

A 'WOK' AMONGST THE 'WAARKS'

by Matt Bateman, Barung Contracting Services

As part of the Maleny Precinct Biodiversity Monitoring Program I was fortunate to join Eva Ford (Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee) on a cool October evening for what is sometimes called a 'frog reccy'. As part of the long term monitoring program, it is necessary to establish base line data (what is already there) and investigate suitable sites for setting up long term monitoring events.

Even though conditions were less than ideal for frog activity, we donned our jumpers and head lamps and set off on a walk along the Obi Obi and its tributaries.

Our objective was to record any frog activity including vocalisations or sightings. This initial survey did not have to be repeatable so we could ramble as we pleased. We carried out anabat recordings on the way, recording the high frequency calls of micro-bats.

It's amazing how much activity there was in the water compared to what we see during the day. The water was alive with eels, catfish, yabbies and shrimp.

As far as frogs go, early on we heard the constant toc of several Striped Marsh Frogs Limnodynastes peronii and the high pitched cr-e-e-k of the Eastern Sedge Frog *Litoria fallax* in the wetland areas away from the Obi Obi.

Once on the Obi we were greeted with the distinctive waarks of the Great Barredfrog Mixophyes fasciolatus. Using headlamps to pick up the eye shine of frogs, Eva was able to spot a number of Stony Creek Frogs Litoria wilcoxii, mostly males, sitting out on rocks calling for prospective mates.

The headlamps are a great way to find not only frogs but all kinds of wildlife by the reflections in their eyes. Eva, with her training and considerable experience, was able to spot a frog from a great distance. It has taken me a little while to master the technique and also to distinguish frog eyes from the sparkling reflection of spider eyes.

After some time, Eva called out that we may want to have a look at this. She had spotted the eye shine of a



male Mixophyes iteratus. Better known as the Giant Barred-frog (above), he is one of our largest frogs and is listed as Endangered at a state, federal and international level.

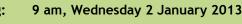
It's amazing how you lose track of time when you are on a mission. I was also pleasantly surprised how relaxing it was being out under the stars looking for frogs while the rest of the world slept.

... Continued on next page

Barung Christmas Trading Hours

Porter's Lane Nursery

2 pm, Friday 21 December 2012 Closing: Reopening:



Barung Resource Centre

Closing: 1 pm, Monday 24 December 2012 Reopening: 9 am, Wednesday 2 January 2013

BARUNG RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

by Kellie Huddy

Come into town and have a look at the Barung Resource Centre this Christmas – we may just have the perfect Christmas gift for you, your loved ones or friends.

The Resource Centre has had a slight makeover recently and now has a dedicated area for browsing our selection of retail stock items.

Most of these are locally produced, such as:

- nest boxes from Hollow Log Homes
- Grant Meyer's framed photography
- Diana O'Connor's lino prints and cards
- Montville Coffee Beans 1kg bags
- Outback Chef Items, produced in Coolum
- 'Discover the Rainforest' colour posters illustrating the local hinterland area and its animals.

We have been very busy helping Denis Lalor update and improve Barung's **online shop**, which now includes a postage calculator for those who prefer shopping from home and an online payment facility.

If you'd rather not pay online, you are welcome to order online and phone through a credit card payment with us at the Resource Centre on 5494 3151.

We offer Gift Vouchers for those loved ones and friends that are particularly difficult to choose presents for. These gift vouchers are personalised to each recipient, can be made up to any value, and can be made specific to plants, books and/or the range of products that we offer at the Barung Resource Centre.

Warm regards for the Christmas Season and Best Wishes for 2013.



FROGGING AT THE PRECINCT...

Continued from page 1

It was just before midnight and we were about to call it a night when we both heard a low pitched frog call. 'I reckon that was a wok, not a waark,' Eva said. We turned our lights off and waited. Eventually he couldn't hold out any longer and let out another wok. On cue a Great Barred-frog joined in and the difference between a wok and a waark was obvious. This guy was well hidden and didn't really want to be found but we needed visual verification. Eva used a voice recording device to play back his call. Every few minutes it became too much for him and he had to respond. Step by step we were able to pinpoint his hide and there he was, another Mixophyes iterates about 1 km from where we had found the first guy. A very rewarding night.

We didn't realise it at the time but as far as we can tell this is the first official recording of the Giant Barred-frog on the Obi Obi creek. Given its status, this is a fairly significant find for the area and, of course, great news for the frogs themselves.

Over the coming months we will be running a workshop and field visit on frog monitoring as part of the Maleny Community Precinct Biodiversity Monitoring Program. So keep an eye out for dates or register your interest with the Barung office.

GIFT IDEAS AT BARUNG

Books for children

China Doll's Charm by Fuschia Collard, Barung Assistant Nursery Manger. A beautiful children's story about a lonely little China Doll who must risk everything to find what has been lost. She has a smile that can melt hearts but a

mind seduced by fear. Can she find the strength to overcome her fear and step off her shelf into the unknown...? Not an environmental book but a great children's story.

Fussy Glossies by Catherine Cheung and Kim DeVantier, and illustrated by Suzanne Bloomfield, a well-known Noosa artist. A delightful and informative story about a Glossy Black-cockatoo named Calypto and his friends Garadi, Jarugal and baby

Gabu. Cleverly written for children, this is a great educational book which light-heartedly teaches basic facts about the Glossy Black-Cockatoo, its habitat requirements and its challenges. The book is beautifully illustrated, bright and colourful.

The Book of Krumple by Jim Cox, a local artist from Montville. A well-written children's book about the damage cats can do to our wildlife. Beautifully illustrated and projecting the message to 'keep your cats inside'. The book is very light so it would be perfect for posting.

Pocket Guides by Queensland Museum – Ants, Insects, Birds, Frogs, Fishes, Raptors, Snakes, Spiders each \$9.95 Wild Australia Guides - Kangaroos, Mammals, Bats and each \$14.95 Dangerous & Deadly Wildlife

Other great books

Mangroves to Mountains 3 rd Edition	\$55
Australian Stingless Bees:	
A Guide to Sugarbag Beekeeping	\$35
Birds of Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve	\$28
Fungi Down Under	\$45
Weeds of the South-East:	
An Identification Guide for Australia	\$110
Wildlife of Greater Brisbane	\$30
Wild Places of Greater Brisbane	\$30
Wild Plants of Greater Brisbane	\$30

Nature Sounds CDs	
Australian Frog Calls – Subtropical East	\$26
Australian Bird Calls – Subtropical East	\$26
Australian Bird Calls – Favourites	\$26
Voices of Subtropical Rainforests (new)	\$26
Australian Bush Sounds – An Incredible Journey (new)	\$26
Night Calls of NSW & Central Coast (new)	\$26

Wildlife Cameras

Garden Watch Cam	\$219
Bird Watch Cam	\$299

NOVEMBER'S PRECINCT COMMUNITY TREEPLANT

Stage One of the North Bank of the Obi Obi Creek restoration completed

by Steven Lang, Green Hills

Earlier this year Green Hills received a total of \$345 000 from the Federal Government's Biodiversity Fund and Caring for Country programs to create a two kilometre riparian corridor on the Precinct.

The first major planting was on 24th November, with about 120 people coming to a tree plant organised with the help of Barung and Sunshine Coast Council.

We planted 2000 trees in the ground which, it has to be said, was beautifully prepared by Barung: beautiful not just because the holes were dug and the weeds dealt with, but also because mulch had been spread and the remaining logs of the big camphor laurels Green Hills took down in January were dotted in amongst the rows.

It felt like we were planting in a garden – and a well-protected one at that. In the weeks leading up to the day Mark Amos from Lake Baroon Catchment Care had built a semi-permanent electric fence running parallel with the creek.

This was the first major tree plant organ-

ised by Green Hills on the Precinct since October 2010 when we planted 4500 trees on the eastern portion of the land. Those trees are doing remarkably well, with many of the pioneer species now 5 metres high.

Green Hills plans to hold a major tree plant each year for the next three years until the full 7 hectares has been taken care of. In the next few weeks the stand of slash pine adjacent to this year's site will be removed. The tops will be chipped for mulch and left to lie for a year. This will be part of next year's planting, and it connects with the revegetation work Unity Water are doing in

the Northern Wetlands (visible from North Maleny Road).

Green Hills wants to thank all those who came along, men, women and

who came along, men, women and children, musicians, cooks, and volunteers, but also Barung and Sunshine Coast Council for the extraordinary preparation work they undertook.

Our community on our Precinct, in action!



PETER OLIVER, A TRIBUTE

by Joan Dillon

On November 27th a large gathering of friends farewelled Peter Oliver at his memorial service at Solothurn near Maleny.

Although he had never smoked, Peter succumbed to lung cancer. During his last years he fought a determined battle for better funding for research into this disease and hopefully more of the



tax levies on tobacco will be directed towards essential research.

Peter, through his generosity, teaching, music, humour, social research and legendary ability to bring people from all walks of life together to advance a common cause, touched many lives.

Not only was he personally a great environmental educator but he inspired

others to carry on his work. These people are in local and state government, in universities, in Landcare and catchment groups and also working individually and internationally.

He really knew how to spread an environmental message. It would take pages to enumerate his many achievements.

We were all delighted to see him receive the Healthy Waterways Champion Award in 2012. If anyone deserved to receive that award, it was Peter.

For me personally, I remember his enthusiastic, and loud, rendition of his own composition 'The Dugong Rock' at the 2000 Landcare and Catchment Management Conference in Caloundra.

I also think of Peter every time I wear the small gold dugong lapel pin he gave me many years ago when we were working with different organisations but towards a shared goal.

In years to come we must make sure that we all reach out, respect and learn from those around us, laugh together and share risks, opportunities and resources as we look after our precious environment. I think this would be a great legacy for Peter.

\$\$\$ Donations sought

Can you help, please?

We would like to make **BENCHES** for our new Landsborough nursery.

Having plants up on benches is much better for weed control, plant hygiene, and the backs of our dedicated volunteers.

We need around 50 more benches in total, each measuring $6.5 \text{ m} \times 1.85 \text{ m}$.

Thanks to the generosity of HQPlantations we have enough piping to make frames for 9 benches but we need mesh for the tops. The mesh will cost around \$250 per bench.

Donations toward buying the mesh for these benches will be greatly appreciated.

Donations are tax deductable - please ensure Barung receives your name and contact details (postal address and/or email) with your donation.

Donations can be made:

- online at the Barung website via PayPal or credit card: www.barunglandcare.org.au/donate
- by direct debit to 'Barung Environmental Gift Fund', Bank of Queensland BSB 124 156, account number 100082539, reference [your name] - and please email info@barunglandcare.org.au with your contact details
- at the Barung Resource Centre by cash, eftpos, cheque or money order made out to 'Barung Environmental Gift Fund'.



Benches are good for our plants and our volunteers (above).

Not-benches (below) are not so desirable...



SALE! SALE! SALE!

NURSERY NOTES by Fuschia Collard

Hi everyone, can you believe it's just about Christmas?

And all you avid Landcarers might be keen to know that Barung's Porters Lane nursery is having 'The Half-Price Stock Clearance Christmas Sale'! Selected lines will be reduced to \$1.00 each between 5th and 21st December. So bring your trailers and fill them up!

There'll be Native Tamarind, 'Hauer' Lancewoods, Cooloola Stringybarks, Carex, and Scrub Turpentines to name a few. (Wayne will argue I haven't named them properly at all, but common names are soooo much easier to spell when you're typing your newsletter article at the last minute!)

I hope some of you enjoyed the Community Treeplant on 24th November. We had a hand in growing and preparing many of those babies. We are glad they all went to a great cause.

Anyway gang, we wish you all a wonderful Festive Season with a little rain on the side.

Volunteer news

Sadly we've had to say farewell to a few of our vollies in the last month. *Matt* and *Dylan* both now have some casual employment. Congratulations fellas, you guys deserve it. We appreciate how hard you worked for us while you were here. *David Jensen* also finished up. Thanks for your help, David, and for keeping us on our toes with your lively conversation!

A special thanks to *Michael* (who hasn't left)! He has spent many hours mowing and whipper-snipping under a hot sun at the nursery even though, as he said, the weeds are mocking him behind his back because they are all back the following week!

Thanks also to:

- the master weeders themselves, Ruth Blanche and Clare Sluggett, for cleaning up the tubestock
- the Witta and Montville Marketeers
- **Brett Sparshott** for returning as a volunteer even though he doesn't have to
- **John Arias** and **Lyn Finlay** for tackling those mountains of trays and tubes that have to be washed
- *Marisse Anderson* for lending a hand wherever it is needed
- Pam 'The Cake Lady' Owens
- *Trevor Sauer* and *Graham*, the Friday morning tubing team
- **Nick**, one of our newer volunteers
- all the **seed collectors**.

I would also like to send a thought out to *Gretchen Evans* who has recently had eye surgery. Hope you are healing well, Gretchen. Oh yeah, a huge 'thank you' to the nature spirits for blowing over those big trees next door *away* from us! Apologies to anyone who came to the nursery that day – we had to close because of the gale force winds. It was all very exciting and also a little terrifying.



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2012

Invitation to Barung members, staff & vollies

Friday 21st December 2012, 3-6pm at Landsborough Nursery 135 Forestry Rd, Landsborough

Please bring:

plate of food to share, drinks chair, swimming togs, towel

Barung will provide:

sausages (including vegetarian) and bread

RSVP by 18th December 2012

More info:

www.barunglandcare.org.au

SCC LANDHOLDER ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

Final round for 2012/13 open for expressions of interest from 14 January to 25 February 2013

Sunshine Coast Council landholders are invited to submit expressions of interest for assistance to undertake environmental works on private property.

Priority is given to projects that will achieve cost effective on-ground outcomes, have high ecological values, and have a co-contribution.

Landholders can apply for assistance with:

- fencing to restrict stock access to vegetation or waterways
- installing off-stream stock watering points & stock crossings
- revegetating degraded areas, establishing corridors
- implementing sediment and erosion control
- controlling environmental weeds
- modifying fencing to make it more wildlife friendly.

For more information or help in submitting an online Expression of Interest (EOI) or application, contact:

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/grants grants@sunshinecoast.qld.au

07 5441 8616

Sunshine Coast Council

BUNYA DREAMING

Following the rhythms of nature and the Bunya nut harvest, the 2013 Bunya Dreaming will be a little later in the year than previously.

SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2013

Watch the Barung News & Website or contact Barung for more information.

www.barunglandcare.org.au



info@barunglandcare.org.au

5494 3151

CULTURAL TOURS

Every Friday in December and January \$100 per person

Funds raised help to fund Bunya Dreaming

Beverly Hand's Indigenous connection to the landscape of the Sunshine Coast, its hinterland, and the Mary Valley region give this Kabi Kabi woman a unique role in the documenting and sharing of Aboriginal history and heritage of the region.

Departing from Eumundi Markets bus stop 8:30 am, returning 3 pm.

Morning tea and light lunch provided.

Bring walking shoes, hat, water, any additional food, and good humour.

For bookings contact:

Mimburi 5447 9833 10am-2pm Mon-Fri or mimburi@gmail.com

SMOOTH PSYCHOTRIA Psychotria daphnoides

Family: Rubiaceae

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Psychotria daphnoides is a beautiful small shrub growing 1–3 metres in height. It occurs in vine thickets, dry and subtropical rainforests and adjoining open forest from the Hastings River north to Gympie and west to Carnarvon National Park. Foliage is dense and shiny dark green. The white flowers are small (5 mm diameter) with the petals joined to form a tube which opens out at the end to form a star. The flowers are carried in clusters up to 5 cm in diameter.

The ribbed fruit are succulent ovoid berries 6–10 mm long which are comprised of two hemispherical halves, each containing a single ribbed seed. The fruit are edible, but not particularly tasty. They are, however, sought after by birds. The fruit are pale green ripening to a translucent creamy-white.

Smooth Psychotria is a variable species, with two recognised forms. These are the Small-leaved (or type) form and Large-leaved form (*Psychotria daphnoides var. pubescens*). The Small-leaved form is found from Casino to Gympie and tends to be smaller, to 2 metres only, with leaves 1–4.5 cm long and hairless. The Large-leaved form has 5–8 cm long leaves which are hairy on the lower surface.



Psychotria daphnoides.

[Photo: Wayne Webb]

Psychotria daphnoides prefers light to medium shade and does not perform well when planted in full sun. It is ideal for planting in a shaded garden situation where its dense habit makes it good for low screening. It also makes a good edge plant around rainforest revegetation, but needs to be planted after some protection has been established.

SEIKATSU CLUB: 'Autonomous Control of Our Lives'

by Jonathan Waites

In November, Barung hosted a visit from 14 members of the Japanese Seikatsu Club. They were visiting Australia as part of the International Year of Co-ops and came up to Maleny with their guide/interpreter to meet with members of Maple St Co-op, Maleny Credit Union and Crystal Waters Permaculture Village.

The Seikatsu (meaning: life, existence, livelihood, living) Club was started by a group of women in Tokyo in 1965 with the intention of '...reforming their lives and local communities as well as society'. They did so by starting a system for the collective purchase of milk directly from dairy farmers who produced in accordance with a safety standard devised by the members of the Club.

In 1968 the Seikatsu Club was incorporated as the Seikatsu Club Consumers Co-operative Union to further their aims. Under the motto 'autonomous control of our lives' the club has expanded its activities to include the production, distribution, consumption and disposal of food as well as the environment, social services and politics. This arose from the realisation that these areas are all interconnected and need to be addressed (or at least considered) holistically.

The Japanese concept of Teikei (partnership, cooperation) is embodied by the Seikatsu Club; teikei has been described as a Japanese community-supported agriculture system where consumers directly purchase food from farmers. In this context it is commonly associated with the slogan 'food with the farmer's face on it'. The Siekatsu Club has broadened the concept by applying it to other social conditions as mentioned above. Teikei has also been cited as the inspiration for the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) movement in North America, which has since expanded to Australia and other parts of the world.

CSA has been summed up by Robyn Van En (the woman acknowledged as the person who brought the teikei concept to the USA and, together with Jan Vandertuin and John Root Jr, named it CSA) as,

Food producers + food consumers

+ annual commitment to one another

= Community Supported Agriculture + untold possibilities

For those interested in CSAs, a particularly good book on the subject is *Farms of Tomorrow Revisited: Community Supported Farms, Farm Supported Communities*, by Trauger Groh and Steven McFadden, Biodynamic Assoc., Kimberton, PA, 1998. Also see *The Food You Eat, Farms, and the Sacred Hoop* at www.chiron-communications.com/farms-2.html

Sandy Creek Organic Farm, located between Beerwah and Glasshouse Mountains, is a local version of a CSA venture. See: www.glasshousecountry.com/sandy-creek-organic-farm

The Seikatsu Club members who visited us were interested to hear how a like-minded organisation such as Barung interacted with our community/members and our three tiers of government, as well as how we generated income to carry out our activities and what form those activities took.

From the expressions I was able to observe on the faces of our non-English speaking visitors, it appeared we share similar experiences in seeking and reporting on government grants and in the struggle to generate income. There was also an appreciation of our focus on advocacy which permeates all our activities.

More can be gleaned about the 340 000 member Seikatsu Club Consumers Co-operative Union at

www.seikatsuclub.coop/about/english.html

LANDSBOROUGH NURSERY OFFICIALLY OPENED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Eric Anderson

Season's Greetings and best wishes for a happy and fruitful 2013 to all our members, staff, sponsors and supporters.

Some 67 people attended the opening of Barung's Landsborough Nursery on 3rd November and enjoyed the sausage sizzle. Fortytwo stayed on for the AGM. Members elected to the Barung Management Committee introduce themselves elsewhere in this *Barung News*. I thank those who put their hand up for another year, and extend special thanks to new Committee members Karen Binstead (Secretary) and Martina Gordon.

In lieu of my usual President's Report I have included an abridged version of the Welcome Address I gave before the Landsborough nursery was opened by Mayor Mark Jamieson.

"Today's opening is in a sense 'virtual' – a Clayton's opening. We have little to show in terms of a thriving nursery full of plants, and none are for sale today. However we have much to celebrate in terms of the journey we have travelled to be here.

The opening is poignant, as yesterday we tubed our first plants from our germination tunnels and moved them to our new shade house. I am easily excited. Yes, they do look lonely in that vast shade house, but they represent such potential.

Also yesterday we signed, after long negotiations, our lease with Council to occupy this site.

Now in its 22nd year, Barung is one of the original Landcare Groups in Queensland. With more than 700 members, it is also one of the largest groups in Queensland (and Australia). Central to its survival and success has been the early establishment and performance of its Nursery. Barung's vision to establish one of the first Landcare nurseries in Queensland has resulted in millions of local native plants being propagated from local seed over the past two decades.

In order to accommodate the new Maleny Neighbourhood Centre, the Nursery moved in February 2009 from Bicentenary Lane in Maleny to a temporary location on the new Maleny Community Precinct. We anticipated that 'temporary' would be for 6 to 12 months. After a number of false starts the Landsborough site became an option in December 2010. We were attracted to the site as it met a number of our nursery criteria – flat land, frost free, relatively protected from the elements (e.g. wind) and, most importantly, could be occupied and brought into production ASAP.

We gained access to the site in late January 2011 but since then progress has been slow due to a number of factors. These included the very wet period experienced in the first half of 2011. During this time we had people available to work on the site but limited funds to support the activity. All of this was exacerbated by lack of electrical power which was not connected until February 2012. Significant help from Council with earth works in the Nursery area and with the connection of power to the site has seen an acceleration of the site development.

From a wasteland of run down and damaged buildings swamped and overrun by a forest of feral pines we have, after expenditure to date of \$207K on labour and materials, now established the basic infrastructure for our nursery –germination shed, propagation tunnels, potting shed, shade house and hardening-off area.

All of this has happened as the result of much effort contributed by many people and organisations.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the work of the Barung staff – in particular Wayne Webb and Jonathan Waites, who have planned



Eric Anderson (Barung President) and Mayor Mark
Jamieson at the opening of Barung's Landsborough
Nursery. [Photo: Den Lalor]

and supervised the construction of the nursery. Major contributions have come from no-interest loans from some anonymous benefactors, a Commonwealth Government Employment Grant, State Government Green Army trainees, and in-kind contributions from Hanson's Glasshouse Mountains Quarry, HQPlantations and the Sunshine Coast Council.

The opening of the Nursery is a celebration that at last we have found a home, not only for the chance to again profitably produce the native plants needed in the revegetation efforts of our group's catchment area, but also to consolidate many of our activities, such as our Contracting Services group, in one location.

Where to from here to make this Nursery reach its potential?

- We need volunteers to help undertake many aspects of the nursery's operation.
- We need many benches to put our plants on.
- We require more water tanks.
- We need an access road around to the back of the nursery.

We particularly thank the Sunshine Coast Council for their assistance to date and are honoured that Mayor Mark Jamieson can participate in our celebration. I now invite him to open our new Nursery."

Barung Contracting Services



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BARUNG'S 2012/13 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Barung's 2012/2013 Management Committee members (left to right): Martina Gordon, Lin Fairlie (Vice President), Karen Binstead (Secretary), Diana O'Connor, David Binstead (Treasurer), Eric Anderson (President), Glen Donoghoe, Raine See.

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 eight years ago to the Range with my partner Diana and live on two acres at Flaxton.

At last Barung has opened its new Nursery at Landsborough, although there is still more hard work ahead to develop it as a viable business.

This year I hope to better reconnect with our members through regular workshop activities, progressing our developing Hinterland Bush Links Project, and introducing a new Gardens for Wildlife Project. We will also be beginning the serious planning which will see us in our new Education & Resource Centre on the Maleny Community Precinct.

LIN FAIRLIE

Vice President

We moved from Brisbane in 1998 into an environmentally friendly house at Witta that we had been involved in designing. It was built on three acres of dead avocado orchard, looking out to sea over the Kawana section of the Sunshine Coast. The boundaries were colined with privets which we had taken out and mulched and we replaced them with local native species which we planted over most of the property.

2011–12, significant nificantly the construction and a new 4WD dual native species which we planted over most of the property.

The bird life that has come back is amazing so we feel very satisfied with all our work.

My background is in science teaching and I have been very involved in environmental education and land use planning in south-east Queensland. I have taught the daughters of a number of Maleny residents so it is nice to catch up with their families

KAREN BINSTEAD

Secretary

I 'retired' to Maleny in 2002 after a number of years employed in the Commonwealth Public Service, mainly in secretarial roles. I say 'retired' in quotes because David and I then purchased a bookkeeping service and later a secretarial service and merged them into Top Notch Business Services and then added commercial body corporate management, which is certainly not what you want to do for retirement!

I am also committed to working for the Maleny community with being a member of Quota International Maleny and currently President of Rotary Club of Maleny.

I'm very pleased to be able to join the Barung Committee for the coming year, lending my secretarial skills and supporting Barung.

DAVID BINSTEAD

Treasurer

Another year at Barung provides continuing challenges. During 2011–12, significant additional assets were acquired, most significantly the construction of the shadehouse at Landsborough and a new 4WD dual cab. I am keen that these additional assets contribute to greater commercial activity,

particularly in the nursery and contracting businesses, over the next few years.

These commercial operations, together with our annual Wood Expo, have a dual purpose. They provide professional services relating to care of the land and a sustainable future, but they are also important sources of financial resources to support our fundamental advocacy role.

The Rewards are Magnificent.

BARUNG'S 2012/13 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

GLEN DONOGHOE

I have lived in Maleny since 1994, have a background in business development and management, and have served on the Barung Management Committee for the last three years. During this time I have assisted with strategic and operational development of the organisation and, in the last 12 months, have finalised leases and secured Barung's charitable status with the Queensland Government. I look forward to the challenges ahead. Given that Barung's Landsborough Nursery now has certainty as a result of finalising the lease, we can get on with the job of providing the guidance required to further support our growing nursery business.

MARTINA GORDON

I am a newcomer to the district and I am delighted to have the opportunity to be actively involved in an organisation such as Barung that is actively creating and building a sustainable future.

When newly married, I had the privilege of living on a 3 million acre cattle property in the Northern Territory which cemented in me a love of the land that runs through my family. Over the years I've gained experience in teaching English, running a café, and working in my husband's business. Recently, I have volunteered at Australia Zoo and at the Barung Nursery, which has prompted me to become actively involved by joining the Barung committee.

I see a very exciting time ahead for Barung with the expansion of nursery operations at Landsborough and Barung's involvement in the development of the Maleny Community Precinct.

DIANA O'CONNOR

The need for Barung's activities continues and grows. While governments of both persuasions continue a 'business as usual' approach, despite the continued warming and its consequences, individual citizens who care about our planet's healthy biodiversity are needed to do the on-ground work of informing about the science and carrying out revegetation in our area.

Contributing on the Barung Management Committee is part of my commitment in this area. For me, seeing new species of animals and plants move into a revegetation area that Barung has enabled is a great reward – a small but precious repair of our landscape.

LORRAINE SEE

My background is in education as a Teacher and Teacher/Librarian for 30 years. My focus was always on environmental education and the importance of teaching children the need to look after our planet. You don't get anyone more passionate about the environment than an eleven year old girl!

Now that I'm retired my interest still lies in looking after our environment and what better way to do this than be involved in Landcare work. I love the people at Barung. Everyone is friendly and respectful and all work harmoniously together. I like that!

We are very lucky to have Eric at the helm. He works tirelessly with Diana and if I can just help in any way I'm happy to do so.

PAINT FUNGI

FUNGAL FORAY by Gretchen Evans

Walking through Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve down towards the creek, you may happen to notice a large log covered in what looks like white paint (photo right). This is a member of the paint fungi – sometimes called patch or crust fungi – and it belongs to the Corticioid group. This group of fungi contains a few kinds of heterogeneous fungi that have been lumped together.

Corticioids have a worldwide distribution. Not much is known about the Australian group, probably because they look rather uninteresting compared with the more spectacular mushrooms.

The paint fungi could be confused with lichens but lichens need light to grow and these paint fungi are usually found growing underneath their woody hosts. They drop their spores directly onto the ground below.

Paint fungi resemble smooth strips of colour but on closer examination may have bumps or even small teeth but no pores. They come in a variety of colours including blue, purple and brown. They last for a long time and can rehydrate after a dry period.





So next time when there are no other fungi around because of a lack of rain such as we are experiencing now, turn over a log and see what you can find.

Paint fungi photographed on the Blackall Range: white, rusty orange and purplish-blue. [Photos: Fran Guard]



National CAT'S CLAW CREEPER Coordinator visits Mary Valley

by Ian Mackay, MRCCC Chair

National Invasive Vine Weeds Coordinator Kym Johnson recently visited Cat's Claw Creeper infestations in the Mary Valley and met with members of Gympie Landcare, the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, HQPlantations, contractors and landholders.

Her tour began at Moy Pocket where a serious infestation on State Government owned land is being tackled by contractors with financial assistance from the Burnett Mary Regional Group.

From Moy Pocket she travelled to Gympie Landcare for an inspection of the Lyn Browne Biological Control Centre which raises tinged bugs and is poised to start rearing the newly-released Cat's Claw bio-control agent, the Jewel Beetle.

Landholders at the lunchtime meeting alerted Kym to the increasing appearance of "Yellow Bells" *Tecoma stanz*, a small shrubby tree with flowers similar to Cat's Claw and which, according to Gympie Landcare President Ernie Rider, has caused massive infestations in areas to the south and north and is spreading at an alarming rate.

Cat's Claw Creeper has caused serious problems along the river and tributaries, often leading to major bank collapses and loss of important riparian vegetation. Landholders who have recently noticed the yellow flowers of Cat's Claw are urged to take steps to at least reduce the seed set and spread of the plant.

Mary Valley REVITALISATION Website

The Queensland Government has launched a new website to help facilitate access to State-owned Mary Valley properties suitable for economic development and residential use.

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Jeff Seeney said the site www.maryvalleyproperty.com.au would offer a 'one-stop-shop' for interested buyers and business investors.

The easy-to-navigate site provides information about economic development opportunities, government-owned properties available for sale in the Mary Valley, and what's happening in the community. All properties in the portfolio are indicated on a location map, and properties currently for sale are highlighted. The website also includes a property search function. Potential buyers can register to keep informed about future releases and can submit enquiries on particular properties.

Purchase and tenancy options include economic development opportunities, existing tenant purchase scheme, and open market sales.

NEW NAME FOR MOTH

The Southern Pink Underwing Moth now has its very own name as a subspecies. *Phyllodes imperialis smithersi* was described in

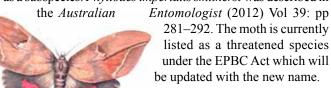


Illustration by Jane Thompson.

WILDLIFE IN ISOLATION

HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS by Susie Duncan

I was out frogging in the upper reaches of Obi Obi Creek recently and was surprised to see an Angle-headed Dragon (photo left) in a remnant rainforest patch. This little forest dragon prefers rainforest habitat where it can find plenty of tucker such as beetles, cockroaches and spiders. Although it will use some other wet forest habitats, it never ventures through cleared country such as farmland.

The remnant we were exploring is 12 ha in extent and will be known to some of you as the Book Farm. Through some fine



restoration work the rainforest has been expanded from the original few hectares that were there when Jill Morris and Richard Dent purchased the Reesville property. This has given populations of the Angle-headed Dragon and the Land Mullet, another lizard with similar habitat needs, a better chance of surviving in this area.

However this rainforest patch is isolated from other rainforest and barely links with eucalypt forest so both these species cannot readily move to new habitat. Where wildlife is isolated in small patches like this, the viability of the population is threatened because of inbreeding or insufficient food in dry years. The dragon and the Land Mullet are flagships for a whole suite of forest species that cannot leap-frog from isolated remnants into other habitat.

This rainforest remnant on the Obi Obi Creek would ideally be expanded further downstream through adjacent properties, linking to existing restoration works along the creek toward Maleny. A broad riparian corridor of this kind would also protect the endangered Giant Barred-frog and the Conondale Spiny Crayfish.

If you have land in the vicinity of the Obi Obi Creek upstream of Maleny and would like assistance in restoring rainforest, it would be great to hear from you.

Vegetation along streams provides particularly valuable wildlife habitat. The moisture and fertility ensure that things grow well and produce plenty of the leaf matter, fruit and seed which feeds wildlife up the food chain. Streams are key linkages in our land-scape and even the smallest tributaries play an important role in connecting habitat. In the face of warmer and drier conditions that are likely to result from climate change, connecting stream habitats and other bush will be critical to the survival of our wonderfully diverse native wildlife.

HBL EVENTS

We have a great range of events in mind for 2013, but these will have to wait for the February/March *Barung News*. First cab off the rank will be:

Little Yabba Park Bushcare Fri 1st February, 8-11 am Little Yabba Park, Cambroon

Members are actively restoring vegetation along the banks of Little Yabba Creek. Work activities are followed by a cuppa and a short bushwalk nearby. New members are very welcome. Contact **Susie Duncan on 5429 6622**.

HIDDEN GEMS

by Ian Webster

'Nah, that property is not for you,' the agent said. 'It is an environmental block – too large, too steep, too rugged, too expensive and no access,' he continued, obviously realising that we were too intelligent and sophisticated to get down and dirty on such an 'environmental block'.

So we bought.

Over the years we would become envious of people whose properties consisted of gently rolling hills of green pasture that provide a blank canvas for carrying out revegetation with a minimum of effort and pain.

Often when friends and relatives visited we could tell they were thinking along the lines of 'barking mad' or 'can't be serious' or 'never make this work' and 'look at all that feral vegetation they are trying to clear'. And let's not forget the 'but how are you going to make any money out of this?'

On some occasions we were advised to 'sell it while you can and buy a nice house on a flat suburban block' (refer to my theory espoused in my last article that intelligence is inversely proportional to the size of the land you buy).

All those well-meaning thoughts and proffered advice had grains of truth in them. Our property is steep and rugged; the lantana and other feral vegetation is massive and widespread; many of our activities and endeavours are dangerous, time consuming, painful and difficult; and there is no chance of turning it into a money-making enterprise.

But for all the advice to take it easy and not push the envelope, I think it is better to experience life rather than just to live life. Go with the flow, trust your gut feeling, expand your horizons and dare to be different.

Adopting such an attitude brings rewards – and unexpected ones at that.

Perhaps we are simple and naïve like young school kids when it comes to being enthused and getting a kick out of the 'rewards'.

The unpredictability of what you are going to find around the corner or when you break though a dense thicket of lantana keeps you going. You keep on being surprised about what you find. We are always finding a 'newest favourite area'.

This constant sense of excitement comes from having taken the taking the risk to buy a rugged 'environmental' block – because the ruggedness hides the gems.

Take for example our 'newest best area', which we call 'hidden gully'. For almost 10 years we have looked up at a forbidding area and asked ourselves, 'I wonder what is up there'. We didn't do anything about it because it seemed too daunting a task. But recently we made our way there, hacking, slipping and cursing all the way, to where we found the 'hidden gully'.

It was lined with very large red cedars, booyongs, native tamarinds, litseas, socketwoods, yellow carabeens plus, plus, plus! Venturing (slipping) into the gully we found rock walls dripping with water, and the roots of a very large *Ficus virens* snaking 20 metres down another rock wall into the base of the gully. There were all types of ferns, palms, vines and best of all, several very old and large Richmond Birdwing vines. Bingo!

We will further explore this hidden gully for more gems while we work out the best way to clear the lower reaches of the gully of a vast expanse of lantana. We think this is such a special area we will include it in the management plan for our Voluntary Conservation Agreement.

The moral of this experience? Don't discount the 'ugly ducklings' of the property world in favour of the siren call of pastured rolling hills and a blank canvas. The ugly ducklings have a habit of morphing into something special.

Oh yes, and don't take any notice of an agent who tells you what is best for you.

TREAT: Landcare on the Atherton Tablelands

by Steve Swayne, Barung member and Green Hills director

In November during my visit to north Queensland, I spent a morning with the 'Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands Inc.' group near Lake Eacham.

TREAT is a community-based tree planting group operating mainly on the Atherton Tablelands in the Wet Tropics Region of far North Queensland. It was formed in 1982 with the objective of encouraging people to plant native rainforest trees. Membership has increased to well over 500 people and the group is quite active.

TREAT meets every Friday morning to propagate rainforest seedlings at the QPWS nursery, McLeish Rd, Lake Eacham. On the Friday morning when I visited, around 40 volunteers were busy re-potting young trees and sorting seedlings. This number

of vollies turns up most weeks and they also have regular tree planting days, field days and other educational activities.

The TREAT operation is co-located with the Qld National Parks and Wildlife Service in a modern and very well equipped and organised nursery. TREAT has been involved in many restoration projects in recent years creating linkages and corridors and expanding out from existing pockets of rainforest.

One project, along the banks of Petersen Creek, is similar to the work Green Hills and Barung are undertaking at the Community Precinct here in Maleny. It was heartening to visit another successful and effective environmental restoration group.

Read more about TREAT here: www.treat.net.au



THANK YOU TO ...

... **Raine See** and **Martina Gordon** for the fantastic clean-up job on the house at Landsborough in readiness for our Xmas Party

... **Nick** and **Grant**, two of our vollies, who rolled up 500 m of high pressure poly pipe which ran down to the Obi from our nursery at Porters Lane and laid it out again at the Landsborough nursery so we can start pumping from the big dam (see photo)

... **Tony Wootton** for your donation to the Porters Lane nursery

... **Mrs Betty Moriarty** (via Dr Peter Wynn) for the donation to Barung's library of a great many botanical reference books in pristine condition from the library of Mr Vincent Moriarty

... **Daniel Hand** who helped out a Barung customer with a concreting job. Daniel did such a good job the customer thanked me for referring him and asked that I pass on their thanks to Daniel as he was very polite and very good at concreting.



2013 MALENY WOOD EXPO

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th May

Exhibitor applications

Applications for exhibitors interested in showcasing their work at the 2013 Maleny Wood Expo will open soon. This includes all exhibitors of wood or wood-related services/products, from mobile millers to fine furniture makers and everything in between.

Applications also open for Taste Maleny Produce and Sustainable Living exhibitors.

If you are interested in showcasing your products to the thousands of visitors who attend the Expo, contact Steve McLeish, 2013 Maleny Wood Expo Coordinator, for an Application Form, via:

• the website: www.malenywoodexpo.org.au

email: steve@malenywoodexpo.org.au

• phone: **0428 674 335**.

Wootha Prize applications

With more than \$4000 in prize money available, thanks to HQPlantations and other sponsors, we anticipate a record number of entries in 2013. The 2013 competition is themed 'on 4 legs'. Application process:

- Obtain a 2013 Wootha Prize Selection Application form at www.malenywoodexpo.org.au
- Submit your Selection Application by 15th February 2013.

Successful applicants will be notified promptly and will be sent a Final Details Exhibition form.

 Submit your Final Details Exhibition form by Friday 29th March 2013.

If you have any queries about the Wootha Prize after visiting the Expo website, please contact Mim Coulstock on mimcoulstock@aapt.net.au or 0425 410 768.



VALE LANDCARERS

by Lin Fairlie

Over the last few weeks Maleny has experienced a number of sad deaths including Barung members many of you may have known.

Warwick and *Antonia Deacock* were keen Barung supporters and it is sad to hear of Antonia's passing. Our thoughts go out to Warwick. Antonia will be missed by many people in the environment movement in many countries, not just in Queensland.

Another who will be missed from future tree plants is **Max Valentine** who, with his wife Wendy, was often at Barung events. We hope we will still have the pleasure of Wendy's company. Our thoughts are with their families.

Environmental education in south-east Queensland will feel the loss of one of its leading lights, *Peter Oliver*, who passed away after a long battle with lung cancer. Peter was widely known for his songs and guitar playing, his most famous composition being 'Dugong Rock'. He was very concerned about water quality in coastal streams and Moreton Bay and was in great demand to perform at conferences. Peter had been a science teacher at Maleny State High School and more recently was a leading force at the International Water Centre in Brisbane.

BARUNG RESOURCE CENTRE

Shop 3, Riverside Centre, Maleny

MON to FRI: 9 am - 4 pm 5494 3151

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info@barunglandcare.org.au

BARUNG NURSERIES

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nursery@barunglandcare.org.au

MALENY Nursery

Porters Lane, North Maleny WED to FRI: 9 am - 3 pm

LANDSBOROUGH Nursery

135 Forestry Road, Landsborough

EXTERNALLY IMPOSED CHANGE

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

Rather than being planned, some garden activities are imposed upon us by the weather, the wildlife and other factors. A recent borer attack resulted in a small bout of tidiness. Now there's a change!

A free flowering Oxylobium robustum (masses of golden pea flowers in spring) was comprehensively drilled and, after being snapped off by a gust of wind, had to be removed. It was actually beginning to invade the house via a corner window and would have needed pruning anyway, but circumstances dictated its removal and created a useful space. The Syzygium windbreak provided a substantial covering of leafy mulch and the area has now been planted with native gardenia Atractocarpus chartaceus, lomandra and rough maidenhair fern Adiantum hispidulum as a spreading ground cover. This is a really useful fern for dry, shaded areas. A backing timber edge between the supporting piers provides a nice illusion of order. The effect of a straight line is quite remarkable.

The long dry spell interspersed with seriously hot weather caused tree fern fronds to shrivel significantly and the placement of some softer plants needs to be rethought. Parts of the garden will have to change in line with rising temperatures. There will be more sun-hardy species and probably more colour. Hop bush *Dodonaea viscosa* subsp. *spatulata*, a hardy montane plant of rocky slopes, is looking very promising. Mature specimens can be seen in the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens.

In a supposedly planned change and a search for 'something different' (a disease that afflicts gardeners), some plants with variegated foliage were purchased. This is not necessarily an easy thing to do with native species. A beautiful sedge with striped leaf edges was obtained from a local specialist nursery and then some research was carried out on the net to determine whether it was from the sub-tropics or a southern state (always a good idea because of the reversed rainfall pattern down south). Lo and behold, the sedge turned out to be a native of Japan. It isn't easy being locally green! The plant is now confined to a container to



Straight edges and contrasting mulches catch the eye in an ornamental garden formed with local native plants.

[Photo: John Dillon]

test its invasive potential. *Carex* species do seed quite freely and the label also suggests division.

The ornamental garden was fortunate to largely escape the recent wild storms, so apart from a few branches blown from trees there has been little cleaning up to do. It has simply meant breaking timber into manageable lengths and spreading the bits under the trees (habitat for insects and lizards). More of these weather events are inevitable so a good windbreak of deep rooted trees with foliage to the ground will provide protection and shade out weeds. *Syzygium australe* is common but very effective.

Despite some imposed activities, it has been a good time to observe and note which are the really hardy species and which do well so long as they have a cool root run under lots of mulch. Young plants have been regularly tip pruned to reduce wilting and promote bushy growth. The spring-flowering peas such as *Pultanaea* species have been very responsive and should put on a great display next spring.

BEAUTY IS IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER

by Ann Moran, local botanist

When I visited the Barung Nursery at Landsborough for the Barung AGM, I encountered my favourite forest community of Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus racemosa*) Open Woodlands. These communities are often on low nutritional soil and commonly have a wildflower understory.

The Scribbly Gums were shedding the old bark to reveal the creamy white trunk underneath. This new trunk was already



Scribbly Gum. [Photo: Eric Anderson] affected by the larval tracks of the Scribbly Gum Moth *Ogmograptis scribula* which are also found on the smooth bark of Blackbutt *Eucalyptus pilularis* and sometimes Queensland Blue Gum *Eucalyptus tereticornis*.

On further searching I found a couple of Gympie Messmate *Eucalyptus cloeziana*, a fast growing timber species. The natural distribution of this species is limited to around Gympie and it also occurs inland in protected areas on sandstone in the Salvator Rosa section of Carnarvon National Park. I also saw *Melaleuca sieberi* on the side of the road, while the common paperbark at this site is *Melaleuca quinquenervia*.

The Sunshine Coast region has twelve 12 indigenous Melaleuca species – including some Callistemons. Melaleucas are a very hardy species, handle most soil types, survive most conditions such as drought, frost, fire, floods, and have some salt tolerance.

These native plants in the Nursery grounds are surrounded by the exotic Slash Pine *Pinus elliottii*. These exotic pines change the soil to acidic which encourages just the more hardy pioneers. Continuing to remove the slash pines will benefit the native vegetation community.

BARUNG LANDCARE

New Members

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Bronwyn Brands

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Elke & Peter Watson

Alfred and Willi Amrein

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Glenn Honor

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Peter Erdmann Ralph Freestun & Christine Crocker

Phillippa Howells Roman & Judy Berlak Tim Cocks Susan & Garry Johnson

LETTERS

Dear Barung

ф

Well done everyone for your help with the recent Precinct Tree Plant. The planning and preparation that went in before we even turned up was staggering – and much appreciated – not having to dig holes was quite wonderful.

Thanks also for the BBQ and the drinks – all went down well. Everyone enjoyed the music – kind of took my mind off my aching knees. It was lovely to see so many youngsters there – even a babe in arms!

Best of all, we got to see community in action which was both uplifting and such a change from the doom and gloom which pervades much of the media at present.

Cheers from Kim Straker

Please keep showing your ...

BARUNG Community Benefit Key Tags

... when shopping at Maleny IGA

Thanks for showing your support!

DATE CLAIMER

2013 Queensland STATE LANDCARE CONFERENCE

27-29 September, Warwick

Hosted by Condamine Headwaters Landcare Group. For more info about attending, speaking or volunteering:

Catherine Potter on 07 **4661 9909** or

catherine@ddrlandcare.org

RESOURCES

The Creek in Our Backyard: A practical guide for landholders

This **free booklet** has just been released by the community group **Save Our Waterways Now** and provides an easy-to read slice of inspiration to help with any creek restoration works.

Creeks are wildlife corridors providing animals with water, food, breeding resources and cooler, protected microclimates. With restoration effort and time, wildlife will return to even the most once degraded creeks.

The different zones of a creek, from the stream bed to the upper banks, are illustrated with native species recommended for planting in each zone. In addition to revegetation and bank stabilisation species, this book discusses plants that attract butterflies along with other practical aspects of regeneration and restoration.

Available for free download from

www.saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au

South East Queensland Ecological Restoration Framework

An SEQ Catchments publication in 3 volumes, of which the Guidelines and Manual will be very useful to Barung members embarking on revegetation projects.

Available as downloadable pdf documents at:

www.seqcatchments.com.au/ seq-ecological-restoration-framework

Quarterly Essay 48 by Tim Flannery

'After the Future: Australia's New Extinction Crisis' looks at biodiversity, what's happening politically on a state-by-state basis, the reasons for the extinction of so many species, and what we need to do in Australia to reverse the trend. Refers to the importance of the work of not-for-profit community organisations (such as Barung).

Available through **www.quarterlyessay.com** and also as an ebook through Amazon and iTunes.



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This entitles you to the bimonthly Barung News and two free trees from the Nursery, and enables you to support Barung Landcare's work in preserving and enhancing the natural environment of the Blackall Range and its environs.

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Barung gratefully acknowledges these organisations for their partnerships & support:

Sunshine Coast Council







Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group



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And also the Business Sponsors and Contributors whose advertisements appear in the Barung News.

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And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members