

NEWSLETTER

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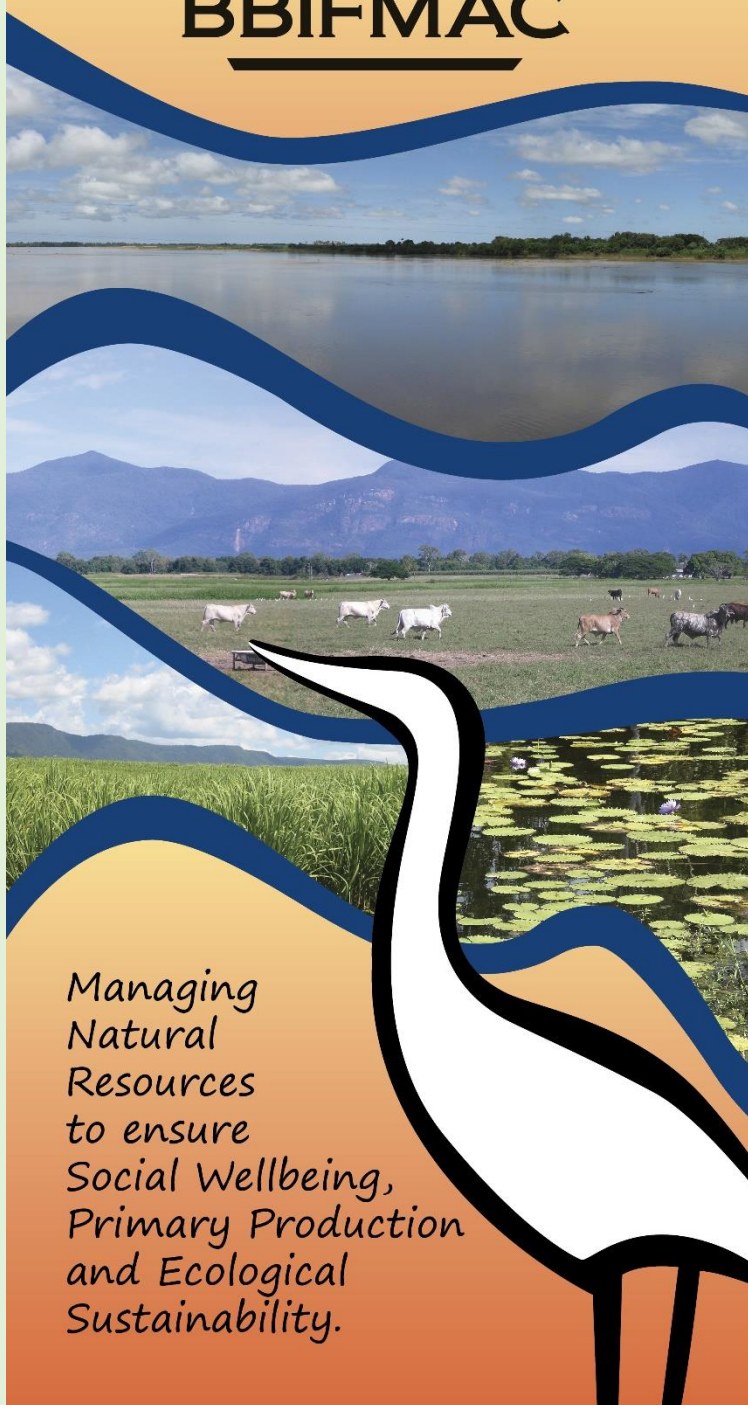
'Grain and Graze' Dual Purpose Peanut Trial in Home Hill

In late May, it was all systems go with the 'Grain and Graze' Peanut Trial in Home Hill. The project led by Central Queensland University (CQU), with funding from the CRC for Northern Australia (CRCNA) is assessing dual purpose peanuts for kernel yield in combination with different fodder production options.

Mackenzie assisted Kacie Buchanan, Agronomist from the Peanut Company of Australia (A Bega Company), with maturity testing on the peanut crop to determine the right time for harvest.



BBIFMAC



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



A sample of peanut plants were dug up from the field, and the nuts were removed from the biomass.



The peanuts were brought back to the BBIFMAC office where the dirt and outer shell was taken off with a pressure washer.



The peanuts were then colour sorted into black, brown, orange, yellow and white categories. Black and brown are the most mature, and white is the least mature. The proportion of mature peanuts gives an indication of when to harvest.

The process of maturity testing included digging up samples of the crop from the field, removing the peanuts from the biomass, bringing the peanuts back to the office to pressure wash them and colour sort them to determine the proportion of mature peanuts.

Analysis of the peanuts determined that they were ready for harvest the following week. Mackenzie then assisted Surya Bhattarai, who travelled from Central Queensland University (CQU) in Rockhampton, with conducting the final measurements before harvest of the peanut crop in Home Hill.

The trial consisted of three different varieties of peanut (Kairi, Holt and Alloway), randomised in thirty plots. For the duration of the trial, data was collected from a two metre length within each of the thirty plots. The data collection included soil moisture, chlorophyll content of the leaves, average plant height, dry biomass weight, and percentage of canopy cover.

The aim of the project is to determine if the peanut biomass can be harvested during the mid-stages of crop growth and used for livestock fodder, without adversely impacting the peanut yield.

We look forward to updating you on the results when they are made available in the coming months.



The peanuts were dug up and will remain upturned for a week to dry out before a thresher comes through to separate the peanuts from the biomass.

Fine Scale Water Quality Monitoring Project Update

The installation of fine scale water quality monitoring sites has been ongoing since the end of 2020 in both the Lower Burdekin and Lower Herbert regions. The project is led by the Queensland Government's Water Quality Investigations team (WQI), and delivered in partnership with BBIFMAC.

In May, the WQI team visited the Burdekin region to install two new sites, an upstream reference site at the Burdekin River near Dalbeg Pump Station, and a downstream impact site at Lilliesmere Lagoon.

Additionally, four of the Burdekin Bluespot sites in the Barratta Creek system (part of a project that was completed in 2021), have been converted to real-time monitoring sites as part of the fine scale project.

These sites are located at Stockham road, Viv Cox Bridge, Allen road, and East Barratta Creek on the Bruce Highway.

The micro sites are recording nitrate-nitrogen (in mg/L) and stream level (in metres) which is uploaded to the CSIRO 1622™ portal. This information is available for public viewing.

To access the data, visit: <https://wq.1622.farm/>



Manual samples are taken by BBIFMAC staff at each sites on a monthly basis to verify the readings from the real-time sensors.

Meet the BBIFMAC Committee



Lisa Parker is the newest member of the BBIFMAC Management Committee, having been elected by the members at the AGM this year.

Lisa is the manager of Burdekin Cane & Agriculture Organisation Limited (formerly Pioneer Cane Growers Organisation Limited) and is a Director on the Lower Burdekin Water Board.

Previously Lisa worked as a litigation solicitor in Ayr, Townsville and in Newcastle, New South Wales. Lisa and her husband Ross (a fourth generation Burdekin cane farmer) purchased their farm and relocated their family to Ayr in 2017. Lisa is also a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

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