

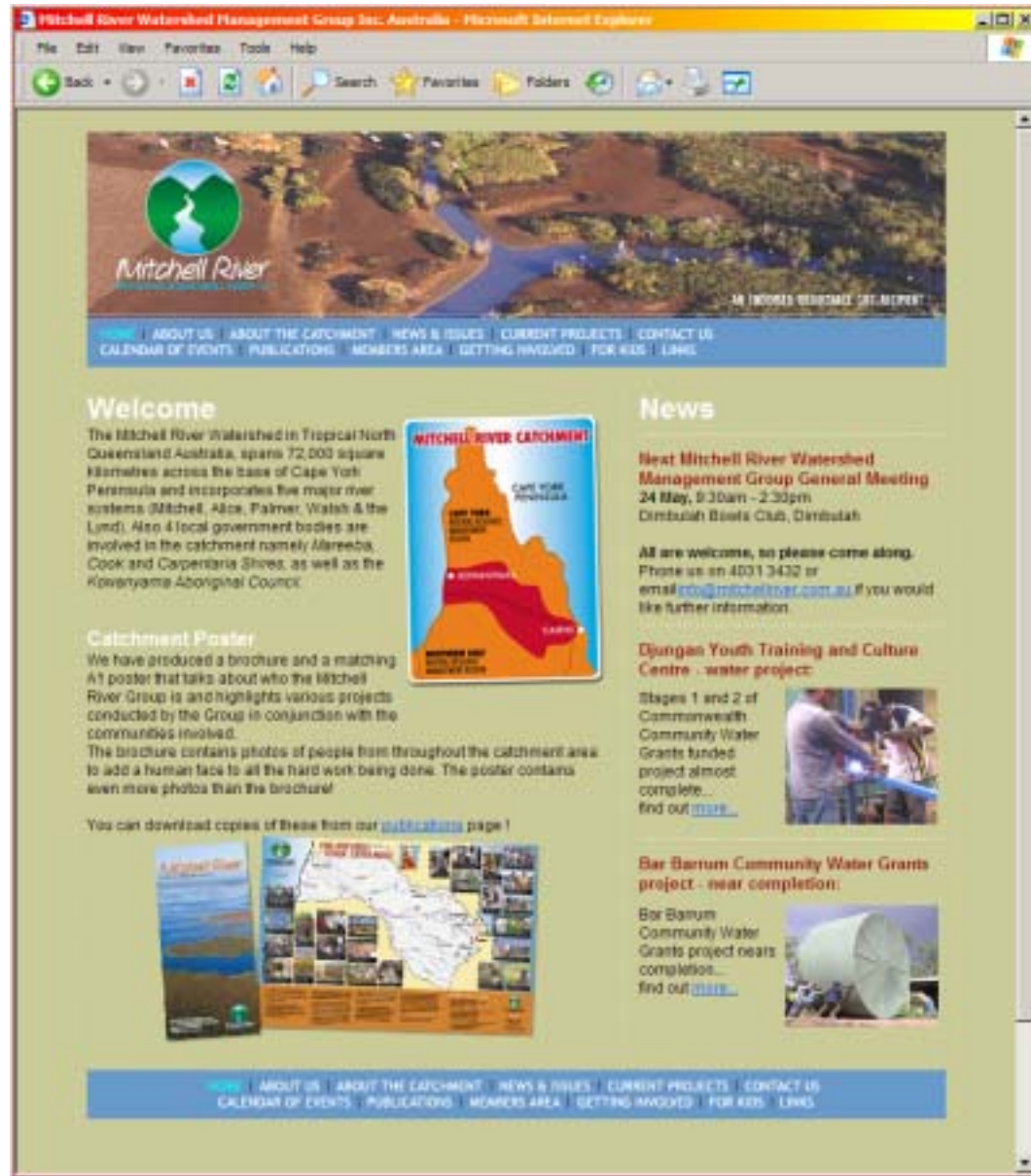


Mitchell River Watershed Management Group Inc.



Website

- Guy is currently renewing and updating our website to make it more user friendly and to provide more comprehensive information about projects undertaken in the Mitchell catchment
- It will also provide more information about the Natural Heritage Trust and regional arrangements and projects for Natural Resource Management
- The site has thousands of hits per month –see tabled printout
- Jan- 15863
- Feb- 16102
- Mar- 27516
- Apr- 19916
- May- 11547



Ecosystem Services

- **CSIRO and Charles Darwin University are seeking to estimate the economic value of some of the uses and benefits of tropical rivers in a project funded by Land & Water Australia and the Myer Foundation.**
- **This project is one of several being undertaken for a new research facility called Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK), and it will take place through three case studies: the Fitzroy River in WA, the Daly River in the NT, and the Mitchell River in Qld.**
- **So far one of the researchers, Anna Straton, has been to visit and talk with some people who live and work in the Mitchell River catchment to better understand the values and issues surrounding the management of the Mitchell River system.**
- **The next stage of the research will be to**
 - (a) develop a questionnaire with people in the Mitchell region that can be used to elicit people's values,**
 - (b) send the questionnaire out,**
 - (c) analyse the results, and**
 - (d) communicate back to stakeholders.**

Please call Anna Straton on (08) 89448420, 0448 490005, or email her at anna.straton@csiro.au with any thoughts or suggestions.

Bar Barrum Outstation- Petford

- Community Water Grant of \$27,000 for 4 water tanks. First two tanks arrived in January and last tanks arrived May 2007
- CVAs GreenCorps team assisted with the painting of the Land and Water Centre at Bar Barrum Outstation



Djungan Community Water Grants (CWG)

- Wongoo Community working in partnership with students from Australian Ag College (Mareeba Campus) and MRWVG will have four large tanks and four small tanks to not only support their community but also the environmental flows of the Walsh River



Students prepare the bases and water collection shelter for the first two tanks

First tanks in place May 2007



Kowanyama

- Lots happening at the Land Office - a review of the structure and role of the Land Office early this year. Restructure yet to be implemented.
- Ranger training has finished with about half completing the full certificate 2 in Land Management.
- Ranger positions readvertised with four permanent positions filled, yet to commence.
- Remaining rangers from the training program working back as homeland supervisors and/or other "exit strategies" being followed to try and find employment for as many as possible in positions that are not CDEP dependant.
- Cultural Centre Funding successful - \$1.75 million which should form the basis or seeding money for the development of the cultural centre in Kowanyama, to house the artefacts and art collection.
- Significant chinee apple control over wet season, will be continued
- Applying for funding through Envirofund for more chinee apple control
- Successful funding through Recreational Fishing, this will help in brochure development and some signage installation for visitors
- Tourist season commencing - ten days
- May be commencing some turtle monitoring work to ascertain levels of pig predation on sea turtle nests. Will also be doing some monitoring to try and determine pig numbers
- Starting ghost net monitoring as well

- **Cross Regional Pest Fish Project – Tilapia “Stop the Spread” Campaign**



Dimbulah State School

MRWVG working in partnership with FNQ NRM, ACTFR, DPI&F, Mareeba Shire Council – visits and school talks have been done at most schools in the Catchment including Irvinebank, Dimbulah State School, Mutchilba State School, St Anthony’s Dimbulah, Mt Molloy (Chillagoe & Julatten still to come)

Cattle Creek



- Following the identification of old lava flows discussions have been held with hydrologists from JCU to develop further project to better understand the water flows in the neighbouring sub-catchments and factors influencing these flows.
- This work would then directly benefit landholders by informing them about influences of irrigation on recharge, how can land-use practices be adapted to manage these influences on groundwater flows.

Sustainable Farming Incentives –MDWSS

- As part of this NGRMG project, which is being run in partnership with FNQ NRM Ltd and MRWVG, to provide assistance for sustainable farming practices a number of Field Days are being held, two of these were organised through Industry-Growcom and Water for Profit
- The first field day on pumping efficiency was held at Michael Canzian's, Dimbulah on 17/5
- The second field day will be on Soil Health and will be held at Steven Mylrea's, Wolfram Rd Dimbulah
- The third field day will be on mulching, highlighting the various methods used and benefits for production will be at Anthony Carusi's farm, Arriga in late June.
- The final workshop will be on organic farming. (Further details TBA)

Irvinebank

- With funding from Natural Resources & Water and the support of Irvinebank Landcare Group, Irvinebank School Mareeba Shire Council and CVA the project area will be extended on to further USL.
- Also engaged CVA Biodiversity Management team to stem inject sisal (*Agave sisalana*) to allow access to sites for other weed management
- Through “Regional Delivery Support Program” funded by the Commonwealth Govt CVA provided a team who helped with post-wet season site maintenance on these sites



Envirofund

- Round 9 of Envirofund closed 26 April and there were more than 600 applications for Queensland alone
- MRWVG assisted with 4 separate Envirofund applications as well as providing a letter of support for an application from KALNRMO for managing Chinese Apple
- Round 10 of the Envirofund opened 21 May and will close 20 July – this round is specifically targeting Coastal and Marine projects and is focused on protecting coastal catchments, ecosystems and the marine environment

MRWVG Funding Received

- Reef Casino -\$5118 to purchase data projector and laptop computer
- FRRR-\$3000 to purchase laser printer for office

Future activities

- Palmer River Forum – Chillagoe 15 June 2007
- FNQ Water Strategy & Nullinga Dam investigation – draft FNQ Water Strategy due to be released mid 2007
- Supporting successful NRW Community Awareness Grant activities
 - Djungan, June biodiversity workshop
 - JAMARR, Pride of Place Exhibition 25-27 May
- Grease Trap Waste Disposal – the project appeal goes before Court 12 June
- Mining projects – Rob Ryan has had discussions with key people from DM&E and Mining Companies to develop projects that address mining issues

Working together - caring for country

