

ANNUAL REPORT 2010 - 2011



BARUNG

LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC.

2010/11 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	<i>Eric Anderson</i>
Secretary	<i>Pat Fuller</i>
Treasurer	<i>David Binstead</i>
Committee Members	<i>Glen Donoghoe</i>
	<i>Lin Fairlie</i>
	<i>Kate Fraser</i>
	<i>Diana O'Connor</i>

2010/11 BARUNG STAFF

Manager	<i>Darryl Ebenezer</i>
Nursery Manager	<i>Wayne Webb</i>
Assistant Nursery Manager	<i>Dawn Worthington</i>
Manager, George St Nursery	<i>Kate Brooks</i>
Projects / Trainee Coordinator	<i>Jonathan Waites</i>
Barung Contracting Services	<i>Matthew Bateman</i>
Barung Events	<i>Steve McLeish</i>
Admin/Project Support Officer	<i>Den Lalor</i>
Admin/Project Support Officer	<i>Amelia Ross</i>
Indigenous Educator/Project Officer	<i>Bev Hand</i>
Editor, <i>Barung News</i> and the <i>CodLine</i>	<i>Eve Witney</i>

BARUNG LIFE MEMBERS

<i>Barry Beale</i>	<i>Denise Irons</i>
<i>Patricia Jacobs</i>	<i>John Muir</i>
<i>Marc Russell</i>	<i>Ashley Sewell</i>
<i>John & Joan Dillon</i>	<i>Jan Tilden</i>
<i>Mal & Margaret Thomson</i>	<i>Lin Fairlie</i>
<i>Daryl Reinke & Craig Hosmer</i>	

Cover photograph by Penny Smith

Photo of Wompoo Fruit-dove by David & Diane Armbrust

Other photographs by Steve Swayne, Jonathan Waites and Dawn Worthington

BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC.

Annual Report 2010-2011

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WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Eric Anderson

The writing of this report imposes a period of reflection about what has happened over the last year and where to from here. I perused what I said in last year's report and re-read our informative *Barung News* which progressively records our activities throughout the year – many thanks to Eve Witney, our Newsletter Editor.

In summary my conclusions are that it was a rather flat year with some noticeable highs and lows. Significant highs book-ended the year which started with a community treeplant when up to 450 people participated in planting 4000 trees on the Precinct, and finished with our 21st Birthday Dinner and the launch of our proposed Education and Resource Centre on the Maleny Community Precinct.

The lows were our lack of progress on the Precinct and in establishing our new native plant production nursery at Landsborough. Understandably we have not had a good fiscal year as you will see from the Treasurer's Report.

However through all this our wonderful staff and volunteers have ensured that we continue to play our part in maintaining, growing and renewing the natural, built and social environments of the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

We were honoured to have the Queensland Governor, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, help us celebrate our 21st birthday at a dinner on the 1st of October by delivering a wonderful address and launching our proposed Education and Resource Centre. It was an evening enriched by a heartfelt Welcome to Country by Bev Hand and reminiscences from early members David Wilson, Craig Hosmer and Heather Spring. The occasion was also celebrated by the awarding of a Life Membership Certificate to long time member and contributor Lin Fairlie. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to

the success of the evening, particularly the organisers Heather Spring and Pat Fuller.

I commend to everyone our aspirations for establishing an Education and Resource Centre on the Precinct. We want it to be –

- a home for Barung, its members and our community
- a model of Landcare, regeneration and sustainability on the Blackall Range
- a catalyst for the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge
- a destination for visitors and students, and
- an interactive education resource for engagement, exploration and adventure.

We are in the early stages of this project and in the coming months there will be a number of opportunities for Barung members and the wider community to make inputs into the planning.

I am an unashamed optimist at heart, but I have been sorely challenged by the failure to establish our nursery on the Precinct. What you see here today at the Landsborough Nursery site is where we thought we would be on the Precinct two years ago. One year ago we made the decision to abandon the Precinct and its delays and were fortunate to find this site which was an old run-down ostrich farm that Council had purchased some 10 years previously. However progress has been slow, exacerbated by extreme wet conditions early in the year and low availability of funds. This was a time when we had more than ample labour available with four apprentices (funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations through the Sunshine Coast Native Plants & Jobs Growth Project) and three Green Army placements (supported by the Queensland Department of Employment,





Economic Development & Innovation). We are extremely grateful to them for kick-starting the project, under the supervision by Jonathan Waites, and to two benefactors who provided finance to purchase materials. We are also very grateful for the continuing in-kind support being received from Council.

The financial pain has been great with a large cost to our bottom line. However I believe (the optimist again) we have fortuitously made a good decision. In retrospect the Precinct site we ended up with would have been too small and not on flat enough land. Here we have plenty of room on flat land and ultimately better growing conditions for a nursery operation. Many thanks to our nursery managers Wayne Webb and Dawn Worthington who have kept our nursery operations functioning under very trying conditions.

Partnerships and funding are essential to our operations. At the top of the list is our collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Council and I acknowledge the significant contribution we receive from their Community Partnerships Program which is core funding for operating the Barung Resource Centre and our community engagement and education program. Regional partners include South East Queensland Catchments and Burnett Mary Regional Group. Significant local sponsors are Karen and Richard Barnett of Montville Coffee and Rob and Samantha Outridge at Maleny IGA.

Important funding received from the Commonwealth Government is acknowledged and reported on elsewhere in this report.

Some State funding was received from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund where Barung was suc-

cessful with two applications. Both of these grants will allow Barung to continue setting an environmental example for the community, utilising solar energy and an eco-friendly vehicle. Under the Solar Sport and Community Group Grant scheme, Barung received a grant for a solar hot water system which will be installed on the roof at the new Landsborough Nursery site. The second grant was for the purchase of an economical and environmentally friendly Ford Fiesta Diesel. This car will enable Barung staff and volunteers to continue participating in community and educational events.

The long term relationship with Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group has continued this year, our Contracting Services working with Mark Amos to help landholders with environmental works continues to be productive. Their financial support for the editing of the soon-to-be-reprinted third edition of the Blackall Range Landholders Guide is gratefully acknowledged.

Another important local partner is the Hinterland Business Centre who source workers for us through the Green Army program.

I believe that the Maleny Community Precinct will be a marvelous asset to Maleny both economically, environmentally and educationally. Barung is happy to have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maleny and District Green Hills Fund to achieve the environmental and educational outcomes for the area and the concomitant economic benefit to Maleny.

We have begun an exciting new visionary conservation project led by Susie Duncan, a Barung volunteer, called Hinterland Bush Links. The aim of the project is to connect the big blocks of bush across

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Binstead

the wider landscape of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. This project will be launched with a Community Tree Plant at 243 Booloumba Creek Road, Cambrook on 13th November.

When considering 'funding' the contribution of Barung Contracting Services, who continue to do a marvelous job assisting landholders with revegetation and weeding, needs to be acknowledged – many thanks to Matt and his team for a job well done.

Again Barung had a significant presence in the wider Sunshine Coast community this year through our organisation of and participation in a wide range of events. Many of these will be mentioned in detail by others in this report. Barung staff and volunteers managed:

- Our highly successful signature event, the Maleny Wood Expo, organised by Steve McLeish, Mim Coulstock and many (at least 175) volunteers
- the 5th Bunya Dreaming at Lake Baroon organised by Beverly Hand, and
- educational wildlife walks to learn about and enjoy our regional flora and fauna conducted by Susie Duncan – thanks Susie.

In addition, our staff and volunteers promoted Barung, sold plants, and raised funds at:

- the Sunshine Coast World Environment Day Festival at the University of the Sunshine Coast
- the Queensland Garden Expo at the Nambour Showgrounds, with special thanks to Dawn Worthington and the volunteers who made it happen
- the Woodford Folk Festival
- the Caloundra Music Festival
- the Glasshouse Mountains Garden Exhibition
- the monthly Blackall Range Growers Markets at Witta – with special thanks to food organiser Tina Lathouras and her band of volunteers, Darryl Ebenezer for running the coffee cart, and Diana O'Connor for attending the plant and info stall
- the monthly Montville markets – with special thanks to Joan and John Dillon, Daryl Reinke, Craig Hosmer and Gretchen Evans.

We have recently lost two long-term staff members in our Manager for the last six years, Darryl Ebenezer, and Assistant Nursery Manager Dawn Worthington. We thank them for their past services and wish them the best in future. We are still looking at our options for replacing Darryl but have been fortunate to have Kate Brooks take over Dawn's role at Barung's Maleny Nursery.

Thanks to the staff who have again worked tirelessly for and enhanced the reputation of Barung. I also thank the Management Committee for their continuing dedication and input into the organisation. Well done all.

Everyone knows Barung Landcare is a significant contributor to positive environmental outcomes on the Blackall Range. Perhaps what is not so well known is that it is also a significant contributor to economic activity.

In 2010-11, both income and expenditure exceeded one million dollars. Almost \$800K of the expenditure went on employment expenses, and much of the balance was spent on purchases from local suppliers.

The financial results for the year are disappointing, with a deficit of almost \$49K. Two particular circumstances contributed to the deficit. One was a shortfall in budgeted revenue from the Maleny Wood Expo, which we believe was consistent with the experience of many other events in the past year. More significantly, the delay in commissioning a viable nursery site continues. While the Barung Committee approved an option to lease Council-owned land at Landsborough early in this calendar year, and Council approved the lease in principal soon after, getting the site functional has been a long and frustrating process which is still not complete.

On a more positive note, Barung receives partnership funding from Sunshine Coast Regional Council to pay salaries for staff providing advice on environmental issues as well as some assistance with administrative staffing costs and rental costs on our temporary offices in the Riverside Centre. This is very much appreciated. The level of activity during the year was also enhanced by a Federal Government grant that provided employment and training for four apprentices in environmental activities.

While the continued tight financial situation is a constant challenge, the prognosis for the future remains positive. The potential for a thriving nursery on the site where the AGM is being held should be self-evident. The Barung Contracting team has a well-established operation and an enviable reputation. The permanent site for Barung's central office on the Maleny Community Precinct is in the early stages of design, with the financial sustainability of that centre being one of the design criteria.

As a not-for-profit community organisation, we do not aspire to create significant surpluses, but rather to have a model that generates sufficient resources to allow us to achieve our environmental education goals.

PROJECT COORDINATION

Jonathan Waites

Well, what a busy year it was! Floods and bureaucracy meant a delayed start to the construction of our new nursery site, but our four horticultural apprentices found plenty to do. We only managed to run one series of workshops over the past year and one public treeplant, but it was a beauty! We continued our extension activities through partnering with groups such as Landcare Queensland and ENERGEX, and more locally with Maleny District Green Hills Fund and Maple St Co-operative.

Sunshine Coast Native Plants & Job Growth Project

Managing this project was my main focus over the period covered by this report. The \$400 000 grant from the Commonwealth Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) funded a number of activities all primarily aimed at establishing the new nursery, originally on the Maleny Community Precinct but later re-sited at Landsborough, and greatly increasing our tube-stock production capacity.

The project provided funding for:

- two full-time positions – Nursery Manager (Wayne Webb) and Trainee Coordinator (Jonathan Waites)
- two part-time positions – Project Support Officer/Indigenous Education (Bev Hand) and Project Support Officer/Administration (shared Amelia Ross and Den Lalor), and
- four full-time Certificate III Horticultural Apprenticeships – Neal Rolley, Luke Symons, Ian Krosch and Oskar Cafarella.

It also funded the purchase of a transportable shade shed (erected on the proposed Barung lease area at the Maleny Community Precinct), a chemical storage shed (at Landsborough) and a 3kW grid-connect solar system (at Landsborough).

Due to protracted negotiations over establishing the lease boundaries for some of the community groups, we were unable to access our area on the Maleny Community Precinct to begin the project. Five months into the (12 month) project period, the grant managers at DEEWR were becoming concerned about whether we would be able to complete the agreed project milestones on time. Fortunately Sunshine Coast Council offered us a site at Landsborough for our new production nursery and we were able to begin in late January, attempting to squeeze 12 months' work into six! Then it started raining.

However by the end of June we had managed to complete the funding milestones and the apprentices had gained their certificates. The nursery wasn't quite ready for production but we had revealed the site from beneath its mantle of slash pine, assorted weeds and rubbish. With the additional help of a

Green Army team consisting of Matt Babarovich, Glen Mulholland and Ben Humphreys, we had formed two pads for the growing-out area and the shadehouse, poured an extension to the existing concrete pads, built around 80 metres of concrete retaining wall, redesigned and erected two propagation tunnels, connected water to the site, built benches for plants, put in roller doors, and repaired, rebuilt, re-painted and cleaned the office rooms as well as many sheds. And more!

Some of the activities our apprentices were involved in over the year included:

- supporting the National Tree Day for Schools event at Russell Family Park in Montville, which involved 165 students from Montville State School planting 470 native tubestock, by helping prepare and plant the site
- organising and helping the Rustic Pathways US High School students visiting the Sunshine Coast Hinterland when they spent a day revegetating a gully on the outskirts of Maleny
- attending Chainsaw Level I & II courses and ACDC courses; Revegetation, Plant Propagation, Native Seed Collection courses; an Ecology/Endangered Plants workshop; and two indigenous cultural awareness days
- helping to prepare the site for the Maleny Community Precinct public treeplant



- helping to prepare and run the Energex Junior Landcare Day at the Maleny State Primary School
- setting up the Maple St Coop Garden, including the labyrinth bed
- helping to re-build the George St Community Nursery in Caloundra.

Community Action Grant

We received a Community Action Grant (Engaging Landholders – Community capacity building to achieve improved biodiversity and habitat protection) through the Commonwealth Governments' Caring For Our Country Program. This project funded five free workshops and a public treeplant.

We ran two Native Tree & Weed ID workshops (the second by public demand, in several instances from people who had been unable to attend the first time it was offered), a Native Plant Seed Collection & Propagation workshop, a Native Plant Revegetation & Planning workshop and a Native Plant Planting & Maintenance workshop. These popular workshops attracted 65 participants, many of whom returned to later workshops. This series of workshops were put together to cover a revegetation theme, aimed at landholders who wanted to embark on a revegetation/regeneration program or who were already involved in such an endeavour on their own properties.

These workshops have given us the opportunity to engage with local landholders who are keen to manage their properties productively at the same time as enhancing the natural attributes. Such an approach

contributes to biodiversity and the safeguarding of natural habitat, particularly for rare and threatened species such as the Pink Underwing Moth and the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly.

We also organised the inaugural Maleny Community Precinct Treeplant in October which attracted 450 people who planted more than 4000 trees in two areas of the Precinct bordering Obi Obi Creek.

The community treeplant was a great opportunity for Barung members and others in the community to put into practice some of the theory discussed in the workshops. Events such as these facilitate community interaction where individuals can work practically together to improve their local environment.

Maleny Precinct Biodiversity Project - Stage 1

Funding for this project came via SEQ Catchments from their eTree funding, which is funding to help with buying trees, guards and other materials for revegetation. This program is a Computershare initiative with Landcare Australia; each time a shareholder registers to receive their communications electronically, a donation of up to \$2 is made to Landcare Australia.

We were fortunate to secure funding for 1600 trees, tree guards, weed mats, fertiliser and electric fencing, including a solar energiser. The trees were part of the 4000 that were planted on the Maleny Community Precinct site in October last year, on the day of Barung's last AGM.





We partnered with Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Maleny District Green Hills Fund in carrying out this project. As indicated by the heading, we are expecting that this project is just the first stage of a much larger revegetation program for the Maleny Community Precinct.

Maple St Co-op Garden

Barung has partnered with Maple St Co-operative to help them establish a vegetable garden on their empty back block. The garden will provide some produce for sale through the Co-op and the Up-Front Club. It will also be a demonstration site and an area where members have the opportunity to gain gardening experience and contribute to their two co-ops.

With the help of the four horticultural apprentices we began by cleaning up the area, chipping several camphor laurels and stockpiling the chip on-site for later use. A portion of the area was fenced and five dwarf fruit trees planted, two long beds established and compost bins begun in the south-western corner accessible from Bicentenary Lane.

Barung received funding from the Commonwealth Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Volunteer Grants. This allowed us to purchase a garden shed, some small tools and a hose that could be stored on-site for the use of volunteers working in the garden. It also provided some elementary building experience for the apprentices who cleared and levelled the site prior to erecting the shed.

The area has had building rubble dumped over it so we decided to construct raised beds using cardboard, cow manure, mulch (either hay or mulch material from Witta Resource Recovery Centre) and mush-

room compost. Maple St Co-op supplied vegetable seedlings which have been planted and the resulting produce has been used in the Up-Front Club kitchen.

We also designed and built a small circular garden bed based on the classical Seven Path Labyrinth (we could only fit in three paths) at the western edge of the area. This was planted out with a mix of herbs and some small greens.

Work has progressed in a somewhat haphazard fashion as time and funding for materials has permitted. There has been some weeding, planting and bed construction by Co-op members from time to time. In the future we envisage a Co-op member coordinating the day-to-day management of the garden, while Barung provides support as we are able. We would like to utilise the area to host some practical gardening workshops for the members of both groups and the wider community.

Conclusion

Many of our extension activities were confined to the first half of the past year. During the latter half our focus has been on the construction of the new nursery at Landsborough. We expect to have this producing by Christmas and then we will have more resources available to service members and the wider community with a range of educational and awareness raising events.

BARUNG NURSERIES

Wayne Webb

Last year's annual report started with that age old question, (often heard from the back seat), 'Are we there yet?' Well guess what, we're still not there, and 'there' has changed to boot! After spending a lot of time and effort planning for a nursery to the west of Pattermore's house, we were then switched to land on the east of Pattermore's and asked to fit a nursery onto a much more sloping block. Back to the drawing board. And then, hey presto, we're off to Landsborough to set up our production nursery.

The site at Landsborough has more level areas, and lots of sheds, and two dams! With the help of our four apprentices Ian, Luke, Oskar and Neal, and Glenn, Matt and Ben from Green Army, and Jonathan Waites as supervisor, the site has been transformed from a derelict ostrich farm, overgrown with weeds and rubbish laying everywhere. The guys did a fantastic job cleaning out the sheds and painting the office building. A second-hand tunnel house that Barung has had in storage for several years was pieced together and reconfigured to create a 12m x 15m propagation shed. Thanks must go to Ian for his welding ability to make this possible. Ian has also fabricated five 6.5m x 1.85m nursery benches.

Meanwhile life goes on at our Porters Lane nursery in Maleny with never a dull moment. Our nursery produced some 105 000 tubestock in the last financial year. Barung Landcare Nursery has again been a supplier to Sunshine Coast Regional Council's Land For Wildlife Seedling Incentive scheme. We have provided approximately 9500 native plants (worth some \$16 000) to 44 landholders with Land For Wildlife properties. Barung Nursery has supplied some 9000 tubestock to date to the Mooloolah River Corridors Project, another major Council project.

A key part of our role in the nursery is to offer advice to our customers on how to tackle their revegetation projects and select the most appropriate plants. We also provide a plant and weed ID service, which often helps people to sort out which

seedlings to nurture and which to pull out. Through these connections we've developed a band of loyal clients who drop in regularly for more plants for that next stage, or a few fill-ins. It's great to hear their stories, and encouraging for our nursery volunteers to know their little babies are being well cared for once they've left home. Many of these regulars have had grants to establish their reveg projects and then have continued on, using their own money. To these regulars, thank you for your ongoing support of our nursery, and be assured we do appreciate the work you are doing for our environment.

The nursery has been involved in a number of events over the last year. The big annual event for us is the Maleny Wood Expo, with the nursery tent looking great and once again enjoying good plant sales. Thanks to all those who volunteered their expertise to help sell plants over the weekend, along with those who helped prepare plants and set up. The other big event Barung Nursery, in conjunction with Coolum Wildflower Nursery, attended this year for the first time was the Queensland Home and Garden Expo at the Nambour show grounds. Thanks go to Dawn for organising what was a successful weekend, and again to the many volunteers who once more put in a huge effort. We also attended the World Environment Day celebrations at the Sunshine Coast University. Barung Nursery continues to support events of other organisations in Maleny by loaning display plants for decoration, such as at the Maleny Art Show. We also put on an impressive display at the Queensland Landcare State Conference in Caloundra last year.

The latest big change at the nursery has been the resignation of Dawn Worthington after four and a half years as assistant nursery manager. Dawn has decided it's time for a change, and we wish her well in whatever her future holds. Dawn's place has been filled for the time being by Kate Brooks who will be at the Porters Lane nursery Wednesday to Friday.



BARUNG CONTRACTING SERVICES

Matthew Bateman

This time last year we were preparing 4500 holes for the Maleny Community Precinct Treeplant. Some of those trees are now more than 4 metres tall. After that we had an incredibly wet summer, which always makes things a bit difficult for Contracting as many of our sites become inaccessible.

Since then a couple of our staff have moved on. Dion has moved back down south and Grant is having a well-earned break – thanks to both of them for all they brought to the team. New members to the team include Josh, who is new to the industry but has shown an incredible uptake of ideas, knowledge and responsibility; Leah, who has a degree in environmental science and brings a wealth of knowledge; Tony who comes with a background in forestry; and Mick who began down at the George St Community Nursery at Caloundra. Darcy, Kyle, Zennon and Rory also join us, and they always seem to get the big lantana jobs. Lindsay is back from a short break overseas to visit family. And last but not least, we have Kate who has returned from a stint in the Barung nurseries and Green Army and who, as always, adds her enthusiasm and drive to all she does.

By this time last year the guys had expanded their range and were working amongst the mangroves at Deception Bay. Well, this winter they seem to have spent most of their time on the beach, hand-weeding the foredunes on Bribie Island. Half their luck. Seriously, it has been a great experience for them and a good opportunity to learn more about coastal communities.

Special thanks to Pete and Col from Maleny Mowers who always say the Barung guys are hard on the tools but I'll take that as a compliment. Thanks for keeping us going usually on short notice.

To the committee and particularly Eric of late, Darryl and the other staff, thanks for your efforts in keeping the show on the road.

Finally, thanks to all our clients who share their properties and quite often their passion with us. We appreciate the trust you have in us and the ongoing support we receive.

GREEN ARMY & FARMFLOW

Kate Brooks

The Sunshine Coast FarmFLOW project is a collaboration between Maroochy Landcare, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI), Sunshine Coast Regional Council and SEQ Catchments funded by the Australian Government Caring for our Country program. This project involves working with rural landholders on the Sunshine Coast to increase the adoption of land and water management practices to create more productive and sustainable landscapes.

The Green Army (funded through DEEDI's Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative) is designed to provide job seekers with employment and training assistance that is customised to meet their individual needs and to meet the demands of the labour market for a skilled workforce. Over a 15 week period the project employs a minimum of four jobseekers from the Sunshine Coast region to target stream bank rehabilitation, improved land management techniques and revegetation of degraded areas around Kin Kin, North Maroochy, Maroochy Canelands and throughout the Upper Mooloolah Catchments. Participants undertake work activities such as weed identification and removal, fencing, planting native flora species, site maintenance as well as accredited training and certification in several areas. Team members are supplied with nationally recognised training in the form of Chainsaw Handling I & II, Chemical License (AC/DC), Apply First Aid, and Construction Safety White Card.

Under the FarmFLOW project there will be two Green Army rounds. One was completed in late September 2011 and the other is due to start in February 2012. By working with land holders throughout the region we have so far accomplished much beneficial revegetation on degraded farm lands as well as weed control in bushland areas, ultimately helping to join fragmented landscapes and change the way people think about the environment.

Since graduating, all the participants from the first intake have been receiving post-participation support with job searching, resume writing, follow up calls, and TAFE and job applications. The people in the first intake proved to be highly motivated, efficient, trustworthy and an absolute pleasure to work with, making this program a great success. We now look forward to intake two. Congratulations team, you did us proud!

BARUNG EVENTS

Steve McLeish

During the 2010–2011 year as Event Manager for Barung Landcare I worked on many events, including: the 2010 Maleny Wood Expo, Sunshine Coast Environment Council's World Environment Day, The Bunya Dreaming, The Maleny Precinct Tree-plant, Woodford Folk Festival, The Real Food Festival, and most recently the Caloundra Music Festival.

The 2011 Maleny Wood Expo (Barung's main event of the year) was an outstanding operational success. Attendance was up on the previous three years, with a total of approximately 6000 people coming through the gates over the two days. The feedback from exhibitors was very positive with many asking if we could go back to having a three day event.

As the event coordinator I appreciate the incredible support offered by the dedicated team of Barung staff, Barung directors and Barung volunteers, more than 150 of whom helped out at the event. We had lots of rain and wind for the setup, which can be good; I find that when it is windy during setup, the structures are put together strongly and all tents are tied down well. The weather was very kind to us during the event itself with sparkling sunshine and virtually no wind.

I will start working on the 2012 Maleny Wood Expo in mid-November by opening online exhibitor applications and by approaching selected artisans. A comprehensive database of exhibitors is currently being compiled. Also Mim and I have applied for a \$20 000 Events Queensland grant and are waiting for a response.

For each of the festivals I work on I go through a similar organisational process, coordinating all infrastructural and site management elements including power needs, water, waste management, communications, volunteer coordination, stall placement and site mapping.

Barung Landcare has the opportunity at each of these events to raise funds through the Barung coffee cart and sponsor-a-tree campaign. This also provides the opportunity to raise awareness and impart information about environmental issues, solutions and Barung Landcare in general.

WILDLIFE WALKS & HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS

Susie Duncan

The regular Wildlife Walks wound up to a rather soggy but happy finish at the end of 2010. Since then I have led one walk for the Festival of Walks in the Upper Booloumba Creek catchment and this drew good interest from Barung members. We enjoyed a beautiful misty day in the rainforest.

I discontinued the walks so that I could devote more time to developing Hinterland Bush Links, an important conservation initiative for Barung. This project will provide a framework for expanding efforts to connect, restore and protect the bush in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. After wide consultation with community groups, government agencies and individuals, the project is set to launch in November this year with a community tree plant at Cambrook.

A Bushcare group and landholder engagement are well underway in the Cambrook area, and landholders in other districts are taking up the restoration and corridor building initiative. A website for the project should be ready to go by the time of the launch. Hinterland Bush Links has received one donation, which has funded the website, and has recently applied for Landcare Australia and Sunshine Coast Council grants. We expect to have a busy year ahead.

The 'Wildlife Wanderings' column will continue in the newsletter, exploring a range of ecological and conservation management topics that relate to our wildlife.



NEWSLETTERS & GUIDES

Eve Witney

Barung News

The Barung News always contains a remarkable range and depth of information for its readers, thanks to the regular contributors who take time out from their busy schedules to gather their thoughts on paper.

Thank you in particular to volunteer member contributors Joan Dillon, Susie Duncan and Gretchen Evans who regularly submit their contributions before the deadline! Thank you also to Committee Members Eric Anderson and Diana O'Connor, who report on rainforest birds, seed collection, Barung's management, and happenings at Russell Family Park at Montville, and to Lin Fairlie for her regular book reports. Pam Watson has also been a regular contributor with reports on books available for sale at the Barung Bookshop. And Barung staff members Jono Waites, Wayne Webb, Dawn Worthington and Kate Brooks keep readers up to date on Barung doings as well as providing expert advice. Occasional contributions from other Barung members further extend and brighten the mix.

Every two months, the newsletter is put up on Barung's website, around 400 email notifications are sent out, and about 100 copies are printed and posted to members who have requested hardcopies or who don't use email.

As we send the *Barung News* out into the ether, we do wonder at times how often it is read. Of course, we had no way of knowing how thoroughly it was read when it was posted out to all members. It appears about half of the people who receive the email notification do open the email. Barung members have the option of requesting a hardcopy, and a number have done this. However, happily Barung no longer bears the cost of printing and posting newsletters to people who don't have the time or desire to read them.

Many years' worth of Barung News can now be searched online! Den Lalor has loaded all issues back to October-November 2004 into the Newsletters section on the Barung website at:

www.barunglandcare.org.au

Blackall Range Landholders Guide - 3rd Edition

The third edition of the *Blackall Range Landholders Guide* is in preparation – still. This edition seems to be continuing the tradition of past editions in that it is enjoying a somewhat extended gestation period...

BARUNG

LANDCARE NEWS

December 2010
- January 2011





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NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF GOOD WILL

By Tina Lathouras

On Saturday 23rd October the inaugural community tree plant took place on the Maleny Community Precinct land. More than 400 people planted 4000 trees in this, the first of hopefully many tree plants to revegetate parts of the site over the next ten years.

Maleny residents and people from further afield showed an enormous display of community spirit and commitment to the environment.

What struck me most about this endeavour doesn't relate to the smooth organisation of the event, or the high turnout, or the amazingly fast work of the tree planters. It was the sophisticated act of citizenship that took place that day.

We were doing what the ancient Greeks embraced when, as part of the *polis*, citizens took seriously their obligation to be active in their community; to put community-interest above any particular rights they may have as citizens.

Our recent federal election demonstrated that we are living in times when our system of representative democracy has seemingly let us down, and where leadership and political will across many areas of community concern has left us feeling ambivalent about the political process. This was strongly demonstrated with the results of a hung parliament and the high Greens party vote.

Yet, tree planters and the myriad of other community members who contribute to the high social capital of this town through their good works, daily demonstrate their citizenship. We may be disappointed at one level with politics, but at the community level we are embracing it.

Our strength is our good will, to put aside differences, and to find our common interests within our diversity. This is the sign of a healthy, robust and sustainable community.

The recent treeplant was but one example of our commitment to build the kind of community we want to live in and care about, and these activities should never be underestimated.

[Photos by Steve Swayne, Serendigity]

WEEDING

Weeding events are planned to keep the Community Tree Plant Site at the Precinct well maintained for optimal growth and to continue the community contribution to the site.

Dates will be publicised on the Barung website.

The CodLine

Just one *CodLine* was printed in the last financial year, instead of the usual two. The *CodLine*, produced with the stalwart support of the Mary River Catchment Committee, continues to spread good catchment-and-land care news throughout the Mary River catchment to landholders, schools, libraries, politicians and regional resource managers at all levels of government.

The *CodLine* is printed and posted out free with the financial support of the MRCCC and Sunshine Coast Council. The current print run is 2000, of which about 1680 are posted directly to individuals and organisations and the balance are placed on the counters of produce stores throughout the catchment.

Feedback comments from the last issue include:

- *Excellent and useful information. A good stimulant to action.*
- *Thank you for the quality articles and information to help my farming enterprise. Very little of this sort of information can be found in the Gympie Times and QCL.*
- *Excellent! Love reading other people's work and achievements. It gives me hope for Mary's future.*

Issues 9 (July 2002) to 22 (May 2011) of the *CodLine* can be viewed online at:

www.mrccc.org.au/newsletters.html

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*Barung Landcare is working
to develop ethical solutions
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*We support regional and local empowerment
to conserve and enhance
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