

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

February - March 2008



THE MALENY WOOD EXPO IS BACK

3-4 MAY 2008

by Steve McLeish, Maleny Wood Expo Coordinator

On 3rd and 4th May 2008, Barung Landcare, in partnership with the Caloundra City Council, will host the 12th Maleny Wood Expo *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture™* at the Showgrounds in Maleny.

This year it will be a two-day event on the Saturday and Sunday of the May long weekend. As always, millers, woodcrafts people, tool and equipment specialists, landcare and community groups will be exhibiting their wares.

It is important to the organising committee that the Wood Expo remains 'grass roots' and that sustainable landuse is in the forefront.

Mim Coulstock, the face of the Expo over the past nine years, is now on long-awaited long service leave and we wish her well in her pursuit of relaxation.

I have now stepped into her shoes and have hit the ground running, which I'm finding is the only thing these shoes know how to do.

My first task was to contact all the past exhibitors to gauge expressions of interest and the feedback I have been receiving is overwhelming. Most were ecstatic that the Expo is happening again, saying there was a very big hole in their calendar last year when the Expo did not go ahead.

They said the Maleny Wood Expo was very well run and the organisers friendly and supportive. Their feedback was that the Expo really felt like a community event. 'Barung should be proud of the goodwill created over the years'.

Maleny and surrounding area is home to many truly talented artisans, skilled woodworkers, business people and community groups, and I am honoured to be in a position to help support and promote their skills and works.

I believe the Maleny Wood Expo is important to the social and economic growth of our region whilst educating people from all backgrounds about the importance of sustainable landuse.

The Maleny Wood Expo is on the map and your continued support is essential to keep it there.

So if there is anything you would like to contribute or assist with, please let us know.

You can contact me on

Ph: 5494 4892 or

E: steve.mcleish@gmail.com

Come one, come all!



'Lord of the Rings' by Don Powell,
displayed at Maleny Wood Expo 2004

Wood Expo Volunteers

Jane needs YOU!

by Jane Williamson,
Volunteer Coordinator

The Barung Maleny Wood Expo *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture™* is back on in 2008! So set aside Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May (Labour Day weekend) for a rewarding and fun time.

For our Expo to be successful we need more than 150 volunteers to contribute about 4 hours each, so if you would like to help out before, during or after the event, we would love to hear from you.

We are looking for help with:

- **Setting Up** (before Expo) – Erecting signage around the district, setting up tents etc on the site
- **Selling Raffle Tickets** (before and during Expo) – Particularly over the Easter weekend
- **Traffic Control and Parking** (during Expo) – Ever wanted to be a traffic controller? We'll need you over the two days of the event
- **Selling Admission Tickets** (during Expo) – Meet and greet over the two days of the Expo
- **Pulling Down** (after Expo) – Retrieving signs, pulling down tents and cleaning up so that we leave the Showgrounds area the way we found it.

As a small 'thank you' from Barung for your time, all volunteers receive:

- free entry into the Expo
- a coffee voucher, and
- two free trees from our Nursery.

You also get to see beautiful furniture, watch chainsaw artisans at work, eat great food and meet some wonderful people.

If you are able to help, please fill in the

Expo Volunteer EOI form

enclosed in this *Barung News* and return it to me at Barung Landcare, or contact me by:

Phone: 5494 3151

Email: jane@barunglandcare.org.au

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Val Phillips)

Chris & Rose Twidle	Alan & Marie Fredriksen
Gill Cave	Allan & Lynda Kingston
Dianne McIlwain	Tim & Lee Wease
Alister Holland	Robert Houghton
Dylan Passmore	Rodney Kerr
Joezy Reader	Veronica Kirkman
Isaac Stenz	Glen P Ashwin
Mary River Catchment Assoc	Glen Walker
Deanne Grace	Luisa Garcia
Gwen Malcolm	Paul & Tammi Burgis
M & J Boon	Mary Donavan
Bob Taylor	Donna Richardson
Tim Breeze	Peter & Toni Lynch
Joel & Charis Palmer	Tony Ullman &
Maleny Hills Motel	Lea Bracker
Hubert & Kay Krenske	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

DEADLINE - Wed 12th March

for April-May 2007

Barung Landcare...

Barung News contributions



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

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* (700 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.

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.

BUNYA DREAMING

January 27th 2008

by Bev Hand

Well, another Bunya Dreaming has come and gone.

For me it was encouraging to look around and see so many people networking, picnicking, sharing, and laughing with each other. I saw people resolving differences and talking happily with each other. This was an unquantifiable outcome that I desired. A day of true reconciliation with modern day land carers engaging with ancient land carers. We were also honoured with the presence of a koala and two crested hawks.

I had organised a series of challenges that are indicative of Bunya season activities. These included gathering, shucking (removing the nut from the cone), storing, cooking, art, story telling and guess the weight. I also added a flora and fauna challenge for people to demonstrate their knowledge of their 'country'. Winning the challenges required Bunya knowledge and experience, with some physical prowess required at times.

We encouraged team participation in the challenges with two team members per event eligible to gain points toward the 'Bunya Dream Team Trophy', which has been kindly donated by Councillor Dick Newman. I am pleased to say that eight teams entered and the competition was fierce. The judges of the cooking, art and story telling challenges found it difficult to determine one outstanding winner in each of those events.

Big congratulations to all who entered as a team or an individual. I am happy to announce that the 'Bunya Dream Team Trophy' winner was BRUSH TURKEY ENTERPRISES. They really got into the spirit of the day and clearly demonstrated that as a team they have a well-rounded knowledge and experience of Bunya country.

We have also decided to award Andy of the 'Witta Warriors' with a medal of valour for injuries incurred in the line of duty.

With a couple of days to reflect on the happenings of the Event, it's clear to me that there are many people to thank for helping me make the day a success.

Jake Smith-Moloney did a marvellous job as Site Manager and his risk management strategies came into play. The response from our first aid officer, Alice Hungerford, and lifeguards on duty, Antara May and Ed Surman, was awesome.

The Barung Barbie was firing all day cooking sausages and boiling water. Many thanks go to the helpers there, they did an admirable job. To name a few, Dawn and Amber Worthington, John and Mary King, Dale Chapman, Gretchen Evans, Billy Scott, John Muir.



Clockwise from top: The Welcome, buckets of bunyas, a hunting dance, competitive bunya gathering.

[All photos by Grant Meyer]

Our parking attendants and 'Meet and Greet' people need mention and they were Lyn and David Fairlie, Wayne and Janet Webb, Jane Williamson and Neil Anderson, Darryl Ebenezer, Jonathon Waites, Eric Anderson and Diana O'Connor, Heath Waites, Brent Millar, Zac and Justin Bond, Fuschia and Samara, Jackie and Tilly Montgomery, Shane Watson and Grant Meyer. Thank you to Grant also for photographing the events of the day. Thanks to Neil Anderson for shuttling people and equipment between Barung and Baroon Pocket in the Council's Youth on the Move bus. And thank you to everyone who helped clean up afterwards.

It is so hard to remember all the people who helped on the day. I mean no disrespect to those I have not mentioned, but to all a BIG thank you. The day definitely would not be possible without the help and support of the Barung family.

The Results

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Bunya gathering | – Jolyon (Barung Contracting Services) |
| Bunya shucking | – Tie: Peter and Spencer (Brush Turkey Enterprises) |
| Bunya storing | – Wayne (Barung Contracting Services) |
| Guess the weight | – Travis (Cultural Healing) |
| Bunya cooking | – Alan (but I know it was really Claire) (Brush Turkey Enterprises) |
| Bunya art | – Meg (Brush Turkey Enterprises) |
| Story telling | – Karen (Brush Turkey Enterprises) |
| Flora & fauna ID | – Tie: Alan and Spencer (Brush Turkey Enterprises) |



THE MONTO TRIP

by *Brendan Stephan, Barung Contracting*

Late last year the core members of Barung Contracting Services went on a road trip out to Monto, approximately 400 km west of Bundaberg. The basis of the journey was extend the knowledge that we as a Landcare Group have developed over the last 19 years regarding landscape restoration.

Since its inception, Barung has been involved in a myriad of public and private restoration projects centred around controlling weeds, encouraging native species recruitment and actively planting trees. Over this time many mistakes have been made, which means that much innovation has occurred, resulting in a methodology which embraces both environmental outcomes and financial effectiveness.

Over our two-day stay at Monto we were involved in an Environmental Landscaping project within the Showgrounds, an enrichment planting of bushfoods and cabinet timbers at the High School, and an amenity planting at a potential council park site. The National Landcare Conference is to be held at the Monto Showgrounds in September this year, providing further opportunities to enhance Barung's profile. BCS selected the species for these plantings and sourced them from the Barung Nursery.

This capacity-building exercise has a range of outcomes: an increase in the onground knowledge regarding restoration works for the North Burnett Landcare Group (based in Monto), the involvement of many aspects of the local community in the actual planting process, an appreciation of our natural environment for the local residents, a chance for Barung Landcare to promote the relevance of Landcare issues, and a great opportunity to meet and chat with other like-minded individuals.

A huge 'thank you' to John Muir for establishing this Monto 'link', and for facilitating the smooth operation of our trip. John's association with Barung Landcare has many facets; his appreciation and dedication to our organisation is evident through his tireless networking.

Another shout out to the BCS Crew: thank you for giving up a Sunday and representing Barung Landcare in such a positive way. Of course, we got to check out some vegetation in the area and were all impressed by the semi-evergreen vine forest with its high levels of species diversity and endemism.

Also a big 'thank you' to Clayton Stokoe, a Barung committee member with his feet in the ground and in a position to understand the relevance of onground restoration works to sustainable landscape management. Thank you for representing Barung, for your plant id, and for your general conversation, Clay; we all look forward to spending more time with you out in the bush.

Fungus on privet update

by *Lin Fairlie*

Thank you to all the members who contacted Barung or me about the fungus on privet (see last *Barung News*). The distribution is wide – from Balmoral, along the escarpment to Bald Knob, along Stanley River Road, through Reesville and out to Witta, as well as upstream of Kings Weir.

If you think you have this fungus and live outside this area, please contact Barung or ring me directly on 5435 8038 or email linfair@bigpond.com

It would be interesting to know approximately how long the privet had been dead before you noticed the fungus.



Jolyon Froude (Barung Contracting Services), Glen Baker (Project Officer, North Burnett Landcare Group), Bill Avis (President, Monto Show Society) and Brendan Stephen (Coordinator, Barung Contracting Services), planting trees at the Montville Showgrounds in preparation for the Qld Landcare Conference 2008.

BURNETT RIVER STORIES IN ABORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY

Aboriginal people in the Burnett region feature in the documentary DVD 'Source to Sea', speaking of their love for the Burnett River, their sadness at seeing it change and the spiritual connection and stories which have been handed down from previous generations. To obtain a copy of 'Source to Sea', sponsored by the Burnett Mary Regional Group, contact Selina Hill on 4181 2999 (Ext 115) or email Selina.Hill@bmrg.org.au

EYE ON LOCAL GOVT

New Sunshine Coast regional council-wide ratepayers association, OSCAR, keeping an eye on candidates and their policies:

www.ausaccom.biz/oscar/oscar.htm

FUNDING DATABASE

NRM grants Australia-wide:

www.regionalnrm.qld.gov.au/get_involved/incentives

LIVE EARTH SHORT FILM SERIES

Live Earth harnessed some of the world's most creative minds to inform and inspire people across the globe to solve the climate crisis. Six of their short films can be viewed online at:

www.liveearth.org/film.php

WATER DATA ONLINE

Live data from NRW's state-wide monitoring network of approximately 400 monitoring stations:

www.nrw.qld.gov.au

CLIMATE CHANGE - Impacts on Aust Ag

Report by Aust. Bureau of Agriculture & Resource Economics:

www.abareconomics.com

RAINFOREST RECOVERY FUNDING

Rehabilitation of riparian rainforests in endangered regional ecosystems will be the focus of a new project for the upper Mary River catchment.

The following two Regional Ecosystems will be targeted:

- **RE 12.3.1** (creeks with *Waterhousia floribunda* dominant),
- **RE 12.3.2** (creeks with *Eucalyptus grandis* dominant).

A consortium of partners including The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee and Noosa, Barung and Gympie Landcare groups will be assisting landholders in the upper Mary who are interested in rehabilitating these ecosystems where they occur on their land. Funding for the program has been provided by the SEQ Rainforest Recovery Programme, WWF and the Burnett-Mary Regional Group, and the Australian Government Envirofund.

Each Landcare group will have \$36,000 funding and 6000 seedlings to distribute through devolved grants to landholders for rehabilitation of these targeted REs. One demonstration site will be set up in the area of each Landcare group.

Species ID and Seed collecting WORKSHOP

Interested landholders will have access to species identification and seed collecting workshops and field days about looking after these ecosystems.

Barung Landcare will be holding its workshop on **Wednesday 27th February, 9 am till 1 pm**. To register please call Barung Landcare on 5494 3151. For more information about the Rainforest Recovery funding, contact **Jonathan Waites on 0429 943 151**.

Which REs do you have?

To identify the Regional Ecosystems on your property, you can access maps and RE descriptions on the EPA website.

Be aware that these maps are necessarily broad scale and may miss smaller patches of ecosystems which might be on your land even if they're not on the map!

You can get an EPA remnant vegetation map for your property by providing your lot and plan number/s when you get to

http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature_conservation/biodiversity/regional_ecosystems/introduction_and_status/regional_ecosystem_maps/#lot

You can download the Regional Ecosystems Descriptions Database (REDD), describing every RE in QLD, from

http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature_conservation/biodiversity/regional_ecosystems/how_to_download_redd/

For instance, you can discover why RE 12.3.1 is described in two different ways in articles on this page ...

GET WELL WISHES

Max, sorry to hear you are under the weather. Rest up that young back of yours and hurry back to your Barung family.

We're realising how much you do for Barung, now that you're not around doing all the little behind-the-scenes things.

SAVE A MOTH, SAVE AN ECOSYSTEM

by Eve Witney

The situation of the Pink Underwing Moth (southern subspecies) reveals the impact of even small changes to ecosystems. This moth, *Phyllodes imperialis* (southern subsp.), appears to breed not just on a single species of plant, but only on those plants that grow in a certain way. The life history of this moth was first discovered in Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve in 1988 by a team headed by CSIRO scientist, Dr Don Sands.

The foodplant, *Carronia multiseppalea*, grows quite commonly in the ecosystem 12.3.1 (gallery rainforest on alluvial soils). In patches of rainforest where the canopy is still intact, the plant takes a collapsed shrub-like form. However when the canopy of this ecosystem has been disturbed for some reason – perhaps by logging or natural events – then the plant responds to the higher light levels and grows as a vine up the trunks of trees.

Here's the rub: it seems that the Pink Underwing Moth *only* breeds on the prostrate form of the foodplant. In fact, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve is the only breeding site for the moth that has been identified in Queensland.

It's reasonable to think that this loss of canopy and dark environment would affect a range of organisms in addition to the Pink Underwing Moth, especially those many species susceptible to strong ultra-violet light, showing how even apparently small modifications can have extensive implications for the wide range of plants and animals that make up an ecosystem.

With funding from the Threatened Species Network, Barung Landcare is undertaking a project to rehabilitate suitable habitat for this moth to breed in. The components of this project are:

- an **information workshop**, equipping landholders and other interested people to search for the foodplant and the moth
- a **survey program** to extend our knowledge of the moth's ecology and where the plant and moth occur in the local area
- **enhancement planting** on some properties to encourage the foodplant to adopt the prostrate form
- **information materials**, including a case study, extending information about the moth and rehabilitating an ecosystem.

Information workshop

The information workshop is planned for March (date yet to be set). If you have this ecosystem on your land, or have identified the plant *Carronia multiseppalea*, you are invited to attend! People interested in vegetation generally or in butterflies and moths will also find the session stimulating.

If you would like to attend this session, please leave your name and contact details with Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 and we will notify you when venue and date are finalised. Also watch the *Range News* for more information.

The larvae of the Pink Underwing Moth, with eyespots remarkably like the eyes of small lizards to deter predators!

[Photo copyright Don Sands / CSIRO]



MAINTENANCE FOLLOWS CLEARING & PLANTING

BARUNG CONTRACTING by Brendan Stephen

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

Soggy soil

What a start to the new year, with almost one-third of our annual rainfall in less than one month. Great for our catchment, soaking into our groundwater and creating those fast flows down our upper catchment tributaries. But, as with all things in this life, a balance must be reached. Excessive rainfall is not so good for the onground implementation of ecological restoration projects. Believe it or not, it has been too wet to plant on many of our sites, with soil saturation levels so high that available oxygen is minimal. We have tried to get out there and take advantage of pleasant planting weather, but it has been too wet! We all love the rain and the qualities it brings, but even I, the hydrophilic, have been 'over it', as so many are.

Alert for weeds, and maintenance

Once we can resume onground works, previous restoration projects must be maintained or are at threat of being overrun by competitive weed growth; without active intervention, the exotic species will win. On your own land, ensure that high priority weed species, especially vines (such as *Glycine Neonotonia wightii*, Morning Glory *Ipomea indica* and Moth Vine *Araujia sericifolia*) are controlled in any areas which have been disturbed through either regeneration (weed control) or revegetation (tree planting) works. These growth forms can seriously threaten the integrity of even large mature remnant trees, so get out there and hand-weed around native stock, cut-stump larger weed stock, and foliar-spray clumps away from native species.

Maintenance is THE most important aspect of any restoration project and the timing and intensity of maintenance runs heavily influences project success. Many sites where lantana has been cleared or trees planted are more under threat after the initial work has been performed: dormant seed banks are activated, light levels increased and soils exposed, encouraging weed species to colonise. Seedling stock is easily out-competed by the inherent qualities of weed species (lack of predation, accelerated growth rates, excessive reproductive mechanism), so ensure that their control becomes a priority and an integral aspect of any restoration project.

Team News

This year looks to be the most involved year for BCS on record, as we move towards over 50 projects planned already, with many more to be developed through the year. This is a great opportunity to raise the profile of Barung Landcare, generate income and provide avenues for career progression for our Team. Congratulations to Jake and Michael for being awarded permanent status after many years of dedicated and effective hard work restoring our natural systems and enhancing our regional ecology. The skills, experience and relevance displayed by these two is of the highest standard. Their ascension toward project management is a well-deserved acknowledgement of their knowledge and under-

standing of our local environment and the issues associated with the sustainable management of it. Welcome to Grant Meyers who has joined our Team. A local resident for over 20 years, Grant has a wealth of experience with plants and a high level of enthusiasm for our natural environment.

Jobs available

BCS is on the look-out for further additions to our 'Mad Mad Crew', people with the physical capacity, cognitive ability and personal enthusiasm to protect and enhance our regional environment. The role of Vegetation Ecologist is not as romantic as many may envision; the ticks, heat, leeches, rain, jumping ants and wasps are complemented by the high level of physical input on a wide range of topographies.

These positions are available right now, so if you believe you have the ability, give me a call on 0429 943 156 or email contracting@barunglandcare.org.au



Barung Contracting

- revegetation
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- indigenous tubestock
- consultancy & property planning
- onground conservation works

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

Bunya Dreaming Celebration

Lake Baroon, 27th January 2008

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Aquagen

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Burnett Mary Regional Group

SEQ Catchments

Caloundra City Council

Maroochy Shire Council

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

Interactive Community Planning

Maleny Library

State Library of Queensland

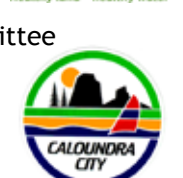
Cr Dick Newman

The Dilly Bag Dreamtime Place

Gubbi Dancers

Silver Lining Foundation

Rainforest Rescue



GIANT DRAGONFLIES and a CICADA CHORUS

WILDLIFE WANDERINGS by Susie Duncan

In early December I was walking along Broken Bridge Creek with Anna Heriot when she spied a giant dragonfly on a log close to the water. It was an amazingly big invertebrate – about 17 cm long with a wingspan of about 14 cm. We were on a section of the rainforest-lined creek where it begins to cascade into waterfalls. The fairly drab brown dragonfly was depositing its eggs under a wet log, about 20 cm above the water of a splash pool. I returned recently and, thanks to the prolific rainfall, the water was now lapping onto the log where the eggs were laid.

In mid-January I was splashing around in a rainforest creek in the Conondale Range when a very similar looking dragonfly did a few circuits around a cascade before flying off.

At first I had thought that this species could be the Queensland Giant Dragonfly (*Petalura litorea*) which usually occurs in swampy habitats in coastal southern Queensland. But thanks to the assistance of Greg Czechura at the Queensland Museum, I was able to pin it down as the stream-dwelling Southern Giant Darner (*Austrophlebia costalis*), another really big dragonfly. Not a lot is known about the species but it seems to be uncommon throughout its range in southern Queensland and New South Wales.

There are a number of conservation concerns for dragonflies as well as other freshwater invertebrates and frogs. In the Blackall and Conondale ranges, quite a few streams have been damaged by pigs rooting along the banks. This opens bare ground for invasion by Mistflower (*Ageratina riparia*), a weed which flourishes in and around streams. Its seed is often borne downstream by water. The physical congestion of streams caused by this plant is bad for both invertebrates and frogs living in the stream. Pig disturbance also releases sediment which clogs the crevices between rocks where these animals seek shelter.

On a different note, December was brought to audible life by vast numbers of cicadas. Passing through eucalypt forest on our way to the dragonfly creek, we were deafened by masses of dark cicadas plastered up the trunks of Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*). The peeling bark of these trees had transformed the trunks to amazing shades of orange and green, adorned by these beautiful bugs.

This cicada was the Razor Grinder (*Henicopsaltria eydouxii*) which emits a penetrating metal-grinding sound. Males have a pair of tymbals on the abdomen which are rapidly flexed by internal muscles to create pulses of sound, rather like a high-speed tin-clicker toy. There are over 200 species of cicada in Australia and each has a distinct 'song'. Groups of males in one area will call in unison, creating waves of sound to attract females.

Adult cicadas use their piercing mouthparts to suck nutrient juices from plants. The females cut slits in branches wherein they lay their eggs. Nymphs hatch, drop to the ground and burrow into the soil where they suck juices from the roots of trees and shrubs.

They emerge from the soil in summer, often after many years underground. They usually climb up a tree trunk and cling whilst the skin of the nymph splits to allow the adult cicada to emerge. You will often find these empty skins attached to trunks.

Later in the day we heard some Pied Currawongs and Torresian Crows whooping it up on the ridge – having a picnic on the cicadas. The intensity of sound created by cicadas, particularly in the hottest part of the day, is sometimes enough to drive off predators. This lot of birds seemed to have waited till things cooled down before partaking of the feast.



Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

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07 5494 3775

NEW PREMISES for LBCCG

*by Jane MacGibbon, Project Officer
Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group*

After months of renovations to the little blue cottage along North Maleny Road, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group finally moved in and the office was officially opened by Caloundra City Council Mayor and President of the AquaGen board, Don Aldous, on November 23rd 2007. The property was fully christened that afternoon with a barbecue for LBCCG members and friends.

LBCCG's new home is located on a 40 acre block, and is perched on a ridge above a large area of rainforest. The building includes three offices, a reception area, display area, fully equipped kitchen, and spacious meeting room. LBCCG hopes that this will become a hub for community-based environmental care in the region.

The new office accompanies the formalisation of the \$1.8M funding commitment from AquaGen to LBCCG. The \$1.8M will be staged over 10 years and will allow LBCCG to develop large-scale environmental projects in the region. The work will follow a well-documented strategic plan that will see most of the funds spent on private land.

The environment in the Lake Baroon catchment will undoubtedly be better protected with this tremendous funding boost from AquaGen.



Craig Harrison (Finance & Administration Manager, AquaGen), Peter Stevens (President, LBCCG), Gillian Pechey (Secretary, LBCCG), Jane MacGibbon (Project Officer) and Murray Dunstan (Catchment Supervisor) at the opening of the new LBCCG office on North Maleny Rd.

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A MATTER OF BALANCE

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

I recently read a fascinating article by an American author titled 'Garden Making in the Wild Places' (*Landscape Outlook*, Issue 32 Summer 08). Whilst the plants were clearly very different, the concepts discussed were the ones we grapple with all the time when developing our ornamental gardens in a bush/rainforest etc landscape.

The natural world has its own beauty but so also does a well-designed, well-tended garden. It is the transition between the two which presents some fascinating challenges and the need for careful choice of plants. There need not be a clear transition zone but rather a continuity of specific planting material.

In my own garden, some of the local native plants could just about be classified as weeds, which they certainly are not in the adjacent forest. With appropriate placement and judicious pruning, they become 'garden' plants and can be seen in both forms creating continuity between the wild and the tended space.

A greater knowledge and availability of our forbs and groundcovers will help us to create ever more interesting gardens but we do already have a range of useful plants which can be allowed to be wild, or can be kept trimmed to form borders and edges, or can enhance a courtyard. Most gardens have well-tended areas close to the house and become progressively less formal with distance.



Adiantum hispidulum for the garden and forest.

[Photo: John Dillon]

The choice of plants will depend on the style of garden, the local environment, plant availability and of course personal preferences. Native violet (*Viola hederacea*) is a great groundcover which can be allowed to invade the lawn. Midyim berry (*Austromyrtus dulcis*) can be allowed to sprawl through and climb nearby shrubs or can be pruned to form a neat, rounded edging shrub, or a tall groundcover/low spreading shrub in full sun. This one is very versatile.

Plectranthus parvifolius and related species with perfumed leaves and spikes of blue flowers is a sprawling undershrub which can certainly look wild but can also fill a planter box. Many of our shrubs and even trees with small leaves and short internodes (the length of stem between leaves) can be pruned to the desired height and possibly shape. *Austromyrtus* 'Blushing Beauty' is particularly adaptable but can also provide a vibrant splash of colour on the edge of the forest.

Ferns should not be forgotten for their versatility as a soft but natural broadscale groundcover or as neat feature plants in a shaded spot. At the other end of the garden scale, our native hibiscus can reward pruning with a massive flower display or can be itself with individual flowers lighting up an open forest.

As always, it is worth experimenting.

THE 'IGA CONNECTION'

Final call for donations

Not only is the 'IGA Connection' providing a visible 'thank you' to Rob and Samantha and the Maleny IGA for their support of Landcare and the local community, this revegetation work is creating an essential linkage to help preserve the viability of this isolated historic remnant at the Showgrounds, improving the quality of the water entering Obi Creek, restoring the banks of the creek from a weed-infested rubbish heap to a beautiful rainforest that will provide a safe fauna corridor.

Hundreds of people, families, Community Groups and businesses have already donated money towards this project. A donation (tax deductible) of \$10 covers the cost of the tree, stake, mulch and some maintenance. All donors have the choice of having their names recorded on permanent signs around the site, as a lasting legacy to Rob and Samantha's generosity and community spirit, for future generations to appreciate.

The final planting is now being arranged, so now is your chance to contribute by **29th February** when the last signs will be made. The trees are a wonderful gift idea and gift certificates are available.

Donation forms are available at Barung.

ICONIC STATUS for THE BLACKALL RANGE?

In March this year, Peter Wellington will introduce the Draft Iconic Legislation Bill to State Parliament. This legislation could extend the iconic status presently held by Noosa and Port Douglas to include the Blackall Range – if enough residents wish for this.

Meetings:

- Maleny:** Saturday 9 Feb, 10 am
Maleny RSL Hall
- Montville:** Monday 11 Feb, 7.30 pm
Montville Village Hall
- More info:** Carolyn Male's Office on
1800 555 016

The Blackall Range Landholders Guide

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

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

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



GOSSIA ACMENOIDES

(previously known as *Austromyrtus acmenoides*)

Scrub Ironwood

Family: Myrtaceae

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Scrub Ironwood is a great hardy shrub for the garden with a dense habit, glossy foliage and red new growth. In the open it grows as a multi-trunked shrub to around 5 metres and remains bushy to the ground. It is slow growing, so with a minimal amount of pruning it could be kept lower.

In the rainforest it may grow as a small tree to 18 metres. It is easily recognised in the rainforest by its irregular slender trunk with smooth bark, which sheds in thin papery patches causing a mottled pattern of light and dark brown. Scrub Ironwood is similar to the Python Tree (*Gossia bidwillii*) but lacks the green patches found in the latter species. Both have very strong rigid trunks that feel cool to the touch. The two species may be found growing in close proximity.

Gossia acmenoides occurs mainly in dry rainforest but also in sub-tropical rainforest, from Illawarra (NSW) to Gladstone (Qld). It is reasonably common around the Blackall Range and Mary Valley areas, but is generally not found on the red volcanic soils.

In revegetation work, Scrub Ironwood is useful as an edge species where its dense bushy habit helps to reduce the amount of sidelight entering the forest floor, thus reducing weed growth. It may also be useful for planting on drier sites.

Leaves of *Gossia acmenoides* are opposite, ovate to elliptic, 4–8cm long and taper to a fine point. They are glossy, with the midvein strongly raised on the upper surface. Oil dots are large and scattered (a hand lens will help), and the leaf has a spicy fragrance when crushed. In *Gossia bidwillii* the midvein is not strongly raised above and the oil dots are smaller and crowded. Leaves of *Gossia bidwillii* will generally stick to the fingers if crushed, whereas those of *Gossia acmenoides* will not.

Small white flowers (approx. 8 mm) are produced in groups of two or three from the leaf axils. The edible fruit are succulent black globular berries to 6 mm diameter, crowned by five persistent calyx lobes, ripe from February to April. The berries contain up to five small hard seeds. Fruit are readily eaten by birds such as the Satin Bower Bird, which can make seed collection difficult.

If you do manage to beat the birds to the fruit, the seeds can be separated from the flesh by mashing the fruit in water and floating off the flesh. The fresh seeds are then sown by sprinkling them over a tray of propagation mix and covering lightly. The seeds should germinate in two or three months.



Gossia acmenoides in blush.

[Photo: Wayne Webb]

BARUNG COMPLETES WATER GRANT PROJECT

SUSTAINABLE LANDUSE by Jonathan Waites

The Community Water Grants (CWG) program is part of the Australian Government Water Fund. It funds on-ground projects aimed at improving water management in areas such as saving and efficiency, recycling, and treatment (improving surface and ground water health).

Barung has almost completed its first project funded by a CWG (Round 2) valued at almost \$50,000 which has attracted over \$63,000 of matching in-kind funding from recipient landholders. We were also fortunate enough to secure a CWG in Round 3 which will enhance water use efficiency in the nursery.

When our Round 2 CWG project is finished 4000 trees will have been planted and 1000 m of fencing erected to control stock within riparian areas over eight properties in the 74 km² Lake Baroon catchment. A major benefit will be a reduction in the future nutrient and sediment loads entering Baroon Pocket Dam.

Reducing nutrients and sediments

Nutrients and sediment are transported off paddocks and urban backyards into creeks and streams via the overland flow of water which occurs when soil is unable to absorb any more rain. This may be due to a number of factors including the total amount of rainfall over a given period, the intensity of the rainfall event (how quickly it fell), the nature of the soil (structure/health) or any combination of these. Generally such loads are greatest when we have heavy rain after a dry spell. Nutrients have built up (say under trees in paddocks where stock camp, often near streams; on roads and other hard surfaces in urban areas), ground cover may have become depleted and the soil surface compacted. When a short, sharp thunderstorm dumps relatively large amounts of water which cannot be readily absorbed by the soil, nutrients and sediment are flushed from the landscape and (in the case of Lake Baroon catchment) deposited in Baroon Pocket Dam.

Fencing stock out of riparian areas means nutrients are kept back in the paddocks to be returned to the soil where they are needed, rather than washed into creeks and dams to cause problems. Trees in riparian areas help stabilise soil, reducing erosion, and the litter layer built up underneath them helps to slow overland water flows, reducing nutrient and sediment loads after rain.

Funding available

Barung currently has funding available for similar work on properties in the Mary River catchment (including Lake Baroon catchment) applicable to specific regional ecosystems (see article on page 5). If you are interested and believe your property fits the criteria, please contact Barung on 5494 3151 or Jonathan Waites on 0429 943 151.

Rainfall

By the way, speaking of rain Maleny has received 543 mm over 26 days so far this month (30/1), almost double the 91 year average of 273 mm over 14.6 days, but well below the record of 1534.4 mm which fell in 1974. Following on from the rain we received in December last year this is a great start to the 'wet' season and although some may be 'over it' the land needs just this sort of low (mostly) intensity falls over a long rather than short period of time. Rain of this type soaks soil horizons, fills wetlands and recharges groundwater aquifers while limiting the damage caused by the erosion often associated with heavy rain.

MUDFORD

by Fuschia

With volunteers Julie Schober and Anne Delmas along with John Muir, I braved the wind, wet and weather to represent Barung Landcare at the 2007/2008 Woodford Folk Festival! With our trusty gumboots and umbrellas we trudged through what's now affectionately known as 'Mudford' to the Echo Lodge to bring the message of Landcare to a wider audience.

We are proud to announce Barung is matching the tree sponsorships sold at the festival. That means a total of 10,172 plants will be planted on the Folk Festival site throughout 2008!



CONFERENCES, EVENTS

EcoForum Conference & Exhibition

27-29 February
Gold Coast
www.ecoforum.net.au/2008

Clean Up Australia Day

2 March
cleanup.org.au

Ground Water Awareness Week

9-15 March
www.ngwa.org/public/awarenessweek

Earth Day

20 March
www.earthsite.org

World Water Day

22 March
www.worldwaterday.org

Ideas Festival

27-31 March
www.ideasfestival.com.au

3rd National Water Education Conference

30 Mar - 2 April
Surfers Paradise
www.awa.asn.au/events/educationconf08

CREEC Sustainability Fair

17 May 10 am - 3 pm
Burpengary
www.creec.org.au

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THANK YOU TO ...

... **Rachael Stacy** for her generous donation to the Barung Environmental Gift Fund

... **Brian Germein, Max Smith, Marion Adamson, Noel Denning, Faye Smith, and Val & Col Phillips** for the December-January *Barung News* mailout

... **Julie Schober, Anne Delmas, John Muir, Fuschia, Kyle Ebenezer, Jane Williamson and Neil Anderson** for helping with the Barung display at Woodford Folk Festival

... **all who have donated to the Barung Environmental Gift Fund**: keep it coming, every dollar helps!

For your invaluable help at Bunya Dreaming ...

... **Fuschia and Samara, Jake Smith-Moloney, Fran Guard & Bob Philpot, Peter Milton, Jono Waites, Grant Meyer, Neil Anderson, Gretchen Evans, Mary & John King, Dawn Worthington, Lin and David Fairlie, Kate Fraser, Janet Webb, Jackie Montgomery & Tilly, Brendan Stephen, Michael Cooper, Paige Broomhall and Anthony Reeves**

LETTERS

Barung plants to school garden

Dear Barung Landcare

Thank you for the plants that you donated to our class garden project. Everyone in the class appreciates your contributions. Our garden is thriving now because of the care you helped us give to the garden.

We have designed it so that the plants' positions allow them to have the correct amount of sunlight and drainage. We have also added mulch to reduce weeds and add nutrients to the soil.

Thanks again for your contribution of plants to our garden and we hope to maintain our connection with you.

From Year 5/6 Horizons
Immanuel Lutheran College

Enjoyed the Bunya Dreaming festival

Hi there at Barung

Wanted to let you all know how much my husband and I enjoyed the Bunya Festival, and how privileged we felt to be part of it again. We both wanted to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Bev Hand is a living treasure and we Murriss are so lucky to have her!

Thanks again and hopefully see you at the next Bunya.

Walbira Murray
Social and Cultural Programs Coordinator, Youth & Development
Australian Red Cross

LOST PROPERTY

from Bunya Dreaming...


- Towel, blue
- Sunglasses
- Clear glasses
- Goggles, blue
- Bucket hat, cream with blue trim
- Boys shorts, grey size 5
- Girls knickers, size 6-8 polka dots

from a few weeks ago ...

- Straw sun visor with wide brim



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NURSERY NOTES ...

... continued from page 12

- 16 Ferny Azolla *Azolla pinnata*
- 17 Lemon-scented Myrtle *Backhousia citriodora*
- 18 Native Guava *Rhodomyrtus psidioides*
- 19 Rough Maidenhair *Adiantum hispidulum*
- 20 Midgim/Midyim *Austromyrtus dulcis* [Midgim/Midyim]

Answers for the Fauna Challenge were:

Koala, Regent Bowerbird, Carpet Python, Spotted Quoll, Ringtail Possum, Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, King Parrot, Pink Underwing Moth, Wedge-tail Eagle, Death Adder, Coxen's Fig Parrot, Mary River Cod and the Three-toed Snake-tooth Skink.

I'll let you look up the scientific names. I would be interested if anyone has further information on Aboriginal names.

Introducing ...

The Three-toed Snake-tooth Skink (*Coeranoscincus reticulatus*)! This photo is of a juvenile – adults are brown to yellowish-brown. Three-toed Snake-tooth Skinks generally live in subtropical rainforests, where they burrow through moist wood mulch under rotting logs and feed on earthworms. [Photo by Sue Leuty]




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THE GREAT FLORA & FAUNA CHALLENGE

NURSERY NOTES by Wayne Webb

Those of you who attended the Bunya Dreaming may be interested to know the answers to the Flora and Fauna Challenge. This challenge was intended to test participants' 'knowledge of country', a vital requirement for survival by peoples living in a sustainable relationship with their land.

Winners of the Flora and Fauna Challenge were Spencer Shaw and Alan Wynn (both representing Brush Turkey Enterprise's team) tied on 54.5 points, Brendan Stephan and Jolyon Froude (representing Barung Contracting's team) tied on 51.5 points, and Nick Willis, former Barung nursery manager, in fifth place. Congratulations to all who entered.

The flora challenge consisted of 20 plant samples, some well known and easily recognisable, others less well known. Two species were represented by bark only – Hoop Pine and Tallowwood. Often all you can see is the trunk of a tree disappearing into the forest canopy, so bark may be all you have to go on. The fibrous

bark of Tallowwoods usually have distinctive shell-like patterns left by insect activity. Often it is only by fruit drop that a tree may be apparent in the rainforest, such as with the edible (though tart) fruit of Corduroy Tamarind – good for jam making.

Note: In this list, Aboriginal names appear in square brackets.

- 1 Hoop Pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* [Goonyam]
- 2 Banana Bush *Tabernaemontana pandacaqui*
- 3 Bolwarra / Native Guava *Eupomatia laurina* [Bolwarra]
- 4 Tallowwood *Eucalyptus microcorys* [Dee]
- 5 Bunya Pine *Araucaria bidwillii* [Boinyee, Gulumur]
- 6 Corduroy Tamarind *Mischocarya lautereriana*
- 7 Many-flowered Matt-rush *Lomandra multiflora*
- 8 Poverty Grass *Eremochloa bimaclata*
- 9 Deep Yellow Wood *Rhodospheera rhodanthema*
- 10 Saffron Heart *Halfordia kendack*
- 11 Native Elderberry *Sambucus australasica*
- 12 Hairy Bush-pea / Eggs & Bacon *Pultenaea villosa*
- 13 White Yiel-Yiel/Hill's Silky Oak *Grevillea hilliana* [Yiel-Yiel]
- 14 Barbed Wire Grass *Cymbopogon refractus*
- 15 Nardoo *Marsilea mutica* [Nardoo]

... continued on page 15

The Barung Family

BARUNG VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Vice President	Peter Stevens
Secretary	Lin Fairlie
Treasurer	David Binstead
Committee Members	Eric Anderson
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Sustainable Landuse Officer & more	Jonathan Waites
Maleny Wood Expo Coordinator	Steve McLeish
Editor, <i>Barung News</i> and <i>The CODLine</i>	Eve Witney

And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members

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