

BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC.

Annual Report 2014—2015



Barung Landcare Association Inc.
ABN 48 562 796 065
PO Box 1074
Maleny QLD 4552

Ph 07 5494 3151
info@barunglandcare.org.au
www.barunglandcare.org.au



Barung
Landcare



Contents

President's Report	4
Treasurer's Report	8
Projects Officer's Report	9
Barung Natural Area Services & Nurseries	11
Office/Administration Report	14
Hinterland Bush Links	15
Range Bees	18
Walks on the Wildside	19
Maleny Wood Expo	20
Barung Sponsors & Supporters	22

Front Page : Thanks to Leisa Gunton for Barung's hand painted signs at Barung Office and the Barung Porters Lane Nursery and the images from them used in this report



2014/2015 Management Committee

President	Lindsay Kruger
Secretary	Sue Brieschke
Treasurer	Alan Harrington
Committee members	Lin Fairlie Martina Gordon

Barung Staff

Projects Officer	Jonathan Waites
Production Nursery Manager	Wayne Webb
Retail Nursery Manager (to Sep 2015)	Fuschia Collard
Retail Nursery Manager (from Sep 2015)	Cali Salzmänn
Natural Area Services Manager	Luke McWilliam
Barung Events	Steve McLeish
Office Coordinator	Theresa Bint
Admin/Project Support Officer	Den Lalor
Editor, Barung News	Robyn Harper
Hinterland Bush Links Co-ordinator	Susie Duncan

Barung Life Members

Barry Beale	Denise Irons (deceased)
Patricia Jacobs	John Muir
Marc Russell	Ashley Sewell
John & Joan Dillon	Jan Tilden
Mal & Margaret Thomson	Lin Fairlie
Daryl Reinke & Craig Hosmer	



President's Report

Lindsay Kruger

It is my pleasure to present the annual President's report, my first as President. Barung Landcare is in its 26th year, and was started by enthusiastic volunteers in 1989, the same year as the national landcare movement was set up by the Hawke government and supported by the National Farmers' Federation.

Over the years Barung Landcare has been influential, advocating for implementation of incentives for environmental programs such as land for wildlife and property covenants to encourage landowners/custodians to preserve and revegetate land. Other programs included advocacy for riparian vegetation and wildlife corridors, measures to control dairy effluent run-off, farm forestry and catchment care (which became Healthy Waterways), to name a few. At the time, our proposals were considered loopy! They are now common practice and supported by all levels of government.

This year, 2015, has been one of restructuring and consolidating to prepare our organisation for leaner times as governments make fewer dollars available and make it harder to obtain them. Luke McWilliam, our contracting manager, was successful in placing Barung on the preferred supplier panels of the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay regional councils. This enables us to bid for work as it arises in natural services.

It should be remembered that early Management Committees established an enterprise arm, contracting, to do environmental good work and to return an independent source of income to the organisation, separate to government grants. The income is used to support other areas of Barung Landcare.

Restructuring has also taken place at our production and retail nurseries to better equip them for economic realities and to provide for our plant needs, including for Gardens for Wildlife, while maintaining the diversity of plants. These changes are in progress and staff and volunteers have participated in planning workshops.

The importance of maintaining plant diversity cannot be stressed enough, as Wayne Webb, our production manager is renowned for growing the most diverse and healthy range of plants in Queensland. Wayne is currently on medical leave and the Barung family wishes him well.

Financially, Barung Landcare is healthy! We pay our bills on time. Plans are in place to improve our balance sheet and to have more funds available to meet our aims and objectives. Treasurer Alan Harrington has more to say on this.

Earlier this year and in conjunction with Northey Street City Farm, Brisbane, we were able to sell the Genesis property on Cedar Creek Road. These funds have been held for capital purposes and to pay out loans.

Barung Landcare is a dynamic organisation. Its 750+ members are from all walks of life and what we have in common is a sense of community and common purpose on environmental issues.



Barung has initiated, owns or auspices the following 11 entities:

- **Natural Area Services** is based in Landsborough; this is our contracting arm carrying out commercial revegetation work, which earns income for our organisation and provides employment opportunities.
- **Retail nursery** in Porters Lane stocks the most extensive range of regional endemic native plants in Queensland for sale to the community. It provides employment, training, volunteering opportunities and educational resources. Our new retail nursery manager is Cali Salzman. Cali has returned to us, her favourite landcare group in the whole wide world, after spending eight-and-a-half years as propagator of Australian plants for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, Victoria.
Cali, thank you for coming back to us!
- **Production nursery** at Forestry Rd, Landsborough produces the best range of endemic native plants in Queensland. It provides employment, volunteering opportunities, training, educational resources and plants for our retail nursery.
- **Gardens for Wildlife** was introduced in 2014. It is a version of Land For Wildlife, but aimed at urban and peri-urban landholders. It provides recognition and support to those who are implementing wildlife habitat strategies in their backyards and contributing to habitat connection. GfW held several well attended workshops during the year. It has 160 members to date. Thanks to Joan Dillon, Eric Anderson, Susie Duncan, Fuschia Collard, Rod Kerr and Jonathan Waites in making this a highly successful program.
- **Maleny Wood Expo** aims to promote sustainable use of our beautiful native timbers through the work of local and regional artisans. It is recognised as one of the best wood expos in Australia and will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2016. Steve McLeish has done an outstanding job in getting the Expo to this position. Two days before this year's Expo, Maleny received a record rainfall. Steve and the volunteers did a fantastic job to produce a great event despite the difficulties.
- **Range Bees** was formed in 2012 with an emphasis on native social stingless and solitary bees. Memberships have increased by 54 per cent this year and the email list has over 200 people. A big thanks to Dianne for highlighting this important aspect of our natural environment. The native bee workshop held in October at our Landsborough nursery was well attended.
- **Walks on the Wildside** aims to reconnect people, especially children, with nature. Organiser Lorraine See's plan is to meet at different places on the Blackall Range one Saturday a month for a stroll in the bush, usually National Parks and also on private properties. WOW aims to be inclusive, inviting people with disabilities and children still in pushchairs to join in if the walk is suitable.
- **Hinterland Bush Links** aims to protect healthy bush in the long-term, restore areas that have been degraded by weeds and other impacts, and connect habitat with flora and fauna corridors. HBL acknowledge the traditional owners of this country who have been custodians of the natural environment for thousands of years. The hinterland is recognised nationally as a 'hotspot' for its exceptional diversity of wildlife. However, all is not well for our hinterland wildlife. Much of the bush has been cleared. Noxious invasive weeds and feral animals have also put pressure on the natural world. We know that many native plants and animals are declining in numbers. A vital ingredient in addressing this is promoting bush on private lands. Under Susie Duncan's management, HBL has organised high-profile events such as the well-attended talk by Canadian environmentalist Harvey Locke, planting of native trees and weeding control, and the **Subtropical Forests Ecology Course**.
- **Newsletter:** In 2015, Robyn Harper edited our newsletter. Members would have noticed a bright new edition with colour and different layout. It has proved to be very popular. Robyn has needed to attend to family business and our newsletters are now to be produced from Barung's office in Coral Street. Thank you Robyn for your creative flair, editing and writing. And thank you to all our contributors.
- **Mooloolah Valley Planters and Weeders** is a local community organisation, which plants native plants and weeds strategic areas.
- **Children's Festival Community Gardens** in Bicentenary Lane, Maleny, introduces children to community gardening under the guidance of educational programs.

Maleny Community Precinct Plan has land earmarked for Barung Landcare. Earlier this year, committee members met with Cr Jenny McKay to discuss Barung's Precinct land options. A SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) is being conducted to assess which of the two blocks of land on offer suits our organisation's needs. The issue of Precinct land for Barung Landcare has been a long drawn out saga.

Years ago, we were offered land on the precinct if we moved our office and nursery from Bicentenary Lane. The offer by Council was for land suitable for Barung Landcare to carry out its activities; producing and retailing tube stock, maintaining an office and resource centre, and serving as a base for an enterprise arm.

One of the strengths of the environmental movement is its longevity. Barung Landcare is well respected as part of the fabric of our regional community. It has outlived governments, local, state and Commonwealth and will still be here for years to come. Our legacy will live on. An increase in membership numbers to over 750 shows that Barung Landcare *raison d'être* has strong community and regional support.

In long-lived groups like Barung Landcare, there are many "baton changes" and those of us active today benefit enormously from the good work done by those who've gone before. Some well known staff have found other exciting horizons.

Fuschia Collard: Has a new job at Coolum Community Native Nursery and we wish her all the best in her new position, which puts her close to the beach. Fuschia was first employed in 2005 as administration officer, then in public relations where she spread the landcare message and ethic into the community. Her passion and enthusiasm for the natural environment and her skills saw her become our retail nursery manager at Porters Lane.

Matt Bateman: Matt has moved to Lake Baroon Catchment Care where as project officer he attends to project development and contractor supervision. Matt joined Barung in 2007 on the contracting staff, and then quickly moved into the role of contracting manager. Under Matt's supervision, our contracting arm provided revegetation services to our regional community and Councils and returned a valuable source of income to our organisation.

Maleny District Green Hills Fund has received assistance from Barung Landcare in contributing to Bush Care plantings at the Maleny Community Precinct. We have provided discounted tube stock and assistance with field day events and utilised our membership on several occasions when large tree planting events were held. Our relationship has always been consistently mutually supportive and inclusive in community events.

30,000 Trees have been supplied by Barung for the next stage of Unity Water's sewage treatment plant upgrade. Their plan is for treated effluent to be pumped to irrigated rainforest and wetlands in the Maleny Community Precinct. This process of natural filtration disperses and removes nutrients from Obi Obi Creek. Unity Water are pleased that they are getting the best plants that money can buy!

Congratulations to Unity Water and Maleny Green Hills Fund on winning the 2015 UN World Environment Day Award for this filtration project.

Landholders Guide is being produced again! True to our mission of education and advocacy, Barung Landcare is to produce the 3rd edition of the popular *The Blackall Range Landholders Guide*. The 1st edition appeared in 1997, and the 2nd edition in 2005. The publication addresses the following:

What looking after the land really mean;

How to live with local fauna;

How to farm trees;

How to reduce garden maintenance and power bills;

How to select the right tree for the right place;

How to access help and funding for your projects.

Distribution is through real estate agents, the usual bookselling outlets and our office in Coral Street. This is truly a resource appreciated by the entire region. Many thanks to Elaine Green-Ricketts, Lorraine See and Lin Fairlie who are working on the project.

Volunteers have been central to our success from the first day. Enthusiastic volunteers started Barung Landcare in 1989. Only after we were well established and organised, did we employ staff. From day one, volunteers have always been a mainstay of the organisation, whether in the nurseries, office, Wood Expo or Management Committee, and their dedication and sense of purpose keeps us relevant.

I acknowledge with great pride our wonderful volunteers:

Nurseries: Eric Anderson, Diana O'Connor, Lindsay Bailie, Ken Gordon, Martina Gogarty, Craig Hosmer, Daryl Reinke, Gretchen Evans, Deanne Grace, Peter Milton, Paul Barnes, John Arias, Ian Webster, Dianne Lanskey, Reece Fidler, Ruth Blanch, Pat Martin, Annie Potter, Peter Atherden, Alan Felmingham, Trevor Sauer, Sally Adams, Ross Shannon, Peter Milton, Peter Illingsworth, Janet Webb and Kagularanjau Muthulingam. **Office and Kiosk:** Kellie-Anne Huddy, Helen Wittman, Lyn Finlay, Theresa Bint, Margo, Paddy Parr, Lorraine See, Lynette Hill and Antonio Bruhe .

Volunteer of the Year Award is awarded to Kellie-Anne Huddy. For her never ending dedication and willingness to take on any task asked of her.

When we look at the gains made over the years, it is with pride and gratitude to so many people involved in helping promote environmental issues.

Management Committee has had an active year. Whenever change takes place, management needs to have the knowledge and drive to see it successfully through. I'm pleased to have been part of this group, who worked well together. Again, a shared common purpose was the factor in driving change while maintaining the ethos and camaraderie of volunteering and managing a million dollar organisation.

Many thanks to Lin Fairlie, Martina Gordon, Sue Brieschke (Secretary), and Alan Harrington (Treasurer). Collectively, you have done a great job! Your dedication to the cause and your work ethic have been phenomenal.

A special mention for Lin Fairlie who has been on the committee for 18 years! She joined Barung in 1995 and saw the valuable work being done so stood for the committee in 1997. Lin, a big, big thank you from the Barung family for your dedication to the organisation and the environment, and volunteering at many events including the Wood Expo. Your corporate knowledge of the organisation is unsurpassed.

Employment generation has been a strategy of the organisation for many years. We set out to create meaningful, constructive community jobs. We currently employ four full-time, seven part-time and eighteen casual staff. Staff members voluntarily contribute more hours to our not-for-profit organisation.

Jonathan Waites, Theresa Bint, Den Lalor, Wayne Webb, Cali Salzman, Luke McWilliam, Anthony Boston, Ben Symons, Brenton Schwab, Bryn Gillard, Catherine Gregory, Daniel Harris, David Luhrman, Donna Morgan, Elliot Fuller, Josh Rennie-Hynes, Ivan Cafarella, Kate Brooks, Kia Bicknell, Lisa Chin, Oskar Cafarella, Owen Foley, Quincy Consinteen, Simon Peters, Stephen Bond, Steve McLeish, Sue Brieschke.

Our **Work For The Dole** application was successful for 14 participants to train in our nurseries.

To maintain communication and networks in our region, I have liaised with and attended many meetings and events. Some of these are: Chamber of Commerce breakfast, Wood Expo planning meetings, Precinct Recreation planning meetings, Hinterland Business Centre meetings, Hinterland Bush Links meetings, Mary River Catchment Care Committee, Sunshine Coast Environment Council, South East Queensland Catchments, Gardens for Wildlife, Sunshine Coast Council's Draft Koala Plan launch, Green Hills, Queensland Garden Expo, Environmental law workshops, staffing stalls in Maleny and Witta, greeted Montana University students, Lion's Welcoming Dinner, Walks on the Wildside, Barung's workshops, Burnet Mary Regional Group.

I thank all volunteers, staff, members and friends, past and present, for their passion and commitment to the cause of making a better regional community through environmental awareness and action.

Barung Landcare very much appreciates the assistance given by our sponsors and especially the Sunshine Coast Council for their material and financial support.

Lindsay Kruger

President, Barung Landcare,

October, 2015





Treasurer's Report

Alan Harrington

Overall the financial result of a surplus of \$18,174.68 I consider to be a very satisfactory result, particularly given the unpredictability in some areas of the economy which means there is an affect on how we can carry out all of our activities.

This year's financial result was significantly affected by the unexpected halving of our annual grant from Sunshine Coast Council and the lower net return from the Wood Expo, the latter mainly due to the effects of the inclement weather. Fortunately the structural changes and efficiencies that have been put in place were robust enough to withstand these adversities.

Nevertheless, Barung has continued with its restructuring and streamlining of operations, both to increase revenue and to implement efficiencies in the way it does business. This is still a 'work in progress'! During the year Barung was able to modernise some of its equipment, both in its field and office operations and to remunerate employees more appropriately for their work. Some of our old debt was paid down (by \$29,000), helped by the sale of the Genesis property and this has continued into the 2016 financial year.

Our operational planning is such that we are in a good position to ensure a satisfactory financial outcome in the immediate and medium term over the gamut of our activities.

On a personal note I would like to thank my fellow committee members and all staff, particularly the volunteers as well as all those associated with the Wood Expo. I would also like to especially thank BNAM Co-ordinator Luke McWilliam as well as the absolutely fabulous Den Lalor, both of whom make my role a breeze!

Alan Harrington

Treasurer-29 October 2015



Project Coordination

Jonathan Waites

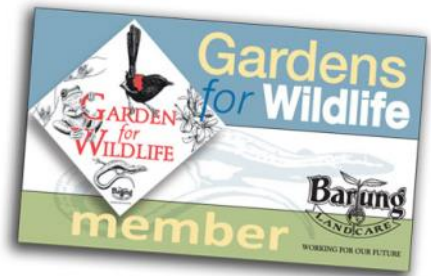
Projects Officer



Our very popular **Gardens for Wildlife** project kicked off in May last year and has attracted 165 members to date. Following a successful launch and three events up until our last AGM we have run a further nine events which have been supported by 180 attendees.

Gardens for Wildlife is a version of the Land for Wildlife program, but aimed at urban and peri-urban landholders. Like the latter it provides recognition and support for those who are actively encouraging wildlife habitat in their backyards and contributing to habitat connection.

The project was kicked off by a small Barung sub-committee which included Rod Kerr, Eric Anderson, Joan Dillon, Fuschia Collard, Susie Duncan and myself. It was launched by Dr Anita Lester at an event which attracted over 80 people in May of last year. We were able to initiate the program with support from an Everyone's Environment Grant Round 2 (administered by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection). The grant funding ceases at the end of October this year and the project will then become self-funded through membership fees.



We are also very grateful for the support of Barung members Paul Barnes, Jillian Rossiter, Joi Sumby, Joan Dillon, Susie Duncan and the Maleny Neighborhood Centre for allowing us into their gardens to run workshops. I would particularly like to mention Joan Dillon who has been involved in the organisation and often presentation of every Gardens for Wildlife event (except one) since the program's inception. Also special thanks to Susie Duncan who has also organised and run several events as well as inviting us to partner with Hinterland Bush Links in running two activities. Thanks also to Eric Anderson for running a successful 'Birds in Backyards' workshop which, due to popular demand, we hope to repeat in the future.



We were successful last year in our application for a Sunshine Coast Council **Environment Levy Partnership** program grant. This funding has been of benefit in helping to offset some of the costs associated with our advocacy work. It has supported the salaries for extension, management and administration officers as well as office rental costs. Directly and indirectly it assists us to provide information (eg. plant selection guides), events (eg. Maleny Wood Expo), talks (eg. *Our Flying Foxes*, *Our Problem*), community support (eg. the National Tree Day for Schools planting at the Ananda Marga River School) and the dissemination of written information (eg. the quarterly Barung Newsletter). Unfortunately for us, due to the popularity of this very successful (and possibly unique) program, we received 43% less funding than last year which has meant a curtailment of some of our activities. Funding which supports the types of activities as exemplified above is rare and extremely important in keeping this organisation afloat.

We were fortunate to secure a Sunshine Coast Council **Environment Levy Grant** (not to be confused with the funding described in the preceding paragraph) for our “Water the Trees” project which offset around half the cost of sinking a bore and equipping it at Landsborough. The bore water is cleaner than the dam water that we have been dependent on up to date which will ensure less problems with blocked filters. Hopefully the supply will be adequate to meet most if not all of our water requirements.



Volunteers excelled themselves again this year at the 19th **Maleny Wood Expo**, particularly those who had to contend with a deluge while trying to set up on Friday afternoon. Saturday morning dawned bright and clear and while initially very soggy underfoot the day (and weekend) just got better and better. In spite of heavier rainfalls to the south of Maleny as well as high rainfall events in northern NSW the week before we, still managed to attract over 5,000 paying customers. Thanks once again to the huge effort of our Expo volllies at this, our premier annual event.

Other Stuff

Bat guru Dr Les Hall volunteered his time to present a talk on Flying Foxes (***Our Flying Foxes, Our Problem***) to over 60 people in the Community Centre in Maleny.

We helped organise and run the **National Tree Day for Schools** planting held at the Ananda Marga River School in July. Barung's Matt Bateman and Oskar Cafarella dug around 400 holes for the 300 tubestock donated from our nursery together with another 100 donated by Brush Turkey Enterprises. Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group donated weed mats and tree guards.

Supported by Barung's Natural Areas Services 200 students at **Christ the King Catholic Primary School** in Deception Bay were assisted planting 650 native trees for koala habitat as part of a project to rejuvenate their school grounds.



Craig Stevens from **Hanson Construction Materials** once again came to our aid, donating a truck load of road base to rectify some wet weather problems at the nursery at Landsborough.

The **Genesis Foundation** property found a buyer in April and we gratefully passed it on to the new owners. Our share of the proceeds from this sale has been greatly appreciated in these difficult times and we thank the Genesis Foundation for approaching Barung to take on this project.

Earlier this year we were approached by Queensland Water and Land Carers and asked to organise a field trip up on the range as part of several that would be offered to delegates attending the Queensland Landcare Conference: Range Reef & Red Dust. Together with Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group (LBCCG) and Maleny District Green Hills Fund (MDGHF) we organised the **Tree Crawl on the Range: Landcare and catchment care in the green hills tour**. The tour began at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve with short presentations from Rose Harmon (Friends of Mary Cairncross Association), Susie Duncan (Hinterland Bush Links) and Jonathan Waites (Barung). We then moved on to Hopper's dairy where Mark Amos (LBCCG) discussed his organisation's award winning approach to working with landholders. Next we followed the Maleny Trail on to the Maleny Community Precinct where Dr Les Hall (MDGHF) gave people a run-down on the planting and revegetation work being done there and the high level of community involvement in these activities.

Project funding has been scarce for some time now, however with the support and dedication of staff and volunteers we continue to strive to 'make a difference'.





Natural Area Services

Luke McWilliam

Barung NAS currently manages 129 reserves with a total area of 1,320.5 Ha for Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast Councils. Natural areas services are also provided to private landholders, catchment groups, businesses and government departments such as Qld Rail, SEQ Water and the Department of Agriculture. Last financial year the Barung Natural Areas team planted 24,375 trees.

Natural Area Services continued to grow with slight gains on last year's performance.

Our relationship with the nurseries has continued to blossom with plans for greater integration between the two groups in the future.

A solid financial base has been established for the forthcoming year. This has been achieved through the actions of a fiscally responsible and cohesive Committee that has supported Natural Area Services and the nurseries with a focus on future growth. As acting Coordinator I've found the current Committee constructive, receptive and a pleasure to work with and I'd like to thank them personally for their commitment and leadership as custodians of Barung.

Barung Natural Area Services manages 129 reserves with a total area of 1,320.5 Ha being selected for the natural area contracting panels for both Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay Regional Councils. Within the Sunshine coast we have been allocated to service the Hinterland Central Region which centres around Maleny and descends east to Landsborough.

Major projects the team undertook throughout the year included:

- Caloundra waste transfer station revegetation
- Bush regeneration of land surrounding the Landsborough Nursery
- Queensland Rail corridor tree screen planting
- Multiple projects along Cabbage Tree Creek in Ferny Hills
- Upper Mary Weed Vine Strategy Report 2012-15



Brenton Schwab has taken on the role of Community Nature Conservation Coordinator as part of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's Bushcare program.

The team has embraced tablet technology to improve efficiency when submitting reports and invoicing clients; an added bonus of this move has been a reduction in paper wastage.

This year has also seen the introduction of a bright new look with new uniforms for everyone that proudly display the Barung and Landcare logos and are compliant with Workplace, health & safety requirements.

We bid fond farewell to Matt Bateman, who has shown exceptional leadership and dedication during his time as manager of contracting services over the past 5 years, and we welcome David Luhrman as the Moreton Bay team leader. David comes to Barung with a wealth of experience working as a Bushcare officer for Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast and Noosa Councils.





Nurseries

Luke McWilliam

Firstly a huge thank you to each and every one of the volunteers that have spent time at the Landsborough and Maleny nurseries; we would never ever have been able to do it without you!

The nursery has also seen some new faces from the Work for the Dole program; a welcome addition to the existing crew of volunteers.

Our new retail nursery manager Cali Salzmänn has come on board with plenty of energy and new ideas and is to be congratulated for her mammoth effort taking on the duties of both nursery and retail manager at very short notice. Not only has she been able to fill Wayne's shoes but she has successfully filled an order for 30,000 plants as part of the Unity Water plantation on the Precinct.

Cali has also initiated the creation of a production plan that will streamline operations and improve retail efficiency. As part of this process Cali plans to expand the species available to include wallum and coastal areas, koala feed trees, a broader range of understory species, such as lo-mandra, and plants suited to growing in an urban environment.

We hope that long-time Landsborough nursery manager Wayne Webb has a speedy and full recovery and look forward to welcoming him back after his recuperation.

We bid farewell to Fuschia Collard and thank her for her valuable contribution; we wish her all the best in her future endeavours as part of her sea change.





Administration/Office Report

Den Lalor & Theresa Bint

Functionally, it is important that the different operational locations of Barung are connected. Cloud based systems have been implemented which allow for stronger connectivity and consistency across the organisation by providing secure access to Barung's operational data anywhere with an internet connection. The move to the organisation's cloud based accounting system helps eliminate double entry and inefficient legacy systems. We can now communicate in a more digitally focused way. These systems also provide protection for all of Barung's data through automatic back-ups.

Like many businesses Barung has been transitioning to online payments, registrations, and processing for memberships, events and workshops and sales. This has been of great benefit. While there are some extra charges, there is a clear reporting process with automatic receipts and funds deposited in accounts without any handling of money and minimal processing.

Social media

We've been making good use of social media; the level of activity and contributions from across Barung has been kept high. Total reach for Facebook posts for 2014-15 was **86,007**. We'll be using Facebook to promote the on-line shop in the lead-up to Christmas. There were **24,766** impressions recorded of our twitter tweets with many 'retweets' by like-minded organisations.

Tablet computers

The roll-out of tablets for use in the kiosk, at the nurseries, and for NAS has been well-received; Den's working on introducing systems to make for point-of-sale and other data entry even more simple and direct. Thanks to everyone for their patience while we all get to know the new system. On our way to eliminating a lot of wrestling with till tapes etc.

Emails

During the year we sent out **81,595** emails to Barung members and contacts notifying our members of upcoming workshops, walks, weeding and planting activities, meetings, tours, conferences, courses, lectures, film screenings, raffle ticket sales, member benefits and much more!

Updated telephone systems

Our very recently acquired new phone system gives us the ability to put incoming calls directly through to the relevant staff wherever they are and much more. With Barung spread out across 3 locations and staff also out in the field on projects it will be of great benefit for our workflow and customer relations.

Updated computer systems—first new office computers since 2009!

Training

With new systems comes benefits for the organisation as well as staff and volunteers who have the opportunity to acquire new skills. A lot of time is invested in training staff and volunteers in the use of the new tablets, the new point-of-sale system, our cloud based accounting system, membership database management, updating of websites, social media and much more!

Barung is sponsoring the Nature Watch column in The Range News. The winner of the best nature photograph competition each week will win a \$25 Barung Landcare gift certificate. The four-week trial started with Thursday October 29th's issue.

From next month we will be producing a **monthly e-news** and quarterly printed newsletter. Stay tuned.





Hinterland Bush Links

Susie Duncan

Hinterland Bush Links has continued to grow over the past year. We have run a wide range of activities to engage landholders, the broader community and other organisations in achieving on-ground results for landscape-scale connectivity.

Through donor contributions we have been able to employ Sue Brieschke as a part-time Project Officer to assist with administration and organisation of projects. This has been a boon to Hinterland Bush Links, particularly at a time when we were required to incorporate in order to receive further funding from Sunshine Coast Council. We have a Memorandum of Understanding with Barung Landcare to facilitate a continued close working relationship between the two organisations.

A highlight of the year was the inaugural Subtropical Forests Ecology Course held at Booroobin in September 2015 and attended by 26 people. This 3-day residential course was a great success and we intend to run the course again in 2016.

Another major event was the visit to Maleny by international connectivity science pioneer, Harvey Locke in Nov 2014. A number of people enjoyed two days walking in the Conondale and Bellthorpe National Parks with Harvey, followed by a dinner for HBL supporters and a well attended public presentation at the Maleny Community Centre.

In partnership with Barung Landcare, we have continued work to eradicate Cats Claw, Madeira Vine and Dutchmans Pipe in the Upper Mary Valley. Matt Bateman prepared a report on the strategic mapping and control works that have been undertaken over the past three years to manage these Weeds of National Significance. More recently we have met with a wide-range of other organisations involved with control of these weed vines throughout the Mary River catchment.



Roving Restorers continue their excellent volunteer assistance to landholders through weed management and revegetation work. We focus on land within key wildlife corridors or land which enhances protected areas, but are happy to support any landholder who is strongly motivated to restore habitat and plan towards linkages with neighbours. We have been running working bees twice a month with up to 35 people attending.



Hinterland Bush Links has been actively involved with the organisation of workshops for Barung Landcare's Gardens for Wildlife program. This has included an emphasis on how gardens can contribute to connecting significant protected areas, for example linking habitat between Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve and the Obi Ck.

We continue to work collaboratively with the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative and are partnering on a project to restore and link glider habitat in the Cedar Ck and Elaman Ck catchments on the Blackall Range.

We made a submission to the Sunshine Coast Council draft Koala Conservation Plan and this has focused our attention on the need for restoration and connectivity works to link significant koala habitat in the Belli Ck area. In partnership with Noosa Landcare and MRCCC we hope to attract funding for coordination of Roving Restorers work specifically in this key wildlife corridor between Mapleton National Park and West Cooroy State Forest, along with other on-ground works.

In partnership with Sunshine Coast Council, Little Yabba Bushcare continues to contribute to restoration of habitat in the Cambroon Wildlife Corridor to link the Blackall and Conondale ranges. The Bushcare group ran a workshop to engage community with the values of rainforest vegetation in the area and to familiarise people with control of Madeira Vine. More recently we have set up a new Bushcare group through Sunshine Coast Council at Avocado Lane Park in Maleny. This group will play an important role in protecting habitat along Walkers Ck and we hope to involve other landholders in restoration work along the length of the creek.



We have contributed to workshops and community planting days organised by Sunshine Coast Council at the Kirbys Road Environmental Reserve. We contributed to the Mary River Riparian Restoration day organised by MRCCC and Brush Turkey Enterprises. Stalls have been held at the Kenilworth Food Festival and the Barung Wood Expo. Regular articles have been prepared for mainstream media and newsletters, and frequent Facebook items posted.

Hinterland Bush Links is grateful to Sunshine Coast Council for Environment Levy Partnership funding and acknowledges the wonderful financial support of our donors, in particular Jane Abercrombie, Marek & Libby Malter, Jenny Allen and Barry Traill & Susie Duncan. Barung staff has provided support in a myriad of ways for which we are greatly appreciative. We look forward to an exciting year ahead and expect to retain a strong working relationship with Barung Landcare to conserve our amazing environment in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

Susie Duncan
Coordinator,
Hinterland Bush Links
2 Treehaven Way, Maleny QLD 4552
07 5429 6622 / 0448 447322
SKYPE susie.duncan 1

www.hinterlandbushlinks.org



Hinterland Bush Links
connecting restoring protecting
the Sunshine Coast Hinterland





Range Bees Report

Dianne Clarke

Range Bees was formed in February 2012 as a Blackall Range based group of people concerned about the future of pollination of our food crops and the natural environment. The group's focus was originally on the nurturing and management of all bees but over time the emphasis has become native social stingless and solitary bees.

Barung Landcare Organisation is the auspicing organisation for Range Bees.

Range Bees events during 2015 included:

- A walk through the Noosa Botanical Gardens to identify bees;
- A display and talks at the Queensland Garden Expo in Nambour;
- A display at the Bee Open Day in Imbil; and
- A native social stingless bee hives workshop held at Landsborough with hive splits and transfers including hives transferred from a log and two possum boxes. We were also brought a hive in a bird box, but it was not established enough to transfer – next year!



The November event will be a walk through the Maroochydore Bushland Botanical Gardens.

Memberships have increased by 54% this year and the general email list has over 200 people which demonstrates the continued interest in our native bees

Further information can be obtained by emailing rangebees@live.com.au



Native stingless bee hives workshop at Barung's Landsborough Nursery



Walks on the Wild Side

Raine See

Thank you to private landholders for hosting a number of walks conducted through the year. Our last walk we have an invitation from Ian and Chrissie McMasters who live on 100 hectares at the end of Mt Mellum Road overlooking the Glasshouse Mts to visit and explore their beautiful property. They have an amazing knowledge of native plants and are working very hard to bring the property back to pristine condition.



*Walk at Little Yabba Creek, Cambroon
Thanks to Eric Anderson and Diana
O'Connor who led the bird walk!*

*Alpaca Walk at Conondale along Upper
Cedar Creek. Thanks to Ace the Alpaca
and friends for being well behaved.*



About Walks on the Wildside

Vision

The vision we have with Walks on the Wildside is to reconnect people, especially children, with nature. Research shows that most children spend more time plugged into something connected to an electricity outlet than 'plugged into' real life. The need to spend time in nature is innate in all people and a 'nature deficit disorder' can be the result of a lack of this connection. The soul needs to be replenished and this can most easily be achieved by a connection with nature. Social and learning problems such as ADHD and ADD have been proven to be helped by children relaxing and connecting with nature. With so many moves afoot to do away with or open up National Parks we need to instil in the next generation a love and respect of nature. If we expect children to grow up wanting to save wildspaces we must give them the opportunities to feel them, smell them and be one with them, then they will love them and want to protect them.

Co-ordinator and Patron

The co-ordinator is Lorraine (Raine) See, ex teacher and Librarian and our Patron is Jill Morris, prize winning author of children's books based on nature and the environment. Jill spent many years bringing children and books together with her school visits to her home, The Book Farm, at Reesville. She has certainly kept nature-deficit disorder at bay for many children over many years and still spends many hours working on her own wildspace.



Maleny Wood Expo - RAIN RAIN RAIN !!!!!

In my 25 years of living in Maleny I have never experienced rain as heavy as we had during the set up for the Maleny Wood Expo this year. The flash flooding broke the banks of the Obi and exhibitors were arriving with perilous tales of road closures and dangerous conditions. My stress levels were rising as my phone kept ringing (over 300 calls on Friday) with the predictable question "have you cancelled yet?"... at which I would reply "we are still going ahead.... the sun will be sparkling tomorrow, it will be a fantastic event"



Meanwhile a small team of volunteers and contractors, drenched and frozen, methodically worked through the enormous list of jobs to get the site ready for the Expo. Respect and many thanks to everyone of these amazing people, what an effort!!!!.... Flying in the face of

adversity.

We decided to cancel the opening party and Wootha Prize announcements on Friday night due to the dangerous road conditions as we didn't want to encourage anyone to be on the road. This proved to be a wise decision, the rain just kept coming.

After an exhausting day and almost sleepless night, the excitement and relief I felt to see a sky full of stars when I rose was profound.

I arrived back at the Showgrounds and watched a beautiful sun rise over the festival site..... PHEW!!!!

The showgrounds were in remarkably good condition after all the rain and heavy traffic during the set up. Some exhibitors were in place already but most were yet to arrive. We had to restrict cars and trucks driving on grassy areas.... so I had to adjust the site layout. Most affected by this layout change were the exhibitors on Orb Cork Oval.

The sun sparkled and the cars rolled in..... and the show went on.

We have received very positive feedback from exhibitors and patrons about the event ... saying they liked the diversity and quality of the exhibits and that the kids workshops were wonderful. We are steadily gaining the reputation as one of Australia's best timber related shows. In fact some exhibitors who have attended most woodworking tradeshow in Australia for many years say ours is now the best in Australia.

Work on the 2016 Maleny Wood Expo has already begun. Next year is our 20th year celebration so we would like to make it a special one. If anyone has any ideas for the 20th celebrations I would love to hear from you or if you have time to help out with the planning please let me know.

The Maleny Wood Expo is truly a community event and enormous thanks must go out to the Maleny community for its support. Thank you to all the volunteers who take such pride in the Expo. To all the local businesses who generously donate their goods and services to the raffle and the opening night. And many thanks to all our sponsors and supporters.

Congratulations to Barung and its members for hosting such a quality event.

Apart from the opportunity for Barung to benefit financially, the Maleny Wood Expo exposes 'landcare' to a wide demographic and promotes Barung as a leader in community engagement and innovation.

Steve McLeish





Photos by Kerry Chave

OUR 2014—2015 SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



This project was funded by the Queensland Government's Everyone's Environment grants program.



Supported by



HINTERLAND
Business Centre



Annual Report 2014 –2015

Thankyou for supporting Landcare on the Blackall Range



Blackall Range Growers Market



**Geochempet
Services**



Annual Report 2014 –2015

Ananda Marga River School
Crystal Waters Community Co-operative
eContent and Life Artistry
Earthcarer
Family FEASTival
Habitat Support
Karom Salt
Lapmist Pty Ltd
Maleny Green Printery
Montville Village Real Estate
Narrows Escape Rainforest Retreat
Native Plants SEQ
Northey Street City Farm
Range Auto & Fuel Injection Centre
RB Safety & Training Services
South East Land Repair
Suncoast Hardwoods
Sunshine Coast Koala Rescue



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

It's all about...
...fresh AIR
...clean WATER
...healthy soil
...native FLORA
...vital FIRE
...diverse FORESTS
...caring PEOPLE
...abundant WILDLIFE

Barung Landcare is working to develop ethical solutions for a sustainable future. We support regional and local empowerment to conserve and enhance the rich diversity of natural resources of the Blackall Range and environs.

BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC.

Barung Resource Centre
38a Coral Street, Maleny
PO Box 1074 Maleny Qld 4552
Ph 07 54943151
info@barunglandcare.org.au
www.barunglandcare.org.au

Barung Nurseries
Retail: 26 Porters Lane, North Maleny
Ph: 0429 943152
Production: 135 Forestry Road, Landsborough
Ph: 0429 943153
nursery@barunglandcare.org.au

Barung Natural Area Services
Ph: 0400 666488
contracting@barunglandcare.org.au

Supported by

