

NEWSLETTER

Issue 23

August/September 2022

Recent Events

On Tuesday 30th August, BBIFMAC held a General Meeting at the Canegrowers Hall in Home Hill.

Dr Yvette Everingham from James Cook University (JCU) gave a presentation regarding the Tropical North Queensland (TNQ) Drought Hub, which will support farmers and their communities to become more drought resilient.



Dr Yvette Everingham from JCU gave a presentation regarding the Tropical North Queensland Drought Hub.

Arwen Rickert, Manager of BBIFMAC, gave a presentation on the recently completed projects, as well as the current projects that the organisation is participating in.

Following the meeting, a field visit was held at a local industrial hemp plot near Home Hill. Attendees got to speak with Andrew Linnerston, Ecofibre's Ananda Food Field Operations Manager, to get an understanding of the opportunities, successes, and learnings associated with growing hemp in the Burdekin.



Andrew Linnerston, Ecofibre's Ananda Food Field Operations Manager spoke to attendees about the hemp plot.



BBIFMAC

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

Project Updates

The Burdekin Irrigation Project (BIP) is progressing well, with 1 high input (volume and water quality monitoring) and 3 low input (volume monitoring only) sites currently being monitored for the project, and 4 low input sites completed last year. Additional sites are in the works and equipment will shortly be installed.

The BIP is led by Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and delivered by a consortium of cross-disciplinary stakeholders. The project aims to transition growers to scalable, sustainable, and technologically assisted practices in irrigation management, using a whole-of-systems approach that includes water quality validation by BBIFMAC.



San Dimas flumes and water depth loggers are installed at the bottom end of the paddock at all sites for runoff volume monitoring. At the high input sites, KP water samplers are also installed for nutrient and pesticide water quality monitoring.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) Water Quality team will be coming to the Burdekin in late October to complete the installation of four new sites in the Barratta Creek system. These sites will monitor nitrate-nitrogen, total suspended solids, and stream height in real-time as part of the Fine Scale Water Quality Monitoring Project. The results will be uploaded to the CSIRO 1622 portal for public viewing.



One of the real-time monitoring sites in the Barratta system which is being installed as part of the Fine Scale Water Quality Monitoring Project. The infrastructure is complete, but the sensors have been delayed from Germany.

Upcoming Event – BBIFMAC Annual General Meeting in November

The BBIFMAC Annual General Meeting will be held in November this year, on a date soon to be advised.

Arwen Rickert, BBIFMAC Manager, will give a presentation on some of the exciting findings of the monitoring to date as part of the Burdekin Irrigation Project.

The DES water quality team will also be joining us in person at the AGM to present the findings to date of the Fine Scale Water Quality Monitoring in the Burdekin and answer your questions about the publicly available data.

BBIFMAC encourage stakeholders and growers to take a look at the information available via the 1622 platform (link below), and note down any queries or improvements you would like to see, to be raised with the DES team in November.

<https://wq.1622.farm/>

Please keep an eye on your emails and our Facebook page for when further details of the AGM are announced in the coming weeks.

Membership Renewal Time!

\$20 for individuals, \$50 for corporate per year

Are you curious to know what's coming off your farm, or what's in your drinking water?

As a BBIFMAC member you receive:

- ❖ Free water quality monitoring of runoff from a paddock on your farm
- ❖ Discounted laboratory tests for runoff or drinking water analysis
- ❖ Discounted water quality monitoring equipment, such as Electrical Conductivity and pH probes (others on request)
- ❖ Exclusive access to the BBIFMAC Newsletter!

Pop in to the BBIFMAC office, or email Julie at

secretary@bbifmac.org.au to renew!



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