



BARUNG

LANDCARE NEWS

December 2009 - January 2010



OUR VOLLIES ARE OUR STRENGTH

by Wayne Webb

At Barung's AGM it was announced the Nursery Volunteers of the Year were Clare and Kerry Sluggett.

Dawn and I are very grateful, and awed, by the effort all of our volunteers have put in over the last twelve months as we moved out of our home of many years in Bicentenary Lane and into a temporary site on Porter's Lane.

Through all this our 'vollies' have maintained great camaraderie and humour, and always in the thick of it have been Kerry and Clare. Prior to the move they were coming in four or five days a week to help pack. Other vollies thought we had put them on the payroll!

Since moving, they have been more than willing to shift their days around to suit as jobs required. They have come in extra days to help out if Dawn or I have been away. Kerry has popped in on weekends to check on watering and pumping. Clare has often brought in batches of fresh cooked scones for morning tea.

They have done this with great humour, have been ready with words of wise council when needed, and have been an inspiration to their fellow vollies.

Since its inception, Barung has relied heavily on, and been blessed by, its many volunteers. Clare and Kerry carry on this tradition in exemplary fashion.

Above right: Clare and Kerry Sluggett receive their Volunteers of the Year award from Barung President, Eric Anderson.



BUNYA DREAMING

SATURDAY
JANUARY 30TH
2010

Same place, same excitement
and great company.

All members of Barung
Landcare are invited so
get on the website:

www.barunglandcare.org.au

or call Barung to register your
attendance! Places are limited.

Hope to see you all there!

*Keep an eye on the Barung website
or check with Barung for more details
about transport etc closer to the time.*

BARUNG XMAS PARTY & FAREWELL to FUSCHIA

12 noon
Thursday 24th Dec
at

BARUNG OFFICE
Riverside Centre
Maleny

(RSVP by Wednesday, please)



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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**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Denis Lalor)

Mark Amos	Alex McKean &
Bob & Liz Antcliff	Sharn Hobill
Eric & Denise Barker	John & Leanne Jacobs
Helen Clark	Rod Johnson
Andy & Liz Clarke	Michael & Tracy
Damian Coman	Keightley
Paul Deveson	Kerry Larkin
Glen Donoghoe	Lina Lohi
Kerry & Mary Donohue	W J Marsh
Mark Dwyer	Norm Morwood
Kathleen Earsman	Tim Odgers
Bob Eather	Glenda Pickersgill
David & Jean Edmonds	Paul & Melissa Prociv
Genevive Edwards	Mary Russell
Neil Fitzsimmons	Lesley Saul
Bernard Gardiner	Amber Thirza-Jaayne
Nicole Gaunt & Cath Ovenden	Alana Vaney
Deirdre Gibb	Bette Weston
Mary-Ellen Green	Merri Winter
Helen Lavery	Natasha Wright

WELCOME BACK TO REJOINING MEMBERS

Penny Riddoch &	Gayle Johnson
David Gardiner	John & Mary King
Maxwell Allwood	Mary Ann Law
Kate & David Beard	Noel Law
Malcolm Cox	Carol Low
Carol Curtis	Gaby Luft
Pat & Mark Fuller	Peter & Dr Toni Lynch

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

**Please update your EMAIL ADDRESS
on the Barung Membership Database
Online at www.barunglandcare.org.au**

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



An Initiative of the Maleny Credit Union



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



FAREWELL, DEAR FUSCHIA

by Mim Coulstock

In early 2010 Fuschia, the ever-smiling 'face of Barung', and lovely daughter Samara depart Maleny for Dorrigo in NSW.

I sat on the interview panel when Fuschia applied for the Admin Officer position in mid 2005 and have to admit that it was her big smile and positive attitude that got her the job rather than her MYOB skills. We just knew she'd fit into 'the family'.

Over the past four plus years, an emerging talent for public speaking combined with a growing passion for our local native habitats took her out of the office and into the streets. As Barung Ambassador, Fuschia spread the Landcare ethic into the community – at primary schools, street stalls, festivals and events and even Australia Zoo!

She established a great rapport with the local community and schools, and all of the time she inspired everyone with whom she came into contact while expanding her own knowledge and appreciation of our flora and fauna.

Fuschia has made an enormous contribution to Barung and leaves a huge pair of shoes to fill under the Admin desk.

We farewell you with love, warm hearts and deep gratitude, Foosh, and wish you all the best in the world. And we're all coming to stay in Dorrigo!

Fuschia getting out there and making Landcare happen, planting trees with students from Maleny High School. [Finally! Photographic evidence of Fuschia's halo! Ed. Photo courtesy of Mike Railton.]

BARUNG NEWSLETTERS NOW ONLY ONLINE

In our efforts to allocate our resources to best effect, Barung is seeking to reduce the costs and paper required to print and post the *Barung News*.

For the foreseeable future, the *Barung News* will NOT BE POSTED OUT. Issues of the *Barung News* will continue to be uploaded to the Barung Landcare website at

www.barunglandcare.org.au

If you are happy to read the *Barung News* on the website, we can email you when new newsletters are available.

PLEASE make sure your email address is correct on the Barung membership database. You can update your details and register your preference for receiving newsletters by logging into the Members area on the Barung Landcare website. If you are unsure or unable to do this, just email Barung and we'll help.

Barung Members who wish to receive printed copies of the *Barung News* will need to *contact the Barung Office* to have their preference recorded.

PS. Please pass this information on to Barung Members you know who don't use email or haven't received notice of this newsletter. *Thank you.*

MALENY WOOD EXPO 2010

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd May
Dates for your volunteering diary

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

to all our volunteers, staff &
members
*Thank you for another wonderful
year!*



Barung RESOURCE CENTRE & OFFICE

CLOSES 12 noon Thursday 24th December 2009

REOPENS 9am Monday 11th January 2010

Barung NURSERY

CLOSES 12 noon Thursday 24th December 2009

Farm Gate Sales **REOPEN** Wednesday 6th January 2010

Needed, please Electronic CASH REGISTER

to bring the Barung Resource Centre out of
the dark ages of hand-writing receipts ...

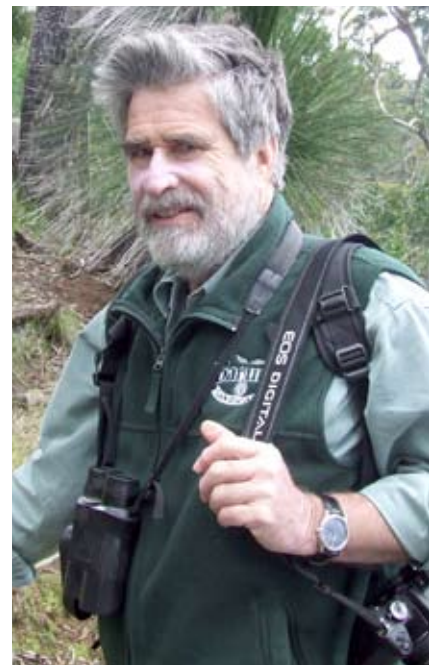
THE MISSING ISSUE...

No need to go looking for the October-November 2009 issue of the Barung News - unfortunately there wasn't one!

Barung Landcare's MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2009/2010

ERIC ANDERSON President

This is my sixth year on the Barung Management Committee and first as President. I retired to the Range with my partner Diana and live on two acres at Flaxton. My training is in Agricultural Science and I spent my paid employment working with landholders in many parts of Queensland in the field of natural resource management. Barung has served the local community well over the past 20 years and we start our next 20 years with many challenges. However with the continued help of our dedicated staff and enthusiastic members we will continue to make valuable contributions to our community.



PAT FULLER Vice President

I moved to Maleny with my husband and family in 2003 and joined the Barung committee five years ago. My interest in promoting locally grown produce in the area prompted me to set up the Blackall Range Growers' Market in Witta two years ago. I believe the market contributes to the social and health capital of our community and provides rural linkages. Both with the market and the small farm we run in the area, I am committed to supporting sustainable agricultural practices. Barung Landcare is an organisation with a passion and responsibility for the environment and the community. Being a part of their activities is a rewarding experience.



BEV HAND Secretary

I am a proud Aboriginal woman with strong connections to the cultural landscapes of the Sunshine Coast and its hinterland region. Whilst I have spent all my working life on the land, it has only been during the last twenty years that I have worked in Conservation and Land Management in my traditional homelands. Through my infectious passion for the domain of my ancestors, I have revived a cultural tradition of gathering at Baroon Pocket to celebrate the iconic species of the Bunya.



DAVID BINSTED Treasurer

We 'retired' to Maleny in 2002 after long employment in the Commonwealth Public Service, in my case for 30 years chiefly in financial management roles. I say 'retired' in quotes because we then purchased a bookkeeping service and later a secretarial service and merged them into Top Notch Business Services, which is certainly not retirement! I grew up on a dairy farm, and have long had an interest in Landcare. My challenge, as Treasurer, is to assist the Committee and the Manager in developing long-term financial sustainability for the organisation – without relying on grants, which have proven to be unreliable as an ongoing source of resources. A huge step towards that long-term sustainability has occurred in the current year with the move to a larger site and some security of tenure, to allow Barung to capitalise on the huge unmet demand for native rainforest plants.



GLEN DONOGHOE

I bring a high degree of business management expertise and experience to the committee gained over 25 years in senior management roles. My core areas of expertise and qualifications include: organisational establishment and management; project management; quality assurance; work place health & safety; human resource management and information technology. In 1994 I secured significant funding and project-managed the redevelopment of the kiosk area, landscaping of the open area and building of the environment centre at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve.

Currently I am a director and general manager of World Environmental Solutions and previously executive manager for operations with Greening Australia Qld with overall responsibility for six business units. This included vegetation management contracting, community nursery, national training organisation, volunteers, extension contracts and Green Corps. I have joined the committee to help Barung move toward self-sufficiency by developing its businesses while maintaining its high level of community engagement.



KATE FRASER

I have been a member of Barung for 10 years and a Management Committee member for six years. I have business, communications and project management experience. I manage a rural property, remove weeds and revegetate degraded areas and so I am a Barung Member, Volunteer and Customer as well as a Management Committee Member. On our property we also have a few cows for meat and milk, chooks and a veggie garden. Now that Barung has vacated our former location and moved to a temporary location on the Maleny Precinct, I look forward to the next stage of development which will allow extra space and the opportunity to fulfil some dreams. Space to propagate and grow on more stock for the Nursery, space for a larger retail area for plants as well as for books and other resources, space for a building that will provide better facilities for Barung member workshops and better facilities for our staff and visitors. Whilst the Barung move has taken longer than originally expected, I look forward to progress in the coming year.



DIANA O'CONNOR

Nature has always been very important to me. Its incredible diversity, beauty and intricacy provide enough interest for more than a lifetime. I find the opportunity to contribute to local environmental health by contributing to Barung a real privilege. It is also an opportunity to be part of a very positive group of people who work together as volunteers to build knowledge and appreciation of our natural heritage and our community spirit.

Our area is a bio-diverse one that needs preservation as population pressure builds. Restoration of some of the rainforest on the Blackall Range is an important aim for me. I feel that continuing as a committee member enables me to contribute in a useful way to this, complementing my revegetation work in the Russell Family Park at Montville and my seed collection for Barung Nursery.



HEATHER SPRING

Together with my husband Ken and children Emily and Thomas, I have called Maleny home for the past thirty years. Ken and I run a successful consultancy business from home and feel privileged to be able to work and live in the beautiful Blackall Range region. I have a strong commitment to the important role community groups play in assisting the community that one lives in. As I commence my fifth year as a member of the Barung Landcare Management Committee, I look to the future of Barung with a sense of hope and excitement as Barung begins its journey to a new home. This time of change will bring many challenges to the organisation but also many wonderful opportunities for Barung to promote and be involved in the natural resource management of the Hinterland. I am proud to be part of this energetic and committed organisation.

LIN FAIRLIE

After teaching Senior Biology for 25 years following a degree in Agriculture I developed a great interest in Landcare in the Decade of Landcare in the 1990s. In our retirement I came to live on the Blackall Range as this is where my grandparents started off in the 1890s. I remember my grandmother's description of the rainforest around Montville before clearing commenced for attempts at agriculture (which were often unsuccessful). I felt I wanted to help repair some of the damage. Landcare seemed the obvious way to go. We have three acres of failed avocado orchard which I am putting back to trees, so everyone is welcome to come and visit and learn from my mistakes. Unfortunately I suffered a stroke at Expo this year which is limiting what I can achieve for Barung and other organisations in which I am interested, such as Friends of South East Queensland and the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee. I hope to be able to continue to work actively for Barung's future and that of the Maleny Community Precinct. This is such an important community asset which could be developed as a fantastic Botanical Gardens if there are enough volunteers. I look forward to contributing to Barung's future but in a capacity different from in the past. Barung needs input from many community members if it is to achieve what it is capable of achieving in the future.



PETER STEVENS

I operate a small beef-breeding farm outside Maleny called Arley Farm with cottage accommodation for visitors and tourists. I am also President of Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, a position I have held for seven years. I have a degree in Agricultural Science and more than fifteen years' experience in a broad range of management positions. My interest in the environment and Landcare stems from my desire to manage my own property in a responsible but practical way to achieve balanced outcomes. I am actively involved in on-ground projects at my own property. I bring a landholder's perspective to Barung, and believe in taking a strategic approach to resolving Landcare issues.



JOHN MUIR

After graduating from Hawkesbury Agricultural College at Richmond, I joined the NSW Department of Agriculture as a District Extension Agronomist in the Riverina where I was based for 12 years around Hay, Coleambally, Griffith and Wagga. Following the next two years working in Cambodia on an AUSAID Rural Community Development Irrigation Project, I returned to set up home in Maleny in 1996. I started off at Barung Landcare and Lake Baroon Catchment Care as part-time coordinator, working on various projects including the Australian Centre for International Research Landcare in the Philippines and Farmcare in Horticulture SEQld. I have also worked with BMRG and SEQcatchments as a Regional Liaison Officer. Presently I am working on setting up the 'Beyond Organic' consultancy and also on the Sandy Creek Organic Farm and with Maleny Avocado Oil. I am passionate about rural-urban community development, sustainable agriculture, and Land and Catchment Care.



Christmas BOOK SALE
at the Barung Resource Centre
just next to the Post Office
Drop in and check out
our range of books
Ideal Christmas presents!

BARUNG'S YEAR IN REVIEW

Read Barung's 2008/2009 Annual Report
at
[www.barunglandcare.org.au/newsletters/
barung_annual_report_0809web.pdf](http://www.barunglandcare.org.au/newsletters/barung_annual_report_0809web.pdf)

Tasmannia insipida

PEPPER BUSH *Family: Winteraceae*

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Tasmannia insipida is an attractive understory shrub growing 1–3 m (occasionally to 5 m) with shiny bright green foliage. New growth and young stems may be reddish if growing in sufficient light. Leaves are whorled, oblanceolate, 6–20 cm long by 1.5–4 cm wide and taper to a fine point. Growth habit is open in shaded situations, bushier where it receives more light.

Small cream flowers are carried in terminal umbels during winter and spring, followed by 1–2 cm long ovoid fruit borne in summer and autumn. The fruit are soft berries containing a number of small black seeds. Fruit can be white, pink, mauve, purple or reddish, and may be speckled. Shrubs in fruit are quite showy.

The fruit are edible but rather tasteless. Crunch a seed and it's a different matter. They are hot and peppery. Pepper Bush is a well-known bush food ingredient, although commercially available seed is more often of the related Mountain Pepperbush (*Tasmannia lanceolata*) of southern states. Seeds from less mature fruit are milder in flavour. Leaves may also be used to impart a peppery flavour to cooking, and can be used as whole fresh leaves (like bay leaves) or dried and ground as a spice.



Young *Tasmannia insipida* growing in Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve. [Photo by Judith Potts]

Tasmannia insipida occurs in subtropical, warm temperate, cool temperate and littoral rainforests from south-east NSW to south-east Qld, and also in highlands of north-east Qld. It can be found along scrubby creek lines at low altitude but it is more commonly seen at higher altitudes. Locally, it can be seen, for example, in Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve.

Pepper Bush is an attractive small shrub for a shaded or semi-shaded garden. It looks good planted among ferns along a shaded rainforest path, and would be well suited to enrichment planting as rainforest revegetation plots mature. It can be slow growing, and will benefit from mulching and additional watering during dry periods until established.

Tasmannia insipida is easily propagated by seed, although germination can be slow through winter. Mature fruit are simply mashed up in water to release their seeds and then gently rubbed through a sieve (if available) with mesh slightly bigger than the seeds. The flesh can then be floated off, leaving clean seeds in the bottom of the container. Drain the seeds, mix with a little dry perlite or sand and spread evenly over a tray of a propagation media. Cover lightly with perlite or sand, water gently, and place in a shaded position. Keep moist but not too wet, and wait patiently.

Excess seed can be dried thoroughly and added to your bush tucker pantry.

BARUNG NURSERY STOCK

Despite all the disruptions of the last year, Barung's nursery has consistently maintained good numbers and variety of quality tubestock. We are currently open to the public for 'farm gate' sales Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. If you are unable to visit between these time, please call on 0429 943 152 to see if we can make an arrangement that suits.

THANKS SEED COLLECTORS

by Diana O'Connor

One of the important contributions that members make to the Barung Nursery is to gather seed from local trees, often from small remnants of original rainforest. This gathering of local provenance seed is a cardinal aspect of our nursery's work. It allows our community, in their revegetation efforts, to use the local genetics that evolved here on the Range. We thank all those who have brought in seed in recent months.

Some species may only seed well one year in five – for example Purple Cherry (*Syzygium crebrinerve*). Some species are now so rare that finding seeding trees is difficult. Others, like the fairly common Cheese tree (*Glochidion ferdinandi*), are hard to get seed from as the seed is often predated by insects, so we always want seed from this species. This is why it is sometimes not possible to buy a certain species from the nursery.

If you think you have a tree of interest, you can bring a sample with a few leaves for identification to the Nursery. We will be happy to help identify the species and let you know if we need its seed at present.

Guioa (*Guioa semiglauc*) will be maturing from January to February. Do keep your eyes open for this species. It is a quick grower that tolerates sun and so is most useful for new revegetation sites. Yellow Carabeen (*Sloanea woollsi*) has capsules fattening that will be several months in ripening. It usually ripens from March, but each year differs so we need to keep observing.

Many thanks to the following for recent seed samples: Marilyn Walsh for brown tamarind and native tamarind, Bill Egerton for white booyong and native tamarind, Diana O'Connor for scentless rosewood, Bill from Curramore for peanut tree, Mary Moore for pink lace flower, Noel Law for peanut tree, Ray Ivey for hovea, Matt Bateman for several collections, and Janine Bennington among others! Thanks to all of you.



Barung Contracting Services

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FIGS IN THE FOREST

A TreeLine project by Barung Landcare

by Mim Coulstock

Barung Landcare's 'Figs in the Forest' project has been accepted to participate in TreeLine – an art, science and nature event planned for 2010 by Caloundra Regional Art Gallery. 'Figs in the Forest' aims to engage Blackall Range artists, craftspeople and primary school students in creating artworks based around our iconic local native figs.

Pieces can be in any medium. They can be two dimensional images – paintings, prints, collages or photos – or three dimensional sculptures in clay or metal or natural materials. They might be patchwork or another form of fabric art such as embroidery or appliqué. They may take a written form such as a poem or a story or a song ...

These artworks will be brought together to form a feature exhibition at the Maleny Wood Expo in early May 2010.

'Figs in the Forest' brochures and 'Fig' fact sheets are available from the Barung Office, Peace of Green, the Maleny Arts and Crafts shop and other galleries and craft shops on the Range. They

will also be available online at www.barunglandcare.org.au – look under Barung Projects.

The brochure includes an *Intention To Submit* form for

participants to indicate their interest in creating artworks for the Maleny Wood Expo Exhibition. The deadline for *Intention To Submit* forms is 29 January 2010 for individuals and 26 February 2010 for schools' projects.

Several community groups and schools have already expressed interest in participating. It is hoped that some of the participating artists/craftspeople will extend their new friendships with Barung and become involved in the Wood Expo as volunteers and guides for the 'Figs in the Forest' Exhibition.

The objectives of Caloundra Regional Art Gallery's TreeLine align with Barung's educational focus on increasing awareness of the value of the unique native vegetation and ecosystems of the Blackall Range, and the role of local people in preserving and enhancing the small pockets of remnant vegetation that remain.

By involving people from the wider community, Barung hopes to raise awareness of the importance and role of 'figs in the forest' and, thereby, the importance of retaining and enhancing our local native vegetation.

Projects like this allow Barung to reach out into the community and involve people who may not otherwise come into contact with Landcare and/or environmental issues. It is also a wonderful opportunity for Barung to build strong relationships with schools and school children by involving them in environmental activities.

Sunshine Coast
Regional Council

LANDCARE CONFERENCE

2010 IN CALOUNDRA

by Eric Anderson

The October 2009 Annual Queensland Landcare Conference was held in Longreach and co-hosted by the local Landcare groups of Western Queensland and their regional body, Desert Channels Queensland. The theme for the Conference was 'Legends, Larrikins and Landcare'. From the diverse range of topics covered during the Conference there was something to suit everybody.

Four members from Barung – Lin and David Fairlie, Diana O'Connor and Eric Anderson – made the long trip to Longreach. Numbers appeared to be well down on the 2008 Conference held in Monto. No doubt the more distant location and the economic downturn were contributing factors.

Like all conferences the value lies in the networking opportunities, and the organising committee provided plenty of those, especially through the social functions such as the Sunset Muster, held in the grounds of the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame; the Drovers Extravaganza, held at an exclusive location on the Thomson River; the QANTAS Breakfast held at the QANTAS Founders Outback Museum; and the Dinner & Bush Dance held at the Longreach Civic and Cultural Centre.

2010 Conference

Next year's Conference will be held closer to home – at Caloundra. Keep your eye out for the date in the next Newsletter and give some thought to attending. The Conference will be conducted by the Nature Refuge Landholders' Association Qld Inc. These conferences offer valuable information, insights and connections for everyone involved in the stewardship and management of land.

LEAF CACTUS

Pereskia aculeata

WEED ALERT by Alan Wynn
Land for Wildlife Project Officer
Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Leaf cactus is a perennial, spiky, climbing shrub that grows vine-like into the canopy of trees. It has clusters of long spikes along the main stem and pairs of short recurved thorns at the leaf nodes. The scented flowers can be white or pale yellow, sometimes ageing to pink. The unusually shaped fruits are yellow to orange and 25–45 mm in diameter.

The plant is spread by plant fragments or by birds consuming the fruit. All parts of the plant are viable, including the leaves. It has escaped cultivation from near Sydney to Cairns and is a significant threat to natural areas throughout the tropics and subtropics.

Not yet a declared species in Australia, it is one of the 12 most significant weeds in South Africa.

This plant is particularly difficult to eradicate so if you have this plant in your garden or think you have seen it in the bush, please contact the Sunshine Coast Regional Council on (07) 5475 7272 for advice.

More info: www.weeds.gov.au



Caloundra Music Festival

Our information and coffee stall at the Caloundra Music Festival was a great success.

We were able to assist in talking with people over the two day event about how to minimise and offset their carbon emissions in a project with Travel Smart and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the stall.

With the money raised we will be able to plant more than 1000 trees to help offset the festival's carbon footprint.

Thanks to Richie Eyles, the event organiser, for involving us in the music festival. We look forward to being involved in future events.

Thanks also to Maleny Dairies for the use of 'Tinkerbell' (the refrigerated ute) and to Montville Coffee.



Barung volunteers supporting TravelSmart and representing Barung Landcare at the Caloundra Music Festival.



THANK YOU to ...

... **Kate Dash** for your water donation to the Barung Nursery
... the Awesome Office Volunteers – **Annette, Pam** and **Judith**, and to **Sue** and **Lorraine** who helped earlier in the year.

... A huge 'Thank You' to **Bob Collins** for donating a chainsaw to Barung. (You can see how comfortable Fuschia is with it, so obviously it will be used by the Contracting Team.)



Barung would sincerely like to thank **Sam** (below) and **Rob Outridge** and the team from the **Maleny Supa IGA** for their continuing support through the IGA Community Benefit Chest.



We would also like to thank **everyone who nominates Barung** at the checkout. Keep up the great work. Your support is always appreciated.

WOODFORD REVEGING

Barung is helping to revegetate around the new sewage treatment plant in time for this year's Woodford Folk Festival.

As part of the first stage more than 1500 assorted dry rainforest species have been planted. Planting and watering all these plants in more than 40 degree heat has been a challenge. Great work by all the guys in the contracting team.

Barung will once again be sponsoring Forest Woodford with the offer of a tree for every tree bought by festival patrons. We will also be providing Landcare information.



PROJECTS UPDATE (briefly)

SUSTAINABLE LANDUSE by Jonathan Waites

The extension to the Burnett Mary Regional Group-funded **Rainforest Recovery Project** has been completed; around 1000 native tubestock were planted and weeds, mainly lantana (*Lantana camara*), were cleared/controlled over five properties in the Upper Mary catchment. The properties were all in the Policeman's Spur Road and Postman's Track areas and focussed on enhancing Regional Ecosystem 12.12.1 (Simple Notophyll Vine Forest).

The **Pink Underwing Moth – Threatened Species Network Project** has been almost completed (final planting is occurring on two properties). This project has been very successful in that the endangered *Phyllodes imperialis* larvae's host plant (*Carronia multiseptalea*) has been found on a number of sites, together with larvae on some of them. We have managed to increase the habitat that supports the *Carronia* vine through funding the planting of over 5000 trees.

Our involvement in the **SuperGraze Project** was short; unfortunately it has not been refunded this financial year. However we did manage to run a workshop on Animal Health in March with Maleny Town & Country and host one successful Property Management Planning (PMP) workshop run by SEQCatchments and held at the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group's office.

SEQC are hoping to run more PMP workshops in our area so if you are interested in attending or would like more information ring Barung Landcare (5494 3151) and ask to have your name added to the Expression of Interest list.

The **Caring for our Country Stanley/Pumicestone Biodiversity Project**: As reported in the April/May Barung News, eleven landholders in the Upper Stanley River catchment have received funding through SEQCatchments to carry out a range of projects on their properties which will improve water quality and enhance biodiversity values. Most of these projects have been completed. Initial and follow-up PMP workshops were run for this group in March and September.

New (but small) Projects

We have been fortunate in receiving funding through Queensland Primary Industries & Fisheries that will support fencing and replanting on two local beef cattle properties.

This funding is specifically aimed at protecting and rejuvenating wetlands on grazing properties.

An application has been made for a small amount of funding to plant trees on land near Maleny in the near future which will address erosion, water quality and biodiversity issues on this property. Keep your fingers crossed!

Reveg Planning Workshop

I am hoping to run a **Reveg Planning & Design** workshop later this year but it will depend on people's interest. This could be part of a series covering the preparation, planting and maintenance of a revegetation/regeneration area.

If you would like more information please phone me (at Barung on 5494 3151 or on 0429 943 151), or if you are interested in such a workshop (or series) please add your name to the Expression of Interest list by ringing Barung (5494 3151).

Unfortunately the pickings have been very lean as far as funding for projects and Landcare in general goes in our region this financial year. I am employed two days a week now, generally Thursdays and Fridays, so if you leave me a message early in the week I may not get back to you for a few days, my apologies.

HIP-POCKET FROG

WILDLIFE WANDERINGS by Susie Duncan

So what do you find in a frog's pocket? Did you even know that there are frogs with pockets?

Well, there is a tiny little frog called the Hip-pocket Frog (*Assa darlingtoni*), also known as the Pouched or Marsupial Frog, which lives in the rainforests and wet eucalypt forests of the Blackall and Conondale Ranges. It also occurs in other mountain forests south to the Dorrigo Plateau in New South Wales.

These frogs hang out in the moist leaf-litter and under rocks and logs. The female lays her fertilised eggs on the ground in a jelly mass as she does not need water for breeding. Both parents guard the eggs until the tadpoles hatch, at which stage the male climbs into the egg mass and coats himself in jelly.

Now this is where the little pockets come into the picture. There is one on each side of the male's body, just in front of the rear legs. The jelly allows the tadpoles to slide across dad's body and wriggle into the hip-pockets. Here they stay, living off the remaining yolk from their eggs until they emerge as fully formed frogs. This takes a couple of months. When the pockets are full of tadpoles they bulge out but most of the time they are just barely visible slits.



The 'hip-pocket' slit that marks the opening of the pocket is along the edge of the body just in front of the rear right leg. It takes a bit to see it.

[Photo courtesy of Tony Bright / Australian Wildlife Conservancy]

The Hip-pocket Frog breeds during spring and summer, producing an average clutch size of 11 eggs. The male frogs are only 20 mm in length so you can imagine how tiny the young are when they leave the hip pockets. I saw a very funny photo recently of a young frog emerging from a pocket with just the back leg sticking out.

The males have a rapid 'eh-eh-eh-eh' call which is made both at night and during the day, usually when it is raining.

This frog is listed as rare in Queensland and vulnerable in NSW. A lot of its habitat was cleared or logged for timber historically. In the remaining areas where it occurs today it is relatively secure but grazing and frequent burning are detrimental to its survival.

On our local scene, it is worth remembering that whenever you are using glyphosate-based herbicides for weed control, always select the frog-friendly type because all frogs and tadpoles are prone to harm from the regular type.

'CONONDALE CARES' about National Threatened Species Day

by Fuschia Collard

Each year, 7th September is National Threatened Species Day. This was the date in 1936 when the last known Tasmanian tiger died at Hobart Zoo. (On the Sunshine Coast alone there is a list of 160 local threatened species!)

This year I celebrated the day with the Year 3 and 4 students at Conondale State School. With the help of a display borrowed from Queensland Museum we discussed some of our local TS including the spotted-tailed quoll, greater glider, grey goshawk, Richmond birdwing butterfly and the death adder. I have included some interesting facts that we discovered. Did you know...

- Spotted-tailed quolls let out an almighty piercing scream, a sound you would never forget if you heard it, if they are threatened... and a quoll has been reported as killing 37 chickens in one Fowl Swoop? (Ha ha!)
- Death adders can deliver up to 42 live young ... and the venom from one bite can kill 2285 mice?
- The female Richmond birdwing butterfly will lay up to 3 eggs per vine... and the larvae will eat each other until only 1 is left per vine?
- Each greater glider needs about 1.5 hectares for their home territory... and they differ from other marsupial gliders in that their membrane stretches from elbow to ankle rather than from wrist to ankle?
- Grey goshawks mate for life... and as part of their courtship they perform fantastic aerial displays?

The three key things we discovered we can do to help our local species are:

1. Where possible, leave large tracts of undisturbed rainforests and open forests.
2. Keep your cats and dogs inside at night.
3. Plant local native trees and plants and, if you can, link up existing forests or Wildlife Corridors.

I left the kids with a Richmond birdwing butterfly vine that they will add to their revegetation site soon.

Thanks Conondale State School for caring about our local Threatened Species. Keep up the great work!



Fuschia Collard at Conondale State School on Threatened Species Day with students Hannah, Ethan, Jack and Matt.

PALMWOODS SS DO TOO

by Fuschia Collard

Also during Landcare Week this year, I visited the year 3 and 4 class at Palmwoods State School. The students did a fantastic presentation about local plant species and then continued on to a 'planting' in their rainforest area at the back of the school. I was happy to be able to represent Barung Landcare with a donation of 30 riparian plants to add to the forest. I was very impressed at how beautiful the school grounds are and how there was hardly any litter! Awesome work, Palmwoods!



Teacher Kayla was colourfully dressed for the occasion!
[Photo: Fuschia Collard]

WILDLIFE WALK with SUSIE DUNCAN

Monday 15 February

BELLTHORPE FOREST

Old-growth eucalypt forest, rainforest and creek cascades. Approx. 4 km on tracks, moderate to steep grades.

- 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, binoculars, and togs if you wish to swim.

Have you found your MEMBERS AREA on the Barung Website?

At www.barunglandcare.org.au, you can:

- * pay your membership
- * make a donation
- * update your details
- * register your interest in Barung activities

Log in with your email address or email info@barunglandcare.org.au for more info.

RESILIENCE IN THE GARDEN

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

Low rainfall and high temperatures over the past few months have really challenged many favourite garden plants. Exotics that have become weedy over the years have of course survived (I wonder why they are weedy?!) as have those seen many years ago when irrigation was unheard of. They have not, however, looked as good as the local natives which are better adapted to our variable climate. Soft-leaved exotic shrubs tended to look wilted, dusty and sad when the water was turned off.

Many of our own plants have small tough leaves or a thick waxy outer protective layers of cells, or hang their leaves edge on to the sun, or do all of these things – all strategies designed to reduce water loss. Some rainforest shrubs drop leaves or curl them inwards to achieve the same thing and quickly expand their softer, broader surfaces when rain does come. Rainforest understorey plants are resilient when given some protection from direct sun and wind.

In my own garden, the members of the Myrtaceae family have done very well. These include the callistemons, melaleucas, baeckias, babingtonias and leptospermums. The beautiful little native bluebell (*Wahlenbergia communis*) has continued to flower prolifically, much of it in full sun, as has the groundcover native violet (*Viola hederacea*), in at least partial shade. Banksias have sailed on regardless of weather conditions. They really are great shrubs/small trees.

It's usually a matter of putting the right plants in the right areas. Even in hot dry weather a birds nest fern under a tree in the shade will continue to look lush with the help of a light spraying.

Species scaevolae, not the large flowered named varieties, have continued to spread and flower. The trusty lomandras and syzygiums haven't missed a beat and in general the shrubs are continuing to display their many shades of green, and flowers in season, against the rather brown grass. *Psychotria loniceroides*, soft leaves, has not fared as well as *Psychotria daphnoides*, waxy leaves, but most will recover or could be pruned back.

Best of all, there has been no need to water anything other than a few non-regional natives unwisely planted just before the hot dry weather. This has been a huge time-saver. It is always important to mulch well or protect the soil with groundcovers and low shrubs, all in the name of conserving soil moisture. Shade ensures a cool root run, desirable for most plants.



As always, look around to see what grows best on your soil type, without added water of course, and whether those plants are sun lovers or shade lovers.

There are many, many resilient plants which will carry your garden through hot, dry weather whilst continuing to flower and look good.

Being able to look out on a healthy garden and the wildlife which enjoys it too is such a pleasure on a hot day.



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HOW DOES LBCCG SELECT PROJECTS FOR FUNDING?

by Mark Amos, Catchment Coordinator

The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group's primary function has been to implement the Lake Baroon Catchment Management Strategy since its development in 1997. The primary objective of the Catchment Management Strategy is to, through various avenues and means, reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loads entering Lake Baroon.

Excessive nutrients contribute to toxic algal blooms not only in Lake Baroon but also in the Maleny township water supply weirs on the Obi Obi Creek.

In order to further focus its efforts, LBCCG developed the Lake Baroon Catchment Implementation Plan (LBCIP) in 2007 in conjunction with Aquagen (Seqwater) and the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG). This document outlined a series of actions, dividing the Lake Baroon catchment into 26 Management Units and prioritising them according to their naturalness and their potential for rehabilitation.

With the signing of a ten-year funding agreement with Aquagen (now Seqwater) in 2007, the focus for on-ground works shifted from small riparian works to large scale projects that provide significant water quality benefits. This enabled the group to be able to offer considerable incentives to primary producers and large landholders to implement significant projects – including hard engineering solutions.

To ensure on-ground activities are managed efficiently and deliver the best outcomes, Property Management Planning (PMP) workshops were introduced in early 2009. A PMP takes participants through a process of assessing, planning, monitoring and evaluating their property, resources, environmental aspects and the farm business. Ultimately the program results in important projects that LBCCG can fund. In most cases PMPs are now required for LBCCG to fund large scale projects.

Furthermore LBCCG has developed a list of landholders whose properties are considered a priority for on-ground works. This does not reflect a level of degradation to water quality in the catchment but rather the size of the holdings, their location within the catchment and the potential for significant water quality improvement projects on those properties.

This however does not mean LBCCG will not fund projects on smaller properties, but that such projects must be able to demonstrate significant water quality benefits to be considered. Alternatively smaller landholders can link with neighbours to create a larger multi-property project.

Please keep showing your ...

BARUNG Community Benefit Tags

... when shopping at Maleny IGA

LETTERS

LANTANA BUSTERS

Hi Jono

I'm happy to report that the lantana project has been a great success; well done by Ed and the [Barung Contracting] team. They obviously took care with the cutting of paths and have managed to save many native seedlings that were buried under the lantana. The lantana that was sprayed is as dead as a doornail. Some regen is already evident. I'm sure I'll be able to keep this area under control now. And I was very impressed with the area they covered with the time and funding available. Thanks again for your help on this project.

Regards, Paul Cusack

EXPO ENJOYMENT CONTINUES

Dear Members of Barung Landcare,

John and I were winners in your raffle during the 2009 Maleny Wood Expo. We have just returned from having two wonderful nights at 'Bamboo Retreat', where Mim Coulstock took wonderful care of us. In sharing her little corner of paradise Mim allowed us to enjoy some real peace and quiet.

May we say 'thank you' for all your efforts in organising the competition and also the great Wood Expo. Needless to say we will be visiting the Expo again in 2010 and buying more raffle tickets! Thank you to all concerned for a terrific break.

Kind regards, John and Sue Firth

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS TREE DAY

Dear Barung Landcare,

On behalf of Planet Ark I would like to sincerely thank you for your support of Schools Tree Day in 2009.

Approximately 3500 sites around Australia were actively involved in National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day and between them they planted over a million native trees and shrubs. A fantastic result for the communities involved and for the environment.

We look forward to seeing you again in 2010.

Regards

*Anna Bowden, Project Manager - National Tree Day
Planet Ark Environmental Foundation*

MALENY HIGH APPRECIATES SUPPORT

Dear Fuschia and Matt,

On behalf of the whole school and the Year 12s in particular, can I just say a huge thank you for not only the kind donation of the trees but more importantly the donation of your time and energy. I hope this will be the first of many partnerships between us which benefit not just the school or the community but the whole planet.

Our school really appreciates the support shown by Barung and with your help we have made real progress this year. We're looking forward to achieving even more next year and to continuing our relationship with Barung.

Regards,

Mike Railton, Maleny High School



*Before (above)
and after (left)
- a sea of Lantana
visited by Barung
Contracting
Services.*

Maleny High Seniors Celebrate National Tree Day

On Friday 31st of July, the Year 12 group at Maleny High were inspired to plant for the future as their contribution to National Tree Day.

With the aid of a generous donation of 100 trees as well as support and guidance from Barung Landcare, the students extended their rainforest gully with a mixture of species native to the area. The area was first planted when the school opened in 1987 and was extended in the late 1990s. With Friday's planting the gully is close to being fully revegetated.

The students would like to thank all those involved, especially Fuschia and Matt of Barung and student organiser Oskar Cafarella as well as their teachers.



CONGRATULATIONS

Maleny High School

Runner-up in the Sustainable School section of the Burnett Mary Regional Group's Environment Awards!



GANODERMA SPECIES

FUNGAL FORAY by Gretchen Evans

You are unlikely to find many gilled mushrooms during the colder months of the year as their fruiting season is over by that time. This time I am writing about a fungus which grows mostly on dead or living trees, stumps or logs and persists throughout the year. It is a parasitic fungus which causes white heart rot of wood and can be a major pathogen of rain forest trees.

The fungus is a large hoof-shaped bracket which often has several growth bursts over a season and can thus appear to have concentric growth rings. The surface is also often lumpy and sometimes cracked. It can be up to 60 cm or more across and is normally a dark cocoa brown colour above and white or cream below. The spores are, however, dark brown and after a growth spurt the top of the fungus and the surrounding area can be covered in a fine powdery dark brown layer of spores. The flesh of this fungus is hard, woody or corky and it is quite thick.

There are several different species of *Ganoderma* in Queensland and they are difficult to tell apart. The two main dull brown-coloured species are *Ganoderma australe* and *Ganoderma applanatum*. Two slightly smaller and more elegant species have lacquered caps that look as if they have been French polished; the ones with a stalk are likely to be in the *Ganoderma lucidum* group, whereas the unstalked species are more likely to be *Ganoderma resinaceum*.

These mushrooms have a worldwide distribution. They are important in Chinese medicine where the lacquered species are especially prized.



Ganoderma australe species, more common locally.
[Photos: Fran Guard]



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

by Jonathan Waites

Here are a few of the many books in our local Sunshine Coast Regional Council library system that are well worth a look:

Carbon Grazing: The missing link, Alan Lauder 2008 – on carbon sequestration in pastures. (See also: www.carbongrazing.com.au)

Botany in a Day: The patterns method of plant identification, 5th edn, Thomas J Elpel, 2008 – recognising and understanding patterns as a way of identifying plants; uses North American examples but you can substitute local species (which helps your learning!).

Feeding People is Easy, Colin Tudge, 2007 – a broad (but concise) overview of world agriculture (particularly taking issue with the industrial model of agriculture) and why it is the way it is, production and distribution issues and the associated politics, what we can do; illustrates the interconnectedness of it all. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

The Life You Can Save: Acting now to end world poverty, Peter Singer, 2009 – A philosophical study (as would be expected from one of Australia's leading philosophers) and how our choices contribute to the end (or not) of world poverty.

The House on the Hill: The transformation of Australia's farming communities, Neil Barr, 2009 – all about what has been going on in our farming communities over the last 40-odd years and why, and what these communities may look like in the future.

Food Security and Sustainability for the Times Ahead, Harvest McCampbell, 2008 – a relatively short book (144 pages) covering a broad subject, more of a checklist than a complete 'how to'; covers issues such as determining that where you live (or plan to live) is sustainable, food security plans, gardening for food security, etc.

WEBSITES

for your Favourites folder

www.qms.asn.au/garden/index.html

Helps with identifying common garden fungi, with more information on the importance of fungi as a building block of a healthy garden, as well as fungi book titles and other useful websites.

www.slowfoodsunshinecoast.org.au

Slow Food Sunshine Coast Hinterland, the local version of Slow Food International. This group holds events regularly – see their Coming Events page.



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Individual/family membership	\$ 25 pa
Business membership	\$ 55 pa
Business sponsorship	\$275 pa

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

Donations to the BARUNG ENVIRONMENTAL GIFT FUND are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE AT BARUNG LANDCARE

by Pam Watson

Since September 2005 I have volunteered at what is now known as the Barung Resource Centre but what to me is still 'the office'. At last year's AGM I was pleasantly surprised to be presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award (Office).

The usual question asked is, 'why do you volunteer?'

I do it because I believe in what Barung stands for and also for some selfish reasons. Selfish because I enjoy answering phones and speaking with people that drop into the office about a wide range of topics and not always to do with native plants. Recently I was given a recipe for green paw paw salsa and a native orchid attached to a 2 metre long tree branch!

My ever patient 'boss', Fuschia, has taught me a thing or two about the office machines and I also do the banking each week (shared with Annette), organise the Barung display in the library (which involves keeping the plant alive for the two weeks it is in the library – I haven't killed anything so far but Wayne has me thoroughly intimidated).

This year I took over looking after the books we sell and this involves stocktaking, re-ordering and pricing and is a job that I enjoy.

As an 'old bugger' I like being made welcome every Friday morning. Barung keeps me in touch with what is happening in the conservation world, I pick up tips and tricks with computers, and meet a range of interesting (and sometimes eccentric) people.

Volunteering helps keep my grey matter from turning to grey sludge.



PHOTO-POINT MONITORING

Tips from SEQCATCHMENTS

Photos taken at fixed points make it easy to record changes in the environment that may otherwise be difficult to see or remember. Photos are a quick and easy way of recording vegetation changes at revegetation sites over time.

When monitoring an area, it is important that the same site is photographed each time. Firstly, identify an area of typical vegetation at the site. Include distinguishing features (i.e. hills, buildings or feature trees in the background or frame). Try to avoid steep slopes. Also try to avoid including bright, glary sky in the photo as this will reduce the detail visible in the vegetation.

Set up permanent markers (pegs or posts) to ensure the same field of view is recorded each time. Set up one marker for the camera position and a second, about 10 metres away, as a sighter peg.

Remember to take photos before works commence and after they have been completed. Endeavour to take several more photos during the progress of the project. Photos should also be taken to document major events such as a floods or fires.

Each time you take a monitoring photo, record the same type of information, such as: who took the photo, people in the photo (if any), location, date, time, aspect, GPS reading (if available) and observations (such as the impact of grazing pressure or seasonal conditions, progress of planted species or weeds etc.).

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And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members