

Programs Update:

The start to 2017 has been eventful and busy. Firstly, we welcomed two new Project Officers – Emma Turner and Holly Kajewski - both of whom some of you will have already met as they have been out and about checking on the new projects.

The start of the year has also seen the commencement of funded projects as a result of last year's Expressions of Interest. There is some great work being carried out by landholders who are looking to improve their ground cover for improved productivity and reduced erosion. A number of significant weed control projects are being undertaken as well, and we are very happy to be supporting the Save the Bilby Fund and the Queensland Ornithological Society with the control of feral cats in the RAMSAR wetland.

The BMP Grazing program has been a great success and has provided attending landholders with some very valuable information. It is also providing South West NRM staff with the opportunity to work closely with Department of Agriculture and Fisheries staff and become familiar with great programs such as Leading Sheep and Future Beef. Some attendees have also taken the opportunity to register their properties for mapping on the NRM Spatial Hub, and to be trained in its use.

Further information on these programs can be obtained by phoning the office on **(07) 4656 8500**. The Grazing BMP program will continue to run in various locations for the next few months as landholders undertake the second series of information sessions - please see page 23 for a list of upcoming events in our region.

Our other programs will also be holding workshops and field days in the next few months, both locally around Charleville and in some of the other smaller, but just as significant, areas of the region to showcase new and successful projects and explain how they contribute to improving this incredible landscape. Again, see page 23 of this newsletter for details of these activities, and keep an eye out on our social media pages (refer to links on page 9).

In the coming weeks we will commence working 'on country' with three of our Traditional Owner groups in the South West. The activities taking place will include fencing, weed control and trapping of wild animals. We are looking forward to these projects commencing and providing new opportunities for the Indigenous people in our region.

Please get in touch if there is anything we can help you with, or if you have any questions.

Until next time,

Cheers

Libby



Libby Gardiner

*General Manager of Programs
South West NRM*