

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

December 2006 - January 2007



Fencing the Range Workshop

by Jonathan Waites, Sustainable Landuse Officer

Fencing, that is, of the wire and posts variety rather than that practiced by Zoro and others (often in masks and tights) ...

Fences can be plain and practical such as the ubiquitous Maleny cattle fence (three strands of barb with timber posts), or may be appreciated as an artistic statement (eg split rails), by some anyway. A perfectly straight line of posts stretching away into the distance can be a joy to behold. On the other hand a sagging gate which needs to be carried or dragged open and shut can be a source of extreme annoyance (the measure of annoyance inversely proportional to the frequency of use of said gate). Mind you, an ancient, out of kilter, gnarled gatepost (minus the gate?) may exhibit a certain rustic charm. All in the eye of the beholder, I suppose.

The best type of fence is one that suits its purpose and that purpose, broadly speaking, is to better manage an area of land in line with its capabilities. In the context of this short article we are considering fencing generally to control livestock movement and manage grazing pressure in specific areas by, for example, excluding animals from riparian areas, revegetated/regenerating areas, public roads or your neighbour's garden.

The purpose and priorities for your fencing program will be identified in your Property Management Plan. (You do have a property management plan, don't you? If not, give some serious thought to the long-term consequences of your proposed fence before you start digging postholes.) Fences are usually around for quite a long time (unless put up for a temporary job, such as strip grazing), and they can be expensive and hard work to erect, which are all good reasons for putting the *right fence* in the *right place* in the *right way*. And they need to be maintained. Like any other structure, fences deteriorate more quickly and become less efficient if they aren't maintained.

When planning to erect a new fence, consider:

- How many years will you need it? (Is it a permanent or temporary fence?)
- What type of stock will your fence control? (Cattle have different requirements from horses.)
- Is it a boundary fence or an internal fence?
- Will conventional fencing or electric fencing be most suitable for the job?
- Will you do the job yourself, and if so, what equipment do you need?
- What materials will you use? Timber or steel posts or a mix? Netting, ringlock, plain wire or barb?



Maleny morning mist, green grass and ... a fence!

Fencing Workshop

Following the popularity of the Composting workshop, another 'hands on' **workshop** is planned for **7 February 2007** which will help participants tackle some of these questions.

The workshop aims to give people an understanding of fencing design and layout as well as developing some basic practical fencing skills. It will be run 'onsite' with a local fencing contractor and will cover:

- Fence design, layout and types of fencing for different classes of stock and properties
- Basic costs of fencing
- Tying wire knots
- Straining wire
- End assemblies
- Putting in posts
- Swinging gates

The intention is to get stuck into the practical (fun) stuff first up before it gets too hot, and then move into the shade for a discussion of the finer details pertaining to this delightful and engrossing rural pursuit.

To book in or for more info, please contact **Barung on 5494 3151** or **Jonathan Waites on 5435 2256** or at **kendabooka@doggy.com.au** or

IN THIS ISSUE

Fencing the Range WORKSHOP.....	1
New Members.....	2
Threatened Species in the Mary Valley	3
NURSERY NOTES: Nest Boxes do work	4
PLANT PROFILE: Bunya Pine	5
ORNAMENTAL GARDEN: Small plants, places.....	6
Fox Research.....	6
Tree protector discovery.....	6
WILDLIFE PROFILE: Koels	7
Barung & Maleny Community Precinct.....	7
FUSCHIA'S PHOTO GALLERY.....	8
Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group	9
WEED WATCH: Privet	10
Barung News Readers' FEEDBACK	10
Quoll Research	11
REGIONAL ROUNDUP	12
BUTTERFLIES: Orange Palm-Dart	12
BARUNG BOOKS for sale.....	13
Thank You to ..., Letters.....	14
TURKEY TANGENTIAL: Cost of Convenience...	16,15

Opening Hours

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR BREAK

Closed from 12 noon Friday 22 December

Reopens 9 am Tuesday 2 January 2007

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Barung Nursery & Resource Centre/Office

8.30 am - 4.00 pm

SATURDAY

Barung Nursery only

9.00 am - 12.00 pm

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual / family membership \$ 20 pa

Business membership \$ 55 pa

Business sponsorship \$275 pa

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

When your BUSINESS supports Barung Landcare, you will be acknowledged in the bimonthly *Barung Landcare News* (750 distribution) and at Barung displays, and you are entitled to three free trees and discounts on plant purchases at the Nursery.

Contact the office at Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 or email barungadmin@big.net.au for a form.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Barry Liddell)

Valerie Ross	Kyle Sommerville
Gary Mounsey	Holly-Ann Prior
Maxim Trollet	Emma Henderson
Noni & Jeff Keys	Pearl Mercer
Barry Smith & Fiona Dempster	Anthony Parry
Maureen Thatcher	Jenny Herrmann
Michael Koda	Karina Talbot
Dennis Gallagher	Markus & Dyane Helin
Allen Jones	Steve Cran
Brett Scott	Wes Mannion
Matt McIntyre	John & Rosemary Turnbull
Tony Wootton	George Wells
John Senes & Marie Tickle	Family Rayner
Shane Gehlert	Lawrie Flynn
Jan Tickle	Shandelle Randall
D De Vroom	Kris Morris
David & Lorna Warwick	Mark Wallader
Darryl & Robyn Williams	Jon & Margaret Outridge
Mary Sullivan	Kevin Marnane
Mr & Mrs Taylor	Margaret Munro
Don & Margaret Ginns	Barry Major
Stewart Barlow	Rowan Parker
Colin & Sue Sinclair	Kevin Manderson
David Coffey	Alex Stuart
Ben & Gwenda Gills	Karyn Maher
Roger & Linda Allen	Peter Lysaught
Greg Windsor	David Webb
Christine Culverhouse	Kye McDonald
Geoff Anthony	Johanna Lips

WELCOME BACK

Ian Russell	Carole Vardy
M Gudmundsson	E & M Owens
Dale Jacobsen & Doug Eaton	Katy Ash
Dan & Paula Phillips	Richard Hill
A & P Walker	Bryan & Stephanie
Ann Flower	McLennan
Jane Longstaff	Robyn Allsopp
Peter Van Mil	Julie Johnson
Marcelle O'Doherty	Gerry & Carmen Blain
Ron & Andrina Hoddinott	Scott & Lyn Woolbank
Lois Tarling	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

DEADLINE - Wed 17th January for February-March 2007 Newsletter contributions

Barung Landcare...



Please renew your membership -
your support is very important
to Barung.

THANK YOU

Looking after our threatened species in the Mary River catchment

by Mim Coulstock

Thanks to funding from the Burnett Mary Regional Group, Barung is developing a **prioritisation and recovery plan for threatened species** in the Mary River catchment.

The Mary catchment is home to a wide range of threatened fauna and flora species that are recognised by either/both federal and state governments.

Under the Federal **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999** (EPBC Act) threatened fauna and flora may be listed in the following categories:

- Extinct
- Extinct in the wild*
- Critically endangered*
- Endangered*
- Vulnerable*
- Conservation dependent.

* Only species in those categories marked with an asterisk are matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act.

In Queensland the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) categorises threatened species into:

- Extinct in the wild
- Endangered
- Vulnerable
- Near threatened
- Least concern

in recognition of how threatened they are and what action needs to be taken to protect them.

In the Upper Mary, these species – along with non-threatened species – utilize crucial corridors such as the large bushland areas that link coastal remnants via Kondallilla, Mapleton Falls, Maleny and Walli National Parks and Mapleton Forest Reserve through to the Conondale National Park and Kenilworth Forest Reserve. Further down the catchment, major reserves include Jimna, Amamoor, Brooyar and Woondum State Forests and, of course, the very important Great Sandy National Park.

Linking this reserve network are areas of both remnant and regrowth native vegetation on private lands. These linkages play an increasingly critical role, especially in riparian zones, for the future of our threatened fauna and flora.



Mary River Turtle

Both our threatened and non-threatened species face ever-increasing impacts from expanding human population – and this now includes impacts from climate change!

Climate change & threatened species

As Dr Carla Catterall, Scientist with the Rainforest Cooperative Research Centre, noted in her recent address at the THECA Biodiversity Forum, it is hard to predict how

individual species will respond to climate change. The current geographical distribution of species is set by many factors including temperature, aridity, habitat preference, food resources, competing interactions and host predation, among others.



Glossy Black-Cockatoo

Effects from climate change will probably include increased temperatures, increased aridity (from increasing temperatures and decreasing rainfall), increased fire frequency and temperature, increased climatic extremes such as floods and droughts and storms, and local complexities such as increased coastal rainfall. All of these will affect different species in different ways on different scales.

However, because no species exists in isolation it is vital that we begin to look at conservation on the bigger 'landscape' scale – linking in adjacent local, regional and wider contexts. We need to maximise native vegetation cover both in corridors in riparian or moist areas and in the broader landscape. And we must accompany this with improved ecological monitoring.

We can either ignore the issues or plan now to ensure the long-term protection and enhancement of suitable habitat to enable fauna movement in the future. To do this we must prioritise and focus our restoration activities to achieve maximum outcomes for as many of our threatened species as possible with the limited resources available.

If you would like to know more about this project or have knowledge of threatened species that may contribute to prioritisations, please contact me on 07 **5494 3151** or via email at mim@barunglandcare.org.au

The community's knowledge is essential for the success of this project, but please be assured that any information will be used with discretion to protect localities of threatened species.

Barung Education Forums

by Pat Fuller, Forums Coordinator

Barung's Educational Support Group is planning to hold regular workshops, demonstrations and talks commencing in early 2007.

We would like to be sure we are addressing members' needs, so ...

What are your special interests? The environment? Native plants in a garden situation? or ... ? Do you prefer workshops, or demonstrations, or talks?

Next time you visit Barung, please ask for an Education Forums form, take a minute to fill it out, and place it in the box in the office.

Nest boxes do work!

NURSERY NOTES by Wayne Webb

Barung nursery is again stocking wildlife boxes from **Hollow Log Homes**, produced locally by Alan and Stacey Franks.

More and more of our old trees with hollow limbs are being removed as vegetation is cleared for development and councils and landholders remove 'dangerous' trees, and our hollow-dependent wildlife is having a tough time. Birds such as the pale-headed rosella are unable to breed without suitable hollows. Those hollows left are usually occupied by the more aggressive rainbow lorikeet, if not by feral honeybees or Indian mynahs. Trees planted now will take decades to produce suitable hollows, so nesting boxes offer welcome alternative housing to our wildlife.

A nest box in our retail nursery is almost constantly occupied by rainbow lorikeets. They can often be seen feeding their chicks, and are a delight to children visiting the nursery. Once one family has left home, another pair moves in. Pale-headed rosellas often check out the box when empty, but are soon moved on by the more aggressive lorikeets.

Barung is carrying nest boxes for small parrots (ie. rosella and lorikeet at \$71 including wiring), plus boxes for possums, sugar gliders and micro bats. Other boxes can be ordered as required. For a complete list with prices, drop into our nursery. Alternatively, check out the website at www.hollowloghomes.com.au. (Barung is selling the boxes at the recommended retail price.)

We also carry Alan & Stacy Franks' book, *Nest Boxes for Wildlife – a practical guide*. This is a fantastic book for anyone wishing to attract wildlife to their property. They outline the need for artificial nesting hollows, the range of birds and animals that will use nest boxes, how to locate and maintain the boxes. For the DIY handyman, there are plans for making your own boxes.

Following these plans, I constructed a nest box and placed it in a tree outside our bathroom on a Sunday in August this year. Pale-headed rosellas had moved in by the following Saturday morning. These rosellas tend to be rather secretive around their nest, but we were able to observe them feeding their chicks as they got older. They have now left the nest after some eleven weeks. Another pair is already investigating the box after just days. **Nest boxes do work.**



How about a nest box as a Christmas present?

Environmental credentials

Barung nursery will be working with the Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland's 'Ecohort' program to develop an Environmental Management Strategy for our nursery. As part of this we will be monitoring water quality in the small creek behind the nursery. **Thanks** to Peter Milton, who has volunteered to conduct the testing on a monthly basis using MRCCC's Waterwatch equipment. **Thanks** also to Dale Watson of MRCCC, who will run through testing procedures with Peter.

Another area we need to look at is how efficiently we use water in the nursery. We recently received a grant from the Maleny Credit Union's Maleny Community Trust to contribute to upgrading the nursery irrigation system with more efficient sprinklers. **Thanks very much** to the Maleny Community Trust.

South Winds Calling

By Cali Salzmann

As of January 2007, I will be in Victoria working for the Royal Botanical Gardens, Cranbourne Division, which is dedicated to Australian native flora.

It is with great sadness that I leave Barung and the Maleny area. I shall miss the members, the fantastic staff and super volunteers, but I will do Barung proud, I promise.

I would like to thank all of you for the wonderful years I have had here and wish you all a Merry Christmas and bright future.

However I would LOVE everyone to come in and buy a plant before I go ... I'd like to leave Barung with a great month of sales!



Farewell, Cali

Come along to see Cali off
at Barung on
Friday 22nd December
from 12.00 noon.

Please bring
a plate of food
or some drinks to share!

Christmas Trees for sale!

1m tall BUNYA TREES
in 200 mm pots
\$15

*May your
Christmas tree
be a local native!*

Bunya Nut recipe book
also for sale.



Araucaria bidwillii

Bunya Pine

PLANT PROFILE by Bev Hand

'... this majestic tree whose trunk looks like a pillar to the vault of heaven.' Leichhardt's letter dated January 6th 1844, from Archer's Station, Bunya District.

I began writing this plant profile in an academic manner but this made me feel very uncomfortable. So I am writing this straight from my heart. Anyone who knows me, knows my love of the Bunya Pine, or Boynyi Boynyi as my people once called it.

I am very excited as the bunya hunting season has started for our family. From now until the end of February we will be going out bunya hunting. Just last week I got my first bunya cone for the season. I gleefully brought it in to the Barung Landcare office and shared my love of this fruit with all my Barung family who were present. All of my colleagues had never eaten the fruit in this raw/green state before. Now they understand why I rave on so much about the fruit. The bunya pine produces a far superior quality nut in its raw/green state. This is why Indigenous people climb this magnificent tree to collect the immature cones, because these nuts are far tastier than the more mature nuts that are collected from under the trees.

We can safely say that the bunya pine is endemic to Queensland, being found in subtropical rainforest often growing in association with hoop pine. Bunya pine naturally occurs on soils that are basaltic in origin and in areas with an annual rainfall greater than 1000 mm. The species is able to tolerate temperatures ranging from -4° to 40°C. The bunya pine is a large tree, growing 30-45 m high with a diameter of up to 1.5 m. It has a certain nobility of habit with a single straight unbuttressed trunk, and a very distinctive symmetrical, dome-shaped upper crown. The branches occur in whorls, are horizontal, evenly spaced and generally unbranched. The crowns of the trees are usually dome or triangle shaped with the branches persisting to within three metres of the ground. It is these branching features that give the bunya pine a unique silhouette, making it easily recognisable in the landscape.

The mature female cones are found in the top one-third of the tree. Those at the very top are often not fertile. While some cones are produced every year (December to March), they are usually produced in abundance every third year. In good years there can be twenty or more cones on a single tree. The cones are very large football-shaped pods that can weigh up to 10 kg. Each cone can contain up to 100 seeds (nuts). As the cone reaches maturity it falls from the tree. As the cone is heavy, seed dispersal is limited to the area covered by the cone rolling down slopes or being transported by water flowing in creeks and gullies.

This ancient plant species, the bunya pine, has endured since the Jurassic period. The germination of the bunya pine is a marvel and a demonstration of how this plant has survived for so long. What we do here at the nursery is place the seeds with the tip poking into the top of potting media. Foam boxes are used to get the depth that is needed for germination to take place. After germinating the seed develops a root and tuber system that is resistant to desiccation.

The bunya seed sends down a shoot into the soil. It then develops a tuber and begins to send a shoot upwards that then produces a seedling. The tubers remain in a dormant state until conditions are more favourable for seedling growth. This is a very effective method of reproduction as the longevity of the tubers is higher than that of the nuts. In order to maintain high germination rates, seed must be stored in very moist conditions.

The bunya pine nut has in recent years become popular as a food with the nut, tube and hypocotyl being edible. The nutritional value of the nut is unique – the fat content is very low and the carbohydrate level is high. To be precise the nut is comprised of 40%, water 40% complex carbohydrates, 11% protein, and less than 1% oil. It is a gluten-free product. The nuts can be stored in the bottom of the fridge for two or three months, or for up to four years in an airtight container in the freezer. The nut can be boiled, baked, pressure cooked or fried, and the sprouts can be boiled.

For many years now my family have gone Bunya hunting/gathering. It is such an enjoyable event

for the whole family and our friends who catch the fever. We would love to share our enjoyment with the whole community. The Bunya tree can provide more for the community than just be used as an icon. So now I am now sending my message stick out (a modern day message stick: the newsletter) to the broader Barung family to invite you to join me and my family for a day of information sharing, story telling, dancing, weaving, playing of games, and generally eating the Bunya on 27 January 2007.



Bunya seed capsule sending down a shoot to create a tuber, and tubers sending out seedlings

Bunya Dreaming Gathering

a day for fun, frivolity and feasting

- various challenges throughout the day, for champion collectors, carters, shuckers, shellers, cooks and information keepers
- 'guess the weight' of the biggest Bunya competition
- 'guess how many nuts are in the Bunya cone' competition
- dance workshops led by Lyndon Davis, Shannon Chilly (of the Gubbi mob), and Blackall Range local Carolyn Fowles-Prince
- weed weaving workshops, lantern making workshops and art creations from the Bunya byproduct
- storytelling and open forum
- grand finale of fire lighting ceremony and corroboree

January 27th 2007

from 1.30 pm till dusk

Where?!

Location yet to be decided -

Do you have a spot you can offer?

Otherwise, at Bev's place

on the Obi between Mapleton & Kenilworth

More info, or if you have bnyas to share -

Contact Bev the Bunya Dreamer

at Barung on 5494 3151

Small Plants for Small Spaces

The Ornamental Garden by Joan Dillon

Many gardens contain spaces where there are necessary height or width restrictions on the plants which will fill them. These may be beside paths or perhaps in courtyards, and it can often be quite a challenge to find suitable plants for these areas.

The following suggestions range from weed smothering groundcovers to slightly larger but still relatively small shrubs which can still provide good cover and ground-level shade. Some have been mentioned in previous newsletters but are worth re-visiting.

Scaevola aemula – very dense with masses of small blue flowers. Prune to keep it from sprawling too far beyond its designated space. Likes some shade and good drainage.

Brachyscome daisies – mostly blue flowers, like plenty of light and look their best in spring to summer. A good ‘filler’ and contrast plant to slightly taller ones nearby so long as there’s some space around it. Mine looks great surrounded by pinebark mulch and adjacent to a *Lomandra hystrix*.

Lomandra spp. – there are several dwarf ones with fine foliage. They look terrible pruned so be aware of their mature width.

Phebalium woombye – noted in the previous newsletter. White or pink flowers. The white form is likely to be hardier but there’s a good pink specimen in the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens.

Lomatia silaifolia (also in the last newsletter) – prune early to encourage multiple stems and therefore multiple flower spikes. It’s a very attractive garden shrub for a sunny position. Watch the fertiliser regime as it’s a member of the phosphorus-sensitive Proteaceae.

Bauera rubioides (often called dog rose) – fine foliage and small pink flowers for most of the year. Straggly in shade but compact in full sun. Needs regular water but good drainage. Can grow to 2 m across so judicious tip pruning should keep it more compact.

Hibbertia vestita – will glow with bright yellow flowers in a sunny spot. It’s one of my favourite groundcovers and hardy so long as it’s not shaded.

Dianella spp. – with their wonderful strappy foliage, blue flowers and very bright blue berries. There are several, so choose the one which suits your area and height requirements. I have found that *Dianella caerulea* is sensitive to my heavy clay soil so ask at the Barung nursery.

Dipladenia multiflora (syn *Kreysigia multiflora*) – is a native lily with zigzag stems and pretty pink flowers. It’s a good edging plant in a shady spot and likes plenty of mulch. It doesn’t seem to be too fussy about moisture levels. Nan and Hugh Nicholson recommend it as an indoor plant.

Archirhodomyrtus beckleri – at least 1.5 m high and wide but with dense, small, slightly bronzy-green leaves and small cream flowers with multiple stamens in early summer. Hardy and retains its bushy shape in a sunny position.

There are also some dwarf callistemons and melaleucas. It’s surprising what’s available and much of it is regional flora!

**Support Barung Landcare
through your Business**

Forms available from Barung Landcare Office.

Help with FOX research

by Dr Oliver Berry, Invasive Animals CRC,
University of WA

The Fox DNA Project is producing an Australia-wide genetic map of feral foxes.

This will improve our understanding of fox movement patterns, allowing us to identify the appropriate scale at which fox control should take place, region-by-region, Australia-wide. Similar ‘genetic mapping’ projects conducted on feral pigs and feral rats have been highly effective.

It’s an ambitious plan, and to be successful we are asking members of the public and Landcare groups and resource managers to provide samples of foxes you find as roadkill or trap or shoot. It would give the project a great boost to get samples from south-east Queensland.



To make it easy, we have developed kits that fit into a small padded envelope, and which contain all the information and equipment required to take samples. They fit easily into a glove box or toolkit. Once you take a sample, you put it into the reply-paid envelope and post it to the University of Western Australia for analysis.

Results will be published on the website (see below) as they become available, so you can see how your samples are contributing to the project.

To find out more, see www.foxDNA.animals.uwa.edu.au or call me on freecall 1800 633 097.

Effective tree protectors?

by Maureen Lowe

I have accidentally discovered a possible deterrent to whatever has been upending my reveg plantings.

I’ve tried using wire tree-guards and stakes (necessary here because of the local hares, but NOT effective at deterring my resident bush turkeys), and barricading with branches and rocks (NOT effective either).

However I surrounded my recent reveg plantings with barricades of bunya pine branches, branchlets, prickly leaves etc, and **all the reveg plants are still untouched.**

For the sake of my remaining plantings, I hope that this is more than coincidence!

Nursery Plant Credit Program

As a Barung member, with \$250 you can set up a Plant Credit that gives you a discount of 25% on tubestock, megatubes and some more advanced stock. You can take the plants as needed in whatever quantity you require, subject to availability.

If you are interested in this program, talk to Wayne next time you’re in the Nursery.

Koels - the 'Coo-ee' birds

WILDLIFE PROFILE by Susie Duncan

Well you've probably heard those penetrating and repetitive calls 'ko-el, ko-el, ko-el' (otherwise interpreted as 'coo-ee'), over the past couple of months. It's a large cuckoo called a koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*). The male is a striking glossy black bird with a long tail. The female is brown and buff with a dark cap, spotted back, and barred front and tail. Both have an impressive red eye. They are about the size of a magpie but more slender.

It's often hard to see them because they secrete themselves in the canopy of dense leafy trees. But the male bird's 'ko-el' call is a dead giveaway. Like other cuckoos they will call incessantly both night and day during the spring/summer breeding season and are rightly known as the 'brain fever bird'. They also have the nick-name 'rainbird' because their appearance in tropical and subtropical areas correlates with the rainy season.

Koels occur from India through south-east Asia to New Guinea and Australia. They migrate to northern and eastern Australia to breed in our spring/summer months when food is plentiful. Fruit forms a large part of their diet, with figs and piccabeen palm fruits being among their favourites.

Like all other Australian cuckoos apart from the pheasant coucal, the koel uses slave labour to raise its family. It lays one egg in the nest of another bird with similar looking eggs – usually a magpie-lark, red wattlebird, figbird or friarbird. This host bird hatches out the cuckoo and then naively feeds the large demanding baby until it is almost twice the host's size. After all that effort, the young koel takes off to northern Australia, New Guinea or Indonesia for the winter. It will return the following spring to breed.

Illustration from *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*, 7th Ed, by Simpson & Day, for sale at Barung Landcare, \$38.



*Common koel,
female (left) and
male (right)*

Wildlife Walk

Susie Duncan will introduce you to our local wildlife at Booloumba Falls in the Conondale Range.

When: Wednesday 13 December
Meet: at Barung at 8.45 am (to car-pool)
Return: approx. 1.00 pm
Bring: water, snack, strong boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and bathers if you want a swim.

The walk is free but please book at Barung by phoning 5494 3151.

These walks will continue in 2007 and will be combined with seed collection for the Barung Nursery where possible.

Have your say: Maleny Community Precinct

by Darryl Ebenezer

The Barung Management Committee encourages all members to have your say about the future of the Maleny Community Precinct, which includes the relocation of Barung Landcare to a more suitable site.

Caloundra City Council has prepared a draft Local Growth Management Strategy to help manage long-term growth in one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. After state government review, the draft Strategy is now ready for public comment.

Barung Committee members agree with the points outlined on the Paul Summers website and will be supporting these points in a formal submission from Barung:

a) Caloundra City Council should be congratulated on the process defined for preparing the proposed structure plan for the area known as the Maleny community precinct.

b) Caloundra City Council should ensure that no amendment is made to the open wording currently used in the draft LGMS to make reference to particular land uses.

c) A minor, but important, amendment should be made to the (the Implementation and Succession of Actions component in Section 5.6.5 of the draft LGMS) to read as follows: *Consultation with local community and stakeholders, informed by a properly prepared constraints and opportunities analysis of the land.*

See for yourself at www.paulsummersplanning.com.au

Barung's Committee also encourages you to make the specific comment that *Barung Landcare Association wishes to move from its current location and be relocated to the Maleny Community Precinct.*

Please fill in the Council's feedback form to provide your comments about the draft Local Growth Management Strategy. Your comments will help Council to refine the Strategy.

If you want your feedback to be treated as a properly made submission (in accordance with the Integrated Planning Act 1997), print out the Council's postage-paid form and mail a signed, completed copy to Council.

The feedback form is provided at

http://www.caloundra.qld.gov.au/website/cityCouncil/strategies_plans/files/strategies/LGMS_feedback_form-web1.pdf

Council must receive all formal submissions by 4.30 pm on Friday, 8 December 2006.

Holidays at Barung

Barung Landcare

(Nursery and Office)

will be closed from

12 noon Friday 22 December 2006

and will reopen at

9 am Tuesday 2 January 2007

Fuschia's Photo Gallery



Left: Congratulations to Sarah and Jeff Rayner from Maleny (here with Cali, centre) who won the 2nd round of the Lucky Prize Draw when they picked up their free Rates Trees. Congratulations also to the other three winners of these \$70 prize packages.

Below: We thoroughly enjoyed the visit from Maleny State School Year 3 classes on October 18th which ended with a tree planting next to the wetlands at Barung. And a big thank you to the Year 1 class who also planted a tree here in September. Well done!

Both classes had fun tubing up lomandra and participating in an educational stroll along the boardwalk.

International visitors provide valued help

by John Muir

Teams of 10 international visitors will be helping out local groups with on-ground works during 2006 and 2007, thanks to a partnership between the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA). The CVA teams will spend two weeks at each project site.

In October/November 2006, a CVA team provided timely weeding, planting and mulching assistance to local groups on the Blackall Range.

The team worked at Barung project sites at the IGA Maleny Showgrounds Connection Corridor and the Obi Partnerships site at Pacific Plantations. They also assisted MRCCC at their large woody debris reintroduction site on Elaman Ck at Conondale and also +Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group and the Blackall Range Invasive Weed Task Force.



Left: The team from Conservation Volunteers Australia at a Booroobin Bushcare site in November 2006, where Jeanette Nobes supervised the planting of about 200 plants.



Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

19 Coral Street Maleny
PO Box 567 Maleny 4552
lbccg@ozemail.com.au
07 5494 3775

Project funding available

We are **calling for new projects** within the Lake Baroon watershed so give our Project Officer, Jane MacGibbon, a call if you have some work in mind that complies with the following criteria:

- A key outcome is enhancing catchment water quality
- Located within the Lake Baroon catchment
- Preferably includes development of infrastructure such as cattle or vehicle crossings, off-stream watering points, or fencing to control stock.
- Revegetation/regeneration projects will also be considered, in particular riparian planting
- Landholder is prepared to provide 50% of the cost of the project; this may be in the form of in-kind work (your own labour) or may include funding from another organisation.

Project benefits

LBCCG is currently sponsoring or monitoring more than 30 projects throughout the catchment. Our water resources are becoming more and more precious and are increasingly at risk, and these small projects all work to improve the health of the streams in our region and the awareness of those living and working on the land through which they flow.

As well as the direct effects of stock on streams, landowners need to look at the effects of their dairy shed washwater and their own domestic septic tanks. Simple upgrades and regular maintenance of these systems can cause immense and permanent improvements to water quality and ultimately to stock health. When accessible and clean sources of water are provided offstream, stock productivity can improve significantly. Revegetation also provides valuable shade and shelter for stock as well as for our wildlife.

The work already carried out throughout Lake Baroon's catchment is a credit to the dedicated landholders, and has been enabled by the invaluable help of our sponsor, AquaGen.

Name That Stream

More than 50 responses have been received suggesting names for 10 local streams. Many suggested names relate to early settlers, and Gillian Pechey is researching their background. Other names refer to local wildlife or indigenous history. Once we have enough background information to satisfy the Department of Natural Resources application criteria, we will publish the information. This project aims to raise awareness of our local creeks.

In the office

Jane MacGibbon, our new Project Officer, joined Lake Barung Catchment Care Group in early October and is getting to grips with the job, the region and the projects. Jane has a background of 20 years' experience in stream health monitoring and management in New Zealand. LBCCG has just had its AGM, with all four committee members re-elected – President: Peter Stevens; Vice President: Steve Skull; Secretary: Gillian Pechey; Treasurer: Michael Howard.

Contact our Project Officer, Jane MacGibbon, on **5494 3775** for your project assessment or for more information on Name That Stream.

Successful Project Grants

Community Water Grants Round 2

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, and the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, Senator Eric Abetz, have announced funding for 1,444 projects that will save, recycle or improve the health of local water resources.

Barung Landcare congratulates Mim for another successful grant request:

This project will treat water in the Lake Baroon catchment area. Improvements in water quality will be achieved by replanting riparian zones with native species and fencing the waterway to exclude stock and protect vegetation. These measures will reduce nutrient and sediment loads from the Catchment area entering the lake. This project will treat water from a catchment area of 290 hectares: \$44,532

We also would like to congratulate Murray from **Lake Baroon Catchment Care** for his success in obtaining funds:

This project organised by the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group will save water through the installation of slow flow devices, dual flush toilets and water tanks at a school. This project will save 1,389,750 litres of water per year: \$45,068

A great outcome for Maleny and district.



Positions Vacant

The Hinterland Business Centre, in conjunction with Barung Landcare, is offering 7 positions to long-term unemployed persons and mature aged persons over 40 years of age.

Are you interested in gaining experience in:

Landscaping, Landcare & Conservation work

The positions are funded under the State Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle through the Community Jobs Plan.

The positions will be full-time for 15 weeks, commencing 5 February 2007. Training Wage Award applies.

**Applications close COB
Wednesday 24 January**

Application forms can be collected from the HBC office at **38a Coral St**, Maleny.

For further information contact the Hinterland Business Centre on **5499 9911**.

Privet

WEED WATCH by John Wightman Blackall Range Invasive Weed Task Force and Barung Management Committee

An indelible London memory: walking to school along roads of terraced Victorian houses where the only greenery was the aptly named plane trees and these symmetrically clipped boxes called privet hedges. Was that why I always had a deep-seated desire to go somewhere warm and colourful?

I certainly did not plant privet hedges when I finally reached somewhere closer to paradise in the Antipodes. Many people did, however, following the time-hallowed, emigrant tradition of attempting to recreate the environment of the 'old country' that must have been so distasteful to them that they left it.

Privet now extends from the mid-NSW coast well into Queensland. On the Blackall Range we only have two of the 50 or so species to worry about: *Ligustrum lucidum*, which can grow to 30 m and has large leaves, hence its designation as large- or broad-leaved privet (LLP), and *L. sinense*, the small-leaved privet (SLP).

Privet leaves grow in pairs along the stem. SLP leaves are 6 cm long and 1.5-3 cm wide, oval and pale green. LLP leaves are 12-13 cm long and 5-6 cm wide, pointed and shiny glossy green above and pale green underneath. The flowers are creamy white and appear in spring in panicles at the ends of stems. The flowers have a sweet rank smell, that some might find pleasant. The flowers are followed by clusters of black berries.

Privets are members of the olive family and originated in eastern Asia. The earliest record of the genus in Australia is from 1837.

If privets had been kept clipped and stopped from flowering they would not have become a weed in eastern Australia. But, unfortunately, they are well adapted to our soils and climate and are prolific producers of fruit. Birds eat the fruit and drop seeds which germinate to produce dense monocultures, apparently in 'no time at all'.

This points to the likelihood that privet produces powerful *allelopathic* chemicals that prevent competition from other plant species. Privets may also poison the soil. This slows down the regeneration of replanted natives in cleared areas. The post-privet phase may therefore require a 'fallow' period with intensive weed control.

On that subject – have you ever seen a diseased privet tree or leaves eaten by caterpillars? It appears that privets also contain *antibiotic metabolites* that protect them from pathogens and herbivorous insects and mammals. This could also be linked to the allergic reaction many people develop to privet pollen.

Privets are &@#s to get rid of. Cut them and they re-shoot from the stump or roots. Herbicide just runs off the glossy leaves. If they are on land that has to be cleared anyway, a bulldozer is the answer – get them out and burned, roots and all – followed by roguing to deal with regrowth from buried seeds and roots.

In more sensitive areas, cut stems can be treated while fresh with a 1:1 solution of glyphosate in water. Bigger trees can be drilled (battery powered hand drill) and injected with the same chemical. It is indeed a slow process.

Make sure that it is a privet you are attacking: several native species look similar – especially lillypillys and myrtles. In fact, if you are ever tempted to plant a privet (and people actually do this!!), look for *Backhousia myrtifolia* plants (midnight or grey myrtle) which has a wonderful display of greeny-white flowers

in October and November, or even a friendly lillypilly. Check out the Barung Nursery for both these species.

Prevention of spread is called for. Landowners, including the Department of Main Roads, need to focus on these weeds. The problem is that, as has happened with lantana, we do not *see* them – privets are just an anonymous part of the landscape. If you make a conscious effort to pick out the privets as you drive around you will see just how much of our landscape is composed of these two species.

Left unchecked, they will BE the landscape.

Your feedback was great!

by Eve Witney, Barung News Editor

Thank you, thank you to the 45 people who responded to the feedback forms in the last Barung News.

And if that wasn't you, your thoughts are still valued – please pass your comments along to Barung.

It seems people think the *Barung News* is heading in the right direction, with most electing to read most articles before heading for the recycling bin ...

What are Barung readers interested in? The clear winners are:

- Revegetation – all aspects
- Practical advice
- Weed profiles
- Plant profiles
- Animal profiles.

Regular contributors such as Spencer Shaw's Turkey Tangential and Joan Dillon's Ornamental Garden received a few special mentions.

Most of the respondents, however, were least interested in politics and the nitty-gritty of running environmental organisations!

Respondents suggested a healthy list of topics for future articles, so I'll work on sourcing these.

Several also suggested colour photos for the plant and weed profiles, while noting this would make the newsletter more expensive to produce. This is true. You are very welcome to come into Barung and look through the reference books.

Or check out the Barung Bookshop – more than 60 books on sale, all of them excellent references for identifying plants, animals and insects, or for setting up your revegetation plot or water-friendly garden. As well, there are excellent resources available on internet websites.

A couple of brave souls have volunteered to make contributions to the newsletter, so look out in particular for Susie Duncan's articles on wildlife. Thank you also to Maureen Lowe who put her pen to paper right then and there.

Thank you also to the people who volunteered to help fold newsletters – very much appreciated – Val at Barung will call on you in time, and thank you also to others who have volunteered to help Barung in other ways. If you don't hear anything from Barung ... come on in and bug them!

Please feel free to contribute articles. I hope to be including regular articles from landholders about their experiences with landcaring their own properties on and near the Blackall Range.

You can contact me on eve-eden@bigpond.net.au or 5494 4005, or leave a message – and your article! – at Barung Landcare.

Thank you for reading the Barung News and for providing feedback. Barung wouldn't be here without its members!

Spotted a Quoll?

by Scott Burnett,
Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld

Two of Australia's remaining three quoll species occur in Queensland – the northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) and the spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*). Quoll species are under threat from a number of sources, most notably poisoning from eating cane toads.

With two other independent researchers, Drs John Winter and Meri Oakwood, I am investigating the survival of northern quoll populations when cane toads invade their habitat. We are looking to see what it is that makes some populations more resilient than others. To do this, we need public help to locate quoll populations, and to locate areas where they have disappeared. This research is funded by the Natural Heritage Trust Strategic Reserve Fund.

However I'm also interested in sightings of spotted-tail quolls, and would like to hear all your stories about quolls, both quolls you've seen recently as well as any stories or records you have of quolls from years past.

All quolls are spotted, but the spotted-tailed quoll is the only species in which the spots continue from the body onto the tail. This, and its large size (head-body length greater than 75 cm; body weight greater than 1.5 kg; hind foot length greater than 55 mm) distinguish this species from the northern quoll. Spotted-tailed quolls eat possums and bandicoots as well as smaller animals and chooks. Northern quolls (usually smaller than 1 kg) eat smaller prey (rodents, birds, insects and fruit). Both species raid hen houses.

Quoll scats are distinctive. They are about human female finger-sized in width or slightly bigger, often with a twisted or ropey appearance with obvious hairs or feathers. They are often found on rocks in creek beds, rock ledges, escarpments etc, and sometimes on verandas. They are never buried. The scats have a distinctive musty odour, not the strong rank smell of cat, fox or dog scats. Scats are often deposited in communal latrine sites, where dozens of scats can accumulate during a season.

Quolls are pretty silent, although they emit a low hiss when cornered or threatened. If they feel very threatened they emit a sharp loud screech, which has been likened to a short sharp burst of a circular saw.

When a quoll kills a chook it usually just eats the head, or bites the neck and drinks the blood. This isn't as wasteful as it sounds; if it isn't killed first, the quoll will return night after night until it has consumed the whole carcass. Foxes also do this so it's difficult to distinguish the identity of the predator on the basis of kill styles alone.



Northern Quoll. Photo: B. Thomson/Scott Burnett

Because quolls are so distinctive (the only spotty native mammals), sightings are the best records to collect from the community. Quolls are most active and seen most often in late autumn and winter during their breeding time, but they can be seen at any time of year.

The single greatest threat to quolls is land clearing. Killings at chook pens, accidental road deaths, consumption of cane toads and subsequent poisoning are also potentially significant threats, as well as 1080 meat baits targeting wild dogs. Predation and competition by dogs, cats and foxes are probably minor threats, but may contribute to overall suppression of quoll populations. Known predators include wedge-tailed eagles, dingoes and cats (on quoll young only). Pythons, large forest owls and goannas probably also prey on quolls.

You can greatly help increase our knowledge of quoll populations by reporting your quoll sightings or stories to me, Scott Burnett, on 5496 9266 or 0408 963 350 or burnettscott@hotmail.com, or by mail to PO Box 394, Glasshouse Mountains, 4518.

Growing Green Pages

www.greenpagesaustralia.com.au

A directory of over 5000 companies offering environmentally sustainable products and services for the corporate sector and the home consumer. Experts in climate change, water, waste management, packaging, organic food, finance and many more have contributed feature editorials and in-depth analysis of how industry and environmental sustainability can work together.

Wonderful weeds websites

For comprehensive information on weed species, so that you can curse them more eloquently!

www.weeds.crc.org.au

www.weeds.org.au

www.nrm.qld.gov.au



Spotted-tailed Quoll. Photo: R. Jackson.

Renew your Barung membership
or buy books from Barung's Bookshop
over the phone
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Priority works funded

REGIONAL ROUNDUP by John Muir

On-ground Devolved Grants from SEQ Catchments

Several landholders in Peachester, along London Ck in the Stanley River headwaters and along the escarpment ridgelines, requested assistance in managing their existing weed, revegetation and regeneration initiatives. Some fencing works are also included.

Thanks to Bruce Lord and Susie Chapman of SEQ Catchments, the regional NRM body has approved Barung Landcare's and these local landholders' desire to address priority on-ground works in the Upper Stanley headwaters on the Blackall Range. Other works in the Mooloolah River headwaters have also been approved, in addition to an earlier project on Landslips.

These on-ground works projects go a long way to addressing the significant removal of native vegetation and the resulting erosion and weed contamination that has occurred since clearing. Property Management Planning will also assist with longer term decision making and budgeting.

New Rainforest Recovery priority project sites are also in the process of being identified with additional landholders in these areas. Funding is limited, so a few high priority sites will be assessed for approval as soon as possible. A project officer will be appointed to manage these projects.

Barung Landcare is also still negotiating with BMRG for similar on-ground devolved projects in the upper Mary River subcatchments and the Obi Obi Creek headwaters.

Burnett Mary Regional Group's new Investment Strategy and staff

The BMRG is presently undergoing a major review of its Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) and rollout process to engage with the wider community. One outcome so far has been the appointment of several Regional Liaison positions to work more closely with grassroots organisations and stakeholders.

Barung has been successful in hosting one of these positions, and I have been appointed as the new Regional Liaison Officer based at Barung. I will work across all programs within the BMRG Strategy and assist all local landholders and groups in developing project applications that will meet the goals and outcomes of BMRG's new Regional Investment Strategy.

The review will help groups target their applications in the direction of existing funding opportunities, as well as take into account smaller local projects that individuals and community groups want to do on the ground. The New Year will see the release of the new RIS document. BMRG looks forward to working closely with local stakeholders into the future.

I can be contacted at Barung Landcare, where I am based to service the upper Mary catchment area, on 5494 3151 or 0429 943 153 or johnmuir@sun.big.net.au



Orange Palm-Dart

Cephrenes augiades sperthias

BUTTERFLIES OF THE RANGE by Bob Miller

I have never described a butterfly as being a pest, but this one is definitely regarded by some as being in that category.

Have you ever noticed blue-faced honeyeaters in the palm trees meticulously stripping the leaves, one string at a time? Chances are they were searching for the larvae of the orange palm-dart, or one of the other palm leaf-eating larvae. Another tell-tale sign of larvae in residence is that the edges of the palm leaves are rolled over and joined with silk. You will also find nearby leaves have been eaten.

The eggs of the orange palm-dart are about 1.6 mm wide, pale yellow and dome-shaped. The larvae are about 40-50 mm long, with a translucent, pale, bluish-green body and a cream-coloured head with brown markings.

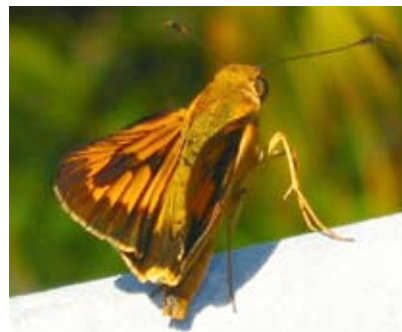


The pupae are about 25-30 mm long, pale green and covered in a white waxy powder. The pupae are attached

Orange Palm-Dart side (above) and from top (below).

Photos: Bob Miller.

by the tail and a central silken girdle and are always found in the larval shelter. The adults are about 40 mm from wing-tip to wing-tip. The upperside of the male's wings are dark brown with orange markings; the females are darker. The underside of the male's wings is a pale brownish-yellow with lighter markings, whilst that of the female is more a dark purplish-brown with lighter markings.



They are very rapid flyers, hence the common name of 'dart', and can often be seen near the palm trees 'darting' from place to place and then landing, only to dart off again at the first sign of an intruder.

They were originally found only in NSW and Qld, but have now spread to other states where palms with larvae or pupae in residence have been transported. They are considered to be a pest because of the damage the larvae can do to the leaves of the palm trees, making them look untidy.

If you wish to have this butterfly and its very competent predator, the blue-faced honeyeater, in your garden but do not possess a palm tree, Barung Landcare always carry ample supplies at very reasonable prices.

Further information on this or any other butterfly can be had by reading *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael F. Braby, 2000, on sale or for reference at Barung Landcare.

BOOKS FOR SALE AT BARUNG

Discovering Australian Butterflies

A simple guide to Australia's most common butterflies

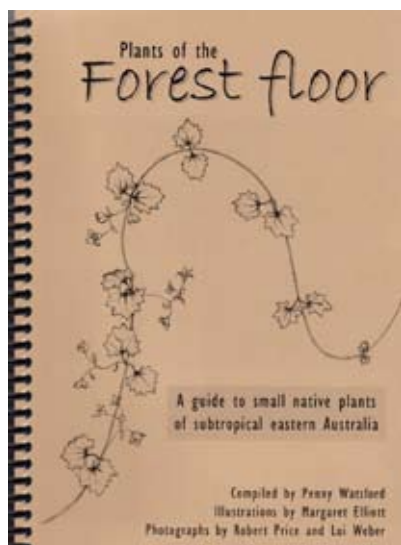
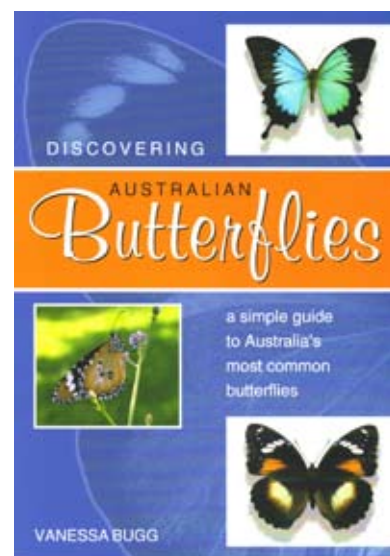
by **Vanessa Bugg**, published by **Skyring Creek Books**

BOOK REVIEW by **Cali Salzmann**

This book has a great introduction that covers how butterflies get their names, the difference between butterflies and moths, life cycles, interesting facts and trivia, as well as a section called 'Butterfly Words' to help you learn the identification lingo. All you need to do is note the main colour, size, any other colours or markings, and shape of the wings. The book is set up in groups: Skippers, Whites, Yellows, Browns, Swallowtails, etc. with colour photographs of males and females. There is even a chapter on rearing butterflies.

A simple, user friendly guide to discovering Australian Butterflies, just as the title suggests, for \$29.95.

We have the poster as well, which retails at \$9.00.



Plants of the Forest Floor:

A guide to small native plants of subtropical eastern Australia

Book Review by **Lin Fairlie**

A CD with colour photos of more than 150 plants is included with this delightful, informative, small-format (15 cm by 21 cm) book. The book is now available at Barung Landcare, and its price is attractive too, only \$15.

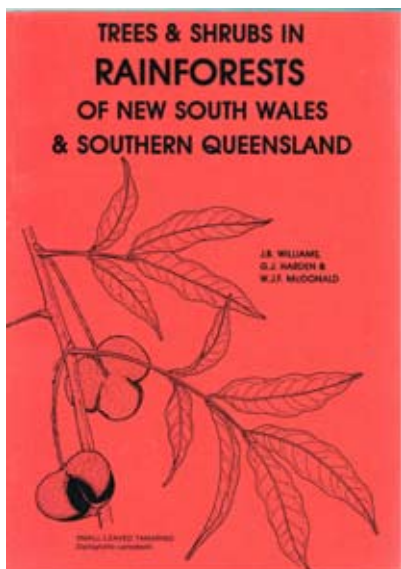
The geographic area covered by the book is Coffs Harbour to Bundaberg, particularly focussing on the mountainous regions of northern NSW which have many similarities to the ranges of southern Queensland.

Each species description is accompanied by a very clear line drawing, with photos of some species. Sections are arranged according to plant descriptions – grasses, ground covers, ferns, tufted plants, and twiners and scramblers. Plants for the garden and, briefly, weeds also have their own sections. There is a good section on sedges which landholders with moist areas will find useful and another on twiners and scramblers.

The focus is on common plants only and 'does not provide sufficient information for formal botanical identification' (a quote from the book). It certainly has been useful for me to identify a number of small species which surprisingly occur in my revegetation areas adjacent to remnant forest trees – all three of them.

The lists in the back of contact organisations and references are comprehensive and very useful, as is the website of the National Herbarium of New South Wales.

In seeking to establish resilient ecosystems, the forest floor probably has not received the attention it deserves. This book will contribute to landholder's knowledge and resulting actions on the ground.



Be quick!

10 copies left of

Trees & Shrubs of NSW & Southern Queensland

at the Special Price of \$17,
reduced from \$32

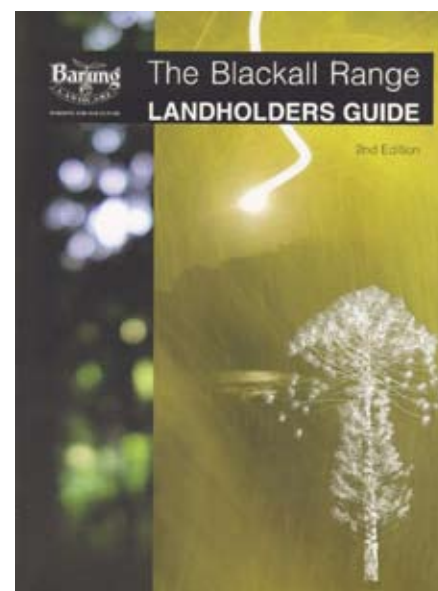
Great Xmas presents!

The Blackall Range Landholders Guide 2nd Edition

Written by local experts for local conditions, this guide is inspiring and informative for old residents and new, on a suburban block or large acreage.

Chapters expanded from the 1st Edition cover revegetation and regeneration of native flora, supporting native fauna, understanding water cycles and catchments, local climate and soil, and sources of help and funding for projects on your land. New chapters include ecological house and garden design, environmental weeds, living with fire, and the history of land use in the region.

Cost is \$15 picked up from Barung, or an additional \$3 if posted. The book is also available at Rosetta Books and The Maple Street Co-Op in Maleny and at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve.



Thank you to ...

... **Petrus** for your kind monthly donations, a great contribution to Barung

... **another big thank you** to **Rainforest Rescue** for their ongoing support & \$1000 donation towards treeplantings and **Congratulations** for being a finalist in the Australian Sustainability Awards for **Best Practice Non-profit Organisation!**

... **Jane & Val** for the culinary delights at the Regional Landcare Meeting (you are always much appreciated)

... the **Maleny Lions Club** for the invitation to speak at the 'Welcome to Maleny & Range Dinner', and to **Tranquil Park** for the delicious dinner

... **Max Smith, Pat Cavanaugh, Shanyyn Todd, Colin & Val Phillips** for your help with the Oct-Nov Barung News mailout

... a **big thank you** to **Marion Adamson, Pat Cavanaugh, Max Smith, Colin & Val Phillips** for helping with the **CodLine** mailout. We folded 1167 individual **CodLines** and stuffed about another 600 into 32 large envelopes. **Well done guys!**

International Landcarers

A big thank you to all the fabulous people who billeted the International Landcarers in October:

... **Fran Guard & Bob Philpot,**
 ... **Dawn & Curt Svensson,**
 ... **Kate & Paul Fraser,**
 ... **John & Joan Dillon,**
 ... **Cali Salzmman & Bron Swartz,**
 ... **Heather & Ken Spring,**
 ... **Lin & David Fairlie,**
 ... **Fergus & Trijntje Reilly,**
 ... **Jim Cox & Pam Maegdefrau,**
 ... **Paul & Sutira Sykes,**
 ... **Michael & Andrea Howard,**
 ... **Marek & Libby Malter,**

and last but not least,

... **Laurie Capill.**

Thank you for making them welcome in your homes.

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LETTERS ...

Excellent work by Contracting!

Dear Jolyon,

Just a quick note to thank you and your team most sincerely for the excellent work carried out on our property recently. This is the third time we have used your contracting services to help finish off those few areas just too difficult for us.

We took over this property almost two years ago. At that time it was heavily infested with lantana and other weeds and many of the fine specimen trees were almost completely covered. You and your team have made a huge difference and we are delighted with the results.

Our only regret is that we didn't take 'before' photos as our little bit of paradise is now looking just that. We can now enjoy a walk around our property planning future planting, seeing native trees regenerating and providing a home for flora and fauna.

Thank you Barung for your excellent service, knowledgeable advice and encouragement.

Kind regards

Bill & Katy Ash

Hunchy

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ring Jolyon - 0429 943 156
 or Barung Office - 5494 3151

**Maleny
SUPA**

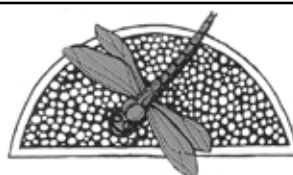


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Just a reminder ...
Please keep showing your ...
Barung Community Benefit key tags
... when shopping at Maleny IGA. Every dollar is
a great help. If you don't yet have a key tag, it's
simple to register and even easier to use – just
ask at the IGA. Thanks for showing your support.

Cost of Convenience ...

... continued from page 12

Siberia or Alaska to enjoy a seasonal harvest of the bounty of our bay, and have done so for millions of years. A trip to Toorbul on the mainland side of the Pumicestone Passage or Buckley's Hole on Bribie Island are great vantage points from which to view such migratory visitors as the bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), the common green shank (*Tringa nebularia*) and a host of other migratory birds. Hundreds, if not thousands, of birds can be seen at times, but due to humans now competing for their food resources (to bait the hook of the recreational fisherman) and the pollution of the mud flats that are the homes of their food sources, their migratory trips must become just that little bit harder.

Look out into the flocks of birds on the mud flats and you will also see at least one in ten birds hopping on one leg, not to give the other leg a rest but because a foot or leg is missing. They are victims of the convenience of nylon fishing line. Nylon fishing line is cheap, durable and should be either banned or at least cost so much that you wouldn't consider throwing it away. How could I suggest such a thing, I hear you say. Why would I deprive the children of the bay the opportunity to cast a line and enjoy catching a fish? No recreational activity should cost that much.

It's a true reflection of the lack of empathy many Australians have for their country that 99.9% don't even know the names of the animals being killed and maimed by their plastic bags or fishing lines, let alone consider it an issue worth addressing!

Then there's the issue of all of those bore pumps keeping the lush lawns of Bribie green. Meanwhile the water table of the island drops, water holes and lagoons dry up, flora and fauna suffer as their access to water is reduced – just so very bored *Homo sapiens* can indulge that peculiar psychosis of turfophilia.

Well, you might say, what a cheery picture you have painted there, Spencer. Thrown the happy pills out the window again have you? Maybe.

We must reduce our ecological imprint, we must come to terms with the country that we now live in. If we continue to insist on a lifestyle that causes harm to ecosystems that we are supposedly protecting, the future is neither bright for ourselves or for our local flora and fauna.

When will the worthless plastic bag choke the last turtle in Moreton Bay? When will the migratory birds no longer make their great journey through lack of food or injury? When will the water run out? When will we at last value this beautiful land?

New Regional Vegetation Management Codes

Four new regional vegetation management codes came into effect on 20 November 2006.

Following a comprehensive review and consultation process, the new codes have replaced the 24 codes that had been in use since the introduction of the new vegetation management framework in May 2004.

The new codes are simpler and easier to use for both applicants and NRW vegetation management officers.

Regional vegetation management codes are used to assess applications to clear native vegetation.

For more information, see www.nrw.qld.gov.au/vegetation/regional_codes.html

The Cost of Convenience

TURKEY TANGENTIAL

by Spencer Shaw, Brush Turkey Enterprises

Recently I have been fortunate to reacquaint myself with Bribie Island, through a holiday and work BTE is undertaking in that area. Bribie was my home for my teenage years. Being the ratbag greenie that I was, I found it very easy to leave behind a place that I could see going backward environmentally and rejoiced in arriving in a place like Maleny, where it could be argued that the damage was already done and we could only make things better! Almost twenty years away from a place can give one a bit of perspective from which to observe change, but if I can observe environmental degradation over a mere 20 years, what hope do the local ecosystems have over much greater timeframes?

For millions of years sand has drifted northward along the coast of northern New South Wales and into south-east Queensland. This sand has given rise to the beautiful beaches of this region and the islands of Moreton Bay and Fraser Island, the largest sand island in the world.

Long before these islands and these beaches existed or the rivers that eroded the sand were formed, turtles roamed the oceans. These beautiful creatures have survived and evolved over 100s of millions of years. They have been around long enough to see land masses form and again disappear under the timeless forces of the ocean.

But in the blink of an eye in geological time a threat appears in the oceans that closely resembles one of their food sources, the jelly fish, and lo and behold, before me lies the carcass of a recently dead green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The magnificent beast was over 1.5 metres in length, its bowel blocked by a valueless item of convenience to the fisherman or consumer – the plastic bag.

Modern white society in Australia may cringe at the thought of hunting and eating the poor turtle by the indigenous landholders as barbaric, and yet at least 40,000 years of hunting could not reduce the turtle population to the extent that 50 years (or less) of carelessly discarded plastic bags and the diseases that fester in the now polluted waters of the bay have done.

Out on the mud flats and sand bars of Moreton Bay are birds who have travelled halfway across the world on a 12,000 km trip from

... continued on page 15

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