

## Programs Update:

As we come to the end of another year, it gives us the opportunity to reflect on where we have come from and to plan for the future, to ensure a sustainable future for agriculture and the wonderful natural resources of the South West. The Winter and Spring rain certainly changed the outlook and provided us with a wonderful wildflower event, and we hope for a wet summer for continued pasture growth.

The South West NRM Strategic Plan for 2015-2025 is now available - you can download it from our website (click [here](#)), or there are a few hard copies available in our office library to have a flick through next time you are in town.

The project area has provided us with lots of new opportunities and some challenges as well. We had a wonderful response to our Expression of Interest applications and all the contracts will be out before Christmas. These projects will assist us in meeting our agreements with both the State and Federal governments as well most importantly making a difference to our landscape. We are looking forward to getting out in the field with landholders and assisting them with the initial stages of their projects.

During the last few months South West NRM has been involved in field days and training events. We have been working with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to roll out BMP Grazing, as part of the Queensland Government's drought recovery and resilience program. These one day training events were held in Charleville, Thargomindah, Quilpie and Bollon - see Darren's report on page 22. A second day will be held early next year to provide the participants with further information as well allow for suggestions for other support and training going forward.

A group of landholders in Augathella were also involved in a Grazing Fundamentals training day that has on-going farm field days. The Business Meets Biodiversity project had a field day at *Wetlands*, Augathella providing information on both biodiversity and grazing management; Julie captured a great photo of their outdoor classroom, which is featured on page 11.

The CAM team of Jon and Catherine are currently out providing training for the monitoring throughout the CAM Phase Two project and beyond. Early next year is looking just as busy with more training and two Rural Consulting Services Pastures to Pocket workshops in February.

At this time of year, together with all the staff here at South West NRM, I wish our readers and their families a safe and happy Christmas and a wet and prosperous New Year.

We look forward to working with you in 2017.

Cheers, Libby.



*Libby Gardiner*

*General Manager of Programs  
South West NRM*