

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

June-July 2006



Maleny Green Corps Team Fight the Weed War

by Pearl Mercer and Karina Talbott

We've had a productive first month as members of the ninth Barung Green Corps team, with five months of regeneration, revegetation, learning and hard work to go. Green Corps is a group of ten young people who have been carefully selected to take part in hands-on training in Conservation and Land Management.

Our main goal is to connect the remnant rainforest at the back of the Maleny Showgrounds to the Obi Obi Creek boardwalk through revegetation. So far, this has involved intense eradication of Class 3 declared weeds while preparing our site for the upcoming IGA Community Treeplant.

Though it's been hard work, with additional theory we have already grown to appreciate and understand the importance of the *Mimburi*; the continual flow of life within our ecosystem. It has been exciting building new friendships amongst fellow team members, while making enemies with weeds such as the dreaded *Ipomea indica* (morning glory) and *Lantana camara* (lantana).

'I like that I'm making a difference to the environment even just by doing mundane things like weeding,' said team member Jen. While the physical work is a major part, team member Kyle says the theory side has given him a great opportunity to learn about the history of Australia, Aboriginal culture, bush foods, etc.

Team Leader Ed Surman says, 'The team members are shaping up really well. After only a month they have removed three cubic metres of weeds, cleared around a thousand square metres of the project site and collected about four kilograms of seed. All participants have shown they are keen to learn and not afraid of getting their hands dirty to make a difference to our environment.'

As youth in today's society, we are often stereotyped as rebellious and reliant on materialistic conveniences such as mobile phones and the internet. This dependency often results in ignorance towards environmental issues such as land clearing and development which will inevitably affect our futures.

Here at Green Corps, we feel we are actively changing this stereotype through our work. Being exposed to and educated about these issues has also heightened our level of consciousness; we understand that as a community – as a country – our individual attitudes and actions can collectively make a real difference to the health of our earth.

On a global scale, we are witness to all forms of destruction, from industrialisation to wars over oil. It seems that we have become disconnected from the earth – the foundation of all life. The best



Bev Hand, Barung Nursery Trainee, at The Narrows discussing indigenous environmental relationships with the new Green Corps Team
[Ed Surman]

time to initiate positive change is now, and as Green Corps team members we are learning the steps to take.

'Fight weeds – not wars,' proclaims team member Karina. 'Imagine the amount of lantana we could clear with the help of the defence forces!'

While some are not as dramatic as Karina, team member Pearl believes that, 'we could easily repair some of the damage we've caused over the years if we work together as a group. By changing our focus now, future generations might pick up what we've learnt and play their part in repairing our world.'

Ed congratulates all team members, Karina Talbott, Pearl Mercer, Kyle Sommerville, Josh White, Holly Prior, Jennifer Hermann, Anthony Parry, Emma Henderson, Marcus O'Connor and Martin Howarth, welcoming them to the Green Corps & Barung families.

***What's this about
damming the Mary River
at Traveston?
See articles on Page 8
of this issue.***

***Congratulations to all Barung staff for winning
'Best Trade Display' at the Caloundra City Show!***

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Barry Liddell)

Laura Rignault	Marilyn Gibson
Shirley Wells & Sheila Krogh	K Dendle
Christy & Todd Samorowski	David & Peta Taylor
Paul & Sue Jones	Jenni Mathews & Bill Richardson
Neville Ackland	Sharon Griffiths
Steve Dixon	Barry Earsman & Elizabeth Campbell
Brydie Brookes	Shelley Trevaskis
Kenneth McClymont	Dr Geoff & Mrs Jennifer Lee
Collette Sheriden	Raelene Rosevear
Frank Woolard	Deborah Davis
Michael & Paddy Parr	Steven Hegyi
Dennis Doble	Christopher Lee
Allan Briais	Susan & Walter Ivison
David & Marty Alchin	

WELCOME BACK

Brian Patten	Jim Walker
Desley Fricke	Tom & Toni Black
Jenny Gibson	Joie Sumby
Jillian Crick	Wayne Ellis

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

Support Barung Landcare through your Business

As a **Business Sponsor** (\$275/year) or **Business Contributor** (\$55/year), you are entitled to

- visibility in the bimonthly *Barung News* (750 distribution)
- acknowledgement of your support at Barung displays
- three (3) free trees, and discounts on plants in the Nursery.

Forms are available from the Barung Landcare Office.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Bob Hall

Maleny Wood Expo

What great weather we had for Expo. Three superb days and you could think that they were the reward for all the extremely long hours and hard work put in by staff and volunteers to make the event happen. It has been said before but again 'thank you' for your efforts. I would also like to acknowledge and thank all the sponsors for the event and those who lent equipment.

Competition amongst the wood craftsmen for the Wootha prize has become intense and the standard of entries is amazing. Judging must be very difficult.

Unfortunately the cost of putting on Expo rises each year and with so many other big events on in SEQ around the May long weekend time, numbers attending are not increasing. The Management Committee will be looking at the shape of future Wood Expos over the next couple of months.

Regional Group troubles

In 2003 the Federal Government set up 56 Regional Bodies across Australia to coordinate and administer funding grants to Natural Resource Management land and water care projects. Previously similar projects were funded under Natural Heritage Trust and were largely carried out by small on-the-ground community-based land and water care organisations. The Burnett Mary Regional Group, based in Bundaberg, and SEQ Catchments, based in Brisbane, cover the Blackall Range and hinterland which are Barung's area of focus.

Since start-up, the BMRG has spent many, many thousands of dollars to set itself up and employ people and engage consultants such that in 04-05 just \$234,903 was spent on 'on-ground works' out of a total expenditure of \$3,442,751 i.e. just 7 per cent. In the 03-04 year zero was spent on 'on-ground works'. (Source: *BMRG 04-05 annual report*).

Unfortunately BMRG has had its problems. Difficulties have occurred from the start (the first CEO resigned in a matter of weeks) and the second EO has stood down and does not appear to be returning, and the Independent Chair of the BMRG has resigned. The organisation is undergoing a Federal Government review and restructure. We have had limited input into this review process.

Although it appears that BMRG has millions in the bank, there is an incapacity to get it flowing to the frontline community-based organisations who actually do on-ground work.

Planting trees to restore the environment and clean up waterways is the bread and butter business of Landcare and Catchment care groups, but between the Federal Government providing funds and 'trees going into the ground' there is a vast distance and many layers of people on committees and in groups having endless meetings. It certainly seems that the focus has been lost regarding what Landcare is all about. The emphasis is now on process and the need to address ever-changing criteria, more and more reporting for what are really straight-forward on-ground projects. The real merit of most of this process is questionable.

You might well ask, 'What has this got to do with Barung?'

Barung's major grant application hiccup ...

In the last *Barung News* I referred to the large devolved grant application that Barung had lodged with the Burnett Mary Regional

... Continued on Page 7

WEAVING WEEDS AT EXPO

by *Mim Coulstock*

The NRM Tent at the 2006 Maleny Wood Expo took on a whole new life with the presence of our 'weed weavers'. Funding from the Queensland Arts Council and Heritage Building Society Arts Partnership Fund enabled Kris Martin and Judy Wolski to draw attention to our vine weed menaces through innovative and exciting weaving projects.

Expo visitors were enthralled watching Kris Martin build a huge Queensland tube-nosed bat from cats claw creeper. Although we had hoped to source the cats claw creeper from the Caloundra City Council's High Tor Reserve, the steepness of the site made this impractical. Kris ended up sourcing his material from an infestation lower down in the Mary River catchment. This was interesting because growing among the vines were several large black bean trees – a food source for this particular bat! So, not only did Kris's project highlight the vine issue, but also hopefully cleared some of the vine from critical bat habitat.

It is hoped that this large sculpture will one day hang from the ceiling of the new Barung Resource Centre, some day ...

The cats claw creeper dilemma was highlighted by a display by the wonderful Lyn Browne who has been battling this menace for years in the Mary Valley and surrounding regions. Lyn is well known as the Cats Claw Lady, although I am not sure that her 'Lady's' costume made it to Expo!

Judy Wolski approached the weed vine issue from a totally different direction. Expo visitors were able to sit with Judy and her volunteers and create their own baskets from harvested moth vine and morning glory. This novel opportunity attracted a lot of attention and more than one visitor was observed trailing vines and 'weaving on the run' as they moved around the Expo site, weed baskets in progress. We will be running further workshops with Judy later in the year.

The whole weed vine issue was further highlighted by a weed vine display by Caloundra City Council's Pest Management Officer, Greg Brown.

Thank you to all who participated in bringing our weed vines to public attention through these displays.



Kris Martin with his Queensland tub-nosed bat woven from cats claw creeper, a weed vine degrading this bat's habitat.

THE EVER CHANGING FACES IN BARUNG

It is with great pleasure that we welcome two new faces to Barung – **Marion Adamson** and **Jonathon Waites**.

Marion began her association with Barung many years ago as a volunteer in the office. Marion has kept in touch in both a volunteer capacity and as a member, availing herself of the many opportunities offered to expand her knowledge of local native flora etc. Over the years, Marion and her husband have donated quite a bit of Barung's office furniture and she has always been 'on call' when assistance is needed. We welcome Marion onto the Barung Management Committee where she has taken the position of Minutes Secretary.

Jonathon Waites is already known to many from his time as Project Officer for Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group. He now joins Barung as our Sustainable Land-use Project Officer – a position funded through the National Landcare Program via the Burnett Mary Regional Group. Jonathon brings a farming background and considerable natural resource management experience to this position, and is already working on an exciting line-up of workshops to look at how we use our acreage.

Welcome to the ten members of our new Green Corps team: Karina Talbott, Pearl Mercer, Kyle Sommerville, Josh White, Holly Prior, Jennifer Hermann, Anthony Parry, Emma Henderson, Marcus O'Connor and Martin Howarth. Ed Surman has stepped sideways into the role of Team Supervisor and we would like to wish both Ed and the team members a happy and productive project. The Green Corps team's major project is the IGA Connection site, and they have already begun clearing weeds in preparation for a large public treeplant after the winter frosts.

Needed Urgently

4WD dual-cab ute (with or without tray back)

Please ring Daryl at the Barung Office
if you or your friends or family
know of any such vehicle
in reasonable condition
that Barung can purchase
for a reasonable price.

BILLETS NEEDED for INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Sunday 1st October

In October this year, Barung is hosting a pre-conference tour of delegates to the International Landcare conference, some of whom are our project partners from the Philippines.

Other countries' representatives include farmers and government officials from Fiji, Indonesia, USA etc.

Barung is planning to provide a one-night stopover for about 40 delegates as part of their tour of south-east Queensland, staying with Barung Landcare members on Sunday 1st October.

To register your interest in offering a billet, ring Barung now to be put on the list, or contact John Muir on 5499 9518 for further information. Thank you for your interest and support in acting globally in Landcare.

ONE GLORIOUS SUNNY WEEKEND in early 2006...

by Mim Coulstock, Expo Coordinator

Glorious weather once again blessed the 2006 Maleny Wood Expo, enabling all of the hard work of both volunteers and staff to be appreciated by the thousands of guests who visited the event over the three days.

Although the total number of visitors was slightly down on 2005, much of the feedback from exhibitors, volunteers and visitors hailed 2006 as the best Expo to date. This drop in attendance was due in part to the large number of competing events and the fact that fuel prices over the Expo weekend were the highest since September 2005!

However, thanks to a superlative and targeted marketing campaign by Juanita Anderson with graphic design by Penny Smith, we attracted a crowd which resulted in record sales for many of our wood exhibitors. This was fantastic as without the support of our talented woodcraftsmen and women, there would be no Maleny Wood Expo. Some last minute exhibitor cancellations resulted in some new exhibitors with very exciting quality woodwork, which once again raised the bar in the fine furniture department.

Woodworking competition

This was complemented by the outstanding entries in the 2006 Wootha 'Seat for One' competition. The standard of entries was the highest yet, with entries reflecting a wide variety of designs and timbers. The 2006 Wootha Prize was won by the Sunshine Coast's Roderick Stanger with his entry 'Leather & Wood Chair'. Second prize was taken out by David Elms from Wight's Mountain, Brisbane with his entry 'Sculpted Stool' and third prize went to Tim Wright of Mitchelton for his 'Rocking Chair'. The Design Excellence Award was given to Bob Baker for his 'Oblique Seat' and the Craftsmanship Award went to Wayne Petrie of Mount Gravatt for his sculpted saddle stool 'The Lonesome Rider'. It was very exciting to sell two Wootha pieces for the first time – one of which was the winning Wootha Prize entry.

As Robert Dunlop commented on behalf of the Judging Panel – comprising himself, local master woodcraftsman John Whan, and visiting wood sculptor Paul Stumkat – all competing artisans should be congratulated for the quality of workmanship and diversity of design.

The theme for the 2007 Wootha Prize is 'Flight'. Entry forms can be accessed through www.malenywoodexpo.com or by ringing the Expo Office on 5429 6566.

Places in the three Master Classes – carving with Paul Stumkat, making Windsor chairs with Kurt Swenson and steam bending with Ross Annals – were sold out, proving that visiting woodworkers are keen to expand their skills base.

Exhibitors, activities, venues

A record number of exhibitors this year meant an increase in the variety of displays.

More stalls in the Taste Maleny Produce Store resulted in a veritable market atmosphere, proving that there is a large market for home-grown produce and products from small non-commercial ventures. Barung is really pleased to be able to support these local ventures through the Taste Maleny Produce Store.

The EcoLiving area expanded in 2006, with tremendous interest being shown in the broad spectrum of alternatives on display, from bamboo and sustainably harvested timber flooring, to waste treatment and solar systems, ecofriendly cleaning products and pedal power.

The benefit of the educational aspects of the Expo cannot be overestimated – emphasising not only the need to act now if our beautiful native timbers are to be available for use in the future, but also the broader natural resource management picture and the need for making sustainable choices in all aspects of our lives.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from the Burnett Mary Regional Group and SEQ Catchments, the NRM tent also saw a record number of exhibitors. This sponsorship allowed us to offer free display space to many of the smaller not-for-profit groups who champion the NRM cause. These displays were complimented by the wonderful weed weaving that brought attention to the serious issues that vine weeds pose for our bush and agricultural lands.

Wayne Ellis's photos of pigeons of the Blackall Range in the Barung Tent brought the need to enhance and protect habitat to the attention of all. The Barung Tent recorded good plant sales and very good book sales – meaning that Expo visitors took home both habitat plants and knowledge!

The EcoTour program was smaller but more focused in 2006. Both the EcoHousing and EcoGarden Tours were well supported as were the OffBeat in the Rainforest and Farm Forestry tours. A big thank you to all tour hosts who permitted us to invite strangers onto their properties.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and supporters, the Expo Raffle offered a great array of prizes again. This reflects the local support for both Barung and the Expo with many prize donors supporting us in this way year after year. Over 4000 tickets were sold, generating valued funds for keeping Landcare alive in this region.

Our younger visitors had a real treat in store this year, flocking to join Brisbane artist Velvet Pesu in creating musical instruments out of recycled materials. Velvet helped our youngsters make over 260 drums throughout the weekend. The hay bale maze also provided hours of fun and hay fights as it deteriorated over the weekend, proving that children do not need expensive distractions to be entertained.

Montville Coffee again demonstrated their generous support of local Landcare, donating \$2 from each cup of coffee to Landcare – a total of \$2558 in 2006! Apart from this, Karen and Richard gave free accredited barista training to six Maleny High students who worked on the Montville Coffee stand at Expo to fulfil the work experience aspect of their training.

This year the Maleny Country Café evolved into The Real Food Café under the direction of Gypsy West and her hardworking assistants. Barung was unable to run this catering venue due to lack of a coordinator. It is a massive job and we were thrilled when Gypsy agreed to take it on. A big thank you to The Real Food Café for donating over \$2000 back to Landcare from their profits.

As always, the Expo supports other local community groups by giving them revenue raising opportunities through the food catering venues. This year these included the Maleny Community Centre, Maleny State High School, the Naval Cadets and the Maleny Equestrian Group. Thank you all for your hard work and time in keeping Expo visitors well fed and happy. All groups donate a small percentage of profits back to Expo to assist with the huge costs of hosting the event.

We were also able to assist the Maleny Arts and Crafts Show and the Quota Quilt Show through Maleny and District Chamber of Commerce part-sponsorship of a free bus that allowed visitors to park at the Expo and travel to these other two events in town over the weekend.

Thank you, thank you volunteers

My heartfelt thanks go out to the volunteers and Barung staff whose efforts make the Expo such a resounding success. You are the backbone of the event.

Among the many volunteers I would especially like to thank: Heather Spring for her help with sponsorship and planning, Steve McLeish for giving up a week of his busy schedule to oversee site erection, Di Roper and Julie Schober for filling the complex volunteer roster, and Julie for lining up an outstanding Speakers Program, Kate Fraser for MCing in the Speakers Tent, Ewald Schober for coordinating the EcoTours and advising on electricals, and Melissa Chaddock for acting as EcoTour Guide.

Thanks also to Laurie Capill for coordinating the Farm Forestry Tent, and Ashley Sewell, Laurie and Jolyon Froude for leading the Farm Forestry Tours. John Muir did an outstanding job coordinating the NRM displays, Penny Riddoch organised a wonderful Preview Party and Danny Rose's local networks brought the talents of our Maleny musicians to the stage for visitors to enjoy. Cilla Rose and June Hammond again did a great job manning the Volunteer Registration Tent, and community stalwart, Michael Howard, shone in his role as cash coordinator.

My thanks also to Pat Fuller for coordinating the EcoLiving and Taste Maleny Produce Store displays and to Bob Hall and team for making the parking such an easy operation for visitors. Thank you to Clarke Alexander who stepped up at the last minute to run the Landcare BBQ with Michael Howard's help, to John and Mary King for adding their delectable liqueurs to the Landcare Bar and to Lin Fairlie for her recycling efforts and countless other contributions.

I would also like to thank all speakers who shared their expertise in the Speakers Venue and inspired us with their cutting edge thinking on natural resource management, and offer my ongoing thanks to local Tree Surgeon, Tony Wootton, who again entertained visitors with his tree climbing talents and arborcultural knowledge.

A special thanks to Expo Admin Officer, Jane Williamson, who had no idea what she was letting herself in for when she took on the job. Jane's humour and friendly manner made the endless administration of the event so much easier for all.

Expo guests commented on all aspects of the event, from the smooth parking to the courteous and cheerful ticket sellers and the overall light-heartedness of exhibitors and workers. I cannot thank all volunteers enough for your magnificent efforts. The community atmosphere and support again eclipsed that of all previous Expos.

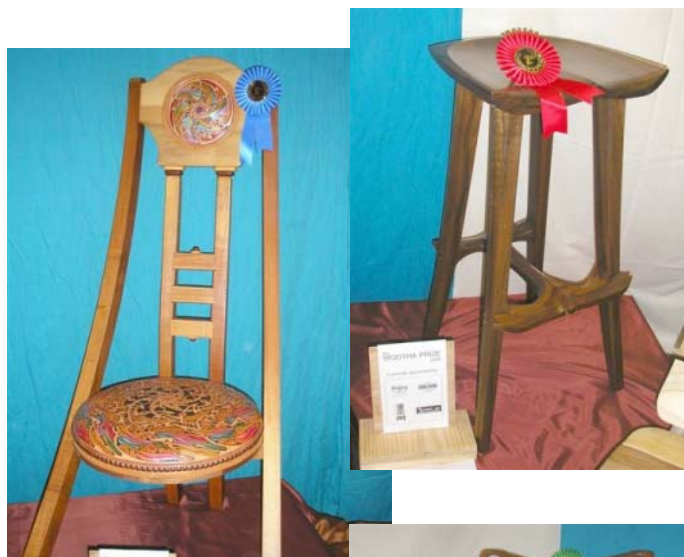
The Expo's future

Expo staff met with members of the Barung Management Committee in late May to discuss the future of the Expo. As Barung's major annual education event and major fundraiser, the benefits to Barung are enormous, while the benefits to the local and broader region cannot be underestimated. However, the event does take its toll on Barung – in terms of both physical and staff resources. A recommendation will be going to the full Management Committee to host the event again in 2007, with Business Planning due to be undertaken in June if the Committee agrees.

If that is the case, then it's 'back to the drawing board' for the 2007 Expo...

2007 will be the twelfth successive Maleny Wood Expo – not a bad achievement for a group of Landcare folk and friends. If you have any feedback on how to make it bigger and better, please get in touch. As always, we are keen for new and fresh ideas.

Last but not least, thank you to all of our Expo sponsors for your faith in this great event. (See listing of sponsors on page 12.)



THE STATE OF THE REGION

Properties in the Barung area fall within one of two regions that meet in the headwaters of the Blackall Range: SEQ Catchments – formed when SEQ Western Catchments Group (SEQWCG) joined with Natural Resource Management South East Queensland (NRMSEQ) – and the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG). These regional bodies direct all natural resource management funding such as National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAPSWQ), Natural Heritage Trust 2 (NHT) and National Landcare Program (NLP).

Burnett Mary Regional Group

by Clinton Muller

Congratulations Barung!: BMRG can't pass up this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the tremendous effort and coordination that went into this year's expo from the Barung Team. Yet again the expo demonstrated the superb capacity of Barung in attracting people from around the ridges. It was an extremely enjoyable event and I enjoyed being part of it. Well Done!

Regional Landcare Meeting: It's almost time again for the next Regional Landcare Meeting! Smalls Creek Landcare Group from Eidsvold has kindly volunteered to host the next meeting, scheduled for 26 June at the Eidsvold Shire Hall. These meetings are proving to be an exciting opportunity for Landcare Groups from across the Burnett Mary to converge and have a good yarn about their activities. A particular highlight at this meeting will be the Blue Heliotrope Biological Breeding Facilities of Smalls Creek Landcare and continuing discussions regarding funding of the Regional Landcare Partnership.

BMRG State Landcare Conference Sponsorships: In addition to sponsoring the State Landcare Conference, BMRG is offering subsidies to individuals and groups wishing to attend the 2006 Conference – *Bridging the Urban Rural Divide*. Congratulations to Barung Landcare who has received sponsorship to support three people attending the conference. This is an exciting opportunity to support more than 10 on-ground 'Landcarers' in attending.

Natural Sequence Farming, the Peter Andrews Experience: And what an experience Peter Andrews is! Kingaroy and Nanango & Districts Landcare groups joined forces to bring the renowned farming landscape management innovator to the area. Peter assisted landholders around Kingaroy and Nanango in identifying core landscape management issues on their property during a day and a half field visit.

Kingaroy Landcare Group Project Officer, Leanne Petersen commented, 'It's refreshing to look at the land from a 'big picture' perspective. The actions we take in one place have impacts (good and bad) in another – it's just a means of getting the balance right for production values and the environment.'

Further information on Natural Sequence Farming is available on the website www.nsfarming.com

SEQ Catchments (Sunshine Coast)

by Susie Chapman

Great Wood Expo, Barung. All ten of our staff that attended our stall over the three days were delighted with the breadth and quality of interaction with all concerned. Congratulations to all.

Roundtables 2006: We are in the midst of our Roundtable discussions for the new Regional Investment Strategy around the region as I write this, and the response is heartening. Shannon Mooney and David Manning have been working around the clock to bring us the maps of all the relevant issues – water quality, biodiversity and landscape attributes – in a form we can use to focus our discussion of potential NRM projects. All the local data haven't been captured yet, but this is well in train. The feedback from the meetings is helping us to hone our process and we greatly appreciate the attendance and goodwill of all those who have attended. The Roundtables have also provided staff of our recently

amalgamated SEQ Catchments with the opportunity to work together and discuss place-based project work.

Peri-urban studies: Over the last few months, a talented team of social scientists including our much admired Malenyite Dr Peter Oliver has been ~~beaver~~ing (they build dams, don't they?) busy studying the transitional area we all now know as the 'peri-urban zone'. Three study areas were selected in SEQ, Moggill Creek catchment, Tallebudgera and around Eumundi. The primary data has now been collected through a range of assessment techniques including focus groups, a phone survey and immersion (eg hanging out in pubs, shopping centres, train stations). The results will give us an objective picture of why people live in this area and what they need to achieve good natural resource management on their properties. We will be developing this into a planning tool to develop appropriate incentives and a means to evaluate the effectiveness accessible through the web.

SEQ Catchments (Stanley River)

by Bruce Lord

SEQ Catchments Roundtables: In conjunction with the recent Upper Brisbane Catchment Network meeting in Woodford, a Roundtable discussion was held with Landcare & community groups, industry and local government representative groups from across the Upper Brisbane & Stanley catchments. Following a presentation on the current Regional Investment Strategy and an overview of last year's projects, catchment maps highlighting key regional assets – land resources, biodiversity and water quality – were used to focus discussion in small groups on potential NRM projects and identify data gaps and capture local knowledge.

Considerable areas within the upper Stanley River catchment have been identified as a priority areas for on-ground actions that protect and restore riparian vegetation and aquatic ecosystems and stream health; biodiversity values including regional ecosystems, corridors and threatened species as well as activities which address streambank and gully erosion to prevent sediments and nutrients entering our waterways.

The feedback from this initial meeting has been extremely valuable and builds on current partnership arrangements with local community groups like Barung Landcare and Bellthorpe Progress Association, and with Caloundra and Caboolture Councils. It also provides opportunities for future initiatives which help deliver agreed regional NRM targets and ultimately protect or enhance the condition of the land, water and biodiversity of the Upper Stanley catchment.

For further information or if you are interested in participating please contact the Upper Brisbane Community Partnerships Manager, Bruce Lord at upperbris@seqwgc.com.au or 5422 0516, or contact John Muir at the Barung Landcare office.

We are pleased to welcome **Ronda Williams as the new Community Contact Officer** for the Upper Brisbane & Stanley catchments. Ronda will be working to help ensure community groups and landholders in the Upper Brisbane & Stanley catchments have continued access to relevant NRM information, to support and strengthen existing communication networks, and to promote opportunities for community involvement in SEQ Catchments regional NRM programs. Ronda can be contacted on 5422 0516 or rwilliams@seqwgc.com.au

SEQ Catchments Water Quality Monitoring Team

for the Upper Brisbane and Stanley

by Cheryl McLeod, SEQ Catchments

Water Quality is identified in most strategic plans as a key issue. Most strategies seek to meet resource condition targets by addressing identified threats such as erosion or salinity. Progress in meeting these targets can be assessed by monitoring the quality of water over time.

The SEQ Catchments water monitoring team pride themselves on producing high quality data. We ensure team members are properly trained and have a monitoring plan. The team leaders maintain the equipment, keep quality assurance and quality control records, and do shadow testing with the EPA to ensure data collected is of a high standard.

We have 42 active sites and have produced 219 sets of data since October 2005. Data is verified by the team leader then given back to the participants to take to their groups for discussion.

At present, there are 16 participants from 8 groups plus a number of couriers. Two new people from the top end of the Stanley have recently been trained, which will be useful for monitoring the effects of subdivision in this area where there are a number of NRM projects.

People who use our data are

- Landholders – for their own interest
- Landcare and catchment groups – for monitoring projects
- Councils – to improve knowledge of the area
- Schools – for school projects and problem solving
- Universities and other research groups
- SEQ Catchments – for monitoring projects
- Industries – to measure impact on waterways
- EHMP – to complement their scientific results.

If you would like to be part of this great team, contact Cheryl McLeod (SEQ Catchments Community Water Quality Monitoring Officer for Upper Brisbane River Catchment) on 5422 0516 or cmcleod@seqwcg.com.au

Vale RICK FARLEY

Rick Farley, who will be remembered as one of the founding fathers of the Australian landcare movement, will be sorely missed, and the landcare movement will be proud to continue his vision and see his dream of environmental sustainability through, said Brian Scarsbrick, CEO of Landcare Australia.

‘He was a visionary who saw the potential of the fledgling landcare community group movement started in Victoria, and pushed for it to become national, which he successfully did,’ he added.

As Executive Director of the National Farmers Federation Rick combined with the CEO of the Australian Conservation Foundation, Phillip Toyne, and convinced the then Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, to fund landcare nationally with an unprecedented 10-year \$320 million dollar commitment.

‘As part of his vision Rick saw that promoting the landcare ethic with its recognisable logo to both urban and rural Australia had the potential to encourage corporate Australia to also make its contribution to the repair of Australia’s natural resources,’ said Mr Scarsbrick.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

... Continued from Page 2

Group late in January. This application, involving 70 odd landowners in the upper Mary River catchment, was for funding of \$446,000. Barung had worked on it for months and during the formulation of the application had numerous meetings with staff and the EO of the BMRG as to the form and the criteria to be addressed. They were very supportive and encouraging. The landowners were all supportive and signed up to the project, all committing to significant ‘in kind’ work.

The 10 cm thick application was lodged in late January 2006. The response to the formal presentation to the Board of the BMRG on 9th March was 90 per cent support, with one Board member saying, ‘Let’s agree to fund it now’ or words to that effect.

In late April Barung was advised that our application could not be funded because new criteria for funding projects were being drawn up.

No approval, no funding

Landcare groups can not exist without project funding and whilst Barung was encouraged all along the way to believe its Upper Mary project was ‘what they were looking for’, the reality now is quite different.

Landcare groups do not have the vast internal resources of the government-funded Regional Groups and if the whole matter of speeding up the process and reducing the paperwork does not occur soon, the result will be that many land and water care groups will cease to exist.

Apart from the lack of funding, which creates its own problems, there is now a huge credibility issue with landowners and of course with the BMRG.

Barung staff and Management Committee members are giving this issue their urgent attention and we will keep members fully informed.

A letter will be sent to all stakeholders in the BMRG application within the next week.

Progress with other groups

Early in May, Brian Scarsbrick, CEO of Landcare Australia Limited, visited Barung and met some of the staff and Management Committee. LAL is an organisation that works with and raises money from corporate Australia for Landcare projects. In 10 years they have raised over \$50 million. We had positive discussions with Brian, before and over lunch, and then he was taken on a tour of some of Barung’s revegetation sites.

The next Green Corps team under Ed Surman has started work and the official launch was on 18th May in the Community Centre. Their focus will be the IGA Connection area for which the community, with the help of IGA, has been raising money since October 2005.

The work of Barung through its committed volunteers and staff continues despite the bigger issues raised above.

Lost property

Found at Expo and Barung

Reading glasses - four pairs!

Beige & navy bucket hat

Contact Fuschia at the Barung Office

REGARDING the PROPOSED DAM on the MARY RIVER at TRAVESTON

Dale Watson, Mary River Catchment CC

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) is a not-for-profit community organisation. The aim of the MRCCC is to promote, within the community and through interested sectors, a common view of a sustainable and productive catchment. The MRCCC has been operating since 1993 with the primary objective of being a representative body of community, industry and government interests involved in natural resource management in the Mary River Catchment.

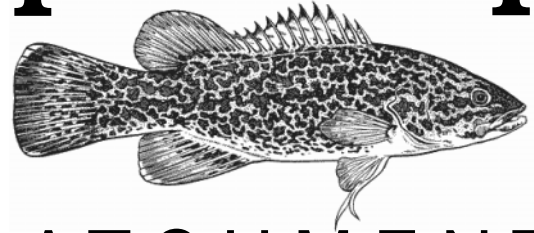
The MRCCC represents thousands of catchment residents and collectively the MRCCC agrees that **all alternatives to water supply for SEQ and the Sunshine Coast's growing population should be thoroughly investigated and exhausted before new dams or weirs within the Mary River Catchment are contemplated**, particularly if the dam or weir is primarily to service the future water requirements of south-east Queensland to the detriment of the environmental, economic and social fabric of the Mary catchment.

In brief, the MRCCC has the following concerns in relation to the Traveston Crossing dam proposal:

- **No consultation** with local government or community preceded the announcement of Traveston Crossing as the site of the proposed dam, and no mention of a mega dam for the Mary Catchment was proposed during the consultation phase for the draft Mary Basin Water Resource Plan. This indicates a lack of strategic direction and planning by the Queensland government.
- The proposed dam site will **displace hundreds of people, and inundate several thousand hectares of good quality agricultural land**, including 11 dairy farms which collectively contribute over \$30 million dollars annually to the local economy.
- Downstream of the proposed dam site in an area already seriously affected by drought, primary producers and land managers have grave concerns about their future viability as a result of **reduced water entitlements**. Upstream of the proposed dam, land managers and primary producers face uncertainty over reduced water entitlements during and after the construction period.
- As freshwater flows are fundamental to marine environments, a dam on the Mary River would have a **disastrous effect on the marine environment in the Great Sandy Strait**, a RAMSAR listed wetland, and negatively impact on commercial and recreational fishing in the region. The Great Sandy Strait contributes \$100 Million annually to the local economy through tourism.

The proposed dam will negatively impact upon threatened species both within the proposed dam area and downstream where environmental flows will be significantly reduced. Two of these species, the endangered Mary River cod and the endangered Mary River turtle, occur naturally in the wild nowhere else in the world. A third species, the endangered Queensland lungfish, now occurs naturally only in the Burnett and Mary river systems. In addition, two endangered frog species, the giant barred frog and the cascade tree frog, would both be eliminated from areas proposed to be flooded. All of these species are listed under the EPBC Act 1999 as endangered or vulnerable.

MARY RIVER



CATCHMENT

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Winners of the 2004 National Rivercare Award



The MRCCC is aware that, Australia-wide, dams are becoming less viable as a source of water storage due to lower yields than in previous decades. Recently, a mini-cyclone hovered off the coast of Brisbane causing flooding and an enormous quantity of run-off (estimates were enough to fill Wivenhoe Dam), yet the catchment dams did not increase during this period.

Sustainable options for reticulated urban water supply, including rainwater tanks, recycling and desalination, need to be investigated. The MRCCC has recently produced a booklet named **Water for the Future**. This paper demonstrates that in the Caloundra and Maroochy Shires, recycled water and rainwater tanks could supply over four times the present population without the need for construction of a large dam. Using the same principles outlined in this Discussion Paper, south-east Queensland could easily handle the population increase projected in the SEQ Plan.

It is estimated that 80 per cent of the capacity of Wivenhoe Dam, Somerset Dam and the other SEQ dams runs off the roofs of houses in Brisbane each year. If that is not a good enough reason for rain-water tanks to be installed in Brisbane, it is hard to imagine what is.

Recent figures compiled by the MRCCC show that the current population of the Mary Basin is close to 400,000. Some of the towns in this region are among the fastest growth-rate localities in Queensland. Projections by the Department of Local Government and Planning indicate the population of this region will double in 20 years. This growth is already placing significant pressures on the catchment's natural resources and the provision of community services.

There are so many logical reasons against the building of new dams. 'Dams don't work' is a well understood concept by the community, it is up to us to get this logical message out to everyone else.

DAM on the MARY

by Lin Fairlie

Barung is a proponent of good natural resource management and takes very seriously the attributes of the Upper Mary and its tributaries and the communities, both human and biological, dependant on them. Good natural resource management does not occur on the run. Good planning takes all environmental, social and economic aspects into account.

The proposed dam on the Mary River at Traveston would appear to be an example of poor management and lack of planning. During the 1990s preliminary assessments were made of a number of sites on the Mary and its tributaries and the Traveston site, among others, was found to be geologically unsuitable. That appears to have been the end of the investigation at that time.

Good agricultural land cannot be replaced and the loss of production from this area of the Mary Valley has been determined at over \$30 million per year.

Adequate environmental flows are essential for the health of any river. The Mary is an important contributor to the sustainability of the Great Sandy Straits Region, its bird and marine populations, as well as the commercial fishing industry. Irrigators nearer the coast would have reduced flows for their horticultural production, further losses to the region.

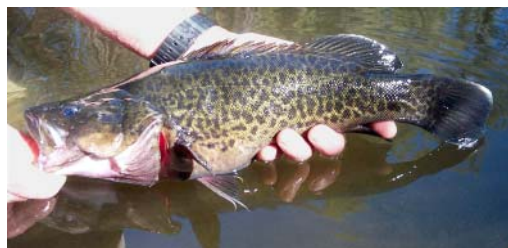
There are three threatened or endangered vertebrates in the Mary – the Mary River cod, the Mary River turtle, and the Australian lungfish (which was originally found only in the Mary and the Burnett rivers). Loss of habitat would greatly reduce the numbers of these animals as well as affecting the habitat of at least two rare frogs. At what cost to biodiversity?

The huge surface area of the proposed dam, due to the topography of the valley, would mean enormous water losses due to evaporation.

The Bruce Highway would have to be rerouted for twelve to fourteen kilometres as well as new roads being required to maintain the road networks for the remaining farmers. What will be the cost of these? At least these can be calculated.

One factor which has not yet entered the discussion is the addition of treated effluent to existing dams in order to supplement the volume required to meet expected water shortages in south-east Queensland. Have you visited London or any other southern European city? Did you consider how many times this water has been used?

Could it be that the dam proposal is a furphy, just a precursor to a proposal to enhance dams with treated effluent?



Lungfish, turtle and cod of the Mary River – their future is in our hands.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NatureAssist

NatureAssist is an exciting new incentive scheme for landholders, providing the opportunity for **financial assistance to protect and actively manage the natural assets on your property**. Landholders can bid for financial incentives through a competitive tender process in return for undertaking a range of activities to protect and manage areas of high conservation value on their property. Landholders may be eligible for refunds of transfer duty paid on purchase of the land, and of land tax. For further information visit www.epa.qld.gov.au/naturerefuge or phone 1800 603 604.



Threatened Species Network Community Grants

Threatened Species Network Community Grants provide funding for community organisations to conduct on-ground work, specifically targeting the needs of nationally **threatened species and ecological communities**. Activities include habitat restoration, weeding, feral animal control, population surveys and monitoring, fencing and fire management. Applications close 2 June. Information from wwf.org.au/ourwork/species/tsngrants or 1800 032 551.



The Threatened Species Network is a community-based program of the Australian Government and WWF-Australia.

Lantana Aware SURVEY

The Lantana Aware survey, a continuation of the survey first undertaken in 2003, will provide planners with information about current practices and how people are using these practices to achieve best management, which will allow us to develop better information and activities to assist landholders in their efforts.

This survey is part of the Lantana Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) project supported by the Australian Government and Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water.

The survey only takes about 15 minutes to complete. The first 1500 respondents will receive a complimentary Lantana Control Manual (normally worth \$12.25). This manual is the benchmark in terms of providing information about current controls. Over time we hope to provide further information about the program and highlight activities happening in your area.

Due by: 31 July would be helpful

Survey forms:

Andrew Clark on andrew.clark@nrm.qld.gov.au
Clare Raven at clare.raven@nrm.qld.gov.au

More info: www.nrm.qld.gov.au/pests/weeds/wons

Soils information website

www.asris.csiro.au

The Australian Soil Resource Information System provides online access to the best publicly available information on soil and land resources in a consistent format across Australia. Information is available on various scales relating to landforms, soil type, soil depth, water storage, permeability, fertility, carbon and erodibility.

Olea paniculata

Native olive

Family: *Oleaceae*

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Native olive is a small to medium tree found in dry, littoral and subtropical rainforests north from the Hunter River region in New South Wales to the McIlwraith Range in North Queensland. It also occurs on Lord Howe Island, New Caledonia, Vanuatu and South East Asia.

Locally, it is widespread and occurs on most soil types. It is particularly prevalent on rocky scree slopes where it often grows in combination with *Ficus superba* and *Ficus platypoda*. While it can grow up to 30 m tall and 90 cm diameter in rainforest, in these more open situations it is more likely to grow to around 10 metres.

Foliage is dense, leaves mid to dark green and glossy above, with wavy margins. The leaves are narrowly ovate to elliptic, drawn out to a narrow drip tip, and 5-10 cm long by 2-5 cm wide. Branchlets are marked by numerous raised, pale coloured lenticles. This is a good aid to identification, but don't confuse this species with large-leaved privet, which has similar lenticles.



Native olive *Olea paniculata*
[Wayne Webb]

Flowers are four petalled, approx. 5 mm in diameter, and carried in terminal panicles. Flower colour is pale green and white. Flowering period is usually October to December.

The fruit is a blackish ovoid drupe, 10-15 mm long, containing a single ovoid seed. Fruit ripens May to September, and in some years may be produced very abundantly, as in 2005.

Fruit of the native olive are eagerly sought after by many bird species, including the brown cuckoo-dove, rose-crowned fruit dove, topknot pigeon, woompoo fruit dove, white-headed pigeon, green cat bird, regent bowerbird and king parrot.

It is obviously a good choice for those wanting to plant bird-attracting species.

Timber of the native olive is very hard and close-grained. The heartwood is reddish brown and often attractively streaked.

NURSERY SPECIALS

Olea paniculata will be discounted in the Barung Nursery for June & July, along with *Myrsine variabilis*, *Syzygium oleosum* and *Decaspermum humile*. These will be available at \$1.75 ea for native tube stock.

Also available, while stocks last, is **MULCH STRAW** at \$4.50 a bale.

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT

BUTTERFLIES OF THE RANGE by Bob Miller

Now that winter is closing in on us again, I thought this would be a good time to mention arrested development in insects.

I am sure that we have all noticed the complete lack of butterflies in the colder months and thought to ourselves, 'Where have they all gone? Do all the butterflies die at the end of summer?'

Well, the answer is 'no'.

If all of the butterflies died at the end of summer, where do the butterflies come from when summer returns?

The simple answer is arrested development.

This, as the name suggests, is the ability of the butterflies to stop developing when adverse conditions are present or imminent.

Present adverse conditions are things like sudden cold snaps, where the temperatures required for continuing development are not present. The temperatures required vary from species to species and development continues again once favourable conditions for development return.

With the onset of winter, the drops in temperature are conducive to diapause. Diapause is the name given to an extended period of arrested development.

Diapause is said to be brought on by the shortening of the length of daylight, rather than the gradual change in temperature.

Diapause is also broken when changes are once again favourable to development.

According to Ian Common in his book *Butterflies of Australia*, diapause can occur in all stages of development – eggs, larvae and pupae.

He also mentions arrested development occurring in at least one of our adult butterflies, the common brown *Heteronympha merope*.

I have personally witnessed this during my time in Sydney.

Males but no females would occur early in the season, then as summer grew closer, females would appear and an overlap of the sexes would occur.

During this time they would mate but no eggs could be seen to be laid.

Gradually the males would disappear and only females could be found.

According to Ian, at the time the butterflies mate (from October to early January), the females' ovaries are not fully developed and during the hotter months (between December and February) the females enter into a stage of arrested development, to eventually start laying eggs in about March.

The theory behind this arrested development is that during the hotter months, the grasses that the larvae need to feed on are too dry and hard to be used as a food source, but this improves in late February and early March with the return of wetter conditions.

A more complete explanation of arrested development can be obtained by reading *Butterflies of Australia* by Common and Waterhouse, 1981.

Opening Hours

Barung Nursery and Offices

Monday to Friday	Nursery & Offices	8.30 am - 4.00 pm
Saturday	Nursery only	9.00 am - 12.00 pm

Welcome Back, Bev

NURSERY NOTES by Wayne Webb

Barung has taken on **Beverly Hand** as a nursery trainee. Bev will share her time between the nursery and revegetation. Bev has previously completed a traineeship in conservation and land management, spending part of that time with Barung. She is also a representative of the local Gubbi Gubbi people, and will be giving our current Green Corps team some training in indigenous environmental relationships, and some insights into indigenous culture.

The **Maleny Wood Expo** has been and gone for another year. Once again the nursery tent was well received, including our display on the local pigeons and doves. A big 'thank you' to local photographer Wayne Ellis who supplied beautiful photographs of most of our local species, and to Tom Tarrant who allowed us to reproduce his photos of those Wayne could not supply. Thank you also to Eric Anderson and Di O'Connor for help in researching the information on our local pigeons.

Greg Smyrell once again helped out by creating a beautiful garden display to add to the ambience of the nursery tent. Thanks to the Range Hardware for the loan of a garden pond – can't beat the effect of water in the landscape! Wayne Ellis set up a beautiful display of his nature photography, and Ashley Sewell set up his display of timber samples – both adding interest to our tent. Ashley chose Expo to launch the second edition of his book on Australian Timbers. Wayne also took the opportunity to launch a new book he has published on the Bunya Mountains.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in various ways over the weekend – setting up, selling plants and books, watering stock and the display plants, restocking, and pulling it all down again.

Jake and I attended an **irrigation workshop** conducted by the Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland (NGIQ) on 20th April. This formed part of Jake's training program, and was a good opportunity for me to update my information with a view to planning for our relocation (whenever that may be), and for improving water efficiency in our current nursery.

On 17th May Cali and I attended a **ChemCert course** run by the NGIQ at Salisbury. A ChemCert certificate is required by anyone spraying agricultural chemicals in a nursery situation. The course emphasises the importance of 'Integrated Pest Management', which sees chemical spraying as the least favourable choice in pest management, rather than the regular preventative application program often followed in days past. It also covered areas such as legal requirements, interpreting labels and MSDSs (material safety data sheets), chemical storage, and the required personal protective equipment. Information from this course will help us improve procedures at Barung, making it a safer (and more legal) for us, our volunteers and our customers.

Integrated Pest Management is something we should all practise in our home gardens and landcare projects. We should devise ways of supporting the natural 'checks and balances' by the use of appropriately selected management methods. This may include being able to 'live with' the pest or disease, and monitoring until it reaches a level where it is about to cause significant damage. This often allows natural predators to build up to a point where they will give sufficient control. We need to consider a range of pest and disease management methods before reaching for the spray bottle. These may include:

- Physical (or mechanical) – eg fencing to protect crop, hand-picking diseased fruit or the odd grub

- Cultural – crop rotation, companion planting, mulching or cultivating to control weeds, plant spacing
- Exclusion – quarantining diseased plants, using clean planting material
- Varietal – using disease resistant or tolerant varieties
- Hygiene
- Biological – eg using ladybirds to manage infestations of aphids.

If you do decide to use a pesticide, you need to accurately identify the pest or disease, and then select an appropriate chemical with relatively low toxicity which is registered for controlling that pest or disease. Chemicals should be chosen which break down quickly and don't remain in the environment. Always follow label instructions.

On Friday 26th May, we had **visits** from both Tamborine Mountain Landcare and Greening Australia's Coolool Community nursery. Once again it was good to share with other like-minded organisations.

For Barung Members

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. No need to pick up all the plants at once – you can take them as needed in whatever quantity you require, subject to availability.

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

Caloundra Upper Mary Catchment Community Waterwatch Network

Information and Training Afternoon

When: Thursday 15th June, 2.00 – 5.00 pm

Where: Maleny Neighbourhood Centre
27 Coral St Maleny

Program: 2.00 pm Afternoon Tea
2.30 pm Waterwatch Presentation from MRCCC Staff
3.30 pm Waterwatch Training (Obi Obi Creek – Maleny Boardwalk)
4.30 pm Wrap Up & Questions

To book: Call MRCCC 5482 4766
or email mrccc@ozwide.net.au
by Monday 12th June



Barung Landcare

*gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution of our sponsors
& supporters, and the many magnificent Barung Landcare
volunteers, committee, staff, members and friends, towards the*

Maleny Wood Expo 2006!



Queensland Events Regional
Development Program
Caloundra Tourism
Caloundra City Council
Supa IGA Maleny
SEQ Catchments
Burnett Mary Regional Group
Regional Arts Development Fund
Queensland Arts Council Heritage
Building Partnership
Perry's Party Hire
Maleny Chamber of Commerce
Maleny Town & Country
Montville Mist
Montville Coffee
Moeller Electrical
Cedar Hill Foliage
Maskiells Lawyers
Hinterland Lawyers
Maple 3
Maleny Rotary
Maleny Apex
Maleny State High School

WOOTHA PRIZE

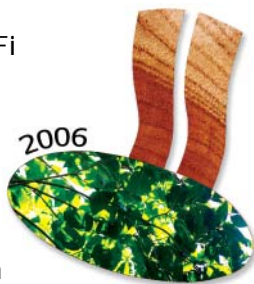
Bold In Gold Fine Art Gallery
Range Hardware & Hire
David Linton Gallery &
Timber Works

MALENY MUSIC VENUE

Maleny Amcal
Maleny Music & HiFi

ECOTOURS

Patricia Jacobs
Douglas Haynes
Ashley Sewell
Laurie Capill
John & Joan Dillon
JoAnne & David Gray
Fergus & Trijntje Reilly
Gordon Sutherland & Nicola Baker
Off Beat Tours
Biolytix



PREVIEW PARTY

Tanunda Cellars
Upfront Club
Maleny Harvest
Swiss Crust Bakery
Supa IGA Maleny
Maleny Hot Bread Café
Maple 3
Cappriccios Pizzas
Perry's Restaurant
Beechwood Bakehouse
The Full Monte Coffee Shop
Monicas
Gypsy's Table
Colin James Fine Foods
Malcolms of Maleny
King Ludwig's Restaurant
Mary Cairncross Café
Terrace Seafood Restaurant
Maleny Cheese
Bodycentre Maleny
Maleny Hotel

RAFFLE PRIZE

Rainforest Liqueurs
Bamboo Retreat
Lindsay Muir
Maleny Mowers
Heather Jones
Maleny Country Cottages
King Ludwig's Restaurant
Bodycentre Maleny
Terrace Seafood Restaurant
The Tamarind
Ashley Sewell
John Gerritsen
Le Relais Bressan

VOLUNTEER PRIZES

Maleny Rural Traders
Beth's Beauty Spot
Top of the Range Quality Meats
Amazink
Living Silk
Maleny Network Video
Maleny Film Society

Koala plight displayed at Wood Expo

*by Hannah Richardson,
Australian Koala Foundation*

This year, patrons of the Maleny Wood Expo were prompted to think beyond the 'Chainsaw to Fine Furniture' processing of timber – they were thinking about the native trees not grown for that purpose and, more specifically, the animals that live in those trees – koalas. If you were at the Expo, you may have noticed the Australian Koala Foundation display.

For all those who signed up to receive more information about the AKF during the Wood Expo, unfortunately Mother Nature stole the sign-up sheet (it was blown away in the wind!), so if you would like further information, please go to their website or email akf@savethekoala.com

Celebrating 20 years in operation this year, the Australian Koala Foundation created a display to help educate patrons at the Expo about the plight of the koala. Their extensive research has uncovered a very clear message – koalas are in serious trouble!

AKF research shows that there could be as few as 100,000 koalas left in Australia, and if we don't act now, koalas could disappear completely from South East Queensland within the next 15 years. But rest assured the team at the AKF is working hard to do everything they can to make sure koalas are here to stay.

However, they do need your help! The Australian Koala Foundation is a non-profit, independent, conservation organisation which relies wholly on the generosity of their supporters and volunteers – people like you!

How about lending a hand and becoming a supporter of the Australian Koala Foundation? September is Save the Koala Month, a time for everyone to get together and help Save the Koala! Visit the AKF website to find out how you can help – www.savethekoala.com



Complexity, complexity, complexity

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

Earlier this year I attended the wonderful conference 'Veg Futures', jointly run by Greening Australia and Land and Water Australia. It was great to see an extension organisation, a research organisation, landholders and industry all getting together (there were 500 of us) to share our common interest in all types of vegetation and what will impact on its future(s).

The question might be asked, 'what does this have to do with the ornamental garden?' Given Australia's predominantly urban lifestyle, probably quite a lot.

Whichever topic was being discussed – vegetation as wildlife habitat, the future of revegetation, grasslands, and so on – the importance of complexity always came through. A simple garden with few species is not likely to be healthy in the long term, or at least not without much TLC and other inputs. We want healthy plants and they need healthy soil plus the right amount of shade, sun, moisture etc to suit their particular requirements.

These may be partially provided by their neighbours.

I'm always amazed by the floristically limited (and frankly boring) gardens displaying common, readily available exotics. I recently listed the individual species in my main garden bed and the total was close to 40. Do the same thing and give yourself a surprise. If I considered the whole ornamental garden the number would at least double, and of course each species is usually repeated several times. Some overlap and intertwine but that complexity provides a variety of habitats and food sources for a wide range of animals and insects. I also find out what will, and occasionally won't, cope with the local conditions.

The more complex the garden, the more likely it will be to provide the right balance of needs for each species. The natural environment is rarely simple and each species needs position, position, position. Some of course are more adaptable than others but to cater for all these needs we allow for complexity, complexity, complexity!

We can choose from a wide range of species to suit our particular soils, aspect and so on, but can also deliberately create some microclimates. A shady area within reach of a fine spray from the hose can grow ferns, orchids, native violets (Barung often has three species), hoyas and others preferring a cool root system. A cool area like this is a wonderful part of any garden.

Dry, exposed slopes are more of a challenge but *Helichrysum ramosissimum* (billy buttons) is very hardy once established, the dianellas never cease to amaze me with their adaptability, native grasses are a good bet and local banksias may fulfil the role in the shrub department. Experiment with your conditions. Tubestock is cheap.

A complex garden also provides loads of habitat for some really attractive arthropods (the insects and their relatives). We like to be visited by beautiful butterflies but their caterpillars need food plants. Chewed leaves will be less noticeable amongst many leaf types. Some very pretty sap-sucking bugs are seasonal visitors and don't seem to do much damage. Green kamala (*Mallotus claoxyloides*) is not the world's most popular garden shrub or small tree but it looks pretty good for a few weeks each year when it's dripping with orange and black *Mallotus* harlequin bugs. Fiddle beetle is a pretty one which visits the flowers of lemon scented



myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*). Some insects prey on other insects so that numbers don't build up to plague proportions.

Sometimes there are good reasons for planting a lot of one species in close proximity, but generally the preferred option is to make the garden as complex and diverse as possible.

Hold On, I just need to catch my breath!

A TRAINEE'S TALE by Jake Smith-Moloney

Wow, soooooo much has happened since the last *Barung News*. If I had to sum up the last two months in just one word, I would have to say '**intense**'. Everything from Contracting to Nursery, Green Corps to the behemoth that is the Wood Expo, I've done it all.

In addition, I have completed the majority of my units of competency for my traineeship and it looks like I will be finishing it ahead of schedule.

What is the Maleny Wood Expo? To me it is long hours, little sleep and a lot of work. That said, it is well worth it, the outcomes are great for the community and Barung, and it provides a fantastic opportunity for local businesses and wood working enthusiasts (woodies) to contribute and share their knowledge and creations.

With Expo and the craziness associated with it behind me, I intend to focus on a few other projects before I complete my traineeship. I had the great privilege of assisting Ed Surman in selecting the current Green Corps team based out of Barung. I'm going to be extremely biased and say they are a great group, I have great aspirations for them and I believe they will go far, especially with Ed's leadership.

With winter just around the corner, it looks like Contracting's work in planting will slow down in the near future. But it's a great time for weed control, so things probably won't slow down that much. As this article draws to a close I will finish with my usual contact info, I am reachable at Barung most of the time during work hours or you can email me at Ze_Bacon@hotmail.com. I would love to hear any ideas, thoughts or comments. Until next newsletter, stay warm and keep it green.

Agriculture not a dirty word

SUSTAINABLE LANDUSE by Jonathan Waites

Hello all, I am the new NLP Sustainable Landuse Officer with Barung. This project has a focus on agriculture and particularly developing sustainability in agriculture. I can be contacted on 5429 6424 (Mon or Wed) or at kendabooka@doggy.com.au

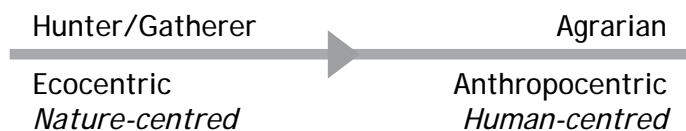
The technology known as agriculture began as a subsistence activity in a number of areas around the globe around 10,500 to 6000 years ago with the advent of what has been called the Neolithic Revolution, a period during which people learned how to cultivate a food-producing plant and make it grow in a place where it did not ordinarily grow.

Agricultural practice has since grown to cover 36 per cent of the Earth's land surface, making it the greatest single component of global land use.

Unfortunately, as with all technology developed by humankind, agriculture has a downside which must have become apparent soon after its adoption. Land degradation due to inappropriate agricultural practices has been recorded from as long ago as 2600 BCE. The practice of agriculture has caused and continues to cause environmental degradation, but abandoning agriculture is not an option we are likely to choose willingly. So what's the problem, and what needs to change?

Agriculture has been cited as the first significant transformation in our cultural evolutionary history (followed by the utilisation of fossil fuel energy).

With the advent of agriculture, we moved from occupying a space in the natural scheme of things as pretty much just another organism to where we are now in an economic (self-centred anthropocentric) householder/farmer position, a species at the head of the food chain with technologies which put us on a par with the major natural forces that shape our planet (consider climate change and what we could do, potentially, with nuclear power).



Agriculture moved humankind from the needs basis (food supply) into the economic sphere (enterprise). Economics recognises and attaches value to things, creates resources that may be utilised or exploited. Our shift from a subsistence to an economic worldview has been accompanied by a change in attitude towards nature and other species. The dominant view sees both as resources to be exploited wisely or otherwise, but unquestionably ours to use.

However, agriculture has enabled the advanced development of society, at least the version that we who live in the more developed world know it as. It has been credited with the development of written communication (writing), cities and nation states.

In Australia, 1991 figures show around 130,000 farmers provide food and fibre for 50 million people in Australia and overseas. Figures for the 1993-94 year show that around 60 per cent of Australia's land was used for agriculture and employed 5 per cent of the workforce. While there has most likely been a decline in the number of farmers and the percentage of the workforce practicing agriculture today, I expect that other figures would still be fairly accurate.

As the bumper sticker says, 'Thank a farmer for the meal you ate today'.

Light work of weeds

CONTRACTING SERVICES by Jolyon Froude

Contracting Services recently utilised a 'possi-track' slasher for a large weed control project with enormous success. The property was on the northern edge of Mary Caincross Reserve and consequently had very high ecological values. The job involved control of lantana, privet, camphor laurel and other weeds along the forest edge adjoining MCR and around large remnant trees on the property. While many areas had abundant native regeneration, there were also large areas almost completely dominated by weeds, and this is where the 'possi-track' made a huge difference.

This machine is similar to a large bobcat but has rubber tracks instead of tyres and a heavy duty front-mounted slasher capable of dealing with stems up to 150 mm in diameter. Running the



slasher over the weeds several times reduces them to a layer of mulch on the ground. Unlike most other machinery, the environmental impact is minimal due to the rubber tracks and the fact that all the weed biomass gets slashed into mulch in-situ which helps to protect the soil from erosion. This is preferable to an excavator or bulldozer which usually leaves the soil bare and the weed material in large piles that can be difficult to deal with.

With the large areas of thick weed growth slashed to ground level in record-breaking time, we hand-cleared the more sensitive areas around natural regeneration, where we found a very diverse range of rainforest plants, including several rare and threatened species. In spring we will carry out a careful follow-up spray of weed re-growth eliminating the competition for these native plants.

The project demonstrated the massive amount of work achievable in a short time period with an integrated approach of machinery and hand-clearing. With several days work we freed thousands of trees from suppressing weed competition which will now start growing and reinforcing the edge of this highly valuable remnant.

Winter is the best time for most weed control so if you have a big area of woody weeds, call me and we can make it disappear!

**BARUNG
CONTRACTING
SERVICES**
for landholders

- ✓ reveg, regen & farm forestry
- ✓ project management - planning, site prep, planting, maintenance
- ✓ weed identification & control
- ✓ property planning & consultancy
- ✓ environmental landscaping



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

A Sense of Place - a Workshop

Wed 21st June



Are you new to this part of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland?

Or maybe you've been here for a while.

Perhaps you would simply like to learn a bit more about the environment that you now call home and find out what makes it tick.

Knowing something of the social and physical story of the place we live in tends to give us a deeper sense of 'connection' to the area.

As this sense of connection deepens, so feelings of ownership and responsibility for our 'patch' are enhanced and often we begin to take a more active role in ensuring its wellbeing, both physical and social.

Whether you have less than a hectare or more than a hundred, you are invited to participate in a one day workshop which will give you an overview of how the land around you got to be the way it is.

Several presenters will cover topics including,

- local aboriginal history and farming history,
- how the landscape was formed and the processes that continue to modify its appearance, including relationships between water, geology, soil and vegetation,
- climate and impending climate change.

The cost for the workshop is \$5 for Barung members and \$7.50 for non-members, which includes morning tea and lunch supplied by Mary Cairncross Café.

The workshop will be held at Mary Cairncross Park on **WEDNESDAY 21st JUNE**.

Please book by **Friday 16th June**.

For more information and bookings, please contact Jonathan Waites, NLP Sustainable Landuse Officer, on 5429 6424 or kendabooka@doggy.com.au

ACDC COURSE

Agricultural Chemical Distribution Certification

When: 3rd and 4th of July

Time: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Cost: Barung members \$355
Non-Barung members \$375

(includes books, two-day course, exam fees and licence fee)

- Limited to 8 participants
- Morning tea provided, bring your own lunch
- Payment due by 26th June

****This may very well be the last ACDC course run in Maleny. The Nambour TAFE course runs for 4 days class-time plus 2 days practical and costs about \$600.00 per person.**

Contact Cali or Barung Admin to reserve your place on 5494 3151.

Fungi Foray in Mapleton State Forest

Come along to discuss and photograph the fabulous local FUNGI.

When: 17 June 2006

Times: Depart Barung Nursery 8:30 am
and return 1:00 pm.

BYO: Everything – water, wet weather gear, camera, snacks etc.

To register interest, please contact Barung on 5494 3151.

We will be limiting this trip to 15 people, but we'll be doing Fungi Forays more often from now on.

POSITIONS VACANT

The Hinterland Business Centre is offering positions to long-term unemployed persons and mature-aged persons over 40 years of age in

**Landcare and Conservation Work
with Barung Landcare Group**

The positions will be full-time for 15 weeks. Training Wage Award applies.

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

For more information, contact Greg Smyrell at Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 IMMEDIATELY!

Caloundra City Council's MAGNIFICENT RESERVES

by Mark Bonner,
Natural Areas Team Leader - Rural, Zone 3
Coordinator - Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve

There are many reasons which make working in conservation in this City very worthwhile – the main ones relating to the very un-City-like nature of our environment. We have the honour of living in one of Australia's nature hotspots, with south-east Queensland containing two-thirds of the state's biodiversity, and rivalling the wet tropics for fauna diversity. It is a centre of species richness for butterflies, frogs, turtles, snakes, lizards, birds and marsupials. The diverse range of vegetation communities in our City provides varied ecological niches for our diverse fauna.

The news isn't all good though. In our City, we have 76 plant and 70 animal species scheduled under State legislation as either Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare. Facts often overlooked in the fastest growing region of Australia. Protection and restoration of natural areas is now more important than ever. In our neck of the woods, rainforests are of special interest. Rainforests in south-east Queensland are home to over 100 threatened fauna and flora species. Patches like Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve offer last strongholds for many species and provide a rare glimpse to visitors of the habitat that formerly covered the southern Blackall Range. Rare and threatened species such as the Coxen's fig parrot, marbled frogmouth, Richmond birdwing butterfly and

mountain freshwater crayfish all call this rainforest home, and all are on our doorsteps.

Overall, Council manages over 2600 hectares of natural areas across the City. The City is divided into zones, and I work in the section of the Council's Environmental Operations called the Zone 3 Natural Areas Team, based at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve. Our area of responsibility – Zone 3 – comprises Council-managed natural areas on the Blackall Range and its hinterland areas.

The reserves in Zone 3 range from small parcels of several acres such as Tarooma Court, Peachester, to larger reserves like Policeman's Spur (40 ha) and Crohamhurst (35 ha), and Council's newest acquisition at Mt Mellum (36 ha).

Our crew consist of three Conservation Areas staff who undertake a variety of duties to maintain and enhance these reserves. These include revegetating remnant habitats, controlling noxious weeds and feral animals, carrying out hazard reduction and fire control, providing infrastructure, and constructing and maintaining walking and vehicle tracks, to name a few.

Council's local Natural Areas crew are currently planning or working on projects such as constructing a new viewing deck in Mary Cairncross Reserve, revegetating a riparian corridor at Peachester, a National Tree Day planting bee, and maintaining a range of Conservation areas for the benefit of our City's special biodiversity.



OPPORTUNITIES and EVENTS

Queensland Landcare Conference

Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide

When: 21-24 August 2006

With two award presentations, more than 35 concurrent sessions and four keynote speakers, the Inaugural Landcare City v Country Cricket Match, numerous field trips, trade exhibitions, networking opportunities ...

More info: 3211 4413 or kerri@landcare.com.au

Website: www.landcare.org.au

Sustainable Water in the Urban Environment

When: 19-21 June 2006

Where: University of the Sunshine Coast

Do we have enough to go around? How can we use it more wisely? Where are the priorities and how do we allocate water rights equitably? More attention is being focused on all aspects of water capture, management, treatment, policy development and regulations than ever before.

The Queensland chapters of AWA and SIA in association with UDIA have collaborated to provide a technical conference for anyone working in the sustainable water industry or anyone interested in exploring solutions in resolving water use sustainably.

More info: Kathy Bourbon at awaq@bigpond.net.au or 3397 5644

Back to Basics

The 2nd OPAQ Queensland Organic Conference

When: 1 and 2 September 2006

Where: Beerwah

This two-day conference organised by the Organic Producers Association of Queensland Inc will provide a speakers program on Day 1 followed by farm tours on Day 2. The sessions and speakers have been selected to explain the various techniques being used to get the best results in organic production management with emphasis on soil health, pest control, weed control, water management, and marketing systems as well as nutrition and health.

More info: Keith Morris at kmo91141@bigpond.net.au or 0500 581 469

2006 International Riversymposium

Tackles Rivers and Climate Change

When: 4-7 September 2006

Where: Brisbane

Water scientists, natural resource managers and land-use professionals will tackle this year's theme, 'Managing rivers with climate change and expanding populations'. Special workshops are planned for climate change, AusAID regional plans, World Water Monitoring Day, and water planning in Australia.

More info: www.riversymposium.com



Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

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

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group will shortly begin a **new project year**. If you are a landholder within the Lake Baroon watershed and you would like financial assistance with a project on your creek or drainage line, contact our office.

The financial year drawing to a close has seen LBCCG involved in the initiation of 13 new projects protecting and improving more than 1700 linear metres of waterway along the Obi Obi, Bridge and Walkers creeks and their tributaries. Over a kilometre of fencing spread over five properties and two complete off-stream watering systems have been partially financed under this year's programme. We have also provided direct funding for 4128 seedlings to be planted in joint efforts with Caloundra City Council and Barung Landcare – including a final project still under negotiation – raising the figure of new plants in the ground to about 15,000 all told.

AquaGen, bulk water supplier to Maroochy Shire and Caloundra City councils, puts up the necessary dollars for these kinds of cooperative projects wherein landholders or community organisations provide in-kind contributions to improve water quality to Lake Baroon Pocket Dam. LBCCG anticipates another year of grant money

under the auspices of the 2006-07 Aquagen budget.

We want to start the process of reviewing potential projects now to minimise delays in actually starting the new projects in the new financial year.

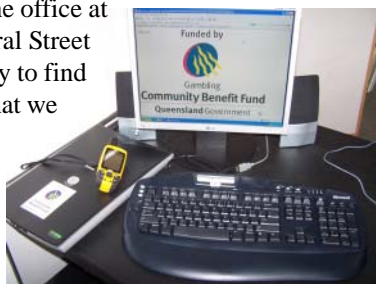
Contact our Project Officer, Susan Baggett Edols, on 5494 3775 for your project assessment.

LBCCG was recently awarded \$2445 by the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund to set up a Graphic Information System with GPS unit which we will use to monitor projects, identify sites for new projects, monitor weeds and water quality, map property boundaries, and so on. LBCCG is working together with Barung Landcare, who have a complementary set-up, to gather useful information we can share.

We would like to invite members and people who would like to develop water quality improvement projects to visit the office at 19 Coral Street Maleny to find out what we can do for you.



Gambling
Community Benefit Fund
Queensland Government



Name That Stream



Do you think your local stream deserves a name?






Forest Recovery Workshop

Maroochy Shire Council Farm Forestry

When: Sat 17th June
Times: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
Where: Spring Pastures Dr, Dulong

This silviculture workshop aims to demonstrate how a neglected woodlot can be managed to improve performance, including tree marking for thinning, pruning techniques, mulching and options to value-add, weed management, and monitoring and management techniques. The workshop will take place at Dulong in a neglected woodlot that was set up by DNRM&W ten years ago. We have thinned part of the plantation, pruned to six metres and recovered some products from the thinnings. We will be looking at the effects of pruning and thinning on the value of your end product and will be doing a marking and thinning demonstration on the rest of the plantation. Anyone who has a mature plantation or who is interested in seeing what happens when you don't maintain your plantation should find this workshop very interesting.

Bring: Hat, covered shoes, and as many questions as you can think of
To book: Richard Newton on 5441 8138 or 0418 742 646 or newtonr@maroochy.qld.gov.au

Farm Forestry Bus Trip

Noosa Landcare Farm Forestry

When: 22 July
Times: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Meet at: Rural Futures Centre, Pomona

Join us for our annual bus trip showcasing farm forestry developments in the Noosa and Maroochy hinterland.

Our tour will begin at the Farm Forestry Nursery at Pomona in the five-year-old eucalypt spacing demonstration site.

Then it's on to 6-month-old eucalypt and 1-year-old rainforest plantations on ex-canefields in Maroochydhore, a 3-year-old plantation on 'black wattle' country at Black Mountain, and a beautiful ex-dairy farm at Moy's Pocket on the Mary River - in its third year of plantation establishment and in line to be resumed as part of the buffer zone for the proposed Mary River dam.

Seats are limited and usually sell out so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Cost: \$25, covers morning tea, lunch & bus
To book: Kaara Shaw on 5485 2313 or ff@futurescentre.spiderweb.com.au

THANK YOU to ...

... A HUGE thank you to *Montville Coffees' Karen and Richard Barnett* for donating \$2 from every cup sold at the Expo back to Barung. Fantastic work!

... *Adrian from the Maleny Hotel* for donating champagne for the Wood Expo preview party

... WOW! Thanks again to *Rainforest Rescue* for another generous donation of \$500 towards the IGA Treeplant project

... the latest *Green Corp team* for starting preparation of the IGA Treeplant site

... *Everyone* helping to get trees in the ground by *contributing* toward the *IGA Community Benefit Fund*

... *Denis Lalor* for helping with the MYOB maze!

... *Marion Adamson, Patrick Cavanaugh, Shanyyn Todd, Max Smith, Colin & Val Phillips* for helping with the April-May *Barung News* mailout.

The Blackall Range Landholders Guide

The essential guide to living on the Blackall Range

Available from Barung Landcare

\$15 (plus \$3 if posted)

Also available at

Rosetta Books

Maple Street Co-Op

Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve



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 Business Sponsor form.

All donations to Barung and the Barung Environmental Gift Fund are Tax Deductible!

DEADLINE - Wed 19th July for August-September 2006 Newsletter contributions

Barung Landcare...



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

THANK YOU

LETTERS ...

Great Expo and more for IGA Tree Plant

Dear Mim

On behalf of Rainforest Rescue I would like to thank Barung Landcare for providing us with a stall space at the Maleny Wood Expo. Congratulations also on staging an excellent event. I thought it was the best ever.

Please find enclosed a further gift of \$500 to Barung Landcare for your upcoming IGA Tree Planting event. This brings our contribution for the project to \$1000. We wish you a successful event.

Please keep us informed of the details of the event as we would like to attend if we have the time.

Yours sincerely

Kelvin Davies, Rainforest Rescue

Exhibitors appreciated Expo

To Juanita and all the wonderful helpers of the Maleny Wood Expo,

You are all fantastic! Thank you for all your help and support. We had a positive and fun time. See you next year!

Regards

Philip and Denise Boorman, TJP Pty Ltd

Record Coffee Sales at the Wood Expo mean \$2558 to Landcare!

Dear Mim

As usual, it was a pleasure to support such a fantastic event. The feeling at the Wood Expo this year was really warm and friendly and it is always a joy to work with your committee and many volunteers. The Maleny students working with us see first hand how much fun volunteering in your community can be. And, what you can accomplish. They were thrilled to be part of raising a significant amount of money for Landcare.

Over the 3 days, we sold a record 1536 cups of coffee. Our pledge to you is \$2 a cup (excluding vouchers) so I enclose a cheque for \$2558 to Barung Landcare.

Congratulations again on a wonderful event. With kind regards

Karen & Richard Barnett, Montville Coffee

Networking with Tamborine Landcare

Hello Darryl

Just wanted to mention a very special 'Thanks' for the valuable time you allocated to us last Friday. We very much enjoyed the visit and learned a great deal.

Please also thank John, Mim, Wayne and others who took so much time out of their busy schedules to meet us. It's great to have such good friends in the 'business'.

Kindest regards

Alan O'Neill

Secretary, Tamborine Mountain Landcare

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Exotic or Native? ...

... continued from page 16

gratify our desire for the what's in fashion in the garden, we will inevitably be introducing new weeds into our remaining natural ecosystems. Lantana, cats claw, Madeira vine, morning glory, camphor laurel and many more are serious environmental weeds that have jumped the back fence from people's gardens.

These plants should be a warning to us of the potential for destruction when a plant is released from its natural environment.

The challenge I would like to pose to many horticulturalists is to bring local native plants into local garden centres. It's one thing for us to support mainstream Australian industry by buying 'Australian Made' products, but it's about time we started supporting local ecosystems by planting the real 'Australian Made' plants, perfectly designed for real Australian gardens and much appreciated by Australian fauna. Apologies for the blatant overuse of national pride, but if that's what it takes to get gardeners planting less exotics, then I'll join the mainstream media and some politicians in exploiting nationalism. Well, maybe not.

The average Australian garden however is a reflection of the poor relationship recent Australians have with our native ecosystems. Ask most Australians to name a few native Australian native plants and Gum trees and Wattles may come to mind and perhaps even Jacarandas! Their responses might run a little something like this 'Gum trees are ok because they have good wood and feed koalas, but then again they are messy and drop branches, Wattles are often not so good because of their rapid growth and ability to turn a cow paddock into scrub within a few years and, well, Jacarandas are just as Aussie as me and you'. Even the language used to describe our local flora such as 'Scrub', 'Brush', 'Swamp' etc is derogatory and displays a lack of understanding of our local ecosystems.

The challenge for us all as new Australians is to immerse ourselves in our local ecosystems and learn all we can about the plants and animals that live within them.

Gardening can be used for good (and not for evil!) in this regard, because gardeners as a rule interact with their plants and the animals that utilise them on a very personal basis and this familiarity leads to knowledge and appreciation. Every local native plant in your garden is a step forward for us living in harmony with our local ecosystems. What's more, our local native plants shouldn't be planted out of sympathy or duty but because they are amazing for their flowers, fruit, foliage and so many other reasons. The only reason many of these plants are not in our gardens yet, is because of our lack of knowledge.

So do yourself a favour, buy local Australian-made plants and you will well and truly be investing in Australia's future.

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Exotic or Native?

TURKEY TANGENTIAL

by *Spencer Shaw of Brush Turkey Enterprises*

Recently I undertook a covert and highly dangerous mission risking life, limb and sanity to infiltrate a notoriously dangerous event. An event that threatens the very fabric of our society – a garden expo!

I have partaken in several preliminary missions as a speaker at several individual garden clubs over the last few years but nothing could prepare me for a full gathering of these local garden clubs (gangs, some may say!) and their agenda to usurp our native Australian flora with just about anything as long as it's exotic!

Dangerous, I hear you say? Surely not those innocent grannies, tending their roses! How could they be the threat you are portraying? Surely, Spencer, your imagination has got the better of you and you are suffering from some grand illusion!

Well people, I'm going to blow the cover on this most insidious of plots. I, for the first time ever, will be revealing the agenda of

a secret society so nefarious in its intent, so devious in its methods, so completely evil ... just wait a second there's somebody at the front door. Oh no, they've found me, I don't want to end up at the bottom of someone's compost heap! Honestly, exotic plants are great, please no, not the secateurs, no, no, no, arghhhhh ...

Just joking of course, Garden Clubs have plenty of native plant growers and are great groups to do talks for. This expo was 50-50 native and exotic, so it looked like positive moves were afoot.

However, then came the keynote speaker's talk. He spoke about his trip to Thailand, assisting the nursery industry in bringing 100s of 'new' plants back into Australia. We were all assured that the risk of bringing plant diseases back into the country was virtually nil and that the potential of new weeds resulting from these imports was *almost* nil, which I *almost* find comforting.

The problem with most weeds is that they are not weeds in their natural environments. It's only when a plant is *discovered* for horticulture and released from its natural ecosystem that we will discover its potential as a weed. The examples are numerous. The truth is that when we introduce exotic plants into Australia to

... continued on page 15

The Barung Family

BARUNG VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Vice President	<i>Lin Fairlie</i>
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CSW Trainee	<i>Jane Williamson</i>
The CODLine Editor	<i>Eve Witney</i>
Barung Newsletter Editor	<i>Eve Witney</i>

***And our many Volunteers, Labour
Team Participants, and Members***

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Maleny QLD 4552

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ph 07 5494 3151
fax 07 5494 3141
barung@sun.big.net.au
barungreveg@big.net.au
barungadmin@big.net.au
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