

Griffith University visits Croxdale

South West Queensland was recently visited by two honours students and their supervisor from Griffith University. They visited a number of properties in the region and collected a large number of samples for the use in their research. After receiving the full outback experience for five days they visited Croxdale on their last day and collected their final samples.

Petra Zivec's Honours project is titled "*Land Management effects on the resilience of semi-arid wetlands to climate change*". The study is targeted in the upper Warrego catchment and is looking at paddock and property management and the impact that different grazing regimes and stocking rates have on the germination of wetland vegetation. The results of this study will be able to supply more information to property owners in relation to paddock management and increasing the health of the riparian zone and floodplains through natural germination and vegetation management.

Mariah Millington's Honours project is entitled "*Investigation into the impacts of climate change and management practices on invertebrate banks in the semi arid Warrego catchment*", and is investigating egg banks of macro-invertebrates in wetlands of Western Queensland. The result of this honours project will provide information as to the health of the wetlands and add information to the species which are found in our region and health of the waterways.

The supervisor for this data collection tour was Stephen (Harry) Balcombe. Harry's area of expertise and interest is freshwater fish and the rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin. This was a return trip to western Queensland for Harry, as he previously visited in 2001 collecting information from the Warrego catchment regarding the health and populations of fish species.



Left: Harry Balcombe, Petra Zivec, and Mariah Millington from Griffith University visited several properties in the South West, including Croxdale.