

2012/13 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Barung Contracting Team Leader

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Daryl Reinke & Craig Hosmer

Bunya Tree photograph (cover and inner pages) by Penny Smith

Other photographs by Amanda Tinworth, Eric Anderson, Jonathan Waites, Susie Duncan, Eva Ford, Steve Swayne and Den Lalor

BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC.

Annual Report 2012-2013

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WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Eric Anderson

A year ago at our AGM our wholesale production nursery was opened by Sunshine Coast Council Mayor Mark Jamieson. This was deliberately done to mark a line in the sand with our 'nursery development' and to acknowledge the significant support from, and our partnership with, the Sunshine Coast Council. We are here again to show to you and report on the progress made, albeit slow, since then.

It has been a difficult year brought on by cash flow difficulties that will be highlighted by the Treasurer and which were brought to the Members' notice at a Members' Meeting in April. Since then Staff have had a reduction in their salaries, we have closed our spacious office in the Riverside Plaza and have been fortunate to secure a small office in the Hinterland Business Centre. All of our plant production staff and volunteers, contracting staff and advocacy officer have moved to our Landsborough facilities. There never was any intention of abandoning our Porters Lane site as a retail nursery, only a need to make it more attractive and to better market our plants.

These changes have been very disruptive and trying for staff and volunteers and I sincerely thank them all for their loyalty and support as we move forward to a brighter future. Thanks to: Kellie and Den in the office, with assistance from Lyn and Margot; Matthew, our inexhaustible Contracting Manager and his on-ground supervisors Kate and Josh (who has moved on) and their dedicated and enthusiastic staff; the Nursery team of Wayne and Fuschia and their numerous volunteers; Events Manager Steve and marketing wiz and organiser Mim; Projects Officer (and many other jobs) Jonathan; *Barung News* and *CODLine* editor Eve; and the Hinterland Bush Links Coordinator Susie.

Barung's aspiration continues to be that we establish an Education and Resource Centre on the Maleny Community Precinct (including a retail nursery), having an adequate area to display the unique flora of the Blackall Range featuring specimens of timber species, endangered species, bush tucker plants, butterfly plants, plants for fruit pigeons, etc. Council has offered us the chance to move to an area below the Cloudwalk development that was vacated by the Maleny Swimming Club. This site offers advantages such as flat land and being closer to town but access difficulties are still to be resolved.

Barung has been chosen as one of just seven community nurseries nationally to participate in the Village Nursery Project. This trial project, funded by the Westpac Foundation through Landcare Australia Limited, is '...to provide job skills and training support to disadvantaged youth and community groups in regional areas through the provision of a range of ecological, social and economic initiatives provided by community nurseries.' Barung has chosen to work with refugees seeking asylum in Australia. We have had up to four refugees volunteering in our nurseries one day a week so far.

Barung now auspices three groups through a MOU so that their activities can receive insurance cover. The first was the Range Bees, a group concerned about the future pollination of our food crops and the natural environment by honeybees, native social stingless bees and native solitary bees. The two new groups this year are the Children's FEASTival Garden Project, an educational program run by Kate and Madhu Kazony and introducing children to community gardening via after-school sessions, and the Mooloolah Valley Planters and Weeders, a group of land owners who meet regularly on their properties to do weeding and revegetation work.



Again we held or participated in a great range of activities such as:

- a number of community tree plantings that saw 2000 planted trees on the Precinct during the Green Hills community tree plant, 1000 trees in the community tree plant at Russell Family Park at Montville, 1500 trees in the Unity Water Environment tree planting on the Precinct, and 230 trees in a National Tree Day planting at the Ananda Marga River School
- three Nursery Propagation workshops for Council Land for Wildlife participants, participants at the Australian Native Plants Societies National Conference, and as a Landcare Week activity
- a frog workshop
- a very successful Maleny Wood Expo as a result of good organisation, good weather and good attendance
- Queensland Garden Expo at Nambour, World Environment Day Expo at Sunshine Coast University and monthly Markets at Montville and Witta – many thanks to the Nursery staff for preparing the plants and the volunteers who participated in these events
- the Sunshine Coast Council's 'Kids in Action' program and their Conservation Forum
- a field excursion for Nursery Volunteers and potential volunteers to inspect revegetation projects, a bird and plant ID walk, and a landslip workshop during Landcare Week this year
- Maleny Lions Club Welcome Dinner for new residents
- an information presence on a weekly basis (every Thursday) in the Maleny Community Centre's Kiosk
- numerous in-the-paddock activities under the Hinterland Bush Links project which is going from strength to strength under the energetic guidance of Susie Duncan.

Sources of external funding and support during the year included the Commonwealth Government, Burnett Mary Regional Group, South East Queensland Catchments, Queensland Water and Land Carers, WestPac and the Sunshine Coast Council. We thank all of those funders, but especially the Council through their innovative Community Partnership Program.

We have many valuable sponsors, too many to name now, but I would like to commend and thank two special ones: the Maleny Supa IGA through their CBC program, and Montville Coffee through their continuing and generous support.

Always appreciated is the support received from local like-minded groups – much appreciated are Steven Lang, Maleny District Green Hills Fund, and Peter Stevens, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group.

A special thanks to Councillor Jenny McKay for her ongoing interest and support.

I again thank our numerous volunteers and wish we could reward all of you. This year it was great to see Lyn Finlay be Barung's Nominee to receive the Glasshouse Electorate Volunteers Award for 2013.

Finally, sincere thanks to all of the Management Committee for your input during the year. Welcome to the new Members Dianne Clarke and Lindsay Kruger who helped fill some of the vacancies left by the retirements during the year of Glen Donoghoe, Lorraine See and Karen Binstead. And last, and definitely not least, I acknowledge the tremendous debt we owe to retiring Treasurer David Binstead for the untiring efforts he puts into managing



TREASURER'S REPORT

by David Binstead

2012–13 has been a difficult year for Barung financially. In February, the cash flow position was quite challenging and the Committee moved to mitigate the problem by closing the Riverside Centre shop and reducing staff costs. While these actions were not popular, no obvious alternatives were available.

There are two apparent causes of this difficulty:

- A dramatic reduction in grant funding from \$333K in 2011–12 to \$178K in 2012–13 is significant. Both federal and state government grants became unavailable or much more difficult to obtain. Large grants are usually for large projects that incur considerable expenditure so expenditure was significantly reduced. However such grants also usually contribute to Barung's core operations so this aspect was missed.
- The Landsborough nursery has taken longer than was projected to start being productive.

At year-end, the prospects are somewhat brighter, with a small profit recorded for the year. This turnaround is thanks to the most financially successful Wood Expo in recent years, and the stirling performance of the Contracting teams, particularly during the latter part of the year.

There are lessons to be learnt from this. Barung, or any not-for-profit for that matter, cannot depend on government grants for their financial survival. The 'business units' of Nursery, Contracting, and Events (Wood Expo) were all commenced with a dual purpose, both to contribute to advancement of the Landcare ethic and to financially contribute to the fundamental advocacy that is Barung's reason for being. This second imperative has not always been given the focus it deserves.

I have mentioned the cut in availability of grant funds as one reason for our difficulties in 2012–13. However, there is one source of funds that continues to be very supportive. 2012–13 was the final year of a three-year Partnership Grant from Sunshine Coast Regional Council, and I was genuinely concerned that this level of support might reduce in 2013–14. Instead, the amount of the grant, just for one year this time, was increased slightly. This grant is specifically to support our advocacy services so there is no specific additional expenditure involved. In addition, Council has reduced the rental at Landsborough from \$1500 per month to \$1000 per month for 12 months. The support we receive from Council is much appreciated.

I am not standing for the position of Treasurer again. Family calls us to relocate. My time at Barung has been lots of work, sometimes lots of lost sleep, but above all much pleasure in working with a crew of dedicated people looking to advance the cause of Landcare. I wish you all, and Barung, the best for the future.





BARUNG NURSERIES

by Wayne Webb

The last twelve months have seen Barung nursery's plant production shift entirely from Maleny to our Landsborough site. The first plants were tubed at Landsborough just ahead of the 2012 AGM last October. We have now almost filled the shadehouse and are starting to utilise the outdoor growing area.

We have had a steady stream of volunteers through to help with tubing and other jobs. The mainstays are Alan Felmingham and Peter Atherdon, who have done a sterling job with tubing many thousands of plants and also watering, supervising and teaching new vollies, mowing, helping with construction, washing tubes... the list is endless! Also of great help have been the guys on the Village Nursery Project. To all our Landsborough vollies, a big thank you for your contribution in getting our new production nursery up and running.

Diana O'Connor has taken on most of our seed collection and propagation and has the propagation tunnel full of healthy seedlings waiting to be tubed.

Our slow sand filtration system is working well, converting rather smelly dam water into water suitable for nursery irrigation without the need for chemicals. It needs close monitoring, but considering the shoestring budget it was built on it is doing a good job.

Confusion reigned supreme earlier in the year when the management committee decided we needed to consolidate our operations and move the nursery entirely to Landsborough. This would have been a massive undertaking, severely interrupting progress of our new nursery. I, along with many others, strongly argued we needed to maintain our nursery in Maleny as our public outlet and use Landsborough as our production and wholesale base. With no production in our Maleny nursery, we are able to progressively downsize the nursery area to reduce our water demand (i.e. time spent pumping water). It now seems we are able to stay on our present Maleny site until we can develop our permanent home in Maleny.

With this in mind, Fuschia is working with her dedicated team of vollies to revamp our Maleny nursery. Weed mat has gone down in the shadehouse and benches rearranged to better display plant stock. She hopes to move the donga up onto the top level so it is more suitable as a sales area and more easily accessible on fairly flat ground. However Fuschia is running low on volunteers, so if you have spare time on your hands please give her a call. To all those who have volunteered at Maleny over the last year, sincere thanks for all you have done.

Thanks also to Ian Webster and Dianne Lanskey who hosted our volunteer day out recently at their beautiful Flaxton property. It is truly inspirational to see the work these two are doing in revegetating their steep slopes, and gratifying for our vollies to see the end results of their work back in the nursery – they really do make a difference.

Once again the two big events for us this year were the Maleny Wood Expo and the Queensland Garden Expo in Nambour. Thank you to many people who helped make these a great success. Thanks also to those who have helped at various other displays and markets through the year.

The exciting recent news for Barung nursery is that it has been awarded the right to supply the plants to Tree Crop Technologies for Unity Water's irrigated forest plantings on the Maleny Community Precinct site. This involves supplying close to



PROJECT COORDINATION

by Jonathan Waites

Greetings all and now to the year that was. Project funding has been light on the ground this year and we have had mixed results in the applications that I've been involved in writing. But we soldier on; like the lottery you have to be in it to win it.

Briefly, we applied unsuccessfully for a Gambling Community Benefit Fund Grant, Jupiter's Casino Community Benefit Fund Grant, Everyone's Environment Grant, Community Landcare Grant and a Volunteer Grant. However we have new applications pending for the first three and eagerly await decisions on these which are due to be announced over the next couple of months.

[Stop Press: We have just received notification that our Everyone's Environment Grant Round 2 application and our Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant application have been successful. Woo hoo!]

On a brighter note we have been successful in securing funding through Landcare Australia from the Westpac Foundation for the *Village Nursery Project* and Sunshine Coast Council for *Community Partnerships Funding*.

Projects

Community Action Grant: Engaging Community Stage 2 – Landholder capacity building for biodiversity is funded through the Australian Government Caring for Our Country initiative. This funding supported us in running five workshops and a public treeplant. Workshops included several run as part of our Landcare Week activities and native plant identification with Sunshine Coast botanist Ann Moran and wildlife friendly gardens with Susie Duncan, Barry Trail and Tony Bright. It also allowed us to run another very popular frog identification workshop earlier this year with Eva Ford of MRCCC.

A community treeplant was held in Russell Family Park at Montville, continuing an ongoing revegetation program driven by Russell Family Park Rainforest Community Group which has been progressing for some years with support from Barung and Sunshine Coast Council. Around 40 people planted a total of 935 native tubes in a very short time before enjoying a sausage sizzle provided by Maleny Lions Club.

The *Village Nursery Project* is a three year project focusing on providing job skills and training support to disadvantaged groups in our community. It is a pilot program which is running in seven community nurseries around the country.

We have been working with refugees seeking asylum in Australia who have recently been released from detention in Brisbane. On leaving the Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation detention centre at Pinkenba on Bridging Visas they are being supported by host families around the Sunshine Coast

who are part of the Australian Homestay Network. We have received great support from Buddies, a refugee advocacy and support group based on the Sunshine Coast, particularly in coordinating transport for participants to our nurseries each week.

We have had nine refugees participate in the program since it began in March. Since then they have been involved in all facets of nursery production as well as having opportunities for experiences more broadly related such as replacing the roof of the propagation tunnel and equipment maintenance.

Most weeks they work in the nurseries alongside our 'regular' volunteers; however they have also had the opportunity to be involved with the wider community through, for example, their volunteering efforts at the Maleny Wood Expo working with a wider range of volunteers as well as commercial businesses.

The majority of our refugees have come from Sri Lanka, but we did have an 'international' day one week when we had a Sri Lankan, a Burmese, an Iranian and an Afghani – with English being their only common language! Currently we have only two refugee participants in the program due to a break in new refugees being hosted on the Sunshine Coast and most of those previously hosted having moved on to other areas.

We received our final year's funding of the three year *Sunshine Coast Council Community Partner-ships Funding Program*. This funding has been of great benefit in helping to offset some of the costs associated with our advocacy work. It has supported the salaries for extension, management and administration officers as well as office rental costs. Directly and indirectly it has supported us as we provide information (e.g. plant selection guides), events (e.g. Maleny Wood Expo), field days (e.g. community tree plants), practical workshops (e.g. native plant identification) and written information (e.g. the bimonthly *Barung News*).

Unfortunately the program has been reduced to an annual grant which must be applied for each year; we have been fortunate to secure funding for the 2013/14 year.

Other stuff

Some of the other things I've been involved with over the past year:

I coordinated our volunteers at the Maleny Wood Expo again this year and as usual they performed magnificently. We are very fortunate to be able to attract the number and quality of volunteers year after year to support us in running such a large and spectacular event.

Barung assisted the Ananda Marga River School Prep to Year 3 students in celebrating National Tree Day on Friday July 26th. We helped organise the planting (thanks to Eric and Diana) and provided plants, weed mats and tree guards. Some plants were also donated by Coolum Nursery and some tree guards by Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group. Around 80 enthusiastic students plus parents and teachers planted and watered the 230 native tubes which will enhance existing riparian rainforest at the entrance to the school on Bridge Creek.

We ran six workshops through Landcare Week attracting around 100 participants.

A new group came under the auspices of Barung earlier this year; Family FEASTival run 10 week garden education courses for children covering practical hands-on planting and harvesting, etc. They have been very active in significantly extending the Co-op Garden behind Maple St Co-op and now plan to begin another garden at the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre.

Another group under the auspices of Barung, Range Bees, held a successful native bee habitat wall building workshop at our Landsborough site in June.

Barung partnered with the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network to contribute to the Kids in Action program which is funded by the Sunshine Coast Council Environment Levy. We helped run an event which informed around 100 students from schools around the Sunshine Coast about the importance

of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, after which they planted Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Vines in Cahill Scrub Bushland Reserve at Peachester.

We had a visit from 14 members of the Japanese Seikatsu Club who were visiting Australia as part of the International Year of Co-ops. They were interested to hear how a like-minded organisation such as Barung interacted with our community/members and our three tiers of government, as well as how we generated income to carry out our activities and what form those activities took. We share similar experiences in seeking government funding and in the struggle to generate income, as well as in our focus on advocacy which permeates all our activities.

While working from an office at our Landsborough nursery I've continued to do odd jobs around the site e.g. with the help of our Village Nursery Project participants we buried the pipeline from the main dam up to the raw water tank at the nursery, replaced the roof of one of the propagation tunnels, mowed the lawn areas and the Amigh Rd driveway occasionally, and tried to keep our mower and the tractor going.

Well, on to next year and interesting times, perhaps, as we face a new federal government and a warmer climate, and what they both may bring to Landcare and our environment.



HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS

by Susie Duncan

Hinterland Bush Links has had a busy year. A threeyear Community Partnership with Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) was received at the beginning of the year and this part-funds the coordinator and expenses. More recently Martina Gordon has assisted as a volunteer coordinating Roving Restorers.

A strong focus continues on restoration of the Cambroon wildlife corridor linking the Conondale and Blackall Ranges. Landholder engagement there has resulted in more properties joining Land for Wildlife and some have received Landholder Environment Grants from SCC to enhance riparian vegetation. Mapping of Cats Claw, Madeira Vine and Dutchman's Pipe in the corridor and initial treatment of these serious weed vines was funded by Burnett Mary Regional Group with support from Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee. A workshop was held to engage local landholders in managing these weeds on their properties. Further funding is being sought for more weed vine works in both the Cambroon corridor and the rest of the upper catchment of the Mary River.

Also in the Cambroon corridor, Little Yabba Park Bushcare group meets monthly to restore vegetation along the banks of Little Yabba Creek. The banks of this creek were seriously eroded in the January 2013 floods and some of the group's work was lost.

A valuable workshop was held in the Cambroon district to illustrate how local landholders have restored vegetation through their property from a forested ridgeline to the Mary River. Other workshops have been held on the Blackall Range on the topics of nat-

ural regeneration, privet management, and wildlife habitat creation. Hinterland Bush Links partnered with SCC to introduce the community to the Kirbys Road Environmental Reserve, an acquisition by Council of land that now links the Kidaman Creek section of Maleny National Park with Kondalilla National Park. At this community day some 1400 trees were planted to connect habitat on the creek that flows through the property. HBL has supported several other tree-planting events in the region.

An information session on connecting habitat in the Upper Mary Valley was attended by 60 people. HBL has addressed many other groups on connectivity including an NRM tour attended by SCC councillors and the local State Member and Environment Minister. Andrew Powell.

Stalls have been held at World Environment Day, Mary River Festival, Barung Wood Expo and Gardening on the Edge.

Roving Restorers has been assisting landholders on a monthly basis with over one hundred volunteers helping out with weed management and tree planting. Most working bees are followed by a walk on the property to see sites of special interest.

HBL has prepared a map and description of key corridors in the Blackall Range / Upper Mary / Conondale Range region. This provides a basis for prioritising landholder engagement efforts but all landholders are encouraged to get on board with both restoration and connectivity works.

HBL has been working closely with the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative over the past year to further



their vision of connecting habitat along eastern Australia from Victoria to Cape York. We have also had input to the National Wildlife Corridors Plan which is being developed at a Federal level.

At a regional level HBL continues to work collaboratively with a wide range of groups and agencies and has regular contact with our local State Member Andrew Powell and SCC councillors.

A new HBL Facebook group site has been created to reach a wider audience and this has been very successful: www.facebook.com/groups/hinterlandbushlinks.

Regular articles about project activities are posted in *Barung News*, *CodLine* and various other local newsletters and newspapers.

HBL is grateful to SCC for funding a Community Partnership and tools for Roving Restorers; BMRG for weed vine management funding; Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group for administrative support and professional advice; and Jane Abercrombie for her generous donation towards the project.

The project has been guided by the expertise and experience of a wonderfully supportive advisory group. And Barung Landcare staff and volunteers continue to offer extensive assistance and enthusiasm to keep the project on the road.





BARUNG EVENTS MANAGEMENT

by Steve McLeish

As Barung's event manager 2012–2013 I have worked on the Maleny Wood Expo, Sunshine Coast Environment Council's World Environment Day, Green Hills Tree Plant, Maleny Music Festival, The Real Food Festival and the 2012 Caloundra Music Festival

This year's Maleny Wood Expo was an outstanding success with over 8000 people attending over the two days.

We have received very positive feedback from exhibitors and patrons, some saying it was the 'best year ever'.

The weather was fantastic... the diversity and quality of the exhibits made for a stand-out show. We are already fielding enquiries for next year's event.

The Wootha Prize is steadily gaining the reputation as one of Australia's best timber-related competitions. This year the number of entries more than doubled and the quality of the final exhibits was extraordinary.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mim Coulstock for her tireless dedication to Barung, the Wood Expo, and in particular for driving the Wootha Prize. It's through her passion and commitment that the Wootha Prize has become such a success.

Work on the 2014 Maleny Wood Expo has already begun. Mim and I have applied for Events Queensland funding (\$24 000) and are now awaiting the results. We are also currently looking at other funding opportunities and sponsorships.

In mid-November we will make exhibitor applications available and continue to approach selected artisans. The Woodford Folk Festival Tree Plant organisers have confirmed they will shift the date for their annual event so it doesn't conflict with the Wood Expo. This is great news for us next year.

The Maleny Wood Expo is truly a community event and enormous thanks must go out to the Maleny community for its support. Thank you to all the volunteers who take such pride in the Expo. Thank you to all the local businesses who generously donate their goods and services to the raffle and the opening night. And many thanks to all our sponsors and supporters.

Congratulations to Barung and its members for hosting such a unique and quality event.

Apart from the opportunity for Barung to benefit financially from the Expo, the event exposes 'land-care' to a wide demographic and promotes Barung as a leader in community engagement and innovative event creation.





BARUNG CONTRACTING SERVICES

by Matt Bateman

Another big year for Barung Contracting Services, in fact the biggest ever. Due to the dedication and enthusiasm of our great staff we have even more sites under our management and have undertaken some larger projects this year.

From kayaking down the Mary River doing weed surveys to creating koala feed lots for koala carers, we have had a diverse year with some challenging weather patterns.

As well as our regular works Barung Contracting carried out the first year of the Maleny Community Precinct fauna and water quality monitoring. A big thanks must go to Eva Ford from MRCCC for her professional assistance. We now have the baseline data to carry out long term monitoring on the Precinct. The highlight was undoubtedly the recording of *Mixophyes iterates* (Giant barred frog) on the Obi Obi Creek for the first time.

Many thanks to all the staff including Kate, Josh, Sarah, Tony, Donna, Tom, Ben, Oskar, Ivan, Michael, Daniel, Lindsay, Evy, Nathan, Ian, Leah, Zen, Mica and Kellie. Thanks must also go to David, Dennis and Kellie in the office for all the admin help. Thanks also to the vollies who help in many different ways.

We also say goodbye to Josh Rennie-Hynes who is following his passion for his music; Josh will have an album coming out later in the year so look out for it. And we are also losing Lindsay Thomas who is moving to WA to be closer to his family. We'll miss them both but wish them well.





OUR 2012-2013 SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Barung gratefully acknowleges funding & sponsorships from:

Sunshine Coast Council















CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY







TOURISM and EVENTS **QUEENSLAND**



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Thank you for supporting Landcare on the Blackall Range









Blackall Range Growers' Market











Still Spring Water















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Montville Village Real Estate
Northey Street City Farm
Range Auto & Fuel Injection Centre
RB Safety & Training Services
South East Land Repair
Suncoast Hardwoods

It's all about ...

... fresh AIR

... clean WATER

... healthy SOIL

... native FLORA

... vital FIRE

... diverse FORESTS

... caring PEOPLE

... abundant WILDLIFE

Barung Landcare is working to develop ethical solutions for a sustainable future.

We support regional and local empowerment to conserve and enhance the rich diversity of natural resources of the Blackall Range and environs.



Barung Resource Centre

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