



January, 2014

From the Chair

As we review 2013, we recall the weather extremes across the State. In contrast to the Eastern coastal districts at the start of the year and the drier Western areas for the remainder of 2013 I feel that it has been close to an 'average' year for most landholders in the NED coverage area, and very similar to 2012. On that note, I am convinced that we are becoming more informed and better custodians of the land as the high intensity rainfall events now do not result in the same level of erosion as we have experienced in decades past. Knowing that we are building or contributing to a more healthy environment and resilient landscape will greatly assist with our personal outlook and well-being.

It has been a busy year at the Office for our Co-ordinator Owena with the rollout of projects and finalisation of some other projects. As we move forward in 2014, the number of active projects will be fewer, as funding streams and opportunities lessen. The challenge for the Committee and every member will be to keep the Landcare ethic foremost and happening despite the reduced level of external funding. Owena will continue to be the Co-ordinator throughout 2014.

At the time of writing these notes, our Treasurer Diana Beal has advised that she will be submitting her resignation early in the New Year. Diana has been continuously involved in Landcare on the Downs in various roles since the 80's. We thank Diana for this significant contribution and extend our best wishes to her for the future.

We are fortunate that Kimberley Lange has indicated her willingness to take on the Treasurer's role, subject to approval by Members at a Special meeting on 6th Jan in Oakey. Kimberley is very well qualified to undertake all the associated duties.

I thank everyone, including fellow Committee members, and all sub group Committees, for your contribution and co-operation throughout the year.

As we move into this special time of the Year, and following a hectic 2013, I do hope that you can relax and enjoy a well-deserved break for the festive season with family and friends.

Best wishes for 2014 - Graham Cooke.

Coming Events



Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Landcare in 2014

Friday 21st February 2014
(to be confirmed)

Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group Pest information afternoon. Pinelands Hall Lunch 12.00 p.m. followed by Guest speakers. Peter Lambley (Bell) - Feral pig baiting.

For more information or to book for catering contact Frank Burgess Mobile: 0427984161

Around the Ridges



Everyone's Environment Grants

“Building Resilient landscapes in the North East Darling Downs Region.”

Two Field walks was held at Aubigny and Thornville to look at weed spraying, riparian fencing and watering point construction. 15 landholder from Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group and Aubigny Landcare Group have been engaged in this project. South Myall Catchment Landcare Group's work crew was contracted to assist with on ground work.

This project has been funded by the *Queensland Government's Everyone's Environment grants program.*



Energy Information Evening

Monday, 18th November, 2013 at Maclagan with Beth Purcell - QMDC's Energy Efficiency Technical Officer. This evening was well attended and Beth was a very informative and knowledgeable speaker. We all learnt a few things that we didn't know. Beth had completed audit reports on a number of properties in the NED area and the results were very interesting.



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Chair:** Graham Cooke
- Vice Chair:** Ashley Volz
- Secretary:** Glenys Bowtell
- Treasurer:** Kimberley Lange
- Members:** David Lange & Desley Spies

Community Support Officer—Owena Reimers

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Welcome to Kimberley Lange who is our new treasurer we hope you enjoy looking after the NED finances.

A big Thank You to everyone who returned the Expressions of Interest forms that I sent out last year this information will be very helpful in regards to future funding applications. It is not looking very encouraging for the immediate availability of funding and grants. It maybe unlikely that there will be anything to get excited about until the middle of the year. Any bright ideas for future funding? We need to be creative!

Enclosed with this newsletter is an offer from South Myall Catchment Landcare Group for the use of their work crew. For more information or to return the completed form contact Glenys.