

## News from the CEO:

Well – I know I say it every time – but it's been busy around here!

This newsletter is full of stories and photos demonstrating some of the activities that have been underway. Hopefully some of you have had a chance to experience some of the great training that has been on offer – you might spot yourself in some of the photos!

We invited nominations for the Mulga Awards and have announced the catchment level winners – who are now the finalists for the regional awards that will be announced at our South West NRM Mulga Awards event on Wednesday July 6th. Congratulations to all the finalists, and thanks to the many organisations locally who have supported the awards financially through sponsorship. Please see page 25 of this edition of *Three Rivers, Three Creeks* for a full list of all the Catchment winners, and also see page 35 for your invitation to join us for the Mulga Awards presentation night.

On top of all that activity, there have been some staffing changes here at South West NRM.

Since the last edition we have had two new team members join us: Libby Gardiner has joined us as the Program Manager, and Simone Richardson is our CAM Field Officer. Please read more about Libby and Simone on the next couple of pages, and make sure you drop in and say hello.

In other changes in the office, Craig Alison has moved into the role of Senior Project Officer, working mostly on weed management projects. We also say farewell and thank you to Ric Newson who has worked for South West NRM for many years.

There are still a few more changes to happen in the coming months. My time here in Charleville has nearly come to an end. Part of my role was to help work with the board to identify new effective and efficient ways of doing business. One of the opportunities I identified was an option to work with another regional NRM organisation and share some services. We have been working with Condamine Alliance to do just that (see photograph on the next page). There will be more information in upcoming newsletters - in the meantime, you can read more about the Condamine Alliance at <http://www.condaminealliance.com.au/>.

So all that is left is to thank all the staff and Board members at South West NRM, and you the community of South Western Queensland for making me welcome here. I have got a bit of the red dust in my veins and expect that I'll be back to visit before too long at all.

Farewell and best wishes,

Mary-Anne.



*Mary-Anne Healy*  
Chief Executive Officer  
South West NRM

## CEO's News Continued...



Above: South West NRM Board members meeting with the CEO and Chair of Condamine Alliance. Back row, from left: Phil McCullough (CEO Condamine Alliance), Stewart Sargent, John Parsons, Keelen Mailman, Kathy Zwick, Karen Tully. Front row: Mark O'Brien, Mary-Anne Healy, & Malcolm McKay (Chair Condamine Alliance).

## Meet our Newest Staff Members:

### Simone Richardson - CAM Field Officer

Simone has moved to Charleville to work with South West NRM as the Field Officer for the Collaborative Area Management Project. As Field Officer, she will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the established cluster groups in South West Queensland.

Simone grew up in Emerald, Central Queensland, and most of her family are still based there. She has spent a lot of time travelling through towns in Central and Western Queensland so she feels very at home now living in Charleville.

After completing a Bachelor of Science majoring in Zoology at James Cook University, Townsville, Simone was fortunate enough to work for Parks Australia on Christmas Island. Here she contributed to the island's first feral cat eradication effort as well as carrying out broad-scale ecological surveys to locate invasive and threatened species.

As well as working and studying she has enjoyed spending her free time volunteering for multiple organizations, including the RSPCA and St. John Ambulance. Simone is passionate about the natural environment and hopes that she will bring valuable experience and enthusiasm to the team at South West NRM. She is looking forward to learning a lot more about South West Queensland through her new role.

