

## Topical Savannas Issue 40

October 19, 2000

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GENERAL NEWS \*  
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PAST ISSUES OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE ON THE TS-CRC's INTERNAL WEBSITE Go to <<http://savanna.ntu.edu.au>> and click on "internal site".

User name: internal Password: tropical (lower case only)

Abbreviations used in this issue:

NTU - Northern Territory University  
TS-CRC - Tropical Savannas CRC

## TS-CRC NEWS

### \*\*\*\* Fifth Year Review report out \*\*\*\*

In September the Tropical Savannas CRC had reason to be very pleased as the Second Stage of the fifth year review drew to a close in Darwin. The fifth year review is the most important of the periodical reviews of CRCs undertaken by the CRC Program Committee through its expert panels. The Centre had passed through the first stage-held in July this year with flying colours. The release of the Committee's final Report at the end of September indicates that the second stage expert panel had been equally impressed.

While the Tropical Savannas CRC is a predominantly a public good CRC, it addresses economic activities that contribute approximately \$7.5 billion per year to Australia's economy.

The review found that when the TS-CRC was established there were almost no mechanisms for east-west integration of research and application of that research into the tropical savannas of north Australia. However, in the five years of its existence its progress, said the panel, "has been impressive given the long history of limited collaboration of research and management agencies across the region."

It found that the CRC made significant progress towards defining the states of health of the various parts of the tropical savannas of northern Australia and the land-use regimes.

One area that received particular praise was the TS-CRC's education and training program, the Master and Graduate Diploma of Tropical Environmental Management.

The level of industry/user participation and cooperation between the participants and across programs also came in for its share of appreciation. The panel pointed out that user participation and cooperation had been "most impressive", particularly in the light of the limited cooperation before the Centre's establishment.

The panel recommended that in the final two years even more attention should be given to promoting the flow of information and sustainable technologies and management practices to end-users.

A submission for a further term of funding for a CRC for Tropical Savannas Management has been

made to the CRC 2000 Round. This would provide funding to 2009.

The existing TS-CRC has focused on linking land-management research across jurisdictions and disciplines. A new CRC for Tropical Savannas Management will still link research dealing with ecological sustainability but will take this a step further to examine the economic viability and social desirability of land-management solutions in partnership with stakeholders in the tropical savannas.

A copy of the review report can be downloaded from <<http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/news/centnews.html>>

\*\*\*\* Grassy Landscapes Conference Report \*\*\*\*

A report on the Grassy Landscapes Conference held in late August is now

available on the web - go to <<http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/news/centnews.html>>. The report summarises the conference and outlines future developments.

\*\*\*\* Database online \*\*\*\*

A new searchable database of over 2000 references to tropical savannas research is now up on the CRC website. The site will allow people to track down what research has been done on a particular land management topic, or in a particular region of the tropical savannas.

The database contains references to scientific papers, technical reports, conference papers, popular articles etc. most of which are not listed on other web-sites.

Summaries for some of the references are given and more of these will be added. The references can be searched by regions, by topic, by keyword, by author, by publication type or by any combination of these. The present site is a test site and might be slightly slow to download the first page, particularly on Netscape. It will be moved to a faster server soon.

Go to "Savanna Information" and then "Savanna Search" - or go directly to

[http://203.39.2.7/savanna\\_dev/#](http://203.39.2.7/savanna_dev/#)

\*\*\*\* TS-CRC Projects Updated \*\*\*\*

All TS-CRC Project descriptions on the web have now been updated. Go to

<http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/research/projects.html>

\*\*\*\* Writing Course \*\*\*\*

An intensive writing workshop for scientists and students of science was held in the first week of October, convened by the TS-CRC and presented by Robert Brown of 'Write Way Consulting'.

The workshop was attended by 12 people, including PhD students, CSIRO staff and NTU staff. By all accounts the workshop was worthwhile, as the attendees slogged through 5 full days of working on one manuscript each for publication. This work was interspersed with sessions on common style problems, analysing published papers, answering reviewers' criticisms and with participants preparing critiques of each other's manuscripts.

Robert Brown declared it the most productive workshop he had ever given at a University, so we can expect to see masses of well written papers appearing in scientific journals.

For more information contact Kathryn Thorburn at [k\\_thorburn@site.ntu.edu.au](mailto:k_thorburn@site.ntu.edu.au)

\*\*\*\* Welcome to Melissa Tang \*\*\*\*

Melissa Tang has joined the CRC Darwin Office to replace Julie Bolch (See the last issue of Topical Savannas <http://savanna.ntu.edu.au/internal/newsletters/index.html>>.) Melissa comes from Darwin - in fact she's lived there for 15 years, which makes her a local. Has some experience in accounting and looking forward to helping Susanna Martin. Julie has travelled extensively in SE Asia. Welcome to the TS-CRC Melissa.

She can be contacted on [Melissa.tang@ntu.edu.au](mailto:Melissa.tang@ntu.edu.au)

<<mailto:Melissa.tang@ntu.edu.au>>

\*\*\*\*Project News \*\*\*\*

**Project 3.3.2 Managing Rubbervine with Fire in Riparian areas**

**Project leader: Dr. Tony Grice, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Townsville**

Rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) is an exotic woody weed that poses a significant threat to northern Australian savanna landscapes. It has already invaded a large portion of northern and eastern Queensland and bioclimatic analysis suggests that it is capable of growing across northern sections of the Northern Territory and Western Australia. The species poses a major problem for pastoral industries and presents a considerable threat to conservation values. It is particularly prevalent in riparian zones.

Experimental work since the early 1990s has demonstrated that rubber vine is prone to fire. Intense fires kill most seedlings and juvenile plants and a large proportion of adults, as well as causing seed mortality. These results indicate that fire has general potential as a tool for the management of rubber vine. Its specific potential for riparian environments must be examined further. In particular it is necessary to document the impacts of riparian burning on both rubber vine and non-target species and communities.

This project was designed to address four questions:

- (1) How does the broad scale abundance of rubbervine vary in relation to historical fire regimes?
- (2) What are the short- and medium-term effects of fire on rubber vine in riparian habitats?
- (3) What are the effects of fire on representative plant and animal taxa of north Queensland riparian environments?
- (4) How does rubber vine affect the structure and composition of the native plant and animal communities of riparian environments?

The principal outcomes will be:

- Recommendations regarding the use of fire for the large scale management of rubber vine in a variety of vegetation types and climatic zones will be developed by documenting:
  - i. historical fire regimes of northern Queensland in relation to large scale patterns of distribution and abundance of the weed;
  - ii. short- to medium-term responses of riparian rubber vine to fire.
- Recommendations regarding the use of fire in the management of riparian communities will be developed based on documentation of the responses of a range of species.
- The value of selected broad taxa as indicators of the health of northern Australian riparian communities will be identified by describing species richness and diversity of these taxa in relation to the severity of rubber vine infestations and the occurrence of fire.

\*\*\*\*\* Research progress \*\*\*\*\*

Experimental sites have been established on three tributaries of the Burdekin River. Each site consists of three large plots that span creek lines.

Fire breaks were constructed around all plots in August 1999. Dry season (September-October 1999) fires were abandoned in 1999 because burning permits could not be obtained due to perceived fire risks. The first wet season burn was imposed in November 1999. Fire breaks were regraded in May 2000 in preparation for fires planned in August and November 2000.

Vegetation at each site was described in July 1999. Vegetation was sampled by surveying along transects running perpendicular to creeks. Trees and shrub species and size class were documented in permanent quadrats along each transect and herbaceous vegetation sampled using the BOTANAL technique. Both baseline botanical data and first year data have been collected, though analysis of the results has not yet been completed.

Downsizing of the budget for this project has meant that proposed work in the Gilbert-Einsleigh catchment and on fire history has not been possible.

\*\*\*\*\* Highlights and challenges\*\*\*\*\*

An important highlight of 1999-2000 was achievement of a successful wet season burn. Grass fuel was adequate for an effective fire taking advantage of a narrow window of opportunity. Fire reached most

parts of the plots, though fire intensity was variable.

Our most significant challenge has been to conduct prescribed burns at appropriate times. In 1999 we were unable to conduct dry season burns because we permit could not be obtained during a period of total fire ban. Early consultations this year with local producers in the Seventy Mile Range Landcare Group and the Seventy Mile Fire Warden has resulted in an agreement to have dry season fires by the beginning of September.

In spite of the less than ideal timing of the fire, the treatment appears to have been effective in reducing rubber vine populations though confirmation of this will await data analysis.

A strong possibility of carrying out significant faunal research at the sites has arisen through collaboration with James Cook University.

#### \*\*\*\* Future directions \*\*\*\*

Future research directions relate to key impacts of fire in riparian landscapes. Fire has implications not only for plant diversity, but also for hydrology, soil retention and down stream effects. Biodiversity also needs to be considered in the broader context, for instance how faunal diversity changes in response to fire.

Fire has been widely found to reduce woody weed encroachment into rangeland landscapes throughout the world and particularly in northern Australia. Fire therefore has a potentially major role in tropical grazing systems.

Fire has been identified as a useful tool for the control of several woody weeds including *Parkinsonia aculeata* and *Acacia nilotica*, both Weeds of National Significance. Not only does the efficacy of fire for control of weeds need to be investigated over landscape scales but there needs to be investigation of the environmental and biodiversity impacts of fire regimes in Northern Australia. Although preliminary work has been conducted on the implications of fire in some plant communities (e.g. Top end of the Northern Territory), much is still not known of the impacts of fire in other northern areas.

For more information contact Tony Grice: [tony.grice@csiro.au](mailto:tony.grice@csiro.au)

## General News

#### \*\*\*\*\* New Division for CSIRO \*\*\*\*\*

CSIRO has strengthened its research into natural resources by forming a new division, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, through merging the integrated agricultural systems work of the Division of Tropical Agriculture with the ecological and bio-diversity capabilities of the Division of Wildlife & Ecology. Dr Steve Morton will head the new division which will have around 330 staff with capabilities in ACT, Queensland, NT and WA.

"It's a very exciting development," says Dr Morton. " We've united CSIRO's expertise in conservation biology and ecosystem management with some of its farming systems and social assessment skills in regional Australia. It's a great marriage of knowledge and capacity that puts us in the best possible position to make a meaningful contribution to healthy landscapes, viable industries and vital communities.

Contact: Dr Steve Morton, CSIRO Tel: (02) 6242 1742

## Websites and Information

#### \*\*\*\*\* Online land & water resources \*\*\*\*\*

The National Land and Water Resources Audit's massive task of providing nationwide assessments of Australia's land, vegetation and water resources, can now be viewed online. The website has information about the audit, its objectives and out-comes. The site's publications' section has brochures and fact sheets describing the Audit's projects, an online newsletter and annual reports. Several datasets are available under the Data section, including those on land use mapping and soils. An online atlas is also under way.

Go to: [www.nlwra.gov.au](http://www.nlwra.gov.au)

## Publications

### \*\*\*\*\* Access to Biological Resources Report \*\*\*\*\*

A REPORT of an inquiry into one of the major environmental issues for the new millennium-access to biological resources-is available for public comment. The report, Access to Biological Resources in Commonwealth Areas, recommends ground-breaking regulations be incorporated into the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation(EPBC) Act 1999, which would control access to genetic material in plants and animals in Commonwealth areas and deliver substantial benefits to industry, the environment and indigenous communities. The major recommendation is that access to biological resources should be controlled through permits and benefit-sharing contracts.

Download from EA's website: [chm.environment.gov.au/documents/ inquiry.doc](http://chm.environment.gov.au/documents/inquiry.doc)

### \*\*\*\*\* 'CLIMAG' - the Climate Variability in Agriculture R&D Program newsletter \*\*\*\*\*

Streamflow forecasts to help better manage Australia's scarce water resources, and new generation climate forecasting models are just some of the projects featured in the latest issue of 'Climag', published by the Climate Variability in Agriculture R&D Program (CVAP).

The Rainman Streamflow Project assembled skills from across Australia to exploit the greater impact of ENSO (El Niño and the Southern Oscillation) and ocean temperatures on streamflow compared with rainfall.

Other articles in this issue include:

- Not all El Niños are created equal;
- Getting Clever on Climate;
- The Albury Climate Conference (23-25 October 2000);
- North West Cloud Bands; and
- Latest Research Reports.

This issue of 'Climag' will be available as a printed version or soon on the CVAP website, along with previous issues. Located at <http://www.cvap.gov.au> the website features general information on the program, project details and factsheets, links to other relevant sites, and the latest in climate variability developments, publications and conferences.

CVAP is Commonwealth Government funded (through AFFA and administered by LWRRDC), and supported by the rural R&D Corporations. CONTACT: For media enquiries or to register on the 'Climag' mailing list please contact Capital Public Affairs Consultants, 02-6248-9344 (email: [cpac@dynamite.com.au](mailto:cpac@dynamite.com.au) ).

### \*\*\*\*\* The Zen of Stakeholders \*\*\*\*\*

MANAGING the rising social expectations of Australia's mining and energy sector by communities, landholders, Aborigines and others is becoming an integral part of successful business management, says CSIRO's Dr Fiona Solomon, author of the new book *Zen and the Art of Stakeholder Involvement*. "Stake-holders are those who perceive themselves to be affected by or can affect your operations. They are not, however, a homogenous group and they have diverse and often competing interests," she says. The book is based on research undertaken during a travelling scholarship awarded to her by AMEEF. It enabled Dr Solomon to study innovative techniques being developed and tested in Canada and the US to build effective partnerships between the community and the minerals industry.

Contact Australian Minerals & Energy Environment Foundation Tel: (03) 9679 9911

Dr Fiona Solomon, CSIRO Minerals Tel: (03) 9545 8500

## Funding Opportunities

(Some of these come from LАWНаds - see below)

(LA1000/34)

Funding under the National Feral Animal Control Program (NFACP)

(Agricultural Component)

Natural Heritage Trust

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The agricultural component of NFACP aims to reduce the impact of pest animals on agriculture. Support is available to Commonwealth, State/Territory and local government; universities; private companies and incorporated community groups for the following activities:

(1) Develop and test new control techniques and strategies. (2) Quantify the costs and benefits of pest animal management. (3) Demonstration projects. (4) Desktop studies (e.g. development of extension materials; review of animal welfare issues etc). applicants are required to provide matching direct and/or in-kind support. Support will not be provided for routine pest control where benefits are likely to be limited to particular regions. Projects of 1-3 years duration (currently one year's guaranteed funding under remainder of NHT).

CONTACT: [quentin.hart@brs.gov.au](mailto:quentin.hart@brs.gov.au) or 02-6272 3801 to discuss your proposal. If suitable, you will be provided with a proforma and invited to submit an expression of interest by Friday, 3 November 2000. Funding is expected to be available by May 2001 and projects must be fully operational by July 2001.

#### (LA1000/17) CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

\$50,000 for 2001-2002, for 5-8 major events, (conferences/workshops/seminars)

#### Land and Water Resources R&D Corporation (LWRRDC)

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LWRRDC is a Commonwealth agency which provides national leadership in generating knowledge, informing debate and inspiring innovation and action in sustainable natural resource management (nrm). LWRRDC has allocated \$50,000 for 2001-2002, distributed across five to eight major events, for sponsorship of conferences/workshops/seminars. It is important for organisations seeking LWRRDC events sponsorship to apply under this twice-yearly ongoing call.

Applications need to focus on knowledge exchange among diverse stakeholders in nrm, addressing: Primary industries and contemporary issues. River Landscapes. Native Vegetation. Productive Future Landscapes. Relationship between people and landscapes. Organising policies, structures and institutions.

An application form is available on-line at: <http://www.lwrrdc.gov.au> (under 'Ads/Applications'). LWRRDC requires three paper copies to be submitted to: Communication Manager, LWRRDC, GPO Box 2182, Canberra ACT 2601. Other applications, not received within the following call deadlines, cannot be considered by LWRRDC: 31 October 2000 (for events January-June 2001); 30 March 2001 (July-December 2001); and 31 October 2001 (January-June 2002). CONTACT: LWRRDC Communication Manager, Christine Ellis, 02-6263-6012 (email: [christine.ellis@lwrrdc.gov.au](mailto:christine.ellis@lwrrdc.gov.au)).

### Workshops/Short Courses

#### \*\*\*\*\* Top End Gamba Grass Control Workshop \*\*\*\*\*

On Wednesday November 15 a practical gamba grass control workshop will be held in the rural area near Darwin. It is open to anyone interested in gamba grass management.

The workshop will commence at 8.30am behind the Berry Springs Hardware Store where some plots will already be established to show the results of different treatments. Demonstrations of various techniques and equipment will also occur on site.

We will then move to the Berry Springs Recreation Reserve where at 10.15am several speakers will talk about gamba grass control as well the effects of gamba grass fires on woody vegetation. Speakers will include Jeff Little (Opium Creek), Joye Maddison (Mary River Landcare Group), Dave Liddle (PWCNT) and Peter Jeffrey (Specialist Weed Control). There will be static displays as well as plenty of opportunities for questions and discussion. A sausage sizzle will follow at about 11.45am. To assist the organising committee with catering etc. please contact Trevor Howard on 8984 4000 by November 8.

Contact: Trevor Howard, Vernon Region Fire and Weed Project Phone: 08 8984 4000, Fax: 08 8947 2263 Email: [trevor.howard@nt.gov.au](mailto:trevor.howard@nt.gov.au)

\*\*\*\*\* On-line Awards in Sustainable Development: Central Queensland University \*\*\*\*\*

- Master of Sustainable Development
- Graduate Diploma of Sustainable Development
- Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Development

These new Central Queensland University awards represent one of the first attempts to accredit students in the area of sustainable development. They are the only courses on the World Wide Web which commence with a coherent 'vision' of sustainability - as both a new theoretical approach, and as a practice.

These courses are designed to:

- develop an understanding of the multiple meanings of sustainability, and the concepts and theories employed in evaluating sustainable options
- develop an appreciation and recognition of the diversity of models and options, relating to sustainable development
- train students to think systemically and holistically about natural resource management and social and economic development
- Cater for students from a variety of backgrounds, both educational and professional, and with a wide range of interests
- provide practical tools to assist people in integrating principals of sustainable development within their current field of employment

CONTACT: For further information: Dr Jill Windle, Program Coordinator, Institute for Sustainable Regional Development, Central Queensland University, 07-4930-9089 (fax: 07-4930-6756, email: [j.windle@cqu.edu.au](mailto:j.windle@cqu.edu.au)) or see <http://www.isrd.cqu.edu.au>

\*\*\*\*\* 20TH Australian Groundwater School \*\*\*\*\*

'Fundamentals of Groundwater Science, Technology & Management'

Mon 27 November-Fri 1 December, 2000

Melbourne University

International House

241 Royal Pde, Parkville, Victoria

Who should attend: Specialists and non-specialists working on land and water resource management issues

Professional and technical staff involved in groundwater management, environmental consulting, mining, hydrogeology, land care and other natural resource management.

Course outline:

Introduction to Groundwater Resources and Issues in Australia

Surface water Groundwater Interaction and Ecosystems dependence on Groundwater

- Hydrogeology
- Hydraulics
- Groundwater Chemistry
- Environmental Isotopes in Groundwaters
- Groundwater microbiology
- Aquifer testing by pumping
- Geophysics
- Recharge/Discharge determination
- Application of GIS to Groundwater Management
- Groundwater Conceptual Modelling
- Mine Dewatering Fundamentals
- Drilling Methods Production and Piezo Bore Design

- Monitoring and Sampling Methods
- Dryland Salinity and Waterlogging
- Groundwater Pollution, Soil Remediation, Quality Protection and Management
- Field demonstrations of Groundwater Investigation Technologies
- Study Tour of significant groundwater sites

COURSE LEADERS: Presentations by practising hydrogeologists and specialists with hands-on groundwater management experience. Presenters come from diverse backgrounds including government, consultancies, universities and research agencies such as CSIRO.

COURSE FEES: \$1070, includes notes, tuition, lunches, am and pm teas and GST.

CONTACT: Trevor Pillar, 08-8201-5634 Email: [trevor.pillar@adl.clw.csiro.au](mailto:trevor.pillar@adl.clw.csiro.au)

Website: <http://www.clw.csiro.au/cgs/train/content.htm>

### Forthcoming Conferences

National Waterwatch Conference, Griffith University, 20-23 November 2000. Contact Christina Dwyer on 3896 9737 or email [Christina.Dwyer@dnr.qld.gov.au](mailto:Christina.Dwyer@dnr.qld.gov.au).

Hydro 2000 3rd International Hydrology and Water Resources Symposium 20-23 November 2000 Perth, Western Australia

Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Perth. Contact Congress West Pty Ltd Tel: +61 8 9322 6906 Fax: +61 8 9322 1734 Email: [conwes@congresswest.com.au](mailto:conwes@congresswest.com.au) Web: <http://www.ieaust.org.au/hydro2000/>

4th annual australian environmental engineering event 21-24 November, 2000, Whalers Inn Resort, Victor Harbour, SA

- Bioremediation and Biological Processes
- Pollution Control and Waste Management
- Water and Wastewater Treatment
- Environmental Management Systems

Contact: Lionel Ho 08-8259-0365

Email: [lionel.ho@sawater.sa.gov.au](mailto:lionel.ho@sawater.sa.gov.au).

Web: <<http://www.waterquality.crc.org.au/eere2000>>

Remade Lands 2000, 2nd International Conference on Remediation and Management of Degraded Lands  
30 November - 1 December 2000

Venue: Murdoch University, Western Australia

Contact: Dr Kuruvilla Mathew

Environmental Science, Murdoch University

Tel: (08) 9360 2896 Fax: (08) 9310 4997

Email: [mathew@essun1.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:mathew@essun1.murdoch.edu.au) <<mailto:mathew@essun1.murdoch.edu.au>>

Soil 2000: 2nd joint conference of NZSSI and ASSSI

'New Horizons for a New Century', 3-8 December 2000, New Zealand

Venue: Lincoln University, Canterbury

Call for papers: deadlines for extended abstracts is 1 June 2000.

Contact: Helen Shrewsbury

Tel: 64 3 325 2811 Extension: 8955 Fax: 64 3 325 3840

Email: shrewsbh@lincoln.ac.nz

Website: at <<http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/cted/nzsss/>>

Ecological Society of Australia Annual Conference 2000

'Ecology in a Rapidly Changing World'

29th November-1st December, Post-graduate seminar day 28th November

La Trobe University, Melbourne

The conference aims to capture the wide range of ecology traditionally presented at ESA and focus on how ecological research can help better measure and interpret change in landscapes.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Sue Gillard, CLEMS 03-9439-3855 (fax: 03-9431-5167, email: clems.sg@bigpond.com ) or see:

<<http://life.csu.edu.au/esa>>

International Conference on Ecology of Insular Biotas: Victoria University, Wellington, NZ, 12-16 February 2001. The conference will focus on ecological patterns and processes of isolated biotas, including true islands, natural habitat islands (eg ponds) and artificial habitat island (eg reserves). Registration cost: NZ\$400. Discount available for early registration and special consideration for full-time students. Two half-day field trips are offered at extra cost.

Contact Mr Dick Veitch, phone & fax 64 9 298 5775, mobile 64 9 25 200 5490, Email: dveitch@kiwilink.co.nz Website: <<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/sbs/conferences/>>.

4th International Conference on Environmental Chemistry and Geochemistry in the Tropics - GEOTROP 2001, 7-11 May, 2001, Jupiters Hotel, Townsville, Australia

GEOTROP is a biennial series of international conferences focussing on problems of environmental chemistry and geochemistry in the tropics. Contact Numbers Tel: + 61-7-4753 8555 Fax: + 61-7-4753 8600 E-MAIL: andrew.noble@tvl.clw.csiro.au <<mailto:andrew.noble@tvl.clw.csiro.au>> Website <<http://www.tvl.clw.csiro.au/geotrop2001>>

**A listing of conferences can also be found on the calendar section of the TS-CRC website**  
**[www.savanna.ntu.edu.au/news/calendar.html](http://www.savanna.ntu.edu.au/news/calendar.html)**

## **Job Vacancies**

LAWNads JOBS

The jobs and consultancies below are culled from 'LAWNads', a once-weekly email that lists opportunities for paid work in the land and water field across Australia - contact [LAWNads@webmedia.com.au](mailto:LAWNads@webmedia.com.au) <<mailto:LAWNads@webmedia.com.au>>. 'LAWNads' is brought to you by the publishers of 'Land and Water News', which is an independent, hard-copy newsletter for Australian natural resource professionals.

**(LA1000/24) CATCHMENT COORDINATOR, Georgina/Diamantina Catchment Committee, Longreach, Qld**

One year, renewable. Salary: \$35,000-\$45,000pa to be negotiated

Lake Eyre Basin Coordinating Group

A unique opportunity exists to join an independent, national and dynamic community-based organisation committed to managing the natural resources and biodiversity of the world's largest internally draining basin.

A catchment coordinator is required to work with the above committee to implement the catchment

strategy and action plans to improve natural resource management and conservation in the catchment. This will be done through broad consultation, capacity building, seeking and generating necessary information, and encouraging a partnership approach between all interest groups and levels of government. This position is located at Longreach, however the successful applicant must be prepared to work regularly at other locations within the catchment.

CONTACT: Prospective applicants should contact Alison Bell, 07-4658-0600 for a copy of the Position Description and Selection Criteria. For information about the Lake Eyre Basin Coordinating Group see: <http://www.LakeEyreBasin.org.au> Closing date for applications is 10 November, 2000.

**(LA1000/44) SENIOR TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGIST, Cairns, Queensland**

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd (NRA)

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NRA provides specialist environmental consultancy services to clients throughout Australia and the Asia Pacific Region. This Australian company was established in Cairns in 1984 and is owned and operated by environmental professionals. An innovator in environmental services, NRA provides environmental assessment and management services to private and government sectors at policy, strategic and operational levels. Our guiding philosophy is to make a difference by facilitating change for protection or enhancement of the environment. We strive to achieve this through sound technical, economic, and human resource practices.

REQUIREMENTS: Self-motivated individual with at least five years' applied post-graduate experience and an appreciation of all aspects of terrestrial ecology (zoology, botany, conservation ecology, restoration ecology and statistics), with specialised expertise in at least one of these fields. Demonstrated experience in applied studies, excellent report writing skills, and a commitment to working as part of a professional team. Previous experience in a service industry advantageous.

CONTACT: Selection Criteria from: Kath Fell, 07-4031-5122 ( [kath@natres.com.au](mailto:kath@natres.com.au) ). Conditions of employment will be discussed during the interview process. Closing date for applications: 31 October 2000.