



This month's Newsletter sees the addition of updates from two new FNQROC staff members.

Daniela Gambotto is FNQROC's Planning & Sustainability Coordinator based in Innisfail.

Linda Williams joins us as a consultant for six weeks until 3 December 2010 to assist the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Cook Shire Council and Hinchinbrook Shire Council with the progression of their Greenhouse Inventory and Greenhouse Mitigation Action Plans.

Both Daniela and Linda, together with FNQROC Executive Officer **Darlene Irvine**, Regional Infrastructure Project Coordinator **Gerard Read**, Regional Natural Asset Management Coordinator **Travis Sydes**, and Administration Officer **Sandra McCormack**, will be in attendance at the next FNQROC Board meeting in Atherton on Monday 8 November 2010. Who would have thought...six FNQROC staffers in the one place at the same time! The ever-progressive FNQROC team plans to be decked out in our new uniform polo shirts for this occasion and we hope to share a photograph with you in our next newsletter!

It is worth noting FNQROC is now truly regional with the placement of staff in Cairns, Malanda and Innisfail thanks to the generous offer of office space by those respective council areas (plus of course Gerard who hails from Brisbane!).

NEWS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

Regional Planning & Sustainability Coordinator, Daniela Gambotto...

I have just started with FNQROC as the Regional Planning and Sustainability Coordinator working 3 days per week out of Cassowary Coast Regional Council in Innisfail. My focus over the next couple of months will be on the busy world of planning. There is so much going on in this realm and I will be helping councils in any way I can to wade through the sea of planning initiatives currently underway.

We are hoping that in 2011 the Regional Planners Group will be meeting every two months. With most council staff busy preparing their new planning schemes next year, I suspect we may need these regular meetings.

Queensland Planning Provisions (QPP)

Recently council planning staff attended a 1-day workshop on the draft QPP. This useful session allowed Councils staff to have direct contact with some of the key drafters of the provisions.

The forum highlighted to us the importance of providing access to State Government representatives on key legislative changes. Not only does it allow our region's issues to be heard first hand, but it allows Planners to get ahead on policy reforms and be better able to respond to changes as they occur.

Our intention is to ensure ongoing contact with the State Government on key legislative and policy reforms as they occur. This will hopefully facilitate a greater two-way communication and ultimately, better planning outcomes.

FNQ Regional Plan Implementation Guidelines

Draft guidelines have been released for incorporating regional Biodiversity Conservation and Waterways policies into local planning schemes. To date, councils have provided useful feedback and I will continue to coordinate input into the development of these guidelines.

LGAQ

We will be aiming to ramp up LGAQ's involvement in the FNQ region in 2011. The new planning contact for LGAQ will be invited to attend our Planners Group meetings. I suspect this will become a useful opportunity for information sharing and advocacy on our behalf. Training is also currently being prepared for early 2011 on the LGAQ pilot project – Regional NRM Plan Targets Decision Support Tool. Stay tuned...

Please note - the Sustainability component of this role is currently being managed by Linda Williams. I'll be picking up more on this aspect of the job in early 2011.

Regional Sustainability Project Coordinator (fixed contract), Linda Williams...

Sustainable salutations everybody... I am delighted to have been appointed the Regional Sustainability Project Coordinator at FNQROC. I am very excited to say the sustainability work of councils in the region is impressive. I look forward to helping you expand on this knowledge and take the opportunity to invite all to contact me for any sustainability, climate change and greenhouse gas mitigation information or with any ideas you may have. I will be working at FNQROC until 3 December 2010.

Greenhouse Inventory and Greenhouse Mitigation Action Plan

Primarily my role is to assist the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Cook Shire Council and Hinchinbrook Shire Council with the progression of their draft Greenhouse Inventory and Greenhouse Mitigation Action Plans to a final plan. Workshop dates to accommodate this have been confirmed by Cassowary Coast Regional Council for 12 November 12 and Cook Shire Council for November 17 and Hinchinbrook for 30 November. Cairns Regional Council and Tablelands Regional Council have finalised their plans and are an excellent show case of how councils in the region are responding positively to climate change.

I will build on the great sustainability work produced by all councils to assist with the progression of a final Greenhouse Inventory and Greenhouse Mitigation Action Plan for the region to facilitate the production of regional Sustainability Road Map Action Plan.

Sustainability Hot Topics

In my correspondence to date with council officers I have discovered hot topics for the region include:

- Education and training of council staff to encourage enthusiasm, awareness and action around sustainability issues;
- Street lighting;
- General energy savings to council buildings through detailed audits and retro fits of councils buildings with renewable energy solutions, reduction of landfill through reuse of organic waste and recycling;
- Fit for purpose vehicles;
- Sustainability funding opportunities; and,
- Ways to facilitate the dollar savings made from tariff reductions, specifically being used for projects in the area of sustainability.

I will be researching all of these areas and will forward successful models from other councils for all to view as guidelines, proving sustainability action is not only good for the environment but great for the community and the budget bottom line.

Please call me or e-mail me to discuss any area of sustainability, I am grateful to have the opportunity to help you reach your sustainability goals.

Tropical Innovation Awards

The final preparations are being made to the inaugural Tropical Innovation Awards being held in Cairns on Friday 5 November 2010.

A total of 46 applications were received from around the region – 25 from Cairns, 3 from Cassowary Coast, 17 from Tablelands and one from Cook.



Regional Natural Asset Management Coordinator, Travis Sydes...

17th Annual Australasian Weeds Conference, New Zealand

Delegates from Australia and the Pacific braved the seismic aftershocks in Christchurch to attend the 17th Australasian Weeds Conference. The conference provided updates on the very latest in weed management, science, planning, policy and community engagement.

Topics relevant to the Far Northern region included a strong focus on aquatic weeds and management optimisation. On behalf of FNQROC I presented on the topic of the Regional Pest Mapping Project which has been operating since 2005, and the Pests and Weeds Web Portal which is a joint initiative between FNQROC, Terrain NRM and CSIRO delivered by Herbert Resource Information Centre (HRIC) which is hosted on Hinchinbrook Shire Council's internet server.

Pest Fish Working Group

The second meeting of the Northern Pest Fish Working Group was held in October.

The group is hosted by Fisheries Queensland (DEEDI) and includes stakeholders from across a wide range of industry and government sectors.

Topics of interest to Local Government included potential impacts of pest fish like Tilapia (below) adding to management issues within water storage areas during water draw down events.

The biomass produced by a major infestation of this species could have serious implications for water quality and treatment costs.

Whilst the State Government manages the expertise and responsibilities for controlling pest fish, Local Governments and NRM Groups are recognised as key points of contact by community for the early detection of new introductions and outbreaks.

North Queensland has the greatest number of exotic fish of any region within Australia. Pest fish like Tilapia (above) are voracious predators and have a direct impact on important native and economic species like barramundi.



Coming up

FNQ Pest Advisory Forum and **FNQ Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee**, 25 to 26 November 2010, Frogs Hollow Community Hall, Mission Beach.

Important note: **BIOSECURITY ACT** Draft Bill Briefing FNQPAF 25 November 2010 - Bruce Wilson, General Manager of Invasive Plants and Animals, DEEDI, will be providing an update on the progress of the new BioSecurity Bill and answering any questions or concerns. A Councillor from each Local Government is strongly encouraged to attend.

DATE CLAIMERS 2010

The **FNQROC and FNQRRG Meetings** (FNQROC Organiser: Darlene Irvine; FNQRRG Organiser: Gerard Read).

FNQROC	FNQRRG
Monday 8 November 2010 (Atherton) 10am	(CANCELLED) Monday 8 November 2010 (Atherton) 1.30pm

FNQRRG TC Meetings (FNQRRG TC Organiser: Gerard Read).

Friday 17 December 2010 – Cairns (tentative)

The **Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC)** will meet as follows. (Organiser: Travis Sydes).

Thursday 25 & Friday 26 November 2010 – Cassowary Coast

The **Regional Planners Group** will meet as follows: (Organiser: Darlene Irvine and Daniela Gambotto).

Friday 5 November 2010 – Cairns Regional Council, McKenzie Room

The **Local Laws Group** will meet as follows: (Organiser: Darlene Irvine).

Tuesday 16 November 2010 - Cairns Regional Council, Committee Room

The **Procurement Group** will meet as follows: (Organiser: Darlene Irvine).

Thursday 2 December 2010 – Cairns Regional Council, Committee Room

The **Community Plan Group** will meet as follows: (Organiser: Darlene Irvine).

Thursday 3 November 2010 – Tablelands Regional Council, Mareeba

The **Sustainability Group** will meet in the McKenzie Room, Level 2, Cairns Regional Council, at 10am (Organiser: Darlene Irvine and Linda Williams).

Wednesday 3 November 2010

Friday 3 December 2010

The **Regional Asset Management** will meet in the McKenzie Room, Level 2, at 10am. (Organiser: Gerard Read).

Wednesday 15 December 2010 (to be confirmed)

HEAD FOR THE HILLS...



REMINDER...The FNQROC and FNQRRG board meeting scheduled for Monday 8 November 2010 will be held at the **Tablelands Regional Council Chambers in Mabel Street, Atherton, at 10am**. The FNQRRG meeting will follow as per usual at approximately 1.30pm.

FNQROC CONTACT DETAILS

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Regional Planning & Sustainability Coordinator	Daniela Gambotto	07 4030 2265	d.gambotto@ Cairns.qld.gov.au
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Sustainability Project Coordinator	Linda Williams	07 4044 3376	l.williams@ Cairns.qld.gov.au

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ *A two hour motion picture uses about 3.3km of film*
- ✓ *An acre of hemp produces more paper than an acre of trees*
- ✓ *Barbie is 25cm tall*

"Don't cry because it's over - smile because it happened." - Unknown

NOVEMBER 2010: FNQROC NEWS
