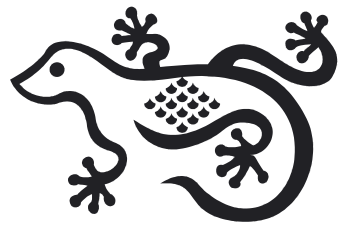


# CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

## December 2008



## CHRRUP

## Funding Available for Water Pumping

The Federal Government's program, the Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme - Renewable Energy Water Pumping Sub-programme provides rebates for business, government and other incorporated organisations, to support the installation of renewable energy water pumping systems in those areas of Australia not close to a main-grid. The Sub-programme aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by decreasing reliance on diesel fuel for remote water pumping applications. The Renewable Energy Water Pumping Sub-programme provides rebates for the renewable energy components of water pumps that displace diesel engine powered pumps in off-grid applications. Rebates of 40% of the capital cost of the renewable energy components minus \$1,000 are available to applicants that fully comply with the eligibility requirements and procedures outlined in these guidelines. Rebates are available to businesses, government and other incorporated organisations that comply with all requirements and procedures outlined in these guidelines. Applicants may apply for rebates for multiple renewable energy water pumping systems up to the maximum rebate level, up to \$30,000 per site or property.

Rebates are only available for new and complete renewable energy water pumping systems that are designed to deliver a minimum annual average of 8,000 litres per day at a total head of 20 metres (or equivalent). For more information visit the website <http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/renewable/rrpgp/pubs/waterpumping-guidelines-nov07.pdf> or call 1300 137 880, which will take you to EPA Sustainable Industries, who manage the programme in Queensland.

## Caring for our Country Information Session

The Federal Government recently released its 'Business Plan' for the implementation of the Caring for Our Country program. This document is essential reading for all groups and

organisations active in Natural Resource Management in the Central Highlands. More than that, it is essential reading for all industry groups, local councils and community groups. It provides opportunities for funding under various auspices and levels with particular emphasis on partnership programs involving multiple bodies.

The larger Regional Bodies will certainly be taking a leading role in the process. However Sub Regional bodies like CHRRUP along with local NRM groups, producer groups, government agencies, industry groups and local government will also have the chance to partner with the Regional Groups as well as initiating their own activities.

Applications for funding begin in early March 2009 with a deadline of March 31 2009. To facilitate the process the Federal Government is holding a series of information sessions throughout Australia so that organisations can understand what this means for them and how to submit investment proposals. One such information session will be held in Rockhampton on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December.

It would be of great benefit to CHRRUP and the community to have as many people in the area aware of this new funding environment as possible. Good funding applications start with good ideas. People need to understand the opportunity offered here and how it can advantage their group or organisation. The funding is not an end in itself; it is the means by which we do good practical work that benefits the environment and the community. Unfortunately the RSVP date for the above session is this Wednesday Dec 10, never the less I urge people who have read this, and are interested to attend, to RSVP (see below) and contact CHRRUP in the interests of making efficient transport arrangements.

The Caring for Our Country Business Plan can be downloaded at:

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/publications/books/business-plan.html>

People can register their desire to attend by emailing [caroline.crawford@icc.gov.au](mailto:caroline.crawford@icc.gov.au)

## Date Claimers

**16 December** – Caring for our Country workshop, DPI&F Conference Centre, Rockhampton. 1-4PM. RSVP by 10 December to [caroline.crawford@icc.gov.au](mailto:caroline.crawford@icc.gov.au)

**11 December** – Stocktake Workshop at 'Charlton Park', Clermont. 8:30 - 3:30PM. Catering will be provided, and there is no cost to attend. Contact Bronwyn Roberts on 0428 776 249.

**The CHRRUP office will close for the Christmas period from midday 24 December, and will reopen Monday 5 January 2009.**

**The next newsletter will be available in February, 2009. Until then, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

## AWLF Conference

A group of nine women from the Central Highlands travelled to Melbourne recently to take part in the Australian Regional Women Leaders Convention. The convention was held to acknowledge the vital contribution of regional and rural women to all aspects of industry and business, and support and develop the flow of women into leadership roles.

Speakers were sourced from a range of industries, such as agriculture, local government, media, small business and politics, and came from as far afield as Mungindi, Antartica, Sunshine Coast and Tasmania. One of the highlights of the trip came at the gala dinner and auction at the Melbourne Town Hall, held to raise money and awareness for drought relief. Delegates were addressed by Brian and Nerida Egan, founders of Aussie Helpers, and Sam and Jenny Bailey.

The Emerald group, led by Alicia Dunbar, was so impressed by Sam Bailey's aim to become the world's first quadriplegic helicopter pilot, that they formed a consortium to bid for, and win, one of the auction items; a flight with Sam in his helicopter. Sam needs to get his licence, but plans to visit CQ in mid-2009. The group will organise some events, at schools and local venues, to give the broader community a chance to meet Sam and Jenny. Attending the conference enabled delegates to identify other areas where the role of rural women might be promoted on a local level. "There is a need to develop the capacity for leadership in women through training and effective personal growth. Through CHRRUP and other partners, we would like to instigate a series of community-based activities and events for women in new and existing networks," said Vicki Horstman. Some areas of opportunity identified by the other Emerald delegates include ideas to improve healthy eating in local high schools, funding or scholarship grants for women taking on leadership roles, and familiarisation trips to increase the number of professional graduates willing to practice in rural areas.

The Emerald delegates were assisted by CHRRUP, WinCOTT, Kestrel, Central Highlands Cotton Growers and Irrigators Association, and Ensham Resources. Their support is very much appreciated.

## Nogoa News

Completions and closures are on my list for Capella catchment Landholders, and I will be contracting new projects for Billaboo and surrounding catchments.

I am also going to be floating around Billaboo area in the new year to visit landholders and maybe do some more projects and Property Management Plans.

Grains BMP is in the stage of finishing the first module and landholders have been doing Self Assessments to see if they have had a practice change – the first module and associated activities have been successful. If you are interested in the Grain BMP, give me a call and I will fill you in on the voluntary program.



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Have a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks to all my landholders for their patience and involvement.

**Vicki Horstman, Nogoa Catchment Field Officer**

## Comet Tales

November and December have been dominated by project completions, with a few more to check off. The first grains BMP module has almost come to an end, with the next two modules rolling out in January. I attended two CQ Sustainable faming Christmas meetings in early December where I updated the groups on grains BMP, and had the opportunity to catch up with local landholders.

I will be heading to Rockhampton on the 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the links with Cultural Heritage areas of significance and project applicants. Greg Heath from DNR&W will be updating all FBA and sub regional catchment staff on current policy and procedures.

Finally, thank you all landholders in the Comet and surrounding areas who I have liaised with this year, your motivation towards better NRM outcomes has been tremendous, and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year. Have a very merry and wet Christmas.

**Susie Bate, Comet Catchment Field Officer**

## Belyando Byline

The cut off for property completion visits has now passed and I have visited nearly all of the project landholders and devolved all of the on-ground funding available. The Belyando Suttor project officially comes to a close at the end of the month, so I will be spending the next couple of weeks completing the final report for BDTNRM so I can knock off and enjoy Christmas.

What a year and what a project to reflect on! The Belyando Suttor has been through a lot since the project started in 2006, with the most notable being the flooding earlier this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people involved in the Belyando Suttor project, especially the landholders. This has been an amazing experience and I am confident that we have had a positive impact on NRM in the catchment. Unfortunately there is no funding available to continue a project in the Belyando Suttor. I am very disappointed about this and will be keeping an eye out for future possibilities. I encourage landholders to do the same and to remain in contact with CHRRUP as we will not forget about you! I will be remaining with CHRRUP however working in a different capacity, most likely in the FBA area. So please keep in contact and have a very Merry Christmas and a happy and wet new year!!

**Bronwyn Roberts, Belyando-Suttor Field Officer**