

Regional NRM Bugle



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New social research handbook

New light has been shed on the social dimensions of natural resource management following the publication of "Social Innovations in Natural Resource Management: A Handbook of Social Research Management in Queensland". Compiled and edited as part of the Social Research Development and Extension SIP (SEO3), the book features the findings of 29 projects undertaken by over 100 researchers and PhD students throughout the State. Dr Lyn Aitken, the SEO3 project leader, says the book is a critical mass of research: "While there has been social research done in the past, this book brings it together in an accessible format." For a free copy of the book, contact [Dr Aitken](#).

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Reporting process 'smoother'

The regional natural resource management bodies have submitted their six-monthly reports, which are due to be reviewed by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on November 25. Suzanne Hoverman – a member of the Strategic Policy and Regional Arrangement unit's Learning and Evaluation team – says the reporting process went more smoothly this time round. She attributes the improvement to the new reporting systems many of the NRM bodies have set up, and which help spread the load among more of their staff. On the whole, the reports were interesting and well written, she says. "We appreciate the effort that went into the reports given that the NRM bodies are in the middle of trying to get their plans accredited and finalising their regional investment strategies." The reports provide details on the NRM bodies' expenditure, milestones and outputs for the six months to 30 September 2004 and help inform JSC decisions.

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Community grants deadline

Applications for \$100 000 in Community Natural Resource Awareness Grants close on December 17. Applicants can apply for up to \$2500 to undertake projects that help raise community awareness of natural resource management. The theme of this year's grants is "Bridging our communities – water for life". Guidelines and application forms are available online; for more information, contact the [grants coordinator](#) on (07) 3239 3860.

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Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) gets underway next year. It covers several themes, including the environment, sustainable consumption, water, and rural transformation. Integrated Resource Management (part of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines) is currently considering the possibility of developing a strategy for NRM education; the UN initiative will give IRM's investigation added impetus. If you have any ideas on how the department could promote NRM education, please send them to [Jenny Awbery](#).

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Correction: In last week's edition of the *Regional NRM Bugle* we incorrectly stated that Natural Heritage Trust Extension funding was used by the regional NRM bodies' to employ Indigenous facilitators when, in fact, it was used to establish an Indigenous Liaison Network – our apologies.

We welcome your input and feedback on this newsletter. If you have any contributions, comments or suggestions please contact Bryan.Mulligan@nrm.qld.gov.au or Shona.Strachan@nrm.qld.gov.au