

FENCELINES:

EUNGELLA AG-NRM UPDATE



Vol 2 WINTER 2021

Crispy July

The winter dry season has well and truly come to Eungella, with some glorious clear blue-sky days and crispy cold nights, a great chance to tuck up warm and work through the mix of community, ag and natural resource management news in Fencelines.

Feedback and contributions are welcome to this quarterly newsletter, or feel free to get in touch and tell us what you would like to see in Fencelines, through communications@pioneercatchment.org.au. Fencelines has developed from the Landholders Driving Change Eungella Cluster Group project, run by NQ Dry Tropics and Pioneer Catchment Landcare prompted by the 2018 Eungella-Clarke Range bushfire disaster to help build climate shift resilience and capabilities. Find editions and information at pioneercatchment.org.au/what-we-do/current-projects.

Eungella Rainforest Cluster Group Field Day

The final event of the NQ Dry Tropics Landholders Driving Change Eungella Rainforest Cluster Group Extension Project was held on a balmy autumn afternoon at the Eungella Permaculture Farm. Hosted by Adam Burrows and Ali Kidd, and organised by Pioneer Catchment Landcare, eighteen landholders and friends toured the organic market garden with the hosts, along with vegetation ecologist Peter Alden and guest speaker, permaculture educator Luke Matthews, from Pandurunga Farm, Finch Hatton, who discussed natural soil fertility processes.

Luke is an experienced presenter on compost systems, presenting on the process of creating and using compost in natural systems, including various brewing and application methods suitable for any farming project. The presentation was informal with the many questions and examples prompting the direction of the discussion.

Ali and Adam showed how compost teas were integrated into their herb and vegetable cropping systems, including the use of flow-form aeration of the tea. They also presented other organic processes and permaculture practices at work on the farm, like the integration of animals into the system, and the preparation of the following year's beds using a chook tractor to remove weeds and seeds before sowing crops.

The evening concluded with a twilight dinner with locally grazed slow cooked beef and a selection of BBQ cuts from the local butcher, salads including mostly locally grown ingredients, and finished with sweets and cakes supplied by the participants. The property was also formally welcomed into the Land for Wildlife program.

The overall mood of the event was very positive, with much discussion and questions, especially from the comparative newcomers to the area and to organic gardening. All the feedback was positive and a hope for further events. There was a request for more information about identification of weeds/ noxious/ edible which may be a topic for any further field days. The event was funded through NQ Dry Tropics Landholders Driving Change project, with additional support through the Regional Landcare Facilitator/National Landcare Program.



Eungella “Show & Tell” Grazing Bus Tour & Farm Walk

Thursday June 24, 2021

by Jonathan Reichard and Julia Kasiske, Reef Catchments & Rodger Walker, NQ Dry Tropics

The Eungella school bus was at capacity on what started out as a day in the clouds on Thursday, 24th June as 21 landholders including Reef Catchments and NQ Dry Tropic staff gathered for a “Show & Tell” Grazing Bus Tour in Eungella. Viewing local farms, and hearing from landholders about their management approach was the focus of the day.

The day was collaboratively run by Clara Friswell from Reef Catchments and Rodger Walker from NQ Dry Tropics and featured guest speaker and local vegetation ecologist Peter Alden from Pioneer Catchment Landcare.

While making their way down Bee Creek Road, social and farming history commentary was shared by local landholder, and bus driver for the day - Ben Fredricksen. Peter Alden provided insight on the area’s natural history and the work undertaken by him through the Eungella Rainforest Cluster project.

FIRE AS A TOOL

At the end of Bee Creek Road, in an area of open eucalypt forest, the group was made aware of the fact that on one side of the road, a section of the eucalypt forest had been managed with fire, while the opposite side along the creek had not been exposed to fire. The difference in the condition of the land was clear and can be seen in the image below, right.



TOP: Participants and presenters of the Eungella “Show & Tell” Grazing Bus Tour 2021. **CENTRE:** Vegetation ecologist Peter Alden, at left, shares his extensive knowledge of Eungella’s ecosystems and land management culture on board the tour bus.



LEFT: Rodger Walker from NQ Dry Tropics talks to the group about land management approaches.

RIGHT: Tour participants view the contrast between managing land with and without fire. The left-hand side of this road has been fire managed.

Images: Jonathan Reichard, RCL

LANDSLIP CONSIDERATIONS

Another stop was an old dairy farm. The property was made up of cleared pasture on hilly country where landslips occurred.

The group learned about how revegetation and surface water management in areas of landslips will help stabilise and prevent further slips, however it was noted that slips are inevitable in areas where the slope is greater than 34 degrees.

The Bee Creek Road tour concluded with a stop at a residential lifestyle block with rainforest regrowth and lantana infestation, pictured top right.

At this property, the group saw how to manage an area where lantana has been cleared up to the forest edge, with the intention to encourage the forest to move up the bank to stabilise it.



GRAZING OPERATION

The next travel destination was north towards Dalrymple Heights, stopping at a grazing property on Boons Road, which runs some very inquisitive Brangus cattle, as seen at right. The landholder gave a history of the block, including herd and paddock management.

Further discussion points included; pasture management methods, soil testing, lime application to raise soil pH and how Eungella blocks are often utilised as a drought refuge. Responding to this, Rodger Walker from NQ Dry Tropics reminded the group: "We try to unravel the secrets of the soil and see where it takes us."



Farm forestry, post bushfire land management and land restoration were also discussion points out this way.

BROKEN RIVER

After returning to Eungella hall for lunch, the group headed south towards Broken River and visited a former dairy property which is now home to a rotational beef grazing enterprise known as "ORR Farm" and Cedar Gallery.

Co-owner Owen Burns invited the group into the paddocks and spoke about how they manage their farm.

Questions followed from landholders on a variety of subjects. One topic of interest was the use of fox lights are in use at the property, which shine random lights across the fields at night, with the intent of keeping dogs, dingos and foxes away by giving the impression of human activity.



Owen, pictured speaking to guests at right, described plans to revegetate the gullies, to prevent erosion. On his flatter country and ridgelines, which are more productive for grazing, Owen seeks to further improve his pastures.

PLAN FOR PARADISE

The next stop featured cattle property “Paradise” where the owner highlighted the importance of a property management plan.

A large, laminated map of the farm showing locations of infrastructure was circulated.

Property planning enables landholders to view their property and identify how elements of management can be integrated into a whole farm approach.



TIR NA SCAMALL

After the bus tour concluded, attendees were invited to join a farm tour at Debra Channell and Glyn Young’s hobby lifestyle farm *Tir Na Scamall*, which lies on the outskirts of the Eungella townsite. Debra and Glyn focus lies on revitalising their properties pastures and native vegetation.

The farm has been cleared of lantana and wild tobacco by hand. With support of NQ Dry Tropics funding fencing



was installed around their uncleared waterway to keep stock out, as well as prevent feral species such as pigs and dogs from being able to travel across the land, see below.

REFLECTIONS

The Eungella “Show & Tell” Grazing Bus Tour appealed to landholders and also attracted four students from Axiom College and their Trainer Earl Neilsen. One of the students is involved in the Queensland Government’s Reef Assist Program being delivered by Reef Catchments and the Landcare groups across the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region, and which features a wide range of conservation work (revegetation and weed control) and NRM sector training.

“The program is leading economic stimulus through land management action in areas that have badly impacted by a loss of visitors as a result of COVID-19,” presenter Clara Friswell from Reef Catchments said.

Reef Catchments and NQ Dry Tropics greatly appreciate the support of the landholders who welcomed the group onto their property and shared their farm story. A big thank you goes out to the Eungella Community Development Association who catered for the event. Feedback from attendees showed that the bus tour was well received and we are looking forward to another bus tour next year.

This event was proudly supported by NQ Dry Tropics Landholders Driving Change Project, and Reef Catchments Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator Project through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program.

NQ Dry Tropics Landholders Driving Change Update

Compiled by Rodger Walker, Land Management Support Coordinator, Bowen Office

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Greetings Eungella landholders,

Winter is here.

Great to see this newsletter growing in size with all things Eungella showcased. I enjoyed seeing a healthy turnout to the two Eungella events in June and visiting a number of properties in the area for technical support and project signoffs. For further information and stories about what's happening on the LDC project please read the Grit June [newsletter](#) or visit the LDC web-site: ldc.nqdrytropics.com.au

Here are some areas to focus on.

Giant Rat's Tail Grass Management

There was a great turnout to this technical update and field walk on June 3 with some vibrant discussions and information sharing. This event primarily enabled landholders from four properties (Ardrossan, Borderway Ridge, Saddle Creek and Rocky Falls) to present to the community on their Landholder's Driving Change-funded Exploring New Incentives grant which focused on soil health, pasture health and improved Giant Rat's Tail (GRT) grass management. The group showcased its weed wiper and lime dropper to attendees on the day and spoke about the practicalities of their use on farm.

This event was highlighted in the LDC's June 2021 GRIT newsletter: ldc.nqdrytropics.com.au/grt-field-walk so have a read in case you missed it.

For those with further questions re: GRT or Rat's Tail grasses management, Wayne Vogler (wayne.vogler@daf.qld.gov.au, 0417 195 601) and John Reeve (john.reeve@daf.qld.gov.au, 07 48432662) are happy to be contacted.

Dr Wayne Vogler (Principal Scientist, Invasive Plant and Animal Science, Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries) has also released a video on GRT identification: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEqfeW8cKvs&list=PLpiCDHV-ljhHvB1QdOvepBlb4O43XUgwg&index=14>

Finally, our long awaited catchment GRT Biosecurity signage has been produced and is soon to be installed across a number of landholder sites.

On-ground Grants

A couple of landholders have recently finished LDC project-funded waterway and remnant vegetation fencing grants in the area to be able to better manage their cattle around sensitive and ecologically important areas of the farm. We're looking forward to seeing these sites improve in condition and add value to the agricultural and non-agricultural parts of the farm as well as the wider catchment. In the last two years LDC funding has supported eight key fencing projects in the Eungella area with landholders typically contributing 50 per cent of costs.

Land Restoration Fund (LRF) 2021 Investment Round 2

As advertised in mid-June, as part of an overall \$60m investment, the Queensland Government is making \$25 million available for eligible carbon farming projects through a second investment round. Further details on the \$25 million Investment Round 2 will be available in July 2021, including information on the new, simplified two-stage application process. For further information or to register to receive email updates about the Land Restoration Fund refer: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/climate/climate-change/land-restoration-fund/2021-investment-round-2>

Australian Government incentive for soil testing

You may have heard a thing or two in the media about this one but in short the 2021–22 Federal Government Budget will deliver \$233.6 million in new funding to improve and protect Australia's soil. Funding will include new incentives (under the \$120 million investment in the National Soil Monitoring and Incentives Pilot) for farmers to encourage them to test their soil and improve productivity, profitability and participation in the Emissions Reduction Fund. For further information refer to www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/2338-million-improve-protect-soils



Top: Borderway Ridge trial paddocks at GRT field walk, June 2021. Bottom: John Reeve (DAF) discussing GRT management with live-stock (Wick wiper in background)

Photos: NQ Dry Tropics

Enjoy the mild July-Sept season and till our next event!

Multi-Species Planting

by Monica Regan, Project Officer - Sustainable Agriculture , Reef Catchments

Multi-species planter available for hire to CQSHS members

Local soil health organisation, Central Queensland Soil Health Systems (CQSHS) have recently acquired a multi-species planter, available for hire to those landholders who are members of CQSHS and are interested in planting multi-species on their farms.

The planter is co-funded by Sustainable Table, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and CQSHS, and was acquired in response to an increase in demand from graziers in the Mackay-Whitsunday region, who would like to improve their soil health and pasture biodiversity, however do not have the resources to secure a planter.

Multi-species pastures have received considerable attention both overseas and in Australia for their potential to improve pasture biodiversity, soil organic carbon, soil biology and farm ecosystems.

Local multi-species trials are underway at Brightley and Seaforth by participants of the Holistic Farm Management project, delivered by Reef Catchments.

These trials build on an initial multi-species planting at Eungella in 2020, and it is planned to hold a demonstration day for the CQSHS planter for Eungella landholders in the near future. Eungella landholders will be contacted to fine-tune details for this.

Landholders interested in hiring the planter will need to become members of CQSHS by visiting their website, www.cqshs.farm

Full details regarding planter hire will be available with the next newsletter, including wet and dry hire costs, specification and booking process details.



CQSHS members will reap the benefits of a new machine designed for multi-species planting. A demonstration day is planned for Eungella in the near future.

Images: CQSHS



Singapore Daisy troubles Eungella

Singapore daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*) can be found growing prolifically in Eungella township, covering banks, drains and lawns.

The plant is a restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, which means it must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit.

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO).

Control options

Mowing or brush cutting only exacerbates the issue, as new plants can form from the smallest cutting.

For smaller infestations hand weeding is a good option. If you choose this method, you will need to dig up underground runners.

Please act responsibly when disposing of the green waste. You can burn it: to do this, place plant material where it can't root, dry in sun, then burn. Alternatively, place in a black plastic bag with a little water and leave in the sun until it turns to mush, which can then be placed in your general waste bin.

Herbicide application is a good option. However: care must be taken to avoid erosion. Use a selective herbicide. Best practice for large patches is to spray around the edges and create an island, then slowly work your way in towards the centre.

As with most weed issues, and whether using manual or chemical controls, you will need to deliver follow up treatments.

Get the Queensland Government fact sheet on Singapore Daisy at www.daf.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/64000/singapore-daisy.pdf.

If you need help or advice regarding identification or control of weeds, please contact your local Mackay Regional Council Pest Management officer Maria Ferraro on 0417 608 199, or 1300 622 529 (MACKAY).



Despite the name, Singapore Daisy is an exotic introduced from Central America. This garden escapee has a dominant habit, forming a vigorous matting groundcover, that will also climb into neighbouring shrubs and trees. It has become prolific across a wide range of habitats and soil types, and readily establishes in disturbed areas of land.

Images: QLD Govt/DAF



Early results from Pasture Dieback Trial

By Peta Stockwell, Extension Officer (Beef)

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Over the last few months we've collected some of the preliminary results from a pasture dieback trial we're running on farm at Habana. As you can see in the photos, we started in late 2020 with low levels of pasture biomass (~300kg dry matter/ha) and ground cover as a result of significant dieback in the existing pangola pasture. When we did the pasture cuts in April 21, there was 10-14,000 kg DM/ha across the trial.

We trialled three treatments: control, cultivation and fertilising, and cultivation, fertilising and planting new species. All treatments have recovered well, and we will continue to monitor them over the dry season.



The Habana pasture dieback trial site in November 2020, left, and in April 2021.

Images: DAF

These results so far agree with what we heard from DAF sown pastures agronomists at Beef Week in their seminar on pasture dieback. To date, they have not found any particular management strategy to be more successful in their trials, with the current best bet being replacement with a multispecies grass and legume mix. They have also been observing that pastures can recover without any intervention over a 2-3 year period, and suggest that most pastures should recover on their own eventually. More information on pasture dieback is available via Futurebeef [here](https://futurebeef.com.au/knowledge-centre/pasture-dieback). (futurebeef.com.au/knowledge-centre/pasture-dieback)



Save the date!

Wyberba Field Day

Wednesday, September 22

Over the 2020/21 wet season the Mackay Beef Extension team ran a legume trial at Wyberba, on the Sarina range.

Progardes desmanthus, V8 stylo, and desmanthus coastal cultivar variety 9 were planted, and the end of wet season yields have now been recorded.

Hear about the results of the trial and see how the plots are going over the dry season.

For more information contact Peta Stockwell: Peta.Stockwell@daf.qld.gov.au or 0436 943 013

Eungella Bird Week

13-16 September 2021

**4 Days, over 140 Species
including the Endemic
Eungella Honeyeater**

**Data Collection and
Birding through the
Eungella National Park
and Clarke Ranges**

Presented by Birdlife Mackay

Program & Registration

[http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/
birdlife-mackay/upcoming-events](http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-mackay/upcoming-events)

or Contact Ian Cruickshank
on 0407 143 823



birdlife

MACKAY

Photo © Steve Dew



The Great Northern
Clean Up

Saturday 28th August 2021 - Sunday 29th August 2021

Men's Shed Ready for Action!

The Eungella Men's Shed is up and running.

Tucked in behind Eungella Hub at 13 North Street, the shed is open from 10am every Tuesday.

"We are a small group with a large variety of experience, know-how and anecdotes," said Eungella Men's Shed member Jono Keller.

"Our main activity to this point has been putting the shed up, which we started in early 2021.

"For the last couple of months we have been meeting regularly on Tuesdays. We have woodworking gear, metal-working including blacksmithing gear, and some tech gear - feel free to come in and check it out."

"If you would like to have a cuppa with the guys, it's BYO mug. If you would like to get stuck in on the tools, then don't forget closed in footwear - safety first!"

What's on in Ag and NRM

July 28-29	NQ Dry Tropics Christine Jones Soil Workshops. Contact Sheridan Callcott 0439 421 994
Sun, August 1	Sarina Show and Rodeo, Sarina Showgrounds
Thu, August 5	NQ Dry Tropics Field Event, Weetalaba Station: Weather: Understanding Forecasting; Wambiana Trial Results and Pasture Dieback. Contact Adrienne Hall 0428 158 859
August 9-13	NQ Dry Tropics Christine Jones Soil Workshops at Basalt River Station, Charters Towers. Contact Linda Anderson 0438 158 859
August 28-29	Great Northern Clean Up
Saturday, Sept 4	Tilapia Takedown. Family pest fishing event, presented by Reef Catchments. John Breen Park—Gooseponds, North Mackay. 8.30– 11am.
Sept 13-16	Birdlife Mackay present Eungella Bird Week for more, see www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-mackay/upcoming-events
October 9-10	Eungella Ancient Arts and Crafts Fayre. See page 11 for details
2nd Sunday of the month	Eungella Community Markets @ Eungella Hub
Every Tuesday	Eungella Mens Shed, behind Eungella Hub, from 10am
Every Tuesday	Volunteering with Pioneer Catchment Landcare, 8am to noon. Activities include native plant propagation, PCL display garden, and re-veg projects such as Far Beach and Lamberts Headland. Please contact Matt Birch at projectofficer@pioneercatchment.org.au to get involved.

Eungella Gets Medieval in October

The clamour of Vikings doing battle in full armour will echo throughout the Eungella highlands, surrounded by mist-shrouded Eungella National Park, with the launch of an exciting new event: the *Eungella Ancient Arts and Craft Fayre*

Eungella Community Development Association (ECDA) is in the process of organising a two-day family-friendly mega-fayre to be held on the October 9 & 10, 2021, to celebrate the traditional arts. ECDA is a not-for-profit community group, with many hard-working volunteers creating this wonderful event.

Thanks to *Mackay Regional Council*, the Fayre was awarded a \$6808 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) grant last month. RADF Committee chair Cr Fran Mann said the Eungella Ancient Arts and Crafts Fayre would be the first of its kind to be run in the Mackay region.

The Fayre seeks to celebrate the intrinsic capacity of the arts to make connections, engage, inspire, remember, educate, and make meaning while supporting the celebration of place and promoting a sense of community identity.

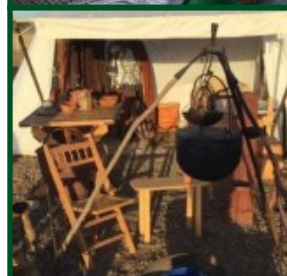
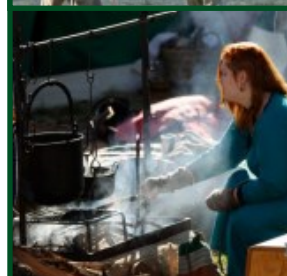
ECDA is excited to host the *Mercenaries of Western Europe*, a Mackay-based re-enactment troupe representing the Viking peoples of the 9th -13th centuries. They will be setting up a Viking village at the Fayre grounds.

Highlights of the weekend will include the below, with others being added all the time;

- ◆ First Nation Widi Sovereign Peoples 'Welcome to Country' Ceremony, Smoking Ceremony, display of artefacts, dancing and didgeridoo playing, and also presenting a Closing Ceremony.
- ◆ Market stalls including food, homemade goods, crafts, healing modalities, pottery, indigenous art, heritage cattle, and more!
- ◆ Huge array of art and craft workshops: raffia wall hanging making, Boho macrame wall hanging making, natural grass basket weaving, Mark making and mixed media artistry, weaving on a simple rigid heddle loom, blacksmithing, Ecodye silk scarf making, chain maille jewellery making, equine artistry using charcoal, Indigenous weaving. Kid's workshops include loom weaving and traditional basket weaving.
- ◆ Artisanal demonstrations: Fumbled Felt, knitting and crocheting, silversmithing, wood chopping competition, other timber arts reflecting Eungella's timber history
- ◆ Mackay and District Pipe Band
- ◆ Children's Activities, including Sensory Circus for kids, traditional games.
- ◆ Mercenaries of Western Europe kitted out with authentic Viking costumes, will demonstrate sword fighting battle, basket weaving, chain maille making, and mead brewing.

Eungella Ancient Arts and Crafts Fayre aims to celebrate what is unique about the local Eungella area - to give visitors a reason to visit and return, bringing economic benefits of tourism, but also providing the community with a positive focus in the wake of the 2018 fires and Covid-19.

For further information, please see the [Facebook Event](#) discussion tab, for workshops as they become available, and for expressions of interest in holding a market stall.



Crediton Hall Renovations Underway

by Mandy Tennent, Secretary, Crediton Hall Recreation Club

Crediton Hall Recreation Club (CHRC) are excited that work has commenced on renovating our historic Hall. *JR Maloney Builders*, a small local firm, has secured the worksite for safety, and will cause minimal disruption to the campground area.

The renovation of our historic hall, and the demolition of the old school, is funded by 'CQ Bushfires Category C Flexible Funding Large Grants Program Round 2'; an Initiative jointly funded under the Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Additionally, a Camp Kitchen Shed will be erected on the footprint of the old school, funded by the Queensland Government and the Gambling Community Benefit Committee, under the *Gambling Community Benefit Fund* grant program.



These staged improvements are thanks to previous funding acquired under 'CQ Bushfires Category C Flexible Funding Large Grants Program Round 1'; an Initiative jointly funded under the Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

This funding allowed CHRC to engage *STEA Astute Architecture* (stea.com.au) to create our *Crediton Hall Re-vitalisation Masterplan*. This document is critical for future funding applications for the re-vitalisation and upgrade of Crediton Hall and its site.

CHRC have been very blessed that our Project Manager and Crediton local, Dan Passfield, of *DT Building Services*, has very kindly donated all his considerable time and expertise to manage the project, and when we all went into lockdown last year, Dan continued to work hard behind the scenes, and has kept the renovations progressing throughout. Dan also secured free engineering and architectural design, which has saved CHRC significant costs. A huge thanks to Cornell Engineers cornellengineers.com.au and Glenda Matsen of Express Floor Plans, Ilbilbie www.facebook.com/expressfloorplans. A further shout-out to *Stephen Andrew MP for Mirani* whose generous donation to CHRC allowed us to purchase two stainless steel hand sanitiser dispensers for *Crediton Hall Campground*, to ensure the safety of our visitors, volunteers, and community during COVID-19.

Yes, we are still open for business! There is plenty of open flat space, clean air, green grass and blue sky, only 95 kms from Mackay, on our beautiful mountain! BYO fire-wood and fur-babies. Bookings are preferred via www.mackayregion.com/crediton-hall-campground Thank-you for your understanding, and please keep camping and supporting our not-for-profit campground: we look forward to sharing our renovated hall and brand new camp kitchen shed with you in the near future!

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**LANDHOLDERS
DRIVING CHANGE**
BURDEKIN MAJOR INTEGRATED PROJECT



Feedback and contributions are welcome: communications@pioneercatchment.org.au