

# NEWSLETTER



Managing  
Natural  
Resources  
to ensure  
Social Wellbeing,  
Primary Production  
and Ecological  
Sustainability.

Issue 3

21/07/2020

## What's New?

Welcome to the July 2020 issue of the BBIFMAC quarterly newsletter to keep our members up to date on our work, results and upcoming events.

Over the past few months, we have been very busy with compiling results and writing annual reports as the 2019/2020 sampling period has come to a close – Luckily most of that work could be undertaken from home during the Covid-19 lockdown period! Now that we are back in the office, it is time to start re-instrumenting sites in preparation for what is expected to be a busy sampling season for 2020/2021.



Re-installing water quality monitoring equipment at a recently harvested ratoon block.

We have recently moved premises to accommodate our growing team. You can now find us at:

**154 Graham Street, Ayr.**  
(Opposite the Ayr State School)





## Recent Events

We welcome Keeley Glasson to the BBIFMAC team. Keeley is undertaking placement with us, starting at the end of July, as part of her University studies. Keeley is studying a Masters of Science at James Cook University.

In our last Newsletter, we shared the news of the black sesame crop harvest at Rita Island. The BBIFMAC staff have recently harvested the fennel crop, which has been part of the same North Queensland spice trial undertaken with Central Queensland University (CQU) and Kenrose Farming Co with funding from the Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia (CRCNA).

The winter crop trial was planted just this week, which includes other varieties of spices including Caraway, Cumin and Kalonji. The seedlings were planted at the Rita Island site by BBIFMAC staff, Kenrose Farming Co and Surya Bhattarai who travelled from CQU in Rockhampton to oversee the planting.

The purpose of this spice trial is to determine the suitability of these condiment crops for the conditions in the tropics, and develop a reliable market should the crops be appropriate in local conditions.



Dennis harvesting the fennel.



Luke and Mackenzie recording measurements of the fennel plants.



The Caraway, Cumin, & Kalonji seedlings were planted just this week for the winter crop trial.

## Meet the BBIFMAC team!



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce one of our great BBIFMAC team members with each newsletter. In this issue we introduce Luke Bueno, our Technical Officer.

Luke joined the BBIFMAC team in 2015, and is our expert in all things electronic and tech-related! Luke is studying IT and economics externally through JCU.

When he isn't out in the field managing the Telstra BlueSpot Project, you will find Luke in the office developing new & improved technologies for our water samplers.

## Become a BBIFMAC member!

**JOIN NOW FOR JUST \$20 PER YEAR.**

BBIFMAC members receive:

- ❖ Free or discounted water quality tests.
- ❖ Discounted water quality monitoring equipment.
- ❖ Information and assistance with grants.
- ❖ Invitations to key events of interest around the region.



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