



SEASON'S GREETINGS

From
Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

Issue 2 *LBCCG NEWSLETTER* December 2005

Dear LBCCG Member, Friend, Supporter,

Due to the changeover of LBCCG Project Officers in late in 2004, the annual Newsletter bringing folks up to date on our activities was not sent last year. So I take this opportunity to tell you what has been happening since September 2004.

Projects:

During 2004-05, 16 new projects were initiated, 11 of which were successfully completed. Of the remaining 5, 3 started late in the financial year and 2 are lagging but will get there. 6097 seedlings were (or are in the process of being) planted over an area of 13,937 square metres. 272 metres of fencing were erected, one off-stream watering system installed and 2 heavy vehicle crossings are in the pipeline on the Obi Obi Creek. 10 of the projects were located on creek frontage whilst 5 were situated in gullies that channel stormwater to creeks. All projects bar 2 carried LBCCG contributions of less than \$3,000.00 from an annual project budget of \$35,000. And all of this in a relatively dry year!

But this year, the rain gods have been good to us since October. We hope rain is giving a huge growth spurt to your plantings...And if you haven't started, now is the time to get busy!

In this financial year, we have approved close to 50% funding to 9 projects with a total worth over \$32,000, planting 4538 seedlings and erecting 424 m of fencing. We are still processing LBCCG's participation in 3 projects cooperating with Barung Landcare that will provide over 9000 trees, the erection of 600m of fencing and the installation of at least one off-stream watering point. If these 3 projects go ahead, 91% of our 2005-06 budget will be committed.

Appointments:

In late August, 2004, Susan Baggett Edols replaced Jonathon Waites as LBCCG Project Officer. Susan had 12 prior years of experience in central west NSW on an irrigated grazing property including 4 years as Landcare Coordinator for a group of irrigators.

In October, 2005, Murray Dunstan was appointed Catchment Officer, a new position for our catchment created by AquaGen and BMRG. Amongst other duties, Murray will write an Implementation Plan for our revised *Lake Baroon Catchment Management Strategy*, (released in December 2004; copies available from LBCCG office on CD) bringing it into line with the regional natural resource plan and he will also identify and seek funding for priority areas of on the ground, large projects. Murray has a history of consulting and teaching water related environmental issues on the Sunshine Coast.

Other 2004—2005 Highlights:

Caloundra City Council endorsed in principle the Lake Baroon Management Strategy.

LBCCG obtained a Maleny Credit Union grant for a new digital camera. We received \$1000.00 from Council discretionary funds to assist with clearing huge environmental weed trees on the bank of the Obi Obi Creek at the Maleny Bowls Club (site under revegetation) and \$2000.00 from the CCC Annual Grants Programme to assist with an engineering plan for Willow Creek, behind Maleny IGA and the MCU.

New metal signs with LBCCG logo were commissioned and distributed to those landholders participating in our water improvement projects whose properties abut main roads. If you received a sign and haven't put it up yet, we would be grateful if you would do so now.

A new condition was added to our Project Agreement Form in the 2004-05 round of grants: That every grant recipient become a financial member of LBCCG for the period of project work—eg, until the three year period of monitoring expires. This requirement means you are covered by our insurance policy whilst undertaking the project work and on-going monitoring. If you have not already done so, please complete and return enclosed form along with your membership fee of \$12.00 (individual and family). And members are reminded that their 2005-06 membership renewal is now due.

We are finding a number of recorded contact details are now out of date. If you have acquired a new e-mail address within recent years, changed position in your organisation or are employed in a new organisation with relevance to LBCCG, could you please inform us so that we can alter our records accordingly and send out our news electronically.

Please pass on information about our work and grants programme to friends and neighbours who might be interested in water improvement projects.

