

BARKLY BEEF



Published by the Northern Territory Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development, Tennant Creek. ISSN 1325-9539

Volume 12

Issue 4

December 2004

Backyard Blitz Barkly Style



Over the last 2 months I have been out and about with my band of trusty companions erecting fences for the Carrying Capacity Project which is currently being undertaken across the NT. Braving the heat and humidity, the swarms of flies, wrestling with ringlock and battling with barb, our crew of dedicated DBIRD fencers have been setting up "little paddocks". It seems a bit ridiculous and I know we must look a sight - out in the middle of the flat pushing a lawn mower - but what we aim to achieve is a collection of data over the seasons relating to pasture growth. This data will be fed into a computer program called GRASP and this information can be used to calculate carrying capacities for a given landtype.

The setup consists of a 30 by 30-metre square fenced off to remove the effects of grazing. We take initial measurements and photos and these are used as the starting point for the pasture growth model. Four visits are made to the site per year –

but obviously for most places, the timing of these visits will depend very much on the weather and accessibility!

Currently six sites on four stations have been fenced off, with another two to go before the end of the year. More sites will be fenced next year (*preferably when it is a bit cooler with a few less flies*). Hopefully a good range of landtypes will be covered by this study. Thank you to all the stations who have agreed to let us conduct this study on their properties - I will be seeing plenty of you on my visits out to cut grass from these enclosures. Thanks also to my band of fencing buddies - maybe by the end of this project we will have developed a taste for the finer art of fencing!

If you have any queries about the Carrying Capacity Project, contact me on 08 8962 4487 or E-mail genevieve.nash@nt.gov.au

Genevieve Nash – Pastoral Production Officer

Inside this issue:

Backyard Blitz Barkly Style	1
A word from the Regional Director	2
Tableland Talk	2
Tennant Creek DBIRD contact numbers	3
Extracts from Distance, Drought & Dispossession	4
Business & Trade Development	5
Waybills	6
How to find a Property Identifier Code (PIC) for a Northern Territory property	7
AUSSIEGRASS	8
2005 Barkly May Day Muster	11
Barkly Rangeland Management Course	11
Barkly Landcare	12
Industry Initiatives to Improve Heifer Performance	13
NLIS Cattle Implementation – Update August 2004	14
NLIS December 2004 update	19

A word from the Regional Director

As you can all see, I am still here and enjoying the change from the old style. The successful candidate for the RD's job should be known by Xmas.

Somewhere out there is a person with a box of matches who is not on the Xmas card list. Ask the people in the North and East of the region. The situation is one of the worst in a number of years and all the fires in our region cannot be blamed on "Huey"(the bloke who we all ask to "send it down" about this time of year). Hopefully, the culprits, when they are eventually caught will be prosecuted.

The DBIRD Team is still going strong and is active in the region with the usual Animal Health work and the Pastoral section setting up their trials. The cattle industry has had a fair and

changing year, although a tad dry in some places and we would like to welcome the new folk to our region.

Don't forget that Business and Trade are part of our Team and can help with any inquiries concerning licensing, business registration, Government grants and their application and a range of other services. They also have public Internet access for "Information NT"

For those of you that front for our annual Party, see you there. For those that won't be able to make it, have a Great Christmas and I wish you Prosperous New Year

Cheers

Ted Martin



TABLELAND TALK - What's on in & around the Barkly

The 2005 Calendar of Events (Draft) has been included but I still have not been able to source a lot of the updates. Please contact me if you would like to be included on the distribution list.

23rd October Brunette Downs Women's Day – Barkly Homestead

Eighty women and their children travelled from all over the Barkly Tablelands, Tennant Creek, the Gulf region, to Mt Isa and Julia Creek in western Queensland for a day that is a must on the regions social calendar. Sue Stafford, her daughter, Janelle and governess, Cindy Richter, came from Miranda Downs in QLD's gulf country. The event was first held in 1996 at "Brunette Downs" and a few years later moved to the Barkly Homestead were two events where as the days increased in popularity.

Bernadette Bourke, has been able to source funding from NT Chief Minister's, Office of Women's Policy Division, and a Community Benefit Fund grant received early this year to assist in bringing guest speakers to these events. Personality profiles was the topic of guest speaker, Jean McRuvie from Brisbane while her daughter, Kirsty, gave an insight into grooming with the right choices of colours, fashion styles, makeup and accessories. Dawn McCarthy and Marie O'Hara, from Barkly Employment and Training (BEAT), Tennant Creek outlined what their organisation had to offer. The Remote Area Family Service (RAFS), travelled from Mt Isa to run a playgroup for the children.



Tennant Creek DBIRD contacts

Department of Business, Industry & Resource Development (DBIRD)

**Barkly House – 99 Paterson st
PO Box 159, Tennant Creek NT 0861**

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT

1st Floor Barkly House

Fax: 08 8962 4480

A/Regional Director	Ted Martin	08 8962 4485
Executive Officer	Helen Kempe	08 8962 4484
Administration Officer	Natalie Koehn	08 8962 4488
Barkly Landcare Officer	Colleen Westover	08 8962 4479

PRIMARY INDUSTRY

1st Floor Barkly House

Fax: 08 8962 4480

Animal Health

Regional Veterinary Officer	Francois Human	08 8962 4486 mb 0427 003 026
A/Regional Stock Inspector	Thomas Haines	08 8962 4458 mb 0401 113 445

Pastoral Production

Senior Pastoral Production Officer	Andy Bubb	08 8962 4492
Pastoral Production Officer	Genevieve Nash	08 8962 4487
Pastoral Production Technical Officer	Kerryl O'Rourke	08 8962 4483
Pastoral Production Technical Officer	Ruth Allan	08 8962 4493

BUSINESS & TRADE DEVELOPMENT

Ground Floor Barkly House

Fax: 08 8962 4413

Regional Manager	Peter Davenport	08 8962 4472 mb 0427 250 064
TBC Customer Service Officer	Candy Walsh	08 8962 4439
DBIRD Trainee	Rebecca Weller	08 8962 4411

MINERALS & ENERGY

Ground Floor Barkly House

Fax: 08 8962 4413

Indigenous & Mining Services Advisory Officer	Neil Price	08 8962 4476
--	------------	--------------

Extracts from

Distance, Drought and Dispossession

A HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY PASTORAL INDUSTRY

Glen McLaren and William Cooper

Printed in Darwin by NTU PRESS 2001

- The most surprising feature of the stocking and development of the Northern Territory, certainly until the late 1870's, is the extremely slow rate at which it occurred. This can be explained in part by economic conditions within both Queensland and South Australia.
- The original Northern Territory Act of 1863 limited pastoral leases to between 25 and 300 square miles and provided only 14-year tenure. It also insisted on stocking before a lease application could be processed, thus forcing pastoralists to bring animals overland to unknown country on the off-chance that the land would be suitable. With amendments to the Act in 1872 and an easing of the stocking requirements, which gave leaseholders one year to comply, huge expanses of country were quickly claimed. In one week during 1878, 23 060 square miles had been selected. Unfortunately, although the initial fee of sixpence per square mile encouraged pastoralists to take up land, the increasing rents thereafter meant that marginal land was soon forfeited. Even for the rare leaseholder who possessed the necessary resources, the legislation, which did not provide compensation for improvements after resumption, offered little incentive to invest in dams, wells, yards and homesteads. These problems were not overcome until the introduction of the 1892 Crown Lands Act, which provided for 42-year leases at an annual rental of sixpence per square mile for the first seven years, and progressive increases thereafter.
- Scotsman George Sutherland is credited with bringing the first stock into the Territory. He and his brother John left Rockhampton with 8000 sheep in December 1863. After battling fires, grass-seeds, water shortages and Aborigines over seven months and 1300 miles, they settled beside Lake Mary, which is now the Georgina River. Sutherland named his run Rocklands.
- Five months later F. E Nash arrived with a mob of cattle and continued on the Georgina and took up property which later became the famous Lake Nash run. Nash was followed by Rankin, the Stieglitz brothers, G.S. Caird and W. J. Lyne, who all settled in the Rankin, Lorne and Herbert River areas.
- Attention turned to the Barkly Tableland in the 1880's. Once the border had been correctly surveyed in 1882, runs were made available and, by the end of 1884, five lessees in the Herbert and Rankin River areas were running 4000 sheep and 14 000 cattle.
- South Australian pastoralists Ralph Milner appears to have been the first to overland stock any considerable distance across the Territory. Milner reached the Roper River in 1871 with half the number of sheep he started with in 1870 from Pt Augusta SA. Few others attempted the south-north stock route, with the bulk of stock coming through Queensland via Leichhardt's coastal track.
- In an outstanding feat of droving in 1881, Nat Buchanan oversaw the lifting to Glencoe of 16 000 head of cattle from the St George region and a further 4000 head from Richmond. Also 500 head of well-bred mares and the necessary stallions. To prevent the animals from becoming uncontrollable, they were driven at two-day

intervals in mobs of 2000, each under the experienced overlander and six other white stockmen.

- By 1885 sheep had been established on four or five stations, with the wool being shipped out through Burketown. By 1892 Austral Downs was reported to be running 50 000 head. Nevertheless, although sheep thrive in sections of the Tableland and good markets were available for both meat and wool, they were either not economically viable or simply too much trouble compared with cattle.

- Overall, a variety of stallions, including thoroughbreds, draught and coaching breeds, were introduced. The rapid expansion of the cattle industry meant initially that horses were at a premium. In 1881, V. L. Solomon sold four for a total of £175. At present day values, this is equivalent to over \$35 000.
- The first sub-artesian bore in the Tableland region was put down in 1890 on Rocklands, 20 miles from the Queensland border, after the proprietors had purchased their own rig.

Talking Business

From Regional Manager, Business and Trade Development

Plans are still afoot to organise a pastoral themed expo next May to coincide with the May Day Muster. The theme will give the Barkly Pastoralists an opportunity to interact with local businesses to inspect the products and services available and let the retailers know what types of products would be purchased if available. I would like to congratulate Malcolm McAskill from Juno Horse Centre on the successful Stockman's Training Course which he ran earlier this year in conjunction with the Youth Development Unit. The course was a great success with 8 out of 10 completing and some going onto further work experience and even employment.

Business prospects in our region are improving all the time. The proposal to build a major domestic waste recycling plant in Tennant Creek continues to grow momentum. A grant of

\$150,000 has been received from the Federal Government to fund a feasibility which should begin soon. This could have an incredibly significant impact on the entire region.

The mining industry continues to go from strength to strength. The Bootu Creek project located at Muckaty is soon to begin. This is a manganese mine with a minimum life expectancy of 10 years.

Please feel free to contact me any business matters. I would also like to wish everyone a great festive season and look forward to catching up with many of you at the DBIRD Christmas party.

Peter Davenport
(08) 8962 4472
0427 250 064
peter.davenport@nt.gov

Waybills

Why are Waybills so important for the Northern Territory cattle industry?

The waybill forms the basis of the cattle tracing system (NLIS) operating in the NT. All other states are introducing some components of electronic individual animal identification in order to achieve a satisfactory capability in livestock tracing.

The NT has the most efficient and comprehensive cattle tracing system in Australia. This is why compulsory electronic individual identification is not being introduced in the NT. In order to maintain this position all cattle owners will need to continue to support the effective operation of the waybill system.

What is required of cattle owners?

1. Complete all sections of the Waybill in detail.
2. Include details of numbers of each category of stock (never describe the load as mixed steers, cows, heifers).
3. Include details of numbers of each brand within each category of stock.
4. The owner must retain a copy of the waybill in the book (green copy).
5. The owner must send a copy (pink copy) to the Chief Inspector (Regional Stock Inspector) with 28 days.
6. The person receiving the stock (consignee) must retain the copy of the waybill.

What is the government doing to improve the waybill system?

1. Stock Inspectors will be contacting owners about incomplete waybills and failure to submit pink copies.
2. Waybill details are being stored on a waybill database which can be used to report on tracing histories in the event of an emergency disease.
3. The new Stock Bill will contain strengthened legislative requirements for waybill completion which will be applicable from July 2005. Persons

committing offences under the waybill legislation will be subject to penalties.

Kel Small
Regional Veterinary Officer
Darwin

4

DECLARATION (complete ALL sections)

1. Name and address of the owner of the stock: Department of Primary Industries A. EISBERGER GPO. Box 990 Darwin NT 0801	4. Name of person or company taking delivery of the stock (Consignee): KEN LEVEY DPI & F
2. Property or place of origin of stock: Douglas Daly Research Station Property Identification Code: TKDG 0079 Pick-up Yard: Main Yard	5. Route of Travel: STUART HIGHWAY
3. Destination of Stock: Berrimah Farm	6. Rego Numbers: (all trucks) 807 170 (truck with Waybill) 807 170

Please indicate if stock are buffalo	OWNER		STRANGERS	
	Number	Brands	Number	Brands
Bull				
♂ Steer	20	TVE		
Cow				
Heifer	16	TDX		
Weaner				
Calves				
TOTAL	36			

I declare that all the abovementioned particulars are true and correct to my knowledge.

CATTLECARE Accreditation N° _____ National Vendor Declaration Form N° _____
 Owner or Owner's Agent (signature) *J. Peart* Date 18.4.05
 Full Name (print) JACK PEART Phone 89992033

DEPARTMENTAL USE					
Date	Place	N°	Stock Treated Description	Treatments Nature	Carried out by or supervised by
18-4-05	DPI&F	36	steers/heifers brahman	Puran Baytical	I. Dordrell

I approve the cattle / buffalo to enter the Protected Area for:
 Name of Inspector IAN DORDRELL Date 18.4.05
 Signature *I. Dordrell* Phone 89992030

PERSON IN CHARGE / DROVER			
I accept responsibility for	36	stock at	0700 hrs at Douglas Daly Research Station
Full Name (print)	JOE SMITH	Date	18-4-05
Signature	<i>Joe Smith</i>	Phone	0413053446

If this Waybill is for a consignment, each truck must have a trucking docket or convey certificate with this Waybill number.
 ORIGINAL (white) - to accompany stock. DUPLICATE (pink) - to Chief Inspector (within 28 days). TRIPLICATE (green) - Book copy
 Government Printer of the Northern Territory 17-148

How to find a Property Identifier Code (PIC) for a Northern Territory property

Property Identification Code (PIC)

It is a mandatory requirement for owners of a holding where cattle or buffalo are kept to register their holding. Owners are issued with a certificate listing the PIC, the property portion number and owner details.

The PIC is used for all waybills and most documents relating to cattle and buffalo. The property name and PIC are provided to the NLIS national database. There are currently 500 operational PIC's in the Northern Territory.

A new Property Identification Code (PIC) search facility is now available on the DBIRD Internet to assist cattle and buffalo industry personnel.

It is located on the DBIRD Internet site located with other important issues relating to **Livestock Identification and Movement** at www.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au or through the direct URL: <http://pic.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au>

We envisage the users of this database will include:

- Producers
- Agents;
- Livestock exporters;

- Saleyards;
- Tag Manufacturers;
- Processors;
- State Departments.

How to use the Search Engine

Searching on PIC

PICs are of the format 'THDG9999'. All PICs must start with the letter T, for Territory. Type in the PIC and click on 'Search'. The property name and region will be displayed.

Searching on Property Name

Type in the name of the property (or any part thereof e.g. Sun for Sunnyside) and click on 'Search'. The results will be sorted by the property name.

Note

Searches are not case-sensitive. Searches return matches on any part of the field. To clear the search fields, click on 'Reset'.

Wildcards

Wildcards can be used for advanced searching. The allowable wildcards are shown below:
%: matches zero or more characters and _ : matches any single character. Eg %abc will list all data with "abc" within any part of the text.

For further information on livestock movements and livestock identification please contact

Darwin
Dave Russell
Regional Stock Inspector
Ph: 08 8999 2031
Fax: 08 8999 2146

Katherine
Bluey Lunn
Regional Stock Inspector
Ph: 08 8973 9754
Fax: 08 8973 9759

Tennant Creek
Ted Martin
Regional Stock Inspector
Ph: 08 8962 4490
Fax: 08 8062 4480

Alice Springs
Graham Coleman
Regional Stock Inspector
Ph: 08 8951 8182
Fax: 08 8951 8112

For updating data please contact:
PIC Database Manager, Veterinary Services Darwin
Phone: 08 8999 2033 Fax: 08 8999 2146
E-mail: adele.kluth@nt.gov.au

AUSSIEGRASS - Australian Grassland and Rangeland Assessment by Spatial Simulation

What Is AussieGRASS?

Have you ever wished that you could just look up a site on the web that would give you estimates of how much grass is on your property, and how this compares with other years? AussieGRASS is a spatial modelling framework which can do just this. AussieGRASS estimates pasture growth, total standing dry matter and how it rates on a historical basis (eg the pasture grown this year was above average and in the top 30% of all years).

The NT Project

DBIRD was involved in the initial calibration of Aussie GRASS. However, DBIRD has not been a partner in the project since then and have not had access to this valuable tool. Thanks to funding from Land and Water Australia and Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), DBIRD will again be collaborating with the AussieGRASS team. The accuracy and usefulness of AussieGRASS outputs will be assessed in the NT and aims to improve overall access to the information.

Examples of AUSSIEGRASS output

AussieGRASS creates colour maps of actual and relative rainfall, pasture growth, standing forage and curing index and fire risk.

Why don't we just look at rainfall?

Rainfall and rainfall percentile maps give us some idea of pasture production. However, the effectiveness of total rainfall over a particular period depends on:

- Previous seasonal conditions,
- Seasonal rainfall distribution,
- Rainfall intensity,
- Temperatures,
- Soil and pasture types,

- Grazing pressures
- Time of year.

To take these variables into account, AussieGRASS develops maps showing simulated pasture growth, which provides a more accurate picture of seasonal conditions.

Seasonal Conditions in the Alice Springs region as of August 2004

To review the seasonal conditions in the Barkly Region and associated pasture growth calculated by AussieGRASS see the maps on the following page.

How do you get access to this information? – Join the NT AussieGRASS Club

To help launch AussieGRASS project in the NT, the DBIRD Pastoral Production team has started the AussieGRASS Club. Members of the club will have free access to all the AussieGRASS tools until April 2005 and include more detailed maps of their station provided by DBIRD. Any assistance to help interpret and utilise the information is **FREE** to members.

In return, members will be asked to provide feedback on the accuracy and usefulness of the tools. To have a look yourself, log onto the web at www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/.

Who can join the AUSSIEGRASS club?

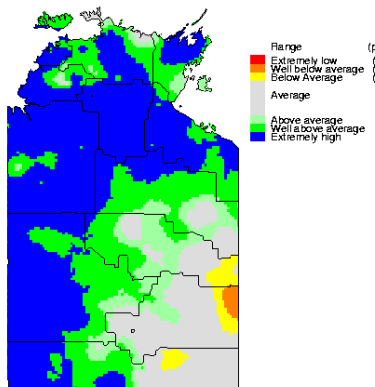
Anyone! As long as you are prepared to answer a survey at the end of the project about the usefulness of the AussieGRASS tools. This includes land managers, researchers and even government department staff. If you require more information about the project or would like to be an AussieGRASS Club member, please contact the AussieGRASS representative Chris Materne 8951 8135.

Seasonal Conditions as of October 2004

AussieGRASS maps are in full colour. Over the next few months of the Rural Review we will be including maps as full colour inserts.

Northern Territory Seasonal Conditions as of October 2004

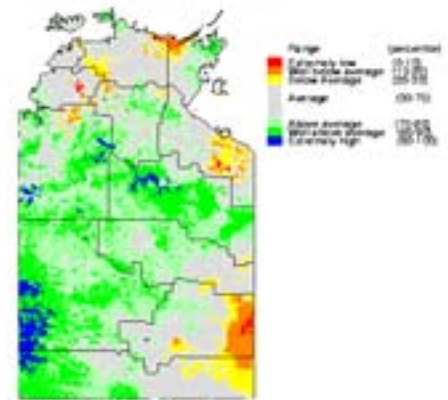
Rainfall Relative to Historical Records
November 2003 to October 2004



www.LongPaddock.qld.gov.au

Total rainfall over the past 12 months was above average to well above average over the majority of the Barkly region except for the south-east which was average to below average.

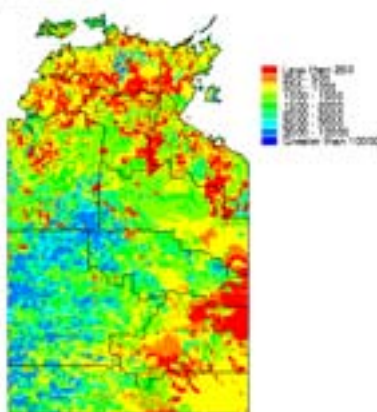
Pasture Growth Relative to Historical Records for
November 2003 to October 2004



www.LongPaddock.qld.gov.au

Associated estimated pasture growth over the past 12 months was considered average to above average over the Barkly region but average to well below average over the Gulf district.

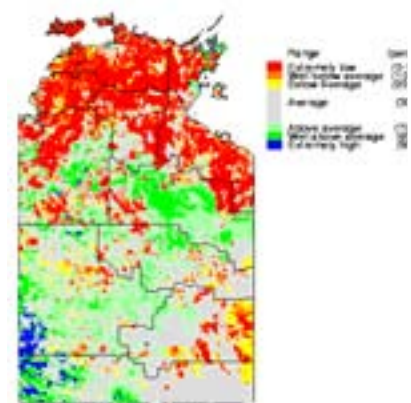
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg DM/ha)
October 2004



www.LongPaddock.qld.gov.au

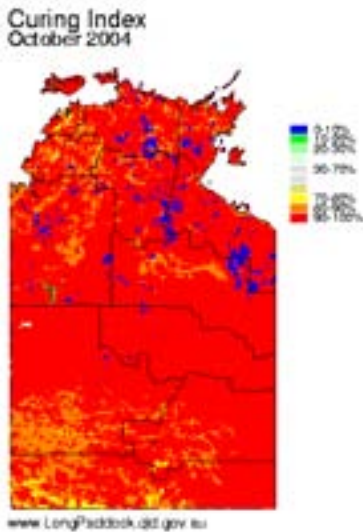
As of October 2004 the total standing dry matter on the pastoral lands in the Barkly region varied between 2500kg/ha in the west to below 250kg/ha in the drier north-east Gulf district.

TSDM Relative to Historical Records for
October 2004

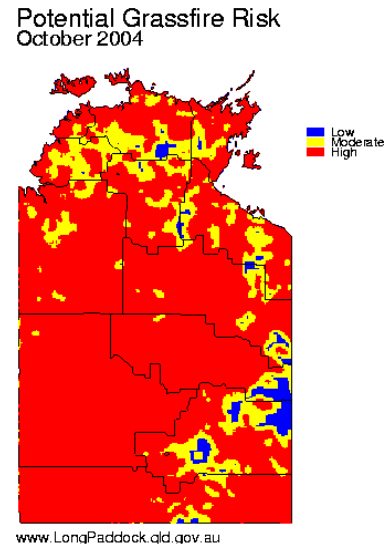


www.LongPaddock.qld.gov.au

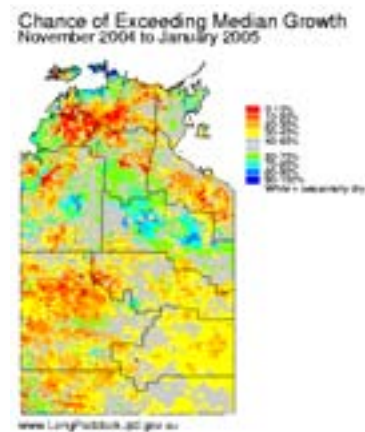
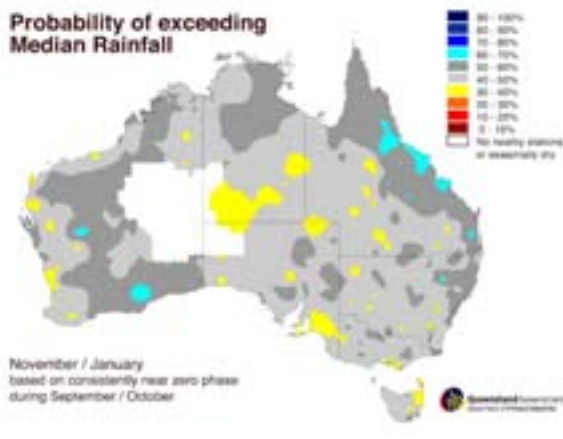
The total standing dry matter as of October 2004 is considered average to above average for most areas of the Barkly Tablelands. The Gulf district and the western Barkly both show extremely low total standing dry matter and may be due to fires in these areas.



Apart from a few areas that may indicate the return of “green pick” after recent fires (blue patches), the majority of the pastures in the Barkly region are still very dry (70-100% cured) which is expected at this time of the year.



A high fire risk across the majority of the Barkly District with a few moderate to low patches over the Gulf were recent rainfall appears fallen



At the moment the probability of receiving above the median rainfall between November 2004 and January 2005 over the majority of the Barkly district is between 40 – 50%, however the chances of receiving above median growth is as high as 90% in a few patches on the Barkly Tableland.

2005 Barkly May Day Muster

Town and country merge in Tennant Creek for the planning of the 2005 Barkly May Day Muster.

With an action packed program of western style horse sports and rough stock riding, the 2005 Barkly May Day Muster will crack the whip on the Northern Territory May Day Long Weekend at Jubilee Park, Tennant Creek the centre of the famous Barkly Region.

The Muster will again feature a Stockman's Challenge including Bronco Branding, a 'grass roots' Rodeo program of barrel racing, calf riding, steer riding, station buck jump and bull ride under lights at the Rodeo Grounds. Another spectator favourite, the Junior Invitational Rough Stock Riding & Barrel Race Challenge, will also add more thrills and spills to the 2005 program.

Total Muster prize money is worth over \$8000 with ribbons, trophies and buckles 'up for grabs'. The finals of the Stockman's Challenge will decide the finest in the Barkly while the 'best dressed' Bull and Heifer will be judged at the 'Black Tie Ball' - a great night of country style entertainment.

The Barkly May Day Muster will include Tennant Creek's Outback Motor Sport Enthusiasts Club; and Car and Bike Show in 2005.

The Barkly May Day Muster will prove again to be a premier exhibition of horse sports competition and action packed spectator entertainment.

Barkly May Day Muster Committee

Barkly Rangeland Management Course

The Tennant Creek Primary Industries group will be continuing to offer the popular Barkly Rangeland Management Course (BRMC) to all stations across the Barkly and Gulf regions in 2005.

The aim of these courses is to provide a flexible training program to station staff in order to add to their understanding, of and to stimulate their interest in the sustainable management of rangeland resources for beef cattle production.

These courses have been developed to give station staff useful information relevant to their work in the pastoral production industry. Some of the topics covered by the course content include:

- ★ Pasture plant identification and dynamics
- ★ Integrated rangeland management
- ★ Pasture monitoring and assessment
- ★ Fire as a pasture management tool
- ★ Cattle nutrition management

- ★ Identification and management of poisonous plants and noxious weeds
- ★ Biodiversity awareness and management

Courses have been run successfully across our region since 1999. They have been developed by DBIRD and DIPE using information based on local research.

Typically, courses have been run over two days, on station incorporating theory presentations and in-the-paddock demonstrations from DBIRD staff. The courses can be tailored to meet the particular needs and interests of each station.

If you are interested in having a BRMC run on your station or would like more information about the course, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ruth Allan

Pastoral Production Technical Officer

Phone: 08 8962 4493

Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association

Merry Christmas, here's wishing everyone has a great break and the New Year brings good weather and fat cattle.



The Barkly Landcare group has received an early Christmas present with the release of successful Envirofund applicants.



'Harvesting Native Grass Seed for Conservation and Rehabilitation on the Barkly Tableland' received \$8840 to employ a driver for the 2005 harvesting season.



'Determining Current Extent and Raising Awareness of Calotrope on the Barkly Tableland' was funded \$23 000 (*Heytesbury Beef, Eva Downs*). This project will raise awareness of the noxious plant Rubber Bush, *Calotropis Procera* in the Barkly region. Mapping the current distribution of Calotrope will identify an Eastern Buffer Zone with infestations adjacent to this zone given priority for strategic eradication by relevant land managers to prevent further spread. A demonstration site will be used to display a range of eradication methods, and necessary regeneration techniques such as ground stabilisation and revegetation that may be integrated into weed management plans.



NAPCO, *Mittiebah station* received funding for the project 'Relocating Stock Watering Points to Restore Riparian Vegetation'. This involves the redistribution of stock water supplies, which is currently pumped from bores into waterholes and creeks, into controlled storage facilities. The project will involve the construction of water storage facilities, installation of 20km of poly pipe and equipping stock water troughs, located approximately 1km from all water courses. This project reduce the destructive impact cattle have on the water courses and also reduce the disturbance on existing riparian vegetation and maintain a healthy ecosystem.

By the time this has been printed we should have also found out if we were successful in obtaining funding for 'Analysing Parkinsonia Dieback and its Potential for Biological

Control' and the project 'Riparian Restoration of Lake Tarrabool, a Wetland of Global Importance'. The Parkinsonia Dieback project is very exciting, the group has been working in partnership with the University of Queensland, Gatton, specifically Dr Victor Galea Senior Lecturer in Plant Pathology.

Dr Galea has isolated a pathogen from Barkly samples which demonstrate potential for use as a biological control agent. The funding sought is for travel and accommodation for Dr Galea and a Postgraduate student (University of QLD hope to have funding for a student in 2005) and also includes equipment to undertake field research. As a plant pathologist, Dr Vic Galea spends most of his time trying to develop strategies for keeping plants free of disease and is very enthusiastic about the potential of a Parkinsonia bioherbicide. Dr Galea says, "The idea of actually manipulating a pathogen to cause plant death intentionally is quite a fun idea! I have a background in plant ecology – so the idea of system restoration is also an interesting challenge".

As promised in the last edition of the Barkly Beef I am reporting on the Erosion Control Workshops delivered in September. The project involved a series of 2 day workshops held on stations and Indigenous communities, incorporating both theoretical and practical sessions, with emphasis placed on a hands on approach. Workshops were designed to cater for small groups, which enabled the presenter Darryl Hill, *Soil Save* to provide intense one on one training in best management practices techniques.


Surveying techniques were featured prominently in the training. Some employees did not have previous experience using dumpy levels but once familiar, could mark the contour line and work out where the sill went with ease. The workshops increased awareness of;



Pastoral and Rangeland soil erosion along linear infrastructure such as roads and fences;



Benefits/cost of erosion management in relation to budget production levels; and

 Soil conservation planning in property and community management plans.



The participants' was encouraging, from seeing them walk into the theory session with, here we go again, more greenies -to them talking about buying there own equipment to put in the graders and working out where they were going to put in the next whoa boy. Certainly made our work seem worth while.

If you get a chance have a talk to stations that were involved - Alroy, Mittiebah, Brunette, Walhallow, Anthony and Eva Downs, see what their thoughts were and if you are interested in holding a workshop in 2005 let me know as I am considering applying for funding to continue to promoting sustainable land management practices throughout the Barkly.

2005 Membership renewal & application forms are available by contacting the BLCA Facilitator.

An Open House Forum for the Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) Plan will begin at 3pm concluding at 6pm on Wednesday January the 19th at the Tennant Creek Training Centre, Staunton Street. The session will be informal and will give an overview of the plans development and purpose with the opportunity to discuss the draft INRM plan for the Territory. The draft INRM plan can be accessed from www.inrm.nt.gov.au from the 13th of December, this is your chance to have a say about our future environment. Refer to orange pamphlet for further information.

Well, until next year.

Have a great festive season.

Colleen Westover
Barkly Landcare & Conservation, Facilitator
8962 4479
Barklylandcare@switch.com.au

“Industry Initiatives to Improve Heifer Performance in the NT.”

External funding has been obtained from Meat and Livestock Australia for this project which will run over the next 5 years on commercial properties though out the NT. The project has strong collaborative links with a similar project being run in the Kimberly and Pilbara regions by WA Agriculture.

The research work will be carried out on commercial properties and producers will set its direction. Producer Management Groups (PMG) will comprise of the regional beef research committees (ie. KPIAC in the Katherine/VRD region, BRAC in the Barkly region and ASPIAC in the Alice Springs region) with the addition of any other interested people. They will set the agenda for the research and provide guidance and assistance to the project.

Each group will decide on the type of management practices that they would like to see trialed to improve heifer performance in their region.

Part of the project is establishing what the current levels of fertility are in each region and how heifers are commonly managed. This will be done through a confidential survey (face to face) of managers as well as **performance recording on commercial properties**. The performance of heifers will be documented for two years on three properties in each of the three regions.

The main body of research in each region will be a **demonstration site** on a commercial property that is selected by the PMG. Management practises that are selected by the PMG will be trialed at these sites. This is an opportunity for the evaluation of management practises that producers would like to see tested but don't have the time, resources or research skills to do themselves. The demonstration sites will run for 5 years.

One of the outputs of this project will be the production of a best practise manual for heifer production in northern Australia. It will



National Livestock
Identification System
Cattle

NLIS Cattle

National implementation update

National timetable

Last updated - August 2004

Each State government, in partnership and consultation with industry, is progressively introducing NLIS across Australia. A summary of the each State government's implementation timetable is provided below.

Key date	State	NLIS legislation being introduced by State Government
1 Feb 1999	VIC	First NLIS devices issued to Victorian producers
1 Jan 2002	VIC	Cattle born after 1 January 2002 to be identified with an NLIS device before leaving property of birth.
2003		
1 Jan 2003	VIC	All store and breeding cattle to be identified with an NLIS device (if not already identified) before leaving a property. In Victoria, bobby calves consigned from property of birth to a saleyard or scale operation for sale for immediate slaughter are exempt from being NLIS identified, but still require a transaction tag (tail tag or ear tag).
1 Jan 2003	VIC	All abattoirs to read NLIS identified cattle and record movement on the NLIS database.
2004		
1 Jan 2004	VIC	All saleyards to read store cattle and record movement on the NLIS database.
1 Jan 2004	SA	Cattle born after 1 January 2004 to be identified with an NLIS device before leaving property of birth. In South Australia, bobby calves consigned from property of birth to a saleyard, scale operation or calf truck for sale for immediate slaughter are exempt from being NLIS identified, but still require a transaction tag (tail tag or ear tag).



safemeat

mia
MEAT INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Where possible, care is taken to ensure the accuracy of information in this document. However, MIA cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of information or opinions contained in this document. Readers should rely on their own inquiries in making decisions concerning their interests. The views expressed in this document are not those of MIA, unless expressly stated. All material in this document is copyright. Reproduction of the material is encouraged, however due acknowledgement is required.

ERROR: undefined
OFFENDING COMMAND: gb4_#l+f'

STACK: