

BARUNG

LANDCARE NEWS

October-November
2010



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Barung Landcare

PO Box 1074

Maleny QLD 4552

ph 07 5494 3151

fax 07 5494 3141

info@barunglandcare.org.au

nursery@barunglandcare.org.au

contracting@barunglandcare.org.au

www.barunglandcare.org.au

Our opportunity as members of the wider Maleny community to walk the Maleny Community Precinct land, to delve in the soil, to connect with the land, and to plant the first trees on this remarkable site that will play so significant a role in Maleny's future ...

Come share in celebrating Barung's 21st Birthday
at the Maleny Community Precinct
cnr Porters and Obi Lanes, Maleny, on

Saturday 23rd October
at the

Inaugural COMMUNITY TREEPLANT

8:00 am - 11:00 am

followed by

Barung's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Induction and orientation will be provided about one week before the event. Keep an eye on the Barung website for parking arrangements. Early registrations will help with Barung's planning for the events.

Please indicate your intention to attend either or both the Community Treeplant and Barung's AGM by

- registering online at www.barunglandcare.org.au and locating each of the events in the scrollable calendar listing, or
- phoning Barung on 5494 3151, or
- emailing info@barunglandcare.org.au, or
- filling out a registration form at the Barung Resource Centre.

Supported by Barung Landcare,
Maleny District Green Hills Fund,
and Sunshine Coast Council.



COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT WORKSHOPS

by Jonathan Waites

The *Community Action Grant – Engaging Landholders* grant secured by Barung is all about building capacity among community members to achieve improved biodiversity and habitat protection outcomes. Using these grant funds we will running five workshops and a community treeplant this financial year.

So far we have held a 'Tree/Weed ID Workshop' (reported on in the last *Barung News*), a Native Seed Collection/Propagation Workshop and a Revegetation Planning/Preparation Workshop.

Our Nursery Manager, Wayne Webb, ably assisted by our Assistant Nursery Manager, Dawn Worthington, took a keen group of members, volunteers and apprentices through the intricacies of native seed collection and showed us some of the tricks of preparing seed to ensure a high rate of propagation success. Topics covered included collecting, drying, cleaning, seed types, seed maturity, storing, propagating, employing environmentally ethical collection practices, and keeping records.

Reveg planning tips

The Revegetation Planning and Preparation Workshop was held on Judith Morris's property off Burgum Rd where several areas are being revegetated. Matthew Bateman (Team Leader, Barung Contracting Services) took us through the principles of planning and preparing a site for revegetation, illustrating the discussion with examples from the work at hand.

Matthew covered a range of topics including things to consider when selecting a site, the importance of establishing project objectives early in the planning stages, the importance of having an overall property management plan of which the revegetation plan is just one component, and issues to consider when preparing the site.

*Nursery Manager Wayne Webb with Julia Parker at the Native Seed Collection and Propagation Workshop.
[Photo by Jono Waites]*

*To the folks at Barung,
Many thanks to Wayne for
the Weed ID Workshop last
week – it was a real help.
Thank you!
Amanda Kennedy*

TRAILER JUST LIKE NEW...

by Jonathan Waites

The Barung trainees have turned their hands to removing the rusted-out floor from an old trailer at the George St Community Nursery and preparing it for getting a replacement floor at a trailer repairer in Caloundra. This involved a great deal of work with a small angle grinder but we now have a very useful 8 x 4 trailer with a canopy for moving plants about without them becoming wind burnt.

Many thanks to Ian who brought his welder and cut-off machine in last week to facilitate the building of new benches. This was practice for the many new benches we will need for our new nursery at the Precinct!

Some key points to take home included:

Observation – Take the time to get to know your property. Walk over it often, take photographs, and make notes. Notice what you can't readily explain and wonder 'Why?'

Property Management Plan – **Do one!** And then refer to it often, whenever you are about to make a decision that has land management implications. Also review it – regularly. This is probably the single most important thing you can do on your property; do it at whatever level of complexity suits your purpose. This means looking into the future and asking 'What if?'

Keep records – Photos are easy to take and great to look back on. They also tend to be more reliable than memories!

Future workshops

Workshops on 'Revegetation Planting and Maintenance', 'Soil Health' and possibly 'Horse Management for Small Properties' are being planned.

Please contact Barung Landcare (5494 3151) to add your name to the Expression of Interest list if you are interested in attending any of these. We will contact you when we have settled on dates. I can be contacted on the same number if you'd like more information on the workshops.

If there are other topics you would like to explore please contact me and we can discuss them.





PROGRESS AT THE PRECINCT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Eric Anderson

A year has come and gone in the 'top job' and the honeymoon was quickly over. It had started with the promise of locating the nursery on our permanent site on the Maleny Precinct – it's getting closer.

Most promising was that we were allocated an area of land in June 2010 when the final Maleny Community Precinct master plan was adopted by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.

However our new location differs from that identified on our original development application, and as all studies carried out to date are specific to the former location they will need to be redone. We have engaged a town planner to help us progress.

Our next task is to finalise our lease boundaries so that we can negotiate an Agreement to Lease which will be current for three years. During this period we will be required to meet certain milestones prior to receiving a full lease for a longer period.

In the short term Council has granted approval for us to move a couple of containers onto the closed road reserve area at the end of Obi Lane behind the bales area and to move a demountable shed with solar panels into the middle of our proposed lease area.

As you can see from the picture above we now have access to the proposed Barung site on the Precinct. Privet was cleared from the road verge to open the way and gates were installed.

In the very near future these gates will provide our access for the Community Treeplant and Barung's AGM, as well as ongoing maintenance and the erection of the transportable shade shed.

Thanks to Matthew and Jonathan who worked with Maleny Xcav8, David Lowden Tree Services and SCC for getting things started.

Invitation to Treeplant and AGM

Our AGM on Saturday 23rd October will be located at our site on the Precinct. Please consider nominating for the management Committee. For further information about the operation of the committee contact me (5445 7965) or call in and see our manager, Darryl Ebenezer, at our office at the Riverside Centre.

Prior to the AGM we will be holding, in partnership with Green Hills and Sunshine Coast Council, a community tree planting on the Precinct followed by a 'sausage sizzle' (see article on the front page of this issue). This is our first chance to rehabilitate rainforest on this important site and enhance the area's biodiversity. So do mark this date in your calendar and join us in this celebratory tree planting.

Landcare Conference

On another topic, Barung was well represented at the recent successful Queensland Landcare Conference in Caloundra that was opened by Penny Wensley, the Governor of Queensland. Her address was a powerful endorsement of the Landcare movement and a call to us all to continue the important work we are doing in view of the continuing loss of habitat and climate change.

The opportunity to work with people from Landcare Qld, QWALC, SEQC, SCC and Noosa Landcare was wonderful. Our Barung staff also made a significant contribution to the conference planning, through Darryl and setting up by Steve, Jonathan, Matt, Mim, Wayne and Dawn. Helped by our two Green Army participants and our four apprentices we moved more than 600 shrubs, pots and other bits of vegetation into the Sunshine Coast Function Centre. It made the conference look very green. Thanks guys, you did us all proud.

**Keep an eye on the Barung website
for upcoming events and new features:
www.barunglandcare.org.au**

**Donations to the
Barung Environmental Gift Fund
are TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

HOW IS A NATIVE BEE LIKE A POTTED PLANT?

GEORGE ST COMMUNITY NURSERY

by Kate Brooks

A few weeks ago I was watching some tiny little native honey bees sitting around the opening to their hive. It was 9 am and I was wondering why they hadn't left yet to explore the day. I sat there, rugged up in my jumper and jeans, watching as they edged closer to the door then scampered back inside. None of them dared to leave. Now why was this? Were they sick or just plain lazy? In a quest to make sure that the whole colony wasn't in peril I went on a search for answers and found out that, much like me, they were just a bit on the chilly side. Winter will do that to you. In fact, these little bees can't forage properly if the temperature is below 17 degrees Celsius, and prolonged periods of cold weather can cause hives to run out of food.

Now how is a native bee like a potted plant? It's not a riddle. It's a fact. Just about everything slows down in the cold... except for a dog sled... but that's off topic. I have been willing my seed trays all winter to grow seedlings faster, but to no avail.

Finally on the first day of September the temperature crept up and the sun shone down to reveal a beautiful Spring day on the Sunshine Coast. My once stagnant tube stock has sprung into life and finally the new George Street Community Nursery has had its first Spring babies!

We only have a small number of vollies so far but we have been working extra hard sowing and sorting seeds and now finally pricking out and potting up. Big thanks to George Street Community Nursery's vollies, Barry Plumb, Phillip Simpson, Steve Davey, Jodie Siddons and Darrin Stevens, for all your hard work and enthusiasm. Our progress has also been helped by the wonderful Barung Landcare trainees, Smart City and Caloundra High students. I'd like to thank Dawn Worthington from the Barung Nursery for the friendly visit and advice the other day as well as also congratulating the whole team on a job well done in regards to the plant displays that were set up for the Queensland Landcare Conference in Caloundra recently.

On a final note we are still on the lookout for more vollies! So if you live on the Coast and are willing to donate a small portion



Spring babies showing their merry little faces at the George St Community Nursery: Homalanthus nutans, Sambucus australasica, Araucaria cunninghamii, Lomatia silaifolia, Lomandra longifolia, Glochidion sumatranum.

[Photo by Kate Brooks]

of your time to help produce beautiful native plants, come in and see us! We are also able to take Centrelink-approved people so don't delay – phone Kate on 0457 498 544.

NATIONAL TREE DAY PLANTING

by Diana O'Connor

On National Tree Day for Schools, 30th July, a tree planting run by the local Russell Family Park Community Revegetation Group, in partnership with Barung and Sunshine Coast Council, was organised in Russell Family Park at Montville.

About 165 children from the Montville State Primary School came across the road in class groups, with encouraging teachers, to plant trees. Holes had been dug in preparation by Barung staff. This allowed the children, assisted by members of the community, to plant more than 470 plants. These included rainforest trees, an area of Piccabeen Palms in a moist gully, and a bank of casuarinas – food trees for the Glossy Black-cockatoo.

Sunshine Coast Councillor Jenny MacKay, State Member Andrew Powell, and Leanne Michell representing the Montville Village Association attended an opening ceremony.

The weather smiled on us and the children's enthusiasm was obvious. I am sure they will remember this event warmly and hopefully they will visit the park to watch the progress of their trees.



From the right, Andrew Powell, Jenny McKay, Leanne Michell and Diana O'Connor with Montville State School children planting the first trees.

[Photo by Louise Boyland]

CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING AT 2010 STATE LANDCARE CONFERENCE

by Diana O'Connor

I recently attended the Queensland Landcare Conference in Caloundra, organised in considerable part by Barung. It was an excellent program and most enjoyable and informative. Our nursery's plants graced the venue.

Our Governor and Patron, the Hon Penny Wensley, gave a most pertinent address. She called for greater community involvement in the Landcare Movement, while highlighting the high standing we have in Australia and internationally and noting that Queensland Landcare was the first organisation of its kind 21 years ago. She is clearly very committed to the Landcare movement and had strong words of encouragement for us in the present state of apathy from our state government. She believes our grassroots approach in Landcare is very valuable in delivering on-ground outcomes, with local people aware of local needs and willing to give many hours of voluntary labour caring for the land to deliver these outcomes.

There are at present fewer groups than were active in Queensland a decade ago, clearly due to the decrease in funding allocated to Landcare groups by the State and Commonwealth Governments. She considers this a situation we need to work hard to address, by lobbying governments to support Landcare in practical ways. She urged us to be involved in linking environmental sustainability with schools programs.

The funding of large regional projects in the last 'Caring for Country' round of funding starved small groups of vital resources which they need for efficient delivery of their projects and, in many cases, their viability.

In his address the Hon Stephen Robertson, Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, announced a budget of \$150 000 for this year for Landcare across the whole of Queensland! Our own Sunshine Coast Council has an equivalent budget of three times this amount, so it is clear our State Government puts no value on the work of Landcare. When you think of what is spent making one kilometre of new road, it becomes clear that this amount is insulting. Neither does Minister Robertson appear to realise the massive challenges faced by the natural environment at this stage of our and the earth's history in the areas of soil degradation, weeds, biodiversity loss, climate change and population growth. We all rely for our existence on the services performed by soils and vegetation, insects and other species, to feed us, give us clean water, fertilise our crops, and so on.

Many of the papers at the conference highlighted these and other subjects and were most informative and stimulating.

Darryl Ebenezer gave a paper on the practicalities of steering a large Landcare group through the present difficult times.

Please consider lobbying the Government for practical support of Landcare in this state of ours. We need to get active.

COOLOOLA LAUREL *Cryptocarya macdonaldii*

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Cryptocarya spp. (Lauraceae Family) are must-have trees for those wishing to attract birds to their properties. Many rainforest birds, such as the Wompoo and Rose-crowned Fruit-doves and Green Cat Bird, eagerly seek the fruit of *Cryptocarya macdonaldii* and others of the genus. The various native laurels, which also include species of *Litsea*, *Neolitsea*, *Beilschmiedia* and *Endiandra*, may ripen their fruit at different times of the year, and may produce heavy crops some years and not others. Hence it is important to include a number of different species in rainforest plantings to provide an ongoing food source for the local birds. Cooloola Laurel, and others in this group, is also a host plant for some of our beautiful butterflies such as the Blue Triangle.

It is a useful tree for revegetation work, being hardy in full sun and moderately fast growing, and its bushy nature makes it suitable for edge plantings. *Cryptocarya macdonaldii* is an attractive small to medium sized bushy tree which can grow to 20 metres. Young foliage may be reddish, turning a bright green before maturing to a darker green. Leaves are simple, alternate, and elliptic to oblanceolate in shape.

Cooloola Laurel occurs in a range of rainforest habitats north from the Tallebudgera Valley, including in lowland rainforest, moister areas of drier rainforests, and subtropical rainforests. Local examples may be found in Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve and along McCarthy's Road, Bridge Creek Road and Delicia Road. It is adaptable to a range of soil types.

Small yellowish flowers are carried in panicles in leaf axils during summer. These are followed by ellipsoid green fruit which turn black when ripe, usually in autumn to winter. Fruit are a drupe 10 to 12 mm in diameter, and contain a single seed.

Cryptocarya macdonaldii is readily propagated from fresh seed. Collect fruit once they have turned black and soak overnight (or up to a week) to kill any grubs. Gently squeeze the seeds out of the fruit, rinse in a sieve under running water, and sow evenly in seed trays. Just cover the seeds and keep moist, but not too wet. Germination time will depend on temperature, but should occur in two or three months.

Growth habit (right) and foliage and immature fruit (below) of *Cryptocarya macdonaldii*.

[Photos by Wayne Webb]



LANDCARE WEEK

by Jonathan Waites

Our contribution to Landcare Week was little low-key this year, mainly due to our organising commitment to the State Landcare Conference which was held the following week. However we did manage to hold one event and one workshop (reported elsewhere) which was attended by an interested group of local landholders.

As you may have seen reported in the Range News we ran our second Energex Junior Landcare Activity Day on the Obi Obi Ck at the Maleny State Primary School. A very enthusiastic Year 5 and 6 composite class planted 350 native tubes which will enhance older plantings implemented by past classes in this area of the school grounds. ENERGEX sponsors these Activity Days which are coordinated by Landcare Queensland in partnership with the local Landcare group.

Barung Contracting Services and our four horticultural apprentices carried out the site preparation several weeks beforehand. The apprentices also helped out on the planting day, assisting students and generally ensuring that all flowed smoothly. Oskar Cafarella (who just can't keep out of water) also helped collect water samples for the macroinvertebrate testing segment of the day. The diversity of macroinvertebrate species identified by the students indicated that the water quality in this section of the Obi is of a high standard.

Justin Ward, Project Coordinator for Landcare Queensland said, 'Energex Junior Landcare days provide children with the opportunity to learn about their environment in a hands-on way. By getting out into the outdoors, planting trees and learning from their local Landcare group, we hope to help nurture a new generation of Landcarers.'

We are grateful for all funding of this nature as it allows us the opportunity to work with our local schools and their students to raise the environmental awareness of current and future generations.

Jessica Webb (daughter of Wayne, our Nursery Manager) having a closer look at a critter out of the creek.



Macro critters are hard to find in muddy water!

[Photos by Jonathan Waites]

LETTERS FROM CLASS 5/6B

Maleny State School

17 September 2010

Dear Jonathan

Many thanks for all your efforts in organising the Energex Junior Landcare Day at our school. The children all had a wonderful day and learnt a great deal from the experience.

The success of the day was largely due to the combined efforts of the Barung Landcare Team, Landcare Queensland and of course the generosity of Energex. An extra special thank you for running the Water Quality Testing at such short notice. The children were extremely impressed with their findings and didn't stop talking about it for days.

We can all be truly grateful that we have such enthusiastic and dedicated members of the community supporting our State Schools. Please convey a huge thank you to all your team for providing us with such an enjoyable and rewarding day.

Kindest regards, Anne Dougan (Teacher 5/6B)

Dear Barung Landcare

I would like to thank you and the other members of Energex for coming to our school and showing us about helping the environment. It was very fun planting but hard work. I learnt a lot during the process and I might tryout when I'm older.

Yours sincerely, Max Durham

Dear Oskar

I really liked planting the trees and finding the Macroinvertebrates. It was Very, Very, Very good fun. Thank you for coming. I enjoyed it.

From Thomas Lewis

Dear Jonno

Thank you very much for organising the planting and water-testing day for us. I enjoyed it very much and my favourite part was the water-testing.

Thank you again, Jessica Webb

Dear Jonathan

Thank you for doing water quality testing with me on such short notice. I really enjoyed looking for macroinvertebrates. On what the evidence told us the Obi Obi creek water looks like it is excellent quality. I really enjoyed looking through the microscope, I have never done that before. Planting trees was also a great experience. I learnt how to put up tree guards. Thank you for the experience.

From Arielle Kempner

**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.

POSITIVE INVESTING

by Jono Bateman

Conservation Volunteers Australia

"Dads are all just bastards anyway," said the young bloke as he swung the mattock down hard into the clayish soil.

"I wouldn't know, I've never had one," said his mate.

"Happy Fathers' Day," I thought to myself. I wondered if some of these kids would ever get to say this with sincerity or hear it said to them in their lifetime.

This was the Monday after Fathers' Day this year. The rain had just cleared and it was a good time to plant. I had a group of 'National Green Jobs Corp' participants working on a small revege project down at Baroon Pocket near the Bunya Dreaming site.

What I was hearing was typical of the banter that rattles between these young adults while they're out there "havin' a go" and participating in this latest round of Federally funded youth training programs.

Conservation Volunteers Australia's local Maleny office has teamed up for six months with Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group to provide 20 unemployed youths between the ages of 17 to 24 with employment and 'life skills' experience.

With the encouragement and support of the good-hearted people who have invited us onto nature refuges like Dilkusha, Bariya, Beechwood, Manduka and Egertons and the Bunya Dreaming site, I am hopeful that these kids will find at least some answers to their difficult lives in Mother Nature herself.

For sure, some of the crew in this program are focussed on and completely embracing the opportunity to engage in the conser-

vation and land care industry. But for most of them, this is one of the few positive things that has happened to them since who knows when.

For above all, it's positives that these young adults need.

Positives like...

- Turning up for work every day on the beautiful banks of lower Obi Obi Creek instead of "hangin' out" at Maccas
- Engaging in meaningful conversation about our environment and discovering that everything has its place
- Pulling back the weeds and discovering new life
- Swinging a mattock and raising a sweat
- Looking out for one another and working together
- Having a male role model
- And feeling that warm inner glow that comes from feeling proud and having a sense of achievement.

Some of these young crew may not realise it, not yet, but I know that in six months' time something will have shifted inside them.

Something that guides the decisions they make about their futures.

And their friends' futures.

And their children's futures.

It gives me hope that the earth's future still has a chance... because there was a kid out there whose future looked bleak... until someone gave him a chance.

National Green Jobs Corp participants line up with CVA & LBCCG.
[Photo by Jono Bateman]



BARUNG NEWS FOR THE SIGHT IMPAIRED

Would you prefer to HEAR the *Barung News*? Barung can supply the *Barung News* in an appropriate format for running through your 'text to speech' software.

The reallocation of resources that previously went into mailing out a printed newsletter to every member has enabled Barung staff to provide a more customised approach to delivering information to our members.

To request the *Barung News* in a format that works better for you, contact Denis Lalor at Barung on den@barunglandcare.org.au or 5494 3151.

Electronic news a help

Hello Den,

Thank you. As a blind person, it's great to be able to access an electronic copy of the newsletter that my computer can "read" to me. What you do is much appreciated.

Terry Boyle

ALWAYS VARIED

by Ian Krosch

Since starting with Barung we, the Barung Trainees, have been given a wide and varied range of tasks to perform. We have provided revegetation preparation and planting assistance at Russell Family Park in Montville. We have helped prepare and, with students, plant an area alongside the Obi as part of the Energex Junior Landcare Day activities at Maleny State Primary School. We've erected electric fencing to exclude stock from the first public treeplant on the Maleny Precinct as well as collected soil samples for testing from these sites.

We have also contributed to the establishment of the Maple St Co-op Garden in Bicentenary Lane. We have shifted a water tank, fenced some of the area, built one vegetable garden bed, and prepared five spots for fruit trees.

We are all learning many new skills and are excited about working on the new Barung Nursery at the Precinct.

GEORGE ST NURSERY

by Luke Symons

As Barung trainees we've been working one day a week at Barung's George St Nursery in Caloundra, helping to develop and expand the site into a self-sufficient, fully functional nursery to accompany the Barung Nursery at Porters Lane, Maleny.

The other trainees and I have dismantled and removed an ageing shadehouse, relocating its large bench to the nursery's primary shadehouse to increase the holding space by one third. We have also constructed metal benches from scratch to create a practical working area while at the same time filling in a dangerous fall hazard. Other ways we have helped expand the nursery have been by digging a new runoff pond, re-graveling water-affected areas, and spraying weeds. We've also supported the nursery's productivity by collecting and sorting various types of seed, fire/smoke treating seeds, creating potting mix, and planting seedlings.

All in all I have enjoyed my time at the George St Nursery greatly and have enjoyed watching it develop at an excellent rate.

ECOLOGY CONFERENCE

by Neal Rolley

I attended the Ecology Conference run by Noosa Landcare at Pomona on 21st July. The conference started off with a brief introduction on the principle of Ecology. I enjoyed how the speaker kept returning to the concept that everything is interlinked and that we must find a way to maintain and reinforce our linkage with nature, both mentally and physically.

Dealing with SEQ's major invasive weed species was addressed next. It was pointed out that some invasive weeds, such as lantana, also provide some benefits, such as shelter and food, to local wildlife, and that replacing these resources needs to be considered when removing weeds.

We were then introduced to endangered plant species in the SEQ region such as the King Fern *Todea barbara* and the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Vine *Aristolochia praevenosa*. After a delightful morning tea, we consider further endangered species, such as the Mary River Cod and Coxen's Fig-parrot.

The take-home message was to be mindful that all that surrounds us is interlinked and we must try to maintain our linkage with that which we care for most.

INSPIRED AT THE NURSERY

by Oskar Cafarella

During my experience undergoing Barung's new traineeship program in horticulture, endless insightfully educating events have been taking place. To dwell deeply on the areas of our delightful new occupation I would need to write a novel. So I will focus on one of our activities to exemplify our new line of work: the 'temporary' Barung Nursery in Porters Lane.

When we first arrived we were welcomed in an informative and direct manner. The cooperativeness of the employees and volunteers helped us to slide into the business like we'd been working there for years. The classical music emanating from the radio enhances a positive and lively environmental work space. With the great one-on-one advice from the skilled personnel plus the numerous workshops we've attended, we've been able to enhance our current skills and even develop new ones! We've been delving into plant propagation, weed control, seed collection, and seed and plant identification. After my inspiring studies in horticulture as a trainee I hope to continue working with the environment and for the environment as it is a feel-good job with great results.



Maple St Coop Garden

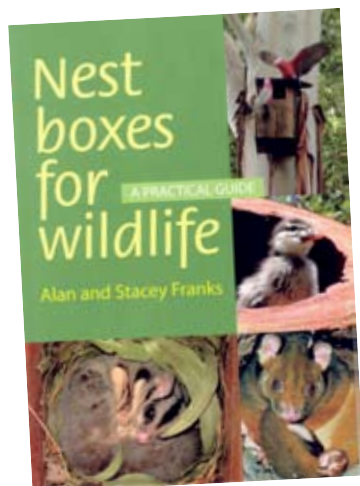
by Jonathan Waites

The Crew (Ian, Luke, Oskar and Neal, above, after a hard day in the Coop Garden) have made a start on establishing a garden at the back of the Maple St Coop. We have prepared spots for dwarf citrus trees and a raised bed for vegies. An area has been fenced in an attempt to deter the mulch-loving brush turkey. We will begin planting very soon. A small tool shed has been purchased and will soon be erected on the site which will allow us to purchase and store tools and materials on-site, enabling us to return more often. We also hope to set up some compost bins in the near future which will be accessible from the footpath for community members to 'donate' compostable material.

GREAT REFERENCES AT THE BARUNG BOOKSHOP

BOOK REVIEWS by Pam Watson

Nest Boxes for Wildlife: A practical guide by Alan and Stacey Franks (2006)



Anyone with basic carpentry skills can build a nest box and be rewarded by the pleasure of watching the activities of the wildlife that takes up residence, and also by the knowledge that they are contributing to the conservation of this wildlife. A nest box makes an unusual and thoughtful gift for a nature-loving friend, a source of pleasure for nursing home residents or hospital patients, or an interesting challenge for a school conservation project.

This book is the result of five years' research into wildlife boxes and the needs and habits of hollow-dependent fauna. It is designed to help you build, install and monitor your own wildlife boxes and hopefully derive enjoyment from them while doing something positive to help the environment. It offers practical insights into the types of nest boxes favoured by different species and contains detailed plans, FAQs, three delightful poems, coloured photographs, an appendix of scientific and common names, monitoring sheets, references and further reading, an index and many interesting wildlife asides. Soft cover, 72 pages, \$22.50.

Rocks and Landscapes of the Sunshine Coast by Warwick Willmott (2007)

Rocks and Landscapes of the National Parks of Southern Queensland by Warwick Willmott (2004)

If you want to understand the present rock formations, minerals, soils, topography, vegetation and the present use of land on the Sunshine Coast and parts of southern Queensland then these books are for you. They are non-technical guides to the geological history and rocks and how these have influenced the landscape we see and human activities within this landscape. The Sunshine Coast edition includes the Gympie District and contains a history of the intriguing Glass House Mountains area and the Cooloola Sand Mass as well as details on landslides on the plateaux of Maleny-Mapleton and Buderim.

Both books contain coloured photographs, maps, line drawings, a glossary, further reading and, in the case of the second book, an index of eighty parks and reserves (from NSW border to Bundaberg), which includes our local Conondale National Park and Forest Reserve, Buderim Forest Park, Glasshouse NP, Kondalilla NP, Mapleton Falls NP, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Mooloolah River NP, and Noosa NP amongst many others. The books are both soft cover, the first 66 pages and \$13.50 and the second 162 pages and \$20.50.



BOOK REVIEWS by Lin Fairlie

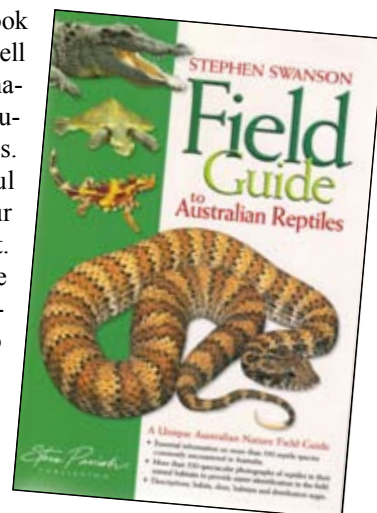
Field Guide to Australian Reptiles

by Stephen Swanson (2007)

The Complete Field Guide to Dragonflies of Australia by John Hawking & Gunther Theischinger (2006)

The Barung Bookshop is stocking these two comprehensive Field Guides from Steve Parish Publishing.

The **Australian reptiles** book contains excellent photos as well as a table on each page summarising the size, habitat, distribution and range of each species. Distribution maps are useful when deciding whether your identification could be correct. Some juvenile specimens are also included in the collections of photos. There is also a small but very useful section on how to treat snakebite. Interesting facts, such as 'the largest Tiger Snakes inhabit the Bass Strait islands' are also included. It seems those



on Mount Chappell Island grow to more than two metres in length – one would not want to meet one on a field ramble. Soft cover with protective plastic sleeve, 376 pages, \$45.

Now for a more people friendly group – the **dragonflies** – even though the close-up photos make them look anything but friendly. The beautiful photos are labelled as either male or female and adult or juvenile. There are also diagrams of mouthparts which aid in the identification of many species. The larval photos can be useful if you want to use dragonfly nymphs to aid in water quality assessment. The introduction is a very informative chapter about habitats, nymphs and adults, parts of the body, and use of body structures in identification. Soft cover with protective plastic sleeve, 272 pages, \$45.

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SATIN BOWERBIRD

RAINFOREST BIRDS by Eric Anderson

The Satin Bowerbird is known for the male bird's habit of removing jewellery, keys and so on from houses, vehicles and camps, especially blue items like pegs or biro tops. Bowerbirds are usually noticed hopping or walking over the ground, bouncing vigorously along or leaping between branches.

The males mainly call from high, exposed branches above or near the bower. They utter a variety of harsh churring, buzzing, wheezing and rattling notes, but both sexes also mimic the vocalisations of other birds such as the Australian Magpie, White-browed Scrubwren and Lewin's Honeyeater.

Satin Bowerbirds are endemic to mainland eastern Australia. They are distributed mostly on the Great Divide from about Gladstone to the Otway Ranges in Victoria. Another population occurs from north of Townsville to about Cooktown. Throughout their range, they are found mainly in rainforest and the edges of sclerophyll forest. They are also found in modified habitats such as urban parks and gardens, orchards and farmland.

This is a stocky bowerbird, 28–34 cm long, with a thick neck and short, heavy bill (largely covered with feathers at the base) which gives the bird a rather small-headed appearance. It has a shortish tail with a rounded tip and very long, powerful legs with feathered thighs.

The sexes differ markedly in adult plumage. When mature the male has glossy blue-black plumage; gleaming lilac to sapphire-blue eyes; and a short, thick bill that is creamy yellow to bone toward the tip with a bluish-green base. The feet are light green-brown with a yellow tint. In contrast, the female is mostly greenish above, with olive-brown wings and tail. Her underparts are buff to cream, with spotted dark olive-grey to dusky grey markings at the throat and scalloped markings on the breast and belly. Her eye is also lilac-blue, but her bill is dark grey-brown. Her legs and feet are similar to those of the male.

The immature male looks like an adult female. In the third year, juvenile males develop a richer green throat, and in the fourth year a solid green band across the breast. Through the fifth and sixth years dark blue or black feathers begin to appear, and full overall blue-black adult plumage is usually attained in the sixth or seventh years.

Satin Bowerbird female (below) and bower (top right).

[Photos by Eric Anderson]



Males build neat avenue-bowers aligned north-south, typically with two parallel walls woven from erect sticks. At one end of the bower will be an extensive platform decorated with flowers, feathers, berries and a variety of man-made objects – mostly blue but occasionally green or yellow. Females show a preference for particular males, especially those with well-built and well-decorated bowers. As soon as a female enters and squats in the avenue the male launches into an extraordinary performance of stiff-legged prancing and bounding around the bower in exaggerated postures of aggression and begging, while emitting churring, scolding and hissing sounds. The birds mate in the avenue.

Bower-owning males often visit other bowers and attempt to damage them or steal the decorations. Immature males also build bowers, but these rarely last the assaults of their mature bower-building rivals.

Breeding occurs mainly from October to February. The male takes no part in nest building or other nest duties as he is much too occupied some distance away at the bower. The nest is located 2–15 m above the ground, usually in a fork near the top of and close to the trunk of a tree. It is an untidy shallow bowl or saucer of thin sticks and twigs lined with green and dry leaves. Usually two eggs are laid (occasionally one or three). The female undertakes the 21–22 day incubation and subsequent nestling care on her own.

Satin Bowerbirds eat a wide variety of fruit, as well as some leaves, flowers, nectar and animal material. When natural food is scarce they will forage in gardens, crops and orchards, and sometimes cause serious damage to soft fruit and vegetable crops. They can be a nuisance in gardens at times, shredding or stealing flowers and leaves and eating seedlings, but are great characters to have about. Any bird that forages small chillies from our garden has got to be hot stuff to have for a neighbour!

Glossy Black-Cockatoo Birding Day - 2010



The aim of the 2010 survey is to assess the Glossy Black-Cockatoo population across south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales.

When: **Sunday 31 October 2010**

Where: **SEQ and northern NSW**

Workshops prior to the day will prepare you for participating in the survey. Register your interest with the regional coordinator, Conor Jenkins (SCRC), on 5499 5142 or conor.jenkins@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

MARY WATERWATCH VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED

by Ian Mackay

Waterwatch sector representative on the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

More than a decade of water monitoring on the Mary River was recognised when MRCCC's Steve Burgess made a presentation at the state Landcare Conference in Caloundra recently. Steve paid enormous tribute to the volunteers, local residents, schools and primary producers who test water quality at over sixty sites in the river and tributaries on a monthly basis. He said that as a result of this testing, as well as that carried out by its staff, MRCCC has been able to build up a set of widespread, long-term ambient data that has provided a much better understanding of the river.

"It's an impressive volume of information we've been able to gather about the river," he said, "but the best thing has been bringing all these extra pairs of eyes to the river, on a regular basis, observing weeds, wildlife and seasonal changes. And you can never underestimate the effect of people 'bonding' with their bit of the river."

Six different Waterwatch networks cover the river from Maleny to Maryborough with standardised water testing kits doing each circuit once a month. Volunteers test temperature, pH, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity as well as monitoring waterweeds such as water hyacinth and salvinia.

This year's Queensland Landcare state conference marked the twenty-first birthday for Landcare in Queensland. Organised at very short notice by Barung and others, the consensus was that it was an excellent few days of both looking back and looking forward as the Landcare movement in Queensland turned 21.

Steve was only just back from the conference when he and Glenda Pickersgill, from Save the Mary, headed for Mexico for the International Rivers Conference.

In the meantime though, Steve found time to be at the Vine and Cheese Campfire concert at Pickering Bridge, Moy Pocket, where he gave a world premiere of the new song he'd written about Queensland's Pineapple Rebellion. Sunshine Coast historian Stan Tutt tells the story of the August 1939 rebellion where he and 36 others actually took state cabinet hostage for several hours demanding a better deal for Queensland workers. The place for the first performance of Steve's song was totally apt as Stan Tutt grew up at Moy Pocket and lived but a couple of hundred metres from Pickering Bridge.



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WILDFLOWER WANDERINGS

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

We really should, members of garden clubs, everyone, grow more of our own flora. I recently enjoyed the SGAP Spring Wildflower Show at Mt Coot-tha, attended two of the events for the Sunshine Coast Council Spring Wildflower Festival and headed out to the granite belt and southern brigalow to photograph wattles.

At the SGAP (Society for Growing Australian Plants) event numerous named specimens were displayed in vases; every colour of the rainbow, blooms both large and small, single and in clusters. Shrubs with aromatic leaves, grown in Maleny I might add, were also on display and some of these were in addition notable for their flowers. Of course not all species were native to our region but neither are the majority of the 'standard' garden plants on offer. The nursery industry has to come on board too but we, the plant buyers, can set the direction by showing our preferences.

Out over the range, or at least on top of it and heading west, the best displays were in really tough and therefore uncleared country. Road cuttings were great if difficult places to stop, and mostly it was a case of finding somewhere safe to pull off and walking back. The most intensely purple hovea I've ever seen was discovered in company with a charming but prickly dwarf acacia and a sticky hop bush, all suitable for the garden.

Back in our region, *Phebalium woombye*, a delightful garden plant, is flowering now and is beginning to show colour. The green and red forms of *Melaleuca pachyphylla* are out and the blossom of *Melaleuca saligna* is attracting numerous birds.

I have been fascinated by the natural variation within single species, particularly noticeable in the wattles. *Acacia hubbardiana*, for example, is a dense but sprawling shrub on Emu Mountain near Coolumb and a rather sparse, open shrub in the woodland of Ben Bennett Park, Caloundra. Growing conditions and light have a big impact on this species.

Acacia fimbriata was immensely variable along just one stretch of road and seemed to be even more variable on different soils. Flower colour ranged from palest cream to strong yellow with further variation in size of balls and density. This species was widespread whereas some other wattles had an extremely narrow range. Wattles large and small added splashes of vibrant colour to the road verges but were rarely seen beyond the fence lines.

Given the scarcity of wildflowers other than in roadside refuges, reserves or national parks, it really is a case of 'if we don't grow them, we'll never know them'.



Phebalium woombye.

[Photo by John Dillon]

SPLIT-GILL FUNGUS

FUNGAL FORAY by Gretchen Evans

Lately I have been finding Split-Gill fungus *Schizophyllum commune* at various locations. It is quite a pretty fungus which grows on a variety of dead wood in eucalypt forest, rainforest or exotic pine plantations. It occurs worldwide.

This fungus grows laterally attached to the wood and looks fan-shaped. It has velvety hairs above and gills radiating out below. The edge is lobed and hairy. The texture is dry and leathery. Split-gill fungus is greyish above but may be pinkish underneath.

The common name refers to how the gills are split and curve over to protect the spore-bearing area.

Do NOT pick Split-gill Fungus to smell it, because if the spores are inhaled into the lungs a serious illness can result.



*Note the characteristic 'split gills' underneath this Split Gill Schizophyllum commune found on decaying wood by the Obi Boardwalk.
[Photo by Fran Guard]*

New faces at Resource Centre

by Amelia Ross, The Office All-rounder

Over the last few months we have said goodbye to two office assistants, Sue and Judith, and welcomed three new volunteers to the Barung family – Kellie Anne Huddy, Margo Balfour and Jenny Fitzgibbons.

Kellie holds the fort with Annette on Tuesdays and keeps office operations rolling on Wednesdays. Kellie has a particular interest in gaining office experience and applying the skills she acquired in completing a Certificate III in Business Administration.

On Thursdays, instead of Judith and her Kiwi humour we have Margo Balfour cheering up the office. Margo is a voluntary volunteer who is contributing both at the Resource Centre and at the Nursery.

Jenny Fitzgibbons has also recently joined the growing Resource Centre family and is offering her Wednesday afternoons to tackle the various odd jobs that need attention around the Resource Centre.

Welcome and thank you to each of our new volunteers for your invaluable contributions to the organisation.

Welcome to our two new Green Army Workers

The first day of Spring also saw the arrival of our two new Green Army workers, Benoit Levesque and Andrew Robertson, who will be with us until early December.

Benoit has settled into the Resource Centre for the short term but will be applying his industrious nature to other areas of the organisation over the next two and a half months.

Andrew Robertson will be spending most of his time in the capable hands of Dawn and Wayne at the Nursery. No doubt Andrew will be engrossed in learning all there is to know about local native plants from the combined wisdoms of the entity known as 'Dwayne'...

Welcome and good luck to both of these hardworking young men during their placement at Barung. Thanks also to the Hinterland Business Centre for sourcing workers through the Green Army program as the Barung family always enjoys the company of new workers who bring a fresh perspective.

NEW LANDHOLDERS GUIDE

The Third Edition of The Blackall Range Landholders Guide is currently in preparation, with Eve Witney as editor.

Many thanks to Baroon Pocket Catchment Care Group who are enabling the production of this updated edition.

WILDLIFE WALKS with SUSIE DUNCAN

Monday 11 October

Currimundi Lake Conservation Park

Wallum heathland & coastal landscape.
3 km on tracks. Easy grades. To approx. 3 pm.

Friday 19 November

Peters Falls, Conondale Range Great Walk

Eucalypt forest, rainforest, mountain streams.
8 km walk on track, easy–mod grades. To approx. 5 pm.

Monday 13 December

Booloumba Falls to Booloumba Ck campsite 3

Rainforest and eucalypt forest.
10 km walk on track, moderate to very steep downhill grades and one creek crossing (wading). To approx. 5 pm.

For all walks:

- Please book at Barung on **5494 3151**. No fee.
- Park in the public carpark behind Maleny IGA and meet at the Barung Office (next to Australia Post) at 8:45 am to car pool.
- Bring water, lunch, boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, binoculars, and togs if you wish to swim.

LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE SPACE

NURSERY NOTES by Dawn Worthington

The winter chill is not so strong, so it must mean that spring has arrived even though the winds are still here. You can always count on two things at this site: the first is the wind, and the second is that the wind will be here tomorrow.

With the apprentices on site we have been doing lots of tubing, so much so that we are fast running out of room, an ongoing problem in any nursery! It has been interesting to have up to 15 people here at the nursery at one time. The office gets a bit crowded at morning tea time, and we've found it is best to get in early for coffee or you might have to wait for the kettle to be reboiled – perhaps several times! We are all waiting to see how the new site works and are eagerly anticipating the increased space.

Welcome to our new Green Army placements. Benoit Levesque is at the office while we have Andrew Robertson here at the Nursery. We welcome you both and hope that your time with us is enlightening and that you learn lots about the life of a community organisation. Andrew has been doing an amazing job weeding under the benches and so forth. Now we can use the 'Hot Devil' Weedkiller which uses a flame rather than chemicals, we have had a rush of vollies wanting to use the 'flame thing'!

As I write we are madly organising plants for displays at the Queensland Landcare Conference, which is being held at the RSL Sunshine Coast Event Centre, Caloundra. It should be a great event and a fantastic chance to be with like-minded people. The annual conference brings together people from differing backgrounds who use the land in varied ways but who share the grassroots Landcare philosophy.

We gave away quite a number of plants to Nursery visitors on our 'Three Free Trees' day during Landcare Week. People who hadn't visited before were amazed by our views. As I keep saying, we're not THAT far out of town!

New Stock

In the farm gate sales area at the nursery we now have Blushing Beauty and Aurora in 140 mm pots, both retailing at \$9.50. We also have some Rainforest Pearl Finger Limes in 5 litre poly bags, retailing at \$35.00 each.

The Barung Nursery at Porters Lane stocks a varied range of plants. You can check out our current Retail Availability List of plants online through Barung's website: www.barunglandcare.org.au

As always, if you have any questions about plant identification, suitability or availability, please do not hesitate to contact Wayne or myself on the Barung Nursery number, 0429 943 152.

Plant Credit Program

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

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

If you are interested in this program, talk to Wayne or Dawn in the Nursery.

THANK YOU to...

... **Don Mitchell** for your donation of a large Panasonic TV

... **Michael Harper** for your donation of a whiteboard

Our fantastic seed collectors...

... **Carolyn Willadsen** for *Rhodamnia rubescens* and for pots

... **Fran Guard** and **Bob Philpot** for *Ficus coronata*

... **Diana O'Connor** for *Harpullia pendula* and *Syzygium coryanthium*

... **Ruth & Doug Blanch** for *Harpullia pendula* and *Syzygium* spp.

... **Clare Sluggett** for *Melaleuca thymifolia*

... **Susie Duncan** for species collected while bushwalking

... **Wayne Webb** for *Sambucus australasica*

... **Kenneth McClymont** for *Polyscias elegans*

... **Petrus Heyligers** for *Hovea acutifolia*

And also to...

... **Go Green Nursery** for your display plants included at the recent Queensland Landcare Conference at Caloundra

... **All the vollies** who are bring in goodies, with a special mention to **Doug & Ruth Blanch** and **Deanne Grace** who brings in lemons so I can juice them for the Lemon Meringue Pies that I try to make for birthday celebrations!

... **Alan Bannister** who is renovating our outdoor setting

... All those members who return tubes, pots and trays for reuse as these are a valuable resource

A special thanks to...

... those who have come and had a 'sticky' at the Nursery's new location on the Precinct, and for visiting us at the Nursery and passing on your many positive comments. So keep on coming – **we welcome everybody for a visit.**

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TUESDAY, THURSDAY

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EVENTS

TEN YEARS TO TRANSITION

Conversations about the risks and rewards for Queensland's economic sectors under climate change. Be part of a conversation with leading economists, industry leaders and international experts on the risks and rewards for Queensland's economy from climate change and climate policy.

When: Monday 18 October, 8.30am – 5.00pm
Where: Hilton Brisbane, Brisbane
Cost: \$300–\$400, depending on membership
More info: www.eianz.org

EARTH-COB BUILDING

at Bellbunya Community, Belli Park

Earth cob building is thought by many to be the most sustainable form of building; made from non-toxic site materials, requiring little or no machinery, highly insulating and long-lasting.

SEMINAR: 23 October, 7–9 pm, \$5

Presentation on the ecological, economic and social benefits of hands-on building with natural earth materials. Ideal for artists, architects, builders, building designers & home owner-builders.

WORKSHOP: 25–30 October, \$924

Focused on gaining council certification for home-owner builders, includes information for building certifiers. Cob basics from the footings to the ceiling of a useful small space with door, window, sink, tie-rods, timber, plywood bench and fittings. Five lunch-hour lectures by a QBSA Licensed Builder link each day's workshop to the mainstream Owner-Building regulations and their resolution. Cost includes full catering.

Web info: www.bellbunya.org.au
Person info: Alan on 0402 494 252 or
dippermdes@hotmail.com

WORM FARM WORKSHOPS

One worm farm, complete with worms, and one compost bin given away at each session! Free two hour workshops that will help residents recycle their organic waste at home will be presented in each Council division right up until June next year. Small sessions so bookings are essential. The Maleny session will be held at the Maleny Library on Thursday 4 November from 9.30–11 am. Other workshops are booked for Kawana, Yandina, Nambour, Cooroy, Caloundra, Noosa, Beerwah and Maroochydore.

To book: call Council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 007 272 or 5475 7272.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING TRAINING

When: November 23–24, 10 am – 4.30 pm
Where: Lake Kawana Community Centre

SEQ Catchments is extending an invitation to people interested in monitoring the health of waters in south-east Queensland. The training is an accredited Certificate III in Sampling Water, which sits under the Conservation Land Management training package. The training is 38 hour flexible delivery consisting of some working at your own pace and two days of face to face practical and theoretical sessions. Training offered free to community members who are willing to do monthly water monitoring.

RSVP by Friday 5 November to: Joadie Hardy via
jhardy@seqcatchments.com.au or 0409 006 532.

RESOURCES

RAINFOREST RESCUE NEWS now ONLINE

Rainforest Rescue has been protecting and restoring rainforests in Australia and internationally since 1998 by providing opportunities for individuals and businesses to Protect Rainforests Forever through planting, maintenance and restoration programs, as well as by purchasing and protecting high conservation value rainforest. Rainforest Rescue circulates a monthly email newsletter.

To find out more, log onto

www.rainforestrescue.org.au/newsletter

RIVERSTORY VIDEO ONLINE

Ian Mackay's 'Mary River Story' which was produced for the ABC's Riverstories can be viewed at:

www.pool.org.au/video/imackay/mary_riverstory

OPPORTUNITIES

YATES JUNIOR LANDCARE CHALLENGE

If you are under 16 years old, an individual or family, a class, school or part of a youth group, you can take part in the Yates Junior Landcare Challenge by competing to grow the tallest sunflower or the sunflower with the largest head, or by taking the most creative sunflower photo.

Register on the Yates Junior Landcare Sunflower Challenge website at www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au to receive your free giant sunflower seeds which you can plant in late October or early November and monitor your progress over the spring and summer months.

You will be required to log onto the Yates Junior Landcare Sunflower Challenge website once your flower has reached maturity to update the size of your giant sunflower and upload a photograph.

The final winners will be announced in March 2011.

RECYCLE MOBILE PHONES TO HELP SAVE GORILLAS

Pick up a satchel at Barung Landcare to post your old phone to Aussie Recycling Program. Affiliated charities are Fauna & Flora International and Australia Zoo.

LANDCARE KNOWLEDGE ARCHIVE

by Brett de Hayr, National Landcare Facilitator

The Landcare Knowledge Archive aims to begin the process of electronically recording knowledge that has been generated by the Landcare movement and making it centrally available to the public.

Landcare related groups are being urged to email a PDF copy of any relevant publication that they have produced over the last two decades which represents key knowledge they would like to make available through the archive to assist current and future generations of landcarers.

The material must be submitted by the group/individual responsible for its production.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07 3289 6295 or 0457 750 815 or brett.dehayr@nrm.gov.au

BARUNG WELCOMES ...

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Maria Beenders	Lindsay Thomas	Paul & Melissa Prociw
David Clark	Roman & Judy Berlak	Elaine & Mark Ricketts
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<i>Dawn Worthington</i>	Assistant Nursery Manager (Porters Lane)
<i>Kate Brooks</i>	P/T Nursery Manager (George St Community Nursery, Caloundra)

And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members

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<i>Matthew Bateman</i>	Team Leader
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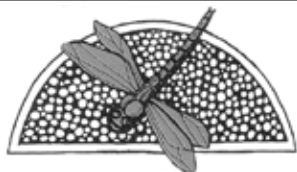
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Individual/family membership \$ 25 pa

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* and at Barung displays, and you are entitled to three free trees and discounts on plant purchases at the Nursery.

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