



2009 Newsletter

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The Year That Was

This year has been one of significant change within the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group.

There have been big changes in staff within, and affecting LBCCG.

Despite this 2008/09 has been an incredibly successful year with a wide array of different, yet important projects implemented.

In short LBCCG projects delivered the following outputs:

- 6 Property Management Plans commenced;
- 1,600 metres of dairy laneways hardened;
- 1,000 square metres dairy apron concreting;

- 4 waterway crossings constructed;
- 1 off stream watering system installed (10 troughs);
- 1,620 metres riparian & laneway electric fencing;
- 790 metres permanent fencing;
- 3,475 seedlings planted;
- 10,000m2 vegetation enhancement/weed management;
- Water infrastructure investment with Barung nursery;
- 8,000 hours plus Green Corps labour.

Our website is updated fortnightly and is a great source of further information on the activities and our role.

Please visit www.lbccg.org.au

Staff Changes in 2009

The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group welcomed Mark Amos in April 2009, taking over from Jane MacGibbon who spent almost two years in the Project Officer position. Jane was instrumental in LBCCG's biggest changes in its history with the developing partnership and funding arrangements with Seqwater and the move to new office buildings in North Maleny.

Mark Amos has had a long and varied career in the environmental and agricultural industries. Mark was born and raised in the Mallee country of

Victoria, where the next biggest export out of the region behind grain and wind-blown topsoil, is people!

Mark has worked for many different Landcare groups in the past, although the common link has always been working with primary producers to implement broad landscape change.

Also leaving the group has been Seqwater Catchment Officer, Murray Dunstan. Murray has been the key contact for LBCCG within Seqwater and implemented significant change in the



***New LBCCG Coordinator
Mark Amos***

Lake Baroon catchment.

Murray's replacement Tim Hodges commenced employment in mid August and is based out of the LBCCG/Seqwater office in North Maleny.

LBCCG President's Report 2008-09

Another busy year and one which has seen significant changes to the staffing structure within and affecting LBCCG. Murray Dunstan moved to a new position within SEQW and we were sorry to see him go but wish him well and hope that he will take the occasional interest in what the group is up to. Much of the strategic success over the last few years for LBCCG was driven by Murray and his contribution to the group cannot be underestimated. Jane Mac Gibbon departed the group as Project Officer this year and left behind a much more ordered and administratively elevated office than when she arrived. Jane's work has laid the foundations of the more professional and accountable group that we now are, which enabled a smooth staff transition.

Mark Amos was appointed Catchment Co-ordinator in April 2009 replacing Jane MacGibbon. The new job title is a better description of Mark's work and role within LBCCG. Mark has hit the ground running and has shown that he has the personality to communicate and interact with our local landholders. Mark has had to pick up some fairly large project commitments and integrate himself into LBCCG's philosophy while having little real support at the office. This shows a strong self determination and independence which will be of immense value to LBCCG in the future.

"This project has been one of the most satisfying to see implemented as it represents about five years or more of active management by the committee to make it possible."

Tim Odgers has recently been appointed by SEQW as Northern Catchment Co-ordinator and as such is responsible for catchment groups. This is a new position for SEQW and effectively it replaces Murray's role to our group. LBCCG looks forward to working with Tim in the coming years and hopes that it can pass on some of its philosophy as well as benefiting from Tim's wide experience in natural resource management. Tim will be based at LBCCG offices, which is a

plus for LBCCG, but it is expected that Tim will spend significant time out of the office.

When I first realised that both Murray and Jane would be moving on within a fairly short time frame, I was to say the least, concerned at the impact it might have on LBCCG. In hindsight, such a smooth transition as did occur is a credit not only to Jane and Murray for their past work but also to Mark Amos who has picked it up and just kept on running. So I would like to pass my thanks for staff past and present who made 2009 another great year for our group.

provided by LBCCG.

Overall LBCCG has provided a range of good projects this year and returned a four fold increase on the project funds provided by SEQW, an excellent return on investment. In contrast, funding provided by traditional sources for landcare groups has all but disappeared. In many cases this has led to the closure or severe restriction of operations with little relief in sight. Local landcare groups are major employers and businesses within their area, a fact often overlooked. LBCCG is fortunate to have a close relationship with SEQW which has provided protection. However it is important in



LBCCG President Peter Stevens presenting Rob Cork with a cheque for his project concreting dairy pads and laneways.

2009 saw the Walkers Creek Project at Hoppers Farm up and running, LBCCG's largest project to date within a high profile catchment and with a local dairy farmer. This project has been one of the most satisfying to see implemented as it represents about five years or more of active management by the committee to make it possible. That is not to say it took this long to negotiate but to put in place the required elements of staff, funding, policy and desire to see this type of project get up. In essence, this project demonstrates the value of community catchment care groups because its facilitation may not have been possible without community representation

times such as these to develop links and provide support to other groups where possible. Hopefully the appointment of Tim Odgers can lead to a more regional approach of these problems.

Finally I would like to thank the committee for all their fine work, and for putting up with me all year. Notably, Gillian did get the creeks named, Steve did get a promotion, and Darryl is still talking to me. Let's hope its all going to be just as much fun this coming year.

Walkers Creek Restoration Stage 1

LBCCG was excited to commence the project “Walkers Creek Restoration”.

The project is a collaboration between the LBCCG, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Seqwater and the Hopper

family.

The project involves the hardening of stock laneways, concreting of dairy aprons, and improving waterway crossings.

The main waterways on the property will be fenced to

manage grazing and off stream watering will be installed to compensate the loss of year-round access to the creeks. These areas however will remain in the grazing rotation of the property.

These works reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients and pathogen inputs into Walkers Creek, which ultimately flows into Lake Baroon.

Additionally the project will improve the management of the property, improve the health of livestock and reduce maintenance.

The project developed from a series of Property Planning Workshops that looked at property layout and management based on land capability and economic factors.



All hands on deck pouring the dairy apron.

Barung Water Model

The Barung Landcare Group’s nursery was forced to move in 2009 to a temporary site on the Maleny Precinct.

Water supply issues meant that a system of tanks, pump and reticulation system was required to produce locally indigenous tube stock for the Maleny district.

As a supplier to Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group of tube stock at subsidised prices, Barung approached LBCCG to assist with the costs of purchasing the necessary water infrastructure.

LBCCG through its Retained Earnings Budget, invested \$6,000 towards the supply of water infrastructure.



An investment of \$6,000 from LBCCG assisted Barung landcare to install water infrastructure at the temporary Maleny Community Precinct site.

Willow Lane Stormwater Project

Willow Creek is a small sub-catchment of Obi Obi Creek that drains part of urban Maleny. It is plagued by high levels of sediment and pollutants that wash off hard surfaces in town after rain-fall.

Similarly, sediment build up has long been cause for concern as it reduces the channel capacity of the waterway and encourages undesirable vegetation - and the fear of flooding.

In the past, the cleaning out of Willow Creek has left the waterway bare and vulnerable to erosion.

With the creek due for sediment and weed removal,

there was apprehension that previous revegetation works by LBCCG would also be placed in jeopardy.

A partnership with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council resulted in agreement to rehabilitate the waterway after sediment and weed removal.

Immediately following the clean-out, erosion control matting was pinned to the exposed banks and planted with predominantly Lomandra and a smattering of shrubs and small trees.

Over time the project is expected to provide water quality improvements, and also significant amenity improve-



Willow Creek before works



Willow Creek during works

ments—native vegetation in the bed and banks of the creek will be far more appealing than the previous jungle of weeds.

Property Management Planning

The Lake Baroon catchment is a significant catchment for water supply, providing potable water to much of the Sunshine Coast and now the greater South East region.

The impacts of land use and development on the health of the waterways in the catchment have been a cause for concern for many years.

Elevated sediment and nutrient levels (particularly nitrogen and phosphorus) in the waterways that flow into Lake Baroon contribute to blooms of blue green algae that effectively closes the storage.

LBCCG has worked with many landholders throughout

the catchment, funding on-ground works to improve water quality and health of

“Planning is not about predicting the future, it is about being prepared for it”

the waterways, however most of the projects funded were small in size and on rural residential land.

Water quality monitoring in the catchment suggested that large-scale projects on larger properties would deliver greater water quality benefits to the catchment.

This led to the need for a program to support large landholders to implement works that improved the management of their land, not only contributing to improved water quality but improved sustainability of their property.

Property Management Plans identify issues, set priorities for remediation and ultimately assist LBCCG to fund works.



Dairy Laneways Project

Rob Cork runs dairy cattle in the Bridge Creek catchment—the western sub-catchment of Lake Baroon.

Much of the property is very steep and prone to erosion with potential nutrient runoff a risk in high rainfall events.

Laneways to the dairy were prone to erosion and degradation, making them difficult to negotiate in wet weather.

To reduce damage to Rob's property and reduce the nutrient and sediment inputs

into Lake Baroon, over 600 square metres of laneways and dairy apron were concreted. This gives all-

weather access to the dairy minimizing the time livestock spend negotiating laneways.



Green Corps Project

Green Corps is an Australian Government youth development and environmental training program for young people aged between 17 and 20 years. The program provides young people the opportunity to learn new skills while helping to conserve, preserve and restore Australia's natural environment and cultural heritage.

Participants worked on numerous LBCCG projects over the 26 week program receiving training in various methods of weed management, revegetation, walking trail and bridge



Weed management on the lower Obi Obi Creek—no shortage of work here!



Planting on the lower Obi Obi Creek.

construction, as well as the general maintenance of public areas and amenities around Lake Baroon.

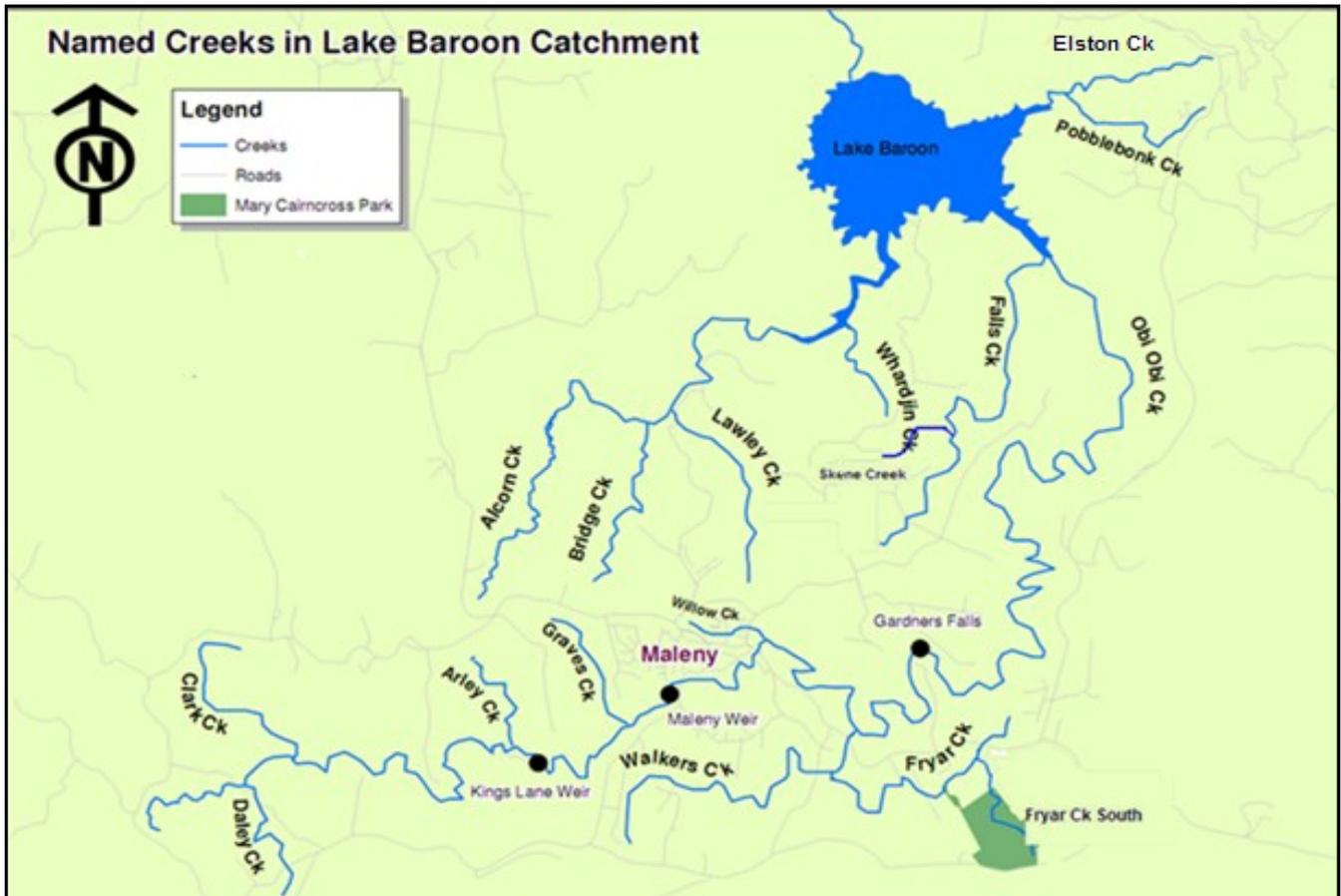
Approximately 8,000 hours of labour was provided by the 10 program attendees.

The Maleny Credit Union generously granted funding for the purchase of tools and safety equipment for the Green Corps crew to use.

Name That Stream

see www.lbccg.org.au for complete brochure

Our aim in the *Name that stream* project has been to raise awareness of the many creeks in the Catchment, which were unnamed, or unofficially named, prior to this project. In choosing names, we sought to represent the first people and the early settlers, some of whose names were found on the early surveyors' maps. We also took note of unique fauna, and traditional names.



Names now official

- Elston Creek
- Pobblebonk
- Falls Creek
- Whardjin Creek
- Lawley Creek
- Bridge Creek
- Alcorn Creek
- Willow Creek
- Graves Creek
- Arley Creek
- Daley Creek
- Clark Creek
- Fryar Creek
- Fryar Creek South
- Walkers Creek
- Skene Creek
- Gardner's Falls
- King's Lane Weir
- Maleny Weir
- Howell's Knob

Acknowledgements

We spoke with the Maleny Historical Society, attending several meetings and speaking with them about proposals. We've had invaluable support from Ross Norman, Senior Spatial Information Officer, (Place Names) Department of Natural Resources and Water. The relevant Act is *The Place Names Act, 1994*. Gillian Pechey (07 5499 9288) has coordinated the project. Burnett Mary Regional Group funded the initial maps & brochures. The rest has been done gratis.

Lower Obi Obi Creek Project



The Green Corps crew assisted Barung with the weed management on the property

This project, aside from the usual water quality improvements, aimed to establish wildlife corridors and extend habitat.

The project was funded through the Federal Government's Envirofund program.

The adjacent property received similar funding in 2007-08 resulting in a large area rehabilitated.

An eroding gully, slip-prone areas and waterlogged areas were fenced and revegetated to reduce erosion and livestock management problems.

Furthermore a previously revegetated area required extensive weed management (primarily our old friend lan-tana).

The project involved 740 metres of fencing and over 2,000 trees were planted on the property.



Upper Obi Obi Creek Project

The aim of this project was to improve water quality in the Obi Obi Creek, by reducing erosion, protecting and revegetating a dam and the waterways that drain into it.

This includes removal of stock from erosion prone and riparian areas through fencing, and revegetation.

Over the past eight years Peter Stevens has carried out significant on-ground works on his property, which is located immediately above King's Lane Weir.

He has successfully revegetated large areas of riparian land, installed cattle crossings, fenced livestock out of streams and dams and installed off stream watering.





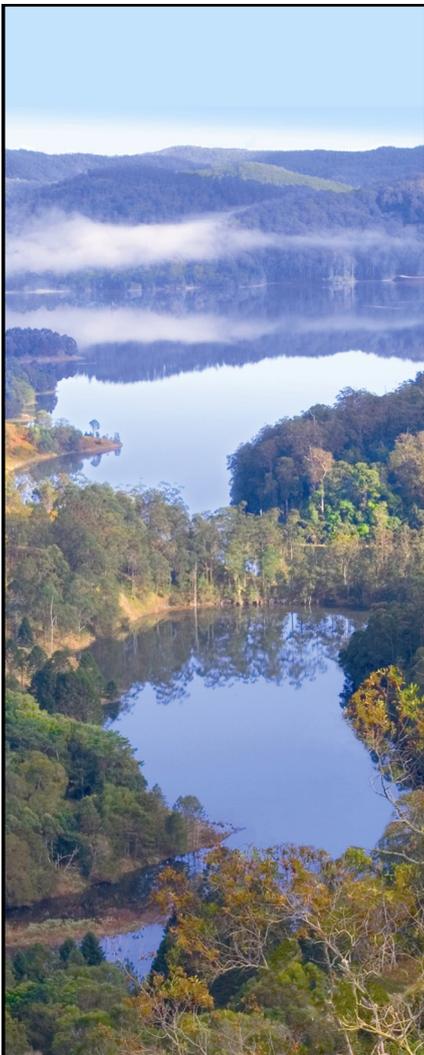
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*“Working with our
community for our
waterways”*



Supported by:



Who is the LBCCG?

Lake Baroon Catchment care Group is a not-for-profit community group working to improve the water quality in the Lake Baroon catchment.

The group was formed in 1991 by the Maleny community in response to on-going water quality issues in the catchment and Lake Baroon.

LBCCG includes representatives from a wide range of interest groups, including local councils, primary producers, commerce and industry, the urban community, conservation and tourism.

The group is generously supported by Seqwater and other funding bodies to develop and implement on-ground works that improve water quality.

Our objectives are to:

- **Promote integrated catchment management in the Lake Baroon catchment;**
- **Raise awareness of water quality issues;**
- **Fund on-ground works that improve water quality.**

Can LBCCG help you?

LBCCG funds activities that improve water quality in the Lake Baroon Catchment.

On-ground works also contribute to the sustainability and manageability of the property.

These include (but are not limited to):

- Hardening of stock laneways & dairy pads;
- Waterway crossings;
- Off stream watering;

- Dairy effluent disposal;
- Erosion management;
- Property plans;
- Waterway fencing;
- Revegetation;
- Education.

To apply for funding simply contact us at LBCCG to arrange a site visit. Our helpful staff will complete all necessary paperwork for you.

Merry Christmas & Prosperous New Year

The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Committee Members and Staff would like to wish all members, project participants, partners and landholders in the Lake Baroon catchment a merry and safe Christmas, and a happy, prosperous New Year.

