

AUGUST

SPECIAL

FEATURES

- ◆ Exciting Staff Changes at QRITC
- ◆ Volunteer Fire Fighters advance their skills during five day course
- ◆ Claiming the Date: Inaugural QRITC training awards dinner

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Newsletter

ISSUE 5

AUGUST 2011

Message from the Chair

In the last Newsletter I outlined the staff structure and the process for filling positions, and I want to update the changes the Board has made since my last report. The advertisement for the Administration Officer position attracted 38 applications and in particular two outstanding candidates. The Board considered these candidates as being suitable to fill the Administration role and the Industry Development role. We then approached Barb to take up the role of CEO with this supporting team and we are happy that she has agreed to do this.

I welcome Barb, Michelle and Joanne to the QRITC team and look forward to this team continuing the past performance of QRITC and growing the business in new areas.

I attended the National Vocational Education and Training Conference in Brisbane on 4th and 5th August. The focus

was 'Quality in VET' and with two themes: Policy and Sustainable Business Practice; and Teaching, Learning and Innovation. My interest was on the sessions around strengthening quality in training based on the role of the National Regulator and the RTO Auditing process. The details of this information is much too detailed for this newsletter however I encourage you to go to the following website for further information <http://www.deewr.gov.au/skills/overview/policy/NationalVETregulator>. Finally, I urge you to ensure you keep the 1st December in your diary as a QRITC day and evening (AGM and Training Awards).

John Fraser



Exciting Staff Changes at QRITC

New faces within QRITC. The Board and CEO have been busy paving the way for a new face for QRITC.

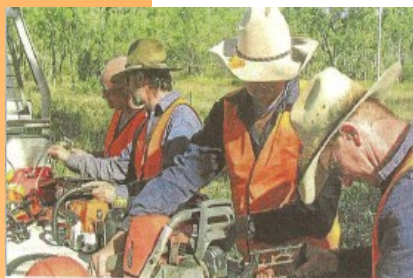
Barbara Bishop remains in her role as CEO with two new additional staff engaged to promote and enhance QRITC's business objectives and to provide support for the CEO.

The new staff are Joanne Hugo, Administration Manager and Michelle Talbot, Industry Development Manager. Please join the Board in welcoming the new team.



LtoR: Joanne Hugo, Administration Manager; Barbara Bishop CEO; and Michelle Talbot, Industry Development Manager.

Volunteer fire fighters advance skills at five-day course



Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade members watched and learned, during a five-day training course held recently near Reid River.

Eight volunteers came to the five-day course to learn

advanced chainsaw technique, in readiness for the fast-approaching bushfire and cyclone season.

North Skills Alliance chairman, John Fraser said the turnout showed the dedication the volunteers have for the job.

“Some of these blokes took annual leave to be here and learn these skills that will help them immeasurably down the track,” Mr Fraser said.

The five day course was broken up into different units focusing on theory, workplace health and safety information, hauling, crosscutting, dealing with trees that have landed awkwardly and many other scenarios that the volunteers might encounter in the field.

A lot of emphasis was also placed on teamwork and looking out for each other.

Mr Edgar, the First Officer for the Reid River team, said he’s been trying to organize a training course for volunteer members for a few years, but volunteers don’t qualify for council allocated funding.

“The latest flood report showed that their volunteer members weren’t receiving adequate training so it’s so important that we put that in place now,” he said.

“It was only when Northern Skills Alliance and the QRITC came through with funds that we could organize the training session,” Mr Edgar said.

“It’s fantastic to have these blokes go through this course as it means in the event of a fire we’ll have elite teams close on hand to act quickly and effectively in helping clean up the debris around Townsville and surrounding districts,” he said.

“It was only when Northern Skills Alliance and the QRITC came through with funds that we could organize the training session,”



QRITC Deputy Chair, Wendy Allen presents Stuart Barrett, Thangool with his emerging leader award.

Red Meat Industry Emerging Leader for 2011

QRITC has been a sponsor for the Red Meat awards for many years, and in 2011 we were excited to be sponsoring emerging young talent in the meat industry. We look forward to working with Stuart as a champion for QRITC.

Stuart Barrett, Thangool a 29 year old fifth-generation beef producer from Thangool in Central Queensland, Mr Barrett has a Bachelor in Farm Management from the University of Sydney, Orange.

He has worked in a Charolais stud, a cropping and Merino wool operation, and has now returned home to live his passion - beef production running Droughtmasters.

Mr Barrett is an expert in the fodder crop leucaena with a producer demonstration site on the family property. He’s an active member of the Biloela CQ Beef Group and sits on the CQ Beef Research Committee. Mr Barrett is involved in MLA’s Target 100 advocacy program which aims to showcase the industry, through online videos of farmers telling their story about how they are taking care of the environment and producing food for the world. Finalists in this category were Stuart Austin, Charters Towers and Edwina Lord, Brisbane.

**'Announcing the
inaugural QRITC
Rural Industry
Training Awards'**

Yvon Wigley Scholarship



Yvon Wigley's contribution to rural and regional Queensland will be recognized with QRITC announcing they will award an annual scholarship in her name. The Yvon Wigley Scholarship will acknowledge training achievements for people undertaking training across sectors including Rural Production; Production Horticulture; Amenity/Lifestyle Horticulture; Conservation and Land Management; and Animal Care and Management. The Scholarship will be presented at a gala awards dinner to be held at the Mercure Hotel, Brisbane on Thursday 1 December 2011

Yvon Wigley has a long and distinguished association with QRITC both as a training professional and member of the QRITC management team. Yvon's passion has been about promoting access to, and provision of, training for people across rural industries; and remote communities throughout Queensland. To quote from our Chairman, John Fraser, "Yvon's passion and commitment to the rural industry and training was in my view a legend and for anybody that was privileged to work with Yvon, and it was also extremely contagious".

Claiming the Date: QRITC's Inaugural Training Achievement Award

QRITC is thrilled with its plans to host the inaugural Training Achievement Award on Thursday 1 December 2011.

This award is in recognition of industry nominated training excellence in the following categories: Rural Production; Horticulture; Production Horticulture; and Conservation and Land Management'.

Further information is being prepared and will be circulated to our members soon.

New Members:

Like to become a member of QRITC, with our new team and forward thinking Board, QRITC are looking forward to some exciting new initiatives and programs within our organization.

Industry representatives and individuals are encouraged to support us in our drive to expand our base by approaching your networks about joining us.

If you would like further information about QRITC to pass onto to your networks please contact Joanne Hugo, Administration Manager on 07 3238 4800 or administration@qritc.org.au

Support us... in supporting you.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Agrifood Skills Australia Annual Conference 21-22 September 2011 (Brisbane)
- ◆ Queensland Landcare Conference 20-23 September 2011 (Ayre)
- ◆ Seafood Directions Conference 23-25 October 2011 (Gold Coast)
- ◆ QRITC AGM 1 December 2011 (Brisbane)
- ◆ QRITC Training Achievement Award Dinner 1 December 2011 (Brisbane)

Queensland Rural Industry Training Council
Primary Producers House
L8/183 North Quay, Brisbane QLD 4000

P: 07 3238 4800 | F: 07 3238 4850 | E-mail: administration@qritc.org.au