



## **Caboolture Region Environmental Education Centre**

### **Friends of CREEC Association Incorporated** **Presidents Report 2005/2006**

The Friends of CREEC Association has once again had a busy and successful year. Though it has been said before, it bears repeating that most, if not all great achievements are heavily underpinned by volunteers. At CREEC we are all in no doubt that volunteer contributions will always be a huge part of the continuing strive to become a highly regarded Environmental Education Centre boasting, international best practice and standards.

Some of the achievements of the Friends of CREEC Association and developments at CREEC over the past year are highlighted as follows.

#### **CREEC 2005/06 Milestones in summary:**

**CREEC Administration and Volunteer Coordinator** - The Caboolture Shire Council has again provided funding to support this position at CREEC. Funding has been increased and it is now a full time position based at CREEC. Wayne Marsh fills the position and still continues to combine paid work hours with an amount of volunteering hours to staff the centre five days a week during normal hours and out of normal hours. His dedication has been instrumental in maintaining efficient daily operations at the centre.

**CREEC Education Officer** – Eileen and Brian Rigden have again been filling the role of education officer at CREEC. They have completed numerous engagements at schools and libraries and at CREEC in support of the role.

**2006 Sustainable Living Fair** - Up to 3000 people visited CREEC on a clear, sunny but very windy day in June. Joe Vonhof once again took up the position of principal organiser, and he should be commended for his success. Unfortunately Joe had to take leave of the position prior to the Fair but planning momentum was continued utilising the skills of the centre administrator and other volunteers. Stallholder numbers declined due to competition from other events and visitor numbers were down due to the weather conditions. This year's Fair was supported by CSC 'Festival and Events Grant' funding and a generous donation from Boral Resources. In kind support provided by Caboolture Shire Council, Quest Newspapers and Boral. The 2007 Sustainable Living Fair is planned to be held on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2007.

**Site Development** - the Site Development Committee is meeting on a regular basis to prioritise works on the CREEC site for inclusion in each year's planning budget. Some of the areas worked on during the year are listed below.

Macadamia Plantation - work continues to be done to salvage and protect the remaining trees and supplement them with some new stock sourced from CSIRO. Weeding mulching and supplemental watering has also continued and the trees are beginning to thrive. Jim Pulsford coordinated much of this work and he should be commended for his work. Long term projects for this site may be to use the surplus mounds to plant plantation timbers or other Macadamia related flora for demonstration purposes.

Entry Statement – the entry statement lagoon system has been extended to the north western corner of the CREEC site. Funded by CSC, the area that it surrounds has been levelled and topped and will be used as a utility area and overflow carpark during major events. A covered rest area has been constructed overlooking the lagoon and trees, shrubs and ground cover plantings will complete the project over the next six months. The windmill, water tank, solar powered pump and irrigation system supporting the landscaped area immediately adjacent to the lagoon continue to work well. An application for funding a project to reuse this water in the Nursery and ultimately in the macadamia plantation and around the interpretation centre lawns is still in progress.

Tracks and trails - new pathways around the lagoon and extending to the south-western region of the CREEC site have been formed. They will link with existing tracks and trails on the site. All other tracks on the site are being well maintained and are holding up well.

Amphitheatre – the amphitheatre area continues to be an asset to the CREEC site, and works well as a grassed area. Planned work to concrete the area under the shade sails and provide electrical outlets will be delayed until further justification for the expenditure is proven. It is planned to use a portable hire generator when electrical services are required.

Grounds Maintenance – is being performed by council, contractors and CREEC volunteers to a very high standard of presentation at all times.

**Interpretation Centre** – Caboolture Shire Council provided funding for the installation of two water tanks each with 10000litre capacity at the rear of the interpretation building. The tanks have been plumbed for toilet flushing use in the building.

A project is underway to further improve the climate control of the building interior and will initially include recording local climate data inside and outside of the building to ascertain the effect of our efforts to efficiently control the climate of the building in the future.

Ownership of the solar photovoltaic array on the roof of the Centre will be transferred from Stanwell Corporation to Caboolture Shire Council in the 2006/2007 financial year.

**CREEC Community Nursery** - over 42500 plants were tubed in the nursery this year. About 31489 plants were supplied to various projects throughout the Shire over the year. The community nursery volunteers have been very pro-active all year in attending training sessions and propagating and maintaining tube stock on Mondays And Wednesdays at the

nursery. They were also very active maintaining other areas of the CREEC site, particularly on the North South track, Endeavour Bend and Koala Corner as well as the teardrop area and the front entry statement. They have made a huge impact on the amenity of the area and should be commended for their efforts. In recognition of their efforts Nursery Volunteers were provided with khaki uniforms and monthly barbeques organised and supplied by Friends of CREEC members.

**CREEC Newsletter** – During the last year the CREEC Newsletter was produced by Rhonda Brett with production assistance from Alan Evans and Sue Peter and co-ordination assistance from Wayne Marsh. A new format and an alternative method of sourcing articles will be implemented. This is aimed at making the Newsletter more available, and more of a feature for members and non-members alike.

**Business Plan implementation** – The business plan has been generally progressed, though time to review this important road map has again been lacking.

**CREEC Funding** - Friends of CREEC applied for approximately \$32000 in grant funding. The association was successful in being approved for and receiving approximately \$8000 of that amount. The Friends of CREEC Association balance sheet remains healthy.

**Friends of CREEC Membership** - Friends of CREEC membership was over the course of the year increased to 68 financial members. Further work is being carried out on formally accounting for members and offering membership incentives. One new community group welcomed as a member of Friends of CREEC Association, was the Caboolture / Elimbah Herb Society. PRCCA has increasingly continued to use CREEC as its home base and Permaculture Caboolture have made the decision to move the majority of their operations to CREEC and will establish a permaculture garden adjacent to the nursery site.

**CREEC Volunteers** – on average of 69 volunteers per month recorded 15931 annual working hours on CREEC administration, gardening and maintenance. During that time the volunteers, maintained 55545 sq metres, cleared 8100 sq metres, and removed 140sq metres of weeds. They also conducted numerous guided walking tours, and assisted with 515 telephone information requests. Volunteers also travelled many km to or from or in support of CREEC activities. These records do not account for time worked on CREEC Activities away from the Centre itself.

**CREEC site usage** - 115 auditorium/ site bookings, 68 member meetings, 10 school booking and 15 events and workshops were held at CREEC during the last financial year.

**Funded work programs** – Friends of CREEC has continued support of State and Commonwealth Government mutual obligation and training programs and of the people who use them at CREEC

**Dignitaries and politicians** - who have visited CREEC in the last year include: Mal Brough MP, Ken Hayward MLA, Caboolture Shire Council Mayor Joy Leishmann, Deputy Mayor Greg Chippendale, Cr Lyn Devereux and Division 5 Councillor and member of the CREEC Board Cr Peter Flannery.

**Offsite projects and Partnerships** – Friends of CREEC has continued its support of the Caboolture Shire Council Bushcare program through the supply of nursery plants and the ongoing bush regeneration of the CREEC site by volunteers. Partnerships with Landcare, NHT and NRMSEQ continue to flourish. Friends of CREEC continues our relationship with Boral Resources as we support their efforts to sustainably manage their assets in the Shire. We also acknowledge their continuing support of the CREEC Sustainable Living Fair and the efforts of all environmental groups in the region. Stanwell Corporation and Solahart are also recognised for their past and ongoing contributions to CREEC.

**Future Goals and funding** – CREEC will continue to grow in importance as a community education and recreation centre, in line with the continuing pace of growth and development in the Shire. Environmental education, environmental sustainability and support of and partnerships with the many groups and organizations aligned with that principle is, as always, a priority at CREEC. Planning for the interpretation building climate control and future extensions incorporating Library, Laboratory, Herbarium and Utility rooms will continue. Bush regeneration, tracks and trails and outdoor amenities on the site remain a priority. The Friends of CREEC Association will continue to monitor various grant schemes and where appropriate will apply for funding for both on site and off site projects.

CREEC is a Caboolture Shire Council facility jointly managed and run by CSC Facilities Unit and the community. We continue to maintain a good partnership with the Facilities management group, and with the co-operation and partnership of many other council departments who continue to serve the needs of CREEC well.

All Friends of CREEC Association Executive, Members, Volunteers, Supporters and Contributors, Members of the CREEC Board, Caboolture Shire Council Councillors and staff and CREEC Sponsors, must be thanked for their contribution to CREEC's growth and success over the last year.

*Rodney Blair*

President  
Friends of CREEC Association.