



Cambooya Landcare Association Inc.
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21 October 2011

Dear Members,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your ongoing support and interest in Cambooya Landcare, and to update you on Cambooya Landcare's activities over the last year.

Despite a relatively quiet year, Cambooya Landcare has continued to make important contributions to increasing awareness and implementation of sustainable land management practices in the Cambooya area. The continued support and maintenance of the Cambooya Landcare Community Resource Centre has provided a point of contact for members and the community as a venue for monthly meetings and the site for our local native plant nursery. This year we have leased the nursery to Notomys Seeds, a local environmental consultancy which specialises in revegetation projects on the Darling Downs. Notomys Seeds is run by Cambooya Landcare members, Richard and Jayne Thorpe, and can be contacted on 0429 487639 or rjthorpe@westnet.com.au.

The Cambooya Landcare website provides information on equipment available to landcare members, as well as links to relevant information on land management. Please visit our website www.cambooya.darling-downs-landcare.org.au for details about the resources available, including 'Wally' the pasture planter, and weed control (quick spray unit, spray packs, tree pear spear) and tree-planting equipment. There is also a great array of information on local landcare issues, including pasture management, weed and native species identification, and the mining vs agriculture debate. Contact us for more information at cambooyalandcare@gmail.com.

We are currently running a project to deliver training and accreditation to landholders in the Australian Landcare Management System (ALMS). This project is funded through the Commonwealth Government's Community Action Grant program, and provides information to participating landholders on better monitoring land condition and evaluating land management practices to assist in property planning decisions. The project is being facilitated by Warwick Waters, and enquiries can be directed to Warwick on 0437 937074 or watersw@internode.on.net or cambooyalandcare@gmail.com.

In addition, Cambooya Landcare, in conjunction with Toowoomba Regional Council, continues to manage the Grassland Reserve on Railway Parade, just to the north of Cambooya. This reserve is an important remnant of the critically endangered Queensland bluegrass *Dichanthium sericeum* grasslands which once extended across the Darling Downs; it also supports a healthy population of the vulnerable native plant species *Rhaponticum australe*, the Austral cornflower (previously known as *Stemmacantha australe*).

Cambooya Landcare also continues to support the Friends of Felton on issues relating to sustainable land use in the Felton Valley. This year has seen progress towards state government legislation to support the protection of Strategic Cropping Lands from mining exploration and development. Please see the Friends of Felton website for more information: <http://www.fof.org.au/>.

This year, our Project Officer, John Hughes, left to take up a position with DERM. We thank him for his significant contribution to the Cambooya Landcare district and the Cambooya Landcare Association. His energy and enthusiasm underpinned the delivery of a number of valuable on-ground projects, as well as the development of the Cambooya Landcare website. We hope to appoint a new person to the position in the next few weeks to assist with grant applications and project delivery, and will send out advice when this arrangement is in place.

Grass-roots community groups such as ours also very much depend on their membership to remain strong and able to respond to the growing environmental concerns that we face. As a community organisation, Cambooya Landcare is always keen to recruit new volunteers to

our committee. Volunteering is a great way to contribute to and participate in your community. It can also be a way to gain new skills and valuable work experience in a friendly, flexible and supportive environment. There are opportunities in our group to gain skills in book-keeping, writing grant applications, project management and website management, and to get to know people involved in local and regional NRM organisations and agencies.

We also encourage members and friends to come along to meetings through the year and to take an active role in supporting landcare activities in the local area. Meetings are casual and a great way to share information on sustainable land management and to hear about training and funding opportunities. This year, we hope to arrange guest speakers at regular intervals and would appreciate any ideas you might have on relevant topics or speakers.

Thank you again for your interest and support.

Jason Huggins, Chair

Bernie McGovern, Vice-Chair

Alexandra Kennedy, Treasurer

Kate Reardon-Smith, Secretary