

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 24

October/November 2022

## BBIFMAC 2022 AGM

The BBIFMAC Annual General Meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Canegrowers Hall in Home Hill. After six years as Chairman of the BBIFMAC Committee, Steve Attard stood down from the role, and we have welcomed Lisa Parker as the incoming Chair. Steve Attard is now the Deputy Chair, and Merv Mohr and Brock Dembrowski have continued in their respective positions as Treasurer and General Member. Frank Mugica did not renominate for his position as General Member. We thank Frank for his contribution to BBIFMAC over his time in the role. Armin Wessel was accepted as the new General Member, and we welcome him to the Committee.

Arwen also advised that Project Officer, Mackenzie Severns is leaving BBIFMAC. Arwen thanked Mackenzie for all her hard work over the past three years. The Project Officer position has been advertised and filled.

In addition to the AGM formalities, Cameron Roberts, Technical Scientist at Department of Environment and Science (DES) gave an update on the emerging trends for the Fine Scale Water Quality Monitoring Project in the Burdekin.



Cameron Roberts, DES, gave a presentation on the Fine Scale Water Quality Monitoring Project in the Burdekin.

Arwen Rickert, BBIFMAC Manager, gave a presentation on the preliminary results for the Burdekin Irrigation Project (BIP) and how it has helped growers save money and reduce runoff.

The BIP supports Lower Burdekin sugarcane farmers to transition to improved irrigation practice, intended to reduce on-farm irrigation expenses, runoff and deep drainage losses, while improving productivity and profitability.

The project is a collaboration between Sugar Research Australia (SRA), Burdekin Productivity Services (BPS), AgriTech Solutions, BBIFMAC,



## BBIFMAC

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

Farmacist, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), and James Cook University (JCU).

BBIFMAC's role in the project is to use water quality monitoring to validate the impact of the changes to irrigation practices on surface runoff volumes. For some sites, the data will be used to inform scientific modelling specific to Burdekin irrigation practices, in consultation with the landholder.



Arwen Rickert, BBIFMAC Manager, spoke about the preliminary findings of the Burdekin Irrigation Project.

## Introducing Angus Houston, BBIFMAC's New Staff Member



Angus Houston joined the BBIFMAC team on 21<sup>st</sup> November as Project Officer. He studied Earth Science and Zoology & Ecology at JCU, and has recently completed his Honours project on gully erosion in the Upper Burdekin Catchment.

We warmly welcome Angus to the team!

## Annual Sample Collection Training with DES for Quality Control

On 1<sup>st</sup> December, David Orr, Senior Scientist at DES, and colleagues travelled up to the Burdekin in order to conduct annual training with BBIFMAC staff to ensure quality control of sample collection for the Great Barrier Reef Catchment Loads Monitoring

Program and the Fine Scale Water Quality Monitoring Project in the Burdekin. Following the training, David presented the 2020-2021 data for sediment, nutrient and pesticides at sampling sites in the Burdekin region.

This pesticide information is particularly interesting, and is available for public viewing on the Pesticide Reporting Portal:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c0f0c6d7d88a4fd3a5541fe59f41ff75>



The BBIFMAC office will be closed from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and reopen on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas period, and look forward to working with you in 2023!

### BBIFMAC Membership

\$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](mailto:secretary@bbifmac.org.au)



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