

Farming Forward Together

Innovative peer-to-peer learning influences grazing practices in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region.

Bowen Graziers, Mark and Sharon Yensch, have experienced first-hand how peer-to-peer learning accelerates the adoption of innovative and sustainable farming practices. Engaging with diverse perspectives from keynote speakers and fellow Graziers has inspired them to innovate and challenge traditional approaches on their property.

"We like ideas that are out of the box and makes you think; why are you doing that like that, and why not try this way, which could be better? We are forever learning. We have to work with Nature, and as Nature chops and changes - we have to think like that, think ahead and be adaptable." - Mark and Sharon.

Building Local Capacity and Best Practice Adoption

Peer to peer workshops featuring keynote speakers have been held as part of the Building Resilient Communities and Landscapes Through Grazing Best Practice Management project (The Project). The workshops address regional-specific challenges and introduce new practices for enhanced land management and productivity.

Delivered by Reef Catchments and funded by the Queensland Government's Natural Resources Recovery Program, The Project aims to build local capacity and promote best practice adoption in the local grazing community. It supports 15 graziers across 1125 hectares throughout the Mackay and Whitsunday Isaac regions.

Other on-ground works delivered through the project include the installation of fencing infrastructure, off-stream watering points and pasture management activities. Providing practical, accessible examples for additional peer-to-peer learning.

"Understand your own paradigms so you can step outside of them, and learn new ones. This rings true for a lot of people that are coming to these workshops, then going home and trying something new on their properties - which that could make a positive change." - Mark and Sharon.



Landholder: Mark and Sharon Yensch, Bowen
Cattle: Greymans, 500 breeders
Property Size: 5,800 acres
Project: Building Resilient Communities and Landscapes through Grazing Best Practice

Looking to the Future

Peer-to-peer learning has proven to be a powerful educational tool, fostering a sense of community and shared learning among participants. Graziers benefit from exchanging knowledge and experiences with peers who understand their challenges and share similar goals.

Project participants are eager to continue the journey, nominating themselves and their properties for future regional workshops aimed at building stewardship and increasing best practice knowledge in the local community.

"We want to create a trial area or learning hub on our property that's open to everyone. It's hard to connect with other farmers here, but more workshops will help. This space is for all of us to get together to learn and connect."

"Young people are our future. We would like to involve students from the local schools and be part of the curriculum by offering on-farm visits, providing hands-on farming experience beyond the classroom." - Mark and Sharon.

If you would like to learn more about peer-to-peer workshop opportunities in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region, please contact Reef Catchments Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator, Kellie Harmsworth, at saf@reefcatchments.com.