

# NATURAL STATE

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## BEST YEAR YET: RECAPPING REEF RESCUE YEAR 4

The Reef Rescue program continues to build momentum promoting practice change with year four the biggest to date. Land Managers continue to get on board and implement activities which are having a direct impact on improving the water quality of the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon. During the past year Reef Catchments has worked with 327 farmers and graziers to implement 289 projects across the region.



Modifications have been made to this fertiliser box to include double disk openers, which enable fertiliser to be placed below the surface. It's a best management practice which Reef Rescue supports.

All projects funded through the Reef Rescue program have water quality benefits identified through the ABCD management frameworks for each industry. Common activities include modifications to equipment to apply nutrients sub surface and manufacturing of spray hoods to reduce the reliance on residual chemicals. Fencing is the most common activity in the grazing industry with over 40 kms of riparian fencing erected, preventing stock from accessing waterways and contributing to stream bank erosion.



Riparian fencing funded under Reef Rescue has a plain wire on top which is a wildlife friendly fencing method.

CANE OUTPUTS		
Expressions of Interest		260
Number of Projects	First Project	124
	Repeat	94
Hectares under Improved Management	Soil	9 880
	Chemical	7 689
	Nutrient	9 819
	Irrigation	3 101
Funding Applied For		\$11 073 104
Total Funding		\$3 606 904
Growers contribution		67%
HORTICULTURE		
Expressions of Interest		10
Number of Projects	First Project	4
	Repeat	4
Hectares under Improved Management		277
Funding Applied For		\$271 491
Total Funded		\$111 640
Growers Contribution		59%
GRAZING		
Expressions of Interest		142
Number of Projects	First Project	34
	Repeat	29
Fencing Constructed (Kms)		65.3
Off Stream Watering Points		36
Pasture and Stock Monitoring Sites		83
Funding Applied For		\$1 137 483
Total Funded		\$507 759
Growers Contribution		56%

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# FUTURE-FORWARD PLANNING: UPDATE FROM CEO ROB COCCO

Welcome to the Second Quarter edition of the Natural State newsletter. The past quarter was a busy one for Reef Catchments as we finalised the 12 month period of project delivery, undertook both financial and operational reviews and reported to our investors, partners and stakeholders.

In this edition our readers will find a range of updates from the Reef Catchments team in relation to water quality, sustainable farming, coastal development and community support. I hope you find this newsletter enjoyable and informative.

In addition to reporting on what we and our partners have achieved over the last year, Reef Catchments is planning for the future. To this end, here is an overview of key actions to take place in 2012/13.

## Corporate Services Program

- Development and implementation of a new project and accounts management system which allows for more detailed recording and reporting of operational outputs and financial performance.
- The development of the new Reef Catchments Strategic Plan 2013 – 2019, Operational Plan 2013 – 2016 and Communications Plan.
- Investigation of potential new offices for Reef Catchments post 2012/13 in both Mackay and Proserpine centres.
- A review of the Reef Catchments constitution and the employment of two independent skills based directors to the board of Reef Catchments.

- Development of a new NRM plan for the region incorporating guidance from the recently formed partnership committee.

## Biodiversity, Coasts and Marine

- A new project proposal for the entire GBR coastline targeted to the Commonwealth Government Biodiversity Fund aimed at building coastal bio-diverse carbon stores. This project offers potential for a strong collaboration with regional governments.
- The refinement and delivery of fire management guidelines for the region and more broadly key priority areas throughout the state. This work builds on the Intellectual Property and knowledge within Reef Catchments of fire management across the landscape, and its impact on natural resources, business viability and human risk.
- The continued development of conservation entrepreneurship.
- The continued development of the national Islands program and a set of prioritised initiatives.

## Land, Water and Waterways

- The development of a new Water Quality Improvement Plan for the region and the continued support and delivery of the Healthy Waterways initiative.
- The delivery of a rural futures strategy in the region in cooperation with Regional Development Australia.

- The continued delivery of the regional pest management strategy and continued partner support of this strategy and aligned actions.
- The submission and development of a new Reef Rescue program.
- Continued input toward innovation in sugarcane and grazing farming systems.
- The development of a new rural biodiversity proposal focusing on the GBR catchment and supporting connected landscapes.

## Climate Futures

- The development of Climate Change-Carbon-Biodiversity Plan for the region.
- The development of rural industry partnerships program offering extension service support aligned to the Carbon Farming Initiative.
- The delivery of a soil carbon project which seeks to better understand the role of farm practice impact on soil carbon.
- The development of a user friendly carbon calculator for rural enterprises in the region.
- The development of carbon emission calculator for fire and its link to enhanced fire management and hence reduced carbon emissions.



Rob Cocco being interviewed by WIN TV at the Grazing Forum on 25 May.

# INAUGURAL SEEDS, WEEDS, SOILS AND FEEDS REEF RESCUE GRAZING FORUM A SUCCESS

The first Seeds, Weeds, Soils and Feeds Reef Rescue Grazing Forum hosted by Reef Catchments in Mackay was hailed as a great success by all who attended. Feedback from participants indicated that all topics were important, the quality of speakers was excellent and the MECC was an ideal venue.

**More than 120 people attended the forum that dealt with issues like breeding and feeding management of cattle, weed and pest control, pasture improvement and grazing systems. Graziers attending encouraged Reef Catchments to conduct further grazing forums that focus on coastal grazing systems.**

Over the past four years, more than 143 graziers in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region have received more than \$1.8 million in Reef Rescue grants to assist them to implement water quality improvement projects. The total investment in these projects has been \$4.3 million, with Reef Rescue grants making up 41% of the investments and graziers investing the remaining. Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Reef Rescue Grazing projects next financial year are now being called for. EOIs can be downloaded from the Reef Catchments website.

For more information, contact Key Grazing Contact Officer Scott Underdown on (07) 4945 1017 or [scott.underdown@reefcatchments.com.au](mailto:scott.underdown@reefcatchments.com.au).



Left photo: Graziers brought weeds to have identified.

Bottom photo: Kelsey Creek grazier Bill Davies presents on more production per hectare with improved pasture management.



AgForce was one of the ten booths at the Grazing Forum.



## PROJECT CATALYST, AWARD CONTENDERS

Over the last few months, the Project Catalyst team has been busy summarising all of the good work that has been achieved by the project in 3 years into award submissions. This good work includes 78 growers helping to improve the water quality leaving over 20,000 hectares of farms and all of the communication and extension activities helping to get their innovation messages out to the catalyst group and the sugar industry.

The awards have included:

### Queensland Premiers Sustainability Awards

Project Catalyst was nominated in 3 categories, Partnerships, Leadership and Rural categories. The team was represented by Rob Cairns (WWF), John Reghazani and Michael Reinaudo (Terrain), Paul Duncanson and Chris Hesp (NQ Dry Tropics) and Phil Trendell, Will Higham, Milena Gongora and Tony Jeppesen (Reef Catchments). We were fortunate enough to be a finalist in the Partnerships section but didn't win. However a bonus was that Tony Jeppesen's sister was part of the winning team for the great work being done at the school where she works, so there was some loud cheering coming from our table.

### ENVIRO Innovation in Sustainability

Project Catalyst is one of 3 finalists that have been selected out of all of the great submissions they received. As part of the selection process, we hosted one of the judges for a day in early June and took them on a tour around a range of farms in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region. This included visiting Scott Simpson to see his skip row trials, sampling one of Barbara Deguara's famous morning teas and having Lee Blackburn show the work being done in partnership with the Paddock to Reef program for the paddock scale water quality monitoring trials on his farm. The awards ceremony is in Adelaide on July 25. A team will head down to represent Project Catalyst.

### Riversymposium River Prize Award

This is the second year in a row that Project Catalyst has made it to the second stage of judging. The winner will be announced in October 2012, so fingers crossed for this year and we will let you know how we go!



*Project Catalyst presentation to Bonsucro in Mackay in December 2011.*

Workshops have been held across the Great Barrier Reef catchments to improve regional knowledge of the effectiveness of ABCD management practices for sugarcane and grazing.

The Paddock to Reef program coordinated regional workshops as well as a cross-regional workshop to synthesise paddock modelling data with monitoring data and the combined understanding of regional experts to reach agreement about the water quality and yield costs/benefits of ABCD management practices.

The regional workshops resulted in a number of principle statements that explain the effectiveness of different practices. The series of regional workshops were also an effective way of engaging local experts who help us to champion the outputs of the Program.

**The Great Barrier Reef wide cane workshop brought together water quality monitoring, extension staff and modelling experts from each region, along with regional program coordinators, economist Martijn Vangrieken and senior Reef Plan and Reef Rescue staff.**

The aim of the two day session was to reach a consensus on a set of Great Barrier Reef wide management practice principle statements and knowledge gaps. (These accompany statements and gaps identified for each region. The session also began working on the main synthesis output—a series of Look Up Tables—which will provide more detail on nutrient, herbicide and sediment losses, yield and economic data for ABCD management practices at a regional level.

The work from the cross regional cane synthesis will be presented to the original Mackay Whitsunday Paddock to Reef Synthesis workshop members for review and then to the Regional Cane Working Group for further feedback.

A similar process is underway for Reef Rescue Grazing. A workshop was held in Townsville bringing together representatives from the Mackay Whitsunday, Burdekin, and Fitzroy regions, DEEDI grazing extension staff, and the Paddock to Reef modellers and monitoring teams. This workshop focused on explaining the methodology and getting feedback from regional staff on the most useful format for the outputs. In the future, additional consultation will take place to discuss the results and the messages that the data conveys.

For more information contact Mackay Whitsunday Paddock to Reef Coordinator Belinda Billing: (07) 4968 4208 or email [belinda.billing@reefcatchments.com.au](mailto:belinda.billing@reefcatchments.com.au).

# HEALTHY WATERWAYS SYMPOSIUM A SUCCESS

LAND AND WATER

More than one hundred and fifty delegates attended the three-day Healthy Waterways Symposium program at CQ University and the O'Connell River Demonstration Reach Field Trip. Delegates represented state and local government, industry groups, research institutions, environmental consultants, community and non-profit natural resource management organisations from the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Canberra.



The Healthy Waterways Symposium speakers program took place on 14 June at CQ University, Mackay.

The Healthy Waterways Symposium is an annual opportunity to celebrate regional achievements and bring the latest research, monitoring, management, reporting and extension for improved water quality in the Great Barrier Reef catchments to the Mackay Whitsunday region. The event was made possible with the support of the Symposium sponsors: ANZ, Queensland Government and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

"The symposium was a great bringing together of the broad and detailed work going on across the region. All the presentations added to fit together the jigsaw that is research, planning, monitoring, and extension. The linkages between projects and relevance to the P2R framework (and others) were really clear. It was great to get this big-picture view, bring together what often seems like separate work, and realise the common outcomes being achieved."

**Kate Steel**

*Project Manager, Reef Guardian Farmers and Graziers, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority*



Claire Bartron of Reef Catchments and Leo Duivenvoorden of CQ University during the Healthy Waterways Workshop.

This year also marked the launch of the Healthy Waterways Alliance Awards. The Alliance membership designed the Awards as an avenue for peer recognition for efforts to improve water quality in the region. The Awards also offer the possibility of entrants sharing in the \$2000 cash prize. Sustainable agriculture as well as exemplary water quality monitoring and management programs from industry and government together with local school and community water quality initiatives was recognised.

### Congratulations to the 2012 Healthy Waterways Alliance Award Winners:

- Canegrowers Mackay Community Award - Eco Barge Clean Seas
- Reef Water Quality Protection Plan Rural Industry Award - joint winners Tony Jeppesen and Lee Blackburn
- North Queensland Bulk Ports Urban Industry Award - joint winners Mackay Regional Council, Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Reef Catchments School Award - Beaconsfield State School



Ms Jeanette Kirby of NQ Bulk Ports and Ms Christine Galea of Mackay Regional Council.

Excellent media interest was shown for the Symposium events and Healthy Waterways Alliance Awards with 5 press releases and eNewsletters from Reef Catchments, 6 radio and television interviews and 7 stories in print media. Reef Catchments capitalised on the access provided by our social media networks with regular posting through Facebook and Twitter prior to and throughout the event. Audio recordings of the presenters program and photos were posted on the Reef Catchments website.

"The Healthy Waterways Symposium was fantastic; it brought together so many components of the diverse Paddock to Reef Program that I work on, from the management practices promoted on farm to the water quality monitoring to the paddock monitoring. This was great to see. I was also interested to hear of so many other aspects of work being done locally and internationally to improve and support our waterways. It was uplifting to meet with so many people actively and passionately involved in improving our waterways."

**Belinda Billing**

*Paddock to Reef Coordinator, Reef Catchments*



Symposium delegates attended the O'Connell River Demonstration Reach Field Trip.

## ALL ABOUT MIMOSA PIGRA

The eradication of the *Mimosa pigra* outlier from Central Queensland has been a highly successful project to date. *Mimosa pigra* was prevented from spreading from the containment area at the Peter Faust Dam, Proserpine River and Googanga Plains Wetlands were protected from *Mimosa pigra* and community awareness was increased.



*Mimosa pigra* flower. Photo credit: DEEDI.

**From January 2012 to June 2012, monitoring of the 2500 hectares area surrounding the Peter Faust Dam and downstream surveys of the Proserpine River for *Mimosa pigra* seedlings were completed.**

The results have come back showing that there are no seedlings present at the dam and along the river. This is most likely due to the inundation of the sites of infestation which are located between the 36% and 86% dam water levels. Despite this, surveys will continue into the future due to the long life of the seed bank at 22+ years.

As part of this project, three other water impoundments at risk of invasion by *Mimosa pigra* have been surveyed with results coming back clear.

**In May 2012, interviews were conducted with members of the *Mimosa pigra* Stakeholder Group and local landholders with properties adjoining the Proserpine River on their views of the project.**

Results showed that 50% of the respondents were aware of the project and confident in their ability to identify *Mimosa pigra*. 83% of the respondents also knew who to report suspect plants to — for example the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry or SunWater — if found at the Peter Faust Dam. 50% of local landholders who responded to interview questions believe the project has increased community awareness of *Mimosa pigra* with 67% also believing that the program is well on its way to eradicating *Mimosa pigra*.



*Mimosa pigra* at Peter Faust Dam in Proserpine. Photo credit: DEEDI.

Answers to interview questions identified the following issues which have been considered in the future planning of the project.

- Impacts of environmental conditions: the sites of infestations at the Peter Faust Dam remain underwater delaying germination.
- Staffing as a result of the environmental conditions: staffing needs to be flexible. Less staff are needed while the infestation sites remain underwater however as the dam level drops more staff will be needed to deal with the emergent seedlings.
- People camping around the dam within the containment zone: the Whitsunday Regional Council has passed the Control of *Mimosa pigra* (Restricted Access - Peter Faust Dam) Local Law 2011, - making it a punishable offence to be on land within the containment area.
- Reduction of tourism at the Peter Faust Dam due to restrictions i.e. no camping.
- Potential to spread other weeds as a result of conducting surveys.

*This project is funded by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program with on-ground works being completed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and in conjunction with the *Mimosa pigra* Stakeholder Group.*

Surveys will continue into the future due to the long life of the seed bank being 22+ years.

50% of local landholders who responded to interview questions believe that the project has increased community awareness of *Mimosa pigra* with 67% also believing that the program is well on its way to eradicating *Mimosa pigra*.

# REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATORS: WHO ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

LAND AND WATER

Reef Catchments hosts a part-time Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF) in each of our catchments.

**Their role, in a very broad sense, is to support Landcare and production groups to adopt sustainable land management practices and to protect Australia's landscape.** As part of this they are also a conduit for information about the Australian Government's funding programs and the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI).

In addition to assisting the Central Qld Coast Landcare Network with workshops and events for land managers, these RLFs are available to assist the peri-urban community (rural residential) with land management advice and planning.

Owners of properties large or small can benefit from the program, with management plans tailored toward individual property needs. Even if you don't want a written plan, they can assist with information on native vegetation management, weed identification and control, as well as nutrient and chemical management. They can also be a referral service for additional natural resource management issues or queries.

Community groups or individuals wishing to submit funding proposals to the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country are also encouraged to contact the RLFs with any queries. While they are not experts on carbon farming, they can provide information on the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative or refer land managers onto sources of more detailed information.

They are part of an Australia-wide network of approximately 70 RLFs covering each of the country's 56 natural resource management regions. The Regional Landcare Facilitator program is funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

Your RLFs are:

## WHITSUNDAY

**Christine Peterson**

88 Main Street, Proserpine QLD 4800

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## SARINA

**Saskia von Fahland**

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Whitsunday landholders learning about erosion processes during a workshop hosted by Whitsunday Catchment Landcare.  
Photo: C. Peterson.



Frank Langfield talking at the Practical, Innovative, Land Management Solutions Walk and Talk hosted by Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association at the Sarina Rural Skills Centre.  
Photo: Margaret Meng, SLCMA Project Officer.



## OUR COAST IN THE WINTER

Winter on our coast in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region is marked by the absence of nesting marine turtles and migratory shorebirds on our shorelines, and the arrival of humpback whales from southern waters.

Typically this is the dry season, when our on-ground coastal projects and activities are focused on weed control and the maintenance of revegetation sites. Planting activities are held off for the wet summer months when there is a greater chance of the seedlings establishing with the assistance of rain.



On-ground activities completed along the eastern dunes at Shoal Point.

Weed control is used as a regeneration technique, to improve the condition of local vegetation communities and give them the opportunity to recover from disturbance. This is often cheaper and more effective than revegetation (planting) activities, and can be successfully carried out in areas where native plants and seed stock are present.

Specialist weed contractors are currently being used to undertake weed control/regeneration in over 100 hectares of coastal dunes and wetlands in the Mackay region. Locations for these activities have been selected using a prioritisation system which measures the natural environment value of coastal environments using criteria such as size, percentage of remnant vegetation, and habitat diversity.

Priority weeds in coastal dune environments are those which have the capacity to out-compete native species and alter ecosystems, such as Lantana (*Lantana camara*) and Guinea Grass (*Megathyrsus maximus*). A recent survey in 16 hectares of coastal dunes along Mackay's northern beaches recorded over 60 weed species.

Large weed infestations are removed in a staged, progressive manner allowing native vegetation to re-establish. Weed control projects are currently underway at Seaforth (*Finlayson's Point and southern reserves*), Ball Bay, Shoal Point, Bucasia, Blacks Beach, and Grasstree Beach. Other projects are underway in coastal wetlands on Mackay Regional Council land at Keeleys Road and are soon to start in the Slade Point Reserve for natural resource management.



Shoal Point working bee: Shoal Point coastal community volunteers.

The maintenance of revegetation areas, including watering and weed control, is also important during the winter months. This is particularly the case in the coastal environment given that most of our planting sites are in well-drained, sandy areas. There are revegetation sites at most of the Mackay beaches for which there are adopted beach plans including; Seaforth (*Finlaysons Point*), Ball Bay, Holiday Bay, Shoal Point, Bucasia, Blacks Beach, and Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve. These activities are something that local residents have the opportunity to be involved in. Find out when the next Coastal Community Activities are happening by downloading the winter program from the Reef Catchments website.

The Mackay Coasts and Communities program is a joint initiative of Reef Catchments and Mackay Regional Council with funding through the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program and Mackay Regional Council's Natural Environment Levy.

Fire is an essential element of land management in Australia. Landholders are faced with multiple challenges in applying fire to the landscape including, increasing productivity, controlling weeds, reducing the risk of wildfire, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions from late season fires, and conserving natural values.

Compounding these challenges, fire does not respect boundaries and so partnerships and collaborative management between landholders is essential. True partnerships can only be based on mutual understanding and respect between neighbouring landholders, and in sharing expertise. These elements are the focal

point of the Bushfire Consortium project; sharing knowledge, adopting agreed upon principles of best practice management, proactive planning for fire management and collaborative planned burning arrangements. These are developed and communicated in the form of Fire Management Guidelines that have now been developed for large areas of Queensland including the central Queensland coast and Cape York Peninsula, and are well

advanced for the Brigalow belt region and the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The guidelines provide expert advice in the required timing and frequency of fire, and its desired intensity and patchiness. These factors dictate the success of a fire management program in terms of enhancing grazing productivity, controlling key weeds such as lantana and rubber vine, reducing fuels and thus wildfire risk, and conserving biodiversity including endangered species such as the northern quoll.

The successes and challenges of each fire season can be directly measured through fire scar mapping, based on landscape level assessments using satellite imagery. This mapping provides landholders with invaluable information on yearly fire risk, the success of past burning programs and highlights areas in which more investment is required to improve practices.



Fire scar mapping and fire management guidelines.



Rural fire brigade engaged in burn off.

# INTRODUCING REEF CATCHMENTS SOLUTIONS

**A new commercial company, Reef Catchments Solutions Pty Limited, was lodged with ASIC on 14 June 2012 to commence trading effective from 1 July 2012.**

Reef Catchments Solutions Pty Limited, a for-profit company, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) Limited, with all 1200 shares in Reef

Catchments Solutions Pty Limited being owned by Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) Limited.

The reason for the establishment of this new company is to allow the separation of business activities undertaken by the present Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) Limited, namely:

- Government funded project activities.
- Commercial activities that are funded by corporate investment or other non-Government organisations.

All shares will be issued by Reef Catchments Solutions Pty Limited, so that Reef Catchments

Solutions Pty Limited can operate all commercial business for the Reef Catchments group, in its own right.

Into the future, Reef Catchments Solutions Pty Limited will handle fire management guidelines, sustainable cane farming consultation, carbon farming or nutrient trading consultation and any other activities that arise and are viewed as being of a commercial nature.

## COMMITTING TO WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

**At Reef Catchments, we are committed to the health, safety and welfare of the people that we employ and to the people affected by our undertakings.**

This year has seen the introduction of the National WH&S Harmonisation Laws on 1 January 2012, so like most other businesses in Queensland, Reef Catchments is in the process of reviewing and updating its Workplace Health & Safety Management System. Included in the review is:

- Policies are being reviewed and re-written where necessary.

- Staff training review completed with a schedule to be compiled to ensure relevant training is completed over the coming months.
- Working with our employees on Standard Operating Procedures to be introduced where tasks are identified as having associated risks. Example: Field work and working with our 'valuable' volunteers and associated partners.

## FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS: APPLY NOW FOR THE PUBLIC FUND

Rejuvenate wetlands, protect wildlife and improve habitat connectivity in Mackay, the Whitsundays and Isaac with help from the Reef Catchments Public Fund.

Community groups, schools, not-for-profit organisations and sole proprietors interested in caring for our local environment are invited to apply for the Reef Catchments Public Fund. Round 2 of the 2011/12 Public Fund runs until 31 July 2012.

Project applications need to focus on the sustainable management of a natural resource in Mackay Whitsunday Isaac and deliver a tangible difference to the region. A natural resource can be land, water, plants and wildlife, coasts or a marine asset.

The Reef Catchments Public Fund was established in 2008 to support the capacity of our community to get involved in natural resource management.

Over the years the Reef Catchment Public Fund has supported many successful projects, such as the Pioneer Environmental Area Project conducted by Pioneer State High School. This project aimed to rejuvenate a wetland, increase biodiversity and improve water quality.

The Public Fund has also supported Conservation Volunteers Australia, who conducted weed control and revegetation on the Morag McNicol and Slade Point Reserve grounds.

**Applications for Round 2 of 2011/12 close on 31 July 2012. Visit [reefcatchments.com.au](http://reefcatchments.com.au) to apply.**



*Public Fund recipients in 2009.*

## MEET SHIRLEY ZHENG, THE NEW GIS AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT OFFICER



Shirley Zheng

Xinyu (Shirley) Zheng has a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and had worked as an electrical engineer before moving to Australia.

In 2009 she finished her Master of Applied Science, in the combination of Environmental Studies, GIS and Remote Sensing, at University of Tasmania.

Shirley's previous work included landslide mapping, coastal erosion, abalone management, climate change modelling and eagle nest 'line-of-sight' projects by using GIS, remote sensing, mathematical and statistical techniques.

## FAREWELL TO PHIL



Sustainable Agriculture Manager Phil Trendell has recently accepted a role with the new State Government Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. His last day with Reef Catchments will be on Friday 20 July 2012.

Phil is not moving very far as the new role will be based within the Reef Catchments office in Mackay over the next two years. He will continue to work with Cane and Grazing Education/Extension with a focus on Sustainability.

**Congratulations, and all the best, Phil!**

*Photos: Phil Trendell in 2006 (top) and in 2012 (bottom).*



# NATURAL STATE

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### KEEP IN TOUCH

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit [reefcatchments.com.au](http://reefcatchments.com.au) for more details.

**28**  
JUL

COASTAL  
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ACTIVITIES AT  
EIMEO AND  
BUCASIA

**15**  
AUG

COASTAL FIELD  
TRIP HOSTED  
BY PIONEER  
CATCHMENT AND  
LANDCARE GROUP

**18**  
AUG

COASTAL  
COMMUNITY  
ACTIVITIES AT  
BLACKS BEACH  
AND BALL BAY