6th May 2024, Maleny Showgrounds showcases woodworking skills with native timbers, Junior Landcare activities, native plant sales a range of environmental organisations to learn from, guest speakers and live music.

Mary River Festival – 13 July at Kandanga 9 am to 4 pm

Upper Mary Rivercare Kenilworth Gateway workshop

Missed the Gateway Workshop and your chance to join our Upper Mary Rivercare Program? Come along to the next Gateway Workshop this Winter, 2024.

Upper Mary Rivercare Environmental weeds workshop

Learn how to identify & manage environmental weeds. Coming up in Spring 2024.



Curren Bagnall getting ready to Find a Frog in February - Photo Eva Ford

Check the MRCCC website www.mrccc.org.au or contact us on 07 5482 4766 for more information