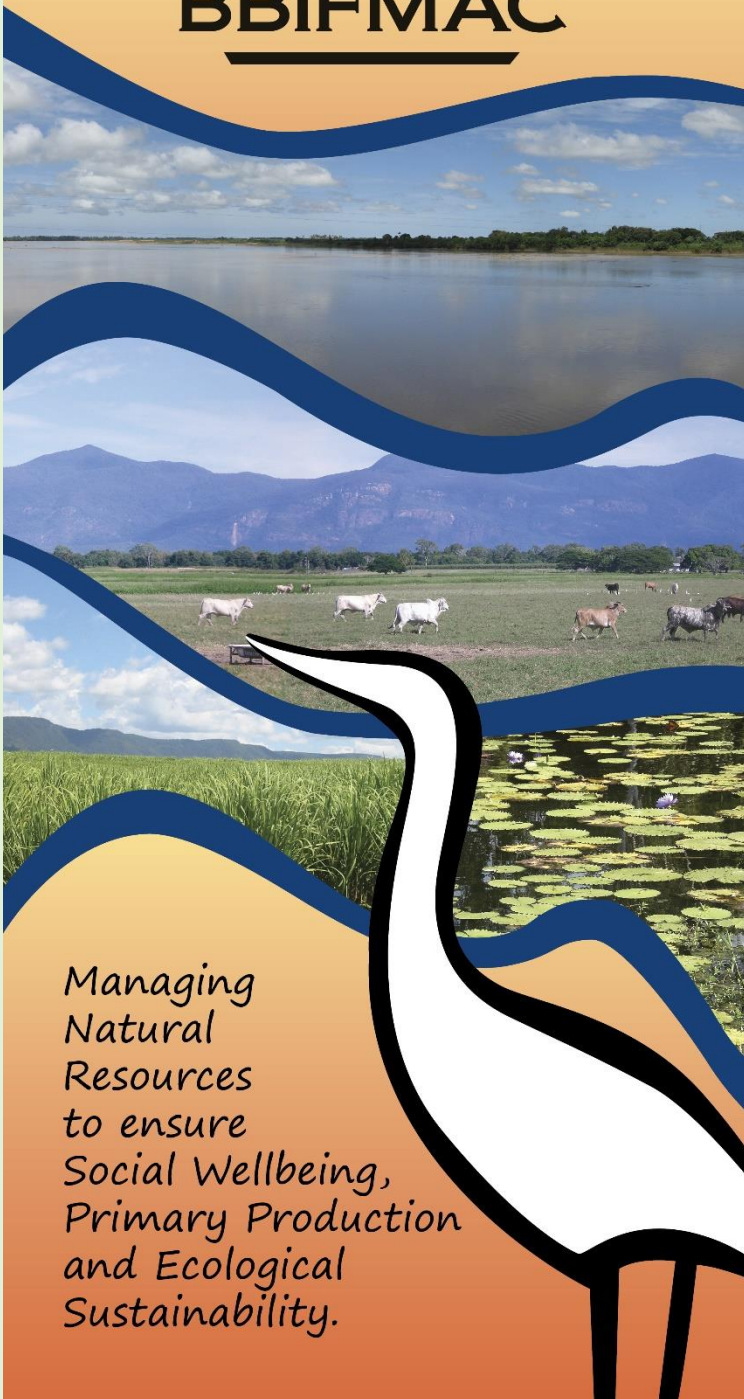


# NEWSLETTER



**BBIFMAC**



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

Issue No. 26

December 2023

## What's New?

### BBIFMAC 2023 AGM

The BBIFMAC Annual General Meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the Brandon Hotel. All Management Committee positions were vacated as per the Constitution.

Due to family and work commitments Lisa Parker did not renominate for the position of Chair. We have welcomed back Steve Attard into the position. Brock Dembowski was elected Deputy Chair, and Merv Mohr has continued in the position of Treasurer. Armin Wessel agreed to stand again as an Ordinary Member and we welcomed Ross Parker to the role of second Ordinary Member. We thank Lisa for her contribution to BBIFMAC over the past two years. Lisa brought a wealth of knowledge to the organisation and will be missed.

After the formalities, attendees received a great presentation from Warren Tink about our very own Burdekin Rum – it's origins, how it is made using local ingredients and where our local craft distillery hopes to head into the future.



The formal part of the AGM was then closed and attendees made their way out to Horseshoe Lagoon to hear from Andrew Cross, Manager of MHP Farms about their diversification journey into Macadamia Nuts. Over lunch Andrew talked about the process and challenges of establishing this new tree crop in the Burdekin, and showed the trees at different stages, plus some of the equipment used to grow the crop.

Andrew fielded many, many questions from the audience and we thank him for taking the time out of his busy schedule to host the field visit.



BBIFMAC would like to thank both of the great guest speakers for making the morning such a success and a big thank you also to all of the BBIFMAC Members and meeting attendees that continue to support BBIFMAC!

## Festive Greetings to all!



The BBIFMAC office will be closed from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and re-open on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas period, and look forward to working with you in 2024!

## Other news

In preparation for the upcoming wet season (if we get one!), Dept. Environment and Science staff visited the BBIFMAC team to undertake refresher training for existing staff (and introductory training for new staff) in water quality sampling procedures and protocols. This is to ensure that the sampling that BBIFMAC undertakes on behalf of DES is quality assured and is consistent with the methodology used by other organisations undertaking sampling for DES up and down the coast. This is a good opportunity for BBIFMAC staff to brush up on skills and stay abreast of the latest developments in water quality science.



## BBIFMAC Membership

### Annual fees

\$20 for individuals/farms (\$15 for seniors) \$50 for corporate entities (multiple staff)

(option to pay for 5 years also available)

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

As a BBIFMAC member you receive:

- ❖ Free Nitrogen testing of bore or farm runoff water.
- ❖ Discounted irrigation or drinking water laboratory 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 Kim at [secretary@bbifmac.org.au](mailto:secretary@bbifmac.org.au) and ask for a membership application form. You can pay via cash, cheque or direct deposit.



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