

Board Meeting (BM) in Brief held 25th September 2019

Key Discussion Items

Growing for Queensland workshop

- BMRG CEO Sheila Charlesworth and Tony Ricciardi were invited to attend Growing for Queensland workshop organised by Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).
According to DAF's 2015-16 figures
 1. Primary industry and food supply chain businesses contribute to over \$29.4 Billion to Queensland's gross value of production.
 2. More than 30 000 people employed in these sectors.
 3. In 2016-17 Queensland's agriculture and food exports were valued at approximately \$ 12 Billion.

Discussion included:

- Rising costs for agriculture e.g. labour, power and water
- Zoning of land e.g. horticulture and cane
- Employment of workers – backpackers' employment preference over locals
- Reliable water supply at a reasonable cost
- Transport costs and infrastructure requirements
- The variety of well-established crops
- The reduction in cane growing and possible mill closure
- Overseas investment
- Access to overseas export market

Projects in our region

- Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy and BMRG are working collaboratively in the following projects:
 - Thermal sensor testing of 'nesting turtles' by use of drone data collection
 - Lung fish in the Burnett River
 - Submarine groundwater discharge in the Burnett -Groundwater dependent Ecosystems
 - Moneys Creek feasibility study. A technical advisory group consisting of landowners, Bundaberg Regional Council, BMRG, Bargara Golf Club, DNRME and Engineering Consultants was set up and the first meeting was held in August.
 - Mary River turtle management plan
 - Assisting Gidarjil with "Water-Quality Laboratory" business plan and planning for their successful "Land Restoration Fund" application

Open House for Historical Buildings for Bundaberg

- There were 13 of Bundaberg's Historical Buildings open to the public for 4 hours duration on Saturday, August 24th. 177 members of the public viewed the BMRG building including past bank staff members.

Community Information Day in Kenilworth

- This event will be held by BMRG and project stakeholders to showcase the work completed so far on the “Carter’s” site and future work for the “Sample” site at Kenilworth for the Australian Government funded Streambank stabilisation works. Keith Armstrong Director of Program delivery for the Australian Government for Qld, WA, NT & SA will be accompanied by David Weir, Contract Management Department of Environment and Energy. Date Tuesday October 29, 12noon-4:00pm.

Team Rubicon Australia

- Team Rubicon Australia are a “volunteer” disaster response global group made up of Defence Force Veterans who have the skills and experience as first responders to rapidly deploy emergency teams. Team Rubicon’s primary mission is to provide disaster relief to those affected by natural disasters and to provide a purpose and identity to the community for veterans transitioning from military to civilian life. They hope to establish a volunteer group in the Bundaberg Region in the near future.

Carbon Farming Forum

- BMRG CEO Sheila Charlesworth was invited to be a guest speaker at the 3rd Carbon Farming Forum held at the Sunshine Coast, August 29th – 30th. The Queensland Land Restoration Fund was the main organiser with the Carbon Market Institute. The forum brought together over 150 attendees, attracting a delegation from Papua New Guinea and Fiji as well as key stakeholders from all levels of Government, the agriculture sector, NRM groups, Traditional Owners and landholders. Carbon project developers, financiers and heavy emitters of industry were also in attendance. New ways of capturing carbon in mangroves, seagrasses and Coastal ecosystems would provide new opportunities for Regional Australia.

BRMG Members

BRMG currently has 155 financial members and the following new/renewed memberships were approved by the Board:

- Leonore Miller
- Bianca Wellstead
- Dawn Collier
- Leslie Roth
- Prof Philip Brown
- Dale Holliss
- Nadia Gillies

Finance Report

Finance Report prepared by Chris Shay, Viden Group was presented to and endorsed by the Board.

Next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday 29th January 2020