



# BARUNG

## LANDCARE NEWS

August - September 2009



## ALL SET UP AND REARING TO GO

*NURSERY NOTES by Dawn Worthington*

To everyone's credit a great deal has been achieved at the new site. Here is where I once again thank all our volunteers. It doesn't seem enough to just say 'thanks' so I will add that Wayne and I feel enriched and privileged by your company and contributions.

We had our first frost for the winter and were pleased to find we were above the 'frost line'. The beautiful valley in our view turned from green to brown where it got very cold, but there were no ill-effects at the Nursery. What a huge relief considering our experiences at the old site! Good planning I'd say! Porters Lane is sealed now too.

The shade-house has all the walls up, just in time considering those lovely westerly winds. Last Friday the wind was so strong it was moving trays around on the benches. We are looking forward to the completion of the wind-break around the hardening-off area. Nearly all the poles are up, and the shade-cloth will get attached next. Let's hope the wind stays away until this can be done.

At last the cleaning and sterilising area is set up with taps so Noel and others can start on the humungous job of catching up on the last six months-worth of tubes and trays waiting to be cleaned. Shelving has been put up to store many of our trays and tubes. Lighting has been installed. The tools in the shed are sorted.

And most importantly in this aftermath of the big move, the plant stock is now all sorted. The hardening-off area is filled with our stock. Quite a large area has been sectioned off for bigger stock so hopefully that will soon be filled with plants growing on.

Now that we're so nicely set up, we've been able to extend our Barung Nursery opening hours for retail customers:

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday**  
**9.00 am to 3.00 pm**

You are most welcome to come and peruse our range of local native plants. Please wear sturdy footwear.

*You'll find us at Porters Lane, North Maleny: Follow Teak Street into North Maleny Road. At the T-intersection turn right into Obi Lane, and then turn first right into Porters Lane.*

**We're looking forward to seeing you!**



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## DEADLINE - Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Sept

for October - November 2009

*Barung News* contributions

*Please renew your membership.*

*Your support is very  
important to Barung.*

Barung Landcare...



**THANK YOU**

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

*(Compiled by Denis Lalor)*

Cecil Bardell	Noel Bowe
Brian Burkett	Susan & Garry Johnson
David Crothers and Ra McLean	Sue Tanner
S Ferguson & R Mochelle	Colin White
Gary Hayes	John Wolstonholm

## WELCOME BACK TO REJOINING MEMBERS

Janine Bennington	Kim Hinckfuss
G & F Bradford	Jeff Rayner
Mark Denham	Carol Turner
Frank & Sally Elmer	

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT**

## BARUNG RESOURCE CENTRE/OFFICE

*Shop 3, Riverside Centre*

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

## BARUNG NURSERY

*Porters Lane, North Maleny*

**WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

*(Turn right off North Maleny Road into Obi Lane,  
and right again into Porters Lane)*

**Barung gratefully acknowledges funding  
& sponsorships from:**



An Initiative of the Maleny Credit Union



**Australian Government Water Fund**

**Community Water Grants**



**Australian Government**



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.**

# TIPS FOR 'BUDDING' PLANT IDENTIFIERS

*CONTRACTING SERVICES by Jono Bateman*

At Barung, we love being able to successfully identify all the plant samples you bring in, and we encourage everyone to keep doing so.

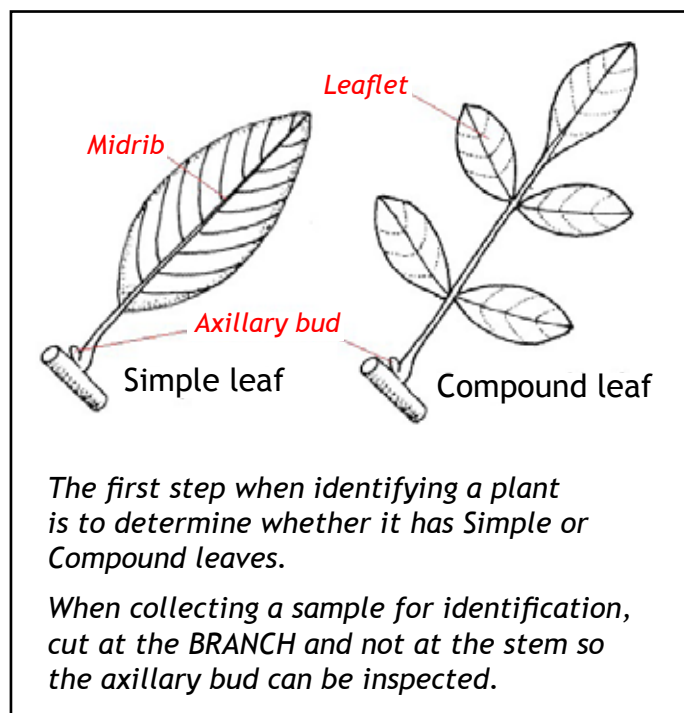
If we can help you discover that those shrubs on your block are actually *Decaspermum humile* (or 'Silky Myrtle') with aromatic leaves, perfumed flowers and edible fruit, or that the tall, but-tressed tree with the silvery grey leaves is an *Argyrodendron trifoliolatum* (or 'White Booyong') whose leaves are a food source for the caterpillar of the Bronze Flat Butterfly, then it helps us all to gain a deeper appreciation of the environment we care for.

Here are some pointers on how to collect your samples to give us the best chance of identifying them correctly:

1. Cut leaf samples at the *branch* and not at the *stem*. This will ensure enough material is included for us to determine whether the plant has a *compound* or *simple* leaf – we'll be looking for the *axillary bud* (see diagram).
2. Include any flowers or fruit if possible, whether you removed them from the plant itself or found them lying on the ground somewhere near the plant.
3. Note the size and shape or *form* of the plant.
4. Note the location of the plant and any distinguishing features of its habitat. For example, note whether the plant is growing along a creek or along a ridgeline, in sandy or clayish soil, in dense shade or an exposed sunny position.
5. If you can't get the sample into us straight away, keep the leaves as flat as possible by laying them out carefully between the pages of an old newspaper or non-glossy magazine.

**WEEDS:** If you suspect your sample is a weed or introduced species and you've included fruit or seeds, please *keep them contained in a sealed bag*.

We may not necessarily know every tree in the bush, but with well-presented samples we at least stand a good chance of identifying most.



# DIOSPYROS AUSTRALIS Black Plum or Yellow Persimmon

*Family: Ebenaceae*

*PLANT PROFILE by Dawn Worthington*

Attractive foliage and edible fruit make this species worthy of cultivation, and it provides a good food source for local birdlife.

This plant is a beautiful small to medium-sized dioecious (meaning separate male and female flowers) tree to 20 metres, with slightly zig-zag fine branchlets. It is moderately hardy and slow growing when small. The tree's habitat is sub-tropical, dry and warm temperate rainforests. It is found from Batemans Bay in NSW to northern Queensland. Best grown in semi-shade.

The dark glossy green upper surfaces of the leaves are quite distinctive and compliment the yellow-brown colour of the outer bark. Leaves are alternate, simple, not toothed, oblong to elliptic, 3–10cm long and 1.5–4cm wide. The apex is obtuse to bluntly pointed. The leaves are thick and tough with a lower surface that is waxy and yellowish or pale yellow-green with scattered hairs. Venation is obscure and the petiole is 2–5mm long.

The male flowers are creamish/green with four petals in clusters of 2 or 3 in the axils of the leaves. Female flowers are usually solitary and somewhat larger than their male counterparts. Flowering usually occurs during October through to December.

The fruit is a berry, shiny black and globular in shape, 8–20mm in diameter. Each fruit contains a single seed surrounded by purple edible flesh. The seeds, which are pointed at one end and grooved down one side, usually ripen around February to July. Germination, if the seeds are sown fresh, is somewhat slow.

We have a good quantity of stock available, so come check out where we are – if you haven't already!

*[Foliage photo by Daryl Reinke & Craig Hosmer]*



# INVASIVE RAINFORESTS

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

I am very conscious of the dangers posed by high winds, an awareness heightened by 18 years of seasonal exposure to cyclones. Potentially large rainforest trees are therefore not welcome in close proximity to our house.

Our garden was designed to provide wildlife habitat, colour, and flowers for picking but the natural rainforest has conspired with the birds to shade out, climb up and generally mount an overly green invasion. In case no-one has noticed, we have also had a lot of rain, resulting in soft soil and ideal conditions for seed germination.

Habitat has been provided, food has been abundant, and the birds are fat. Fruit has been eaten, seeds plus fertiliser have been excreted, and another rainforest has started to develop. This is great – except in the septic field or within a few metres of the house! Of course this has been developing for a while because weeding out rainforest seedlings hasn't been all that high on the priority list. Lantana and glycine were more important and the invading forest took it on itself to advance out and up while I wasn't looking.

I knew that our native forest included *Guioa semiglauc* and *Olea paniculata* but last year's fruiting was obviously very good as dozens and dozens of seedlings have had to be removed. At least the soil has been soft and the younger plants have been easily pulled. I've also discovered just how fast some trees grow (metres), given the right conditions. It has been quite educational to note the diversity but it also seems that our birds don't travel very far as nothing particularly unusual has come up. There's a suite of about ten dominant species.

In 'allowable' areas, palms are appearing and I know that the Davidson plums have fruited when young trees that I know I didn't plant are found. Other seedlings are waiting for a break in the canopy. Older trees do fall down or lose branches, part of the natural cycle. It's really great to have reached this stage in the whole revegetation process. The rainforest just needs to 'know its place' in the (my) scheme of things. A rainforest is a very successful system given the right climatic conditions and half a chance.

On another topic, a brief comment on soil moisture and plants which die apparently without warning. These may have sensitive root systems and the mint bush *Prostanthera ovalifolia* seems to be one of them. Root damage can be incurred with a sudden change in soil moisture, usually from wet to dry although the reverse can occur. If the shrub shows signs of wilting in sun and wind following a wet period, try giving it a small drink in the morning close to the main stem. This is contrary to most recommendations but evening up the soil moisture during the changeover rainfall period has certainly worked with my shrubs. As always, look at what is happening in your garden and in your soil. There are few one-size-fits-all remedies but many problems can be traced back to the roots of our plants.

## AGM Date-claimer

**Barung Landcare's Annual General Meeting  
will this year be held on**

**Saturday 31 October**

# MARASMIUS SPECIES

FUNGAL FORAY by Frances Guard

Among all the larger and more flamboyant fungi, *Marasmius* may often be overlooked. However, these small to tiny mushrooms have a charm of their own. They usually have thin, dry, parasol-shaped caps which may be off-white or brown in colour, but are sometimes orange, maroon to wine-red and even very bright pink. The gills are often sparse to moderately spaced. Their stems are very thin, wiry and pliable and usually dark in colour.

*Marasmius* grow on dead leaves, twigs and the needles of casuarinas, hoops and bunyas. They are decomposers of the leaf litter. Some appear to be very specific in their hosts while others are generalists. *Marasmius* may occur in their hundreds in certain habitats and are best seen immediately after spring and summer rains.

They have the unique ability to rehydrate and revive when re-wet after drying out. Their worldwide distribution is largely tropical and sub-tropical. Several species occur in south-east Queensland. *Marasmius* have been very little studied in Australia and many species remain unnamed.

The name *Marasmius* comes from the Greek word 'Marasmus', meaning 'wasting of the body' or 'malnutrition'. This is because these fungi have little or no flesh in their fruiting bodies.

Red *Marasmius* on dead twigs. [Photo by Fran Guard]



## LETTERS

Dear Barung Team,

Thank you very much for your generous donation of a voucher for our raffle prize at the 'Gardening on the Edge' Show. We appreciate your support.

Wendy Johnston

Sunshine Coast and Hinterland Branch  
Society for Growing Australian Plants Qld

Dear Dawn

On behalf of the management committee of the Mt Mee Community Cemetery, I wish to express my appreciation for the very generous donation of plants of the value of \$100.

These plants will help restore wildlife to the area and create a tranquil area for visitors.

Once again, thank you.

Deborah Cook, Secretary

# “WE ARE THE PEOPLE WE’VE BEEN WAITING FOR”

*PERSPECTIVE by Tina Lathouras*

I’ve been asked to make a contribution to the newsletter about why I get involved in Barung Landcare.

When I participate in Barung, I feel part of something that is important. I see the bigger picture of what we as a community are trying to do when we ‘care for the land’ and ‘care for people’ – the Landcare catchcry. I choose to spend my time this way because I believe my small contribution is helping to make a difference – to create the kind of world in which I want to live and which I want my children to inherit.

For the past few months I’ve helped out on Barung’s stall at the Growers Market at Witta. Each month we cook and serve good food and good coffee to a growing number of people visiting the markets, who come to purchase locally grown produce. It’s a good fundraiser for Barung each month and this supports the core business of the organisation – growing plants indigenous to the Blackall Range, re-vegetation and weed clearing.

I can highly recommend a recent speech made by Paul Gilding to the Ideas Forum at Sydney University, broadcasted on Radio National. (The transcript is provided at [www.abc.net.au/rn/backgroundbriefing/stories/2009/2592909.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/rn/backgroundbriefing/stories/2009/2592909.htm)) He spoke about sustainability, economic growth and the future of the human race.

In concluding his speech he made the point that, ‘We are the people we’ve been waiting for’.

We, the ordinary people in our towns and communities; we, together, will make the change we need for long-term economic and environmental sustainability. We don’t need to wait for Obama or Rudd or anyone else to lead us to some big sort of change; it will be the small, incremental changes that make the difference we want and need for sustainability.

These social movements have different names, like ‘Earth Democracy’, or ‘The Re-localisation Movement’. Whatever the theoretical perspective, they are all saying the same thing – by leading ourselves, by using our local people-power, the planet will be saved. This is a personally empowering notion, one that affirms my small contributions as valuable.

20-year-old Barung Landcare knows that it’s important to provide as many ways as possible for people to participate in a sustainable vision for the environment and community. So it offers many different ‘pathways in’: organisational membership; helping with the governance functions of the organisation through management committee membership; volunteering at the nursery, Wood Expo, markets or office; going along to the educational walks and talks; tree plants and so much more.

So, I choose to contribute this way and it adds meaning to my life. I encourage you to come and buy a coffee at the markets next month and have a chat; or get involved in any way you see fit.

**Barung Landcare...**



## GRANTS & FUNDING

Websites to help you find your way around the funding maze:

[www.landcare.org.au/GRANTS&FUNDING.htm](http://www.landcare.org.au/GRANTS&FUNDING.htm)

[www.qld.gov.au/grants](http://www.qld.gov.au/grants)

[www.qraa.qld.gov.au](http://www.qraa.qld.gov.au)

## BARUNG at SCEC’s WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Barung Landcare’s presence at the Sunshine Coast Environment Council World Environment Day event at the University of the Sunshine Coast centred around our coffee stand.

The weather on the day was great, beautiful sunshine and not too much of a breeze. We set up our stand and from about 7:30 am till 4 pm did a brisk trade in coffees, tea and hot chocolate.

We also displayed the Landcare Hands and the Barung Logo, distributed information and answered questions when time permitted.

The financial return for the day made it especially worthwhile for us to attend. Special thanks to:

- Montville Coffee
- Maleny Dairies
- Montville Mist
- our two great baristas Amelia and Rob
- and especially to Tina for her welcoming smile and engaging banter as she served people all day.



*Baristas Rob and Amelia and Barung volunteer Tina Lathouras serving a customer at the Barung stall at SCEC’s World Environment Day event.*

## THANKS FOR REPORT & ADVICE

In April CIVIL QUALITY ASSURANCE (QLD) PTY LTD presented us with our much needed effluent treatment / disposal design and report for our Material Change of Use (MCU) submission to the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. This work and report was provided with the generous assistance of Paul Fraser and Cassandra Crowe from CQA.

The report was essential to progressing our MCU submission and is valued at more than \$1000, including a site visit to Porters Lane by Cassandra and her team. Without the support of businesses like CQA it would be much harder for Barung to achieve positive environmental outcomes for the community.

If you need Geotechnical Engineers give them a ring on (07) 3881 3511 or email them at [lawnton@cqa.com.au](mailto:lawnton@cqa.com.au)

**Civil Quality Assurance (Qld) P/L**  
GEOTECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

<b>LAWNTON (H/O)</b> 3881 3511	<b>MALENY</b> 5429 6882	<b>KUNDA PARK</b> 5450 1735
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- House Soil Tests, Contour Plans, Footing Design
- Site & Soil Evaluation for On-site Effluent Disposal
- Commercial & Industrial Site Investigation
- Landslide & Erosion Hazard Assessment
- Environmental Soil & Water Analysis
- Earthworks Supervision & Testing

# ED'S COMINGS & GOINGS

by Ed Surman

*Senior Environmental Officer - Community Engagement, Moreton Bay Regional Council*

It is with mixed feelings that I have left Barung to work for the Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC). Recently, I applied for a Senior Environmental Officer position and was successful. My core responsibility is the Land for Wildlife Program. I am also charged with assisting many of the environmental community groups throughout the MBRC's area of operation. This includes a few community nurseries and some excellent environmental education centres. Although this is my dream job, leaving my Barung family was not easy.

Things are very busy already and I have hit the ground running.

In July, we held a Land for Wildlife spotlighting and camp-out event at the Woodford Folk Festival site. This site is a registered Land for Wildlife property, teeming with abundant wildlife – even when the festival is not on! About 70 Land for Wildlife property holders got together and were treated with some nestbox spy camera action, courtesy of the infrared cameras from the good people at Hollow Log Homes. We watched a squirrel glider family wake up and glide out of their Hollow Log Home. The event was a fantastic opportunity for like-minded people to get together whilst enjoying a good feed around a camp fire.

If you are a property holder in the MBRC region who is interested in the Land for Wildlife Program, or if you are already registered, I look forward to talking with you soon. Our newly formed team is keen to revisit all registered properties to assist, however we can, with conservation on private land. I know my association with Barung members will continue as I will be working with familiar faces on the Range, especially around Bellthorpe and Boorobin.

Barung plays a fundamental role in the preservation of our native wildlife by supplying quality native plants for revegetation, educating landholders, and providing services through Barung Contracting Services. There are few contractors that can undertake habitat restoration work to the standard of Barung Contracting Services. Since habitat destruction is the most serious threat to wildlife today, the efforts of Barung members make a crucial difference.

I would dearly like to thank you all – Barung members, staff and management committee – for making Barung the unique organisation it is. Barung has provided me with the chance to develop myself in a conservation-based career. Indeed, Barung has been a breeding ground for many highly esteemed industry professionals over the years. Having seen the calibre of the current team I know this will continue to be true.

**Sunshine Coast**  
Regional Council

## WEEDS AWARENESS & Info Kit (on CD)

*Updated and 'Reprinted'*

*Available (free) from  
Barung Landcare Resource Centre*



*Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group*

455 North Maleny Road, Maleny

PO Box 567, Maleny 4552

[info@lbccg.org.au](mailto:info@lbccg.org.au)

07 5494 3775

## NEW CATCHMENT COORDINATOR

*LBCCG NEWS by Mark Amos*

In May this year, I (Mark Amos) took over the LBCCG Project Officer position from Jane MacGibbon, who in her nearly two years in the position played a key role during the biggest changes in LBCCG's history. Our group wishes Jane the very best in her future endeavours. I have worked for six Landcare groups previously, commonly working with larger farmers to implement broad landscape change. I am looking forward to meeting many more of the Maleny locals and primary producers.



Murray Dunstan, LBCCG's key contact with Seqwater, will be greatly missed as he pursues a new direction as Seqwater's Northern Operations Coordinator. In mid-August Tim Hodges will take up Murray's responsibilities in relation to LBCCG and will also be based at the LBCCG/Seqwater office in North Maleny. Additional Seqwater staff will be operating out of these offices soon.

### *Projects for the coming year*

Currently the group is developing Property Management Plans with six local farmers. Projects for the 2009–10 Financial Year are expected to be developed out of this program.

### *Walkers Creek Restoration*

The major project commencing in 2008–09 was Walkers Creek Restoration, in a catchment that has been a priority for many years. The main objective of the project is to improve water quality by intercepting nutrients and sediment before they reach the waterways. Laneway rehabilitation, concreting dairy pads and waterway fencing have been the main activities to reach these objectives, and Barung Landcare will be contracted to provide riparian vegetation services.

### *Landslips*

Of particular concern over the past six months has been the incidence of land slips in the catchment. The heavy rainfall events we experienced in late summer and autumn have contributed to several landslips and pasture growth is not repairing these due to the onset of the cold weather. The LBCCG suggests keeping stock off landslips so that pasture can re-establish and help stabilise slips and also areas prone to slippage.



*Excavator preparing a dairy pad for concreting as part of the Walkers Creek Restoration project.*

# THREE-TOED SNAKE-TOOTH SKINK

*WILDLIFE WANDERINGS* by *Susie Duncan*

Whilst undertaking a fauna survey at Curramore Sanctuary recently, Tony Bright and I were keen to turn up a Three-toed Snake-tooth Skink (*Coeranoscincus reticulatus*) in the rainforest. Each day when we checked the pitfall traps we would be full of anticipation that this nationally threatened species would manifest. But alas, if they were there they had better things to do than stumble (or slide) into a pitfall trap.

So it came as a bit of a shock when my partner Barry appeared one sunny home-gardening afternoon in April with this rather rare animal in hand, all 32 muscular centimetres of it. It had been happily resting under a rotting cane mulch bale next to our house. The bale had been largely deconstructed for mulching the vegies so we made sure that the remaining bales were left intact.

This is a very striking skink, not only because of its large size but also for the relatively tiny limbs which terminate in three-clawed toes. This one had a rufous back and grey tail, with a creamy face and a faint black band across the neck. They appear to sport some heavy make-up with dark smudges in front of and behind the eye. The other interesting characteristic is its long curved teeth.



These skinks occur mainly in rainforests and adjacent wet sclerophyll forests, where they burrow through thick moist leaf litter, soil and wood mulch in pursuit of earthworms and other soft-bodied subterranean prey. The pointed, curved teeth are thought to assist in grasping earthworms, ensuring that they don't wiggle away whilst being swallowed. The skinks lay clutches of two to six eggs in moist soil. Between their burrowing habits and tendency to hunt at night, they aren't readily encountered by humans.

The geographic range of this skink is from north-east NSW through south-east Queensland to Fraser Island. They usually occur in the ranges except for Fraser Island and the Cooloola region. They are listed as Vulnerable nationally and Rare in Queensland. The main threats to this impressive skink are habitat clearing, frequent burning which destroys logs and other protective litter, and livestock which damage leaf-litter and compact the soil.

Another large burrowing skink in this region is Verreaux's Skink (*Anomalopus verreauxii*) which is of similar length but has a pale band across the base of the head. Its tiny front limbs also carry three toes but the back limbs are reduced to clawless stumps. Shortening of limbs and loss of toes in burrowing skinks is an evolutionary process that assists them with sliding through litter.

So next time you encounter a reptile in thick garden mulch or forest litter, don't assume it's a snake. Look carefully for legs and you might just find it is one of these very attractive and harmless burrowing skinks.

## WILDLIFE WALKS with SUSIE DUNCAN

**Monday 17 August**

### SOMERSET TRAIL, MT MEE

Scribbly Gum forest, sub-tropical rainforest, and views.  
13 km walk on track. Moderate grades.

**Sunday 13 September**

### CURRAMORE SANCTUARY

Rainforest and Eucalypt forest.  
6 km walk on & off track. Moderate to very steep grades.

#### *For each of these walks:*

- Please book at Barung on 5494 3151. No fee.
- Park in the public carpark behind Maleny IGA and meet at the Barung Office (next to Australia Post) at 8.45 am to car pool; expect to return to Barung by 4 pm.
- Bring water, lunch, boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and binoculars.

## THANK YOU FROM THE NURSERY TO ...

... **Alan Bannister** for the walls of the shade-house; this man doesn't say much but does lots.

... **Phil Stanley**, our water boy (whilst Wayne was away) who has trudged up hill and down dale to start the water pump every day, sometimes with fuel in hand! That has been a godsend and I am sure Wayne has not been worried whilst Phil was on the job. Phil serviced our water pump as well.

... **Deanne Grace** for all her citrus contributions, and for assisting with retail set up when Dawn was on crutches.

... **Clare Sluggett** for all her culinary delights – I am pretty sure that is why we have so many vollies on certain days.

... **Gordon Halliday**, **Kerry Sluggett** and **Phil Stanley** for composing benches out of 'scrap'.

... **Alan Bannister**, **Phil Stanley** and **Neil Donavon** for our shade-cloth awning to protect the newly tubed plants from wind and sun damage.

... **Alan Bannister** and **Neil Donavon** for starting on the wind-break; they were digging holes during the Force Nine gale!

... **Kerry Sluggett**, **Noel Denning** and **Gordon Halliday** for 'sorting' out the shed (that one was a biggy!)

... **Rob & Cheryl Andrews** for their cup contribution.

... **Steve Mallet** for his pipe-bending skills.

... **Gordon Halliday**, **Rob Andrews**, **Noel Denning**, **Elliott Potter**, **Kerry Sluggett** and **Max Smith** for completing the hardening-off benches.

**Keep an eye on the Barung website  
for upcoming events and new features  
[www.barunglandcare.org.au](http://www.barunglandcare.org.au)**

# EVENTS

## ***The Psychology of Sustainability***

**Wednesday 19 August, 8.45am - 5.15 pm**

**North Quay, Brisbane**

The struggle to define sustainability has been a major distraction from taking action to promote more sustainable behaviours. This forum showcases organisations and projects that are making the leap from the rhetoric to action.

**More info:** [www.eianz.org](http://www.eianz.org)

## ***Moreton Bay Region***

### **SUSTAINABLE LIVING EXPO**

**Saturday 22 August, 9 am - 3 pm**

**CREEC, 150 Rowley Rd, Burpengary**

Food for the soil, the senses, wildlife, pets and livestock ... alternative energy, chicken tractors, no-dig gardens, native plants, fresh produce, natural and recycled products ... all this and more!

**Cost:** **Adults \$2, children free**

**Parking:** **At the site or catch the FREE shuttle bus from Burpengary Railway Station**

**More info:** [www.creec.org.au](http://www.creec.org.au)

## **NATIONAL THREATENED SPECIES DAY**

**7 September**

### **LANDCARE WEEK**

**7-13 September**

National Threatened Species Day (NTSD) is held on the same date each year –commemorating the death of the last Tasmanian tiger at Hobart Zoo in 1936.

*Check out the Barung Landcare website and The Range News for local events.*

**First cab off the rank:**

**Wildlife Walk with Susie Duncan  
Sunday 13 September to  
Curramore Sanctuary**

## **12th International Riversymposium**

**21-24 September, Brisbane**

This year's conference, themed 'Rivers from Source to Sea', will be full of vibrant discussions on factors influencing different areas of catchments. The focus will be on the interactions between catchments and the activities that take place within them. Themes will examine strategies for coping with changing conditions, uses and policies for catchments and their management now and in the future.

**More info:** [www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com)

## **2009 QLD LANDCARE CONFERENCE**

**15-17 October, Longreach**

**Early Bird Registration Deadline EXTENDED TO:**

**Wednesday 5 August 2009**

**More info:** [www.iceaustralia.com/qldlandcare09](http://www.iceaustralia.com/qldlandcare09)

# A GREAT DAY OUT

**FIELD DAY REVIEW** by Jono Bateman,  
**Barung Contracting Services**

## **Botanical & Geological FIELD TOUR with Ashley Sewell & Paul Daly**

Whatever your area of interest, whatever your level of knowledge, I would thoroughly recommend a Botanical Tour with Ashley and Paul as an enjoyable and highly informative day out in the bush.

Ashley (ex-DNR, a highly regarded forestry consultant plus all-round fountain of knowledge) and Paul (a vegetation consultant with SEQ Catchments) run regular field workshops providing fabulous insights into the unique plant communities and their geological underpinnings that constitute a range of land zones and regional ecosystems.

On our tour we visited

- Wet sclerophyll forest interfaced with rainforest at the Jawarra Reserve near Landsborough
- Coastal Wallum at Scientific Area No. 1 near Beerwah
- Rainforest at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve
- Wet and dry sclerophyll in Mapleton State Forest.

At each site we looked at the various vegetation communities and their structures, the geology and soil, rainfall and hydrology, ecological management strategies, and how these all fitted together to create unique ecosystems.

With Ashley and Paul's conversational approach they managed to cover pretty much everything our diverse group of people thought to ask about. Something for everyone, as they say.

There were discussions about sound bush restoration and regeneration principles, how trees function, plant ID tips and clues, cultural and ecological history of our bush, sustainable forestry practices, what trees produce which timbers, how regional ecosystem mapping works, the different soil structures and how they determine different vegetation communities... and we even received some tips for small-acreage landholders on tapping into the curly world of carbon credits.



## **Register your interest**

Tours are run on a regular basis throughout south-east Qld.

Contact the Barung Office on 5494 3151 or call Ashley Sewell direct on 0404 859 294 to register your interest in an upcoming tour.



# HIGHLIGHTS AND TITBITS

## from the 2009 CONSERVATION FORUM *by Fuschia*

Sunshine Coast Regional Council hosted the '2009 Conservation Forum' on Saturday June 20. The event was held at the Lake Kawana Community Centre and was attended by approximately 300 invited volunteers, landholders, and community groups and business people working to enhance and protect our local environment.

There was a strong contingency of familiar faces from the Blackall Range including Barung staff and committee members – Beverley Hand, Jonathan Waites, Matthew Bateman, Kate Brooks, Jono Bateman, and me. The Range was well represented by dedicated landcarers like Fran Guard and Bob Philpot, John and Joan Dillon, Daryl and Craig Hosmer, and Petrus Heyligers, to name a few.

The opening session was headed up by our very own Beverley Hand, followed by Cr Keryn Jones and then keynote speaker Steve Posselt, a water engineer and author of *Cry Me a River*. Many of you may know Steve from his kayaking adventure along the Mary River in protest against the Traveston Dam proposal. I was deeply moved and somewhat troubled by Steve's fantastic presentation. I would love him to speak in Maleny so I could encourage all of you to see his journeys along some of our major river systems...

We then had the rest of the day to choose between various speaker sessions running concurrently. It was often a hard choice. So here's a few highlights from the talks I attended.

### **Birds help regeneration**

Mike Gregory from BMRG spoke on fragmented landscapes and the use of new information about seed dispersal by birds to help in the planning of rainforest regeneration and revegetation projects. For example, the two birds that disperse the most seeds in a rainforest are the Pied Currawong and the Fig Bird. Some of the most visited trees by birds in the rainforest are Celery Wood, White Cedar, Native Tamarind, Koda, Picabeen Palm, and Ribbon Wood (roughly in that order). We can therefore take this into consideration when planning a project by looking at the bird species currently in the area and using this information to decide whether to include more or less of the plant species that regenerate through seed dispersal. (We at Barung are hoping to get a detailed list of this information in the near future.)

### **Creekbank plantings**

I then heard Dale Watson from the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) speak about riparian rehabilitation. I learnt that Land & Water Australia recommends these revegetation planting widths:

- 5–10 metres for improving water quality
- 5–30 metres for providing fish habitat (debris) and shade
- 10–30 metres for establishing terrestrial habitat.

Keeping in mind **more is always best**. The wider the riparian strip the better it is and the longer it lasts. For best possible outcomes planting should be from 1.5 to 5 metres apart.

### **Creeks need snags**

I also learnt the value of 'LWD' – large woody debris (also known as 'snags') in our waterways. LWD not only provides habitat for fish and other stream critters, it stabilises creek beds and, by slowing down the flow of water, helps reduce erosion. For best outcomes, logs and other woody debris should sit at an angle of 20 to 40 degrees to the bank and should cover more than 10% of the stream floor.

### **Turtle diversity in the Mary**

Another valuable piece of information came from Eva Ford, also of the MRCCC. Did you know the Mary River has 6 species of turtle living in its waters? This is the highest diversity of turtles in one river IN THE WORLD...

### **Wildlife facts**

I then had the privilege of meeting some of our wonderful local fauna in person thanks to Emily from 'Geckoes Wildlife'. I met 'Gizmo' the endangered Grey-headed Flying-fox and the lovely young 'Chatterbox' the Tawny Frogmouth.

Did you know?...

- Only the male Green Tree Frog croaks.
- There are more skinks in Australia than all the other lizards put together.
- A male Bearded Dragon will wave at a prospective female partner but bob his head up and down at a prospective male enemy. (The male who bobs the most wins!)
- Frilled Neck Lizards aren't fairing as well as other dragons.
- Keelback snakes eat canetoads.

### **Local plants and places**

I also heard from the wonderful Fran Guard about 'Dilkusha Nature Refuge' on the Blackall Range, which many of you are familiar with, and Stephanie Haslam who co-authored *Grasses – Native and introduced Grasses of the Noosa Biosphere Reserve and Surrounding Regions*.

Stephanie has an awesome native plant website jam-packed full of info, including what's flowering now, profiles of vegetation types, plant descriptions and plant lists. Check it out:

**[www.noosanativeplants.com.au](http://www.noosanativeplants.com.au)**

There were several other presenters, as I mentioned, and these are just a few highlights of the day. All in all it was a well-organised well-presented forum and we certainly hope to see more like it on the Sunshine Coast.

*Please keep showing your ...*

**Barung Community Benefit Tags**

*... when shopping at Maleny IGA*

## Thank you to ...

... **Max Hancock** for your kind donation of reference books

... **JR Bolton** from North Tamborine for your much appreciated monetary donation

**For donations to the Barung Environmental Gift Fund ...**

... **Maleny & District Community Credit Union**

... **Eduard Heinisch**

... **Maleny Art Awards & Exhibition Club**

... **Peter Pamment Consulting**

**For sending off the June/July Barung News in fine style ...**

... **Marion Adamson, Helen Lavery, Noel Denning, Phil Stanley and Alan Bannister.**

# WEEDY SPOROBOLUS GRASS

**WEED WATCH** By Kate Brooks,  
Barung Contracting Services

Giant Rat's Tail Grass, American Rat's Tail Grass, Parramatta Grass and Giant Parramatta Grass are some of the names by which exotic weedy *Sporobolus* grasses are known. These grasses have been introduced throughout Australia, deliberately and accidentally, since as far back as the early 1900s. (Australia also has non-weedy native *Sporobolus* species.)

In our local area *Sporobolus natalensis* and *Sporobolus pyramidalis*, both referred to as Giant Rat's Tail Grass, can be found from country to coast and certainly around the Conondale, Bellthorpe and Peachester localities.

The recent good wet season has aided the spread of these weeds. Eastern coastal and subcoastal areas receiving 600 mm or more of annual rainfall, from south of the Victorian border through New South Wales and Queensland, are experiencing infestations with some 450 000 ha of grazing land significantly affected.

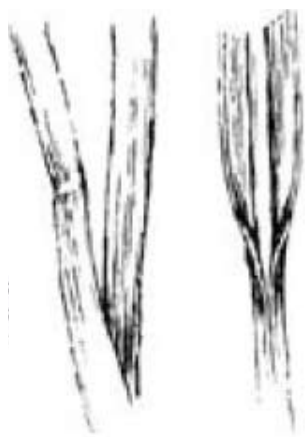
Records indicate that changing climatic conditions could contribute to the aggressive spread of these species with the potential to affect some 108 million ha in Queensland alone.

## Identification

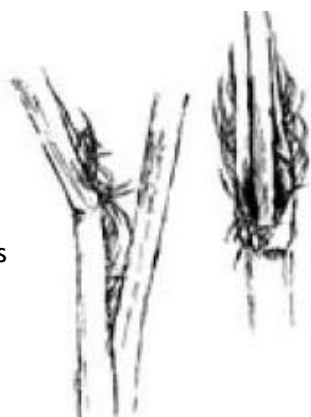
Weedy *Sporobolus* varieties are identified by their highly resilient tufted rootstock and tough mature leaf blades which are unpalatable to most grazing stock. These grasses are highly competitive and are capable of producing vast amounts of seed with prolonged viability. They have excellent dispersal mechanisms.

Native and non-native species look similar and it is advisable to seek expert help with identification. Native *Sporobolus* species are distinguished by having an accumulation of obvious hairs in the joint between the leaf blade and leaf sheath (see figures below). Native *Sporobolus* also generally have sparser seed heads, shorter height and softer leaves.

In Queensland weedy *Sporobolus* varieties are declared Class 2 weeds, which means they are recognised as having or posing a significant negative socio-economic and/or environmental threat. Landholders have a legal responsibility to ensure their land is kept free from Class 2 weeds.



*Weedy Sporobolus grasses are hairless in the joint between leaf blade and leaf sheath*



*Native Sporobolus species have obvious hairs*

## Management

If you find weedy *Sporobolus* species on your property:

- DO NOT drive any machinery through the infested area, including slashers, bikes, tractors or off-farm vehicles, especially in wet or dewy conditions
- DO NOT attempt to burn areas containing weedy *Sporobolus* (poor technique can encourage seed production)
- DO NOT move livestock into, out of or through infested paddocks
- DO NOT allow work horses or dogs into infested areas.

DO NOT purchase livestock, hay or seed without determining its origin and potential weedy *Sporobolus* status.

## Small infestations

ALWAYS check your product labels and Material Safety Data Sheets before using any chemical.

- Remove seed heads and secure in a tightly tied bag or container. Chip out the remaining plant with a mattock, secure it in a bag or container and burn along with the seed heads.
- Alternatively, spot spray using glyphosate herbicide and flupropanate herbicide. Contain the herbicides in separate spray bottles. Spray the non-selective, fast-acting glyphosate directly onto the weedy plant to kill the plant quickly. Spray the perimeter around the plant with the selective, slow-acting flupropanate; this will control seedlings and seed germination whilst leaving a good intact ground cover.

## Broad scale infestations

Research and develop a cost-effective, long-term management strategy before initiating any response.

- Local advice is available from Peter Bell, Weeds Officer with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, on 5420 7418. (Thank you to Peter for his input to this article.)
- Refer to the Department of Primary Industry's *Weedy Sporobolus grasses – Best practice manual*. This manual can be viewed online or downloaded for free from the DPI website – [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au) (search on *weedy Sporobolus*).
- Biosecurity Queensland (13 25 23 or [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)) can provide advice on broadacre herbicide application; weed seed dispersal and germination rates; the role of slashing, machinery and fire; preventing further spread and establishment; and management options for controlling infestations.
- Barung Contracting Services can assist with advice, control, and implementation of weed-control strategies.

## Barung Contracting Services



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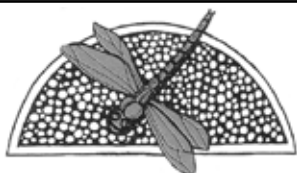
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## BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual/family membership \$ 25 pa

Business membership \$ 55 pa

Business sponsorship \$275 pa

DONATIONS of \$2 or more are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.



*David Binstead, Gretchen Evans, Lin Fairlie, Wayne Webb (obscured), Fran Guard, Bob Philpot, David Fairlie, John Dillon, Joan Dillon and Max Smith, windswept and rugged, at the Barung 'Thank you, VOLLIES' barbeque.*

## VOLLIES' BBQ

A merry and windswept bunch of Barung staff, committee members and volunteers braced the breeze (and borrowed every jacket they could find) to wish retiring volunteer Max Smith and his wife Bev well at a barbeque at the Barung Nursery on Wednesday 22nd July.

The get-together was organised to thank our regular volunteers who've put in so much work to get the Barung Nursery organised and operating, and as a special 'thank you and best wishes' to Max Smith, Val Philips and Eduard Heinisch.

Over the years Max has contributed by building and folding and barbequing and generally making things happen in so many areas.

Unfortunately Val and Colin and Eduard were unable to attend on the day, but we'll get them another time!

### The Barung Family

#### BARUNG VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	<i>Heather Spring</i>
Vice President	<i>Peter Stevens</i>
Secretary	<i>Eric Anderson</i>
Treasurer	<i>David Binstead</i>
Committee Members	<i>Lin Fairlie</i>
	<i>Kate Fraser</i>
	<i>Pat Fuller</i>
	<i>Bev Hand</i>
	<i>Diana O'Connor</i>
	<i>Steve Swayne</i>

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

#### BARUNG STAFF

<i>Barung Nursery</i>	
Nursery Manager	<i>Wayne Webb</i>
Assistant Nursery Manager	<i>Dawn Worthington</i>
<i>Barung Resource Centre</i>	
Manager	<i>Darryl Ebenezer</i>
Administration Officer	<i>Fuschia Collard</i>
<i>Barung Contracting Services</i>	
Team Leader	<i>Matthew Bateman</i>
<i>Barung Projects</i>	
Sustainable Landuse Officer & more	<i>Jonathan Waites</i>
Barung Events	<i>Steve McLeish</i>
Editor, <i>Barung News</i> and <i>The CODLine</i>	<i>Eve Witney</i>

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