

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

October - November 2007



Threatened Species Day - the final day of Landcare Week 2007

by Lin Fairlie

This fascinating and inspiring day opened with a presentation on 'Introduced Reptiles' by Steve Wilson, well-known wildlife photographer and author and part-time Queensland Museum expert. He enlightened us about the Asian House Gecko (*see article on page 6*) and other introduced reptiles about which most of us were ignorant. Do you know about Flowerpot Snakes? Or the Red-eared Slider – a turtle brought in by the pet industry? Information about the latter will appear in the next newsletter.

Rid Kennedy and Lyn Boston from Bat Rescue spoke next. They gave us real insight into the threats facing these mammals. Amongst other things, we learnt the difference between the Grey-headed Flying-fox and the Black Flying-fox, the two most common species in our area. They also showed two samples of bird netting. One of these, the single strand netting, is often disastrous for bats. I felt very guilty, do you? The double strand bird netting is far more bat-friendly.

Rachel Lyons, Biodiversity Conservation Regional Coordinator for the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), launched the 'Planning for Threatened Species Recovery in the Burnett Mary' project. Barung is very involved in this project with Mim Coulstock working as part of the Project Team for the past 12 months (*see article on page 5*).

The Threatened Species Network Queensland coordinator, Rebecca Richardson, spoke about the Network and announced the approval of funding for an exciting new Barung Project (*see article on page 5*).

After lunch, Don Sands and Ray Seddon from the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network illustrated how the combination of science and community action can lead to outstanding results for the rehabilitation of threatened species. Don talked about effects of climate change on the butterfly while Ray described his work with the production of vines and the effects of planting vines in the urban environment on butterfly recovery. His knowledge of vine production is amazing. Do you ever see seed pods on any

of your vines? Keep an eye out and let Ray know via the Barung Office.

The afternoon concluded with Nick Clancy, Caloundra City Council's Land for Wildlife Officer, talking about the invaluable role that private landholders play in protecting habitat for threatened species. Nick also talked about mechanisms available for Caloundra City landholders that will have long-term ramifications for flora and fauna species that are considered under threat.

All together a wonderful day, as those of you who attended will agree. Write the 2008 Landcare Week dates into your diary as soon as they are announced, so that you too can access invaluable information about the fascinating area in which we live.



Above: Lin Fairlie with Ray Seddon and Don Sands of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Recovery Network

Below left: Lin thanks Carmel Givens, Ridley Kennedy and Lyn Boston from Bat Rescue

Below right: Eric Anderson from Birds Australia with Samara and Shantelle
[Photos: Fuschia]



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Opening Hours

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Barung Nursery & Resource Centre/Office

8.30 am - 4.00 pm

SATURDAY

Barung Nursery only

9.00 am - 12.00 pm

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Val Phillips)

Roman & Judy Berlak	Peter & Claire Wilson
David Gray	Anna Heriot
Jack Marsh	Janine & Ted Bennington
Andrew & Margie Ross	Cath Moran &
Nicola Price	John Kanowski
Sam Winton	Russ & Dawn Middlecoat
John Bateman	Amelia Pinter
Tony & Joy Moran	Craig & Linda Miller
Ed Surman	Linda Von Nida
Kathy Turner	Todd & Julie Fauser
Shane Hanning	Rosanna MacRae
Shelley Regan	

Welcome to new corporate sponsor:

Maleny Town & Country Supplies

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

DEADLINE - Wed 14th Nov

for Dec 2007 - Jan 2007

Newsletter contributions

Barung Landcare...



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

THANK YOU

Please keep showing your ...

Barung

Community Benefit key tags

... when shopping at Maleny IGA

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.

LANDCARE WEEK 2007

by Fuschia

What an outstanding week! Fabulous speakers, fabulous food and fabulous rain!!!

It was a wet week, to be sure, to be sure, but the calibre of speakers, and Jane's cooking, kept people coming through the door. It was great to host many of the presentations in the Maleny Community Centre, where it was more spacious and a little drier than at Barung!

Fortunately the weather was fine for the Obi Obi Boardwalk signage launch, treeplant and barbeque, but then the rain returned to courteously water in the 150 tubestock planted on the site.

From small farm equipment maintenance to plaster casts of large ant nests, from small snakes to large and venomous ones, from Rainforest Bushtucker to Rainforest Rescue, from small lizards to large butterflies and much more, we were intrigued and educated.

Thanks again to everyone. We hope to see more of our members supporting and enjoying this wonderful week next year.



From top:

Brianna Bond and Beverley Hand open Landcare Week 2007 [Photo: Darryl Ebenezer]

Jono from the Snake Show, a python, a dragon, and Ananda Marga River School students

Penny Smith, designer of the new Obi Obi Boardwalk signs. [Photo: Jan Tilden]

A spectacular new Obi Obi Boardwalk sign [Photo: Darryl Ebenezer]

150 new plants in the ground at the opening of the Obi Boardwalk signage [Photo: Darryl Ebenezer]



OBI OBI BOARDWALK SIGNAGE OFFICIAL OPENING AT LAST!

by Fuschia

The long-awaited Obi Obi Boardwalk Signage at the Coral Street entrance was officially unveiled on Tuesday 4 September by Paul McDonald, Department of Natural Resources and Water Regional Manager, Landscapes and Community Services.

The opening was also attended by Councillors Dick Newman and Anna Grosskreutz as well as many other community members.

These beautiful signs are the final outcome of a Barung project undertaken with funding from Community Natural Resource Awareness Activity Grants, Caloundra City Council, and NRMA Insurance. We hope they will be enjoyed by locals and tourists for many years to come.



ON THE PATH to SUSTAINABLE FARMS AND PROPERTIES

SUSTAINABLE LANDUSE by Jonathan Waites

So where do we start? Here are some ideas (inspired by the *Birds on Farms* report),

1. Local native vegetation should cover at least 30% of the total farm area.

This amount may at first seem excessive, but research indicates that this much is necessary to ensure the health of existing trees, halt problems such as soil deterioration, and maintain optimum long-term productivity. It is timely to draw your attention to the number of landslips in our local area following the recent marvellous rain. Trees on their own won't necessarily stop landslips occurring in every situation, but they are an important and integral tool in the remediation process. Peter Andrews's *Natural Sequence Farming* system also uses the figure of 30% as a yardstick for tree cover on environmentally productive farms. The siting of trees in the landscape is also important within this system. The *Birds on Farms* report found that a 10% increase in tree cover resulted in a 7% increase in bird diversity.

2. Re-create local conditions.

Begin by protecting any remnant vegetation on your property from stock and/or exotic weeds. Allow local native trees to regenerate if this is a viable option in your situation. Otherwise plant native, locally occurring species. It may be difficult to decide what represents local conditions in your area if there aren't any natural areas left to view – talk to locals or contact Barung Landcare for advice.

3. Native vegetation cover should be in patches of at least 10 hectares and linked by strips at least 50 metres wide.

Birds and wildlife are most benefited by large patches of native vegetation with good wide corridors linking them. In our hilly terrain the many streams and drainage lines provide perfect sites along which to create wildlife corridors which may then act as buffers between agricultural activities and the riparian areas in our landscapes. Even if you can't achieve these sizes, creating the patches and the links to the largest extent possible is important.

4. Manage at least 10% of the farm area for wildlife.

This suggests that 10% of the 30% native vegetation cover on your farm be exclusively for the use of wildlife with stock excluded most of the time. Rainforest areas in all stages of development generally require the exclusion of stock to remain viable. It may be helpful to strategically graze sclerophyll (eucalypt) forests periodically to control fuel loads, depending on the situation.

5. Maintain a range of tree ages.

Large, mature trees may be the whole world for many small invertebrates and lizards, providing food and habitat. Older trees have hollows which are required by one in five Australian bird species for nesting. Hollows are also homes for a diversity of mammals including bats, gliders and possums.

6. Leave fallen trees to break down naturally.

Fallen trees, limbs and leaves provide habitat for many native animals and insects, particularly detritivores which begin the process of breaking these woody substances down and returning the minerals they contain to the soil for eventual re-use by other organisms, including plants and those that consume them.

7. Maintain native vegetation around water.

The health of farm dams and waterways can be improved by maintaining or re-establishing canopy cover and ground cover adjacent to them. Canopy cover re-creates the shady, cool conditions that our riparian systems would have had naturally. Ground cover filters sediment and catches nutrients contained in the large amounts of runoff generated by our (usually) bountiful rainfall. It also stabilises the soil (particularly on stream banks).

The future for agriculture (and therefore civilization?) depends on our ability to adopt productive farming systems (and social systems) which also enhance and protect the natural ecosystems upon which they depend.

Reference

Barrett G (2000) 'Birds on Farms: Ecological Management for Agricultural Sustainability', supplement to *Wingspan*, December 2000 (10/4), Birds Australia.



Barung Contracting

- revegetation
- bush regeneration
- landscape rehabilitation
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coordinator 0429 943 156
barung landcare 07 5494 3151
www.barunglandcare.org.au
contracting@barunglandcare.org.au

NATIVE BIRDS NEED ALTERNATIVES TO WEEDS

Weeds greatly modify the habitat for birds in many ways, but they can also provide a source of food. Removing weeds provides many benefits, but it also can remove this food source. Providing alternative food resources for birds can balance the impact of weed control.

Native birds contribute to the spread of some weeds when they void weed seed where they roost. Providing alternative native sources of food can also reduce weed seed dispersal by birds.

Researchers at the Weeds CRC have devised tools for selecting native plants to replace weeds, including replacement plant lists and a how-to guide for selecting appropriate plants (based on traits).

Web-based tools:

www.weeds.crc.org.au/projects/project_3_2_3_1.html

CRC Weed Publications Catalogue OUT NOW

Books, factsheets, school resources, teaching resources, technical publications, weed management guides, weed watch newsletter and workshop proceedings. www.weeds.crc.org.au

COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE NEEDED for threatened species

Threatened species in the Mary catchment breathed a sigh of relief at Barung's Threatened Species Day presentations when Rachel Lyons, Biodiversity Conservation Regional Coordinator for the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), launched the 'Planning for Threatened Species Recovery in the Burnett Mary' project.

The action plan being developed in this project is a far cry from the traditional approach to threatened species recovery. The new approach is to recognise and manage threats to habitats that are home to a variety of threatened species, instead of working on individual species. This will provide an integrated and more cost-effective approach for conservation activities and species recovery throughout the Burnett and Mary catchments.

In the first phase of the project, a list of more than 150 'at risk' plant and animal species was drawn up, based on data from sources such as EPA Wildnet and Birds Australia. Now the Project Team needs more records (both informal and even anecdotal information) from local community members and landholders.

This 'local' information will fill in the gaps and paint a more accurate picture of where these species occur now and where they occurred in the past. Local knowledge is required to locate the often-overlooked remnant habitats that often form critical linkages and refuges for these plants and animals.

From this information, areas that provide habitat for a mix of 'at risk' species will be identified. At the same time, more information will be gained on the habitat requirements of different species.



Syzygium hodgkins
[Photo: Marc Russell]

So if you have remnant vegetation and/or if you have sighted any of the listed plant, mammal, reptile, fish, frog, butterfly or other species on your property, we need to hear from you.

Copies of the project brochure, which provides a full list of identified 'at risk' species, and Data Collection Forms can be obtained from the Barung Office in Maleny (phone 5494 3151) or downloaded from the BMRG website:

www.bmrg.org.au/information.php/2/40

Mim Coulstock, who has been working on this project for the past 12 months, is stepping aside from October, so for further information ring Ann Moran (Mary River catchment) on 5448 4547 or 0417 631 702 or Rachel Lyons (BMRG) on 5483 7718.

If you have seen any of the listed 'at risk' species at your place, help us to help them by letting us know.



Stephens Banded Snake [Photo: Peter Richards]



Rachel Lyons (BMRG), Rebecca Richardson (Threatened Species Network) and Mim Coulstock (Barung Landcare)

TSN supports MOTH PROJECT

Barung's application for a Threatened Species Network Community Grant to help address the plight of the endangered Pink Underwing Moth, southern sub-species of *Phyllodes imperialis*, has been approved, announced Rebecca Richardson, Queensland Coordinator for the Threatened Species Network (TSN) on Threatened Species Day.

Although the Pink Underwing Moth has been recorded at five locations in thick primary lower montane rainforests from Nambour to northern NSW, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve is its only recorded breeding site!

It appears this moth feeds on only one plant species, the vine *Carronia multisepealea*, but it only *breeds* where this vine develops a collapsed form of growth, and this only seems to occur in old growth rainforest. Priority recovery actions are to protect the breeding habitat and to ensure availability of the food plant.

One of the major threats to the future sustainability of Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, especially in light of impacts from climate change, is its physical isolation from other remnant vegetation. Barung's project will address this isolation by further developing a vegetation corridor through four private properties in the Fryers Creek catchment to help link the Reserve to remnant vegetation along Obi Obi Creek.

The other main aspect of the project will involve undertaking field research to map other potential breeding sites containing the collapsed form of *Carronia multisepealea*. Limited funds will be available to help with restoration works on other potential breeding sites and for the production of a project case study for community awareness.

This is a very exciting project for Barung staff who will work closely with Dr Don Sands, the (ex-CSIRO) entomologist who discovered the moth. Nick Clancy, Caloundra City Council Community Partnerships Officer, will assist with mapping.

If you, as a landholder, have the vine *Carronia multisepealea* recorded on your property, please contact Fuschia at the Barung office who is building a database of sites for surveying.

For more information about the moth, visit:

http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=67453

We are planning to host a workshop about the moth and its habitat in early 2008. Watch this space.

IDIOCY AND INSPIRATION

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

A garden in the broadest possible sense of the word can be totally natural, or planted, or both.

The littoral rainforest which forms the Iluka Nature Reserve near the mouth of the Clarence River in northern New South Wales is all of these and well worth a visit. It is the largest single part (136 hectares, which isn't much) of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (CERRA) of Australia and is World Heritage listed. Adjoining Bundjalung National Park, it is apparently also the only protected area of littoral rainforest growing on ancient dune sands. Other examples are found on clay soils.

Enter idiocy:

Iluka Bluff, which protects the seaward side of the forest, was cleared for grazing early last century and couch grass introduced. Historical photos tell quite a story! Sand mining was later allowed and, lo and behold, the destabilised sand dunes began to move, threatening the township. 'Re-stabilise' was the cry, so native and exotic species were tried, including bitou bush, now a WONS (Weed of National Significance)! Of course, it totally dominated – need I say more!

Enter inspiration:

Some time in the 1990s, the small but dedicated local Landcare group, supported by NSW National Parks, cleared the bluff of bitou bush and re-established the natural system of acacia, banksia and tuckeroo. To look now at the very steep face of the dune behind the bluff one would never guess at its history. It's a truly inspirational effort and they are still working at it, including maintaining the bushland around the picnic areas. It really pays periodically to have a look at what other groups have achieved.

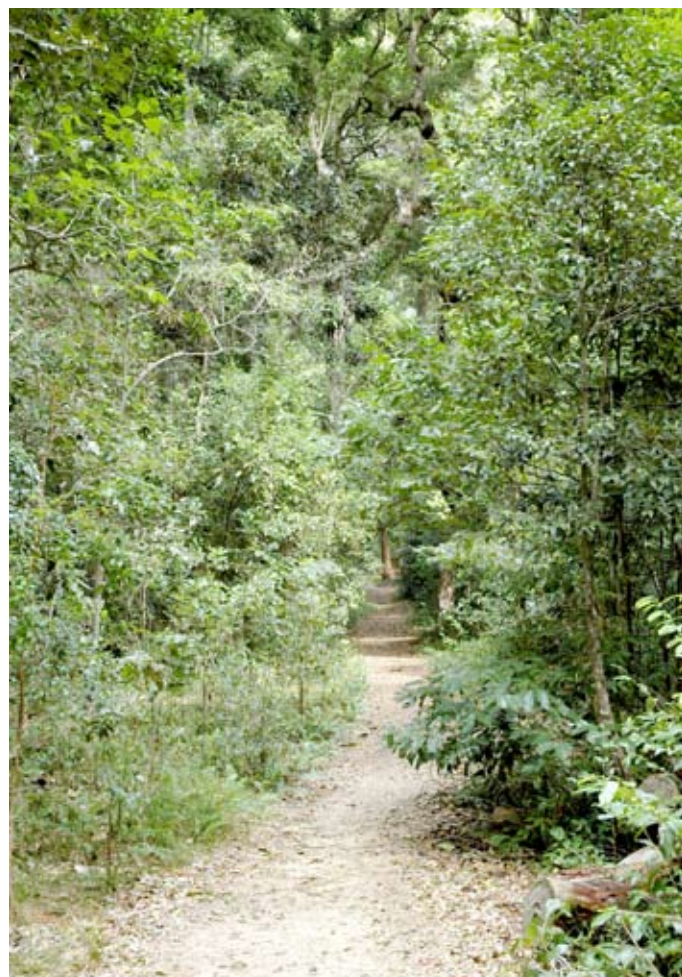
The other aspect of this reserve which I found absolutely fascinating was the combination of dominant species in the rainforest itself.

Imagine 30 metre tall *Syzygium leuhmannii* and *Syzygium (Acmena) hemilamprum* festooned with staghorn and elkhorn ferns. I had absolutely no idea that these commonly used 'garden' trees could grow so tall in their natural environment. They were quite magnificent with beautiful pinkish grey bark. Looking inland from the bluff, they showed up as a dense island of deep green shorn to a uniform height by the salt-laden winds. Under- and mid-storey species were similar to many in our local area and were frequented by eastern yellow robins, whipbirds, rufous fantails, Lewin honeyeaters and many other birds. Numerous vines (especially hoyas), lots of litter and a relatively sparse understorey completed the picture.

John and I have come back home inspired to tackle some of the damage that resulted from the August storm and to plant more understorey species. The revegetation is looking a bit 'thin' due to pioneer species losing branches and having their leaves shredded. All part of the natural processes, but I personally can't wait years for natural regeneration and will have to lend a hand.

The 'ornamental' garden with its dense layers survived the storm very well and has responded vigorously to all the rain. We won't mention the weeds.

Renew your Barung membership
or buy books from Barung's Bookshop
over the phone
with your credit card



Littoral rainforest on ancient dune sands at Iluka Nature Reserve. [Photo: John Dillon]

GECKOS

ANIMAL INVADERS by Lin Fairlie

Do you have the local Spotted Velvet Gecko (*Oedura tryoni*) in your bushland and maybe in your house? Or do you have the Asian House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*)?

The latter can be distinguished from the local species by the scattered enlarged scales over its back and bands of small spines across its tail. It probably arrived at a number of ports and has been in Darwin since at least the 1960s. It has been in south-east Queensland since the 1980s and its numbers here have increased exponentially since the 1990s. Individuals can readily be seen on city buildings in Brisbane, including on the walls of the Museum and Art Gallery.

The colour of geckos varies according to the light, generally becoming pale when they forage at night. The Asian House Gecko (AHG) thrives around human habitation. It makes a rapid clicking noise and they speak to each other across quite large distances. They lay two round, hard fingernail-sized eggs (small fingernail, I would guess). These geckos can 'bully' local species and dominate their habitat. They would carry introduced mites but the effect of these is not known.

So look carefully at geckos on your property. Listen for the distinctive call and look for the enlarged scales or spines. However there is little we can do to help stop this invasion, apart from trying to avoid transporting geckos or their eggs, and trying to keep our homes AHG-free by catching and humanely disposing of them (but this is a bit like trying to keep down mozzie numbers by using the same method!).

LEGLESS LIZARDS - Why are they so?

WILDLIFE WANDERINGS by Susie Duncan

On our September Wildlife Walk we enjoyed a sweetly scented day in the Currumbundi wallum heathlands. Apart from the birds and the wildflowers, we were delighted to encounter a legless lizard. Legless lizards (or flap-footed lizards) are just that – legless. In the course of their evolution they have dispensed with front legs and the hind limbs have been reduced to short, scaly flaps that lay neatly along the body at the base of the tail. Can you guess why?

The species seen in the wallum was likely to be a Common Delma (*Delma plebeia*) which is found in heaths and forests of coastal south-east Queensland. They are about 45 cm in length, very slender and a uniform olive-brown colour. Like most legless lizards, it displayed a coiling and springing action to propel itself across a vehicle track, presumably to evade predation. Once back in the dense heathland it slithered away like any self-respecting legless reptile.

Most legless lizards feed on invertebrates such as moth larvae, spiders and cockroaches, with the exception of Burton's Snake Lizard (*Lialis burtonis*) which feeds on reptiles such as geckos. The legless lizards that occur in SEQ are active both at night and during the day, whereas species that occur in regions of extreme temperatures tend to be nocturnal. Many species live in grass tussocks or under logs and litter, but some are burrowers, particularly in areas of cracking clay or loose sand and soil. They lay two parchment-shelled eggs in the summer and these take five to eight weeks to hatch.

The tails of all legless lizards are surprisingly long, and may contribute up to two thirds of the total body length. In comparison, the tails of snakes are much shorter than the body. The other aspects of legless lizards that differ from snakes are the presence of an ear opening (in all SEQ species) and a thick fleshy tongue. The tongue is used to wipe the windscreen on their lidless eyes, a similar feature to geckoes. In contrast, the tongues of snakes are slender and deeply forked. So if you ever get up close and personal with a snake-like reptile, this is how you can pick the difference.

Also in common with geckos, their nearest living relatives, legless lizards have a voice box and can emit a remarkable high pitched squeak when handled or distressed. No one knows for sure why they squeak but it may be to startle predators, or to communicate during courtship and aggressive encounters.

All legless lizards can drop their tail from any point along its length, so it is possible for the lizard to lose a majority of its body length at one drop. The tail continues to wiggle after being disconnected from the body. This probably provides a decoy for a predator in pursuit. A new tail will grow but is distinguishable from an original tail by the abrupt change in pattern and scale arrangement at the break.

So why are these lizards legless? Well, if you live in dense grasslands, grassy forests or heathlands, it is useful to be able to slither along like a snake rather than having to climb over and through lots of thick vegetation. And it allows the lizard to move fast on prey without much warning of its approach.

**Donations to the
Barung Environmental Gift Fund
are Tax Deductible!**

Barung Landcare

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

2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on
Saturday 17 November
10 am to 11 am
at Barung Landcare
Resource Centre
17 Bicentenary Lane, Maleny

Nominations for the
Barung Management Committee
close Friday 2nd November 2007

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

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

RSVP by Mon 12 November 2007
07 5494 3151
info@barunglandcare.org.au

Wildlife Walks

Susie Duncan will lead Wildlife
Walks on 12 October and Friday 9
November.

The October walk will be to Gheerulla Falls
and beyond - moderate to steep grades. The
November walk will be around part of Ewen
Maddock Dam - easy to moderate grades.

For both walks, meet at Barung at 8.45 am
to car-pool and expect to return to Barung
by 3.00 pm. Bring water, lunch, strong
boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and
togs if you wish to swim.

The walks are free but please book at
Barung on 5494 3151.

BARUNG WORKSHOPS Update

by Jonathan Waites

On-Farm Field Day

The Field Day at Peter & Fiona Steven's beef farm on Obi Obi Ck that was planned for Landcare Week will be held on the morning of **Wednesday 3rd October, 9-12.30am**.

It will include short presentations by:

- Peter Stevens (Farmer & President Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group – Riparian rainforest revegetation experiences, Diversifying into farm stay accommodation),
- Brendan Steven (Barung Contracting Services – Reveg, the practicalities),
- Andrew Todd (SEQC Groundwater Project Officer – Groundwater in this area, Project results to date), and
- Nick Clancy (CCC Land for Wildlife Officer – CCC Small Grants Programme).

The highlight of the event will be a walk around the farm to view and discuss work instigated by Peter and Fiona aimed at improving the ecological functioning of their property while optimising its agricultural productive capacity (see article 'On the Path to Sustainable Farms and Properties' in page 4).

This is a rare opportunity for **farmers and others** to view a working farm which has been actively involved in riparian restoration through the establishment of substantial revegetation projects, creek crossings and off-stream watering points for stock.

To book please ring Barung Landcare 5494 3151 or for more information ring Jonathan Waites on 0429 943 151.

Fencing Workshop

I am calling for expressions of interest for another **Fencing Workshop** to be held in the next couple of months. We are planning to cover conventional fencing in the morning and electric fencing in the afternoon. Please ring Barung Landcare 5494 3151 if you are interested as a minimum number of participants are required for it to be run.

Grazing Management Workshop

Thank you to those who have expressed interest in attending a **Grazing Management Workshop**. We are still chasing funding as these workshops have become quite expensive to run. I also need a few more participants, so if you might be interested, please put your name on the list at Barung.

7 Habits Workshop

I am considering applying for funding for a **Franklin Covey 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Workshop** run by AgForce Qld Training. The workshop has been developed to help participants develop both personal and interpersonal leadership skills based on the principle of effectiveness. It is a 3 day workshop with a 65% Farm Bis subsidy available for eligible primary producers and land managers. Stephen Covey's books, including *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, are available through the Caloundra City Library. If you might be interested in this workshop, please contact Barung Landcare or ring Jonathan Waites on 0429 943 151 for more information.



COMMON or INDIAN MYNA

Acridotheres tristis

ANIMAL INVADERS by Lin Fairlie

This is the breeding season for these introduced pest birds so you might keep a lookout for breeding pairs around trees with hollows near your home or as you go walking.

Indian mynas are quite distinctive with chocolate brown and black plumage and a yellow beak and are about the size of a butcher bird – that is, slightly larger than the native grey noisy miner (*Manorina melanoccephala*).

Prolific in some areas such as Beerwah and Brisbane as well as in southern states and in north Queensland, the Indian myna's range is gradually expanding.

Caloundra City Council has listed common or Indian mynas as a Group 2 pest – Potentially Highly Significant and a non-declared Pest animal. Other Group 2 pests include morning glory vine, moth vine, fireweed and deer.

What does it mean to be a Group 2 pest? It means that there are small amounts/numbers within the city or nearby which may pose a threat if left unmanaged.

Indian mynas are territorial and aggressive. They reduce the populations of native birds by preying on young birds and competing for nesting sites and food.

Caloundra City Council is encouraging landholders to report sightings to the Caloundra City Council Call Centre (5420 8200) and to control populations on their own land.

All councils in the Mary River Catchment are working together to produce up-to-date information materials which should be soon available. Caloundra City Council is planning a community trapping program before these birds become a major problem. The specialised traps are not too large to be handled easily so if you are interested in being part of this program, contact Caloundra City Council on 5420 8200.

The Indian myna (above) invades nesting sites for local birds (below).

[Photos courtesy of Hollow Log Homes]



NATIVE TAMARIND

Diploglottis australis

Family: Sapindaceae

PLANT PROFILE by Dawn Worthington

The Sapindaceae family includes fruit of the native tamarind, longan, lychee and rambutan. *Diploglottis australis* occurs naturally from the central coast of New South Wales north to Proserpine, in a wide range of rain-forest habitats.

It is a tall tree, to 35 metres, with a beautiful straight trunk. The bark is smooth and a dark grey to brownish grey in colour. As these trees age, the trunk sometimes develops a rough pimpled surface. The trunk is often fluted at the base.

The crown is densely covered by very large (up to 30 cm), hairy, pinnate, alternate leaves, elliptic to lanceolate, rounded at the tip. New shoots are often very rusty red in colour with lots of velvety hairs on both sides of the leaf (with more hairs on the underside), making this a beautiful garden specimen. When young, the leaves are single and entire in structure; as the plant gets older the leaves become compound and very much larger. The venation is very distinct on both sides of the leaves, being prominently raised on the underside.

On to the flowers, which are starting to bloom now. These occur in large, densely hairy, rusty coloured panicles of lovely cream/rusty petals. This species is bisexual and separate male and female flowers occur on the same plant. Native tamarind flowers from now (September) until November.

Now, the fruit – it's hairy too! A capsule with two or three lobes, 10–25 mm long, and bright orange/yellow in colour. The pulp is very juicy and somewhat tart; it is a taste sensation when made into jams, preserves and even sauces which go over almost anything. You can substitute native tamarind fruit into just about anything you'd make with cumquats because of the similar taste. It can even be made into a refreshing drink. These fruits are of course devoured by fruit bats, regent bowerbirds, wompoo fruit-doves, rose-crowned fruit-doves and green catbirds, so competition can be fierce!

Pick the seeds when the capsules are opening, not before. The seed itself is triangular in shape and a pale brown. The fruit ripens from October to January. To assist with germination, soak the seed in water for a couple of days; this will help to clean the flesh and sort out the seed affected by grub. The seed should be sown whilst fresh, will germinate quickly, and is fairly reliable.

Positioned out of the frost and wind, especially when young, native tamarind will tolerate full sun or shade. This species is slow to start but with a little help (water and fertilizer) you will have a beautiful plant, whether in a tub on the verandah or in the ground. Come in to the Barung Nursery and get your *Diploglottis australis* now.

Small-leaved Privet, an environmental weed - flowering now.

[Photo: Dawn Worthington]



Diploglottis australis foliage (above) and flowers (left).
[Photos: Dawn Worthington]

COPING WITH DAMAGE

NURSERY NOTES by Dawn Worthington

In Wayne's long awaited absence, it's my time! He's on a very well deserved holiday and he is actually leaving town. Safe driving and enjoy it, Wayne – you deserve it.

Being a sociable person, I recently took Fuschia to a speech by arborist and educator, Cassian Humphreys, at Mary Cairncross Reserve, on 'The Tree System and the Turnbuckle'. He reported on how plants, particularly eucalypts, have the ability to 'self-analyse' their structure and combat irregularities. Cassian believes that the cambium layer is integral to a tree's ability to bear stresses, and that trees can fix themselves by increasing the cambium layer to create snub-rolled ribs that act mechanically as 'turnbuckles', hence the terminology. For more information, Cassian can be contacted on 0427 685 424 or treecare@easterntrees.com

Remember the leaf of ice on the front of the last *Barung News*? Nobody would believe the damage that wasn't done – that's right, **wasn't** done – by the frost on that cold Friday morn! I arrived that morning (thinking that it was warmer than the day before!) to find the Contracting team watering all the plants by hand-held hoses. Only slight damage was done to our stock, which is incredible when you consider that ice was tinkling off the leaves of our plantstock until 9.30ish! Wayne credits the lack of damage

to the automatic sensor that is activated when the temperature drops to 4°C to avoid frost damage and continues until it warms up again. I certainly thought that we would lose more than we did.

On the weed front, has everybody seen the flowering small-leaved privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) with its showy white flowers in full glory lately? Now is a good time to identify any on your land and put into action a plan to stop them from seeding.

An absolutely huge 'thanks' goes to all the vollies who work with Wayne and me – without you, coming to work just wouldn't be the same. It's an utter pleasure to work with you all!



The Barung Bookshop

17 Bicentenary Lane, Maleny

NOW IN STOCK!

Leaf Litter:

Exploring the Mysteries of a Hidden World
by Rachel Tonkin

Thinking early about Xmas pressies for the kids?
Keep an eye on the Barung Bookshop ...

View titles at

www.barunglandcare.com.au/bookshop.htm

ON BORROWED TIME

Australia's Environmental Crisis and What We Must Do About It, by DAVID LINDENMAYER

BOOK REVIEW by Lin Fairlie

Clearly written by one of Australia's most respected ecologists, this book should be read by all Australians. Maybe twice by all aspiring politicians. It will certainly help urban dwellers to appreciate the breadth of issues confronting the Australian environment.

In many ways this is an unusual book. Apart from its square shape, it contains a beautiful set of colour plates which so clearly exemplify the issues discussed in the text, assisted by lists, graphs and maps. A checklist is provided of actions which, ideally, will be undertaken for the survival of Australia's ecosystems. And it does list some of our successes to date.

There are only four chapters – The Good, The Bad, The Ugly, and The Hero. This reads rather like a novel, doesn't it? And it could be read from cover to cover – just like a novel. The book starts by describing the 'ecological paradise' which was Australia when white man arrived. It does not delve into the effects of the traditional owners on their lands. This is 'The Good'. It then clearly shows the devastation of our past actions – bold, brash, overpowering of 'the bush', all done in the name of survival: this is 'The Bad'. Here the tension builds towards 'The Ugly' – a short chapter which could be the climax of the novel – the depths to which our environment could sink.

But enter 'The Hero'. Is this the happy ending we dream about and are working towards? The 10 Problems which follow took me out of my comfort zone into thinking internationally as well as delving into the world of macro-economics. It directs readers to keep looking to the causes rather than the much easier symptoms.

Whether this book leaves you on a 'high' – with a feeling that we can succeed, or in a 'low' – depressed by the past extent of actions and of the non-action by those who can act, will be an individual decision. Australia has the ability to achieve 'true ecological sustainability', the author claims.

'Increasing the levels of investment and action necessary to achieve this must become a key goal of Australia's leaders. Indeed, it must be the goal of every Australian. So let's do it. *There's no time to lose.*'

These words conclude the book. And so humanity awaits the writing of the next book to which we can all contribute. We won't be here to read the conclusion but we can all do our best to make it a positive one.

[**\$34.95 from Rosetta Books**]

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Pat Fuller

Coal barges, sports fields, wall to wall cane farms... first impressions of Mackay, home to the **18th Annual Queensland Landcare Conference** and, behind the scenes, a much more diverse and interesting story of their region and many people's passion for sustainable Landcare...

Hosted by Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group, with the support of Landcare Queensland, Margaret Lane, the Conference Convenor and her team had left nothing out to make sure the 400 delegates were well and truly looked after; transport to and from accommodation, functions and field trips, not to mention the wonderful food which ensured we all put on a few kilos. (Cutlery, plates and cups were all made from Knaff or corn starch and all compostable).

The Conference aimed at showing how Landcare is integral to the delivery of on-ground works and initiatives to reach the targets set in regional plans.

The Agenda catered for a wide variety of interests, including presentations on:

- **Water:** wetlands projects, water weeds, water quality, Great Barrier Reef ecosystems
- **Soil Health:** compost tea, fibre crops, practical Landcare
- **People and Change:** indigenous land management, tourism and Landcare working together, educating for sustainability, place stories.

Field trips included tours of the recently created Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, Pioneer Valley and Eungella National Park, a day on the water in the Whitsundays, and farms showcasing biodiversity and various land management projects with support from the Sustainable Landscapes incentive programme.

The Conference provided a wonderful opportunity to strengthen existing relationships and to make new partnerships with other Landcare groups and regional bodies.

Conference events were *Put under the Lens* on the last day by Dr Peter Oliver of Maleny, who, with his selected guests and with song, reflected on how we can, and are indeed, **Making a Difference**.

Hollow Log Homes

for sale at Barung

Small parrot, Small bat, Glider, Possum

LANDCARE WINNERS!

STATE honours went to four Burnett Mary Region natural resource management groups at this year's Queensland Landcare Awards. The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee won the prestigious Murray-Darling Basin Commission Rivercare Award, with Glenda Pickersgill from Mary River taking third place in the same category. First place in the Alcoa Landcare Community Group Award went to Noosa and District Landcare Group, with second placings going to Cooloola Coastcare for the Australian Government Coastcare category, and Cooloola City Farm at Tin Can Bay for the Landcare Australia Nature Conservation Award. Torquay State School also represented the Burnett Mary region as award finalists. Congratulations to all these groups and individuals!

LANTANA - A Weed of Local and National Significance

by Clare Raven (*Lantana* WoNS Project Officer)
& Kym Johnson (*Lantana* WoNS Coordinator)

The issue of lantana management caused a stir at last month's Queensland Landcare Conference when John Morris, Chair of the National Lantana Management Group, posed a challenge to land managers and governments to 'stop the cancerous spread of lantana'. 'The government talks about weapons of mass destruction; I talk about *weeds* of mass destruction,' he said in reference to lantana.

Known as a transformer weed, *Lantana camara* has the potential to change natural environments, smothering native plants, providing fuel for intense bushfires and dramatically reducing Australia's biodiversity.

Lantana has adapted remarkably well to the Australian environment, invading more than four million hectares, an area the size of Switzerland. The largest infestations are found in Queensland and New South Wales, although it has also naturalised in isolated areas of the Northern Territory, Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria.

Recent research conducted by Peter Turner of the New South Wales Department of Environment and Climate Change indicates lantana puts more than 1300 native plant and animal species at risk. The research also suggests it is having a serious negative impact on more than 100 threatened and endangered ecosystems throughout Queensland and New South Wales.

In addition to this alarming environmental cost, a recent economic impact study has found the price tag for the Australian grazing sector to be in excess of \$104 million per year in lost production and an additional \$17 million in control costs (2005/06 values).

In recognition of these impacts, Lantana has been named a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). Through the Lantana WoNS group, a range of cooperative projects are currently underway with the aim of providing extension services and improving knowledge and strategic management of this invasive pest.

Projects include the Lantana Containment Zones Project, which targets isolated lantana infestations with the aim of containing the spread and protecting environments from future impacts. Newly developed remote sensing tools should soon make the mapping and identification of strategic control sites less of a challenge. The first season of lantana control trials at sites in Qld and NSW has also delivered valuable information on control management methods, which will be used to develop a decision support tool.

A range of other projects, including research into new biocontrol agents, communications campaigns and the identification of key areas of control for biodiversity conservation, are also underway.

For more information on these projects and practical advice on how to control lantana on your patch, contact Clare Raven by calling (07) 3406 2511 or emailing clare.raven@dpi.qld.gov.au or go to www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/lantana



Local lantana leaves showing damage from a leaf miner - possibly one of the leaf miners released as a biocontrol agent. [Picture: JA Wightman]

Lantana

WEED WATCH by John Wightman
Blackall Range Invasive Weed Task Force & Barung Landcare Management Committee

These days we are so accustomed to driving past Lantana 'hedges' that many of us do not 'see' this weed any more. This is unfortunate for two reasons. Firstly, roadsides are ideal environments for initiating weed spread, both along the roadsides and over the fences into what ever lies beyond. Secondly, they should be cleared by those with statutory responsibility for such matters...

I am rather concerned about how Lantana spreads through stands of regenerating and remnant forest around the Blackall Range. It needs a little light, so is common along the edges of the forests from where it encroaches. There is a suspicion that this species is allelopathic, meaning it might suppress the growth of the rightful residents of such environments. Once established, it forms daunting walls of spiny stems and it can combine with other vines to pull down the branches of quite large trees.

The available *integrated control strategies* need to be adjusted for the size and location of a particular Lantana infestation:

Mechanical methods: Hand-pulling for small areas. A tractor with a bucket is great for thick clumps. A bulldozer or a special Lantana masher may be needed for larger areas.

Fire (with a permit): If sensible and safe, burning the dried plants in situ will kill seeds and seedlings, but I am not sure if heat or smoke will induce germination in this species. If it does, any seedlings that emerge are a ready target for a herbicide. Live bushes will burn in the dry if plenty of 'fuel' is available.

Herbicides: For small areas, the cut and brush method using a suitable herbicide is excellent. A common practice on the Blackall Range is to cut the stem just above ground level and brush or squirt the stump with glyphosate in water (1:2). Large areas may need high volume sprayers or, in inaccessible areas, helicopters may be brought in. But watch for collateral damage.

Biological control: More than 30 biological control agents have been released 'against' Lantana, but none seem to be devastatingly successful because it is still around. But how much more Lantana would there be if these agents had not been released?

If you have any bugs or beetles attacking your own patch of Lantana, how about you spread them around!



Lantana camara pink flowering variety [Photo: A Clark, Biosecurity Queensland]

OUR TRIP TO IRON RANGE NATIONAL PARK Winter 2007

BUTTERFLIES OF 'THE RANGE' by Bob Miller

After months of contemplation we finally decided we were going to Iron Range. June/ July seemed the best time to go, the wet season had been over for a few months (apparently), so the track in should be nice and dry. And so it was, for a while. We set off just after lunch on Friday. Because the Road was the best we had ever encountered it, we made it to Coen on the first night and stayed at the Hotel.

Off at first light, we found the road was still a dry sandy loam and very pleasant to drive on. Taking a break, we noticed a large concentration of *Myrmecodias* and because these are the food-plant for the larvae of *Hypochrysops apollo*, we looked for signs of larval activity. One of the larger *Myrmecodias* had a significant amount of larval damage on the leaves, and on closer inspection we noticed that a flap had been cut on the face of it. We gently moved back the flap and sitting neatly inside was one larva and a pupa of *Hypochrysops apollo*, just what I needed for perfect photos. After photographing them, we carefully re-arranged the 'front door' and moved on, full of expectation as to what we may find next.

It wasn't long before things came crashing back to Earth. We were now getting closer to the rainforest and as the name implies, they are created with rain. Lots and lots of rain! The road turned to swamp, the sandy loam was now mud, real deep wet sloppy stuff. Left, right, up, down for about two kilometres before we were finally clear of the worst of it.

We were finally entering the most luscious, vine-filled rainforest that you will find anywhere, the sort of place you would expect to find Tarzan swinging across the road, or at least his Australian cousin! The trip now slowed down considerably whilst we took in all that was around us: *Litseas*, *Commersonias*, *Alphitonas*, *Macarangas* – butterfly larval food-plants everywhere. We made the camp site about 10 am Saturday morning, feeling we'd had a relatively easy trip in from Coen; how easy it is to forget the bad bits when you are surrounded by such incredible diversity.

Camera in hand we set off to get what we came here for – as many butterfly lifecycle photos as possible in the short time we had. Remembering that it was still winter and everybody down south was freezing; I wasn't sure of how many lifecycles we would find, so I wiped the sweat from my brow and investigated the lycaenid feeding patterns on a large *Nauclea orientalis*. It wasn't long before I found my next larva, still positioned in the groove it created on the leaf whilst feeding; it was the larva of *Hypochrysops elgneri*, one of the beautiful Jewel butterflies found in this area. After getting some great photos, I turned my attention to the bases of the Crows Nest ferns that were growing along the trunks of the tree, in the hope of finding a pupa to photograph, but to no avail. The tree was literally crawling with the ant *Philidris cordatus*, a small honey-coloured ant that also attends the larvae of *Hypochrysops apollo*, *H. theon*, *H. hippurus* etc. and anybody that has been associated with these ants will understand what I mean when I say they have an uncanny way of finding places on your back that you can't reach, on your stomach and yes, even in your eyes, so that they can sting you.

We continued along the road to a slightly more open spot. Here we found the *Litsea breviumbellatas* were just re-generating after being devastated by the cyclone from the previous year and were flushed with new growth. We examined the older, lower leaves at first, where we found larval feeding patterns of *Philiris fulgens kurandae*. It wasn't long before we found both larvae and pupae of this one, an absolutely beautiful little lycaenid butterfly which I consider to be the most attractive of all of the *Philiris* species. The common name is *Bi-colour Moonbeam*, which is an apt description of the upper wings, which are two different shades of blue. I took photos of both the larva and pupa, then concentrated on the growing tips, the newer, fresher growth where we were told we could find larvae and pupae of another of the *Philiris* species, *Philiris diana papuana*. The first of these were so hard to find; they are red and furry and sit on the new red-furry growing tips of the *Litseas*. Once we adjusted our eyes accordingly though, they were very common, and getting larval and pupal photos was very easy.

Down the road a bit, *Macaranga involucrata* was growing and after careful searching we found larvae of *Philiris nitens lucina*, but no pupae. Oh well, larval photos would do for now and I would keep an eye on their progress. Not far from this was one of the sandpaper figs, I am not sure which one, but I could tell by the feeding patterns that there must be at least one larva present. Sure enough, larvae of *Philiris innotatus* were hiding on the underside of the leaves. This was four different *Philiris* within one hundred yards of each other!

From here, we decided to look in the opposite direction to get an idea of the plant species that were growing to the south of us. After all, six almost complete lifecycles on the first day was something we had to be excited about. We stopped at one of the creek crossings



Larval feeding pattern of *Philiris nitens*

[Photo: Bob Miller]



Green-banded Jewel (male) [Photo: Bob Miller]

to examine the riparian zone. There were quite a few adult butterflies flying in the road corridor. *Appias ada* were very common, but all were males and this sort of put a damper on me thinking that I might find their lifecycle. This turned out to be true and even though I examined numerous *Crateva religiosa* plants, none indicated fresh feeding.

Other butterflies on the wing that day were: Red-bodied Swallowtails, Small Green-banded Blues, Broad-margined Grass-yellows, Large Grass-yellows, Pale Ceruleans, Bordered Rustics, Black-eyed Planes, Yellow-eyed Planes, Hamadryads, Bushbrowns and even a female Birdwing.

We returned to the camp at about 4.30 pm for a well earned rest and food, whilst contemplating what tomorrow might bring.

[Continued next issue of Barung News]

Freshly hatched
female Richmond
Birdwing Butterfly!

Many thanks to Ray
Seddon for inviting
Mim and Fuschia to
this special viewing
on his property near
Landsborough.



[Photo: Fuschia]

MEETINGS, EVENTS...

Tiaro Catch & Release Fishing Competition

Where: Petrie Park, Tiaro

When: 20–21 October

Proceeds go to support recovery projects for the endangered Mary River cod and Mary River turtle. Many prize categories, lucky draw prize, camping, guided canoe rides, kayaks for hire, turtle ID, juniors' fishing clinics, old timers' tales, musical entertainment. Mary River cod hatchlings released into the river.

More info: Tiaro Landcare Group on 4129 6138 or
tiarolandcare1@bigpond.com

Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network

The next general meeting is nearby and soon! With an address by Phil Moran: 'So you think you've got a birdwing vine...' Visitors welcome.

Where: Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve Theatre

When: Saturday 27 October, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

More info: Ray Seddon on 5494 0383

Introduction to Waders (shorebirds) of Moreton Bay

During the summer months, thousands of migratory waders visit the Port of Brisbane. The workshop includes a lecture on the importance of Moreton Bay in the East Asian / Australasian Flyway and tips on how to ID waders in the field, with a field trip in the afternoon.

When: Sunday 18 November

Where: Port of Brisbane

Cost: \$40

More info: Dawn Beck on 07 3378 8598 or
alphanec@powerup.com.au

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual / family membership	\$ 20 pa
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Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.

Phone the office at Barung Landcare on 5494 3151, email barungadmin@big.net.au or drop into Barung Landcare at 17 Bicentenary Lane, Maleny.



2007



Caloundra City Council RATES TREES GIVE AWAY!

*Proudly supported by
Councillor Dick Newman
and Barung Landcare Association Inc.*

When: October 1st to 31st

Where: Pick up your free trees/shrubs from
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How many? Two free trees per rates notice.
Last years' rates notice is still
valid, if you missed out.

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An additional 3 tubestock
1 Blackall Range Landholders Guide
1 Landcare Cup

2000 LFW REGISTRATIONS!

Land for Wildlife in SEQ recently passed the 2000th registration milestone with the registration of 3 properties on the same day in Beaudesert, Maroochy and Caloundra Shires. For more information on Land for Wildlife, contact Nick Clancy at Caloundra City Council on 5439 6433 or n.clancy@caloundra.qld.gov.au

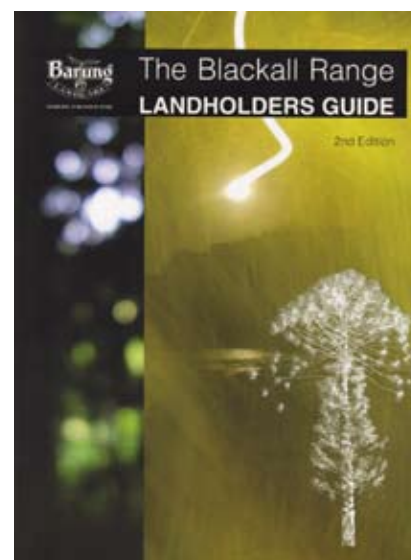
The Blackall Range Landholders Guide

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

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The Maple Street Co-Op
Mary Cairncross Scenic
Reserve



THANK YOU TO ...

For your support during Landcare Week 2007:

... **Maleny IGA** for sponsorship of the snake show

... **Ananda Marga River School kids** for your excellent behaviour at the snake show

... **Tony Wootton**, Tree Surgeon, for sponsorship of snake show and more

... **Chris Allan** from Caloundra City Council for sponsorship towards Landcare Week

... **Rebecca Richardson** from Threatened Species Network for sponsoring Threatened Species day, including morning tea and lunch

... **Maleny Dairies** who donated milk for Landcare Week

... **The Range News** for helping with advertising costs

... **Maleny Town and Country**, a new business sponsor for Barung

... **Annette Lawniczak, Jan Bell** and **Kate Fraser** for your happy Barung faces in the kiosk

... **Mim Coulstock** for helping set up and **Jackie Montgomery** for volunteering

... **Val Phillips** for manning the fort

... **Darryl Ebenezer** for your techno skills

... **Max Smith** and **Garry Gordon** for making the signs

... **Gordon, Garry** and **Max** – the BBQ Boys

... **Steve Mallet** and the **Green Corps team** setting up the Barung tent and 'Koalas in the Kiosk'

... A huge 'thank you' to **everyone who helped in the kitchen** – what a team! It wouldn't have gone so smoothly without you!

... **Jane Williamson** for your now famous cooking

... **Dawn Svensson** and **Lenore Tonks**, Master Scone Spreaders and Sandwich Makers

... **Mary Lou** and **Greg Rapmund** for cheesecake and **Dawn Worthington** for quiche

... **Samara** and **Shantelle** on Threatened Species Day

To the Speakers:

... **Beverley Hand** and **Brianna Bond** for the welcome and opening Landcare week

... **Jolyon Froude** and **Brendan Stephen** for the Rainforest Recovery presentation

... **Dave Clark** from SEQ Catchments for the property planning workshops

... **Peter Thompson** for the presentation and samples of Tjuringa Emu Products

... **John and Mary King** of Rainforest Liqueurs for talking about bush food trees and their uses

... **Jono** from Educational Reptile Display for the snake show

... **Dr Chris Burwell** from the Qld Museum for 'ants'

... **Dr Graeme Quick** for the session on small machinery

... **Bob Collins** for the session on small machinery maintenance

... **Steve Wilson**, wildlife photographer, for your presentation



THE Range News



The Threatened Species Network is a community based program of the Australian Government and WWF-Australia.

... **Ridley Kennedy, Carmel Givens** and **Lyn Boston** for your presentation on Bat Rescue

... **Rebecca Richardson** from the Threatened Species Network

... **Don Sands** and **Ray Seddon** from the Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network for your talk about the effects of climate change on the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly

... **Nick Clancy**, Land for Wildlife officer at Caloundra City Council, for your talk on enhancing the habitat for local threatened species.

... **Rachael Lyons** from BMRG for your support and presentation

... **Eric Anderson** for the 'Birds of Australia' display

... **Gillian Peachey** for the Lake Baroon CCG Display

... **Lin Fairlie** for being our MC

... All the **Barung Committee, Volunteers & Staff** for your co-operation in running this fantastic week.

... And of course, thank you to **all of you hearty souls who ventured out in the rain** to hear some amazing speakers! Good on you for coming. We hope to see more of you next year!

And in other areas:

... **Dennis Lalor**, MYOB Rescue Man for Jane during Fuschia's holidays

... **Max Smith, Bob Aitken, Noel Denning, Col & Val Phillips** for your generous donation of time for the August-September 2007 *Barung News* mailout

... **Max Smith, Faye Smith, Bob Aitken, Val Phillips & Noel Denning** for the Draft Community Concept Plan mailout



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CARBON MINING ...

... continued from page 16

they are also great bio-filters that can clean the waters of soluble nutrients and pollutants that pass through them.

Pre-European settlement, the naturally slow-moving rivers of our area, such as the Mary, Maroochy, Mooloolah and Stanley, were full of dead or fallen trees. Billabongs were scattered through the floodplains, and wetlands were thick with vegetation. All these places held huge quantities of organic matter (carbon).

Unfortunately we have spent 200 years 'tidying' up our country. Draining swamps, de-snagging rivers, clearing the scrub and treating farming like an extractive industry. Australia, due to its aridity and ancient sun-bleached soils, was a continent poor in organic matter when Europeans arrived; now, due to our management practices, it is a continent far poorer in organic matter (carbon) in its waterways and soils than it has ever been in the last few million years.

If I have stated one too many times that organic matter is carbon, its because I'd really like you to make that link. Too often in the Greenhouse argument, it is easy to begin to think that the burning of fossil fuels is the only source of carbon in the atmosphere. Loss of organic matter should be highlighted even more in the greenhouse debate, because it represents a direct loss of fertility in the land that supports us and also the land's ability to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

So what relevance does managing organic matter have in natural area management? Well of course it is fundamentally important – particularly when it comes to the re-establishment and management of wetlands and rainforest.

For instance, woody weeds lock up carbon, so when we are replanting or regenerating rainforest it is best to kill woody weeds where they stand or to fell the trees and leave them as they fall so that they slowly release their carbon store back to the developing rainforest. Chipping, or worse still burning, may clean up the site in the eyes of your average 'civilised' *Homo sapien*, but 'tidy' doesn't necessarily work for ecosystem rehabilitation. Herbaceous weeds such as Cobblers Pegs and Thistles may look untidy and are generally controlled on reveg sites, but in most cases they don't slow down the growth of regenerating or revegetated rainforest at all – they can actually increase growth, especially a year or two down the track when tree growth shades them out and the organic matter (carbon) they contribute back to the soil becomes plant food.

The benefit of managing our natural areas so that they become net producers of organic matter will in turn increase the fertility of our whole landscape – the landscape that feeds us and provides our true wealth. If we don't begin to undertake management processes that increase the organic matter held in our land, it won't just be an oil-based carbon crisis that we will be leaving for our children and grandchildren to face.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

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Lilyponds Holiday Park
Mulchmakers
Stephane Cazard of Earthcarer
James & Suzanne Davidson



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CARBON MINING

TURKEY TANGENTIAL

By Spencer Shaw of Brush Turkey Enterprises

Carbon is the hot topic at present and it's only likely to get hotter if we keep converting so much of it from a solid into a gas. Of course, due to so many of our political leaders being so good at making hot gasses, they're having problems reducing the Greenhouse effect!

Regardless of whether you believe that global warming is a reality or an elaborate hoax (and I'm enough of a conspiracy theorist to question both dogmas) there is one simple truth – the ability of the earth to absorb carbon from the atmosphere and convert it into life, into biodiversity, into the soils that support our crops and livestock, is being degraded in a downward spiral that is depleting the productivity of the land.

Our land management practices in either the rural or residential sectors are extractive, industrial processes. The soils that all life comes from are being mined for the fertility they have accrued over thousands of years.

It's not just the amount of carbon we are releasing through the use of fossil fuels that is a problem. The loss of forest cover, clearing of rivers and draining of wetlands and billabongs, and loss of organic matter (carbon) from our soils will cause greater problems for our society in the near future.

You're all aware, I'm sure, that loss of forest cover is a contributing factor to the Greenhouse effect. Carrying on from my article in the last *Barung News* about healthy wetlands and dams, did you realise just how important wetlands are as carbon sinks? Primordial wetlands are the source of all our fossil fuels. When organic matter (carbon) enters a wetland, much of it eventually makes its way to the bottom of the wetland. Instead of being burnt or recycled into more life forms or simply oxidising away back into the atmosphere, the bulk of the organic sediments remain at the bottom of the wetland. Peat bogs are made up of the compressed decayed remains of plants and can hold large amounts of carbon, more or less permanently – unless burnt or mined!

Wetlands also become resources of fertility to the land downstream. Surprisingly, in spite of all the organic matter they swallow up,

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The Barung Family

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Sustainable Landuse Officer & more	<i>Jonathan Waites</i>
Editor, <i>Barung News</i> and <i>The CODLine</i>	<i>Eve Witney</i>

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

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