

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

August - September 2007



YOUR CHANCE TO DISCUSS BARUNG'S FUTURE SITE

by Heather Spring, President, Barung Landcare

Wow, look at Georgina (the python) go! Obviously news of the latest Caloundra City Council resolution regarding our Nursery and Resource Centre relocating to the Maleny Community Precinct has travelled far and wide. He/she knows the time to move is nearly upon us.

Decisions made over the next few months by Caloundra City Councillors and the feedback given to Council by you, our members, will be crucial to the continued operations of Barung and achieving positive environmental outcomes.

I am pleased at the recognition given by Councillors to the ongoing importance of Barung's work for the environment. However I am a bit surprised that the resolution (see page 7) regarding the Maleny Community Precinct (www.caloundra.qld.gov.au) seems to have short-circuited the excellent consultation process that was being led by Council staff. However, it is important that we don't get hung up on the way decisions are made or past actions, so it is on with the next part of the process. We look forward to seeing a map of how the proposed Maleny Community Precinct will look.

Once the proposal is available, the Barung Committee and I will look at the proposed structure plan and come to an agreed understanding about the location of the new Barung and the nature of the environmental works proposed for the precinct land.

We will then hold an **information meeting** for members. This meeting will give us an opportunity to discuss the structure plan proposals and come up with an informed response to Council. In the meantime, staff, volunteers and committee members continue to develop site plans and concepts for the new Barung.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Keep your eye out for a letter from Barung or an advertisement in the *Range News* for the meeting details.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Maleny Cultural and Community Master Plan consultation.



Georgina the Carpet Python pauses obligingly during her/his exit as Dawn discusses focus with her camera.
[Photo by Jane Williamson]

WHAT DOES BARUNG NEED AT THE NEW SITE?

Hmmm, well ...

For one thing, Barung really needs a frost-free zone when we move to the new site!

Can you guess the species of seedling from which this ice 'cast' was taken, one frosty morning in mid-July in the Barung Nursery?

The cost of this beauty is still being counted as this newsletter goes to print ...



IN THIS ISSUE

Discuss Barung's future site	1
New Members.....	2
Koala Habitat Project and GREENCORP.....	3
Threatened Species 'Back on Track'	4
BARUNG CONTRACTING: Bush Regeneration.....	5
Restoration Success: Keynote Address	6
USEFUL TOOLS: For digging in and out.....	7
Caloundra City Council recognises Barung	7
NURSERY NOTES: Tray bottoms	8
Collecting seed from rainforest plants	9
PLANT PROFILE: Large-leaved Wilkiea.....	9
ORNAMENTAL GARDEN: Winter to Spring.....	10
LAKE BAROON CCG: Showcase site	10
WILDLIFE WANDERINGS: Night-life	11
REGIONAL NRM ROUNDUP: Veg Act workshops ...	11
WEED WATCH: Integrated weed control	12
BOOK REVIEW.....	13
Waterwatch.....	13
RESOURCES AND EVENTS	14
THANK YOU TO ..., LETTERS	14
TURKEY TANGENTIAL: Crystal Clear	16,15

Please keep showing your ...

Barung Community Benefit key tags

... when shopping at Maleny IGA

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Val Phillips)

Neil Eiby	Paul Dwyer
Gillian Higgin	Doug Smith
Brett Waite & Kirsti Nissila	Penelope Tod
B Connors	Andrew Rogers
Nev Hungerford	Peter Coyne
Lilian Warren	Meg Weymark
Jillian Rossiter	Ian McMillan
Brenda McGreevy	Sean Hildred
Greg & Mary Lou Raomund	Paul & Sarah Wilson
Robert O'Connor	Helen Turnock
Stan McCallum	John & Jacquie Bell
Robyn Stabler & Michael Maude	Wendy Newton
Jean-Louis & Audrey Girard	Corey Johnson

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

DEADLINE - Wed 13th Sept'r for October-November 2007 Newsletter contributions

Barung Landcare...



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

THANK YOU

Opening Hours

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Barung Nursery & Resource Centre/Office

8.30 am - 4.00 pm

SATURDAY

Barung Nursery only

9.00 am - 12.00 pm

Barung gratefully acknowledges funding & sponsorships from:



An Initiative of the Maleny Credit Union



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

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

Barung Landcare Koala Habitat Rehabilitation Project

Nine team members, along with Team Leader Steve Mallet, make up the current Conservation Volunteers Australia Greencorp Team.

Calhan Ellerbock hails from Yandina, Alister Holland and Dylan Passmore from Mapleton, Sam Schmidt, Melissa Neuendorf, Joazy Reader, Jai McNeish and Josh Franz travel from Golden Beach, and Isaac Stenz from Maleny make up the team which started work on 28 May and will finish up on 26 October.

The team are completing a **Certificate 1 in Conservation and Land Management** as part of their training.

Their major project is regenerating eucalypt forest where there is suitable habitat for koalas.

Most of the work entails removing lantana and other exotic weed species and planting contiguous areas with suitable plants to link koala habitat areas into corridors. This will take place mainly on private lands from upper Elaman Creek up to Reesville and also at Curramore at the top of the Kidaman Creek Road.

Special thanks to Jane, Fuschia and Dawn at Barung for catering when the team was officially launched five weeks in, which also saw us equipped with uniforms, protective personal equipment and a 4WD vehicle, which is needed to travel to most of the sites.

The first section of the Certificate course involved completing a First Aid Course, Workplace Health and Safety training and team forming exercises.

The team have since learnt to identify many local plants and animals, both native and exotic, both environmentally desirable and not so desirable. They have also assisted the Barung Contracting Team on some tree planting and bush regeneration projects as well as completing tree plant maintenance at Pacific Plantations and the IGA Connection Treeplant at the Maleny Showgrounds, and removed litter and weeds along the length of the Obi Obi Boardwalk. They have collected and propagated native plant seeds.

When the recent cool, windy conditions made it unsafe to work in the eucalypt forests, the team travelled to Noosa Koala Reserve, Bellthorpe Forest, Maleny National Park at Curramore and John and Mary King's Rainforest Liqueurs at Conondale, prepared and cooked a fish barbecue for Barung staff and volunteers, counted platypus along the Obi Obi Creek from above the Weir to the end of Armstrong's farm, and changed the wheel bearings and upgraded the electrics on their team trailer.

In the near future the team will be working further on habitat repairs in the private landholder areas. We will also be learning more about the ecology and physiology of koalas, in particular their reproductive and dietary habits, disease and predator problems.



The Greencorp Team with Darryl Ebenezer of Barung Landcare and Greencorp team supervisor Steve Mallet.

Project ideas needed

The team needs ideas for a two-week community-based project, so please send your ideas to the team through Steve or the Barung Office staff.

Look out for us in early September with a local Koala information stall in Maple Street.

Barung Environmental Gift Fund

AWAITING YOUR DONATION

The Barung Environmental Gift Fund is established to raise funds for Landcare projects on the Blackall Range in south-east Queensland.

Funds raised assist Barung to provide on-ground works, information, resources and support to more than 750 members, other local and regional environmental organisations and the wider community.

During the coming 2007/2008 year, we are focusing on contributions towards the capital infrastructure that will be needed when Barung moves to the Maleny Community Precinct.

Your tax-deductible donation will provide a welcome addition to the fund.



GETTING THREATENED SPECIES ACTION 'BACK ON TRACK' IN THE BURNETT MARY

More than 130 plant and animal species, identified as being 'at risk' in the Burnett Mary region, have a good chance of being recovered if appropriate actions are undertaken soon. They are under threat from factors as diverse as urban development, fire, weeds and feral animals.

(Please note, this list will be available in the near future on the Burnett Mary Regional Group's website, www.bmr.org.au).

The Burnett Mary region covers an incredibly wide range of landscapes. It includes a diverse spectrum of regional ecosystems or plant communities, from highland rainforests to coastal heathlands, which are home to an equally diverse range of animals.

Biodiversity Coordinator of the Burnett Mary Regional Group, Rachel Lyons, says, 'The BMRG is committed to helping the community ensure that our rich diversity is maintained for the very long term. It is our responsibility to future generations.'

To achieve this goal, a BMRG Project Team is developing a multi-species action plan to ensure that future on-ground works benefit as many species as possible. This approach will provide an integrated and cost-effective approach to the management of conservation activities and species recovery.

Records kept by EPA, Birds Australia and other groups provide valuable information about species distribution. From these sources, the species requiring help have been identified. However the project team needs more records (including informal and anecdotal information) from the community to paint a true picture of where these species are now and where they were found in the past.

Small patches of remnant vegetation often form crucial linkages and refuges for plants and animals and also need to be identified to assist the project. Local help is required to locate these often-ignored habitats.

It is hoped that local people with local knowledge can help the team with species and vegetation information.

Land owners, indigenous owners, community groups, and local or state government agencies, among others, can contribute sound information about our mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, frogs, butterflies, spiders and plants.

If you would like more information about the project and species on the list, or if you have any information about the listed species or habitat remnants that may be of assistance, you are encouraged to contact the Project Team members on the following numbers:

Mim Coulstock (Maleny)	5494 4172
Ashley Bunce (Gladstone)	4970 7285
Caroline Haskard (Nanango)	4163 5090
Ann Moran (Nambour)	5448 4547
Kevin Wormington (Bundaberg)	4150 7014

BMRG 'Back on Track' Project Team members (left to right): Mim Coulstock, Ashley Bunce, Caroline Haskard and Anne Moran.



Wildlife Walks

Susie Duncan will lead Wildlife Walks on Friday 3 August and Friday 14 September.

For both walks, meet at Barung at 8.45 am to car-pool. Destinations are still to be decided but expect to return to Barung by 3.00 pm.

Bring water, lunch, strong boots, hat, sun-screen, insect repellent.

The walks are free but please book at Barung on 5494 3151.

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

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

Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.

When your BUSINESS supports Barung Landcare, you will be acknowledged in the bimonthly *Barung Landcare News* (800 distribution) and at Barung displays, and you are entitled to three free trees and discounts on plant purchases at the Nursery.

Phone the office at Barung Landcare on 5494 3151, email barungadmin@big.net.au or drop into Barung Landcare at 17 Bicentenary Lane, Maleny.

A PARABLE OF BUSH REGENERATION

CONTRACTING SERVICES by Brendan Stephen

A shout-out to the great custodians of this land, the Gubbi Gubbi, those who looked over this place for countless generations, who have been here since time immemorial. Acknowledgement given to the dedication and commitment of the Barung Contracting Services (BCS) crew; without you amazing people the local ecology would be less functional and my existence less rewarding.

Jolyon Froude, my illustrious colleague, and I were privileged to be keynote presenters, representing Barung and the Blackall Range and extolling the virtues of our profession, at the recent Rainforest Recovery Forum at Griffith University. The intent of this conference was to investigate and demonstrate the research and application of fundamental rainforest regeneration processes on a wide variety of sites, within a staggering level of demographics across the greater Queensland region.

Ten years have passed since the last such conference, so there was a great deal of new and exciting information regarding the research, planning and onground implementation of rainforest restoration works. It is so motivating to realize that a dedicated and educated network of forest 'freaks' all along the east coast are participating in and projecting into the greater spectrum of landscape rehabilitation. We are not alone!

This conference was to me a festival of sorts, my personal 'Woodstock', where I could see in the flesh such amazing people as Nan Nicholson, Bill McDonald, Gwen Harden, Janet Hauser, Carla Catterall, Phil Moran, Aila Keto and Jolyon Froude! These people have been an inspiration to me for many years, their level of knowledge and experience regarding rainforest dynamics is outstanding, and their passion and appreciation for our natural systems is highly evident. A wide range of ecological, social and economic information about rainforest rehabilitation was on show for me to consume, devour and digest!

This type of conference brings together scientists, practioners and managers, linking the flow of information and attempting to generate a reciprocal cycle to ensure the multi-dimensional elements of bush regeneration are not lost in translation.

The basis of Jolyon's and my presentation was to explain the factors responsible for ensuring the 'Success and Functionality of Onground Works' (excerpt on page 6 in this *Barung News*). We introduced Barung and what we are all about; we explored the landscape and the relationship between geology and ecology; and we introduced, addressed and evaluated the constraints that can lead to project failure. Fundamentally, we spoke of in-depth

planning, extensive and articulated weed control, appropriate planting processes and ongoing maintenance regimes.

Overall, the presentation was a huge success. A great range of participants and audience members approached us to extol the virtues of our talk! I may be a little excited, but this is similar to Jimi Hendrix praising my guitar playing!

The conference was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, information was transferred, and the linkages between research, planning and onground implementation were strengthened. At times, in restoration work, there appears to be a lack of continuity and cohesion between those investigating ecological realities, the decision-makers and those in the field. It can be frustrating when the former are not receptive to the ideas of the latter and when those in the middle remain on the fence. This conference was a fantastic opportunity to encourage the multi-lateral management of our natural heritage.

The BCS Team have continued on regardless of the instant celebrity status that has been thrust upon them. The legions of adoring fans do impact on our onground focus, but we are slowly adapting and can compensate so that our delivery of outcomes is not jeopardised.

Issues such as climate change and water availability further reinforce the necessity, in a triple-bottom line context, of understanding the ecological and societal processes occurring across the landscape to ensure that strategies generated to address these pressing issues are relevant, applicable and of a long-term focus.

BARUNG CONTRACTING Price Changes

To all our valued landholders/customers:

As you would be aware, the many costs associated with delivering natural resource management activities on-ground – fuel, materials, labour – have all increased since 2004, when Barung Contracting Services began. Barung Contracting Services has maintained charges at 2004 prices for as long as we could.

Funds generated by Barung Contracting Services facilitate the wider work of Barung Landcare Association. When you use Barung Contracting Services to

- **revegetate** with appropriate native species
- assist in **regeneration** of native plant communities
- undertake **Property Planning**
- identify and control environmental **weeds**
- participate in all areas of **Natural Resource Management**,

You are assisting Barung Landcare to deliver

- community awareness and education activities
- opportunities for additional grants and project funds
- regeneration and revegetation on-ground works
- catchment protection.

From 1 August 2007, our hourly rates per team member are

On-ground works \$38.50/hour (inc GST)

Consultation/

Property Planning \$55.00/hour (inc GST)

Thank you for using our services. We look forward to working together to enhance your property and our local environment.

Ring Brendan on 0429 943 156 for advice and quotes.



Barung Contracting

revegetation
bush regeneration
landscape rehabilitation
environmental weed control
project planning & management
indigenous tubestock
consultancy & property planning
onground conservation works

coordinator 0429 943 156
barung landcare 07 5494 3151
www.barunglandcare.org.au
contracting@barunglandcare.org.au

SO WHAT DO WE CONSTITUTE AS SUCCESS IN RESTORATION WORKS?

Edited extract from Keynote Address presented by Jolyon Froude and Brendan Stephen to the Rainforest Recovery Forum, Griffith University, 25-27 June 2007

We at Barung travel a steep learning curve as pioneers in the field of environmental restoration. We are redefining the objectives and outcomes that constitute a successful restoration project. Where once projects were focused simply on planting trees or removing weeds, the aims, outcomes and measures of success for restoration projects have been significantly broadened. We now aim to build or enhance a functional and relatively self-sustaining system reflecting the structural and species composition of a specific local ecosystem. A stronger focus has developed on facilitating natural regeneration, incorporating a much more strategic approach to weed removal, and overall project management.

This definition of success has evolved as we observe the mistakes and failures of previous projects and the consequences this had for their long-term functionality. Failed projects have resulted poor plant survival and natural recruitment within the site, and a lack of sustaining structure and function, resulting in labour-intensive ongoing weed maintenance and associated management issues.

Failures are very distressing and wasteful of resources and community energy. On the other hand, a successful restoration project provides a multitude of environmental benefits and is truly inspiring for those involved in the project.

Project planning undertaken well in advance is the foundation of a successful project. Complex and on-going projects benefit from a written plan that guides the on-ground works over the medium to long time, identifying site-specific constraints and influences and developing strategies to overcome these conundrums.

An in-depth understanding of the nature of a site's original ecosystem and its associated processes is essential in the effectiveness of restoring and enhancing the vegetation community. Project managers must have an extensive understanding of the relationships between environmental variables such as soil type, topography, climate and aspect and the associated vegetation communities occurring where these sets of variables occur within the local landscape. Existing remnant vegetation on-site or within close proximity makes this evaluation process easier.

Planning must consider:

- Appropriate species selection and developmental structural integrity, considering ecological values and restoration potentials based on successional ecology, proximity and connectivity to remnant vegetation, presence of mature remnant trees, potential for native species recruitment, hostilities along edges, position of the site within the catchment and greater landscape, and concentration of on-ground efforts on relatively less disturbed areas.
- The weed palette of the site, including actual species, infestation levels, species growth-forms and life-cycles, re-infestation potentials, and effective control methodologies.
- Potential for and severity of frosts on low-lying areas.
- Potential for flooding, soil saturation and overground runoff.
- Structural and chemical attributes of the soil profile and the potential for movement, erosion, landslips, sedimentation and general degradation.
- Social factors associated with community dynamics, neighbouring land uses and influential paradigms.
- Implications of site topography and access for logistics.

Once these factors have been assessed, strategies to overcome the challenges posed by the project are developed, and implemented. These strategies include:

- Selecting appropriate species to build a system of site (soil) appropriate species; placing plants correctly within different zones (i.e. along creeks, edges); selecting a planting model (mixture of pioneer, secondary and tertiary species) appropriate for project.
- Determining whether the appropriate process is revegetation (tree planting), regeneration (strategic weed control to facilitate natural recruitment), or a combination.
- Developing appropriate strategies for weed control (based on species present, infestation levels, re-infestation potential and difficulty of control).
- On frost-prone sites, planning to limit frost damage such as by establishing frost-hardy cover species and/or planting in spring so that plantings are well-established by the next frost.
- In flood-prone areas, planning to use flood-tolerant species and/or timing plantings to minimise flood damage potential.
- Implementing appropriate soil amelioration practices (eg. ripping or blanket mulching) to deal with soil degradation.
- Determining a manageable size and implementation process for the project; it is vital to be realistic, and far better to have a small success to build on than a large failure.
- Considering how the project fits into the bigger picture of other restoration work underway or planned in the surrounding area.
- Improving site access to facilitate on-going work.
- Working with the seasons when scheduling works (i.e. removing woody weeds in winter, applying herbicide when plants are actively growing, planting when good rainfall is expected).
- Carrying out site preparation well in advance.
- On-going project management following initial weed control and planting, addressing who is responsible for maintenance, replanting/enrichment planting as appropriate, managing damage factors such as flood, cattle etc, communicating with/educating landowners, other stakeholders and community.
- Continuing with on-going evaluation, noting factors constraining or enhancing success, and remaining open to changing strategies to improve project outcomes.

Successful restoration projects are integral to the broader process of rainforest conservation. Ensuring the long-term viability of rainforest biodiversity requires remnant patches to be increased in size, buffered from the degrading effects of surrounding land uses, and reconnected across the landscape.

Conservation science provides the theoretical basis, but only successful on-ground projects can turn the theory into reality. We must now learn to undertake successful on-ground projects which are both more numerous and of larger scale.

Barung Landcare...



TOOLS FOR DIGGING IN & OUT

USEFUL TOOLS by Joan Dillon

Revegetation activities throw up plenty of challenges, not the least of which is finding the right tools for the particular job. Sometimes they either don't exist, or are ridiculously expensive, so modification/improvisation is the name of the game.

Our most useful tool is undoubtedly the tractor but we don't attempt to modify that!

However, once the tractor has ripped a planting line, and the soil has been allowed to naturally crumble (essential in our heavy cracking clay) a camping shovel attacked with an angle grinder is great for digging holes for tubestock. The sloping sides slip easily into the soil and a hole of just the right size is produced. Camping shovels have a medium length handle so they strain the back less than a standard spade.

Another challenge is those deep-rooted weeds such as sida, swamp dock etc. For these, a length of angle iron can be welded to a length of square section steel with a foot bar and hand bar also welded on. See photo.

Actual dimensions are:

- shaft 25 x 25 mm square section tube, total length 1150 mm
- top crossbar 25 x 5 mm thick, 120 mm long
- business end 40 x 40 angle, 4 mm thick, 300 mm long
- foot plate 30 x 30 angle, 2 mm thick, 180 mm long

When constructing this tool, overlap the shaft and the 40 x 40 angle by 100 mm, leaving a length of 200 mm to push down beside the offending weed. It's important to crush the angle as close as possible to the shaft to retain strength and get a good weld. Timber could be used to cover the hand bar for extra comfort.

The steel slides down beside the weed's root, which can be levered out without disturbing everything around it. This tool is also great for removing giant thistles. Cut away most of the stem and you can lever out the rest without having to touch the prickly menace.

Custom-made or modified tools for digging out weeds (left) and planting seedlings (right) make these jobs quicker and easier.

[Photo by John Dillon]



Landcare Week 2007

Check out the Fridge Calendar insert for Barung activities

Monday 3 to Sunday 9 September

Barung AGM 2007

At our new location ...?

Saturday 17 November

CALOUNDRA CITY COUNCIL RECOGNISES IMPORTANCE OF BARUNG & THE ENVIRONMENT

Barung welcomes the inclusion of Barung Landcare and significant environmental and community works in Caloundra City Council's resolution of 5 July regarding the Maleny Community Precinct (see next column).

Barung Landcare will continue to work closely with Council to ensure the timely relocation of Barung to a suitable location on the Precinct land.

Your continued support is very valuable so make sure you respond to the consultation paper when it is released.

For further information regarding the Maleny Community Precinct go to

www.caloundra.qld.gov.au

In part, Council's **Resolution 1** of 5 July reads:

1. It be noted that the planning and consultation process undertaken to date has provided the strategic basis for the preparation of options for the Maleny Community Precinct; and
2. for the purpose of community consultation to progress the Maleny Community Precinct local structure planning process a consultation paper be prepared which provides for a development which includes:
 1. an area of land suitable for an 18 hole club standard golf course, similar to the standard of the Caloundra Golf Club course and the Beerwah Golf Club course;
 2. an area of land for the relocation of Barung Landcare;
 3. an area of land for community purposes;
 4. an indicative road link to North Maleny and walking trails along the Obi Obi Creek;
 5. provision of environmental buffers;
 6. an area of land for a hinterland park/garden;
 7. protection of the original Pattemore house; and
 8. limited residential development.

HAVE YOU GOT THE RIGHT SORT OF BOTTOM?

NURSERY NOTES by Wayne Webb

Have you got the right sort of bottom? To your seed tray, that is. For those of you interested in growing your own seedlings, it is important to consider the type of seed tray you use, in particular the type of base it has.

Remember, the most important part of a tree is underground. It is the root system that provides water and nutrient to the rest of the plant, and which holds the tree upright (consider the winds we have had lately). Deformities in the root system will impact on its abilities to carry out these functions.

To be stable, a tree needs to have a good lateral spread of roots – performing a function similar to guy ropes on a flagpole. Many people consider a taproot to be important for tree stability, but how many fallen trees have you seen with a big carrot under them? A taproot's main function is to get down deep into the soil profile initially where the germinating seedling can obtain a more reliable supply of moisture. This is why self-sown seedlings will often do better than planted tubestock in a position that is close to existing trees.

Unfortunately, if the taproot is allowed to develop in a container, it will usually end up going round and round the bottom of the pot, which can later strangle the developing tree. It is much better to allow the taproot to reach the bottom of the container, become exposed to dry air underneath, and have its tip burnt off – a process known as air-pruning. Just as with pruning the top out of a tree, this will promote branching in the root system, which will then lead to the lateral spread of roots mentioned before. A more branched root system will also allow the plant to better utilise the water and nutrients available in the potting mix.

Many older types of seed trays have solid bottoms with several drainage holes. Seeds will germinate in these without any problem, but once the taproot hits the bottom it will turn sideways and run across the base of the tray. This results in a long root with a 90-degree bend and very little branching. When tubing up, you should prune off the root at the bend, which will unfortunately leave the plant with very little in the way of a root system.

Open mesh bases, however, allow for air-pruning and promote a well-branched root system which can rapidly establish the seedling when tubed up (see photo below).



Flindersia schottiana (Bumpy Ash) seedlings showing well-branched root systems.

These seedlings were grown in an open-bottomed tray lined with 5 mm square galvanised mesh.

Both of the seedling trays shown in the other photograph are available from Fernland Agencies in Nambour (50 Perwillowen Rd), open to the general public Monday to Friday. The mesh lining the larger tray is available from produce stores.



Seed trays used at Barung Nursery. The smaller is a standard seedling tray, and the larger is called a large plastic utility tray (485 mm x 370 mm).

[Photos by Wayne Webb]

Now we have your bottom sorted out, I'll get back to thinking about the design of our new Barung Landcare native plant nursery, using industry best practice guidelines. It seems the time is approaching when we finally can get excited about relocating and enlarging our nursery. This will enable Dawn and me (and our hard working vollies) to produce a bigger range of tubestock for your revegetation works, as well as more advanced stock.

NORTHERN PIPELINE INTERCONNECTOR

The Commonwealth Department of Environment and Water Resources has reaffirmed their earlier decision that the NPI project is not a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The project's Environmental Impact Statement is open for public comment from Monday 2 July 2007 to Monday 30 July 2007.

The EIS can be downloaded from this website:

www.srwpalliance.com.au/north

The EIS is on display at these locations until 30 July:

Beerwah and District Public Library

JL Beausang Library, Caloundra

Submissions must be received on or before 30 July at

Fax: 07 3225 8282

Email: NPI@infrastructure.qld.gov.au

Post: EIS Project Manager, NPI
Major Projects Division, Dept of Infrastructure
PO Box 15009, City East QLD 4002

More info: 1800 608 144

Renew your Barung membership
or buy books from Barung's Bookshop
over the phone
with your credit card

COLLECTING SEED FROM RAINFOREST PLANTS

by Diana O'Connor

One way community members can contribute to Barung is to collect seed from local rainforest plants for the nursery.

Barung prefers to use local seed from naturally occurring trees first, and then from trees grown from Barung stock as a second line. The more individual trees the seed comes from, the more genetic diversity we return to the landscape when we replant.

Over the years Barung staff and members have found particular (and accessible) trees from which they can collect seed. However, if you have a fertile tree on your land, it may be a welcome addition as a parent tree for the nursery.

Seed collectors need to bring a leaf or sprig of leaves from the tree with your seeds into Barung, so that the tree can be accurately identified. Leaves will keep for days in good condition if kept in a plastic bag in the fridge. You also need to write down where and when you collected the seed.

Rainforest seeds are used by many creatures. Birds eat them (often using only the pulp surrounding the seed and then voiding the seed), as well as beetles and wasps which can lay their eggs in or on the seed capsule for the larvae to feed on the seed when they hatch. For this latter reason, freshly collected seeds need to be completely submerged in water. This drowns any eggs and grubs that are in the seeds and stops further damage. Seeds that float are often the ones that have been damaged and are no good. Rainforest seeds are designed to be wet, and they can tolerate two weeks in water without deteriorating.

What seeds when?

Barung has a general guide (for sale) to when the seed of various species matures. However, this timing varies considerably from year to year by as much as two to three months, depending on the timing of rainfall etc. This happened with Corduroy Tamarind (*Mischarytera lautereriana*) in my garden between last year and the previous year – December versus early March. A Plum Myrtle (*Pilidistigma glabra*), seeding well on our block this year, has not seeded in previous dry years.

Some species ripen over just two weeks. Others ripen over six weeks, and you need to go back repeatedly to collect all of the available seed. One example is Yellow Carabeen (*Sloanea woollsii*), which I inspected morning and evening to beat the birds! (The birds got to eat the high seeds.)

Seed for the Nursery

This variation in the availability of seed leads to erratic availability of some species at the Barung Nursery. You cannot just walk into the Nursery and be sure of finding the tree you desire. You may need to return intermittently to search for particular species. Ask the nursery staff whether the species you want is coming on behind the scenes and when it might be ready for sale. Then come back and pounce!

On Barung's present site, the space available seriously limits the number of plants that can be grown. Sadly, this has led to some seed wastage recently. We need about 4 or 5 times more space to do justice to the job we're trying to do, which is to enrich our local area and help get our rainforest coverage up from the 6 per cent of residual cover that we have left at present..

Once we have moved to new premises with more room – hopefully! – the nursery staff will again gratefully receive donations of seed, especially from new individual trees not previously harvested.

LARGE-LEAVED WILKIEA

Wilkiea macrophylla

Family: Monimiaceae

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

The striking leaves of this species are often a conspicuous component of our rainforest understorey. They are dark green, large and stiff, usually prominently toothed (although sometimes not), may be up to 25 cm long by 8 cm wide, and can be quite shiny on the upper surface with prominent venation. Young leaves are an attractive deep red colour. Studies into lichens growing on rainforest leaves by Rogers and Barnes (1986)* have shown *Wilkiea* leaves may last for a considerable number of years, estimating a half-life of 6.8 years.

Wilkiea macrophylla occurs in subtropical, dry and littoral rainforests north from Alstonville. It is most often seen as a sprawling understorey shrub of around 2 metres, but may grow into a small tree to 4 metres. It is common throughout our local rainforests, occurring on a range of soil types. It can also be seen growing as part of a rainforest understorey in wet sclerophyll forest.

Large-leaved *Wilkiea* is slow growing, but makes a useful understorey plant for a shaded garden. It can also be used to good effect in tub plantings for indoors or a shaded deck – try contrasting with smaller leaved species in a mixed planting. *Wilkiea* is unsuitable for planting in the initial stages of revegetation work, but should be planted once a canopy has developed.



Wilkiea macrophylla in residence at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve. [Photo by Wayne Webb]

Small yellow-green globular flowers are carried in clusters on short stalks arising from the leaf axils. The flowers, which have an unpleasant odour, occur from May to November. Male and female flowers are carried on separate plants. The fruit, black ovoid drupes 12–15 mm long, ripen between April and September.

Wilkiea seed germinates easily if sown fresh with the flesh intact. If you can't sow it immediately, the seed may be stored for a couple weeks soaking in water. At this point, the flesh should be able to be removed by gentle rubbing – rinse well. Lightly cover the seed. Germination may be slower during cooler months, but will usually be even.

Wilkiea macrophylla is a food plant (also *W. huegeliana*) for the beautiful black and yellow Regent Skipper butterfly (*Euschemon rafflesia*).

*Rogers R & Barnes A (1986) Leaf demography of the rainforest shrub *Wilkiea macrophylla* and its implications for the ecology of foliicolous lichens. *Australian Journal of Ecology* 11:341-45.

FROM WINTER TO SPRING

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

I was in Brisbane in early July, had an hour to spare, and paid a visit to the Roma Street Parklands. These are of course largely exotic gardens and designed to show a range of garden styles and plant groupings for the urban plot. I don't have a problem with that but came away feeling so relieved I had a locally native garden capable of surviving the strong dry westerly winds and still able to look good. A sparse winter garden of pruned and wind-blasted shrubs doesn't look all that impressive! The 'out of state' grevilleas and banksias had taken a real hiding too. A ground cover of hardy cyclamens under large trees were, however, eye-catching. Some non-weedy exotics do work.

Back at home, the winds have broken and stripped leaves from the *Pipturus argenteus*, snapped a young silky oak at ground level (it was in a very exposed situation) but have otherwise done little damage. The windbreak of *Syzygium australe* has been totally effective in breaking the force of the gales and dense plantings elsewhere have proved self-protecting. It's quite useful to have occasional weather extremes to sort out what species and groups cope well and what may need more protection.



Banksia integrifolia in bloom.

[Photo courtesy of John Dillon]

The garden itself has been completely unaffected by the weather and shrubs are beginning to respond to increasing day length with some early flowering. The reliable *Hovea acutifolia* is covered in buds, *Pultenaea retusa* and *Pultenaea villosa* are showing small splashes of yellow, and *Banksia integrifolia* is promising a massed display of honey-laden cones in the next month. Wattles are also covered in buds although the *Acacia perangusta* are coming to the end of their useful lives. Six to nine years appears to be the lifespan for this area but they were useful pioneers while they lasted.

Chrysocephalum ramosissimum (Billy Buttons) continues to be a very successful groundcover and has spread considerably over the winter. Small outlying runners are easily potted up for planting elsewhere and the turkeys seem to leave the large clumps alone. At the moment it's mostly a soft grey-green but will soon be covered again in small yellow flowers. Spring is certainly in the air.

Down in the revegetation, the understorey of ferns, decidedly valuable for stabilising steep slopes, is slowly returning via natural regeneration. It's so nice when nature does the work for you. Nine years without cattle in the creek has also allowed the palms to return via seed deposited by visiting birds. Treeferns have spread along the creek too with remarkable growth rates.

Keep exploring the less visited parts of the garden and revegetation for pleasant surprises and plenty of spring colour.



Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

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

PLAN FOR SHOWCASE REHABILITATION SITE

by Jane MacGibbon

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

The 2006-07 year has been a very busy but highly successful one for Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group. A total of ten new projects were funded, six of which were on private land, two on public land, and two projects involving educational materials and research. In addition, we continued to support and monitor more than 30 projects from past years. I am now working five days a week as Project Officer for Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group.

LBCCG has also been active in applying for or helping landowners to apply for further funding through federal, state and council grants. We have been successful in securing more than \$68 000 from these sources.

The best news is that LBCCG recently received a significant boost in its ability to carry out valuable on-ground works along waterways in the catchment. AquaGen Water & Renewable Energy has increased its annual community catchment project funding for the 2007/08 budget. AquaGen has allocated \$100 000 to LBCCG for a large scale waterway rehabilitation project in the Lake Baroon catchment. This will be one of the largest environmental projects ever undertaken within the catchment.

The project will aim to improve land management and rehabilitate creek banks on a highly visible demonstration site. The project will be a showcase of sustainable land management, illustrating the benefits of water quality improvement and environmental stewardship for agricultural production. LBCCG is now in the process of selecting which of several possible sites will be the focus of rehabilitation works during the 2007-08 year.

Riparian rehabilitation along a tributary of Obi Obi Creek.
[Photo courtesy of LBCCG]



NIGHT-LIFE IN THE FOREST

WILDLIFE WANDERINGS by Susie Duncan

Our most recent Wildlife Walk found us spotlighting in Bellthorpe Forest. We were all well insulated for the chilly evening foray and enjoyed the wander into the tall forest in the late afternoon. As usual, some avid botanising occurred despite the fading light.

There is some grand old-growth forest remaining in this area thanks to a concerted campaign by The Wilderness Society some years back. This has ensured the protection of Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*), Tallowwood (*E. microcorys*), and Blackbutt (*E. pilularis*) trees that are hundreds of years old. These large trees provide fantastic nest hollows for animals of both the day and the night, which is a good thing because many mammal and bird species in Australia only breed in hollows.

The big trees are also a big food asset. Compared with young eucalypts, older eucalypts generally produce more nectar, more seed and more sloughing bark which provides lots of homes for invertebrate prey. So if you're a Sugar Glider, a King Parrot or a Brown Antechinus, old trees are great pantries. And if you're a Powerful Owl or a Spotted-tailed Quoll on the prowl at night, these smaller animals are dinner.

Another great feature of the Bellthorpe Forest is the sub-tropical rainforest. The southern and eastern slopes and the creek-sides are moist enough to be protected from wildfire so the rainforest is well established. This means lots of rainforest fruit is available to the great diversity of fruit-eating day birds as well as the night-feeders – the Eastern Tube-nosed Bats, several Flying-fox species, Mountain Brushtail Possums and Red-legged Pademelons.

So you might be wondering what we actually saw on our spotlighting excursion. Well, apart from the enchantment of the tall forest and the wondrous still evening, we saw a Mountain Brushtail Possum high in a Blackbutt. This possum often forages on the ground, eating buds, fruit, leaves, fungi and lichen; so they use both logs and hollow trees as den sites. They are larger, darker and bushier than the garden variety Common Brushtail Possum.

We also heard the distinctive 'yip yip' of Sugar Gliders from tall shrubs on a densely vegetated slope. The tangle of foliage and creepers made it impossible to get a view of the animals but they kept up their chorus for a while. Sugar Gliders construct cosy leaf nests in tree hollows, with several adults and young sharing a home. They virtually never come down to the ground, relying on the membranes between front and back legs to create a parachute as they glide for up to 90 metres between trees. Their diet consists of nectar, eucalypt sap, invertebrates and a large amount of wattle gum.

Everyone participated in calling for Powerful Owls. 'Woo hooo' calls were emitted at a diverse range of pitches, but failed to elicit a territorial response from the owls. However we know from past spotlighting forays that Powerful and Masked Owls, Greater Gliders and Yellow-bellied Gliders occur in this forest. Their presence has a lot to do with those wonderful tree giants.

We'll do another spotlight walk in warmer weather later in the year.

If you're interested in gliding possums, the Queensland Glider Network welcomes new members. Their aim is to train people in glider survey techniques and the installation of nest boxes, which can be very useful where hollow trees are scarce in younger forest. If you have a bush block or you are revegetating, it would be worth knowing what's there and what arrives as the vegetation matures. Contact: glider@wildlife.org.au. Membership is free.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS COMING UP

REGIONAL NRM ROUNDUP by John Muir

All vegetation clearing has now officially ceased in Queensland, unless clearing permits are applied for and granted under the new *Vegetation Management Act*.

All property owners with any native vegetation on their land need to be familiar with the status of protected vegetation and the conservation value on all the remnant and regrowth native vegetation on their property. DO YOU KNOW how the vegetation on YOUR property has been listed – as endangered, of concern, or exempted?

There will be a series of Vegetation Management Workshops this spring, in the last week of September, run by AgForward – an initiative of AgForce Queensland and sponsored by the Queensland Government.

This workshop series will be run like Property Management Planning workshops, but focusing only on the vegetation management component. Property air photos and satellite imagery will be provided for each and every stakeholder who participates, along with the Regional Ecosystem (RE) mapping overlay to determine the conservation value and landholder responsibilities for each of the different zones on their land. This information for your property can also be viewed at www.epa.qld.gov.au/REMAP

Issues covered will include the provisions of the Vegetation Management Act regarding fencing rights, burning, roads and access clearing applications etc in the various RE zones on your land. Exemptions and the permit application process will also be covered.

The cost for the whole day workshop will be \$100 per property. Morning tea, lunch, maps and all workshop notes will be provided.

Landcare group staff, project officers and contracting services personnel will also be able to take advantage of this workshop series, with separate workshops so that landholder confidentiality can be maintained.

Please ring Barung on 5494 3151 to book into one of these valuable workshops while they are available. If there is sufficient demand, further workshops will be offered across the Region.



Mini-blog

for snippets of Barung news and interesting info

<http://barunglandcare.tumblr.com/>

INTEGRATED WEED CONTROL?

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

What is meant by the *integrated control* of weeds and other pests?

As I glibly trot out this term at meetings and seminars (usually in the catch-all form of IPM, or Integrated Pest Management), I often find myself hoping no one will try to pin me down for a definition. This is because, in an agricultural context (thanks to the FAO Rice IPM team of yesteryears), IPM to me means:

Rule 1: Grow a healthy crop, and

Rule 2: There are no other rules.

Converting this for managing natural resources, we could probably say integrated management means

1. Ensure a system is 'healthy' – think about slips, waterways, over-grazing, soil pests, encroaching weeds, etc.
2. Assess each situation on its own circumstances and do not be too quick to plan a course of action according to what you did at the last place.

'Integrated' implies adopting multiple compatible management interventions. But it does not have to be so – which is why practitioners, including myself, move on to terms such as *sustainable* or *judicious pest management*. It is possible to avoid or eliminate pest outbreaks by applying a single pesticide at the right time or, too often, by not applying a pesticide at all – but this is really splitting hairs.

I want to draw attention to an excellent integrated parthenium weed management program organised by a community out Rolleston way in conjunction with the Allan Fletcher Research Station, DPI, et al. All the details are provided at <http://chrrupp.lp.qld.csiro.au/Who/landcare-pag-info.pdf>

Parthenium does not really threaten the Sunshine Coast at this time, but it is one of those species that will move south as global warming progresses. It has reached Gayndah Shire in the east and the NSW border in the west.

There are three main issues with parthenium: it is a prolific producer of seeds, it rapidly colonizes bare land, and it causes intense allergic responses in some people and livestock. Although it has an affinity for cracking clay soils, it has spread over huge tracts of Queensland – as well as other States and countries such as India.

The integrated management programme was 'awareness' orientated. Landowners were asked to be aware of the weed's huge reproductive potential and to avoid spreading seed through water, machinery and vehicles, stock and feral animal movement, and fodder and grain. The seed load in the soil means that overgrazing is followed by an immediate outbreak of the weed. Watering points, in particular, are areas of high risk. A combination of knock-down and residual herbicides applied to new infestations and fence lines can prevent outbreaks.

The group was asked to work with Alan Fletcher Research Station scientists to establish biological control agents. Following intensive research over the last decade, insects and diseases that can control parthenium populations have been released. Relief from drought will be needed in some areas before the establishment and impact of these agents can be assessed.

There is a lot more to this integrated management plan, but you can see that a multi-pronged approach has been put together



[Photo courtesy of Rachel McFadyen, Weeds CRC]

Zygogramma bicolorata, a leaf beetle that eats *parthenium*.

based on a given set of circumstances. There is no universal panacea, however, except the old adage about prevention being better than cure.

So please think about what you plant and where you plant it. The poster put out by the Blackall Range Invasive Weed Task Force and Booroobin Bushcare might help you think about this – available from Barung and garden supply shops on the Range.

CHANGES ON (THE) GROUND

Barung Contracting Services is having a change of leadership. Following a six-month break, Jolyon Froude has decided to hand over his coordination role to Brendan Stephen. Jolyon will continue to do on-ground work as a member of the Contracting Services team, as well as help Darryl to source funds to enhance Barung's technical and education human resources, an area in which Jolyon is interested. A big thanks to Jolyon for all his work. We look forward to Brendan's enthusiasm and youthful vigour, building on the success Jolyon has brought to Contracting Services.

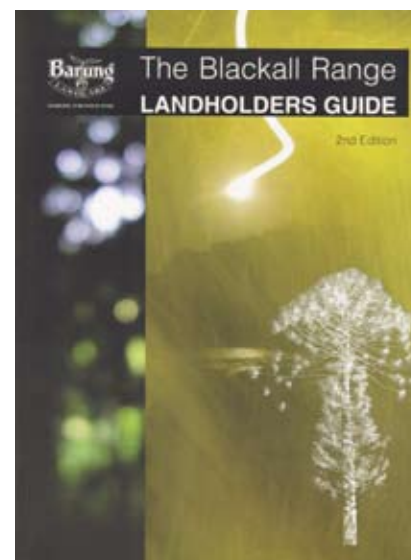
The Blackall Range Landholders Guide

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

**\$15 from Barung
(+ \$3 if posted)**

Also available at

Rosetta Books
The Maple Street Co-Op
Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve



BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Maleny Motor Trimmers

Lilyponds Holiday Park

Mulchmakers

Stephane Cazard of Earthcarer

James & Suzanne Davidson

HIDDEN WORLD REVEALED

BOOK REVIEW by Lin Fairlie

LEAF LITTER Exploring the Mysteries of a Hidden World by Rachel Tonkin is not 'hot off the press' as I have had a copy for a number of months. But it has just won The Wilderness Society's Environmental Award for Children's Literature 2007.

It is a fascinating account of what happens in the leaf litter, a world that most of us never see or even think about. But it is what keeps an ecosystem functioning.

The illustrations are wonderful, complex and life-like, as though a cut has been made down through the litter into the soil below where the interchange of materials and nutrients occurs. Each page has about six lines of text explaining the key aspects of the illustration on that page. Each page also has a small lift-up section illustrating the special activities of a particular subterranean organism, usually an insect.

Earthy shades are used, truly representing the colours of dead material and soil. Have you ever looked at the wonderful variety of colours in the leaf litter – you know, the 'dead stuff'?

Pictures of small living plants, like the insectivorous sundew, ground orchids and fungi, enhance each double page. Two flowering plants are followed through their life cycles from the front to the back of the book. There is just so much to follow from page to page.

This large-format book of about 36 pages concludes with an exploration of what has happened on each page and a glossary of terms used. While written for children, adults will find the information fascinating, adding to your knowledge of the world in which we live.

I bought a copy for my grandchildren and then I bought one for myself. Maybe you will do this too when you see this beautiful and inspiring book.

Due to strong demand for this book, the publisher is currently reprinting it. It should be available in September from Barung Landcare for \$29.95.



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APPLICATION SUCCESSFUL for Lifestyle Water Grant

Thanks to the work of Susie Duncan, Barung has received a grant for \$13 455 from the Department of Natural Resources and Water. This will assist Barung with installing enhanced Nursery irrigation equipment and water tanks, reducing our dependence on the reticulated town water supply.

How's the Creek at the Bottom of Your Garden?

by Steve Burgess, Mary River Catchment
Coordinating Committee

Enthusiastic individuals and groups in the Maleny area have been testing the water of local rivers and streams for around 10 years. Within Lake Baroon catchment, Aquagen has carried out regular water testing at sites on the major creeks since Baroon Pocket Dam was filled.

Monitoring water quality over a long period of time is useful for identifying trends in stream condition and overall waterway health. Repeated physio-chemical testing is carried out by measuring a number of parameters (temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and levels of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus), from which a snapshot of stream health can be derived. Biological indicators such as macro-invertebrates (species and populations) and riparian vegetation (species and structure/cover) are generally tested less often (perhaps seasonally), and are also used to interpret stream health.

Groundwater monitoring is occurring at a number of sites throughout this area, but as part of a separate program from the local Waterwatch Network.

Our Waterwatch Network, part of the South East Queensland Waterwatch Network, is made up of enthusiastic people who are interested in the health of their local stream or creek.

A Horiba Water Test Kit for testing physio-chemical parameters has been supplied by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) and is kept at Barung Landcare. Local Waterwatch participants use this kit about once a month to test the water at their designated sites.

As Waterwatch Network Coordinator with the MRCCC, I check (calibrate) the Horiba and collect the data supplied by network participants each month for storage and collation. This data is used to identify long term trends in waterway health. Information such as this can possibly be used to head off problems that may be developing at individual sites or along specific streams because of inappropriate land use within the relevant catchment.

The local network is currently expanding its membership, so if you'd like to keep an eye on the water quality of the creek at the bottom of your place and develop an appreciation for the health of your catchment, how about joining? Testing is easy, once you've attended a three-hour training workshop, and takes only a little of your time each month or so.

The next training day is at Kenilworth Homestead on Thursday 2nd August between 10 am and 1 pm. To register or for further information, please contact me, Steve Burgess, on 5482 4766 or email steve@mrccc.org.au

Waterwatch volunteers at a Waterwatch workshop.



[Photo
courtesy
of Steve
Burgess,
MRCCC]

RESOURCES

Eco - Sunshine Coast Eco News

Up-to-date, thought-provoking and useful – bi-monthly newspaper of the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, available free from many outlets on the Blackall Range.

Reintroduction of Wood into Australian Streams

National Riparian Lands R&D program-designed guideline providing step-by-step design principles for reintroducing wood into Australian streams, free on 1800 776 616 or www.rivers.gov.au

National Guidelines for Water Recycling

Risk management framework and specific guidance on managing health and environmental risks associated with using recycled water. Phase one guidelines available at www.ephc.gov.au/ephc/water_recycling.html

Managing Climate Variability Program

Program to assist Australian farmers to manage climate risk on-the-ground, providing practical tools for incorporating weather and climate information into farm business decisions, info available at www.managingclimate.gov.au

Home guide to reducing energy costs and greenhouse gases

Comprehensive guide prepared by the Australian Greenhouse Office to assist Australians, available at www.greenhouse.gov.au/gwci/

ClimateSmart Living update

The EPA's ClimateSmart Living portal with lots of good info, at www.epa.qld.gov.au

Weed Watch

View the latest newsletter of the Weeds CRC at www.weeds.crc.org.au/publications/weed_watch.html

EVENTS

Walk Against Warming

When/Where: 25 August, Brisbane
More info: 3221 0188 or admin@qccqld.org.au

Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival

When/Where: 17 Aug to 2 Sep, various locations
More info: 5420 8200 or www.caloundra.qld.gov.au

Australia-New Zealand Climate Change & Business Conference

When/Where: 30–31 August, Brisbane
More info: www.climateandbusiness.com

10th International River Symposium & Environmental Flows Conference

When/Where: 3–6 September, Brisbane
More info: www.riversymposium.com

Queensland Coastal Conference

When/Where: 17–20 September, Bundaberg
More info: 02 9368 1200 or qldcoast07@iceaustralia.com

Stormwater Management Conference

When/Where: 19–21 September, Twin Waters Resort
More info: 0411 425 169 or nejones@bigpond.com
Website: www.stormwater.asn.au/qld

THANK YOU TO ...

... **Maleny Art Awards and Exhibition Club** for their kind cash donation

... **Eduard Heinisch** for his generous donation to the Barung Environmental Gift Fund

... **Maleny Community Credit Union** for their Eco-tax donation

... **our fantastic members** who have been sending donations with their membership renewals

... **Moira and the team at Maleny Library** for offering Barung display space

... **Jan Bell**, one of our newer volunteers, for taking care of the library display

... **Dawn Svensson** and **Lenore Tonks** for helping out with the NAIDOC display at the library

... **Annette Lawniczak**, assisted by **Jan**, for making such beautiful greeting cards, NOW ON SALE AT BARUNG!

... **Grant Meyer** for supplying his wonderful photos for the cards

... **Dawn Worthington** and **Pat Fuller** for making Davidson Plum jam, NOW SOLD OUT!

... **Bob Philpot, Fran Guard, Pat Fuller, John Wightman, Kate Fraser, Lin Fairlie, Jackie Montgomery, Rachel Stacey** and **Dennis Ffrost** and all those who have volunteered on the Barung stalls at the many and varied events we've attended in the last 2 months

... **staff** who have given up their days off to help at the stalls

... **Daryl Reinke, Craig Hosmer, Bob Philpot** and **Fran Guard** for their loyal volunteering on Saturday mornings in the Barung nursery

... **Max Smith, Gordon Halliday, Dennis Ffrost** and **Noel Denning** for their reliable, friendly approach to the constant maintenance of the Barung Resource Centre

... **Gordon Halliday** for helping the Neighbourhood Centre with their food bank run to Brisbane

... **Greg and Mary Lou Rapmund** for sourcing the new Barung coffee machine at a fabulous price

... **Darryl Ebenezer** for buying the coffee machine for Barung

... **Val Phillips** for your constant commitment to bettering the workings of the Barung office

... **Pam Watson** for your commitment to helping out in the office on Fridays

... **Bev Hand** for supporting and promoting Barung across a broader spectrum

... **Jane Williamson** for cooking up yet another storm (of chocolate this time) for the new Green Corp team launch

... **Steve Mallot** (for the Red Emperor) and the **Green Corp team** for the BBQ lunch on Wednesday 11 July

... **Max Smith, Marion Adamson, Noel Denning** and **Col & Val Phillips** for the *Barung News* June-July mail-out - thanks for all your help, guys

... **Max Smith, Marion Adamson, Noel Denning, Col and Val Phillips** for helping with the Caloundra City Centre Cultural Precinct feed back form mail-out to Barung Members

... **All the avid Landcarers in our region** for the hours you put in to caring for this land.



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CRYSTAL CLEAR ...

... continued from page 16

process of rotting, decreases oxygen levels – further decreasing water quality. We probably couldn't manage our water bodies any worse if we tried!

But wait, there's more... because the vegetation on the edge of the water bodies is often destroyed, the banks collapse, clouding the water with sediment, releasing more nutrients, and... further reducing water quality.

If all this looks familiar in your back yard pond, dam, creek etc... the solution is simple, honestly! First remove all livestock such as cattle, horses etc. from the near vicinity of the water body. Install an off-stream watering point for them. Where water flows into the water body during rain, either stop mowing or plant a diverse range of native sedges. Around the edges of the water body, plant or stop mowing at least 75 per cent of the edge.

'What about snakes?' I hear you say. Well, you may be lucky and a few may move in! Our inherent fear of snakes should not be the reason for destroying waterside vegetation, water quality, wetland habitats etc...

A dense, complex and diverse range of vegetation around the water body and upstream acts as a biofilter that strips nutrients, harmful bacteria and silt from the flowing water before it gets into the main water body.

When we first moved into our new place at Reesville, we excluded cattle from our dam paddock. Cattle access to the dam had degraded the edges and minimised the vegetation surrounding the dam. Water quality was low with high levels of siltation – you'd be lucky if you could see 20 cm into the water. The bare banks were a popular spot for cane toads of an evening – they just love the way we manage water bodies. Cane toads like nothing better than denuded dam edges and dirty water!

Within weeks of excluding the cattle, vegetation began to thicken and a range of sedges and water herbs such as *Juncus usitatus* (Common Rush) and *Persicaria decipiens* (Knot Weed) began to spread. The thicker and more varied vegetation allowed a variety of frogs to establish; we heard up to a dozen species in late summer.

Six months later, our dam is crystal clear. We have seen turtles, yabbies and a range of water birds including a Jabiru (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) last week! This for me was the ultimate tick of approval. This awesome bird, also known as the Black-necked Crane, has largely disappeared from areas that have been settled by Europeans. If we learn to manage our water better, we may once again see these magnificent creatures living amongst us.

Biodiversity Rules!!



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CRYSTAL CLEAR

TURKEY TANGENTIAL

By Spencer Shaw of Brush Turkey Enterprises

Water and its conservancy are hot topics at the moment. Fresh clean water is in short supply in south-east Queensland. Creeks are running dry, water tables dropping, dams emptying, politicians panicking (for good reason).

You'd assume that the residents of earth's driest inhabited continent would treat water with the greatest respect; however assumptions can often lead to disappointment.

I'm reminded of a scene from Sasha Baron Cohen's recent hit movie 'Borat', in which Borat urinates in a river upstream of his manager, who is washing his face in the same river. Those of you who have seen this movie may find this amusing that these boys from the so-called backward society of Kazakhstan would act like this.

However if Aliens were to land in SEQ tomorrow and observe our water usage, they too would be puzzled by our apparent efforts to increase the nutrient load of water and then either send it quickly

out to sea or capture it in dams, pond, lakes to wonder why these water bodies green and become choked with vegetation!

Quite often I'm asked how to treat the weeds in dams such as the floating ferns Azolla or Salvinia. (Azolla spp. are native, *Salvinia molesta* is an exotic that is indeed a problem weed). Most often, the problem plant growth is merely a symptom of surplus nutrient flowing into the dam from either a direct human source such as septic tanks, or livestock access to dams and creeks, or the complete clearance and/or destruction of the vegetation structure upstream and surrounding the dam.

This comes back to the human obsession with short grass and tidiness we have covered in earlier articles!

Too many dams, ponds and lakes are mown to their edges or, even worse, sprayed along their edges. During high rainfall events, nutrients are allowed to flow freely into water bodies whose edges are unprotected by surrounding dense vegetation such as sedges, ferns and a variety of herbs and other grasses. Excessive vegetation growth then takes place in the water bodies.

Quite often, people control this 'excessive' growth by spraying with herbicide, which then kills the vegetation which, in the

... continued on page 15

The Barung Family

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Vice President	<i>Pat Fuller</i>
Secretary	<i>Lin Fairlie</i>
Treasurer	<i>David Binstead</i>
Committee Members	<i>Marion Adamson</i> <i>Eric Anderson</i> <i>Kate Fraser</i> <i>Bob Hall</i> <i>Peter Stevens</i> <i>Clayton Stokoe</i> <i>John Wightman</i>

BARUNG STAFF

Nursery Manager	<i>Wayne Webb</i>
Nursery Assistant	<i>Dawn Worthington</i>
Barung Contracting Coordinator	<i>Brendan Stephen</i>
Manager	<i>Darryl Ebenezer</i>
Administration Officer	<i>Fuschia Collard</i>
Volunteer Coordinator	<i>Jane Williamson</i>
Threatened Species Project Officer	<i>Mim Coulstock</i>
Regional NRM Liaison Officer for Burnett Mary Regional Group	<i>John Muir</i>
Sustainable Landuse Officer & more	<i>Jonathan Waites</i>
Editor, <i>Barung News</i> and <i>The CODLine</i>	<i>Eve Witney</i>

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

If undeliverable please return to:

Barung Landcare
17 Bicentenary Lane
Maleny QLD 4552

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WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

ph 07 5494 3151
fax 07 5494 3141

info@barunglandcare.org.au
nursery@barunglandcare.org.au
contracting@barunglandcare.org.au

www.barunglandcare.org.au

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