

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.



Libby Gardiner - Program Manager

Hi all, I am delighted to be in Charleville and am loving being in the country again, and thoroughly enjoy the wonderful sunrises and sunsets!

I grew up on a farming and grazing property just north of Moree and have also spent nearly 25 years on the Liverpool Plains near Quirindi, south west of Tamworth, where we grew predominately summer crops, and ran beef and sheep. It was at Quirindi where I developed my interest and passion for the environment and agricultural production. I started a Landcare group with others in our immediate catchment and was at some stage both Chairperson and Secretary. I also served on the Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee working on Flood Plain Management.

Later in life I was a Landcare Coordinator in Millmerran delivering sub-catchment planning and on-ground works for the landholders in both the Condamine Alliance and Queensland Murray-Darling Committee regions. I also worked for Rabobank for nearly four years in Armidale and Tamworth. More recently I spent nearly five years in Brisbane as Regional Manager of Conservation Volunteers Australia, covering a large area of southern Queensland. This involved managing local and international volunteers and providing them with conservation experiences in a variety of places in South East Queensland.

This brings me to Charleville and South West NRM, where I look forward to working with the team here at South West NRM to deliver projects that increase agricultural production through the removal of weeds, construction of cluster fencing, improvements in soil condition and long term increase in the natural biodiversity of the region.

I am looking forward to being part of the Charleville community. I have spent much of my life being involved with fundraising for the Children's Medical Research Institute and school activities when my children were at school, as well as being involved in sporting activities including tennis and netball. Now, I love spending time with my family and of course my two grand-children.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during my time here as Program Manager.

Kind Regards,

Libby.

