

MEDIA RELEASE

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Landcare and catchment dinner: food for thought

126 guests from around the Roma district received some food for thought as they heard from farmer Peter Andrews at the annual catchment management and Landcare dinner earlier this week.

Peter is the author of the soon to be released book 'Back From the Brink', and featured on the ABC program, 'Australian Story'.

Peter's presentation challenged guests with his thoughts and theories on using the natural sequence processes to reduce drought severity and boost farm productivity.

Many went home scratching their heads, but were given the opportunity to discuss these theories with Peter in person at a field trip on the banks of Bungeworgorai Creek the following morning.

Over 30 locals joined Peter and local Landcare Coordinator Alexis Wegener for a walk along the creek, where Peter further explained some of his land management theories.

On summing up his approach to land management, Peter said, "The problem is not the lake, it's the catchment. Fix the catchment and the lake will be alright."

"I found Peter very relaxed, an excellent communicator," said Alexis.

"He really encouraged participants to ask questions pertinent to their own situations and stressed the need for a whole catchment approach to management, and the importance of local experience and knowledge, something our local Landcare groups often try to utilise," she said.

Community member and former treasurer for the Maranoa-Balonne Catchment Management Association, Dorinda Schwennesen, said, "My lasting impression of Peter's presentation was that of his sincerity and depth of knowledge."

Peter's presentation was part of the Annual General Meeting for the Maranoa-Balonne Catchment Management Association and the Maranoa Regional Landcare Association.

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Caption: Peter Andrews took the time to put his theories into a local context at Roma's Bungewogorai creek.



Caption: Peter answered many questions from Roma's local primary producers about managing land profitably during drought.