

Project Catalyst Update



It's been a busy time for the Project Catalyst team and our growers.

We want to keep you informed on activities occurring with the project, changes to funding and of course future planned activities.

Project Catalyst updates are also available on the Project Catalyst website www.projectcatalyst.net.au. A text and email will be sent out to notify you when updates are available to be viewed.

Catalyst Family

Since our last update the world has changed dramatically. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to influence our lives as never before, our thoughts are with everyone directly affected by this terrible disease. To all those impacted by the tough new business and personal restrictions, we hope you are able to stay safe and we are all able to come out the other side of this stronger with the opportunity to pick up where we left off and move forward to meet whatever challenges come our way.

Project Catalyst and our COVID-19 Response

The far-reaching effects of the Coronavirus pandemic has impacted our ability to meet (face-to-face) and caused our project team to shift to working remotely. Our on-ground service providers and partners have each adopted their own communication and social distancing responses and together we remain a highly motivated and effective team. In all other respects, we will continue to operate the project by taking a 'business as usual approach' as much as possible.

Feel free to contact us for help or support at any time.

Website and Digital Communications

The Project Catalyst website has been redesigned and moved to an Australian host. We're very pleased with the new look, feel and functionality and encourage you to take it for a spin. If you do find anything that's not quite right (broken links or glitches) please let the team know.

www.projectcatalyst.net.au



Coke's Sarah Prestwood & Anna Dear with Growers Gerry Deguara & Tony Bugeja

We are also taking this opportunity to look at broadening our digital communication and extension platform to ensure we continue to provide valuable project outcomes that are accessible by all. We'll keep you up to date as strategies are developed and rolled out.

Funding

The Coca Cola Foundation and partner WWF-Australia have confirmed their continued support through 2020 and a work plan is currently being developed by the project team. We're once again incredibly grateful for the continued support of these partners with 2020 marking their 12th consecutive year of providing foundation funding.

Project Catalyst's current 44 innovation trials, 20 Broader Adoption Validation and 22 Grower Support activities continue to be supported by funding from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. A number of additional Broader Adoption Validation and

Grower Support activities will be kicking off in the coming weeks and this will further boost the reach and effectiveness of the project.

Grower and Service Provider Visits

As mentioned in the last newsletter, one of the most interesting aspects of Project Catalyst is working with so many different partners, service providers and growers, understanding their farming businesses and seeing the desire that drives them to improve farming systems.

In March, Project Coordinator, Ross Neivandt visited project partners and service providers including NQ Dry Tropics, Pharmacist Mackay & Burdekin, Burdekin Productivity Services, TRAP Services and Canegrowers Innisfail, as well as meeting with numerous growers on their farms along the way. Ross will continue to visit and support Catalyst members again as soon as he is allowed when travel restrictions are lifted.



Great Barrier Reef Foundation



Project Catalyst Grower Forum 2020



Special Guest Dinner Speaker - Graeme Sait

Despite of some nasty weather, the Project Catalyst 2020 Forum was held at the Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre in February as planned. With the theme 'Our Reef Legacy, Improving Water Quality' the event provided something of interest for all 190 delegates and proved to be a great success.

The program covered a wide range of highly relevant topics and included:

- Talks by guest speakers Charlie Clack (Trade), Dr David Freebairn (Soils), Charlie Morgan (Healthy River to Reef), Dr Marcus Bulstrode (Drones), and Graeme Sait (Resilience Building)
- Breakout Sessions by Neil Cliff (Climate) and Mike Berwick (Reef Credits)

- Trial Presentations by service providers and growers from all three catchment regions
- A dinner function hosted by comedian Rod Quantock OAM with special guest speaker Graeme Sait
- Presentation of Virtual Farm Tours 'Living Legacy' and 'Inspiring Change'

As always, the Forum provided a great opportunity to network, catch up with friends and make some new ones. Thank you to all who completed the feedback forms. Your comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated. Perhaps unsurprisingly, catering won the highest praise, with the Virtual Farm Tour videos coming in a very close second.

We sincerely thank all of the growers who attended and again extend our appreciation to the speakers, guests, service providers,

sponsors and organisers. Please visit the Project Catalyst YouTube channel for all the latest project and Forum 2020 video presentations.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCq5Yng3Pen7lf9HLwBcxOkA

Work on the 2021 Forum has started and Townsville is penciled in for 21-23 February 2021. Please save this date and pass on any suggestions for topics, speakers etc to the project team. We'd love your input!



DAF's Matthew Thompson & Mark Poggio with Growers Rob Bonassi & Denis Pozzebon



Dinner with MC Rod Quantock OAM



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