

BARUNG

LANDCARE NEWS

December 2011 -
January 2012



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Barung Landcare

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HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS LAUNCH

by *Susie Duncan*

Hinterland Bush Links had a fantastic launch on Sunday 13 November 2011. Held on a private property in the upper Mary Valley, the tree plant and launch attracted 122 people who are keen to be part of connecting up habitat in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Some 700 trees were planted to help protect the beautiful rainforest-shrouded Wompoo Creek which flows into Booloumba Creek. This planting is a part of linking vegetation between the Conondale and Blackall Ranges so that birds like the Wompoo Fruit-dove can feed and breed in new areas.

Professor Henry Nix, Australia's leading bio-geographer and an expert on ecological connectivity, formally launched the project. He described how John Gould was struck by the beauty of Galahs when he travelled through the lightly timbered country of north-west Queensland in the 19th Century. Gould lamented that people living near the coast would never get to see this gorgeous bird, but 150 years later, the Hinterland is home to Galahs because so much vegetation has been cleared. Meanwhile, many of our forest-dwelling species have lost out with this change in the landscape. This is why reconnecting bushland is so important.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the launch, particularly Matt Bateman, Barung Contracting and other crews, who put a big effort preparing the tree-planting site and maintaining the watering in the dry weather that followed.

If you are interested in participating in Hinterland Bush Links activities, check out the website: www.hinterlandbushlinks.org or contact me, Susie Duncan, on 5429 6622.

More photos and 'thank you's on page 2.



Current and recent Barung staff & volunteers are warmly invited to Barung's end-of-year party

Verandah Room (Community Centre)

**Friday 23rd December
11:30 am to 1:30 pm**



Hinterland Bush Links Launch THANK YOU TO...

... **James Muller** and **Alieta Belle** for hosting the launch on their beautiful property at Booloumba Creek

... **Henry Nix** for launching the project and speaking to the media

... **Matt Bateman** for the terrific effort that he and the Barung Contracting crew put into preparing the site, running the tree plant and follow-up watering – **Roy Bonner, Darcy Scully, Zen Silich, Kyle Sommerville** and **Lindsay Thomas**

... the many people who contributed to the preparations and running of the launch, from writing signs and delivering planting instructions to baking cakes: **Joan Dillon, Diana O'Connor, Craig Hosmer, Dan Gillespie, Jono Waites, Denis Wood, Greg Strain, Wayne Webb, Kate Brooks, Carol Low, Gretchen Evans, Bill Egerton, Kim Holcroft, Paul Magee, Ivan Cafarella, Chris Francis, John Dillon, Barry Traill, Nick Clancy, Daryl Reinke, Eva Ford, Jacinta Foale, Eve Witney, Jackie Montgomery, Steve Swayne, Bernie Dwyer, James Muller, Robyn Hofmeyr, Tommy Leonard, Eric Anderson, Barry Traill, Robyn Solomon, Mathilda Muller, Emily Outridge, Shannon Mooney, Steve Skull, Lysanne Degraaf, Kellie Huddy, Den Lalor, Margo Balfour, Lyn Finlay, Cassia Duncan** and **Mim Coulstock**

... and the great crowd who came to help plant and celebrate.

Apologies if anyone is missing from this list – all contributions were greatly appreciated.



Top: Susie Duncan. Below, left to right: Jenny Allen with pick; Nick Clancy and Ryan Web at the water truck; Craig Hosmer and Denis Wood with the answers!

Front page: Greg Strain, Alieta Bell (property owner) and Chinmaya getting plants in the ground.



BUNYA DREAMING

A CELEBRATION OF THE MAJESTIC BUNYA TREE

SATURDAY 28 JANUARY
2012

Maleny side of Baroon Pocket Dam

The day generates an understanding of indigenous culture by providing a forum for networking, information sharing and strengthening community partnerships.

Activities include Bunya feasting, bushfoods, dance, bush medicine, competitions, ceremony, fire, yarning and workshops.

Finishing this year at 8.00 pm following a digital display on the water.

This is an invitation-only event and all Barung Landcare members are invited.

Your \$5 donation to Barung Landcare will go towards native tree planting and carbon offsetting of the event.

Bookings essential as space is limited.

Please RSVP to Barung Landcare via
www.barunglandcare.org.au or 5494 3151 or
info@barunglandcare.org.au

Thank you to Steve Swayne, Bernie Dwyer & Barry Traill for these photos.



BAR-SHOULDERED DOVE

RAINFOREST BIRDS by Eric Anderson

The Bar-shouldered Dove is a medium-sized, long-tailed dove, 27–30 cm long. The adult bird is distinctive with a blue-grey head, neck and upper breast and a diagnostic rufous-bronze patch on the hind neck which is heavily scalloped with black. The rest of the upper body and the tail are grey. The lower breast and belly are pale cream with a pink wash. There is also a distinctive pink shoulder-bar on the sides of the lower breast. These birds have a blue-grey eye-ring and reddish eye. The bill is blue-grey, while the legs and feet are pink to reddish purple. The sexes are alike, while juveniles are dull without the coppery hind neck.

Bar-shouldered Doves are native to Australia and found in better-watered coastal and near-coastal regions from the Pilbara region of Western Australia across the northern coastline and down the east coast to southern New South Wales. This species is also found in southern New Guinea.

It is not strictly a rainforest bird but in our region is found on the rainforest margins. Bar-shouldered Doves are often found in thick vegetation where water is present, in damp gullies, forests, woodlands, and tropical and subtropical scrubs. They are also often found in mangroves and are frequently seen in urban areas.

These doves mostly feed on bare ground or in short grass, usually close to cover, and often on tracks through bushland or on roadsides where they walk and run swiftly. They are usually seen in pairs or small parties, although large flocks are sometimes found at water in the dry season in the Tropics. Their food consists mainly of seeds of grasses, herbs and sedges. They drink throughout the day, though more often in the afternoon.

Bar-shouldered Doves roost in bushes and trees, usually in dense cover, and when flushed fly swiftly, directly and low to cover. Their wings whistle while the birds are in flight.



Bar-Shouldered Dove.

[Photo by Eric Anderson]

Their voice is a distinctive loud clear and repeated *cook, coo, cook, coo* and high pitched melodious *coolicoo*. They nest in dense shrubs and trees in the canopy or understorey of woodlands and forests or in thickets. Occasionally they nest in urban areas, in gardens. The nest is a thin platform made from twigs and roots and is placed in a fork or on a branch.

Both parents incubate the eggs and feed the chicks. Young doves are fed with 'crop milk' specially produced by the parent birds (a common characteristic of pigeons and doves). Breeding has been recorded most months of the year but in our region the season is mostly August to November when two slightly lustrous or glossy white, almost round or oval to elliptical eggs are laid.



CALLING ALL BUSHWALKERS & RESTORERS

Would you like to enjoy a bushwalk and a couple of hours of bush restoration each month?

Barung's Hinterland Bush Links is proposing to set up a group to provide support to local landholders who are restoring habitat on their properties. And the mega-bonus is that after the work is done you get to explore some interesting country either on the property or nearby.

A lot of interest has been expressed in continuing Barung's monthly bushwalks so this seems like a win-win for walkers and wildlife.

Check the February-March newsletter for details of the first activity in 2012. Or call Susie Duncan on 5429 6622.

BUNYA DREAMING 2012 FUNDRAISING DINNER

SATURDAY 21 JANUARY
2012 AT 6 PM
MONTVILLE VILLAGE HALL

Includes premier showing of movie &
three course meal designed
by local bush entrepreneur
Sabine Wienand.

\$55 per person

*Limited numbers so
book early.*

Please book online at
www.barunglandcare.org.au
or phone 5494 3151

HUNTING DOWN SEED FOR OUR NURSERY

Another area where Barung depends on our members...

SEED NOTES by Diana O'Connor

This year has seen some unusual seeding patterns. As I seek out seeding rainforest trees, I am beginning to appreciate that each year has a different pattern of seed production. Individual trees that have seeded well one year often do not to produce a crop the following year. A large Hairy Rosewood *Dysoxylum rufum* that I collected seed from in previous years in Flaxton has had almost no fruit this season, yet a White Booyong *Argyrodendron trifoliolatum* that has not fruited for several years has been prolific this November.

Here are some of the trees that need to be checked out for seed in the coming months – and remember, at Barung we are largely dependent on our members for sourcing seed for our nurseries!

Guioa *Guioa semiglauca* is a reliable grower and a very useful tree to have seed from.

Hoop Pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* opens its cones and sheds seed around Christmas time. This species is always sought after for revegetation.

Scentless Rosewood *Synoum glandulosum* is ripening now, so keep a look out and get in before the birds for a proportion of the fruit if you can.

Red Lilly Pilly *Syzygium hodgekinsoniae* is fruiting now – large red fruits following highly perfumed flowers.

Brush Cherry *Syzygium australe* is beginning to ripen also.

Peanut tree *Sterculia quadrifida* ripens this time of year.

Creek Sandpaper Fig *Ficus coronata* fruit will be turning black as it matures over the next two months.

Piccabeen Palm *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* ripens in the coming months. In areas well away from gardens, look for seed along creek lines. We always need these trees. Trees near gardens are not good as too many have crossed with the northern palm that should only grow north from Eurimbula near Gladstone.



Native Jasmine *Hymenosporum flavum* fruits in the new year, as do also:

- Cheese Tree *Glochidion ferdinandii*
- Purple Cherry *Syzygium crebrinerve*
- Small-leaved Plum Myrtle *Pilidiostigma rhytispermum*
- Bleeding Heart *Homalanthus nutans*
- Lolly Bush *Clerodendrum floribundum*, and
- Glossy Laurel *Cryptocarya laevigata*.

You may have trees you know of in the wild or in your garden that have come from local seed. **Please consider collecting seed for Barung Landcare.** If you unsure of the species id. bring along a leaf or two – in fact that is always a good idea.

Remember that most rainforest seeds can be put in water to kill bugs in them, for a week or even two. However don't wet Hoop Pine.

Record the date and place of collection. If you have a GPS, record the coordinates too. If you leave seeds at the Nursery, put your name and contact details in with them in case Wayne needs to contact you.



*Fruit of (from top):
Bleeding Heart,
Creek Sandpaper Fig,
Hairy Rosewood, and
Scentless Rosewood.
[Photos by Eric Anderson]*



So, any help you can give us in seed collection will be greatly appreciated by our nursery staff.

We will be expanding our production in the New Year as our Landsborough nursery gets going, so this help will be vital. If you haven't done it before, you will find the hunting and collecting rather fun.

NURSERIES ARE BLOOMING

NURSERY NOTES by Kate Brooks

Well, you got your last nursery notes from Dawn, and now you have your first lot from me, Kate! A big 'hello!' to everyone, and if I haven't already met you in the nursery I'm sure I will in the very near future. My name is Kate Brooks and I have been involved in many different areas of Barung over the last four years. My current title is Assistant Nursery Manager. Dawn has left some big shoes to fill... so here goes.

Landsborough Nursery

Wayne and Jono have been busy down in Landsborough over the past few months. With the Barung AGM and Open Nursery Day at the Landsborough Nursery in November, it was all systems go to make the site sparkle for the big day. It was a fantastic day (minus the early drizzle) which included a site walk with Jono and a plant walk with myself and Wayne. In the main tent Eric spoke of Barung's current happenings and future plans to the keen ears of many members and some local residents. Darryl even popped in to show his support! So a big thanks to all who helped organise, set up and staff the AGM... what a day.

The new shadehouse has been ordered and is on its way! At a whopping 21 metres by 29.2 metres it will be a very welcome addition to Barung's ever-growing nursery operations.

Wayne also participated in a Nursery Production Farm Management System Field Day for Managing Water Storage and Irrigation (wow, that's a mouthfull!). It included topics such as managing nursery wastewater drains, water storage management, and Slow Sand Filtration which is the type of system Wayne has been implementing in the new Landsborough nursery.

Maleny Nursery

Well it has been absolutely fantastic finally meeting all the volunteers in the nursery properly instead of just sneaking in to steal water with the Contracting team and getting roused on! We have been busy stocktaking and making up benches to lift a lot of the stock off the ground. The bench material has been brought up from the old Beerburrum Forestry Nursery which has moved to Toolara near Gympie and we were given permission to clean out the stuff that didn't go. Half has made its way to the Landsborough nursery and the other half to the Porters Lane nursery. Thanks to Kerry, Doug and Clare for the use of their muscles and truck to bring it all up as well as the rest of the team for shifting it all into place.

This month we also donated a \$50 plant voucher to the Blue Care Erowal Aged Care Facility cent auction held in early November and received a lovely thank you card in return.

There has been a slight change to the nursery opening hours due to my commitment to the Barung contracting team. **Porters Lane nursery is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9-3.** The volunteers are still in on a Tuesday working hard potting up plants but will not be serving customers on this day.

Flowering beauties

Finally I'd just like to say... How about them flowers! Spring really turned it on this year with fantastic displays from the Flame Tree *Brachychiton acerifolius*, Silky Oak *Grevillea robusta*, Bumpy Ash *Flindersia schottiana*, Tamarind *Diploglottis australis*, Black Bean *Castanospermum australe* and Native Wisteria *Callerya megasperma*.

If you would like any of the above mentioned beauties or any other local species, check out our stock list online at the Barung website or just come in and have a browse.

VOLUNTEERS - BARUNG NEEDS YOU NOW! CAN YOU HELP?

by Diana O'Connor

Barung Landcare is a group of concerned people who see the need for action in preserving and repairing our landscapes. However we cannot always hope that someone else will do it! We need to get active.

Recently a number of stalwart over-55 nursery volunteers, who worked with us to comply with work search obligations, have retired. This leaves us rather stretched when it comes to tubing up plants etc. in the nursery.

We need new people volunteering on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the Porter's Lane Nursery, North Maleny. A couple of hours or a half day is all useful. You will be trained for any job you are given, so no prior knowledge is required. Training takes time so it is a real help if volunteers can make a regular commitment.

We are an association that relies on volunteers to carry out the vast majority of our functions. We get great support for tree plant days, but right now we need hands to grow the trees!

Barung Landcare...



**PLEASE
CONSIDER
GETTING
ACTIVE!**

WANTED: STOOL & WHITEBOARD

A STOOL (to perch on while working on a computer that's on a high bench) would be much appreciated at the Nursery!

We could also do with a WHITEBOARD, please.
Thank you very much.

WATER CRATES NEEDED

Barung needs bulk liquid containers (shuttles) for use delivering water to planting sites. The vehicle or trailer-mountable crates used to dispense live-stock foods such as molasses are ideal.



If you can donate one, or if you can contribute toward purchasing one from a landholder, this will be greatly appreciated.
Contact Matt Bateman at Barung on 5494 3151.

BRIGHT NEW YEAR AHEAD

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Eric Anderson

On the day of Barung's AGM, forty-five people came to inspect our new native plant nursery facilities at Landsborough. Some went on the plant walk with nursery manager Wayne Webb and all stayed for the sausage sizzle. Twenty-three members and six visitors stayed on to attend the AGM.

My thanks to all of the current committee who have put their hand up to stand again – Pat Fuller (Secretary), David Binstead (Treasurer), and Committee Members Glen Donoghoe, Lin Fairlie and Diana O'Connor. Also thanks to Lin Fairlie for undertaking the position of Vice President at our first committee meeting following the AGM.

Having served on the Committee since 2003, including three years as Secretary, Kate Fraser has stood down this year for a well-deserved rest. Many thanks, Kate, for your commitment and numerous contributions to Barung.

Landsborough nursery progress

There is much still to be done at our Landsborough Nursery, but progress is starting to be made. Power is on to the house but still to be connected to our nursery operational areas. Council provided much appreciated help in the preparation of the pads for the shade house and hardening-off area and continue to assist in having the power connected.

We are now planning to install the drainage on these pads which will be covered with gravel. We have let a contract to construct the large shade house to be completed early in the New Year.

Our next priority is to secure our water supply, firstly from a nearby small dam and after that from a larger dam a little distance away from the nursery.

We gratefully acknowledge the Council's assistance to date. We have also been fortunate in obtaining a number of items from Forestry Plantations Queensland's now-closed Beerburrum Nursery – including some pumps, concrete blocks and office furniture. To make further progress at our Landsborough site we are looking for more sponsors who can help out with cash or in-kind contributions. If you can help or know someone who might be interested please contact me.

Bush Links launch

It was a pleasure to launch with Susie Duncan the Hinterland Bush Links Project recently with a community tree planting at Cambrook. Some 700 trees were planted by more than 100 people in about three hours. We hope to repeat this exercise many times over the coming years.

Staffing in the office

Thank you to our two Green Army project workers, Ivan Caferella and Kellie Huddy. Ivan was mainly employed at our new Landsborough nursery. Kelly took over the role of Administration Assistant in our Office and Resource Centre in Maleny. She did such a good job we have asked her to continue on in the role on a permanent basis. Initially she will be working for 30 hours per week from Monday to Thursday. The office will still be open on Fridays under the guidance of volunteer Lyn Finlay.

A new year ahead

The festive season is on us again. Many thanks to our many partners, sponsors and funders and we look forward to your collaboration and support next year. A special thanks to the Committee, Staff and Volunteers who have worked tirelessly for and enhanced the reputation of Barung. We hope to see you at the Barung Xmas Party (see notice on front page of this *Barung News*). Merry Christmas and Seasons Greetings to all.

WOOD EAR FUNGUS (Auricularia)

FUNGAL FORAY by Gretchen Evans

If you are walking through the forest a day or so after rain, you will commonly find large colonies of a gelatinous type of fungus growing on logs. This is likely to be one of the Auricularias (from the Latin for 'ear') or wood ear fungi.

There are four species in Queensland and they have the following characteristics in common. They are ear or cup shaped, generally hairy or velvety on top, and somewhat translucent. They are fleshy like a thin, tough jelly but become harder as they dry out. Colours vary from reddish brown to grey, depending on the species.

These fungi have long been used by the Chinese who believe them to have various healing properties. You will find them in soups in Chinese restaurants.



Wood ear fungus are extensively cultivated in China and in the early 20th century large quantities of dried Auricularia were exported from Queensland to China.

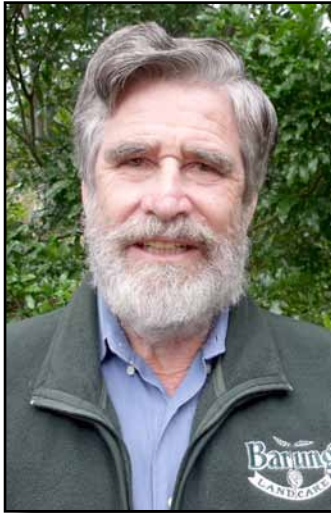


Above: Auricularia cornea.

Left: Auricularia auricula-judae.

[Photos by Fran Guard]

BARUNG'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2011/2012



ERIC ANDERSON, *President*

My training is in Agricultural Science and I spent my paid employment working with landholders in many parts of Queensland in the field of natural resource management. I retired seven years ago to the Range with my partner Diana and live on two acres at Flaxton. Barung has reached a crossroads. We celebrated our 21st Birthday and everything we have achieved during these years. After a frustrating delay of nearly three years we will this year begin producing plants at our new nursery site at Landsborough. Next comes the planning and hard work to see us in a new Education & Resource Centre on the Maleny Community Precinct.

LIN FAIRLIE, *Vice President*

I would like to thank Barung Landcare for awarding me a Life Membership. Seeing the trees from the Barung Nursery growing so well in many places around the Blackall Range gives me much pleasure because this is one of the reasons we came here to live. I would like to see many parts of the Range returned to rainforest as it was when my grandparents lived here in the 1890s. I recognise the need in the past to remove the trees but now we see that by replacing them we can recreate the habitat of many of animals and reduce land degradation, thus contributing to improved water quality. Barung's contribution to the community on the Range cannot be denied and its important work is not yet complete. So please join Barung in the work ahead of us.



PAT FULLER, *Secretary*

I'm very pleased to be able join the Barung Committee again for the coming year, lending my secretarial skills and supporting Barung's sustainable agricultural practices. The Blackall Range Growers Market, of which I am co-ordinator, continues to provide a window for the community through which to access Barung's Nursery businesses and community projects.



DAVID BINSTAD *Treasurer*

DIANA O'CONNOR

Population pressure and climate change are making Barung's activities more and more relevant and important. The opportunity to contribute to this work gives an important thread of meaning and satisfaction to my present life. Committee membership, seed collection and my revegetation patch help me to make a small contribution to this beautiful, biodiverse and partially damaged region.



GLEN DONOGHOE

Joining the committee for a third year, I am excited by the prospect of the year ahead while understanding there is much work to be done. Some of this includes assisting with the development of the Landsborough Nursery, managing organisational and business development, and sharing attendance at Maleny Precinct Advisory Group meetings with our President. I have been in Maleny for 18 years, am a Director of a number of companies, and have experience in business, the environment and not-for-profit groups.



THE GOANNA STORY ...

by Kate Brooks

Well, you see, Mick Burnett, Leah Byrne, Josh Rennie-Hynes, Tony Boston, Lindsay Thomas and I were out at Mim Coulstock's place removing morning glory from the border of her place and the adjacent National Park.

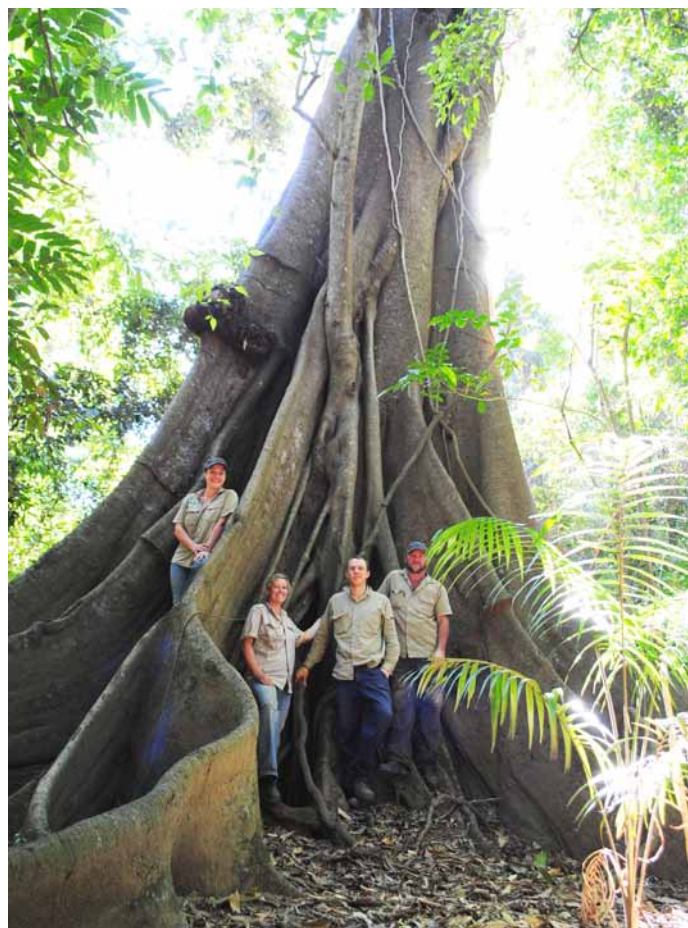
After a bit, Mick and Leah went to take the ute to fill up the water tanker, and they discovered a HUGE goanna relaxing under the car. Turned out, it was quite happy where it was and it took some convincing (and a lot of hissing) before it agreed to vacate. The guys later told us they had just come across one of the biggest goannas they had ever seen and we were all pretty disappointed we didn't get to see it.

Later that day, Josh and I were about to leave when we heard a commotion behind one of the larger trees. As we walked toward it we thought at first it might be two snakes fighting (or doing something else naughty!) but as we got closer we realised it was the same goanna from earlier that day and a carpet python. We couldn't tell who was winning the war but as we rounded the tree for a better look we could see that the snake's head was inside the goanna's mouth.

Before too long the goanna decided to make a break for it up the tree with his freshly caught meal, which was longer than the goanna and about as thick as your forearm.

We couldn't believe what we were seeing. Even now as I'm writing this I'm still thinking WOW! The photo was taken on a phone so it might not be the clearest image, but you have to make do with what you have and we couldn't pass up an opportunity like this. Once in a life time, I think!

The next day we were working in the same area. At smoko Leah and I startled the goanna a third time. As we stood at the base of the tree we could see that the goanna had something in its mouth.



*Photographic evidence: Goanna eating a carpet snake!
[Mobile phone-snapped by Josh Rennie-Hynes]*

I thought, surely this goanna isn't still hungry after eating a snake bigger than itself...

On closer inspection we discovered it was the final 20 cm of carpet python tail from the day before. Going... going... gone!

THE EXCITING WORLD OF CONTRACTING by Kate Brooks

You can look at contracting in one of two ways:

As an incredibly exhausting style of work filled with mental and physical challenges as you overcome extreme heat or freezing cold temperatures, boggy creeks and steep mountain slopes, coming home with scratches, bites and stings (sometimes even taking the creatures home with you)... To quote my partner Martin after two hours at last Sunday's Hinterland Bush Links tree plant: 'I can see how you could get a sense of satisfaction out of this, but you couldn't pay me enough to do this as a job'

OR

As an incredible experience every time you go out, working with wonderful like-minded people, seeing beautiful plants and animals on properties you would never otherwise see, having a sense of satisfaction from being physically out there digging around, pulling out weeds and seeing changes in places that have been in desperate need of some loving attention.

I choose the later perspective because if you don't keep a positive frame of mind, the heat and insect bites will slowly drive you mad!

Some of the Barung Contracting crew on site at Neurum Creek Conservation Park. From left to right: Kate Brooks, Leah Byrne, Josh Rennie-Hynes and Mick Burnett.
[Photo by Josh Rennie-Hynes]

LANDSBOROUGH NURSERY

by Jonathan Waites (Projects Officer)

The *really* big news at the Landsborough Nursery site is that grid power has finally arrived and been connected to the house! Not that useful in terms of running our nursery... but exciting none the less. Hopefully connections will be extended to other points around the nursery site in the very near future.

With the help of our Green Army participant, Ivan Cafarella, we have repaired the half of the propagation tunnel that lost its roof some time ago. This involved replacing the lagging (the old type apparently degrades the material) on the roof trusses and stretching new polytarp across them.

We have sand on hand for the sand filter (13 m³ of it), so we just need to get it through a small hole and into the tank, hook up a couple of pumps and some poly, and we'll be able to start filtering water. And when we've done that we could start watering plants, which means they would grow – which is pretty much what a nursery is about, or so I'm told.

Fernlands Agencies have finished work on the footings for the shadehouse this week and we expect it will be up before Christmas. The fill brought in to create the pad for the shadehouse contains a lot of rock and concrete, which has made it difficult to drill holes for the footings. However if there's a problem use a bigger hammer: a three ton excavator did the job, although it did create some largish holes that will need quite a bit more concrete than anticipated to fill.

This week we start on the trenches that will take agricultural pipe for drainage and we'll be laying gravel over the pads for the shadehouse and growing out area. The nursery is getting closer!

THANKS IVAN

Ivan Cafarella (below) began only six weeks ago as a Green Army participant in the nursery. He replaced Paul, who replaced one of Troy's National Park's Green Army participants in this round of the Green Army program. Ivan is Oscar's older brother (Oscar was one of our horticultural apprentices).



Ivan finished up a week earlier than planned because he scored a job in Brisbane, which is much closer to where he is currently living. (No more 5 am starts to make the train to Landsborough on Monday mornings eh?)

Thanks for all your help, Ivan. It was great to have you on board even if only for a short time. We wish you all the best with your future plans.

BARUNG CLOSES:
Friday 23rd November 2011
at 11:30 am



BARUNG REOPENS:
Tuesday 3rd January 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New Members

Andrew Grant
Karen Chalmers
Chingwei Chen
Nathaniel Combs
Marguerite May
Tom O'Brien
Greg Strain
Rosemary Turnball
Raymond Weh

Rejoined Members

Irene Keton
Laina McCoy



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www.barunglandcare.org.au

LOCAL LANDHOLDERS LEAD THE WAY IN PROTECTING OUR RICH BIODIVERSITY

by Nick Clancy

*Conservation Partnerships Officer,
Sunshine Coast Regional Council*

A growing number of local landholders are joining forces with the Sunshine Coast Council to permanently protect significant patches of bushland on their own properties. From Pomona to Peachester and from Conondale to Kin Kin there are now nearly fifty landholders who have signed voluntary conservation agreements with the Council.

By joining the program landholders receive ongoing, annual financial assistance to help with on-ground management such as weed control. They can also opt to take a portion of this annual financial contribution from Council as a rate rebate.

The agreements are in essence a partnership arrangement with Council to protect and enhance the 'conservation area' on their property. There is no cost incurred by the landholder in setting up these agreements.

Across the region the VCA program is contributing to the protection of significant habitat for a range of threatened species including the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, giant barred frogs, Glossy Black-cockatoos and Koalas. Healthy populations of threatened plants such as the Southern Penda, Red Lilly Pilly and endangered Swamp Orchid have also been protected in perpetuity.

In order to achieve ongoing binding protection on a property title, a conservation covenant is applied to the portion of the property that the landholder wishes to protect. Outside the designated covenant area the usual rural and residential activities (e.g. house and yards, grazing, orchards etc) carry on as normal, while the vegetation within the designated conservation area remains protected.

In order to be eligible, properties need to have significant ecological values such as encompassing old growth forest and/or threatened species, forming part of a wildlife corridor, or buffering an existing protected area.



*The forested home of old giants like this Flooded Gum *Eucalyptus grandis* are being protected in perpetuity through the Council's VCA program.*

If you would like to find out more about the Sunshine Coast Council's voluntary conservation agreement program, go to www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au or phone 5475 7272 and ask to speak to the Conservation Partnerships Officer.

A BUSY SPRING FOR OUR WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE WANDERINGS by Susie Duncan

We have had a beautiful spring this year and the wildlife has been making the most of the gentle, sunny weather. Most of the birds that migrate north for the winter are back and breeding or just hanging out.

Among these are some of the cuckoos. You may have heard Koels calling 'coo-eee' over and over to attract a mate. There have also been quite a few fig-eating Channel-billed Cuckoos around. These are huge grey birds that utter a raucous call as they flap across the landscape. Both these cuckoos lay eggs in other birds' nests and leave the much smaller host to do the hard work of raising their young.

Other spring-summer visitors include several flycatchers, Cicada-birds, Olive-backed Orioles (often hosting the eggs of their fellow migrant the Koel), Spangled Drongos and swifts.

The closely related Fork-tailed Swift and White-throated Needletail both breed in northern Asia and arrive in Australia about October each year for a summer holiday. Recently I have seen them swirling in large flocks above the eastern escarpment of the

Blackall Range near Montville. They are swallow-like in shape but larger and they catch insects on the wing, often in rising thermal currents associated with storm fronts and bushfires. These birds spend most of the time on the wing and are extremely fast fliers.

By the time you read this, the rains will have arrived to break the dry spell. Although it has been a good spring for breeding for many native animals, the frogs are obviously hanging out for a good downpour. You may have heard the little green Eastern Sedge Frogs starting up their ratchetty calls through the day. Great Barred Frogs will do a bit of an evening chorus of their 'wark' call as soon as there is any hint of rain. And the Graceful Tree Frog is beginning to utter its complaining 'waaa'.

If you'd like to be able to identify some of the frogs and birds of south-east Queensland by their calls, you can purchase some great CDs of calls from the Barung Bookstore in the Barung office.

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A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

How regional is regional? SEQ, the Blackall Range, Noosa to Caloundra? We live in an incredibly biologically rich and diverse area which means we have more ecosystems/ecotones than you can poke the proverbial stick at. Clearly in the revegetation and conservation zones, as local as possible is the way to go, but in the ornamental garden the plant selection net can be cast more widely. I have decided that if a desirable plant is listed in *Mangroves to Mountains* or in the 3rd edition of *Noosa's Native Plants*, and it's actually, or possibly, likely to grow in my soil conditions, then it's worth a try.

On the success side, the hibernias are doing very well as low although fairly slow spreading ground covers with bright yellow flowers through spring and summer. Guinea Flower, *Hibbertia scandens* is probably the best known, but *H. vestita* and *H. aspera* are neater and, although described as spreading shrubs, tend to be more prostrate than upright. The goodenias are also good as ground covers. There is a vigorous prostrate form of *Goodenia ovata* which is readily propagated from cuttings and will cover a couple of square metres. It will die out in the shade so use it to help suppress weeds in a sunny spot.

Boronia keysii, occasionally available, did very well until shaded out by faster growing shrubs, and my favourite *Persoonia virgata* is flowering in a pot. I'm not risking that one in my heavy clay soil. The little Grass Lily (I prefer the name Grass Lily to Slug Herb!) *Murdannia graminea* is definitely local and flowers profusely in shades of lilac, blue or sometimes white.

Although the peak flowering for the banksias and melaleucas has passed, still flowering at the crinum lilies, the Brisbane Lily, *Proiphys cunninghamii*, in a shaded moist spot, the native bluebells and native violets, the mounds of blue *Scaevola aemula*,



Native bluebell Wahlenbergia. [Photo by John Dillon]

reliable *Melaleuca thymifolia* (this is clearly not confined to moist sandy areas) and the bright yellow buttons of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, so there's plenty of colour in the ornamental garden.

Babingtonias and baeckas are coming into bloom, as are the two local psychotrias and the readily available Rose Myrtle, *Archirhodomyrtus beckleri*. Two lovely blue lobelias have been flowering for some time. The natural habitat of *Lobelia trigonocaulis* is quite varied but *Lobelia membranacea* seems to do quite well in dryish clay as well as moist sand.

Failures have mostly been due to incorrect placement – in other words too much sun or too much shade – but mistakes can be rectified and our broad region has a lot to offer.

VALLEY BEES - ON THE RANGE

Valley Bees held their initial meeting recently to form a new Maleny/Range group, and judging by the response, it's guaranteed to be an environmental winner! It was positive and informative. And inspiring. With over 40 people attending on the day, and with apologies and support for the initiative being offered from a further 40 members of the community, the Valley Bees Range initiative is sure to be a sweet success!

The discussions emphasised the need for nurturing native bees alongside honeybees; for understanding the challenges, diseases – and rewards – in the industry; for the need to provide habitat and food sources for on-going pollination; and to participate and share in our collective local wisdom and experience. The colourful displays, alongside Rob Raabe's great native bee demonstration, showed just how diverse is the field of bees and pollination.

Out of the day grew a realisation that groups need to focus on the nurturing of all bees, and that a shared local collective is required.

A Steering Group was initiated to see how this can be accomplished in the Blackall Range region, and to how the new group can work in parallel, and harmony, with an existing Sunshine Coast Bee Group.

All are welcome to have input into this initial process – please feel free to come along and have your say at one of the early steering sessions... they usually involve a great coffee or two!



Key members of the new Maleny/Range Bee interest group, from left: Peter McMahon, Paul Moriarty, Rob Mallett and Max Lindegger.

For more info, contact Ashley Sewell on ashley@ashleysewell.com or Athol Craig or Glenbo on glenbo@live.com.au

Loads of info on bees is available on the MRCCC website www.mrccc.org.au including:

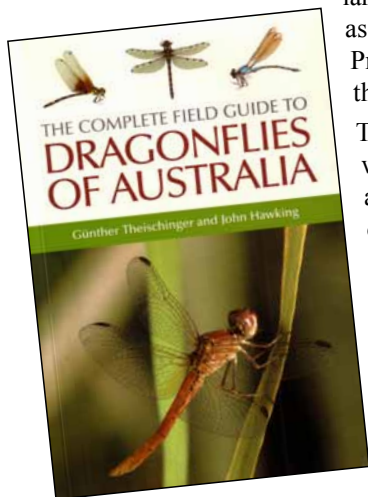
Valley Bees Information flyer	Honey (16 pages)
Getting Started in Bees	Myrtle Rust
Trees to attract Bees (16 pages)	Small Hive Beetle
Asian Bee	

The Complete Field Guide to DRAGONFLIES OF AUSTRALIA

Günther Theischinger & John Hawking

BOOK REVIEW by Lin Fairlie

This book is a comprehensive and user-friendly guide to Australian dragon and damselflies covering, as it does, all 324 Australian species. Priced at \$45 the book really is for the keen amateur or for libraries.



There are not many Australians who have not watched enthralled as dragonflies of various species duck and weave over ponds and creeks. Maybe some of you have lifted up rocks in the running sections of these streams to see rather ugly insects crawling on the under-surface. These are often the immature stage of a dragonfly or a damselfly.

Dragonflies are important indicators of 'environmental wellbeing' so if your creek or pond has a number of these insects, especially larvae, you can be assured it is healthy.

The book has many beautiful colour photos of the various adult insects accompanied by fine line diagrams of distinguishing features of the species in its larval form. Maps of Australia indicate where particular species are found.

There are many interesting little 'tit-bits' of information in this book. For example, after emerging males return to an area near where they emerged and select a territory along the water's edge, guarding it from other males while waiting for the females to arrive. The larvae of some species of the tropical and subtropical rainforest live in water-filled tree holes instead of creeks.

Distributed by Steve Parish Publishing. 366 pages including colour plates. \$45.

GIFT IDEAS AT BARUNG

New Books

Noosa's Native Plants by Stephanie Haslam and illustrated by Janet Hauser, 3rd Edition

A beautiful guide for those wanting to plant local native plants in their gardens or just wanting to learn more about the plants in the region. This book covers most of the Hinterland from the Noosa Biosphere Reserve to the Sunshine Coast, Cooloola and Fraser Island areas.

The difference between the 3rd and 2nd editions (on sale, see below) is that the new Edition includes new sections on fungi, lichens, mosses and liverworts. Edition 3 also includes updated information, new species and photographs, and pronunciation suggestions.

Retailing at \$40.



Christmas Special - Limited Time Only

For a limited time and only while stocks last, Barung is offering *Noosa Native Plants* 2nd Edition for the special price of \$30.00 a book. Only a few copies left...

Other Great Books

Weeds of the South East – An Identification Guide for Australia

\$110

Mangroves to Mountains 3rd Edition

\$50

Fungi Down Under

\$45

Books for the Kids

Wild Australian Guides:

Kangaroos, Mammals, Bats and

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each \$14.95

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TRADESCANTIA FLUMINENSIS

Noxious weed or just plain obnoxious?

by Mark Amos, Coordinator

Lake Barung Catchment Care Group

While the term 'noxious' is used less often these days to describe environmental weeds, the word 'obnoxious' certainly captures the sentiments of many seasoned bush regenerators regarding *Tradescantia fluminensis*.

Originally from South America, *Tradescantia fluminensis* or Wandering Jew (not to be confused with the similar looking but blue-flowered native *Commelina cyanea*) is yet another of those garden escapees that has found its way into our local forests and can be particularly troublesome in revegetation and regeneration sites. Tolerating heavy shade, this species, along with a handful of other exotic pests, frustratingly denies us the opportunity to say, 'Well, that revegetation site is finished – it will look after itself now!'

So why is *T. fluminensis* such a problem? Well, many of its bad habits are pretty obvious. It invariably forms dense mats that inhibit natural regeneration, and this is particularly important in revegetation sites where we rely on regeneration to provide diversity and long-term resilience. In addition, *T. fluminensis* can even smother seedlings up to a metre tall!

As with most weeds, *T. fluminensis* will also compete for moisture and nutrients although it tends to do best in moist areas and along watercourses, where a particular characteristic causes a unique problem. This species has a shallow, dense root system which detaches from the substrate during flooding. The weed mass rolls up into dense mats and steamrolls everything in its path.

The soft bare soil left behind is particularly prone to erosion, adversely affecting water quality via sedimentation and the release of nutrients from the eroded material.



**LAKE
BAROON
CATCHMENT
CARE
GROUP**

This is exactly what is occurring on the old Barung Landcare (and partners) Obi Partnership Project site on the Farmhouse Macadamias property. Revegetation commenced on the site in 2004 and has formed a valuable environmental asset. However seven years later, *T. fluminensis* and Small-leaf Privet (another weed that tolerates shade) are being obnoxious.

Management of *T. fluminensis*, like many of the weedy ground-covers and vines, needs to be viewed as a long-term program. Naturally, prevention is better than cure so keeping a sharp eye out and dealing with small outbreaks before they establish is critical – particularly if there is a source somewhere upstream. Remember that each piece of broken stem can form a new colony.

Hand weeding can be effective for small outbreaks, with chemical control being more practical for larger infestations. However, whatever method is employed, management will be required over a long period for successful control.

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group is currently, with the support of the Commonwealth Government through their Community Action Grants program, extending the riparian buffer on the Farmhouse Macadamias property. Eventually, funding permitting, we aim to enhance the old 2004 buffer plantings through managing weeds (including *T. fluminensis*) and encouraging natural regeneration on the site.

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Under construction

THANK YOU TO...

... **Diana O'Connor** for getting new carpet put into three rooms in the office building at the Landsborough Nursery, as well as organising volunteers to undertake a huge clean up

... **Lyn Finlay, Eric Anderson, Diana O'Connor, David Binstead, Raine See** and **her nephew** for sprucing up the Landsborough Nursery in preparation for the Open Day

... **Pat Fuller** and **Glen Donoghoe** for running the food and barbeque at the AGM, **Mary King** for welcomes and registrations, and **Steve McLeish** for parking and more

... **Dean Cameron & Jenny Allen** for the gift of a fridge and photocopier for the Landsborough Nursery

... **Beerburum Forestry Nursery** for several desks, a bookshelf and other items of office equipment, a couple of thousand Besser blocks, many metres of steel pipe, weldmesh, fertiliser and fertiliser bins, 2 small electric pumps and one large diesel pump, the top of a pump house and several sheets of steel plate, and some other bits and pieces

... **Kerry & Clare Sluggett** and **Doug Blanch** for loading/unloading thousands of Besser blocks and other materials and carting it back to Landsborough Nursery

... **Tristan from Concept Systems** and **Bernie Dwyer of Clarity Computing** for their time (free of charge) and support helping Kellie in the office describe 'the internet/email glitch' to Eftel.

FLAME TREE

Brachychiton acerifolius

Family: *Sterculiaceae* / *Malvaceae*

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Very hard to miss when in full flower, the Flame Tree certainly lives up to its name. It is a medium to large tree which may be found in subtropical, warm temperate and dry rainforests from the Shoalhaven River in New South Wales, north to Iron Range on Cape York in northern Queensland. It prefers red volcanic and rich alluvial soils, and may grow to around 40 metres tall with a trunk diameter of one metre.

Under good conditions, *Brachychiton acerifolius* grows straight and tall, with a cylindrical greenish trunk which is not swollen at the base (as are some within the genus, ie. the bottle trees, *Brachychiton rupestris* and *B. australis*). The timber is soft and light, and the trunk gives a hollow sound when slapped with the hand. The canopy is dense with bright green, shiny foliage. Leaves are large (to 25 cm long) and variable in shape, even on the same tree. They can range from simple and entire through to deeply lobed leaves resembling those of maple trees (*Acer* sp.), hence the species name.

Flowering is also highly variable. Good trees, from a horticultural point of view, will drop all their foliage during late spring and early summer, flowering heavily over the entire, otherwise bare, tree. Other trees remain in full foliage and produce very few flowers; yet others flower on part of the tree only. Flowering can vary from year to year depending on conditions, but also varies greatly from tree to tree. A tree at home stayed evergreen for several years, producing very few flowers. After very severe pruning, it shed all its foliage and flowered heavily. It has since returned to its evergreen ways.

The bright scarlet red flowers are bell-shaped, 10–15 mm in diameter, and carried in showy panicles to 20 cm long. Seed pods are boat-shaped, around 15 cm long, green and turning black as they ripen and split open. The numerous seeds are embedded in a honeycomb of irritating bristly hairs which stick into the skin and are difficult to remove. Care should always be taken when handling seeds or seed pods; avoid breathing in the hairs or getting them in your eyes. Seeds are about 8 mm in diameter, have a yellow covering, and look somewhat like corn kernels.

The seeds may be eaten after being toasted and were used as a food source by Aboriginal people, who also used fibre from the inner bark to make a twine for fishing nets and lines.

Brachychiton acerifolius is the food plant for the larval stages of several butterflies, including the Common Aeroplane, the Tailed Emperor, and the Pencilled Blue.

Flame trees, sometimes known as the Illawarra Flame Tree, have been in cultivation for many years, both in Australia and overseas. Trees grown in the open do not reach the size of their forest counterparts, generally 15–20 m, smaller in colder or drier regions. They are adaptable to a range of soil types and conditions but definitely look better on more fertile soils.

Brachychiton was formerly placed in the family Sterculiaceae, along with other genera such as *Argyrodendron*, *Commersonia* and *Sterculia*. Recent molecular studies have led some botanists to include this family within the Malvaceae family, which includes the *Hibiscus*.

Propagation from seed is relatively easy once the seeds have been carefully removed from the pods. Soak the seeds in water for up to a week and rinse well. Rubbing the seeds over a sieve under running water will remove the yellow covering. Sow the seeds in reasonably deep seed trays and cover with 4–5 mm of perlite or propagation mix. Protect from rodents. Germination percentage is usually high, but time to germination can be erratic, some seeds taking only a couple of weeks and others up to 6 months or more, depending on temperature. It is best to prick out



Flame Tree in full flower with branches bare of leaves, in the gardens at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve.
[Photo by Wayne Webb]

and tube up seedlings as they germinate, being careful to minimise disturbance to remaining seeds.

Grafting is also relatively easy. Scions of mature material from good flowering forms will produce plants that flower much earlier and more reliably than those grown from seed. Seedlings of *B. acerifolius*, *B. populneus* and *B. discolor* have been successfully used as root stocks. Grafting may also be used to propagate selected hybrid forms.

Brachychiton acerifolius hybridises with a number of other species of *Brachychiton*, including *B. discolor* and *B. populneus*. This occurs naturally in areas where their distribution overlaps, and also in cultivation where different species are grown together. Seeds for revegetation work should therefore be collected from trees grown well away from other *Brachychiton* species.

PLANT LISTS

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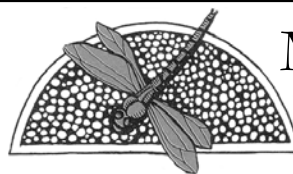
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