



**LAKE
BAROON
CATCHMENT
CARE
GROUP**

Working with our community for our waterways

2011 Newsletter

2010-11

Another year goes by and LBCCG has been busy consolidating its position as an on-ground project focussed organisation.

Projects undertaken this year varied greatly although the main priority of the group remains engaging the larger landholders in the Lake Baroon catchment.

We remain, through our partnership with Seqwater, able to offer generous funding assistance to projects that deliver water quality benefits.

In 2010/11 LBCCG projects delivered the following outputs:

- 1,415 metres of laneway hardening (dairy & beef);
- 900 metres fencing;
- 1 new waterway crossings;
- 3 waterway crossings re-habilitated;
- 1 off stream watering system;
- sponsored Bunya Dreaming
- 6,620 trees planted;
- 10,000 m² weed management.

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Catchment Care– not just planting trees!

LBCCG is generously supported by Seqwater with funding which allows us to implement large-scale projects in the catchment, however being a 'Landcare' type group means we also apply for a range of funding from local, state and federal sources.

This year we received funding from the Commonwealth Government through the Caring for Our Country Community Action Grants program, Sunshine Coast Council Minor Grants and Conservation Volunteers Australia through their National Green

Naturally a significant component of our activities involve revegetation—usually to protect eroding creek banks, watercourses and unstable hill slopes.

But we do more than plant trees as the output figures above show.

Water quality in the catchment can be improved by working with primary producers to implement sustainable activities—laneway hardening, off stream watering infrastructure and installation of waterway crossings to name a few. This is a win-win result for us all.

Afterall, we all have the same aim—keep the soil and nutrients on the paddocks where they belong.

Dairy laneway hardening has been a priority for LBCCG over the last few years—particularly with the recent wet summer. In 2010/11, 1,415 metres of laneway was rehabilitated, modified and hardened.



Cork Dairies Upper Obi Obi Creek Laneway Rehabilitation

Cork Dairies is the largest dairy in the Lake Baroon catchment and sits in the headwaters of the Obi Obi Creek.

The wet summer experienced over 2010/11 hit the region's dairy farms hard, none more so than the Cork Dairies operation.

Livestock laneways became virtually impassable, paddocks suffered erosion, pasture growth slowed, and mud and faeces on the milking cows was heavy.

Livestock health was affected and water quality in the catchment deteriorated.

A laneway rehabilitation project was quickly pulled together with work commencing once the ex-



Cork Dairies laneway before and after hardening

isting laneways had dried sufficiently for heavy earthmoving equipment to do their stuff.

Some laneways were moved to better alignments, deeply rutted laneways were reshaped to provide run-off and finally all laneways were hardened using locally sourced, coarse road-base which is compacted.

Laneway hardening reduces erosion and prevents the delivery of sediments and nutrients to the properties' waterways and ultimately Lake Baroon.

Additionally the rehabilitated laneways improve stock movement on the property with less contamination of milk through mud and faeces.

Bridge Creek Rehabilitation

Bridge Creek Rehabilitation is a whole property project designed to address several environmental, agricultural and water quality issues in a single project. Initially planned to be implemented over 4 years we are now well and truly into the project.

Extensive revegetation on old land slips and steep, low-value grazing land was the main feature of the project which also included minor laneway hardening and rehabilitation of waterway crossings.

The project was performing very well until the floods of January 2011—with fencing and tree

seedlings washed away.

Approximately 200 trees were replanted (out of the original 1,300) although the fencing is yet to be repaired due to access difficulties.

Additionally an active landslip on the property (and adjoining neighbour) was rehabilitated with extensive profiling, installation of drainage and revegetation. This site is a useful demonstration of one method (albeit expensive) of land slip remediation.

Community Action Grants revegetation site & Green Jobs Corps Erosion Field Day



Mistflower Biological Control

Mistflower (or Mistweed) is a garden escapee that has invaded riparian areas, bush margins and pastures in the Blackall Range hinterland.

Unlike most invasive plants, mistflower has the ability to spread into riparian areas in pristine catchment headwaters and negatively impact diversity

in ecologically important areas.

Biological control programs in Hawaii and New Zealand have successfully controlled mistflower.

The LBCCG/CSIRO project sought funding for CSIRO to test the host specificity of smut fungus (*Entyloma ageratinae*) with the view to release the

agent if native plants and horticulture are not adversely impacted.

Unfortunately (or fortunately?) in December 2010 the smut was found on several Maleny plateau properties—it had somehow been inadvertently introduced into the country and region.

So far the smut hasn't appeared to affect native plants however CSIRO have modified their role to monitoring the spread and affects of the biological agent.

Although the effectiveness of the smut fungus may vary according to weather conditions (it is suspected last summer was ideal for its spread) it may turn out to be a useful weapon in the war against mistflower.



Healthy Mistflower and leaves affected by the smut fungus.

Green Jobs Corps 2010

In 2010 LBCCG was fortunate to be able to engage a National Green Jobs Corps team through Conservation Volunteers Australia.

The primary aim of the program was to assist those landholders who would normally be ineligible for LBCCG funding assistance.

Several Nature Refuges (Dilkusha, Bariya, Manduka, Beechwood and Egerton) received assistance as well as the Bunya Dreaming site on the shores of Lake Barron and a land slip revegetation project on Bridge Creek.

Thanks to the landholders who opened their properties and supplied their knowledge to provide local unemployed youth with valuable skills and experiences.



Green Jobs Corps Team Leader Jono Bateman (right), Dilkusha resident Fran Guard (left) and GJC participant Lydia Crawford (centre).

Arley Creek Wetlands

An ongoing project being implemented over several years, Arley Creek Wetlands is designed to enhance the filtering and buffering capacity of wetlands and waterways in the Obi Obi Catchment, while improving farm productivity by reducing nutrient, sediment and chemical export.



Arley Creek during the floods of early 2011 - overtopping the dam wall on the Stevens property.



The dam and Arley Creek have been fenced to manage livestock grazing and minimise waterway and dam bank erosion.



Revegetation planted in 2010.

Bridge Creek Landslip Remediation

The project revegetated a landslip in the Bridge Creek (Lake Baroon) catchment. The site was assessed by a geotechnical consultant who recommended the installation of sub-surface drains and profiling of the site to create a free draining surface, and revegetation with native species to provide long term stability.

The revegetation over time will reinforce the soil profile, increasing the shear strength and reduce susceptibility to erosion. Additionally a dense cover of native

vegetation will extract moisture from the soil profile through transpiration leading to lower ground water pressure. Furthermore, the revegetation will extend existing corridor linkages and habitat nodes.

The project was funded by the landholders Rob McLauchlan, and David Bull, Sunshine Coast Council and LBCCG, with labour support provided by CVA (NGJC).

The slip site before and after extensive profiling, installation of sub-surface drainage and revegetation.



Upper Obi Obi Creek Restoration

The Farmhouse Macadamia property has approximately 2,500 metres of frontage to Obi Obi Creek – the main supplier of water to Baroon Pocket Dam and approximately 600 metre frontage to King’s Lane Weir – one of two water supplies for urban Maleny. Although water is now piped from the Landers Shute water treatment plant to

Maleny, King’s Lane Weir is still considered an integral part of water supply.

Although there are few formal requirements for macadamia growers to establish vegetative buffers between the orchards and adjoin land, it is considered good practice to do so – especially adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas such

as remnant vegetation and waterways.

The project extended the riparian buffer on Farmhouse Macadamias providing an effective barrier between the Obi Obi Creek and the agricultural property.

An Obi Obi Creek tributary on Farmhouse Macadamias was revegetated to extend the agricultural buffer.



Other Projects

Daley Creek Rehabilitation.

The project will minimise sediment and nutrient run-off from the property by constructing a new waterway crossing, rehabilitating three existing crossings including approach hardening, and the fencing on one side of 180 metres of Daley’s Creek. Furthermore, farm productivity will be improved by reducing nutrient; sediment and chemical delivery to the headwaters of Obi Obi Creek, improve stock movement on the property, and improve grazing management.

Bridge Creek

Rehabilitation (Water).

This project is enhancing the filtering and buffering capacity of a degraded waterway in the Bridge Creek catchment; restricting livestock access to an area of hill-slope erosion while improving farm productivity by reducing nutrient, sediment and chemical export.



Willow Creek Stormwater.

The project is continuing the maintenance program of previous projects designed to reduce erosion and nutrient export from urban Maleny.

In time the sparse trees planted will provide shade suppressing weeds and provide some habitat value in an essentially urban environment.

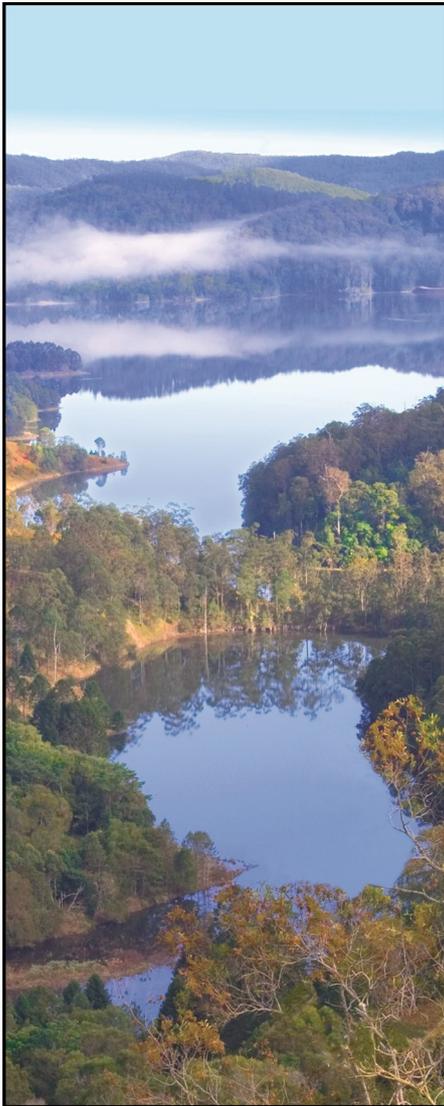




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“Working with our community for our waterways”

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 ongoing 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 management;

- Erosion management;
- Property plans;
- Waterway fencing;
- Revegetation.

Larger properties are preferred, however smaller properties can improve their chances of funding assistance by working with their neighbours to cover a larger area.

To apply for funding simply contact us at LBCCG to arrange a site visit.

LBCCG Website

The LBCCG website continues to be developed and serves as a source of useful information on our current and past projects and general interest news.

Gallery which features interesting catchment pics—including the 2011 flooding.

If you have items or links you would like included on the site contact the LBCCG Coordinator.

We are gradually expanding the site further to include more useful references—including a Photo

Supported by:

