

ENGINEERING SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – MONTH ENDING AUGUST 2011

Author: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

Purpose

To review Engineering Services Department highlights and significant issues for the month ending August 2011.

Background and Discussion

Highlights and Significant Issues for period are as follows: -

ENGINEERING SERVICES MANAGEMENT

Coordination of project meetings, briefings and reports on the following projects:

- Met with Rural Fire and QFRS staff regarding the upcoming Fire Season
- Met with Mackay Lions Club to discuss Meadowlands
- Attended meeting with Mayor and Jan Jarratt to discuss the Cyclone Shelter at Rural View
- Attended IPWEAQ Conference in Canberra
- Met with Lend Lease regarding artwork in Matsuura Drive

On-going involvement in the following areas:

- Corporate Projects Committee, Rural Affairs Advisory Committee, LGEG.
- Transport Working Group
- Safe Plan, Design and Construct Review Meetings and SES matters
- Engineering Services Program Managers meetings

CIVIL PROJECTS

Works have been completed on the following projects:

DAY LABOUR

- Botanic Garden Carpark
- Norris Road / Beaconsfield Road Traffic Signals
- Freshwater Point Boat Ramp
- Mirani Streets flood damage works
- Pacific Drive Footpath
- Stormwater Drainage Repair in Wood Street Mackay
- Upriver Road culvert



Wood Street Final Surfacing

CONTRACTS

- Optic Fibre Communications
- Crediton Loop Road

Works have been substantially completed on the following projects:

DAY LABOUR

- Casey Avenue Drainage at Bridge Road
- Traffic Facility works at various locations Beaconsfield and Eimeo
- Wood Street reconstruction works
- Victoria Street reconstruction works
- Keeley's Road Flood Damage Repairs
- Midge Point Road Culvert extension



McIntyre Street Calen

Works have been substantially completed on the following projects:

CONTRACTS

- Perry Road Reconstruction
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 904
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 905
- Mango Avenue Reconstruction



Perry Road, Walkerston

The following projects are in progress:

DAY LABOUR

- Victor Creek Car Park Area
- Calen's Area Stabilisation and Flood repair damage
- St Helen Beach Resealing
- River Street Reconstruction (Wood to Gregory Street)
- Pratts Road Drainage
- Petersen Street Sarina
- Matsuura Drive works
- LATM works various locations

CONTRACTS

- Holts Road Culvert Upgrade
- Cape Hillsborough Widening
- Hague Street Drain Culvert Replacement
- Roger Road Culverts
- Cell 2 Hogans Pocket
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 906
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 907
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 908



Package 906 - Le Gardes Road, Habana

The following projects have been awarded:

CONTRACTS

- Caping Road – Realignment and River Crossing Repair
- Demolition & Disposal – Bedford Road Depot
- Rosewood Drive Construction – Federal Funding
- Grasstree Beach Road – 3.95 to 4.2km including Bikeway, awaiting on land dealing status before commencing

The following projects have been put to tender:

CONTRACTS

- North Mackay Levee Construction Stage 1B/2
- Landfill Remediation Bayersville
- Park, Paradise & Porter Streets Reconstruction
- 2010 Flood Saturation Package 1001
- 2010 Flood Saturation Package 1002 & 1003, combined into one package 1002

CIVIL OPERATIONS

Maintenance Grading in the following areas:

Heavy Grading	
Formation Grading	Rainforest Road, Crescent Street, Rainbow Street, Cemetery Road, Argents Road, McLennans Road, Camilleris Road, Clews Road, Ruggeris Road, Brownsey Road, Holds Road, Watson & Boyd Road, Gells Road, Halls Road, McLeods Road, Ashburtons Road, Riverside Drive, Ashleigh Road, Andrew Road, Koch road, Carranya Road, Bensons Road, Mapalo Road, Stockroute Road, Hansens Road, Lorne Road, Alexandria Road, Creek Street, Pugsley Street, McColl Street, Old Pleystowe Road, Pleystowe Station Road
Temporary Gravel Road Repairs (Grading & Gravelling)	Toons Road, Mt Pelion Road, Bogga Road.
Shoulder Grading	Midge Point Road, Oakenden-Sarina Road, O'Sheas Road, Masottis Road, Walkerston Homebush Road,
Submergence Repairs (Job no. 1712)	Ching Creek Road, Freshwater Point Road, Gurnetts Road, Muller Road, H Atherton Road, Rocky Dam Road, Harrison Road, Cone Creek Road, Story Road, Ricottas Road, Campbells Road, Cotters Road, Micallef Road, Oakenden-Sarina Road, Masottis Road, Turners Road.

Special Works:

Footpath repairs – Harbour Road, Hannaford Street, Sydney Street, Nebo Road, Cooks Lane, Griffin Street, Pugsley Street, Hucker Street, Shakespeare Street, Evan Street, Wood Street, Field Street, Jubilee Street, Petrie Street, Mango Avenue, Kemp Street, Evans Avenue North.

Sign & Guidepost repairs – Munbura, Balberra, Sunnyside, Oakenden & Victoria Plains areas,

Culvert, Pipe & Catchpit repairs – Marian area, Homebush area, Musset Court, Burgess Street, Sandringham Bridge, Griffin Street, Seabreeze Court.

Kerb & Channel repairs – Absolon Street, Gold Street, Gardner Street, Seabreeze Court.

Water Board Patching – Nil.

Street and Gutter Collection – Nil.

Suckins, Digouts & Scours – Narpi Road, Keeleys Road.

Special Works – Belleah Road, Rise & Shine Road (extend floodways), depth indicators Old Bowen Coach Road.

Pothole Patching: Sarina area, Range Road, Eversleigh Road, Hay Point area, Armstrong Beach area, Miran Khan Drive, Cone Creek Road, Matton Road, Garrett Road, Cliftonville Road, O'Sheas Road, Balberra area, Palmyra area, Bells Road, Chelona-Sandiford Road, Munbura Road, Victoria Plains Road, Golfinks Road, Coakley Court, Holts Road, Miclere-Farleigh Road, Christoe Street, Pioneer Street, Wainai Road, Jensens Road, Beaconsfield roundabout, Bedford Road roundabout, Sugarshed Road, Beaconsfield Road, Pollack Street, South Pacific Avenue, Amhurst Street, Blackwood Street, Hamilton Street, Corney Street, Green Street, Hillend Road, Trevaskis Road, Armstrong Street, Farleigh-Dumbleton Road, Slade Point area, North Mackay area, Farleigh area, Mount Pleasant area, Glenella area, Kochs Road, Balnagowan area, Stockroute Road, Bucasia area, Walkerston area, South Mackay area, Pleystowe area, West Mackay area, Ooralea area, Homebush area, Mackay City area, Racecourse area, Habana area, Chelona area, Sandford area, Paget area, Absolon Street.

Drainage Maintenance: Geeberga Buthurra Road, Coalmine Road, Narpi Road, McEwens Beach Road, O'Sheas Road, Victoria Plains Road, Rocky Waterholes-Wollingford Road, Newbury-Mt Vince Road, Admiral Drive, Danastas Road, Orphanage Road.

Mowing & Slashing: Palmyra area, Greenmount area, Eton area, Bakers Creek area.

Main Roads RMPC:

Other Bituminous Works / Pothole Patching / Pavement Repairs	Rockleigh-North Mackay Road, Bruce Highway (North), Peak Downs Highway, Marlborough-Sarina Road, Rosella-Homebush Road, Eungella Dam Road, Mirani-Mt Ossa Road, Mackay-Habana Road, Sarina Coast Road, Hay Point Road, Mt Ossa-Seaforth Road, Yakapari-Seaforth Road, Yakapari-Habana Road, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road.
Heavy Formation grading / gravel resheeting / other formation works	Gargett-Mia Mia Road, Sarina-Coast Road, Mt Ossa-Seaforth Road, Yakapari-Habana Road.
Culvert / Drainage Works	Bruce Highway (North), Mackay-Eungella Road, Mackay-Habana Road, Sarina Coast Road.
Tractor Slashing Rural / Urban / Boom Mowing / Clearing Works / Herbicide Spraying / Declared Plant Spraying	Tractor Slashing: Bruce Highway (North), Bruce Highway (South), Rockleigh-North Mackay Road, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road. Boom Mowing: Eungella Dam Road. Herbicide/Declared Plant Spraying: Nil. Other: Bruce Highway (South), Bruce Highway (North) – clearing, Mackay-Bypass Road – maintain landscaping.
Rest Area Servicing	Bruce Highway (North).
Road Sweeping/Roadside Litter Collection	Bruce Highway (South), Bruce Highway (North), Peak Downs Highway, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road, Mackay-Bypass Road.
Emergency Call Outs	Bruce Highway (South), Bruce Highway (North), Peak Downs Highway, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Yakapari-Habana Road.
Signs / Guide Post Works	Bruce Highway (North), Bruce Highway (South).

Materials were extracted during the month from the following quarry operations:

- Breadsells Pit
- Buggybend
- Eton
- Hoffman Pit
- Howells Pit
- Jensens Pit
- Johnson Pit
- Larsens Pit
- Mezzens Pit
- Mt-Ossa – Seaforth
- Omands Pit
- Tecon Gap

TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Development and design of projects for saturation damage projects throughout the Council area for 2009, 2010 and 2011 events.
- Development and design of projects within Capital Works Programme.
- Development of draft 20 yr Capital Works Programme making provision for all current projects and proposed development projects and its revision to match LTFP and PIP requirements. Indicative 2012-13 to be presented to Council for indicative approval.
- Consultation and detail design regarding Archibald Street (Connors to Milton) upgrading.
- Consultation and detail design of the HAFF Grant project including Rosewood Drive from Mackay Bucasia road to Chenoweth Drive including design development for works associated with Northern Beaches Central and the Northern Beaches High School and negotiations with adjacent property owners.
- Discussions with property owners and businesses regarding pavement upgrade and alterations to pavement markings in Shakespeare Street between Milton and Sydney Streets.
- Detail Design associated with CBD footpath upgrades via Master planning for CBD treatments and Bluewater Trail extension from Bluewater Quay to River Street Boat Ramp and from the boat ramp to Iluka Park via East Gordon Street.
- Design and Quotations accepted for Bluewater Quay shade structures and balustrades. Shop drawings in preparation for installation prior to end of 2011.
- Prepare brief for Consultant in regard to CBD Access Audits for Sarina, Walkerston, Marian and Mirani.
- Lead role in the preparation of “Safety in Design’, Erosion and Sediment Control and Fish passage and Waterway Barrier applications in relation to designs to meet industry standards.
- Attendance at SLT, Paget Depot Management Group & Steering Committee meetings and Corporate Projects Meetings, Transport Working Group, Management Leadership Forum, Whitsunday Regional Roads Group Technical Committee meeting, Strategic Planning Internal Stakeholders meeting, Construction Finance meeting, Hay Pt Expansion working group, and meetings regarding QLDA Project Bedford Road, DERM War Memorial Jubilee Park, Senate Carbon Taxes proposal, Sarina SLSC land issues.
- Participate in Departmental Briefing to Council, Council budget briefings and Bluewater Trail Extension briefing of Council and attendance at Bannister St Public Meeting.
- Trial rationalisation of school zone times currently in operation for later report to Council.
- Ongoing rationalisation of Cemetery database to upgrade records and verification of records with Mackay Historical Society. In addition trial of MARCIS GIS recording tool for cemetery records.
- Various drainage investigations for assessment of maintenance and capital upgrading requirements to address system performance issues.

- Development of remote access for rural traffic counters via 3G network to improve efficiency and reduce costs to maintain traffic counts in remote rural areas.
- GPS Base Stations installed at civic Centre, Koumala and Midge Point SES buildings, Mirani Council Chambers and Eungella Maintenance Depot. GPS unit requires 2 weeks data collection to accurately position bases through Geoscience Australia and then a further 2-4 weeks of data processing to be certified as a GPS network suitable for use by registered surveyors.

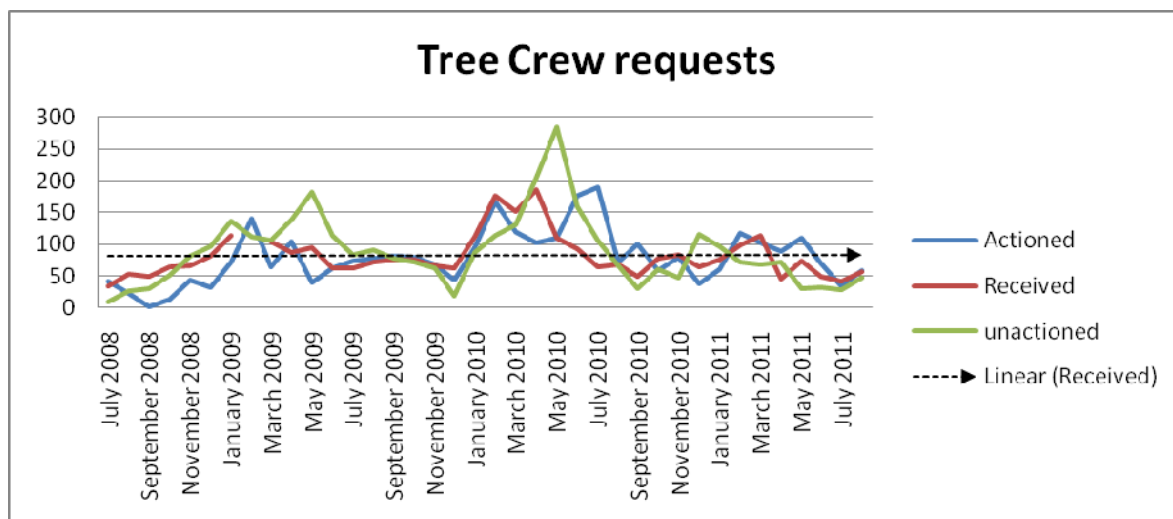
PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT

The Parks & Environment report for the month of August contains information on activities undertaken throughout the month by the staff within the program.

Officers on call attended; - 7 after hours phone calls and 10 after hours call outs.

- **Administration** – 108 park booking were recorded, the majority of these were exercise and fitness classes.
- **Customer Requests** - Actioned: 241, Received: 167, Unactioned: 122
- **Technical Officers** – 5 Off Maintenance, 1 On Maintenance, 3 Irrigation inspections & 7 planting inspections.
- **Horticulture Activities** – 23,094 m2 garden beds serviced; 21 hours spraying herbicide and 3 hours spent fixing vandalism.
- **Grass Maintenance Activities** – mowing figures not available. 3,016 toilet cleans; 1,426 BBQ cleans.
- **Mirani** – 245,981m2 parks mowed; 408,662m2 road reserves mowed; 58 hours spent whipper snipping.
- **Sarina** – 276,000m2 mowed; 86 hours spent whipper snipping
- **Tree-Crew** –

	Sum of Total Trees Pruned	Sum of Council Trees Removed	Sum of Scheduled Palm Trees defroned/deseeded	Sum of Requests-branch pick up	Sum of Coconut Trees denuded	Sum of Trees Attended in Juvenile stage	Sum of Trees attended for other Council wks	Sum of Requests-minor prune	Sum of Requests-major prune	Sum of Trees Planted in Streetscapes
August 2011	135	90	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	6	39	46	3



- **Cemeteries**

2011 (YTD)	Aug-11
Burials Mt Bassett	14
Burials Mt Bassett Ashes	11
Burials - Mackay	2
Burials - Mackay Ashes	0
Burials - Walkerston	11
Burials - Walkerston (Ashes)	0
Burials - Mirani	0
Burials - Marian	1
Burials- Sarina	5
Hand Dig of grave	2

- **Natural Environment and Marine Beach Activities –**

- 4 staff attended the Queensland Weeds Symposium held in Mackay. The theme was ‘Back to Basics’ and included many informative and practical presentations and displays on weed management. Field trips included visits to many local weed control sites and a Land for Wildlife property

- Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) and Pioneer Catchment and Landcare (PCL) held two Healthy Soils Workshops funded through the Natural Environment Levy



Healthy Soils Workshop held in August

- Liaison with Reef Catchments regarding the Natural Environment Plan and the prioritisation of on-ground coastal works
- Participated in internal Safeplan audits
- The Natural Environment Advisory Committee meeting was held on 9th August. The Committee received reports and presentations on the Coasts and Communities project and the prioritisation of the coastal activities in the coastal chapter of the Natural Environment Plan being prepared by Reef Catchments
- Liaised with the Queensland Rural Fire Services about a controlled burn to be undertaken at Grasstree Beach for fuel reduction purposes
- Met with representatives from the Queensland Rural and Urban Fire Services regarding general fire management issues in the Mackay region

- Met with residents at various sites regarding land management works
- Met with Pioneer Catchment and Landcare group regarding support for projects for 2011/12
- Finalised the Land for Wildlife agreement for 2011/12 with Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group and Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association
- Conservation Volunteers Australia worked with at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve from 17-19th August funded through Hail Creek Mine Community Development Fund and supported by council
- Council funded Conservation Volunteers Australia to work for one week undertaking weed control along the Bluewater Trail
- Conservation Volunteers Australia worked for 4 days at Louisa Creek funded by BMA and supported by council and SLCMA



Revegetation site at Louisa Creek

- On Saturday 27th August, corporate volunteers from ANZ bank worked alongside northern beaches residents, council and Reef Catchments staff at Shoal Point as part of the Coasts and Communities project. Activities included weed control, mulch spreading and watering plants. ANZ generously hosted a sausage sizzle for all who attended and a raffle was held, with prizes donated by ANZ



The ANZ team at Shoal Point, volunteering their time to protect our coast.

- An afternoon working bee scheduled for Bucasia on Saturday 27th August was unfortunately cancelled due to wet weather
- The Sarina Beach team has been inspecting sand ladders across various beaches, organizing the nursery facilities at the Sarina depot, undertaking firebreak maintenance at Grasstree Beach and liaising with the Rural Fire Services, undertaking weed control at Grasstree Beach, Salonika Beach, Half Tide and Louisa Creek, watering revegetation at Grasstree Beach and undertaking seed collection for native plant propagation
- The Mackay Beach team watered revegetation at Haliday Bay, Shoal Point and Bucasia, re-oiled decking at the Harbour, controlled weeds at a recently burnt site at Bucasia foreshore, controlled weeds including Prickly Pear, Guinea Grass and Lantana at Far Beach, undertook replacement fencing at Midge Point, repaired and replaced burnt fencing at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve, repaired wire fencing at Bucasia Beach and undertook repairs and repainting at the Loughnane St depot
- The Habitat Restoration team undertook weed control along the Bluewater Trail including weeding garden beds and cutting and painting woody weeds, supervised volunteers at the Friday morning nursery activities, brushcut, controlled weeds and watered seedlings at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve
- Vandals lit a fire at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve which burnt a large section of grassland in the middle of the reserve. Fortunately recent revegetation work was not destroyed. Staff replaced burned fencing straight away to avoid illegal vehicle access into the reserve and staff and Conservation Volunteers Australia worked together to undertake weed control in areas where weeds such as prickly pear were exposed by the fire.



A pile of Prickly Pear removed from the recently burnt area at Sandfly Creek



Recently burnt area at Sandfly Creek

• **Parks Building Services Activities –**

Parks Electrical Department Monthly Report for August 2011

Traffic Signals	
Traffic Signal Push Button Maintenance	1
Traffic Signal Re-alignment	2
Traffic Signal Lamp Replacement	21
Traffic Signal LED unit Replacements	2
Traffic Signal New loop Installations	1
Traffic Signal Emergency attendances	2

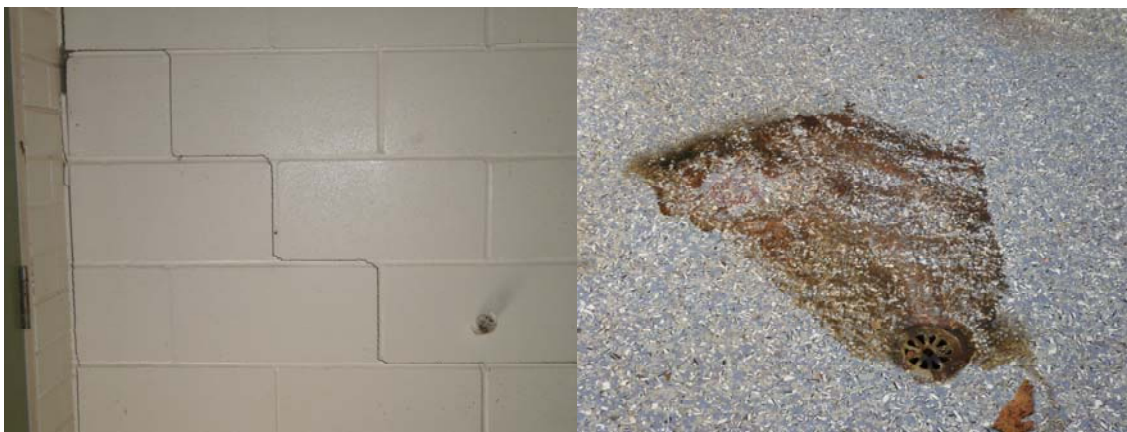
Other Electrical Work	
Site Hut Connection	1
Site Hut Disconnection	2
Test and Tag Inspections	7
Paget Depot System Training Sessions	29
Park Light Repairs	4
Park Light Vandalism Repairs	1
Barbeque Repairs	1
Amenities Light Repair	2
Tool Box Talks (Take 5's)	2
Street Light Repair	1
Building Repairs/Installations	6

Playgrounds:

Operational Inspections	39
Visual Inspections	14
Play Equipment Repairs – Substantial	8
Play Equipment Repairs - Minor	28

Built Asset Maintenance:

Fire damage to Campwin Beach amenities was repaired and a vandalised concrete block wall at the Seaforth Swimming Enclosure amenities was demolished and rebuilt. Together with this there was eight minor repairs to doors, locks and walls in amenities throughout the district.



Graffiti was repaired at Civic Centre fountain and Queens Park. Four picnic Settings and two park bench seats were repaired. Two picnic settings from Holiday Bay and Seaforth were removed, rebuilt, painted and replaced.

Staff were also busy packing and palletizing tools, materials and workshop fittings in preparation for the move in to the new depot at Paget.

Capital Projects – The following projects are completed



Norris Rd. Amenities/Sports Field Switchboard Replacement



Eungella Amenities Refurbishment



Sarina Beach Shelter Refurbishment – Northern Shelter



Sarina Beach Shelter Refurbishment – Southern Shelter

Sarina Beach Progress Association and local artists are currently in the process of completing Murals on the artwork panels of both shelters.



Park Furniture Railway Corridor South Mackay

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens -

Meadowlands:

Progress continues on the Meadowlands development at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens (MRBG) including first stage bitumen sealing, reforming of Crowleys Road, stormwater drainage and continuing works to the carpark. Final earthworks to the Outdoor Performance and Events Centre (see image) are also complete.

All works are proceeding to schedule.



Outdoor Performance and Events Centre - earthworks

Living Collection:

The MRBG featured in the Australasian Plant Conservation bulletin for the Australian Network for Plant Conservation. An article on the relationship between the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) in Canberra, the MRBG and SGAP (Society for Growing Australian Plants). This relationship allows the ANBG to receive taxa from the MRBG – particularly the high altitude species found at places like Eungella, that will suit Canberra's colder conditions. This relationships means that rare and threatened plants can be held *ex situ* away from Mackay for research and interpretation – and in case of problems to the species' continued occurrence due to climate change, disease and other factors.

Volunteer working bees

No Gardens Friends planting bees occur in August, due to the cool conditions. A SGAP working bee at the Regional Forest Garden occurred on August 13th. Participants hand-weeded exotic weeds and unwanted wildling seedling trees, then set about identification for further plant labelling.

Herbarium


On August 29th SGAP volunteers were joined by Mackay Regional Council's Diploma of Horticulture student Sue McCormack. Works undertaken included mounting specimens, labelling duplicates of newly identified species and colour photocopying a back-log of identified and labelled duplicates.

AUSTRALASIAN PLANT CONSERVATION

Botanic gardens plant conservation partnerships: Mackay region

Toby Golson
Senior Horticulturalist, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. Email: Toby.Golson@environment.gov.au

The Australian National Botanic Gardens' (ANBG), located in Canberra, has a mission 'to grow, study and promote Australian plants'. In 2010, ANBG established a partnership with Gladstone Tondoon Botanic Gardens to help conserve rare and endangered plants of the Port Curtis region and Far North Queensland as part of a dispersed 'national collection' (Golson 2011). Using that relationship as a template, ANBG has developed a second partnership with two organisations—the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens and the Mackay Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants—to help conserve plants of the Mackay region.



The local partners

The Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens is primarily concerned "with the research, interpretation and display of the flora of the surrounding region" (Landplan 2010). Its primary focus is on the native plants of the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion that incorporates Mackay and environs. This bioregion is centered on the high-rainfall coastal lowlands but extends west to Eungella and the Clarke-Connors Range, north to Gloucester Island (north of Proserpine and Airlie Beach) and south to Clairview (Sattler and Williams 1999). Two disjunct, southern outlier sections of the bioregion include coastal areas north of Yeppoon, centered on Byfield and Shoalwater Bay.

The Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) was formed in 1957 for the purpose of studying and developing the horticultural potential of Australian native plants and preserving them through cultivation. With over 8000 members throughout Australia, it is one of the largest horticultural societies in the country. The Society has made a significant contribution to the knowledge of the Australian flora, its cultivation and introduction into nurseries and home gardens. The Mackay Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants Queensland Region (Mackay SGAP) was formed in 1978, and has actively pursued the aims of the Society by promoting the potential of the local flora ever since. The branch also played a significant and influential role in the establishment of the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens and has a continuing close relationship with it.

Identifying a problem

In 2009, during the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand Congress, the Curator of the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, Dale Arvidsson outlined to me the difficulty of growing high altitude rainforest taxa on the coastal plain where the Mackay Gardens is located. This was in the context of the increasing threat high altitude plants are under from a changing climate where there is nowhere to retreat higher (i.e. altitudinally) as is the case in the Australian Alps in New South Wales and Victoria.

At the conclusion of the congress, I attended a field trip to Eungella National Park hosted by the Mackay SGAP. Its members reinforced Dale's thoughts and discussed the possibility that ANBG might be able to play a role in helping to conserve these and other rare and endangered plants from the region. Indeed, Irene Champion, Honorary Secretary of the Mackay SGAP, had personally donated material of a number of Mackay region rare and endangered taxa to ANBG in the early 1990s, some of which are doing well in the ANBG's living collection today.

Partner contributions

ANBG is currently upgrading its conservation focus, through both the national seed banking initiative and by pursuing with locally based on-ground practitioners a dispersed 'national collection' of threatened species and other significant plants.

The Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens holds significant collections of plants listed as threatened under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity*

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Article from APC Bulletin

Among the newly identified specimens is a white-flowered Convolvulaceae collected during the June SGAP Regional Forest working bee. It is the Rock Rosemary - *Merremia quinquefolia* – also known as Mile-a-Minute; a native of tropical America that is now naturalised from Cape York to Rockhampton. Its brown capsules contain four hairy seeds about 5mm long. This is a new weed recording for the MRBG.

Weather Station Data:

Rainfall for month (mm): 36.3 (high of 7.8 mm on 28th)
Days of rain: 22 (> .2 mm) 6 (> 2 mm) 0 (> 20 mm)
Av. Temperature for Month (deg C): 17.9 (high of 28.9 degrees on 11th, low of 8 degrees on 20th)
High Wind Speed (knots): 21.7
Avg. Wind Speed (knots): 2.3
Dom. Wind direction: ESE

Visitor Services Program:

Events and Bookings:

- Weddings: 5
- Receptions: 1
- Meeting Room: 18 bookings

Plant-ed Education Program:

Schools visiting the Gardens for Education sessions...

August 9th ...100 year 7 children utilised the Gardens for bird watching and water testing sessions as a self guided activity, while 38 St John's Walkerston prep children attending the Gardens to do some bingo hunts of creatures, leaves and birds. Five Mackay West Prep classes attending on Friday 12 and Wednesday 31 August learnt about Bush tucker and indigenous uses of plants. Three Walkerston State school Prep classes found out about water sources, water plants, evaporation and macro-invertebrates when they visited over two days on Thursday 18 and Friday 19th August. Thirty more children from St John's, this time Year 5's, educational session involved Habitats - both plant and creatures.



Noisy Pitta - *Pitta versicolor*

The habitats in the Gardens have developed and grown so much that new and unusual creatures now reside in the gardens... a Noisy Pitta (see image) and Buff Banded Rails.

3 classes of prep aged St Francis children walked to the Gardens and were very interested in leaves, and the creatures that lived within them as well as the macro-invertebrates of the lagoons. This school chose to have each class attend on a separate day, which added to the time available for an extended visit without rushing, an easy venture when school is close by.

Plant-ed Elsewhere is the Gardens outreach program where the Visitor Services Officer Maya Harrison visits schools and the community. 'Drawing in Nature' was undertaken with both St John's Prep and St Francis Prep school children and some colourful water colour pencil drawings now adorn the school walls, showcasing the diversity of leaf shapes, patterns and margins.

The 'Kids Teaching Kids Conference' at Beaconsfield State School was an opportunity to not only provide educational opportunities for the children, but also provide information to teachers and school leaders about what the Gardens has to offer regarding visits to schools, resources and excursion to the Gardens.



'Kids Teaching Kids Conference' at Beaconsfield School

Web stats for August: www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au

1134 visits
3810 page views
848 visitors
3.36 pages/visit

eNewsletter total Subscribers in August - 479

Exhibitions at the Lagoons Gallery

Exhibition for August was by local artist Lyn Ahmat and titled "Sea to Shore". This exhibition showcased sculpture and paintings in mixed media. Featured image "Great Australian Crawl" artwork is made with Marine Ply on a corrugated iron stand.



"Great Australian Crawl" by Lyn Ahmat

Guided Walks

A Special Guided walk was organised for the youth visiting from Matsuura. The Visitor Services Officer showed the recently arrived students a display of traditional 'bush tucker' and then undertook a guided walk to show these plants growing in the Gardens. Included was a visit to the Matsuura Sister City garden and the Fernery where a gift of Japanese Cranes and snow viewing lantern is on display. Their afternoon was finished with a traditional Aboriginal dance display and their own practice session for a bush dance entertainment that evening.



Gardens Friends walking tour at Meadowlands

Garden Friends Guided Walk ... Friends joined in a Guided Walk of the Brigalow Belt Garden on Saturday 27th August with a revamped fact sheet (now available on the website) and then a walk over to the Meadowlands site to see the development underway. Despite rainy weather 30 people joined in and learnt more about the Gardens.

Weed Symposium – A talk and walk on the “War on Water Weeds” was provided to participants visiting the Gardens during the National weed Symposium on August 2.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Community Education

The Emergency Management Section continues to support and promote community disaster awareness education, community preparedness and resilience for disaster events.

A presentation on Emergency Management was given to Year 10 students at Whitsunday Anglican School on the 1st August 2011.

Attendance at Senior's Expo on 26th August 2011.

Disaster Coordination Centre

The Disaster Coordination Centre remains at a point of readiness.

A number of IT issues regarding the Guardian Disaster Management System remain outstanding. A meeting was held on the 15th August 2011 to address some outstanding issues and to prepare for the upcoming storm season.

Council has approximately 100 staff trained in the use of Guardian and approximately 140 staff trained in Disaster Coordination Centre Operations. Guardian revision training is planned after the installation of Version 4 which will be in early October.

Review of Queensland Flood Commission Inquiry Recommendations

A review of the Queensland Flood Commission Inquiry recommendations released on the 1st August 2011 was undertaken and work is being planned to undertake the remedial actions required to comply with the review recommendations.

Approximately 65 recommendations need to be addressed by local government and it may not be possible to undertake and complete all recommendations prior to the commencement of the next wet season given competing priorities.

The recommendations were referred to the Mackay Local Disaster Management Group Meeting on the 29th August 2011.

A Request for Information was received from the QFCI on the 22nd August 2011, requesting information from Council in relation to the SES membership, vehicles and equipment supplied, remuneration paid to SES staff and financial support given to the SES by Council for the years 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Financial records indicate financial support to the State Emergency Service was in excess of \$410,000 and \$460,000 respectively in the past two years. In the current year and over the next three years \$1,575,000 in capital building improvement works are planned.

Review of Emergency Alert Guidelines Version 3

A review of the Emergency Alert Guidelines version 3 released by the Queensland Police Service Flood Crisis Review Group and the State Disaster Management Group on the 12th August 2011 was undertaken and comments and concerns were returned on the 18th August 2011 to the District Disaster Coordinator.

Review of the Draft Memorandum of Agreement for State Emergency Service

A review of the Draft Memorandum of Agreement for the State Emergency Service released by the Emergency Management Queensland is currently being assessed.

The agreement sets out the roles and responsibilities, expectations and costs of both Emergency Management Queensland and Council in providing training, recruitment, accommodation, vehicles and plant and equipment etc for the State Emergency Service.

Emergency Management Website

The Emergency Management website content on was reviewed and updated during the month.

Mackay Local Disaster Management Group

The Mackay Local Disaster Management Group met on the 29th August 2011.

The LDMG in accordance with the Queensland Flood Commission of Inquiry recommendations reviewed the 65 recommendations which refer to Local Government/LDMG and the 8 recommendations in relation to dam operators.

The group also reviewed the membership of the group and recommended the addition of the Australian Red Cross as a permanent group member and the addition of representatives from Sunwater, Salvation Army and MRC - Water and Waste as advisory members to the group.

Discussions on agency preparations were held in relation to the upcoming bushfire and storm seasons.

The next scheduled meeting is the 24th October 2011.

Meetings and Conferences

- Presentation on 1st August 2011 to Year 10 students at Whitsunday Anglican School on emergency management, flooding risks, functions and roles of the Mackay Local Management Group.
- Attendance on Interview panel for the Resilience Project Officer position on 3rd August 2011.
- Attendance at the Mackay District Recovery Group Meeting on 3rd August 2011.
- Attendance at the Mackay District Disaster Management Group Meeting on 4th August 2011.
- Attendance at the meeting on 9th August 2011 to meet with the new acting Executive Officer of the Mackay District Disaster Group and to assist in compiling the District Annual Report.
- Attendance at the Mackay District Fire Management Group Meeting on 10th August 2011 to discuss preparation and the outlook for the upcoming fire season.
- Attendance at the Towards 200K Planning Meeting on 10th August 2011 to discuss future urban growth in the Mackay Region with Emergency Services.
- Attendance at the MRC Guardian Steering Group Meeting on 15th August 2011.
- Attendance at the meeting with Queensland Fire Rescues Services, Council managers and staff, Cr Cameron and Cr Walker on 16th August 2011 to discuss preparation and the outlook for the upcoming fire season.
- Attendance at the Mackay Airport Emergency Committee Meeting on 18th August 2011 to discuss preparation for the annual airport emergency exercise.
- Attendance at a meeting with Area Director EMQ and Director Engineering Services on 16th August 2011 regarding the State Emergency Service Memorandum of Agreement.

- Attendance at a meeting with Area Director EMQ and newly appointed Community Resilience Officer on 16th August 2011 regarding the Community Resilience Projects.
- Attendance at a meeting with the Northern Queensland Australian Red Cross representative and the Mackay ARC President on 20th August 2011, regarding preparation and endorsement of a Memorandum of Understanding with Australian Red Cross to assist in providing welfare assistance for local disaster events.
- Attendance at the Mackay Local Disaster Management Group Meeting on 29th August 2011.
- Attendance at meetings for Safe Plan, 5.1 Budget, Workplace Health and Safety Committee and review of Grants during the month.

NDRRA Claims – Counter Disaster Operations

Claimable costs for Counter Disaster Operations for TC Ului, December 2010 rain events, Emerald Assistance and TC Anthony/TC Yasi were forwarded to EMQ in August.

Planning

Mackay Local Disaster Management Plan and Operational Plans

Works continues on updating and reviewing both the Main Plan and Operational Plans.

The revised Mackay Main Disaster Management Plan is expected to be completed by 1st November 2011.

Projects / Mitigation Strategies

A number of Projects and Mitigation Strategies are currently being either assessed or undertaken.

Storm Surge Study

This project is now being undertaken by the Planning and Development Program to meet the requirements of the Coastal Planning Guidelines.

A brief has been prepared and tenders will be sought in the near future.

Community Emergency Wardens Project

A meeting to discuss progress on the project was held for the 18th August 2011. This project will be handed over to the Community Resilience Officer with the intention to have two trail areas instigated prior to the upcoming wet season.

Aged Care Facilities Emergency Planning Project

Emergency Management staff has maintained contact with the Regional Aged Care Facilities to assist in adequately planning for evacuations during disaster events on a all hazards basis. This project is continuing with a goal that updated plans for all facilities will be available by December 2011.

SES Functions/ SES Instructors Project

No meetings were held in August.

Backup Generators for Sir Albert Abbott Admin Building

The project is continuing under the supervision of the Property Services Section. Works to be completed include the construction of the permanent foundation and compound for both the 90kva & 350kva generators, relocation of the 90kva from the temporary site and installation of the 350kva and associated switch board and electrical works. Works are scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2011.

Community Resilience Officer Project

Interviews for the position were held on 3rd August 2011 and Amanda Lavarack commences duties on the 9th August 2011. During the month research work has been undertaken and liaison with Community groups is being undertaken.

Memorandum of Understanding with Australian Red Cross

In accordance with the recommendations of the Queensland Flood Commission of Inquiry. Discussions have recommenced with the Australian Red Cross regarding negotiating the provision of ARC services for emergency relief works for local emergency events.

In the event of a cyclone, the pre-positioning of ARC volunteers into non-cyclone certified buildings either prior to or during an event remains a significant concern.

The LGAQ are also investigating standard MOU's with the Red Cross and it is envisaged that a MOU will be agreed upon and signed off by December 2011.

Memorandum of Arrangement for the State Emergency Service

Emergency Management Queensland recently issued a Draft Memorandum of Arrangements for the State Emergency Service.

The draft document details the roles and responsibilities of both Emergency Management Queensland and Council in the provision of training, operational doctrine, financial support, facilities and the supply and maintenance/operational costs of vehicles and equipment to the State Emergency Service.

The draft document is currently being reviewed and Emergency Management Queensland have requested that the MOA be finalised and signed off by 1st November 2011.

Staff Leave

Emergency Management Coordinator Errol Coombs is on long service leave from 8 August 2011 to 16th September 2011. Bruce Chester-Master is the Acting Emergency Management Coordinator during this period.

SES Local Controller Justin Englert is on leave from 29th August 2011 to 2nd September 2011.

SES Update

Local Controller

- Completed nominations to EMQ for SES week awards in November
- Nominated three volunteers for state level recognition of service
- Nominated the MRU for the "Operational Response of the year" for their contribution in the search for the fisherman missing at sea in September of 2010

Current Unit Volunteer strength

The current volunteer numbers of the SESMRU using Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) training records is **258** active volunteers.

Activations

Mirani at request of Queensland Ambulance to assist in rescue of injured motorbike rider in Cathu state Forest.

Sarina and **Mackay** at request of Police to assist in protection of businesses from localised flooding and assist MRC in clean up.

Asset operational readiness

Chainsaws 70%

We are still experiencing longer than expected delays on the replacement of SES chainsaws from plant. We have been informed of a further four weeks delay in addition to the previous four weeks on five outstanding chainsaws.

Generators 80%

Four generators have exceeded their operational life span however it has been organised for these plus two additional generators approaching end of life to be exchanged for new ones through plant.

Flood Boats 90%

EMQ is currently investigating the accidental de registration of a second MRU flood Boat. This Flood Boat at Mirani cannot currently be used. An operational flood boat from Mackay Group has been re deployed to Mirani so as to maintain operational effectiveness.

Trailers 100%

Vehicles 100%

Alteration to the SESMRU Chain of Command

EMQ area director to organise interviews for Deputy Controller positions

Asset Turnover

Turnover of assts from Mackay Regional Council Fleet/Plant

Three new chainsaws

Additional Assets Donated

Nil.

Other Donations

Nil.

Courses Completed, all of Unit

High Risk

Flood Boat Competency Maintenance	12 maintained competency
Chainsaw Competency Maintenance	06 maintained competency
Vertical Rescue Competency Maintenance	10 maintained competency
Height Safety Competency Maintenance	20 maintained competency

Low Risk

Map reading and Navigation
Storm damage Operations
Incident Management

SES Safety

Public Education

Events Attended

Forgan Bridge opening

- Community education
- Vertical rescue demonstration
- Flood Boat demonstration

Public Safety Assistance

Convoy for kids

- participation of five vehicles from Mackay, Mirani, Midge Point and Sarina

Assist Mackay Regional Council events

Attended several meetings in preparation for SES support of

- River to reef festival in October
- Canelands Central opening in October (Police request)

Community Organisations

- Supported State level Mountain Bike event at Rowelan Park providing Communications, rescue and first aid.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Due to the move to Paget figures for August are unavailable. Figures for August and September will be presented in the next report to Council on 2 November 2011.

Consultation

There has been consultation with Engineering Services Program Managers.

Resource Implications

Nil.

Conclusion

Officer's Recommendation

THAT this report be received.