

NEWSLETTER

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NQ Dry Tropics Burdekin Sugarcane Science Forum

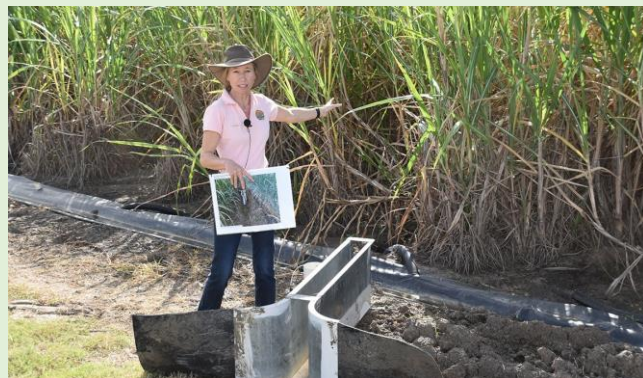
The annual Burdekin Sugarcane Science Forum, hosted by NQ Dry Tropics, was held on 21st June. The day started at the Burdekin PCYC, with great talks from a variety of speakers on various topics such as soil health, treatment wetlands, and tools for improved farm management.

After lunch, attendees visited a demonstration site at the SISL farm on Callaghan Road, where engaging practical demonstrations were delivered. Of particular focus for the afternoon was the new Burdekin Irrigation Project (BIP).

The BIP is led by Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and delivered by a consortium of cross-disciplinary stakeholders. The project aims to transition growers to scalable, sustainable, and technologically assisted practices in irrigation management, using a whole-of-systems approach that includes water quality validation by BBIFMAC.

Terry Granshaw, District Manager at SRA presented a live interview with Ryan Matthews, SISL Farm Manager, about his motivation for getting involved in the BIP project, and the benefits he has already observed with converting to a fully automated irrigation practice to improve efficiency.

Arwen Rickert, Manager of BBIFMAC, presented on the water quality outcomes of the monitoring conducted at the SISL farm. The most profound being a reduction from 25% of irrigation applied being lost to runoff, to just 8% over the course of four irrigations (Subsequent to the presentation, further reductions in runoff volumes were observed as low as 5% at this farm).



Arwen Rickert, BBIFMAC, showcasing the San Dimas Flumes, installed at the bottom end of the site for runoff volume monitoring.

Mackenzie Severns, Project Officer at BBIFMAC, also had the opportunity to present on the Fine



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*Managing
Natural
Resources
to ensure
Social Wellbeing,
Primary Production
and Ecological
Sustainability.*

Scale Water Quality Monitoring Project, led by the Queensland Government's Water Quality Investigations team (WQI) and delivered in partnership with BBIFMAC.

Two new sites in the Burdekin region have recently been installed at the Burdekin River near Dalbeg Pump Station, and at Lilliesmere Lagoon. Additionally, four of the Burdekin Bluespot sites in the Barratta Creek system (part of a project that was completed in 2021), are being converted to real-time monitoring sites as part of the fine scale project.



Mackenzie Severns presented on the progress and obstacles of the Fine Scale Water Quality Monitoring project.

The real-time data collected from the sites is being uploaded to the CSIRO 1622™ portal and is available for public viewing at <https://wq.1622.farm/>

BBIFMAC encourage stakeholders and growers to take a look at the information available via 1622, and note down any queries or improvements you would like to see, to be raised with the DES WQI team at an upcoming BBIFMAC meeting later this year.

Comments can be emailed to:
mackenzie@bbifmac.org.au

Applied Hydrology Field Trip

North Qld Wetlands Stakeholders were very fortunate to participate in an Applied Hydrology fieldtrip in Ingham on 27th July. Attendees visited two wetland restoration sites at Mungalla Station (near Ingham) and discussed the opportunities and challenges of working in the field.

Associate Professor William Glamore, and Dr. Valentin (Tino) Heimhuber from the Water Research Laboratory at the University of NSW travelled up to deliver the tailored training to Natural Resource Management Groups and Extension Officers in the North.

This workshop was organised by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and UNSW, with assistance from Greening Australia, and funded by the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program.



Attendees of the Applied Hydrology fieldtrip visited two wetland restoration sites at Mungalla Station near Ingham.

BBIFMAC General Meeting

All are welcome to attend the BBIFMAC General Meeting on Tuesday 30th August, 9:30am-12:30pm at Canegrowers Hall, 68 Tenth street in Home Hill.

Dr Yvette Everingham from JCU will be presenting on the Tropical North Queensland's Drought Hub and what it can do for you. Followed by a field visit to a local industrial hemp plot, with a presentation by Andrew Linnerston, Ecofibre's Ananda Food Field Operations Manager. Lunch and refreshments will be provided at the field visit.

Please RSVP by emailing secretary@bbifmac.org.au or phoning (07) 4783 4344 and specify if you are attending the meeting and/or field visit.

Membership Renewal Time!

\$20 for individuals, \$50 for corporate per year

Are you curious to know what's coming off your farm, or what's in your drinking water?

As a BBIFMAC member you receive:

- ❖ Free water quality monitoring of runoff from a paddock on your farm
- ❖ Discounted laboratory tests for runoff or drinking water analysis
- ❖ Discounted water quality monitoring equipment, such as Electrical Conductivity and pH probes (others on request)
- ❖ Exclusive access to the BBIFMAC Newsletter!

Pop in to the BBIFMAC office, or email Julie at secretary@bbifmac.org.au to renew!



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