

# Bremer Catchment Update

Issue 6 February 2008

The newsletter of the Bremer River Catchment Project

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## About the Bremer River Catchment

The Bremer River Catchment project is the first phase of a 20 year management plan. It aims to contain salinity, improve water quality and address other natural resource management issues, such as soil health and the condition of the natural environment, in the Bremer catchment.

The Bremer River Catchment Group Management Committee (BRCGMC) was set up to guide the project and meets every two to three months.

The project is funded by South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc (formerly SCRIPT) through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

## Project update by Leonie McMahon

This will be my last newsletter as I am leaving the Bremer project at the end of February to have a baby.

I leave things in Jessica van der Waag's very capable hands. Jess will be working four days a week from March onwards. As planning for Stage Two of the project begins, Jess will start working full-time. She will keep you informed....

On the subject of the next stage of the project, as yet we are unable to say when Stage One will end and Stage Two will begin. Our most up-to-date advice is that our funding body, South Coast NRM, was recently asked to submit budgets and plans for continuing projects on post June 2008.

South Coast NRM has a very short time-frame in which to provide this information to the relevant government bodies and we don't know when we will be told the outcome. All we can say is please do get whatever work you can get done from your current work programs, completed and verified sooner rather than later.

**If you have work completed but not yet verified, please contact Jess and organise a site visit.** Similarly, if you have had work verified but have not yet invoiced the project, please do. To date, we've only paid out a bit over \$300,000 from a total on-ground works budget of about \$1.2 million.

We need to demonstrate that work is getting done and money is being spent. During the budget review process we are asked by the funding body to justify why we need to retain the full budget if the amount of money paid out on to date suggests it is unlikely to be needed.

We know there are a range of reasons, including poor seasonal conditions, lack of time and lack of resources, that prevent people from completing works in the time-frames they originally nominated. We also know though that people still want the

opportunity to complete their work programs.

For these reasons, we make it a priority to retain as much of the budget as we can justify. Please help us by letting us pay you when you have completed on-ground works!

If there are reasons preventing you from carrying out on-ground works, eg you require advice, equipment etc, please contact us and let us know. We will do what we can to help.

I've greatly enjoyed working on the Bremer project and meeting you all. Best of luck completing the work you want to get done.

My thanks to the Bremer Catchment Group Management Committee, Jess, the FBG staff and FBG Committee (and Ants) for your support and advice throughout my time on the project.



The Fiery Bottlebrush *Callistemon phoeniceus*: a local native with a reputation for salt tolerance. It can be seen growing tenaciously on granite rocks in the Bremer River. (Photo: Leonie McMahon)

# On-ground works update

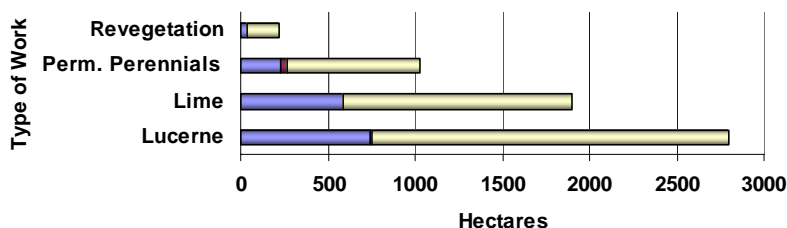
In the October to December 07 quarter on-ground works completed verified and paid for were: 10 ha of Lucerne, 35 ha of permanent perennials (kikuyu) and 10 km of fencing. The following works were completed in the last quarter but not yet verified or paid for: 26.3 km of fencing, 7.5 ha of revegetation and 4 km of surface drainage. These are not included in the progress table and graphs below.

Don't forget, If you have had works verified please send in an account so we can pay you and get a better idea of progress.

A reminder regards **internet banking**: payments for on-ground works can be made directly into your bank account. If you want to use this option please include your bank account details with your invoice.

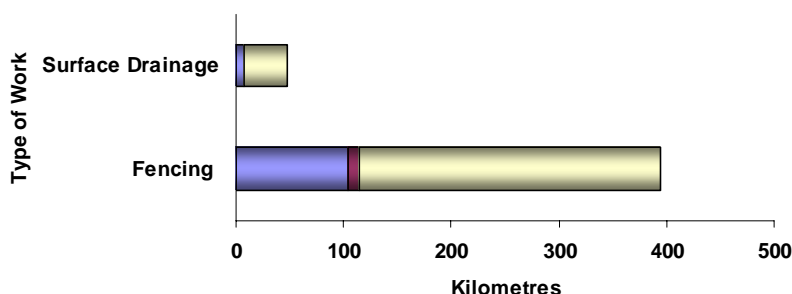
Type of work	Completed Mar 06 to Sep 07	Completed Dec 07 Quarter	Total Completed	Total Planned
Lucerne	744	10	754	2795
Perm. Perennials	232	35	267	1028
Liming	589	0	589	1903
Revegetation	39	0	39	222
Claying	0	0	0	142
Fencing	105	10	115	395
Surface Drainage	7	0	7	48
Stock crossings	0	0	0	12
Sub soil tests	6	0	6	27

Graph 1: On-ground Works Progress



Legend: Completed Mar 06 to Sep 07 (blue), Completed Dec 07 Quarter (red), Total Remaining (yellow)

Graph 2: On-ground Works Progress (fencing and surface drainage)



Legend: Completed Mar 06 to Sep 07 (blue), Completed Dec 07 Quarter (red), Total Remaining (yellow)

# Upcoming events

2008 Fitzgerald Biosphere Group

## Perennial Bus Tour

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
8.30am Registration at FBG Office,  
3pm return

Morning tea and Lunch provided

The day will cover a variety of perennials including Chicory, Rhodes Grass, Tall wheat grass, Lucerne, millet, kikuyu and native perennials.

For a copy of the program or to register contact Jessica

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## Fitzgerald River

Catchment Demonstration Initiative

### Field Walk

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2008  
11.00am start, BYO Lunch

—fertiliser run-off studies, local case study of deep drainage, Lucerne as silage, Lucerne as a means of reducing saline groundwater, soil carbon, sodic clays—

Enquiries to Linda Lee: 98 356 010

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## The last Bremer River Catchment Group Management Committee

meeting was on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008. If you wish to raise anything at future meetings, please speak to your sub-catchment representative:

### Carlawillup

Charles Johnson: Ph 9836 2031  
Jeff Pike: Ph 9836 2010

### Bremer River

Barry Porter: Ph 9836 1022  
Damon Parker: Ph 9836 1055

### Devils Creek

Glenn Calvert: Ph 9836 1008  
Marni Jones: Ph 9836 1034

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## Laser Level

The FBG was recently awarded a grant through Lotterywest to buy several pieces of equipment, including a laser level. The laser level is currently being purchased and training will be arranged in the near future. Please contact Jessica to register your interest.



— southcoastnrm.com.au —  
Funded by the Western Australian and Australian Governments through the joint National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality programme and the Natural Heritage Trust.



Australian Government



Department of Environment and Conservation



Department of Agriculture and Food  
Government of Western Australia

