

SEQ Sustainable Agriculture News

June 2024

-  What's been happening
-  Industry News
-  Grants & Awards
-  Events

What's been happening?

Drought resilience field days

A terrific response to the series of Drought Resilience field days held last month at Oak Creek, Mount Beppo and Ottaba, with over 90 people hearing from landholders and presenters about land management principles and practices to improve the health, sustainability and resilience of soils, pastures and crops, riparian areas and landscapes.

The field days featured some great interactive discussions on the following topics:

- Maximising diversity in pastures /farming systems – including growing multispecies cover crops and establishing new legume-based perennial pastures.
- Implementing planned rotational grazing and rest at critical times to improve pasture and land condition.
- Establishing and managing shrubby legumes including *Leucaena* & *Desmanthus*.
- Utilising composed manures to improve soil health and pasture production.
- Applying landscape rehydration principles – managing the water cycle to maximise infiltration, slow and spread flows and protecting wetlands and riparian areas and farming on floodplains.
- Implementing biodynamic farming principles to improve biological function and condition.

Event watch!



The poster features a green background with a white wavy border at the top. The text 'BUILDING GRAZING RESILIENCE FORUM' is prominently displayed in white. Below this, a location pin icon is followed by 'GATTON'. A calendar icon shows 'JUN 12' and the time '9:00 am - 4:00 pm'. To the right, under the heading 'SESSIONS INCLUDE', there are four icons with corresponding text: a plant icon for 'Industry sustainability & resilience', a bar chart icon for 'Case studies from project participants', a line graph icon for 'Understanding natural capital', and a person icon for 'Key note presentations from industry experts'. The 'Healthy Land & Water' logo is in the top right corner.

We have some amazing events coming up! The Building Grazing Resilience Forum is one of an exciting list.

To find out more about all the events, scroll to the bottom of the newsletter.



Left photo: Discussing landscape rehydration principles at Oaky Creek. Right photo: Inspecting new legume based perennial pastures at Mt Beppo.

Big thanks to the Clark, Roughan and Fisher families for their generous hospitality in showcasing the demonstration projects and plans they are undertaking to improve the condition and resilience of their grazing enterprises. Also, a shout out to regen educator, Shane Joyce, DAF's Ted Callanan and Soil consultant David Hall for their engaging discussions throughout the days.

The field days were supported by Healthy Land & Water through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.



Discussing the benefits of applying manures when establishing new perennial pastures and legumes at Ottaba.



Industry News

~Fire ants



For the latest information on Fire Ants, your biosecurity obligations and what you can do to help stop the spread of this invasive exotic pest please visit the website - <https://www.fireants.org.au/> and subscribe to their newsletters - [Fire ant news – March 2024 \(vision6.com.au\)](https://www.vision6.com.au/fire-ant-news-march-2024)

Climate outlook

The CSIRO has released the Ag2050 Scenarios Report examining the question; what does a productive, resilient, and sustainable Australian farm look like in 2050. [Read it here.](#)

High interest rate squeezing farm finances

Compared with two years ago, interest rates are 2.4 times higher for Southern Queensland's primary producers. For every \$1 million borrowed, that's about \$3,000 a month extra in interest payments, or \$36,000 a year hit to your bottom line. How is your farm business managing the higher interest costs? Explore your financial options with the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) Southern Queensland. Get free and confidential planning support to help you stay in control of your farm business finances. For more information visit the RFCS Southern Queensland website www.rfcssq.org.au/options.

Grain Grower Survey - Regenerative Agriculture: Understanding the intent, practices, benefits and disbenefits

GDRG has funded a 3.5 year national project, led by Southern Cross University in conjunction with grower groups and are seeking farm owners and/or managers to complete the online [survey](#). The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. There are 5 sections relating to your farm, goals, management practices, background information and views on regenerative agriculture.

More Information: <https://grdc.com.au/grdc-investments/investments/investment?code=SCU2307-001RTX>

Any questions, contact Hanabeth.luke@scu.edu.au

Survey Link: https://scuau.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3HKniKYYq3ZhT0i

~Grants & Awards

CSA Small Grants

The Australian Government is inviting organisations via an Open competitive process to apply to deliver projects under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program – Small Grants Round 1.

Small Grants are for small-scale projects at the grassroots and community level that will support farmers and land holders to adopt sustainable agriculture best practices, as well as facilitate and implement practice change. The grants will improve management of our natural resources and increase sustainable on-farm productivity and resilience to climate change.

The grants allow for a wide range of projects and initiatives, providing opportunities for information delivery and extension as well as scaling up of existing local initiatives. New or innovative, as well as tried and tested, climate-smart, sustainable agricultural practices are in scope. Applications close 4 June 2024 – apply here- <https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=903e6762-9d2a-4725-ada6-4e667b8d3aff&keyword=GO4745>

Australian Biosecurity Award

Do you know a group, organisation or individual who goes above and beyond in protecting Australia from exotic pests and diseases? Nominate them today for an [Australian Biosecurity Award](#). Nominations close 10 June 2024.



Upcoming events

<p>Threatening Toads & Friendly Frogs Workshop Helidon</p> <p>The Helidon and District Community Centre 15 Arthur St, Helidon QLD 4344</p> <p>Saturday 08 June 2024 10:00 am – 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Join Healthy Land & Water, Lockyer Uplands Catchment Inc., Watergum, and Brett Malcolm from 'Brett Finds Frogs' for a ribbit-ing workshop at The Helidon & District Community Centre.</p> <p>This session will educate you all about the threatening toad, and its impact on our local frog species. With recent wet weather in the third La Nina event causing optimal conditions for toad breeding, waves of juvenile cane toads are being sighted around waterbodies across the Lockyer. This march of the cane toad has prompted landholders to seek further information on how to control the invasive species on their property.</p> <p>As well as learning more about cane toads, the impact that they have on the environment, and how to manage the invasive species, this workshop will also provide information on local native frog species and how we can best support our native neighbours.</p> <p>Lunch and light refreshments will be provided.</p> <p>To register https://hlw.org.au/portfolio/threatening-toads-and-friendly-frogs-helidon</p>
<p>MLA, Bred Well, Fed Well Workshop Anduramba</p> <p>'Salty' 210 Hawkins Road Anduramba QLD 4355</p> <p>Saturday 08 June 2024 8:30 am – 4:30 pm</p>	<p>An introduction to breeding and feeding cattle to maximise profit.</p> <p>Join MLA for this session and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a customised breeding plan for your cattle enterprise aligned to your profit drivers. • Identify sires and select animals that help you meet your objectives. • Learn about feeding livestock well to achieve your objective and maximise your genetic investment. <p>To register https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/events-and-workshops/bfw-beef-workshop--anduramba-qld/</p>
<p>Soils for Life Cropping Convos- "Ask me anything" series</p> <p>Online session</p> <p>From 11-17 June. These free online sessions are held over an hour</p>	<p>Soils for Life Cropping Convos- "Ask me anything" series is an opportunity to connect with a range of agronomists, agroecologists, and consultants over a casual Zoom call with other grain growers. You can ask your burning questions and discuss your challenges over a range of topics including multispecies, plant nutrition, reducing fungicides, and integrating livestock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graeme Sait on plant nutrition - 11th June, 7pm AEST. • Jade Killoran on multispecies- 12th June, 12pm AEST. • Joel Williams on reducing insecticides and fungicides- 13th June, 7pm AEST. • David Bushell on decision making in mixed farming systems- 14th June, 12pm, AEST. • Bec Hamersley on Johnson Su composting at scale- 17th June, 7pm AEST. <p>The Cropping Convos are open to everyone, whether you are currently cropping and wanting to experiment with regenerative practices, or you are considering adding cropping to your enterprise mix. Please register via link - Cropping Convos - "Ask Me Anything" series Humanitix</p>

Building Grazing Resilience Forum | Gatton

Gatton Shire Hall

52 North St, Gatton QLD
4343

Wednesday 12 June 2024
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Learn more about grazing resilience and sustainability!

Healthy Land & Water is excited to present the 2024 Building Grazing Resilience Forum, a full day ag forum held at the Gatton Shire Hall. The event is a great opportunity for landholders to come together and:

- Hear the latest updates on sustainability and resilience initiatives from industry, government, Natural Resource Management organisations.
- Access best practice info and resources.
- Learn from local landholders about the strategies, practices and projects they have implemented on their grazing properties to improve natural capital, sustainable production and drought resilience.
- Attend presentations by industry experts.
- Network with other attendees and speak to event stall holders.

This event is free to attend, though registration is required. Morning tea and lunch are included in your ticket.

The Forum will include a variety of presentations and include displays & resources from participating groups including MLA, AgForce, QUT, DES-Long Paddock team, DAF Beef extension staff, Healthy Land & Water, SQNNSW Drought Innovation Hub, Rural Financial Counselling Service. This venue is accessibility friendly.

For more information contact events@hlw.org.au

To register <https://hlw.org.au/portfolio/building-grazing-resilience-forum-gatton>

This event is supported by Healthy Land & Water and funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

STICK AROUND FOR AN EXCITING LAUNCH

This great day will not be over at 4pm! The SQNNSW Innovation Hub & HLW invites you to attend the launch of the new Drought Node for South East Queensland after the forum, from 4pm. Please join us for drinks and nibbles while we officially launch this initiative.

About the SEQ Node of the Southern Queensland Northern New South Wales Innovation Hub

Farmers in South East Queensland are set to benefit from a brand new Drought Node. The new node is based in Kilcoy and will support producers and their communities across SEQ in growing resilience to manage climate variability through innovation, collaboration, and building capacity and capability.

Its aim is to offer support that ranges from the extension and adoption of agtech to soils knowledge with information to help manage and adapt to a highly variable and changing climate and respond to ever-increasing environmental, biosecurity, financial, and market challenges.

Registration is required <https://hlw.org.au/portfolio/building-grazing-resilience-forum-gatton>

<p>Lockyer Valley Growers Expo 2024</p> <p>Gatton Research Station, 107 John Howie Memorial Drive, Gatton QLD 4343</p> <p>14-15 June</p>	<p>Lockyer Valley Growers Inc, Corveta & sponsors invite you to attend the Lockyer Valley Growers Expo, which features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetable variety demonstrations. • Machinery, industry & technology displays. • Opportunities to speak with leading vegetable industry supply-chain experts. <p>Pre-Registrations essential – please register for the Expo or Expo Dinner at https://tickets.lockyervalleytickets.com.au/outlet/event/10e84e4a-0c99-4d24-93b9-767ef0c19537</p>
<p>Backing Onto Bush Cabarlah</p> <p>Cabarlah Hall 9856 New England Hwy, Cabarlah QLD 4352</p> <p>Saturday 22 June 2024 10:00 am – 2:00 pm</p>	<p>Backing Onto Bush workshops are a half-day session for peri-urban and rural residential landholders to learn about fire ecology and what keeps the bush healthy.</p> <p>This half-day session includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An in-classroom general bushfire safety and preparedness discussion. • An interactive bushwalk and talk. <p>Walk away from the workshop with the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe the health of your local environment. • Identify vegetation types and key habitat. • Understand fuel loads. • Recognise fire history. • Monitor vegetation and wildlife. • Follow regulations for your area. <p>Please come prepared for the bushwalk and talk! Make sure you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed in shoes. • Long pants, long sleeves. • Reusable water bottle. • Hat. • Sunscreen. • Rain jacket (if necessary). <p>Catering and supporting material, including a copy of the guide, will be provided for all participants. This is a free workshop.</p> <p>The event is being delivered in partnership with Toowoomba Regional Council and supported by the Queensland Fire & Biodiversity Consortium.</p> <p>To register https://hlw.org.au/portfolio/backing-onto-bush-cabarlah</p>
<p>National Renewables in Agriculture Toowoomba</p> <p>Armitage Centre – Empire Theatre 56 Neil Street, Toowoomba Queensland</p> <p>Thursday 04 July 2024 9:00 am – 7:30 pm</p>	<p>The National Renewables in Agriculture Conference and Expo started in 2019 and was developed due to a need to provide credible, independent advice to farmers about how they could replace diesel and electricity on their farms with renewables. It has been designed to address the barriers to the uptake of renewables and aims to share stories directly from farmers using renewables with others about what they've done, the benefits and what they've learnt.</p> <p>The Conference has evolved to increase knowledge about the opportunities for farmers in the national energy transition, what benefits</p>

regional communities can advocate for and how long term meaningful and positive change will be achieved.

A Conference Committee was brought together to help drive the event, with membership from NSW Farmers, Clean Energy Council, Farmers for Climate Action, NSW Department of Primary Industries, AgVic, Queensland Farmers Federation, National Irrigators Council and Office of Energy and Climate Change.

Karin Stark, Conference Founder, lives on a farm in the Central West NSW, is Director of her business Farm Renewables Consulting, a member of the NSW Farmers 'Energy Transition Working Group' and is an advocate for agrivoltaics; the co-location of solar and farming. She was invited to participate in the Sydney Powerhouse '100 Climate Conversations' project, showcasing leaders taking action to respond to climate change.

To register <https://renewablesinagconference.com.au/register-now/>

Please contact us if you would like us to help promote an upcoming event or sustainable agriculture initiative you are involved in. For any other queries or further information please contact the SEQ Sustainable Agriculture team:

- **Bruce Lord** | 0427 013284 | bruce.l@hlw.org.au
- **Vanessa Smolders** | 0432 561 610 | vanessa.s@hlw.org.au
- **Renee Ould** | 0455 341 682 | renee.o@hlw.org.au