

The Clarence Floodplain Project (CFP) is an initiative of the Clarence Valley Council. The project aims to improve the management of the floodplain, flood control structures, water quality and habitat, in co-operation with landowners, industry, community and government.



Welcome to the June issue of the Clarence Floodplain Newsletter.

After one of the wettest periods experienced early last year the rest of the year was one of the driest, providing further challenges for land managers.

Managing watercourses and wetlands during this period was also difficult. A couple of creeks experienced toxic blue-green algae outbreaks, a result of nutrient build up and low flow conditions and it's likely some wetlands were affected by acid sulphate soil oxidation as the moisture evaporated from the soil. The recent rainfall was a welcome relief for all.

Again, a reminder to all our volunteers to take care when operating water control devices and report any concerns or damage to Council.

Roadside biodiversity links — preserving our river corridors

Road reserves often follow the rivers, creeks and streams along the Lower Clarence River, with much of our remaining riverbank vegetation contained within them. These road reserves range in size from quite narrow, three metres, up to reasonably wide at 15-20 metres. Progress has been made towards rehabilitation of riverbank vegetation at the Bluff Point Ferry crossing. Another site is located on a roadside reserve at Ashby, where koala food trees have been planted. The aim of this project has been to maintain and protect remaining native vegetation on river road reserves and to maximise the potential for species recovery through improving biodiversity.

The removal of Cat's claw creeper and other invasive weeds from an important dry rainforest remnant has been carried out at Lawrence and in native vegetation on the opposite side of the river at Woodford Dale Reserve.

Planting trees is a positive step towards increasing the number of future food trees for the local Ashby koala population, and is in line with recent studies that indicate koalas have foraged in forest red gum trees located within this riverbank area.

With planting and assisted regeneration, there is potential to rehabilitate and connect large areas of fragmented vegetation on river and road reserves.

The Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project (RVIP2) has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust and is managed by Local Government NSW.

Below - galvanised metal tree guards used to protect young trees from predators and grazing.

Forest red gums planted at a riverbank roadside reserve in Ashby to provide future food sources for the Ashby koala population

