



BARUNG

LANDCARE NEWS

August - November 2008



ARE WE THERE YET?

by Heather Spring, President

I'm hearing this question a fair bit these days. You will notice from the picture that not a lot has occurred on the new site just yet. There have been a few delays, but don't despair. The most recent date for our move to emerge from planning is Thursday 1st January 2009. This will be Council's first opportunity to build the fence defining the Barung area.

Cr Mackay and Council officers have been working hard to expedite and coordinate the Barung move and the construction of the new Neighbourhood Centre building.

Building a new home for Barung, moving the Nursery and Resource Centre, and closing and cleaning up at the old site are monumental tasks, and momentous events in the life of Barung Landcare.

To achieve the best possible outcome for Barung, we need plenty of help! We will be needing assistance in all aspects of the relocation and building. We're compiling a list of tasks and times for which we will need people and resources. I am sure there will be enough to do for everyone.

Even though we can't do much on the site at the moment, there is still plenty going on and much to do. Committee members and staff are preparing the Material Change of Use document, which will be submitted to Council around the time you are reading this.

Staff and volunteers have started the huge task of going through years and years of accumulated 'stuff'. Some will be packed away, some disposed of, and the rest made ready for the big move.



Barung's new site, full of promise. [Photo: Eve Witney]

So the answer to the question is: Nearly, not too much longer to wait, and plenty to do before we get there (and after we arrive).

Goodies or Baddies?

*What happens when your food plant becomes my weed?
When your garden beauty becomes OUR bushland monster?*

Surrounded by nature as we are on the Blackall Range - and by other people's homes - issues of definition (when is a plant a weed?) and responsibility (could my plant become a weed?) arise.

See pages 8 and 9 for more thoughts on this topic.

LIVING WITH NATURE Workshops

The Workshops

Barung Landcare coordinates Living with Nature Workshops monthly at the Hinterland Business Centre in Maleny.

These workshops provide information on the local landscape and the geology, ecology and conservation of our natural environment. The sessions explore both regional and broader topics and there is scope for field activities in the future.

Each workshop is led by an expert in the topic, and there is plenty of opportunity for sharing information and experience between presenters and participants.

When and Where

The sessions are held on a weekday from 10 am – 12 pm in the Resources Room, Hinterland Business Centre, 38A Coral St, Maleny. Entry by gold coin donation.

Please book at Barung on 5494 3151.

Upcoming workshops

Monday 8 September

Landscape & Geology of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland
Presentation/discussion with **David Lowry**

Wednesday 8 October

How to get along with Brush Turkeys and other wildlife
Presentation/discussion with **Tom Nealson**

Wednesday 5 November

Voluntary Conservation Agreements
Presentation/discussion with **Nick Clancy**

If you have any suggestions for presenters or topics, contact Susie Duncan on 5429 6622. And keep an eye on the Barung News calendar for future sessions.

IN THIS ISSUE

Are we there yet: Move to the Precinct.....	1
New Members.....	2
World Environment Day celebrations	3
Staff changes	4
NURSERY NOTES: Frost free	5
BOOK REVIEW: Grasses by Elliot	6
ORNAMENTAL GARDEN: Hanging baskets	6
LIVING WITH NATURE: You can do your bit.....	7
Gardening responsibly.....	8
WEED WATCH: Weed seedlings	9
LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP.....	10
WILDLIFE WANDERINGS: Black Cockatoos	11
WEED WATCH: Mistflower gall fly	12
Wild dog fact sheets.....	12
PLANT PROFILE: Guilfoylia	16
EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES	10,13, 14
THANK YOU TO	14
BARUNG COMMERCIAL SPONSORS.....	15
Barung's Wildlife Walkers.....	16

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Val Phillips)

Brian Baillie	Robert & Diana Allen
Duncan & Mardi MacMartin	John Morrison
Kelly Sayer	Michael Cole-King
Phil Gorbett	Anita Bringold
David Harrison	Ros Rangott
Ruth Steer	BJ Milner
Janette Bell	Graham Rudolph
John & Lesley Mott	John Peters
Madhu & Kate Kazony	Carol Whiteford
Steve Mallett	Barry & Bev Scott
Luke Deacon	Peter Frohlich
Dan & Wendy Johnston	Mary-Jane Weld
Paul & Alana Shereston	Scott & Sue Reilly
Steve Milner	

WELCOME BACK

Patricia Weggert	Claire Parris
Peter & Margaret Owens	Ron & Margaret
Corrie Wright	Everingham
	James Newton

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

DEADLINE -

Wed 12th November

for December 2008 - January 2009

Barung News contributions

Barung Landcare...



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

THANK YOU

Opening Hours

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8.30 am - 4.00 pm

Barung Nursery & Resource Centre/Office

SATURDAY 9.00 am - 12.00 pm

Barung Nursery only

Donations to the
Barung Environmental Gift Fund
are Tax Deductible!

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.**

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

by Dawn Worthington

The intrepid 'Travelling Barungberry' team once again packed up our plants and other goodies and headed off the Range to participate in the World Environment Day celebrations on Saturday 21st June, hosted by Sunshine Coast Environment Centre (SCEC) at the University of the Sunshine Coast campus.

The event was initially scheduled for 31 May but was cancelled due to very bad weather. Remember the rain?! Considering that some exhibitors were unable to come, the rescheduled event was an outstanding success.

The Barung team – Lin Fairlie, Amber Worthington, Clare Sluggett and myself – had a most enjoyable day. We were greeted upon arrival with music, banners, colour and a positive and infectious atmosphere. We experienced face paintings, didge playing, plant identifying, bush tucker information, a fresh fruit and vegetable market, entertainers, singers, indigenous dancers, lectures and forums and, most importantly, community and environmental engagement.

The Barung Tent was a hive of activity. Our neighbours were the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Recovery Network, who managed to give away more than 100 *Pararistolochia praevenosa* (Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Vines) to the public along with invaluable information about growing the vine and encouraging your neighbours to do the same. Mark Dwyer, who heads Conservation Volunteers Australia in our area, also joined us. He gave out information about the CVAs to encourage people to support this program.

We had a wonderful day and felt we had positively contributed to the celebration. Amber participated in a Youth Forum and learnt how to decrease her carbon footprint drastically with a few simple changes. She is now advising me about what I should be doing and is trying to implement her new wisdom at home.

A huge 'thank you' to Mark and others who helped us girls to 'derect' our spider tent (Amber's terminology)! Also, thanks for a job well done to all who assisted in organising, setting up and putting away all the 'goodies' we took with us.

People's response to our beautiful native species was amazing; many were surprised that a lot of our species can be grown successfully 'down on the coast'. We received lots of positive support, and we are all excited about next year's event.



Clare Sluggett, Dawn and Amber Worthington and Lin Fairlie present the Barung display at SCEC's WED celebrations at the University of the Sunshine Coast.



ABOVE: Barung's presence at the University of the Sunshine Coast.



RIGHT: The Barung display (and Dawn) at Kawana Shopping Centre.

'WORLD' AT KAWANA

By Dawn Worthington

Barung was invited to participate in World Environment Week celebrations at Kawana Shopping Centre on the Thursday of this celebratory week.

The indoor display included Visy Recycling (promoting reuse of cardboard, glass, cans etc) and Mobile Muster (collection points for the disposal of drums of oils, chemicals and such). Sea FM radio station promoted the event. We were there to celebrate and to educate people about how simple it is to make a positive contribution to the environment and that everybody can do something worthwhile.

One gentleman saw our displays, said 'I'll be back!', and returned with more than 100 glass jars which were promptly recycled! What is it with girls and jars?

Our display included plants – *Lomandra hystrix* (mat rush) and *Dianella caerulea* (rough flax lily) – to give to people who recycled. The public comments were very positive and pro-active. There were lots of children actively encouraging their parents to recycle and buy plants to put in the ground.

We also did a membership drive, explaining that the Blackall Range is part of their wider community and that water quality and threatened species issues involve them directly.

It was a very successful day in terms of the plants we sold and the information we gave out. More than 100 plants were given away. Many people remarked that they should explore their own backyards a little more often, so hopefully their appreciation of our wonderful part of the world will grow.



BARUNG CONTRACTING SERVICES CONTINUES TO GROW

by Darryl Ebenezer

After three years of operation, the time came to review the structure and role of Contracting Services in the broader life of Barung.

Late last year the Committee started to review the operations and services offered by our Contracting team and to research alternative models of delivery. A number of changes have resulted from this review, designed to ensure that timely, quality, relevant and cost-effective services are delivered to a broader range of landholders.

In reviewing the organisational structure, the committee decided not to continue with the role of Coordinator. As a result, Brendan Stephen has moved from Barung to employment elsewhere on the Range. When Brendan took over coordinating Contracting Services from Jolyon Froude, he increased the volume of work delivered in the community. We wish Brendan well with his new undertaking.

As a result of this review, two other staff have also decided to leave Contracting Services. Long-term team member Jake Smith-Moloney has decided to use his knowledge and skills to better the environment in a new arena. 'Regen Man' will be missed by everyone. Michael Cooper has also left to pursue his Bush Regeneration career elsewhere. In a community the size of Maleny's I am sure we will see them around.

Despite these recent changes, the Contracting Services team members are continuing to work hard and bring about positive change in the landscape. We have already recruited new people to the team and are expanding the scope of work we will engage in. Over the next few months you will see a further increase in the numbers of team members on-ground and a better structure for responding to the needs of members, landholders and other stakeholders.

With these new faces coming on board, Barung will continue with its long-held tradition of recruiting, nurturing and training staff to benefit Barung and also the wider community as members of the Barung family move on to other employment.

Au Revoir, Jane

Jane Williamson, our Volunteers Coordinator, will be leaving us at the end of September 08.

In these times it is difficult sourcing funds for positions such as Volunteers Coordinator, and at their July meeting the Management Committee decided to bring the position to an end.

As well as coordinating Barung's volunteers, Jane has made a huge contribution toward organising the two most recent Maleny Wood Expos. Jane has tirelessly and generously catered for many Barung and community events, bringing delight to all who tasted her wares!

We hope Jane's absence will be short, and that she and Neil don't stray too far from the Barung family.



Adieu, John



Barung's contract with the Burnett Mary Group for the **Regional Liaison Officer** position ended on 30th June 2008. This means we have said farewell to John Muir.

John has been in and out of the life of Barung for many years. John has demonstrated the breadth of his interest, knowledge and skills in Natural Resource Management over the years through a diverse range of positions, and we anticipate his continued involvement with Barung and community issues.

The Committee and staff would like to thank both John and the BMRG for their support over the years.

WILDLIFE WALKS

with SUSIE DUNCAN

These walks are all free, but please book at Barung on 5494 3151.

Bring water, lunch, boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, binoculars and togs if you wish to swim. Meet at Barung at 8.45 am to car pool.

Sunday 7 September

Bellthorpe Forest. Old-growth wet eucalypt forest, rainforest and creek cascades. 4 km on tracks, moderate to steep grades. Return to Barung by 4 pm.

Friday 17 October

Currimundi Lake Conservation Park. Wallum heathland & coastal landscape. 3 km on tracks, easy grades. Return to Barung by 3 pm.

Friday 14 November

Maroochydore Bushland Botanic Gardens. Native bushland and gardens conserving threatened species. 3 km walk, moderate grades. Return to Barung by 3 pm.

FROST FREE

NURSERY NOTES by Dawn Worthington

Well, winter is well and truly here! The office is like a cave, cold and drafty. Fuschia has brought in her own 'little' heater just to keep the fingers from freezing! It's amazing how many people have been thawed out in the Barung office during this prolonged cool spell.

One positive so far is that we've had no frost at the Nursery. We're keeping our fingers crossed on that one – many customers have commented that our winter has been rather mild up until a fortnight ago, so I do not want to put the motzer on our frost-free state!

Plants in Retail

The nursery itself is looking good considering the weather. We have quite a good selection of plants available this winter and have been busy filling up our retail section.

We have some beautiful looking *Backhousia citriodora* (lemon-scented myrtle) available in 140 mm pots, so come in and buy some so you can make your own herbal tea. Lemon-scented myrtle goes beautifully in cakes, muffins and icing. Add some to your home brew and see what it tastes like. I have it on good authority that it is a beautiful drop!

Thank you, vollies

A big 'thank you' to all our vollies. Obviously we wouldn't be able to achieve what we do without you. We are indebted to you all!

A huge thanks goes to Max and Noel for their continued efforts in cleaning and sterilising our pots and tubes. Try putting *your* hands in a bucket of water that's been left out overnight and see what colour your hands are after 10 minutes. This is what these two guys do all the time – thank goodness for Max and his 'Gerni' machine, I say!

Move to new site

Wayne has been busy with Darryl doing all the preliminary work for the new site. Yes, it will be Christmas time, this year, we hope! Both of us are quite excited about the new premises and can't wait to turn the first sod, so to speak. It will be so great to have space in order to produce commercial quantities of plant stock for our members.

Is there anything you would like to see made available in the retail section of the new site? We are seeking input from the community. You could drop in and have a chat, email, or call me with any suggestions.

Stocking for Spring

We have a large range of stock waiting in our shade houses for a bit of warmth, so the nursery will be stocking a wide variety of plants in spring. So come in and visit, have a chat, buy some plants, and do something for the environment. Looking forward to seeing you all.

The Barung Bookshop

17 Bicentenary Lane, Maleny

More than 40 book titles,
posters, CDs, cassettes & gift ideas

View titles at

www.barunglandcare.com.au/bookshop.htm

Barung Landcare

Association Inc Committee and Staff
invite you to join us for our

2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER

10 am to 11 am

(Location to be advised)

Followed by a treeplant and BBQ

Nominations for positions on the
Barung Management Committee
close Friday 10th October 2008

Barung Landcare Association Inc is your
not-for-profit community Landcare group
funded by native plant sales, fundraising
activities, memberships, donations and grants.

As an organisation, Barung is dedicated to
preserving and enhancing the natural
environment of the Blackall Range
and environs.



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

RSVP by Mon 20 October 2008

07 5494 3151

info@barunglandcare.org.au

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual/family membership \$ 25 pa

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

Business membership \$ 55 pa

Business sponsorship \$275 pa

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

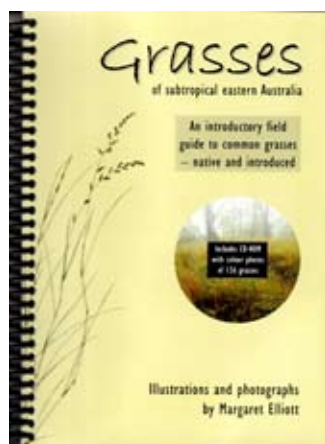
DONATIONS of \$2 or more are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

GRASSES OF SUBTROPICAL EASTERN AUST

BOOK REVIEW by Lin Fairlie

Grasses of subtropical eastern Australia by Margaret Elliot is a small book in the style of *Plants of the Forest Floor*. Margaret and her collaborator Penny Watsford produced *Grasses of the Tweed Valley* in 2004 as they had found it difficult to identify grasses of the region using existing books. This new book covers grasses in northern New South Wales and south-east Queensland and has good illustrations and text complemented by a CD of colour photos.

This book is easy to use. The grasses are initially separated by height into five groups. Within each group a detailed drawing of the seed head is provided for each species along with its name and the number of the page where it is later described in greater detail. Introduced species are indicated by an asterisk after the name.



For each species there is a description of its main characteristics and its usual habitat, and common names are included where applicable.

As this book covers only the coastal strip and Ranges as far as Bundaberg, some of the troublesome grasses of the more western areas, such as African Love Grass, are not included. It was interesting to see that introduced Buffel Grass was included, as obviously it is found in some coastal areas and not just

on the grazing areas of western Queensland where it is a very important pasture grass.

There is a very interesting section on 'How grasses fit in' which draws on early historical accounts. The book also refers to up-to-date research concerning C3 and C4 plants (according to their photosynthetic pathways).

Altogether this little book makes interesting reading. It will be very useful to everyone interested in natural vegetation and especially those who wonder about the grasses on their properties and along roadsides.

*** Available from the Barung Bookshop for \$18.50.**



Barung Contracting Services

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

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www.barunglandcare.org.au

HANGING BASKETS

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

The early spring flowers are really beginning to show here on the east side of the Range and at least one of my callistemons, after a relatively brief but spectacular display, has already finished. It is also time for the annual wildflower festival on the Coast so I am very aware of colour in the garden.

In order to gain some eye-height colour around buildings, I decided to experiment with hanging baskets, something I previously have not had much time to do... not that there's any time now, but this experiment has climbed the priority list.

I purchased large coconut fibre-lined baskets along with extra coconut fibre inserts to help retain a little more moisture. A friend suggested that a layer of plastic suitably punched with drainage holes and placed between the two fibre layers would also have been a good move. Next time.

Unfortunately, we don't appear to have too many colourful groundcover or small bushy plants in the local understorey so I have had to use what is available. This has meant WA wildflowers and a range of nursery industry cultivars. I did have a selection of *Tripladenia cunninghamii* (syn. *Kreysigia multiflora*) grown from seed and have used these as a filler. This little lily is a great pot plant in its own right so long as it is in the shade. The native *Lobelia* could also be tried but none happened to be available at the time.

A mix of *Leschenaultia*, striking deep blue *Dampiera* and a silvery-leaved form of *Scaevola* are doing well. Naturally none of these cope with my heavy clay, so they have to be grown in containers in a potting mix with excellent drainage. *Hibbertia aspera* has a basket of its own from which I expect it will cascade in due course.

None of this sounds particularly appropriate to Landcare and the use of local species, but if we are to grow the expected range of plants found in a garden setting, they need to be available.

Barung is very good at trees and a selection of understorey shrubs, but the groundcovers and 'little' plants are always a challenge. Rainforests produce every conceivable shade of green, and Barung does have a good range of ferns, but we seem to be a little short on colour.

If any of Barung's members are experimenting with local species in tubs or hanging baskets, I would love to hear about it and exchange notes.

I am starting to pay a lot more attention to what is under my feet but we have lost many understorey species as a result of clearing and pasture establishment. *Hovea acutifolia* is flowering now along roadsides but is not quite suitable for a basket! I intend trying a native iris from the wallum with a bluish lomandra cultivar and a pink kangaroo paw but would really like to introduce some locals into the mix.

Sometimes plants only become known and appreciated as a result of being cultivated. It is a challenge to discover them and use them in the garden, but it is a challenge well worth pursuing.

Please keep showing your ...

**Barung
Community Benefit Key Tags**

... when shopping at Maleny IGA

YOU CAN DO YOUR BIT

LIVING WITH NATURE by Jim Cox

The best efforts of experts employed to record species in decline can only give limited results. Concerned and interested members of the general public are encouraged to record their sightings and return this information to the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (WPSQ).

At the recent Barung 'Living with Nature' workshop, Scott Burnett from WPSQ and the University of the Sunshine Coast gave a comprehensive and interesting talk on the value to science of wildlife sightings by the general public.

Scott's own species of interest are the six known glider possum species, the spotted-tailed and northern quolls, and the platypus. Community platypus programs conducted in the Brisbane area have greatly increased the scientific community's understanding of the distribution and ecology of platypus, including their range and tolerance of degraded streams and rivulets.

Public awareness

Scott pointed out the danger of practices which can have a devastating effect on wildlife. The strychnine used in baits for wild dogs and foxes is lethal to quolls, as is all brodifacoum-based rat poisons. However quolls can survive one-off hot fires that can adversely affect other forms of wildlife.

Electric fencing too close to the ground can be lethal for echidnas. Zapped while squeezing below a low electric wire, echidnas will react by raising their spines and so become trapped, unable to move forward or backward.

Barbed wire fencing that is not needed should be removed, covered or replaced, particularly if you are likely to have gliders in your areas as barbed wire can cause a most painful death.

If quolls are threatening your chooks, you will need to build a suitable night enclosure for your chooks. Quolls are great climbers, so a roof covering will be necessary. WPSQ may be able to help with advice and perhaps finance to build a better pen.

Other threats

Loss of habitat and the serious lack of nesting hollows are obvious threats to our wildlife. The word is: get as many varying types of nest boxes as you can into those trees. Australia's six glider species all occur in Queensland: the greater glider, yellow-bellied glider, mahogany glider, squirrel glider, sugar glider and feather-tailed glider. These species are nocturnal and arboreal, rarely coming to ground.

The other major threat is predation by feral or free-roaming domestic cats and dogs. For native species to survive, this must be controlled by legislation and effective enforcement but most importantly it's up to pet owners to restrain their pets, especially at night.

How can we help?

Firstly we can provide and protect habitat. Is your land wildlife friendly? Does it provide food? And hollows? It's particularly important to protect large trees, as the larger gliders prefer trees of more than 40 cm diameter for both food and hollows. Plant and protect food trees – the best benefit is provided by species

that naturally occur locally. Check with Barung Landcare which of these species would be best for your local area: red mahogany (*Eucalyptus resinifera*), pink bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*), forest red gum (*E. tereticornis*), spotted gum (*Corymbia citriodora* subspecies *variegata*, previously *C. maculata*) and flooded gum (*E. grandis*).

Replacing (non-indigenous) domesticated animals like cats and dogs with appropriate native species could secure their future. Keeping native animals as pets is strongly controlled by state legislation – however many reputable researchers believe that if this were changed extinction of native species would be less likely. Australian birds and reptile species that have been 'kept as pets' have not become extinct.

Opportunity to volunteer

I was volunteered to co-ordinate getting some mapping and survey programs underway. We need many volunteers so if you are interested in being involved in platypus, quoll or glider surveys, please register with Barung on 5494 3151.

And if you believe we should modify legislation which works against the survival of native species then let me know. Perhaps with serious and sustained lobbying we can turn this around.

Wildlife Queensland brochures are available at Barung Landcare on gliders, platypus and quolls. More information is available at

www.wildlife.org.au



Feather-tailed Glider by Jim Cox.



'Mum! Wait! Don't leave me!' Fuschia and Samara (pictured) escape Barung for Girraween National Park.

[Photo: Fuschia]

NEWSLETTER BREAK

We'll be having one less newsletter this year, because your editor is having a holiday too!

**NEXT ISSUE DUE OUT:
Late November 2008**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by Herbert Fenn, Cooloolabin

My 2.5 hectare property borders Mapleton Forest Reserve and I have been doing bush regeneration here for the past five years.

A previous owner of the property was interested in permaculture and planted many exotic plants. Successive owners did not continue with permaculture and now some of these plants are causing problems. For example:

- 1) **Brazilian cherries** – a bush that produces fruit attractive to birds which spread the seed. Plant produces a complex mass of roots from which spread new bushes.
- 2) **Pinto peanuts** – a nitrogen-fixing groundcover that spreads and is extremely difficult to eliminate. I've tried mulching, poison and digging it up to no avail. Drought doesn't kill it.
- 3) **Ice cream beans** – a tree that produces masses of fruit and seeds. Not as easily spread as Brazilian cherries and may have some use in a forest situation as it allows natives to grow beneath it.

Maybe some of the plants promoted as suitable permaculture species can 'naturalise' and become good environmental citizens. On the other hand, perhaps there are some that should be avoided.

Edited from a letter from Herbert Fenn to Barung Landcare.

GARDENING RESPONSIBLY

by Nick Clancy

Land for Wildlife Extension Officer, SCRC

Gardeners need to understand that when they introduce a new plant to their garden (Permaculture or otherwise) they are also introducing that plant into their local ecosystem. A garden is not a closed system. Many gardeners have enthusiastically adopted the concept of attracting wildlife into their garden, but some have been slower to understand that what they nurture in their garden can have a negative impact on wildlife habitat.

Serious consideration must be given to the potential of garden plants to spread unintentionally. If a plant has a small fleshy fruit there is a real chance birds will carry the seed beyond the back fence. Other plants may spread slowly long after our stay.

I think that living (and gardening) in or near bushland comes with an added responsibility to be informed about how your gardening activities might result in negative impacts on the local ecology.

Many plants can spread and become invasive weeds in bushland. Today information on these known bushland invaders is readily available. When selecting plants for your garden you need to ask: Is this plant likely to spread beyond its intended space? If so don't plant it, or prevent its spread (for example, by covering fruit with wildlife-friendly netting). If you are unsure, research the plant's dispersal method. If you are still unsure, adopt the precautionary principle and don't plant it.

We don't have to be totally purist and only garden with local natives; there are many non-natives that are basically ecologically benign and safe to grow in our gardens. Indeed most food plants that have been grown in our area for decades have not become bushland weeds. However an increasing number of introduced garden plants are escaping and degrading our bushland.

If we want to sustain our unique natural ecosystems, we all have a responsibility to garden without bushland invaders.

Nick can be contacted on 5439 6433.



WEEDBUSTERS WEEK: Grow Me Instead!

by Sarah Simpson and Michael Gilles
Bushlands Team,
Sunshine Coast Regional Council

This year's Weedbuster Week, from 1–5 September, has the theme 'Grow Me Instead'.

To encourage people to replace environmentally threatening garden plants with native plants for native wildlife, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council is co-ordinating a series of weed-exchange events.

Many environmental weeds are still commonly grown as garden plants. This year's most wanted weed species include:

- Asparagus Fern
- Mock Orange
- Mickey Mouse Plant
- Singapore Daisy, and
- Fishbone Fern.

Home gardeners will have the opportunity to replace potentially damaging environmental weeds with suitable native plants.

Information will be provided on recognising the weeds in our backyards, how these weeds threaten the environment, and how we can control or eradicate them.

How can you help? Come along during Weedbuster Week and exchange a shopping bag full of weeds for three free native replacement plants.

These weed-exchange events will be held at specified times in Mooloolah, Caloundra, Buderim, Nambour, Coolool and Pomona ... and at Barung Landcare.

To exchange your bag of weeds, come along to

Barung Landcare on

Thursday 4th September

between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm.

Weedbusters is a program aimed at raising awareness and providing a greater public understanding about weeds, the problems they cause, and how we can manage them.

For more information about Council's events during Weedbuster Week, visit the Weedbusters' website: www.weedbusters.info, or contact Sarah or Michael on 5475 7339 or sarah.simpson@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au or michael.gilles@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

SEEDLINGS: WEED OR WANTED?

WEEDWATCH by Lin Fairlie

One aspect of successful revegetation, once trees are established, is recognising the other little seedlings that come up from seed distributed by birds (in their droppings) or the wind.

It is great to see natural regeneration taking place but sometimes these seedlings are weed species which should, depending on the amount of sunlight, be removed, particularly along edges that will not be shaded.

Under a closed canopy many seedlings germinate and just sit, waiting for a break in the canopy and increased light levels. This applies to both weed and desirable species. But while the canopy is still developing, weedy tree seedlings can take off.

Recognising and removing weed seedlings is a quick, easy and worthwhile job if done while they are still less than 30 cms high.

Some of the worst and most common weeds are easily identified as seedlings. The following weed seedlings have single stems and simple, entire leaves:

- **Broad-leaved privet** (*Ligustrum lucidum*) has leaves that are dullish green and greyish on the underside, with smooth edges.
- **Small-leaved privet** (*Ligustrum sinense*) also has a simple leaf although the arrangement can look like a compound leaf. Leaflets are dullish and rounded with undulated margins when small. It can be a little difficult to distinguish between some privet and lillypillies but the greyish under-surface is the key.
- **Camphor laurel** (*Cinnamomum camphora*) has its own distinctive camphor smell when crushed.
- **Chinese elm** (*Celtis sinensis*) has very distinctive veins and the leaves have a serrated edge.
- **Brazilian cherry** (*Eugenia uniflora*) has very shiny leaves, often pinkish new growth and a distinctive smell.

With compound leaves:

- **Himalayan ash** (*Fraxinus griffithii*) has very small dark green, somewhat shiny, compound leaves and, if left, will adopt a single-stemmed form.
- **Broad-leaved pepper** (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) has leaflets with rather distinct lighter veins.

Then, of course, there are also

- **Moth vine** (*Araujia sericifera*) which has a somewhat spindly stem with largish, pale green leaves and, if broken, a milky sap. These are so easily removed when small before they find a tree stem to climb up, when they become much harder to see.
- **Asparagus ferns** (*Protasparagus* spp) of a variety of types are easily dug or pulled out but make sure you remove the crown of the plant. Small asparagus ferns sit just on or under the leaf litter with no roots into the soil.

Others weeds which are better known include **lantana** (*Lantana camara*) and **blackberry** (*Rubus* sp).

So that's a starter list for seedlings you may not wish to keep in your reveg area.

Of course there are others which cannot be easily identified and even some of these listed here can be tricky. By all means bring part of the plant (if large enough) or some seedlings (if there are a few) into Barung for the 'experts' to identify. If you think it may be a native and a plant you'd rather keep in the ground, leave it

to grow larger when it will be easier to identify. But do remember to come back and check before it gets large enough to fruit – or too large to remove easily!

Personally I have found that sealing the reveg edge with lomandra, to reduce light penetration, makes long term maintenance much easier.

Happy revegetating!

Chinese elm



Moth vine



Camphor laurel



Broad-leaved privet



Small-leaved privet



[Photos: Eve Witney]

GREEN CORPS TEAM

by Jane MacGibbon,
Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, and
Mark Dwyer, Conservation Volunteers Australia

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group is the project partner for a new Green Corps project that commenced on 7 July.

The team is led by Tara Palmer. All ten team members come from the local district and surrounding area.

'The Caring for Lake Baroon Catchment' project will see the team working on priority sites around the catchment. The team will be involved in a wide variety of tasks: weed management, tree planting, fencing, bridge painting, track maintenance. All of the on-ground outcomes will lead to improved water quality and a healthier ecosystem.

The team will also assist Barung Landcare by collecting seeds and assisting in their nursery over the coming months.



Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

455 North Maleny Road Maleny
PO Box 567 Maleny 4552
lbccg@ozemail.com.au
07 5494 3775

The Green Corps program is an initiative of the Commonwealth Government. Green Corps is a six month program for 17–20 year olds. In addition to learning practical skills in the field, the Corps members will receive accredited training in First-aid, Occupational Health and Safety and a Certificate 1 in Conservation and Land Management.

'Potting up' at the Barung Nursery are Green Corps team members (from left) Kiani Pickering, Stephanie Grech, Kasey Ball, Lashae Tattam, Emily Passmore, Bryce Anderson, Neal Rolley and Frankie Foy. Dylan Fresier and Allan Cooper, also in the team, are absent from this photograph.

[Photo: Tara Palmer]



LIVING WITH WILDLIFE FORUM

Sunday 7 September, 9 am to 4 pm

Gympie

\$11, inc morning tea & light lunch

Speakers include Raoul Slater (bird photographer and bush regenerator), Vanessa Bugg (butterfly book author and Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Network corridor coordinator), Mary Starky (QNPWS on bats) and Marc Russell (Conservation Partnerships programs).

More info on bookings and payment, contact:



Mary River
Catchment
Coordinating
Committee
on
5482 4766

BIG SCRUB RAINFOREST DAY

Sunday 14 September, 7 am - 4 pm

Rocky Creek Dam, inland from Byron Bay

Celebrating a decade of community-led restoration of the Big Scrub.

- Weed control, Seed collection, Plant propagation, Regeneration
- Bird walks, Gardening with local natives, Growing cabinet timbers
- Eco games for children, Puppet making, Theatre performance
- Yoga in the rainforest, Mountain bike rainforest tours, Market & food stalls.

Entry free – Parking \$5/car. Free buses from Byron Bay & Lismore.



More info:
bigscrubday@rainforestrescue.org.au

Web:
www.rainforestrescue.org.au
(click on Big Scrub Day)

BLACK COCKATOOS

WILDLIFE WANDERINGS by Susie Duncan

Most readers will have encountered black cockatoos somewhere in their travels but may not have realised there are many species and sub-species in Australia. In Queensland we have the Palm Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo and Glossy Black-Cockatoo.

The Palm Cockatoo is confined to woodlands and rainforest of northern Cape York but is well known because it is often featured on tourist brochures of the tropical north. It's the one with a fabulous fanned crest.

In southern Queensland, the species most frequently encountered is the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo. It is a large black cockatoo with yellow cheeks and yellow panels under the tail. These birds occur mostly in the sclerophyll forests of south-eastern Australia, including those dominated by banksias, hakeas and wattles. They seek out the seeds of these plants as well as those of many other native and exotic trees. You may have been alerted to their presence by the sound of their seed-extraction activities in a Slash Pine or by the rain of debris falling from a tree. Recently a small party of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos did a comprehensive spring clean of our garden, tearing vertical strips of bark and wood off wattles and tamarinds to extract the nutritious wood-boring larvae.

The Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo is more commonly seen in drier woodlands and shrub-lands to the west of the Great Dividing Range. It is slightly bigger than the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo and has bright red or barred yellow-orange panels under the tail and no coloured cheek patches. The female is speckled with yellow on head and body. Its diet is similar to that of the Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo.

The Glossy Black-Cockatoo is the rarest of the Queensland cockatoos and is threatened throughout its range. It is notably smaller than the other black cockatoos and has a brownish head and front, not really glossy at all! Similar to the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo it has barred red or red-orange panels under the tail, but the female has irregular patches of yellow on the head.

Glossy Black-Cockatoos tend to occur in wetter forests closer to the coast than Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos. Their diet is much more specialised than those of the other black cockatoos as they feed almost exclusively on seeds of *Allocasuarina* species with the occasional wood-boring grub thrown in. In our region Black She-oak (*A. littoralis*) is preferred, but Forest She-oak (*A. torulosa*) is also widely taken. If you come across a she-oak where the ground beneath is littered with chewed cones, this is a pretty good indication that Glossy Black-Cockatoos have been having a feast. The birds favour particular individual trees, seemingly those which bear cones with a higher quantity of seed.

Recent population estimates for Glossy Black-Cockatoos indicate that there are less than 18,000 nationally and between 1000 and 2500 in Queensland. Although other black cockatoo species appear to have more robust populations, the longevity of all cockatoos (several decades) can mask the ultimate decline in a population. You may see plenty of birds around now, but unless they continue to breed successfully, there will be a steady drop-off in the population as the older birds die.

Black cockatoos are threatened by past selective logging and the ongoing clearing of forests and woodlands. The Glossy Black-Cockatoo is particularly affected because of its reliance on a select food resource. But all black cockatoos nowadays are challenged to find large trees that contain suitable nest hollows. One study of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos showed the birds to have a preference for hollows in trees that are more than 200 years old.

RIGHT: Yellow-tailed
Black-cockatoo.
[Photograph courtesy
of Peter Skinner]



LEFT: Glossy black-cockatoo (female).
[Photo courtesy of
Nevil Lazarus]

To assist in the conservation of the Glossy Black Cockatoo you can report any sightings of these birds or evidence of their feeding. Pick up a brochure and report form from Barung. And do remember to protect she-oaks and large old trees, including dead trees, on your land.

More info: www.glossyblack.org.au

Check out the
BARUNG NEWSLETTER
in
BRIGHT LIVING COLOUR
AT

www.barunglandcare.org.au/newsletters.html

FOOD TREES FED OVENS

by E McCosker, Mapleton

Recently I have read several articles re the Glossy Black-Cockatoo and how its dependence on the 'Scrub Oaks' and their destruction has impacted on these birds.

This bit of history may be of interest:

In the days when every small town had its own baker's shop and Bakery, the timber prized for its heat and long-lasting coals in their ovens was 'oak', as it did not leave a smoky taint as many other timbers did.

Many teamsters and timber getters would find stands of these 'oak' trees, ringbark them and then come back later when they judged them dry enough to cut for 'cord wood' to sell to the bakers.

Naturally this led to a virtual clear-fell of all the mature trees with a loss of food for the cockatoos as nobody realised the tree-bird association.

However I have noticed in areas that my grandfather used in the Glasshouse Mountains area that natural regrowth has led to more trees than there were originally.

MISTFLOWER GALL FLY AT BOOROOBIN

WEED WATCH by John Wightman

Earlier this year, I noticed a mistflower plant with insect-feeding damage. That is somewhat unusual. I looked more closely and didn't find a defoliator, but I did find an upper-stem node that was strangely swollen – a gall. I split the gall and found a greenish maggot inside.

This was almost certainly a larva of the mistflower gall fly *Procecidochares alani* Steyskal (Tephritidae). Moving from near the house into the surrounding bush I found many more plants with galls, some with exit holes.

Galled plants could be identified by the state of the stem above the galls, which ranged from 'a little contorted' to 'dead'. Many had also been attacked by an unidentified defoliator. This is probably because the plants' defoliator resistance mechanisms were overloaded.

The gall fly was introduced from Mexico into Hawaii in the 70s where it is believed to have contributed to the suppression of mistflower. It was later brought into Australian quarantine testing from Hawaii and released in 1986 at 25 sites in SE Queensland (including Mapleton Falls, Maleny, Kureelipa Falls, Palmwoods, Kondalilla Falls, Bellthorpe and Peachester). A 1987 search confirmed that the gall fly had established at all of the original release points. (Thanks to Dr Bill Palmer, Biosecurity Queensland, for this information).

Is this good news in the battle with the Blackall Range's weeds? No, not really. It is probably just an interesting piece of natural history. Endemic parasites are believed to have suppressed the gall fly's population growth to the extent that it may never have the impact we hope the white smut disease of mistflower will have (once funds are raised to introduce it to Australia). These suppositions about the pathogen and gall fly parallel the experience of New Zealand scientists over the last ten years.

The current local abundance of the gall fly in Booroobin may indicate that it has moved into a new area ahead of its parasites. That is if we assume it has not been around for ages without anyone noticing.

Also, parasites and their prey typically 'cycle'. When the parasites assume dominance over the prey, there are fewer prey for the parasites to attack and the parasite numbers then drop off. This allows prey populations to expand, providing a bigger target for the parasites, the numbers of which build up again – and so on. Add to this the assumption that the parasite(s) almost certainly have more than one host species and you can see that this is an oversimplification of a complex story. And we cannot turn to the last chapter to find out what happened in the end!

Plant Credit Program

As a Barung member, with \$250 you can set up a Plant Credit at the Barung Nursery that gives you a discount of 25% on tubestock, megatubes and some more advanced stock.

You can take the plants as needed in whatever quantity you require, subject to availability.

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



Galls on mistflower stems at Booroobin, presumably caused by the mistflower gall fly, a biocontrol agent.

[Photo: John Wightman]

Whilst many interesting insects turn up close to the homes or laboratories of entomologists, it would be interesting to know if any other Range residents have seen the galls before or currently. Please let me know if you can add to the narrative.

This biological control exercise was started more than 20 years ago, so it would add to the public good to provide feedback to the scientific community about the extent of the mistflower gall fly's current distribution.

You can contact me with your information at **0418 773 190** or at intipm@ipmmaleny.com

New Wild Dog Fact Sheets

by Greg Brown

*Pest Management Coordinator
Sunshine Coast Regional Council*

Living within a semi-rural landscape means that landholders are sometimes faced with challenges – some good, some bad – that most city-folk never experience. Bushfires ... poisonous snakes ... running out of water ... and sometimes, having to deal with the odd feral animal. One pest animal species living in our local region is wild dogs.

An important part of dealing with feral animals is having some basic understanding of animal ecology and behaviour, and what individual and cooperative approaches can be taken.

To help landholders in dealing with wild dog problems in their communities, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) has developed a series of easy-to-read fact sheets. The series of 23 fact sheets are designed to provide a landholder with background information, planning skills and techniques for controlling wild dogs on their properties.

Examples of some fact sheets are:

- Biology, ecology and behaviour of wild dogs
- Avoiding wild dog problems
- Livestock-guarding dogs
- Coordinated wild dog control
- The law and your responsibility.

The fact sheets can be found by accessing the DPI&F website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au and searching for 'wild dog control fact sheets'.

Council encourage all landholders to report sightings and incidences relating to wild dogs to the Customer Service Centre of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council on **5420 8200**.

Guilfoylia monostylis

Family: Surianaceae

Solo Plum, Guilfoylia

PLANT PROFILE By Wayne Webb

Solo Plum is a graceful bushy shrub or small tree of 6 to 10 m, often multi-stemmed, with glossy deep green foliage. Very showy bright yellow flowers are well displayed and carried in panicles towards the ends of branches during spring or summer. Flowers are five petalled with a central tuft of stamens, and are around 1 cm in diameter. Leaves have an attractive wavy margin and are carried alternately on drooping, zigzag branchlets. Bark is finely fissured, brown or greyish-brown with numerous lenticels, becoming smooth and green on the branchlets.

Fruit are shiny black globular drupes, 10–15 mm in diameter. A thin outer layer encloses a single hard seed. Seeds should be soaked in water for a few days and peeled before sowing. Germination is reliable, but may take some months.

Guilfoylia likes a protected site and should be well mulched. A lightly shaded position on the edge of a rainforest planting would be suitable, enabling the flowers to be seen to best advantage. It may also be used as a tub plant in a sheltered position as it can flower while quite young. Tubestock have even flowered in our nursery.

Guilfoylia monostylis grows in sub-tropical to warm temperate, littoral and dry rainforests from Gloucester in mid north-east NSW to Gympie in southern Queensland, and also on the Atherton Tablelands in north Queensland. It has been recorded locally at Bellthorpe, Montville and Kenilworth.

Guilfoylia monostylis has a rather sparse family tree. Its family, Surianaceae, contains only five genera, each with only one species. The genera *Guilfoylia*, *Stylobasium* and *Cadellia* are endemic to Australia. The other two genera are found in South and Central America, Africa and South-East Asia.

The timber of Solo Plum is yellow, with a deep yellow to yellow-brown centre. It is hard and close-grained, and would be useful for wood turning.

Guilfoylia is a food plant for the Tailed Emperor butterfly.



Guilfoylia monostylis foliage showing wavy leaf margins and zigzag stems. [Photo: Wayne Webb]



GetUp's national CLIMATE TORCH Relay

Coming to the SUNSHINE COAST & MARY RIVER!

Come along and enjoy the festivities! Join others in saying NO to Climate Change; No to Traveston Crossing Dam.

* CLIMATE TORCH LIGHTS UP MARY VALLEY COMMUNITY

Welcome the torch on the banks of the Upper Mary River. Dance and dine with local musicians, wholefoods and like-minded people willing to make sustainable living a living reality.

Friday 5th September, 5.30 pm

Village Green, Crystal Waters

Free entry, \$10 wholesome meals available

RSVP (for planning) to

waterbreath@bigpond.com

* HUMAN CHAIN at TRAVESTON CROSSING BRIDGE

We need more than 1000 people!

Form a human chain along the site of the proposed Traveston Crossing dam. Wear yellow and black. We'll make a colourful spectacle from the air! Enjoy a BBQ and entertainment by the river. Refreshments and parking available. Buses from north and south (bus bookings essential by 29 August).

11 am - 1 pm, Saturday 6th

Traveston Crossing Bridge

Print out registration form and bring it along, from:

www.savethemaryriver.com/downloads/pdfs/TravRego.pdf

RSVP (for planning) to

anneandbill@bournet.net.au

* MORE EVENTS

Community Relay Fun Run

Midnight Friday 5th–10 am Saturday 6th September

Meet the Torch and Bust the Dam!

Saturday 6th September

* LOADS MORE INFO:

www.savethemaryriver.com/downloads/pdfs/GetUpSaveTheMaryRiver.pdf

THANK YOU TO ...

... **Max Smith, Noel Denning, Deanne Grace, Kerry Sluggett, Noel Dougday, Brian Germein and Col & Val Phillips** for the mid-June *Barung News* mailout

... **Kate Fraser** for her amazing efforts and support

... **Montville Coffee** for their continued generous donations of coffee for Barung fundraising events. We really appreciate it!

... all of the wonderful volunteers helping at the Barung Landcare Cafe fundraising venture at the Witta Markets every 3rd Saturday of the month, with special thanks to **Maleny Neighbourhood Centre** plus **Darryl, Jane and Neil, Dawn, Amber, Kyle, Brian, Adrian, Rob and Amelia.**

SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

for a student undertaking research on the endangered **Mary River Turtle**, *Elusor macrurus*.

A cash scholarship of \$5000 is guaranteed for Year one. Year two & three scholarship amounts will depend on funds raised by the group, but similar amounts are anticipated. In-kind support will also be provided. Successful applicant will report annually to the Landcare group and be encouraged to present at a conference.

To apply, forward proposed research project to:

Tiaro Landcare, PO Box 6, Tiaro Qld 4650

For more information contact **Marilyn Connell** on

Phone: **0427 293 221** or **07 4129 6206**

Email: **marilyn.connell@bigpond.com** or **tiarolandcare1@bigpond.com**



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SEQ WATER STRATEGY COMMENTS

On-line version of MRCCC's technical comments in response to the Qld Water Commission's draft SEQ Water Strategy.

www.mrccc.org.au/traveston.html

IMPROVE REVEGETATION SUCCESS

New research on genetic variability within remnant populations indicates that local provenance seed may not always be the best option. Concludes that remnant population size and distribution is of critical importance in managing the health of seedling vigour and thus revegetation success. Download from

<http://products.lwa.gov.au/products/PK071323>

QLD GOVERNMENT GRANTS WIZARD

www.qld.gov.au/grants

EVENTS

SEQ Living Landscapes Forum

10-12 September, Boonah

www.livinglandscapes.org/2008seqforum

Inaugural forum hosted by the Regional Landscape and Open Space Advisory Committee (RLOSAC), which advises the Deputy Premier and Planning Minister on issues in the regional landscape and rural production area of SEQ.

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wildlife

Wednesday 24 September, 7:30 pm, The Hut, Chapel Hill

3878 5088 or theca@hotmail.net.au

An address by Emeritus Professor Gordon Grigg. One of Theca's Environmental Talks series.

19th Annual Queensland Landcare Conference

'Infinity: Sustainability by Design'

21-24 September, Monto

www.qldlandcareconference.com

www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm

Learn about local food production initiatives, permaculture, peak oil and gas, sustainable agriculture, bushfoods, forestry, river health, mental health, soil conservation, carbon offsets, ecological services and off-farm investments. Enjoy the stunning landscapes and produce of the north Burnett region. Early bird registration until 31 August.

Greenfest

10-12 October, Southbank, Brisbane

www.greenfest.com.au

Brisbane's free green festival and place to come together to win the race against climate change.

Veg Futures 08

20-23 October 2008, Toowoomba

www.greeningaustralia.org.au/resources/veg-futures-08

Early bird registrations extended to 31 August. Vegetation management issues, such as global, national and local pressures and drivers on vegetation; waters interface with vegetation; carbon markets; and climate change and adaptation. Greening Australia in partnership with Land and Water Australia.

Australian Green Development Forum

'Is Sustainability Affordable?'

22 October, Brisbane

www.agdf.org.au

Featuring Cuban Professor Fernando Martierena, widely known for his innovation in sustainable techniques and management, and recipient of UN Habitat Award for Ecomaterials in Social Housing Projects.

2009 Queensland Coastal Conference

'Waves of Change'

12-15 May 2009

www.iceaustralia.com/qldcoast09

People moving to the Queensland coast to live, work and play puts pressure on the environment, creating 'Waves of Change'. To assist the coastal management sector to work towards coastal sustainability in Queensland. Hosted by SEQ Catchments. Call for Papers now open - deadline 3 September.

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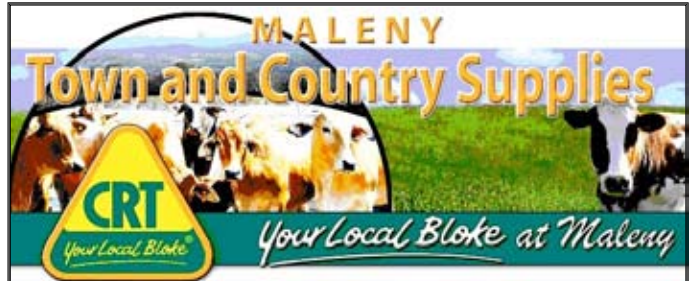


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WILDLIFE WALKERS

*Susie Duncan's
July Wildlife Walk
participants having
lunch in a sunny spot
at Kate and Paul
Fraser's property
'Engle Forest' at
Reesville.*

[Photo: Kate Fraser]

*INFORMATION about
Susie's walks, and
also the Barung
'Living with Wildlife'
workshop series, are
on pages 1 and 4.*



The Barung Family

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And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members

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