



Barung's 2005 AGM and 'Bridge the Gap' Treeplant

At Maleny township's very own patch of remnant rainforest

Barung staff and committee invite all our members and friends to join us on the morning of Saturday 15th October for a treeplant on Caloundra City Council land in the Maleny Showgrounds.

Please drive through the Showgrounds and around the remnant to park beyond the Equestrian Centre. Just look for the Barung tent and someone will point you in the right direction.

The treeplant will be followed by a gourmet BBQ lunch, with the Annual General Meeting in the afternoon.

Treeplanters are asked to come anytime from 10 am and we hope to be finished by noon. Please bring a shovel or mattock, gloves, a hat and sunscreen, and wear good boots.

This planting will form part of a connecting corridor that will link the small but precious remnant at the Maleny Showgrounds to exiting revegetation works on the Obi Obi Boardwalk.

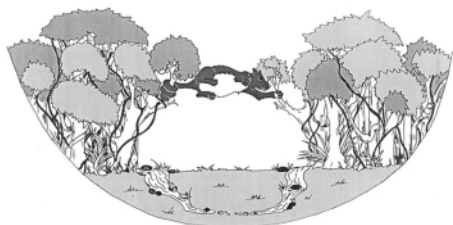
This is the only patch of remnant rainforest left in town, so it is important that we do all we can to protect and preserve it into the future. The AGM Treeplant will also help improve the water quality in the small degraded creek running around the edge of the pony club area.

The area planted at the 2005 AGM will border one side of the proposed IGA Connection corridor between the Showgrounds remnant and Obi Obi Creek (see separate article on this page.)

Please ring the Barung Office if you can join us for this AGM treeplant so we can make sure we have enough food!

The treeplant will be a great morning of friendship, fun and on-ground activity, while the AGM provides a good chance to get to know members of the Barung Management Committee and staff and find out just what has been happening in Landcare over the past year.

So put a reminder on your fridge now and give us a ring to confirm your support.



BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS



October-November 2005

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

The 'IGA Connection'

A lasting 'thank you' to the Maleny IGA for its support of Landcare & the community

Mim Coulstock

As many of you know, Rob and Samantha Outridge of the Maleny IGA have been extremely generous in their support of the local community over many years. In the past two years alone, almost 60 local community groups have received financial assistance for a wide variety of projects, local landcare among them.

The IGA has provided cash or inkind support for the Maleny Wood Expo, our AGM treeplants, our Landcare Week BBQs and many other smaller but equally important events.

2005 is the 100th anniversary of the IGA building, and it seems an appropriate time to say a big and lasting 'thank you' to Rob and Samantha and the IGA.

The best way we can see to do this is to start raising funds from the community for the 'IGA Connection' – a treeplant linking the last remnant rainforest at Maleny Showgrounds with the Obi Obi Creek. This is a project we've wanted to undertake for many years and now the time is ripe.

We will be asking all community groups who have received assistance from the IGA over the years to make a donation to cover the cost of trees, stakes, mulch and maintenance.

We will also be asking local residents who have benefited from the IGA's generosity – whether to Landcare, our schools, the Navel Cadets, Zonta, the numerous Maleny sporting groups, the Fire Brigade, Light Horse, the Xmas Street Festival, the Maleny Arts Centre, Maleny Community Centre, Dexter Cattle group, Gordon School of Highland Dancing, the Maleny Men's Support Group, Blue Care ... and the list goes on – to donate \$10 to cover the cost of a tree, stake, mulch and some maintenance. This must be almost everyone in Maleny!

All donors will have their names recorded on permanent plaques to be erected around the site, as a lasting legacy to Rob and Samantha's generosity and community spirit, for future generations to appreciate.

Please find a donation form in this Newsletter or pick one up at the IGA in town. And please tell all your friends about this Barung initiative.

Once we have raised sufficient funds, we will hold a community 'IGA Connection' treeplant to make the dream a reality!

Not only will the 'IGA Connection' provide a lasting 'thank you' to Rob and Samantha and the IGA, but it will create an essential linkage to help preserve the viability of this isolated historic remnant, improve the quality of the water entering Obi Creek, and restore the banks of the creek from a weed-infested rubbish heap to a magnificent rainforest that will help beautify the Maleny Showgrounds.

IN THIS ISSUE

2005 Barung AGM and Treeplant	1
'IGA Connection' treeplant initiative	1
President's Report, New Members	2
Blackall Range Landholders Guide launch	3
Corporate Memory/Case Studies available	3
Management Committee Member profiles	4,5
Thank you to retiring MC members	6
Farmer Profile: Mal & Margaret Thompson	6
Funding Opportunity for Stanley R. residents	7
Threatened Species Grant approved	7
Gandhi School student internships	7
State of the Regional Groups	8, 9
Visit from Mongolia	9
Weeds are just plants with egos	10
Bellthorpe PA tackles new weed: Palm grass	11
Contracting Services: Cabinet timber	12
A Trainee's Tale: Diverse experiences	12
Staff and CJP team news	13
Ornamental Garden: Spring	14
Nursery Notes: Ferns	15
MRCCC Frog project news	16
Butterflies of the Range: Bordered rustic	17
Daintree rainforest rescue	17
Thank you to ..., Letters	18
Turkey Tangential	20, 19

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Barry Liddell)

Andrea & Bernie Pollock	Dr Nita Lester
Julieann Cork	Ian & Carol Donald
Lew & Ginny Laing	Bill Roberts
Monica & Paul Rogers	Darryl Ebenezer
Tim & Sue Jacobs	Burnie & Jan Collins
Ken Cross	Wren McLean
David Stanton	Allen Overton
Tina Lathouras	Grant Meyer
Leanne Bennet	Sharon & Joe Bretherton
Gary & Julie Batterbee	Tim Bell-Turner
Mark & Trish Hutchinson	Kennedy Peter Webb
Edith-Ann Murray	M May
Alison Haly	Michael Cooper
Vincenza Pearce	Bill & Diane Phillips
Neville Bonney	

WELCOME BACK

Liam O'Keeffe	Ian Howie
Jenny Tatton	P & L Frawley
Elenne Ford-Lohrisch	John Abel
Jeremy Liddicoat	F & T Reilly
P Riddoch	Warwick Grace
Pauline Moore	Jen Holdsworth
Sue Verstraten	Michelle Bray
Rowena Thomas & Gary Broadhurst	Robyn Edward

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Lin Fairlie

*"The future is not somewhere we are going
but somewhere we are creating."*

Recently I read an article by the noted environmental scientist, Ian Lowe, in which he quotes this. I thought it appropriate to share it with you as I feel it describes the activities at Barung Landcare.

In many ways it is a challenging concept, especially when examples spring to mind over which we, as individuals, have no control. Sometimes by joining with like-minded people we can contribute to creating the future. There are also the myriad of small things over which we, as individuals, do have control eg water use, whether it be from tanks, underground sources or the reticulated system. It is up to those of us who do understand the importance of small contributions to share this information with others. These small things all contribute to 'creating our future'. Have you read the new brochure on 'Underground Water'? Please share it with a neighbour or friend when you have read it.

At Barung recently we have continued to help in the creation of the future through the launch of the 2nd edition of the *Blackall Range Landholders Guide*, and by the appointment of Darryl Ebenezer as the Operations Manager. Darryl's appointment means Barung can become more efficient and look more widely for partnerships, funding etc. So welcome Darryl, it will be great to have you as part of the Barung family as you share with us your experience from another community sector.

A huge 'thank you' must go to Trish for carrying the 'burden' of the office and admin sections of Barung before Fuschia was appointed and for working with Fuschia while she settled into the position. Trish also instigated reorganisation of space in the resource centre so that the whole centre, while still cramped, is much more efficient.

Thank you to the members of the Management Committee who are retiring, Trish Brunton, Bridget Sparkes and John Poulson, all of whom are maintaining their working connections with Barung. I have enjoyed my years as President and I know that new members of the committee will help take Barung down an exciting road, especially with the relocation imminent. It is still not too late to consider how you can help Barung in the coming year, whether as a member of the Management Committee, on one of the subcommittees or as a volunteer in the nursery or in the office. The Management Committee really needs your support and needs to know what our members think of the year just past. Please come to the AGM and Treeplant on Saturday 15th October and share your ideas with us.

Congratulations and many thanks to the visiting speakers, the staff and volunteers who contributed so ably to Landcare Week. Again it was well supported with sessions being booked out on many days.

Landcare Week is another example of contributing to 'creating our future'.

DEADLINE - Wed 16th November
for December 2005 - January 2006

Newsletter contributions

Barung Landcare...



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

THANK YOU

Barung celebrates Launch of Landholder's Guide

Carolyn Male, State Member for Glasshouse, joined Barung staff, committee, volunteers and friends to launch the 2nd edition of *The Blackall Range Landholders Guide* on Friday 2nd September.

This updated edition is the culmination of several years of work by both volunteers and staff, and Lin thanked all for their invaluable contribution. Lin foresees the guide will become a bible for Blackall Range landholders.

Ms Male noted the Guide, written by local experts for local conditions, would greatly enhance Barung's function of helping the environment, by helping to give landholders an overview of the past, present and future of the region. 'It's about getting out there and getting involved and gently educating people about how to care for their land. We all need to protect this very special environment,' she said.

Katrina Shields was thanked for coordinating publication and Penny Smith was congratulated on the beautiful layout and production of this second edition.

The book contains colour and black and white photos, and gives leads to interesting websites and local services, from snake catchers to water testers. Expanded chapters cover revegetation and regeneration of native flora, supporting native fauna, understanding water cycles and catchments, local climate and soil, and sources of help and funding for projects on your land. New chapters include ecological house and garden design, environmental weeds, living with fire and the history of land use in the region.

The book is inspiring and informative for old residents and new, on a suburban block or large acreage. 'It is highly likely to save years of trial and error,' said Katrina.

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

Many thanks to Caloundra City Council, the Maleny & District Community Credit Union and the National Landcare Program through the Burnett Mary Regional Group for their assistance in funding this important book.



Mim Coulstock, Lin Fairlie, Katrina Shields, Carolyn Male and Penny Smith delighted at the launch of the updated Guide.
[Photo courtesy of The Range News]

Barung's Corporate Memory down on paper

Mim Coulstock

Barung has been able to capture the corporate memory of five of our major rehabilitation sites from the past 15 years, thanks to a Department of Natural Resources & Mines Natural Awareness Activity Grant and the National Landcare Program (through the Burnett Mary Regional Body).

Marc Russell (Barung Nursery Manager and Revegetation Officer for almost nine years), was employed to write a series of five Case Studies recording the project background, objectives, methods, partnerships, and learnings for the:

- Obi Creek Revegetation and Community 'Cooperative Walk' Project
- Range to Coast Projects – the Maleny Entrance and Walkers Creek revegetation sites
- Mary River Catchment Consortium Corridors of Green (COG) Project – Lower Bridge Creek
- Mary River Catchment Consortium Corridors of Green (COG) Project – Upper Bridge Creek
- Protecting Threatened Species of the Upper Mary and Stanley River Catchments.

Marc, along with other staff, was closely involved in these sites. When Marc left Barung, we realised he was our last link with the beginnings of many of the projects.

With the ongoing turnover of staff, it is important to document these stories and the extensive partnerships that make such great projects possible and successful. One of the lessons we've learned from these projects is to request funding for compiling a case study when initially applying for major projects.

Thanks, Marc, for your great work on these – they are an excellent record of Barung's on-ground adventures.

All case studies are available in hard copy and in PDF format. Penny Smith is currently working on posters corresponding to each of the case studies, so visitors to Barung displays will be able to see the poster and take home the case study.

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual / family membership	\$ 20 pa
Business membership	\$ 55 pa
Business sponsorship	\$275 pa

Donations of \$2 or more to the Barung Environmental Gift Fund 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.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Mark Fentiman Dental Surgery

Lilyponds Holiday Park

Frasers' Selection

Mulchmakers

Maleny Motor Trimmers

2005/06 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Current Committee Members standing for re-election



Eric Anderson

My previous role in the Department of Primary Industries as Manager Landscape Management allowed me to develop an understanding of NRM and a good working knowledge of the new regional arrangements in Queensland to roll out the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAPSWQ) and Natural Heritage Trust (NHT). My particular interests are habitat evaluation and bird watching. I live with my partner Diana on about two acres at Flaxton cultivating a few fruit trees, developing a vegetable garden and planting half the block to local rainforest tree species with a bias to those species that produce fruit attractive to fruit pigeons. I look forward to contributing to the running and growth of Barung over the next year.



Kate Fraser

I have been a Barung member for six years and on the Management Committee for the past two years. Removing weeds and revegetating degraded areas of our rural block have given me an appreciation of on-ground activities and native vegetation in the area, and an understanding of Barung's customer needs. As Convenor of the Nursery Subcommittee I have gained an appreciation of the issues involved in growing and retailing native plants. I would like to make use of my experience by participating further in the Management Committee for another 12 months.



Heather Spring

Over the past 20 years in Maleny I have watched the development of the region with interest and concern. I am a strong advocate of sustainable usage and conservation of natural resources. I have qualifications in geology and resource management. Together with my husband, Ken, I run a geological consultancy business. I am committed to lifelong learning and believe that education is the key to changing agricultural practices and promoting community conservation and landcare practices. I have been a member of the Barung Management Committee for the last three years and look forward to the changes facing Barung over the next twelve months.

Lin Fairlie

As I look ahead, it seems impossible that Barung could face more major issues in the next 12 months than in the last year. However I think this will be the case – but the issues will be of different kinds. Issues within Maleny itself, such as the Porters/Armstrong farm precinct and the Woolworths/Obi Obi Creek bank, will be continuing, but more importantly our move to a larger and more appropriate site will take much time and energy. I am prepared to make myself available for another year on the Management Committee because I feel that ongoing knowledge, supplemented by new ideas and expertise from new members on the committee, will contribute to the best outcomes for our Landcare group.



Bob Hall

Community recognition for Barung is evidence of the high regard in which its Landcare work is held and this is a tribute to the commitment of the staff and committee. I see Barung providing essential and wide-ranging Land-care services on the Range and over time these activities will assist in enhancing the environment and preserving biodiversity to the benefit of all. As a geologist I have held senior positions in mining and oil and gas companies both in Australia and overseas. I retired in 2003 and moved to Maleny with my wife, Sue, onto land acquired in 1988. I hope to be able to play a role in assisting Barung to meet the many challenges facing landcare on the Range.





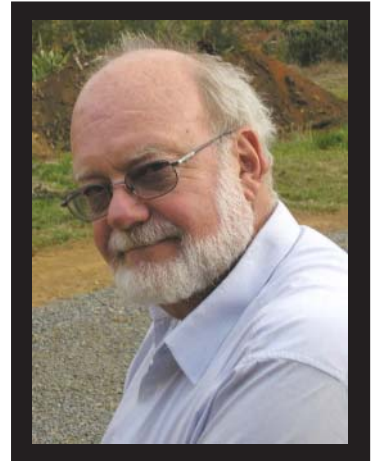
Clay Stokoe

This will be my fifth year on the Barung Management Committee. I am involved with Barung Landcare because I believe in our intricate dependency on the environment, and I think being involved and active in Barung results in on-ground changes that make a difference to everybody.

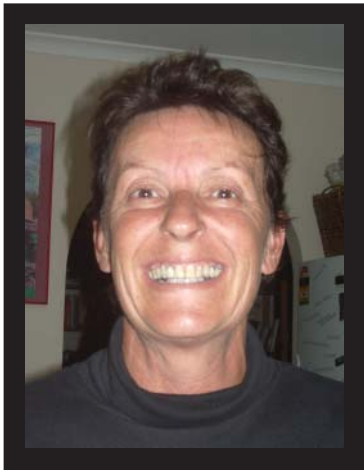


John Wightman

I have lived in Maleny with my family for five years. In that time we have converted a significant hoop pine plantation into a native flower farm supporting 6000 specimens and about 25 species. The farm is designed and run on sustainable crop and pest management practices. Biodiversity strips, mulching and compost figure large. My wife, Waltraud, and I retain an aggregated 45 year commitment to advancing sustainable agriculture and communities in less developed countries. We have worked throughout Africa and the Asia-Pacific Region (and in NZ and the USA) as agricultural researchers, managers and administrators. This expertise is available to Barung to ensure, specifically, that Barung Landcare International becomes a functioning reality.



New Committee Members standing for election



Pat Fuller

I have an abiding interest in organic gardening, and for three years I owned and ran an Organic Farm Produce shop in Brisbane. I have been involved in the management and administration of a number of community-based activities before moving to our farm two years ago. I have participated in a number of events to support the community of Maleny. My other interests include the protection of waterways, water conservation and the enhancement of our environment. As a member of the Management Committee I hope to contribute my enthusiasm and commitment to support the community and the dedicated group at Barung wherever possible and of course a willingness to listen and learn!

Michael Howard

We retired to Maleny three or four years ago. I like Maleny. Maleny is exceptional, because it's green. You drive anywhere around Australia, it's brown, so green's pretty special. Our house is green. (Our car is red.) I've worked in the construction, security and petroleum industries. I've worked in computers and factories. I've had my own businesses in couriers and commercial property. I worked in rock and roll before rock and roll was invented. I've been sacked from 50 jobs (I've had 52 jobs all up). I'm involved in a number of community groups – Maleny Community Centre, Rotary, SES, RSL, Maleny Players, the High School. I love working with these groups because they present these wonderful little challenges – they come up with a problem, and I have to come up with a solution. And the beauty of working with a number of groups is you get to see the connections. You get to see what the different groups can offer each other. This is fun.



Barung Landcare...



Thank you to retiring Management Committee members

Mim Coulstock

With the 2005 Barung Annual General Meeting coming up fast, and the imminent change in members of the volunteer Barung Management Committee, I would like to thank those members who are retiring from the current committee.

Thanks must go to Trish Brunton, Bridget Sparks and John Poulson.

As most of you know, **Trish Brunton** has served the Barung community as Treasurer for the past four years. She has contributed enormously to the organisation – far beyond her role as Treasurer. Trish has provided considerable support for staff, worked hard to establish the Barung Environmental Gift Fund, and has given an enormous amount of time over the years, especially during the past 12 months of staff turn-over and changes in the office. Your sense of humour and kind gestures will be missed by all.

We wish you well Trish in your future endeavours and want you to know that you will always be part of the Barung family.

Bridget Sparks – the tiny dynamo – has been on the Management Committee for the past year, although she was heavily involved

in coordinating the Expo raffle for the past two years. Bridget is leaving the committee to take up the post of volunteer coordinator of the Maleny Information Centre – a job that she will attack with her own particular brand of enthusiasm, energy and humour.

Thank you Bridget for your marketing expertise and for bringing your broad community networks in touch with Barung – we know we will continue to work with you in your new role.

John Poulson answered a request in the *Barung Newsletter* a couple of months ago when we needed someone with experience in human relations to help us through the mire of changing job positions. John's extensive experience in this field and his ability to see the 'big pictures' confronting Barung have been invaluable. We are really pleased that although John will no longer be on the Management Committee he is happy to remain involved in specific projects.

Thanks for your time John – it has been a pleasure to get to know you.

Barung Landcare...



Farmer Profile

Mal and Margaret Thompson – Beef and dairy farmers

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS by Jackie Montgomery

Mal and Margaret Thompson own and run a beef and dairy farm in Witta. Experience, diversification and a belief in using sustainable practices have helped develop an efficient farming business.

Soil and pasture management is a high priority. These farmers have kikuyu/clover pastures oversewn with ryegrass for winter feed. To ensure that their soil under pasture remains healthy, Mal and Margaret have been top dressing their land with chicken manure for 2 years, following the drought. This has helped to re-introduce humus to the soil. Strategic irrigation has been important, yet water use efficiency is kept in mind with the use of low-pressure irrigation that automatically turns off when it comes to the end of the run. As a result of their pasture management, the nutritional value of the grass is high and the sward is thick.

When the milk industry was deregulated, Mal and Margaret decided to diversify into beef. They crossed the dairy cows with a beef bull and this allowed them to produce prime calves for the supermarket meat trade. The couple have now gone a step further and are trialing a new venture – buffalo. They have brought animals from the Northern Territory and Northern Queensland to see how viable they are for farming in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

Both Mal and Margaret are also heavily involved in the community, as was their family before them – Cooke Park in the centre of Maleny was donated by Margaret's family for the children of the town. Mal was one of the founding members of Barung Landcare, and the family put cash on the table for the start up of our organisation. Thanks guys! They were also involved, with other farmers, in the development and implementation of the Dairy Effluent Project, which trialed best management practices for the disposal of dairy effluent.

Those from Maleny High School will also know of the couple's commitments on the P&C and Mal's contributions in time and livestock to the agricultural department at the school. Margaret is on the Mary River Catchment Care Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) board and also on the board of the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), both these groups being involved in this region's natural resource management. Belonging to these community groups has further developed their knowledge and friendships.



Buffalo calves and grandchildren abound at the Thompsons' farm.

Is your property in the Stanley River catchment? In Caloundra City?

Would you like funds for on-ground works?

Rural landholders in the Stanley River Catchment area within Caloundra City are being encouraged to apply for funding for projects on their properties that help to preserve and protect the area's natural values.

The Natural Resource Management Small Grants Program aims to help landholders to fence creeks, revegetate, control weeds and feral animals and regenerate bush in an effort to conserve the area's diverse and unique habitat.

The Stanley River Catchment is the source of drinking water for people living in Brisbane. The upper reaches of the catchment in Caloundra City are also home to a number of threatened species of plants and animals.

Landholders in the catchment area, including the subcatchments of London Creek, Crohamhurst Creek and Pages Creek, play an important role in conserving threatened species such as the

Coxen's fig parrot, glossy black-cockatoo, giant barred frog and Richmond birdwing butterfly, as well as maintaining water quality for downstream users.

A large number of landholders in the catchment area are already undertaking restoration and conservation works with their own money. This funding will hopefully assist them as well as encourage others in the area to take on new projects.

The Small Grants Program has been funded by the Commonwealth Governments Natural Heritage Trust through the SEQ Western Catchments Group.

Expressions of Interest for funding close at 4.00 pm on Friday 14 October. To obtain a form, or for further information, contact Nick Clancy (Caloundra City Council's Land for Wildlife – Conservation Partnerships Officer) on 1300 650 112 (local call area) or 5420 8200 (mobiles and outside local call area).

Threatened species grant approved!

Ed Surman

Earlier this year Diana Hughes from the University of Queensland completed her PHD entitled 'Habitat requirements of the giant barred frog, *Mixophyes iteratus*, threats to and prospects for persistence of an endangered Australian frog in rural landscapes'.

Diana contacted Barung to help locate landholders willing to let her access their properties in the Upper Stanley River region. After many campouts, bank measurements and vegetation assessments, Dianna surveyed over 80 sites – some with the giant barred frog and some without – comparing the different habitat characteristics to find out what it is that this special frog requires to thrive in our region.

Besides the physical properties of the streams such as bed and bank shape, canopy cover and leaf litter proved to be the critical components of suitable habitat.



Diana's study has shown that the Upper Stanley region, from Booroobin through to the D'Aguliar Highway near Woodford, is critical core habitat for this endangered frog.

Frog fanciers here at Barung became excited by this news and leapt into action, writing up a Threatened Species Network project application to the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust and WWF Australia, to protect and enhance the habitat for stream-dwelling frogs ... starring *Mixophyes iteratus*.

Our application has been approved and we are getting set to start work. Barung cannot do these wonderful projects alone and we thank our landholder/land manager partners in this significant project: Phil and Antara May, Jackie Montgomery and the Caboolture Shire Council. We also thank those others who contributed letters of support for the application.

The project will protect and build on the riparian canopy along the Stanley River, help address future threats and increase awareness of the special frogs that live in our region. This work will also assist with the recovery of many other threatened and non-threatened fauna species in the region. Thank you to the Threatened Species Network for funding this important work.

Barung Internship with Gandhi School Students

The sharing of skills and expertise with young adults, in a 'real life' context, is a very powerful way to learn and to develop an appreciation for specific vocations. The Gandhi School Internship Program aims at providing such educational and practical experiences.

Barung Landcare have offered to support the Gandhi School Australia by apprenticing three 17-year-old Korean students for an 8-day Internship. This program commences on Monday 21st November and continues until Wednesday 30th November. This will be part of the students' tour curriculum during their 10 weeks in Maleny. These students are from the 'Koonwi' Gandhi Free School campus in South Korea.

In past tours students have visited Barung to see the Nursery and hear about all that Barung is involved with in this region. However this will be the first time students have done an internship with Barung. These students have chosen Barung from a range of businesses and organisations, schools and artisans because they have a passion for the 'natural' environment and its future.

The Gandhi School Australia and Korea wish to thank Barung for sharing their collective skills and expertise with these students.

For information about the Gandhi School program, or if you are interested in becoming a homestay host, contact Steve McLeish on 0410 259 423.

THE STATE OF THE REGION

Properties in the Barung area fall within one of three regions that meet in the headwaters of the Blackall Range: Natural Resource Management South East Queensland (NRMSEQ), South East Queensland Western Catchments Group (SEQWCG) 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). It is important to know in which region your property lies.

Natural Resource Management SEQ

Susie Chapman

On October 10th we amalgamate operations with SEQ Western Catchments Group but will retain the same names until next year.

Currently we are working on combining the Regional Investment Strategies (RIS). The outcome will be a more integrated approach for SEQ and hopefully more funds to continue to support the terrific work that is happening in the community, research and industry.

The last month has seen the maturation of our roundtable discussions into the funding of specific projects that will address the impacts on the Key Investment Areas identified by our asset/risk mapping. Of particular note to the Barung area is the upper Mooloolah and upper Eudlo Creek catchments where the high biodiversity and water quality values are threatened by unstable land, fragmentation and weed invasion. Barung's involvement in this project area is primarily to assist with landslip rehabilitation and prevention with revegetation works. Mooloolah Waterwatch & Landcare and Maroochy Waterwatch will be developing and continuing revegetation/regeneration and monitoring projects downstream. Both Maroochy and Caloundra Councils are involved through their various programs such as Land for Wildlife, weed maintenance, water quality monitoring and septic system inspections and many landholders, including the Gubbi Gubbi with their land in Diamond Valley, are part of this wonderful developing story.

Other projects of interest to the area are the development of camphor laurel mapping supporting the Sunshine Coast Camphor Laurel Initiative (which will be milling camphor at Cooroy), farm forestry demonstration sites, continuation of septic system impact studies in Eudlo Creek, groundwater monitoring in Maleny and Eudlo areas, assessment of the needs for peri-urban landholders in order to preserve natural resources, and the assessment of ecosystem services through the canelands study specifically and more regionally in conjunction with the Office of Urban Management.

We congratulate Barung on the production of the fabulous *Landholders Guide to the Blackall Range*!

SEQ Western Catchments Group

Bruce Lord

Funding available – The SEQ WCG call for projects continues. We've had a positive and steadily increasing response to our call for projects which help address regional priorities identified within *Healthy Land – Our Future*. We've received over 35 Expressions of Interest for projects in Upper Brisbane & Stanley catchments and have carried out site visits with Soil Conservation/Vegetation Technical Officers in our commitment to providing ongoing on-ground support to landholders/groups to ensure projects achieve desired regional outcomes. The main focus of projects to date from the upper Stanley catchment falls within the Reviving our Rivers & Wetlands and Natural Ecosystems & Threatened Species programs.

Technical advice and funding assistance are still available for priority projects which address targets in the regional NRM Plan



including gully & streambank erosion, wetlands and riparian vegetation, remnant vegetation and habitat for threatened species, water use efficiency, and areas either affected or at risk from dryland salinity and hillslope erosion. Please contact Bruce Lord to discuss any proposed projects and arrange a site visit by our Technical Officers or Expressions of Interest forms: 3816 9720 or 0427 013 284 or upperbris@seqwgc.com.au

Thanks to those Landcare and community groups and individuals within the upper Brisbane & Stanley catchments who have been proactive and positive in their communication and promotion of these programs. Your support is greatly appreciated and the responses from some areas highlight the key roles local Landcare and community groups can provide and demonstrate the development of effective working partnerships.

Property Management Planning – Under the Productive Landscapes program we are offering support to landholders to develop property plans. Group sessions can be tailored to the needs of participants. The sessions offer practical tools and information to identify, manage and monitor their natural resources and agricultural practices for improved sustainability. Participants will also have access to incentives to accelerate implementation of on-ground activities or improved land management practices. We will be holding a number of local meetings to promote opportunities and benefits from property management planning – interested groups or individuals should contact Bruce ASAP.

'Regenerative Agriculture and Soil Biology' workshop – Saturday 12th November organised by Brisbane Valley Kilcoy Landcare Group and Upper Brisbane Region Network Group with funds from NLP. Participants will learn about ways to improve soil health to reduce weeds, enhance biodiversity and sustainably manage grazing and agricultural production. Soil samples from around the district will be available for examination. Presentation by Cheryl Kemp from Biodynamic Agriculture Australia with discussion session after lunch. A manual will be provided. Contact David Matthews for more info on 5497 1092.

NLP 2005-06 applications update – Continuing applications were lodged for the Emu Creek Landcare Property/Subcatchment Planning and Implementation project, Black Snake Creek Salinity project and Stage 3 of Targeted Priority Weeds project. SEQWCG also lodged a new project application for \$400,000 for a regional devolved grant program to implement priority on-ground actions identified through property and subcatchment planning, which will be delivered in partnership with industry & Landcare groups.

Continued on page 8 ...



Ron Wilson

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Burnett Mary Regional Group

Clinton Muller



Regional Landcare Partnership arrangements continue

The roll-out of the Burnett Mary Regional Group's Regional Landcare Partnership continues as we move into this new financial year. The groups met for their first quarter Regional Landcare Meeting in Mundubbera in early September. This partnership is proving to be an ideal model for engaging the various Landcare Groups in the vast area that is the Burnett Mary Region, particularly with sharing information between groups.

Barung Landcare continues to be well represented in this Partnership, which has devolved funds to all groups through a community support grant from the NLP. The theme of this round of projects involves regional landholder ownership of sustainable land use solutions and implementation and Barung has continued to purposefully allocate its funds, with streambank restoration projects on dairy farms in this round. In the previous round Barung allocated funds for the publication of the 2nd edition of the *Blackall Range Landholders Guide* and Case Study Factsheets.

The purpose of this project is to focus on sustainable agricultural issues with the view to finding solutions through locally based field days, workshops and Landcare farming demonstrations. The intent is to build on existing landholder and local government knowledge and the capacity to support these groups to implement sustainable agricultural practices.

Country to Coast – Implementation Phase

The Implementation Phase of our NRM Plan, *Country to Coast – a healthy sustainable future* is underway! Phase 1 and 2 Member Memos have been distributed and Phase 3 is being delivered. This phase involves an invitation to the broader community to submit Activity Concepts for groups and individuals interested in partnering BMRG in implementing the Plan.

All forms are now available on the BMRG website www.burnettmarynrm.org.au. The BMRG Coordinators are available to all members and the community to assist with enquiries about the application and assessment process. For more information and contact details for a coordinator, please contact the BMRG Office on (07) 4132 8333.

Gift Ideas

With Christmas less than 12 weeks away
it's time to start thinking about those pressies!
Barung is a good place to start. We have:

GIFT VOUCHERS

A Barung Gift Voucher is just the thing for that hard-to-buy-for friend or family member who has everything. Each voucher entitles the recipients to choose their own book or plants from Barung Landcare.

ADOPT-A RAINFOREST-TREE

Value at \$10 and fully Tax-Deductible, you can pay for one or more native rainforest trees to be dedicated along the Obi Obi Creek in Maleny.

As with all Barung Landcare revegetation projects, you'll be helping to protect vital rainforest remnants, improve water quality, and enhance habitat for threatened species.

A Visit from Mongolia

by Lin Fairlie

Barung was asked a few months ago if we would host one of four students from a Japanese university who were all interested in community organisations in Maleny. We agreed and what a learning experience it was for those privileged to work with the delightful student, Sarina, from Mongolia.

Earlier in the year David and I had visited Outer Mongolia for five days on our train trip from Beijing to Helsinki and had stayed for two days in a tourist village set up in traditional urtz or gerhs, two hours' drive from the capital Ulan Bataar. So at least I had some concept of what parts of Mongolia look like even though Sarina was from Inner Mongolia.

Sarina could speak Mongolian, Chinese, Russian, Japanese and had been learning English for two months. While at Barung she spent some time potting in the nursery and there were two afternoons when we sorted Barung's poster drawers. This was a great opportunity to explain about landcare activities and some of Barung's many projects and for her to practice her English.

But why did Sarina want to understand about landcare, you may well ask. It was to help her father and his friends plant trees 'to bring back the rain'. Sarina comes from a small village, population 500 in a group of about 5 other villages each 5 km apart, where the main activities are grazing cattle, goats, sheep and horses on the common land. The families move nomadically in summer living in gerhs. Due to Chinese influence over the last 20 years or so many new people have come into the area and cut down many of the trees.

Sarina's father is obviously a very thoughtful land manager and he has been planting trees for many years in conditions which could not be more different from here in Maleny. They have six months of snow and a three and a half month growing season. There are only four species of trees, three pines and one birch, and the grasslands contain many herbaceous species. Sarina did not understand the word 'weed', but when I explained it to her as good plants being replaced by useless ones, she realised there were many weeds but didn't understand where they had come from. I talked about plants and seeds from other places being used in horses' saddles (as with the Afghan saddles bringing weeds into central Australia) and she could soon see how the spread occurred.

We tried to give her as many experiences as possible and her memories include 'Peter farmer' (Peter Stevens took us around his revege throughout his property), Jill's rainforest (Jill Morris's forest beside Obi Creek), Kate's walk (Kate Fraser's tracks through her tall eucalypt/rainforest), Margaret's dairy (Margaret and Mal Thompson's dairy with young buffalo etc), Gillian and Neil's alpacas, and the 'big rainforest' (Mary Cairncross). David and I took her via the Bunya Mountains to Miles. We had a picnic in the Bunyas attended by scrub turkeys, kookaburras and currawongs. We fed rosellas, saw wallabies, walked through the huge fig on one of the tracks and had a barbeque in Miles. When visiting the Miles Historical Village (which is well worth a visit) Sarina kept seeing artifacts which they apparently still use in Mongolia. That really brought home to me the differences between farming in Australia and in Mongolia.

Barung has a Mongolian friend for life and Sarina is hoping to return one day. I'm staying in touch with her and we will be working on simple information in English which she can translate into Japanese and then into Mongolian for her father. Bring back the rain to Mongolia and to Australia as well.

Weeds are just plants with egos

REVEG IN PROGRESS by Greg Smyrell

We moved to Brazil a few years back. I was going to help set up a permaculture-based ecovillage. I got up in the morning and looked outside. There was a Cocos palm. And cats claw creeper. And lantana. Horror! These were the exact same weeds I'd been battling on all sides back home in Maryborough. But hang on. These plants *come* from Brazil. They belong here.

So I looked closer. The Cocos palm had huge chunks out of the top of it where something had chewed it. And the cats claw creeper was galled, which was going to stop it from getting big. It was a pathetic straggly thing, nothing like the great thick trunks on the cats claw creepers bringing down forests back in Australia. And the lantana was just a sprig here and a sprig there.

So what's different about these plants being in their natural environment, and what happens when they're introduced into a new environment? Well, a weed is a plant taken out of its natural system where it's balanced by predators and diseases and so on. It can't get totally out of hand there.

Later on, the people I was working with showed me a gully with huge erosion problems among eucalypts of some sort and nothing much else. It had originally been a hillside, but a 40 cm pipe carrying all the drainage from the nearby buildings emptied here and the very deep dark red volcanic soil had eroded away, creating a crevasse some 10 to 15 metres deep.

I wondered down for a closer look – I could see they were eucalypts, but I was mystified about the species. Until I crushed a leaf and took a sniff – *Corymbia citriodora* (lemon-scented gum) – the very species I knew intimately from the local region back home. But here they looked all wrong.

In Australia, in an undisturbed community with all the understorey plants that naturally occur with *C. citriodora* on fragile sodic soils and subsoils, the natural community binds the soil. There's no erosion problems. However even in Australia if you move *E. citriodora* outside its natural range you'll undoubtedly end up with big erosion problems. And here the species was in Brazil growing on a similar soil type but none of the local plant species could grow with it – it wouldn't support any of the local flora.

Weeds are a problem and the problem is escalating at an incredible rate. A recent report has weeds as one of the major threats to biodiversity and life on this planet. How can this be so, how can a simple plant or two disrupt life on this planet to such an extent?

Well, we have to go back, way back, not to the very beginning of life but a long time anyway, back to when plants started evolving. The earth was a very different place, harsh and fragile at the same time, and dynamically changing. As the planet evolved so did plants, taking on and adapting to the new conditions available to them. New climatic conditions, new topographic conditions, mountains where there were once oceans, plains where there were once mountains and so on. New soils spewing forth from volcanoes, old soils from the dramatic weathering taking place and sometimes turning into new soils again (with metamorphic processes), landscapes changing dramatically.

Eventually everything slowed and settled a little, possibly because the greater diversity of species were forming strengthened, more robust and stable systems. So plants grow in systems or communities, and these communities have evolved in relation to macro and micro-climate conditions, topography, aspect, and soil types, properties and condition.

There is also evolution within plant communities and this is the most important point of this story so far. We call this evolution 'succession'. Understanding succession is very important. Plants

come in and as they become established they create a microclimate and change the soil chemistry and other soil properties. New species follow established species when the soil and microclimate becomes suitable, and each changes the conditions for another species to follow. One follows another follows another.

But what happens if a weed comes in? It disrupts the natural succession process, and it just sets up the system for other weeds to come in. The natural ecology starts to break down and go backwards.

On the other hand in a robust ecosystem that hasn't been mucked around with, the plant community has a strong structure and it can fend off weeds, even weeds that are all around its borders. You can see this at Mary Cairncross Park. An undisturbed ecosystem that's functioning well has this strength, this integrity, and weeds just won't come in.

A weed is just like a human. We're not in balance with nature, and what stops us being in balance is our ego. Take a weed out of its natural environment and it acts the same. Weeds become these robust plants that stand out and dominate. Weeds can behave and look so different from how they look in their natural environment they can be almost unidentifiable.

If an ecosystem has just one weed to contend with, it will finally find a way of incorporating it into the system, a way of balancing the weed species and fitting other species with it. Some ecosystems in Australia are starting to cope with the cane toad – it's not totally devastating everything. Certainly there are usually considerable numbers of local extinctions when cane toads move into an area, a significant reduction in biodiversity. But in places where cane toads have been for some time, some animals are figuring out how to predate on them, and the ecosystems are adjusting themselves into a new balance incorporating this 'weed'.

But the problem is that ecosystems don't have just one weed to deal with. There's species after species after species invading or being introduced to ecosystems they didn't evolve in.

Weeds will destroy the world. Weeds devastate biodiversity. We need biodiversity. We need biodiversity to support humanity.

How can we stop weeds from taking over the planet? Do we keep hacking and poisoning and just not stop? I think what we need to do is understand weeds, really understand weeds. When the vast majority of people on this planet understand what weeds are, how weeds affect ecosystems, and how people's thinking and doing helps or harms weeds, then I think we will really be in a position to deal with weeds.

In the end, nature will cope with weeds. Ecosystems will adjust. The interesting bit will be whether there are still people around to see it.

For Barung Members

Nursery Plant Credit Program

Do you know that, as a Barung member, you can pay \$250 to set up a Plant Credit that gives you a discount of 25% on tubestock, megatubes and some more advanced stock?

You don't have 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.

Bellthorpe community group tackles emerging weed

Ed Surman

Between 15 and 30 people gather religiously on the first Saturday of each month to work in the Bellthorpe Environmental Reserve, then finish off at the Bellthorpe Hall with a guest speaker and a delightful feed. They think I keep going back 'cause I like bush regen but it's actually the company and tucker that pull me in!

Vibrant community group

The Bellthorpe Progress Association began work on the Bellthorpe Environmental Reserve on the corner of Running Creek Road and Bellthorpe Range Road in 2000. This dynamic community group initiated the project, applying for an Envirofund grant from the Natural Heritage Trust. Their amazing work on this significant remnant highlights how much a committed group of people can achieve. They are now eradicating privets from the rainforest with funding from their third Envirofund grant.

Many fantastic and unexpected outcomes have resulted from the work of this model group. Many of the members have taken their plant identification, tree planting and bush regeneration skills home, and have a renewed appreciation and understanding of the landcare ethic towards ecology.

Group tackles new weed

One of the very significant outcomes is the group's attack on *Setaria palmifolia*, an exotic grass hailing from India. This grass was introduced to the Bellthorpe area as an ornamental plant and has quickly spread along the roadsides and down the drainage gullies that feed the Mary and the Stanley River catchments.

The group's work with this weed has led to the production of the flier enclosed in this newsletter. Please read this. Wherever I see established *Setaria palmifolia* there are very few naturally regenerating native species.

Unfortunately it is now visible on the banks of the Obi Creek as well. One of the main infestations can be viewed from the Riverside Centre in Maleny on the other side of the creek. I hope that the current landowners will take responsibility and manage the problem in a sensitive manner and prevent it from spreading through another catchment.

Council modifies management

Alarmed at the spread of *Setaria palmifolia*, the Bellthorpe community instigated a meeting with Caboolture Shire Council staff to point out the problem and highlight the modes of spread ... roadside slashing being a main culprit. As a result Caboolture Shire Council has altered their roadside slashing regime and engaged an experienced weed control contractor to control this problematic plant.

It is commendable that the council can make significant changes to management at the request of a community organisation. Let's hope that all councils can adopt adaptive management and show such flexibility and willingness to listen to the community that they serve. Congratulations to the members of the community and the Caboolture Shire Council's Bushcare Officer and Works Department for efforts so far.

Join in the fun!

So – mark down the first Saturday of the month on your calendar for a fun morning of bush regeneration and revegetation in the magnificent surrounds of Bellthorpe. Expect good company, a great hands-on learning experience and a delicious morning tea!

Fire and Biodiversity Workshop

*Presented by
The South-East Queensland Fire & Biodiversity Consortium*



**Are you prepared for bushfires?
Do you have a fire management plan?**

Would you like expert assistance in preparing a fire management plan to help protect you and your home, a plan that also considers the needs of biodiversity & your local environment?

When: Saturday 12 November 8.30 am - 3.00 pm

Where: Bellthorpe Hall

Cost: \$10 (Rural Fire Brigade members free)

Lunch: provided for \$2 donation

Bring: hat and walking boots

Spaces limited

Book early to avoid disappointment

Phone Barung on 5494 3151

Interesting Websites

Birds in Backyards

www.birdsinbackyards.net

An initiative of the Sydney-based Birds in Backyards program, the site focuses on urban birds, habitats and conservation issues and is relevant for the 85% of Australians who live in urban areas. Includes Bird Finder – enter the size, shape and colour of a bird to search an initial database of 150 species found in Sydney and other Australian east coast cities, with work underway on the final target of 800. Listen to the calls of 120 species. Also On-line Volunteer Bird Surveys. Includes extensive information about habitat, gardening for birds and some historical data on birds of Sydney.

Wildlife Online

www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature_conservation/wildlife/wildlife_online/

Wildlife Online allows users to request species lists for local government areas, protected areas, forestry areas, and areas defined by the provision of coordinates (i.e. decimal degrees). Options include selecting species listed as rare or threatened under Queensland legislation.

Queensland Water and Land Carers

www.landcareqld.org.au

An important interface for community groups and volunteers in Queensland. Community groups are welcome to include their website addresses and information on their events on the site. For more information or to link your address or event to the site, email Tess at qwalc_coordinator@nrmseq.com

Cabinet timber plantations: a productive way to reveg

CONTRACTING SERVICES by Jolyon Froude

Recently Barung's Contracting Services team carried out maintenance on a couple of cabinet timber plantations on the Range growing local rainforest species. This provided an interesting change from our usual focus on reveg and regen, and led me to contemplate the place of Farm Forestry in the rehabilitation of the Blackall Range landscape.

A wide range of local rainforest species produce timber of high quality and value. Some are well known, such as red cedar, blackbean and silky oak, but many lesser known species also provide valuable timber. While some species are quite fast growing and can potentially be harvested in 15 years or less (most notably the blue quandong), most species are slow growing and may need 30 to 50 years or more to be harvestable.

Growing trees for timber requires quite a different approach from standard revegetation. To begin with, the trees need to be planted in straight rows and preferably in a grid formation to facilitate harvesting. Timber plantations are planted at wider spacing than reveg, and there is usually less diversity than in a reveg plot. A mix of 10 to 30 species is typically used as most species perform poorly in monocultures. When the plantation is designed, fast and slow growing species need to be carefully integrated, so that the faster growing trees can be removed as 'thinnings', allowing the slower growing species more space to develop. In the first three years, thorough weed control is imperative so that the trees can grow rapidly and establish the canopy. Pruning and thinning are very important for producing straight, single trunks with minimal knots. Selecting species that are suitable for the site conditions is also a key factor for success.

I believe it is best to grow rainforest species in the areas of fertile soil and high rainfall that were covered by rainforest prior to clearing. The timber of eucalypts grown on the fertile red basalt soils of the Range has proven to be of low quality because the trees have grown too rapidly. Eucalypts are more suited to the less fertile soils around the edge of the Range that are naturally dominated by sclerophyll forests.

While rainforest timber plantations are much slower-growing and more difficult to establish than eucalypt plantations, the significant value of the timber should make the extra effort worthwhile. A cabinet timber plantation represents a potentially productive and lucrative alternative to standard revegetation. However there are limitations. The lower species diversity and structural complexity of plantations reduces the habitat value for wildlife, and the on-



Five-year-old cabinet timber plantation at Mapleton.

going maintenance is likely to be higher. Some areas may not be suitable for harvesting in the long term due to terrain, access or proximity to waterways.

This can be overcome by integrating the two, using reveg in steep or riparian areas where permanent tree cover is desirable and harvesting is impractical, and restricting plantations to workable slopes away from waterways and with good access.

Like any project, developing cabinet timber plantations requires good planning, preparation and management to be successful. Barung Contracting can assist you with all these aspects, saving you time and money and avoiding mistakes.

Strength in diversity

A TRAINEE'S TALE by Jake Smith-Moloney

When I am lovingly introduced by my fellow workmates as Jake the 'Barung Trainee', well, what does the Barung Trainee do? In this article I will outline my role and how this has changed as my traineeship has progressed.

In August 2005 I commenced my traineeship after completing a six month Green Corp project based at Barung. A Certificate III in Forest & Forest products (Forest Growing & Management) was the accreditation on offer. For the first few months I was assigned to ... you guessed it, the undesirable jobs. During these early months I spent most of my time in the Nursery with a few days with Marc Russell (the Habitat and Reveg officer at the time) collecting seed and working on Barung's reveg projects, mostly at the Obi Partnership site at Pacific Plantations.

When Barung's contracting arm was established, I was given the opportunity to work in the contracting crew. This was great – it gave me the chance to gain more on-ground experience and to make my traineeship a bit more financially viable.

As Barung has taken on CJP (Community Jobs Plan) teams, I have found myself on a few occasions acting as team leader. I enjoy these opportunities because they give me experience in leadership and people management.

The greatest advantage of my traineeship is its diversity and flexibility. One day I might be potting up plants in the nursery and the next day I'm off on a seed collection walk. Every day brings something new and exciting. I doubt I will ever get bored with my job.

As always I am contactable at Barung during working hours or email me at Ze_Bacon@hotmail.com if you have any comments or just want to get in contact.

<p>BARUNG CONTRACTING SERVICES</p> <p>for landholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ reveg, regen & farm forestry ✓ project management - planning, site prep, planting, maintenance ✓ weed identification & control ✓ property planning & consultancy ✓ environmental landscaping
	<p>ring Jolyon - 0429 943 156 or Barung Office - 5494 3151</p>

Welcome to The Corner Desk

There is another new face in the Barung Office these days, with Darryl Ebenezer joining the team as Barung's newly appointed Operations Manager.

This is a new position responsible for the internal running of Barung: administration, strategic planning, staff issues, financial reporting, budget predictions and over-seeing and developing the plans to move.

Darryl comes to Barung after many years of working in human services in the not-for-profit sector. Darryl's skills and talents will be challenged as he works on oiling the internal cogs of the Barung machine and helps direct us to a new home and an even stronger future.

The introduction of this position reflects just how successful Barung is; with the increase in staffing and on-ground projects and the introduction of regional arrangements it was simply impossible to expect Mim to cover it all. With Darryl taking over the internal aspects of operations, Mim is concentrating her attention on the external aspects of the coordinator's job and management of Expo.

Welcome to the larger Barung family, Darryl – please settle into the corner desk.

Community Jobs Program Mark II - Off to a Flying Start

Ed Surman, CJP Supervisor

On 22 August, the second Community Jobs Plan project began to operate within the symbiotic relationship of the Queensland Government's Department of Employment and Training, the Hinterland Business Centre and Barung Landcare.

The Barung revegetation crew hit the ground running – launching straight into the thick of things. Hey, but that's normal at Barung.

Our first week consisted of the mandatory paperwork as well as Greg Smyrell's Sense of Place walk where we saw different vegetation types and found out about why different plant communities grow where they grow.

We also spent a lot of time getting to know one another and establishing our team rules for harmonious working relationships. We also covered the all-important Occupational Health and Safety risk and hazard analysis aspects of the job.

In their first month the team have already planted almost 1000 native tubes to assist Mooloolah Waterwatch on their project sites. Participants have brush-cut several thousand square metres of weeds, providing essential maintenance on the Obi Creek Partnership Project site at Pacific Plantations.

The team were instrumental in setting up and catering for the extensive Landcare Week program and the launch of the Blackall Range Landholders Guide. Under the guidance of Val, our brilliant vollie who keeps us all sane with her hugs, the team BBQ'd and sausage-sizzled about 250 meals. Tony, the team's reptile nut, presented a great talk on our cold-blooded friends that reside with us on the Range. All in all, the team did a wonderful job of showing people around and generally being great ambassadors for Barung.

Congratulations to the successful applicants: Jason Walters, Debbie Ward, Michelle Smith, Danielle Beutel, Phillip Hands, Shannon Todd, Tony Bright and Michelle Cormack. I look forwards to the next 12 or so weeks of working and learning together. We will be making a significant difference to the environmental treasures of this diverse and unique area in which we are all proud to live.

Another CJPer off to a flying start!

Congratulations also to our Expo CJPer, Jane Williamson, who has joined the 'other' Barung Office to help us get a head start for the 2006 Maleny Wood Expo.

Just one look in the door will tell you that Jane has arrived. In less than a month she has sorted us out and re-arranged our lives. She has spoilt us with good coffee, and her delightful manner and slightly wicked sense of humour make us feel she's been part of the team for far longer. Welcome to Barung and to Expo, Jane.



the
**WOOTHA
PRIZE**
2006

national woodworking competition
theme: seat

First Prize \$1500 + \$500 value of
sustainably harvested cabinet timbers
Second Prize \$750 + \$250 value of
sustainably harvested cabinet timbers
Third Prize \$500 + \$250 value of
sustainably harvested cabinet timbers

Works to be exhibited from
29 April to 1 May 2006
at the
MALENY WOOD EXPO
from Chainsaw to Fine Furniture™

Applications close 17 February 2006
For information + application forms:
07 5429 6566
info@malenywoodexpo.com
www.malenywoodexpo.com

sponsored by: Barung Landcare
Bold in Gold Fine Art Gallery
David Linton Furniture & Timber Works

Barung Landcare...



Spring

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

"Spring is sprung
The flowers is ris'
I wonder where the boidies is ..."

This saying of our grandmothers or possibly great grandmothers no doubt arose in the heavily polluted industrial cities of the British Isles early last century. Fortunately our birdies around here today don't face the very serious air pollution of that period, but we would do well to ask ourselves just what species and how many of each we are welcoming into our gardens. Development on the Blackall Range means a greater number of urban gardens and, seemingly, more of the exotic same when it comes to selecting plants to decorate the front yard.

The weather pattern this year resulted in a quite prolonged and sequential flowering of the wattles, tea trees, paperbarks and bottlebrushes, plus of course the lovely *Hovea acuminata*, *Hardenbergia*, *Pultenaea villosa* and assorted other pea flowers. The wonga vine put on a massed although comparatively brief display of creamy bells and as I write this to meet the September deadline, the *Syzygium australe* windbreak is in bud. The native olive, *Olea paniculata*, produced so many glossy purple/black fruit that the fig birds took up permanent residence for the whole ripening period and I was able to collect pre-cleaned seed from the water dishes.

Our myriad small birds are looking fat and healthy; the whip birds scurry around under the shrubs as I walk past and the pardalote wakes me early. No 'wondering where the boidies is' here. Many exotic plants are undoubtedly pretty but they may not or don't provide either food or habitat for the local birds.

There is concern about declining numbers of fairy wrens, probably everyone's favourite, and of course it's loss of suitable habitat which is the problem. These birds nest in low shrubs, thickets, tall grass and similar vegetation, often weeds. Whilst I'm not suggesting that the impatiens, Sheena's Gold and roses be replaced with thistles and tall grass (!), why not create a meadow of suitable native grasses and forbs such as paper daisies plus groups of low, dense shrubs. *Hibbertia vestita* and *Helichrysum ramosissima* add a vibrant splash of yellow at ground level. It could add a whole new dimension to the garden and shouldn't be attractive to the noisy miners and other similarly aggressive birds.

Remember that what is common now will be vulnerable and then endangered in the future if we don't provide for its continued survival. Birds as well as platypus eventually run out of 'somewhere else' to go.

Off the soapbox and back on with the gardening gloves, I've added a specimen of the crinkle bush or parsley bush, *Lomatia silaifolia*, to the shrubbery. This has attractive divided leaves, hence its name, and creamy grevillea-like flowers. It's in the same family, the Proteaceae. Plant in a reasonably open situation as it becomes spindly and won't flower in the shade. The foliage is sometimes used in the cut flower trade.

And finally a warning note to those grevillea aficianados. There is a beautiful and vigorous form of *Grevillea banksii* around which has deep green rather than silvery grey leaves and comes from the Rockhampton area. It's spreading into the bush behind Coolumb. Another example of a plant from outside our region which is well adapted to harsh conditions, produces viable seed, and can out-compete the locals. Also loved, of course, by the noisy miners for its heavy nectar flow. Try a small prickly grevillea instead!

Opportunities & Events

Weedbuster Week 2005

Weedbuster Week (8-16 October) is an opportunity for you to learn a little more about the weeds of your area.

This year, Caloundra City Council is asking you to be a Weed Aware Community and learn to recognise the weeds in your patch.

A range of activities have been organised aimed at helping you to identify your problem weeds. Call the Council on 1300 650 112 or 5420 8200 for details of what's happening.

Prevention is better than cure, so recognising problem weeds and stopping their spread before they get out of control is definitely the way to go.

And a great reference is the *Blackall Range Landholders Guide* available from Barung. They also stock a great range of weed books too.

Get out there – get Weedbusting!

Vine and Cheese weed removal day

Learn to identify and control pest vines: cats claw, Madeira and Dutchman's pipe. Enter your poem in the inaugural Weed Wordsmiths competition. Vent your feelings on these scourges!

When: Saturday 29 October, 1.00 pm

Where: Black Bean Grove, Pickering Bridge, Moy Pocket Rd (off the Eumundi-Kenilworth Rd)

RSVP: Lyn Browne (the Cats Claw Lady) on 5483 8684 or catsclaw53@hotmail.com by 21 Oct for catering

Day in the sun for waterwise gardeners

Caloundra City gardeners will have their moment in their sun when CalAqua launches a summer WaterWise garden competition. Details of the competition are in the October edition of *Caloundra City Living*, with judging in December.

Run by CalAqua, the competition aims to encourage gardeners to be waterwise in all aspects of gardening, from plant selection, to garden layout and watering habits.

A waterwise garden does not have to be a dull garden featuring only natives. A number of different garden styles are possible, including tropical, cottage, Mediterranean and coastal gardens and ponds, achievable by using water-efficient plants, maximising the use of paving, mulch and shade structures, grouping plants with similar water requirements together, using topography and orientation, and using water-efficient watering systems.

Fungi Conference

Internationally renowned speakers will address this conference dedicated to the higher fungi. Hosted by the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network Inc, a conference of this scope on higher fungi is a first for Queensland and not likely to be repeated soon.

Where: Undumbi Room, Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane

When: Saturday 5 November

Web info: www.cubberlawitton.org/conference

Cost: \$50

Info: Jutta Godwin on 07 3378 1929 or 0407 583 441

Ferns abound

NURSERY NOTES by Wayne Webb

For Landcare Week this year I organised a fern walk. A few of our favourite fern spots were unsuitable for group access (ferns have a bad habit of growing in deep, rather inaccessible gullies), so we took the advice of our admin officer, Fuschia, and checked out The Narrows below Baroon Pocket Dam on the Obi Obi – an ideal place for a fern walk. Ferns dominate the ground layer as soon as you leave the car park. The walk is very easy on a well-graded track. It starts in wet sclerophyll forest which merges into rainforest. A side track takes you down to the rocky creek bed of the Obi Obi.

We found around 30 species of ferns, from the large tree ferns *Cyathea cooper* and *C. leichhardtiana* to the minute filmy fern *Cephalomanes brassii*. Most were terrestrial (growing in the ground). Others, however, were lithophytes (growing on rocks), epiphytes (on trees), climbers and one species was even a free-floating aquatic.

The **aquatic** species was *Azolla pinnata*, growing in pockets of still water among the rocks of the Obi Obi. It is quite green in the shade, becoming pinkish-red in the sun. Individual plants are triangular in outline, about one cm across.

The **epiphytic** species were the well known elkhorn *Platycerium bifurcatum* and hare's-foot fern *Davallia pyxidata* (growing on a fallen branch). Greg also reports seeing staghorns *Platycerium superbum* further along the track. As **lithophytes** we saw large specimens of the bird's-nest fern *Asplenium australasicum* and the much smaller sickle fern *Pellaea nana*. **Climbers** included *Arthropteris beckeri* and *Microsorium scandens*, the fragrant fern, which likes to climb up palm and tree fern trunks.

Of the **terrestrial** species, some were growing as isolated individuals (eg shiny shield fern *Lastreopsis marginans*), some as clumps (eg umbrella fern *Sticherus flabellatus*), while others covered large areas of the forest floor. Under lighter canopy cover, the false or mountain bracken *Calochlaena dubia* was dominant, while on more shaded slopes the forest maidenhair *Adiantum silvaticum* took over.

Other terrestrial ferns observed were common maidenhair *Adiantum atroviride*, giant or blackstem maidenhair *A. formosum*, rough maidenhair *A. hispidulum*, gristle fern *Blechnum cartilagineum*, Christella *Christella dentata*, the rasp ferns *Doodia aspera*, *D. caudata* and *D. heterophylla*, ground fern *Hypolepis glandulifera*, harsh ground fern *H. muelleri*, common bracken *Pteridium esculentum*, prickly shield fern *Lastreopsis munita*, lacy wedge fern *Lindsaea microphylla*, sword fern *Nephrolepis cordifolia* and trembling brake fern *Pteris tremula*, as well as the climbing filmy fern *Trichomanes bimarginatum*.

A big thank-you to Peter Bostock of the Queensland Herbarium for leading us on a most enjoyable and informative walk and also to our reveget officer, Greg Smyrell, for helping out. (For a full list of the ferns we found, grouped by family, contact me at the Nursery.)

Back in our Nursery

Remember we welcome back any tubes you may have left over. Our dedicated volunteers are happy to wash and disinfect them for reuse – this saves money for the nursery, and stops them ending up in landfill. We also accept larger pots, but as we don't need many of these we are building quite a mountain out the back. So if you need pots, drop into the nursery and we will gladly give you some. We're also happy to accept grocery bags for reuse in the nursery.

OCTOBER NURSERY SPECIAL -

Richmond birdwing vine *P. praevenosa* is available in 14 cm pots at \$5.50 ea (normally \$6.60).



Forest maidenhair *Adiantum silvaticum* (terrestrial)



Birds nest or Crows nest fern *Asplenium australasicum* (lithophyte/epiphyte)



False or Mountain bracken *Calochlaena dubia* (terrestrial)



Fragrant fern *Microsorium scandens* (climber)



Gristle fern *Blechnum cartilagineum* (terrestrial)

In the long term.....

Eva Ford, MRCCC

Night time escapades along creeks are not everyone's cup of tea, but for the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, the spring and summer months mean business as usual for the 'frogging' contingent. As coordinator of the MRCCC's Living with Threatened Species Project, I have been literally leading property owners and volunteers up the creek for the past two years to find small treasures along the creeks that flow into the Mary River. These treasures (i.e. frogs) provide vital information about the health of our waterways.

Now, with assistance from Maroochy Shire Council, the MRCCC can keep a closer eye on a few key creek areas and monitor changes in frog population levels. Over a long time, we can begin to understand how numbers change from year to year, what's 'normal' and what's not. In this way, we may obtain early warning signals that life in the creek is changing.

Information about frogs is important to all of us. Frogs are a vital part of the food chain, sharing both the watery and dry land environments. As 'skin breathers' they can be affected earlier than other animals when air and water environments are less than favourable. Like the 'canary in the coalmine', frog numbers can tell us about the state of the environment.

Through the Maroochy Shire grant, a few creeks in the Kenilworth area have been chosen for long-term monitoring. At each of these sites the MRCCC will coordinate three searches during the frog breeding season (spring and summer) along a 100 metre section of creek and associated riparian zone.

Two endangered species which enjoy life along creeks that have a healthy border of rainforest vegetation are the cascade tree frog and the giant barred frog. Keeping an eye on known frog populations and helping them to stay and reproduce is the challenge we face as pressures on our waterways increase through urban development and reduced water quality. Along creeks, every tree is sacred and all trees together help to keep our waterways healthy and productive.

For more information, contact the MRCCC at the Mary Catchment Resource Centre in Gympie on 07 5482 4766 or visit the Queensland Frog Society's website at www.qldfrogs.asn.au



Peter Dellow (Biodiversity Project Officer, Maroochy Shire Council), Eva Ford (MRCCC) and Cr Greg Rogerson (Maroochy Shire Council) handing over funds for frog monitoring on Maroochy waterways.

[Photo by Lachlan Millar]

Opportunities & Events

NOOSA FESTIVAL OF WATER

Come to the Noosa Botanic Gardens to celebrate the 40th Birthday of Lake Macdonald! There'll be entertainment and activities for all age groups, including live entertainment from Lindsay Pollock and others, boat tours to the fish hatchery, free water quality testing, Noosa Regional Art Gallery 'Arting About' family fun, and ABC Coast FM broadcasting on site. Hosted by Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group in conjunction with Noosa Shire Council and Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee.

When: Sunday 16 October

Where: Noosa Botanical Gardens, Lake MacDonald Drive, Cooroy

Entry: Free!

Info: Lake Macdonald Catchment Care on 5482 4766 or mrccc@ozwide.net.au

The War on CABOMBA

A forum of all stakeholders involved in the battle to save Australian waterways from the deadly cabomba weed, highlighting the work being undertaken to rid Australian waterways of *Cabomba caroliniana* – one of Australia's top 20 worst weeds.

When: Saturday 15 October

Where: Noosa Botanical Gardens, Lake Macdonald Drive, Cooroy

Entry: Free, includes a bush tucker lunch

To book: Contact Mary Catchment Resource Centre on 5482 4766 or mrccc@ozwide.net.au

2005 Landcare Conference CD available

Contains papers and presentations from the keynote addresses, workshops and info forums, photos and contacts for presenters, key organisations and sponsors.

Cost: \$10 (incl GST)

To order: Post your cheque (made out to Desert Uplands Committee) and your return address and contact details to:
Desert Uplands Committee Landcare Conference CD
PO Box 310, BARCALDINE QLD 4725

Info: Kerri Woodcock on 07 4651 2160 or kerri.woodcock@desertuplands.org.au

Veg Futures 2006

- a conference in the field

A participatory conference about the role of vegetation in productive landscapes: from policy to regional planning and practice. Using practical demonstrations, field trips and presentations from leading researchers and landholders, *Veg Futures 2006* will tackle some of Australia's biggest environmental questions. Of interest to anyone working in vegetation management across Australia, from policy makers to direct seeders. Organised by Greening Australia in partnership with Land & Water Australia, CSIRO, the Joint Venture Agroforestry Program, Charles Sturt University, and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Department of Environment and Heritage.

When: 19-23 March 2006

Where: Albury-Wodonga

Web: www.greeningaustralia.org.au

Contact: Haydn Burgess on 02 6281 8585 or hburgess@greeningaustralia.org.au

The bordered rustic

(*Cupha prosope prosope*)

BUTTERFLIES OF THE RANGE by Bob Miller

A female bordered rustic provided me with one of the most amazing sights I have seen in all my time studying butterflies.

Back in February 2000 at a re-vegetation site in a park where I was assessing weed growth, I noticed movement around one of the three flintwood *Scolopia braunii* saplings we had previously introduced to the park.

Never having seen the bordered rustic in this park before, we once again proved that by planting the right plants in the right places the wildlife associated with those plants, in this case butterflies, will soon follow.

The amazing thing about this butterfly was not that it appeared in the park, but the way the female deposited her eggs.

I crept up as close as I could without disturbing the butterfly to watch her ovipositing (laying the eggs). Every time she put her abdomen under a leaf – the normal place butterflies deposit eggs – I moved in for a closer look, but no eggs!

I must have watched her for ten minutes as she walked from one side of the plant to the other, touching her abdomen on the leaves and branches as she went. She would walk along the branch upside-down and then back up the right way again, dragging her abdomen at differing intervals.

When she flew to the other side of the plant, I took the advantage and searched very thoroughly where she had been earlier, but to no avail, I couldn't find any eggs.

I moved slowly around the tree to once again observe her strange movements. This time I wasn't going to take my eyes off of her.

Then I saw it! A single, small, greenish coloured egg was glistening in the sunshine on the underside of a leaf. I took note of where it was and continued to observe the adult as she danced around the plant. Then I saw it again, another egg, an exact replica of the first, but not on the underside of a leaf, as with the first – this time it was in a spider's web!

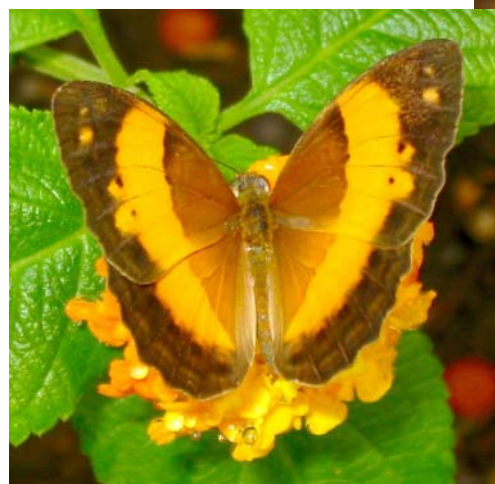
I moved back a bit to take in the whole plant and there they were, eight, nine, ten separate eggs and all in spider's webs! The female had been walking along the branches and leaves until she found a spider's web, and then she would swing her abdomen to very quickly touch the web, sticking an egg in it. It was happening so fast I was actually missing it!

How safe would these eggs be? I'm sure that if I was a predatory insect I wouldn't go near the eggs. But what about the caterpillars that emerged from the eggs? Surely the spiders would eat them?

No, not at all. As soon as the caterpillars eat their way free of their eggs, they attached a life-line to the spiderwebs and, like a group of abseilers, lower themselves slowly down until they find a leaf or branch of the food plant.

But how do they know what to eat? There is every possibility they could abseil onto the wrong plant.

After talking it over with a few more 'butterfly observers', we deduced that maybe the dance she was performing on the plant, dragging her abdomen, was actually her way of putting the scent of the foodplant onto the eggs. When the larvae emerge they eat their eggshells, hence getting the taste of the foodplant imprinted in their sensory organs.



From top down:

Bordered rustic larva (side),
pupa (top),
adult (side), and
adult (top).

[Photos by Bob Miller]

I took a couple of the eggs home and placed them on a flintwood I have in an eight inch pot. (I keep a variety of larval foodplants in pots so I can observe life cycles of butterflies in the relatively 'predator free' environment of my shade-house.)

The larvae are a greenish colour and seem to be quite hairy. These almost black hairs are in fact non-irritating spines.

The pupae look like they could be used for Christmas tree decorations. They are green, with ten slender spines of various sizes along the body; these are bent on the ends and seem to be set in silver on the pupa. The spines are brown with black areas on both ends.

The adult butterfly is fairly small and orange, often first noticed in slightly shady areas. The upper wings are dark brown on the outer edges, with a band of orange and then finally a dark-caramel colour closest to the body. The underside of the butterfly is an all-over caramel colour. The hindwing has seven black spots enclosed in a scalloped pattern with a purplish sheen. The forewing has one prominent black spot and approximately four small black spots toward the leading edge. The butterfly is only five centimetres from wingtip to wingtip.

Three foodplants are listed for the larvae of the bordered rustic: *Flacourtia jangomas*, *Scolopia braunii* and *Xylosma ovatum*. My preference, as mentioned previously, is *Scolopia braunii* and this is available at times from the Nursery at Barung Landcare.

Butterflies of Australia by Michael F. Braby (2000) is a good source of further information on this subject.

EFTPOS facility
available at Barung Landcare

Seventh Daintree property purchased and protected

by Kelvin Davies, Rainforest Rescue

Many people assumed the creation of the Daintree National Park and World Heritage Listing in 1988 would secure the unique environment of the Daintree. However two-thirds of the tropical rainforest of the coastal lowlands were excluded from protection. At the same time, the State Government of the day approved a large rural residential subdivision in the heart of the Daintree lowlands. Today the only way to adequately secure this freehold land is to compensate landowners. But the good news is many landowners are willing to sell and the 'Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever Project' is providing a solution.

Another milestone in the project was reached on 17 June when not-for-profit organisation Rainforest Rescue and its project partner, The Daintree Rainforest Foundation, announced the successful purchase of another 5.16 hectares (13 acre) property in the Daintree. Located in the Forest Creek area (immediately north of the Daintree River) the rear boundary of the property adjoins the Daintree National Park (World Heritage Area) and the southern boundary is across the road from a State Reserve. The property and immediate environs are habitat for a variety of filmy ferns, palms and other rare species and regional ecosystems. The property is also known as habitat for the elusive Bennett's tree-kangaroo and will provide a valuable corridor from the National Park to the Forest Creek wetlands.

This is the seventh property protected by the program. As with all of the acquired properties, the Foundation will arrange for the property to be declared a Nature Refuge, removing all development rights in perpetuity.

The funds used to purchase the property came from tax-deductible donations made by members of the community. Rainforest Rescue would like to thank everybody who has made a donation in the past or in any way assisted with the project. Rainforest Rescue invites you to make a tax-deductible donation to help ensure this important and successful project continues. Amazingly every \$20 will save ten square metre of this World Heritage value rainforest and protect it from the threat of rural residential development.

For more information or to make a donation please phone 02 6629 1395 or visit www.rainforestrescue.org.au or send a cheque to Rainforest Rescue PO Box 1511 Toowong Qld 4066.

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... **Ashton Berry** (Strategic Regional Facilitator for the Burnett-Mary) for supporting Landcare Week and the AGM

... **Caloundra City Council** for sponsoring Landcare Week

... **Rob and Samantha Outridge, Maleny IGA**, for supporting the catering of Landcare Week

... The **fabulous guest speakers** at Landcare Week

... **Val Phillips** for her fantastic organisation of the BBQs for Landcare Week

... **Janet Carew and Rik & Ursula Ralph** for donating microwave ovens (one for the Expo Office and one for the Barung Office and both being used well)

... **Mary** for the donation of 100 silky oaks

... All the **seed donors**

... Everyone who helped at the Wild Spaces Film Festival

... **Madee Sommers, Max Smith, Patrick Cavanaugh, Sharyn Todd, Noel Dunning, Tristan Burnett, Michelle Cormac, and Valmai & Colin Phillips** for the August-September **Barung News** mailout

... **Michael Howard** for transferring Expo computer data

... **Barry Liddell** for networking the 'other' Barung office computers

... **Jane Williamson** for making the 'other' Barung office liveable, attractive and friendly

... All our wonderful **team of volunteers** for all your support

... Anyone else we may have missed – it's been a very full month or two!



To the CJP team

Having just completed another successful Landcare week I would like to thank the CJP team for all the help they gave me, in helping prepare salads etc and cooking the BBQs.

We catered for 250 hungry people enjoying the activities of Landcare week.

Val Phillips

Letters

Real Estate values Landholders Guide

Dear Mim

Congratulations on a successful launch of the new Landholders Guide.

It was great to be there, to meet with you, and to be part of such a positive event.

Roger (Loughnan) has agreed to purchase a boxful to give as gifts to buyers of properties on the Range. I can't think of a better start as the new owner of a property than to have this great guide on hand!

Keep up the great work. Kind regards,

Craig Hanicek, Roger Loughnan Real Estate

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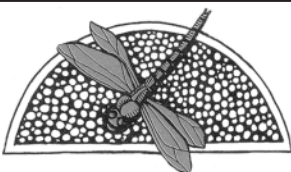
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Invasion of the McPines! ...

... continued from page 20

accept responsibility when it comes to the issue of escapee pines, little action is taking place with this major weed problem.

I have no argument with the commercial reality of pine plantations; however the cost of growing these trees should include the cost of controlling their wayward offspring. That old Aussie saying about the American soldiers in Australia during WWII being 'over-paid, over-sexed and over here!' could certainly apply to these American pines. The full costs of growing *Pinus* trees including their management as a weed in the coastal areas of SEQ has to be recognised, or in 200 years *Pinus* forests will dominate from just north of Brisbane to Hervey Bay. A monocultural monopoly of monstrous magnitude!

On a slightly more positive note I've recently been fortunate to work with my team at a small National Park in Beerwah on a *Pinus* control project initiated by our local National Parks Office. *Pinus* trees are a very rewarding weed to work with because they are easy to cut and fell and require no herbicides to kill them. They only require cutting below their lowest branches. The main tools we use to control them are brushcutters fitted with chainsaw tooth blades. If *Pinus* are growing among existing native vegetation, a few hours' work can see a weed-dominated landscape quickly transformed by revealing and liberating the native vegetation. However the eye opening part of this work for me has been the drive home. *Pinus* are everywhere! And the problem is just getting worse.

Pinus species produce heavy shade and masses of pine needle mulch that suppresses the growth of existing native vegetation; they also change soil fertility and increase the acidity of the soil. *Pinus* seed are mainly wind dispersed but some wildlife dispersal occurs with cockatoos carrying cones to extract their seed. In the areas we were clearing of *Pinus* recently, they appeared to be wind dispersed into the heathland areas as they occurred in a fairly standard band of up to 40 metres from the edge within these areas. However in the woodland areas where there are perching opportunities for large birds, *Pinus* saplings were more randomly distributed up to several hundred metres from the nearest seed sources. This significantly increases their ability to invade native forest and requires us to be vigilant, thorough and persistent in their control.

The most effective way can treat and control these weeds is through awareness. We have to remind the managers of the *Pinus* plantations of their responsibility with this weedy issue. Just as we accept the cost of controlling pollution as a cost to be absorbed by industry, we must include the costs of controlling and managing the detrimental effects of exotic plants and animals as part of their cost of production.

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Invasion of the McPines!

TURKEY TANGENTIAL by Spencer Shaw

My weedy story for today is about a group of trees that are the McDonalds of the weed world. They are big, all look the same, represent large commercial interests, are American in origin and of course have little or no nutritional value! They are a group of weeds that dominate our roadsides, invade heathlands and woodlands, change soil fertility and produce clouds of pollen with potential health risks.

They are a group of weeds that I'm ashamed to admit I'd stopped even noticing, because they are so prolific. The trees are, of course, the exotic pines, primarily slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*) and Caribbean pine (*Pinus caribaea* var. *hondurensis*). The McPines!

Their introduction around the middle of the last century by the Forestry Department saw massive areas of previously untouched native coastal vegetation cleared to establish plantations for timber and for pulp. Exotic pine trees, selected for their standard uniform growth and for the speed with which they grow, were seen as the ideal plantation tree by the Queensland Forestry Department.

Unfortunately they are so well adapted to growing in south-east Queensland that they have since become weeds, leaping out of their plantations and invading the remaining native vegetation.

These American pines thrive in our sclerophyll ecosystems and are rated very highly in my list of dangerous weeds because they can establish in relatively undisturbed natural ecosystems. Surprisingly, however, *Pinus* are rarely mentioned for the damage they are causing to our local native ecosystems. Unlike the camphor laurel (a high profile weed that mainly invades country that has already been cleared of its native vegetation) *Pinus* trees invade undisturbed native vegetation. Yet in spite of the fact that *Pinus elliotii* has escaped *enmasse* from the large plantation estates throughout SEQ, this species comes in at only 44 on the Queensland Herbarium's top 200 most invasive naturalized plants in SEQ. Whether it be complacency (from the fact that several generations of Sunshine Coast residents have grown up with pine plantations being part of their landscape) or from the State Government's 'head in the sand' attitude and unwillingness to

... continued on page 19

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