

MEDIA RELEASE

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Dumaresq Valley field day

Soil, biodiversity and water were on the agenda at a field day held at “Emu Plains”, Texas, last week.

The day attracted over 20 local landholders and was organised by Inglewood Shire Landcare. Staff from the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW), and Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Association (BRGCMA) presented information to the participants.

Ben Harms from NRW spoke about the soil structure and characteristics. He demonstrated methods for testing soil pH and explained how slaking and dispersive soils react when wet.

Megan Purvis and Holly Hanlon from QMDC spoke of the importance of maintaining biodiversity and the different aspects of water quality. “Turbidity and salt content can have a detrimental affect on the health of the waterway, and can impact the production of neighbouring properties”, said Megan.

Andrew Walsh from BRGCMA gave landholders an insight into controlling bank erosion near water ways by planting trees along the river banks and limiting stock access to watering points..

Landholder Tim Ramsey, from “Girraween, Texas, said that he found the soil pit information very useful. “It gave me an idea of how to deal with problem soils”, he said.

Veronica Aster, from Inglewood Shire Landcare, said that she was pleased with the turn out on the day. “I think the farmers all left the day having learnt something new”, she said. “They can now apply their knowledge about soil structure, biodiversity, water quality and erosion control to the management of their own farms”.

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Images



Landholders inspect maps of the area



Ben Harms (DNRW) demonstrates soil characteristics in the soil pit



Andrew Walsh (centre) from BRGCMA explains riparian management

For electronic copies of the photos, please contact Pip Bagshaw on 07 4671 7900, or pipb@qmdc.org.au