



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

## **Barung Landcare Association Inc.**

### **Annual Report 2016—2017**

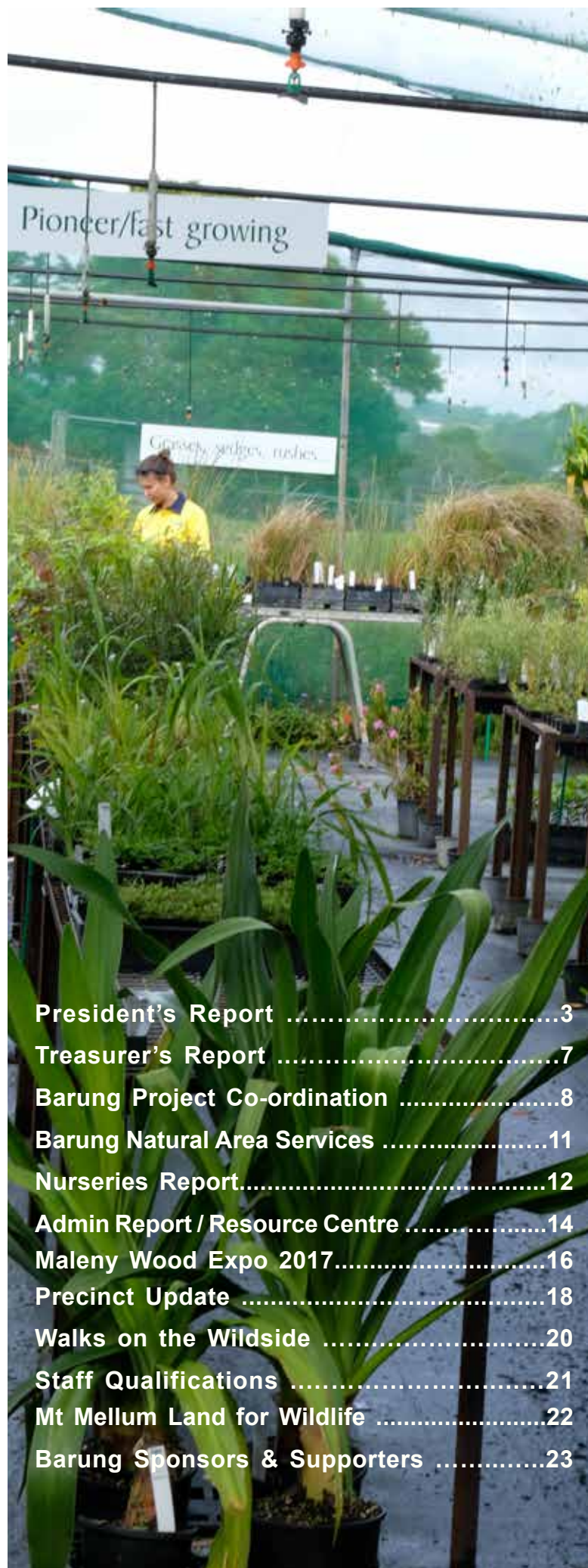
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Barung  
**Landcare**





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## WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	<i>Lindsay Kruger</i>
Secretary	<i>Raine See</i>
Treasurer	<i>Alan Harrington</i>
Committee Members	<i>Ian McMaster</i>
	<i>Sue Brieschke</i>
	<i>Elaine Green Ricketts</i>

### BARUNG STAFF

#### **Barung Resource Centre & Projects**

<i>Jonathan Waites</i>	Projects Officer
<i>Theresa Bint</i>	Office Manager
<i>Den Lalor</i>	Admin/Project Support Officer
<i>Steve McLeish</i>	Maleny Wood Expo Coordinator

#### **Barung Nurseries**

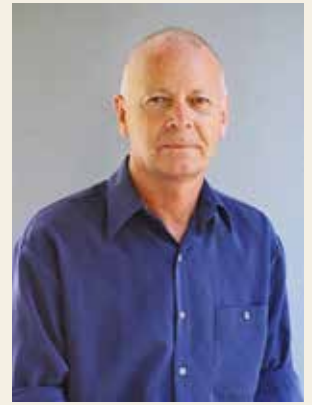
<i>Wayne Webb</i>	Production Nursery Manager
<i>Cam Burton</i>	Community Nursery Manager
<i>Maia Stegman</i>	Assistant Nursery Manager
<i>Greg Smyrell</i>	

#### **Barung Natural Area Services**

<i>Luke McWilliam</i>	Manager
<i>David Luhrman</i>	Team Leader
<i>Simon Peters</i>	Team Leader
<i>Kate Seehuusen</i>	Liaison Officer
<i>Adam Houlden</i>	<i>Mark Berndsen</i>
<i>Alana Trott</i>	<i>Matt Campbell</i>
<i>Annaliese Walker</i>	<i>Neal Rolley</i>
<i>Ben Symons</i>	<i>Richard Kinhead</i>
<i>Brett Nelson</i>	<i>Stephen Bond</i>
<i>Dan Gynes</i>	<i>Tanya Ellison</i>
<i>Dawn Mickelo</i>	<i>Wendy Conway</i>
<i>Donna Morgan</i>	
<i>Evan Millwood</i>	
<i>Joseph Rosenberg</i>	

# President's Report

*Lindsay Kruger*



## **BARUNG IS IN BETTER SHAPE THAN EVER!**

I acknowledge the Jinibara people, who are the traditional custodians of this land.

It is my pleasure to present the President's annual report, my third as President. Barung Landcare is in its 28th year, and was started by enthusiastic volunteers in 1989, the same year as the national landcare movement was set up by the Federal government and the Australian Conservation Foundation and supported by the National Farmers Federation.

During my tenure as President over the last three years, it has been necessary to restructure Barung Landcare to meet the changing conditions.

In 2014 I set out to find a team of people with the skills Barung needed, not just to survive but to thrive. This is already happening. To my knowledge, Barung Landcare has never been in such a strong position, with all areas of the organisation being vibrant and robust—and there is money in the bank!

While there is always room for improvement, the volunteer Management Committee has performed well in meeting the challenges thrown up in this increasingly corporatised world where community-based, not-for-profit organisations must find ways to remain viable—or go under. We earn income from our enterprise arms—the nurseries, the contracting division and the Wood Expo - and we cover our costs of holding workshops and educational presentations.

Excuse the pun, but the landscape for environmental organisations generally has changed in the last 10 years, with funding being more difficult to obtain. While this is generally true, the Sunshine Coast Council has supported us with funds from the Environmental Levy Partnership Program, and we are grateful to them for this.

**A Financial Multiplier Effect:** These funds are used to support advocacy, rent, administrative work, wages, etc. As a result of this funding, Barung is able to deliver services valued at over \$100,000. This is 100% more than the value of Council's grant. **This is value for money!**

**Financials:** Barung Landcare is healthy! We pay our bills on time.

Barung Landcare very much appreciates the assistance given by all our sponsors for their material and financial support.

Barung Landcare Association has been able to maintain its community-based environmental ethos and mission, which is working to develop ethical solutions for a sustainable future.

**Entities Owned or Auspiced:** There are nine groups we own or auspice. The ones we own are: Natural Area Services, retail nursery, production nursery, Gardens for Wildlife, Maleny Wood Expo, Walks on the Wildside and Barung Newsletter, and we auspice Mooloolah Valley Planters and Weeders and Mt Mellum Land for Wildlife Local Area Network.

**Employment generation:** This has been a strategy of the organisation for many years. A long time ago, the organisation set out to create meaningful, constructive, community jobs. Our Contracting arm, BNAS, currently employs 20 staff, doing revegetation and weeding for landholders, Sunshine Coast Council and Moreton Bay Regional Council. Examples are revegetation at Kenilworth on the Mary River's banks, and the removal of Cats' Claw and Madeira vine in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast.



In Moreton Bay, we are revegetating areas of Bribie Island. Kate Seehuusen has recently been appointed Contracting Manager and will continue the good works.

In addition to the above, Barung is now training people in the Skilling Queenslanders program. There are 10 trainees of all ages, and they are managed by Luke McWilliam.

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



### **The Maleny Wood Expo: From Seed to Fine Furniture:**

The 2017 Expo was a great success in all areas. Each year, our event manager Steve McLeish brings new creative ideas to enhance its appeal. It is the best wood show in Australia, and it's Barung Landcare's Expo!

Our office is flat out during this time, doing the promotional and marketing work, printing and organising volunteers. Thanks to Theresa Bint, Den Lalor, Kellie Huddie, Helen Whittman and Antonio Bruhe for their huge commitment at this time.

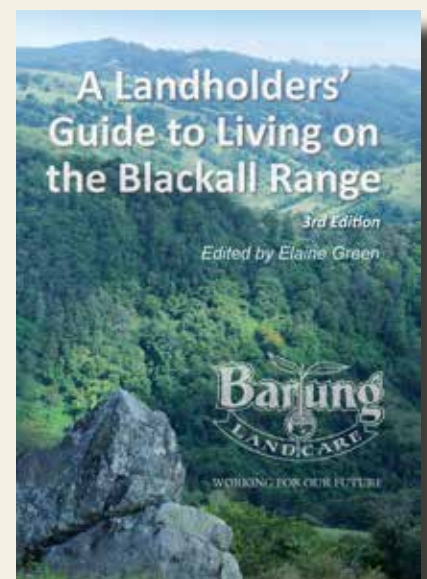
The Barung office is always a hive of activity and the above-mentioned staff and volunteers contribute extra hours to our not-for-profit organisation.

**Upcoming Events:** All of you would have received notification of workshops and information evenings. Jonathan Waites is our dedicated Project Officer who puts a lot of work into planning and presenting these educational projects. Jono's work keeps Barung relevant with a range of interesting events.

**The Barung Landholders Guide:** The 3rd edition, has been produced and is available from Barung's office. The Guide is true to our mission of education and advocacy. The 1st edition appeared in 1997, and the 2nd edition in 2005. It was edited by Elaine Green Ricketts, assisted by Lorraine See. This is truly a resource appreciated by the entire regional community. It is essential reading and is available from our office for \$20.

**Bursaries:** Barung Landcare now offers two bursaries:

- To the University of the Sunshine Coast the sum of \$3,000 over three years from 2017 through 2019 inclusive, for the purposes of funding one bursary each year, valued at \$1,000. The successful candidate is Samuel Thompson
- To Maleny State High School up to \$1,500 over three years. One bursary per year valued at \$500. The successful candidate is Esmi Doonan.



Community-based organisations like Barung are needed more than ever as our natural environment is increasingly being threatened.

With the coming environmental challenges, Barung Landcare and especially our nurseries will be critically important in providing the resources for our community to meet those challenges and to repair and restore our natural environment, with its flora, fauna and (the forgotten 'f') fungi.

We have put more resources into our nurseries. Cameron Burton is now our Porters Lane Nursery Manager. If you have visited lately, you would have seen the changes he is making. We are also expanding our range of local provenance trees, especially for Gardens for Wildlife. We have also upgraded facilities with a new 'you-beaut' toilet and handwashing facilities located near where all the work is done.

At our Landsborough Production Nursery, we have employed Maia Stegman as an assistant to Wayne Webb. This has resulted in greater efficiency and productivity. It also allows Wayne to schedule in seed collecting, something that was difficult to do when he was there by himself.

Our Production Nursery also has a new big double-door seed fridge. And of course Wayne now has a nursery vehicle to transport plants. Before this, he had to use his own vehicle.

A big thank-you to our members, volunteers, staff and committee members for all the great work they have done over this last year to make Barung Landcare prosper and now be in a position to meet the anticipated environmental demands.



*Brush Box Orchid (Dendrobium aemulum)*

**The Future: 2016-2020** In 2016 we commenced a series of business planning workshops to scope our future from 2016 to 2020. This should be seen in the wider context of Barung's future, and includes volunteering and our enterprise arms, the nurseries and contracting.

Our business plan reflects our community and volunteering relationship links. Barung's strength and resilience have come about because we have been welcoming of people and ideas. It's important that we avoid any moves toward corporatisation, which has ruined many community-based organisations. We need to stay true to our stated mission and values.

**The Management Committee:** Whenever change is in the offering, management needs to have the knowledge and drive to see it through successfully. I'm pleased to have been part of this group that has worked well together. Again, a shared common purpose has been the factor in driving change while maintaining the ethos and camaraderie of volunteering and managing a not-for-profit, million-dollar organisation.

The Management Committee has had an active year and has concluded a major restructuring affecting nurseries and contracting. Luke McWilliam is now responsible for tendering for contract work, the Skilling Queenslanders Program, building the new Community Nursery on the Precinct and writing and gaining our ISO accreditation. Kate Seehuusen is now in charge of our Contracting arm with responsibilities for staffing and job planning. Cameron Burton at Porters Lane Nursery is now co-ordinating both nurseries. Thanks to Ian, Alan and Sue for their work on this.

Many thanks to our volunteer Management Committee members, Sue Brieschke, Elaine Green Ricketts, Ian McMaster, Lorraine See (Secretary) and Alan Harrington (Treasurer). Collectively, they have done a great job! Their dedication to the cause and their work ethic have been phenomenal.

**Communication and Liaison:** To maintain communication and networks in our region, I have liaised with diverse groups and attended many meetings and events. Some of these included: Wood Expo planning, Hinterland Business Centre, Neighbourhood Centre, Mary River Catchment Care Committee meetings, Sunshine Coast Environment Council meetings, South East Queensland Catchments meetings, Gardens for Wildlife, Maleny Green Hills, Environmental Defenders Office workshops, Lions Club Welcoming Dinner, Barung's workshops and many meetings with staff at our nurseries, to name a few.

**Life Members** I have some wonderful news to announce: three long-time dedicated supporters have been awarded Life Membership of our organisation. They are Eric Anderson, Diana O'Connor and Mim Coulstock. Over many years, they have kept the faith and worked tirelessly in various management roles to support Barung's mission.

**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.

Lorraine See is stepping down from the Management Committee. Thank you, Lorraine, for your years of being secretary on the committee and also for your work for the Wood Expo Raffle which has become a huge success. Elaine Green Ricketts has nominated to be Secretary.

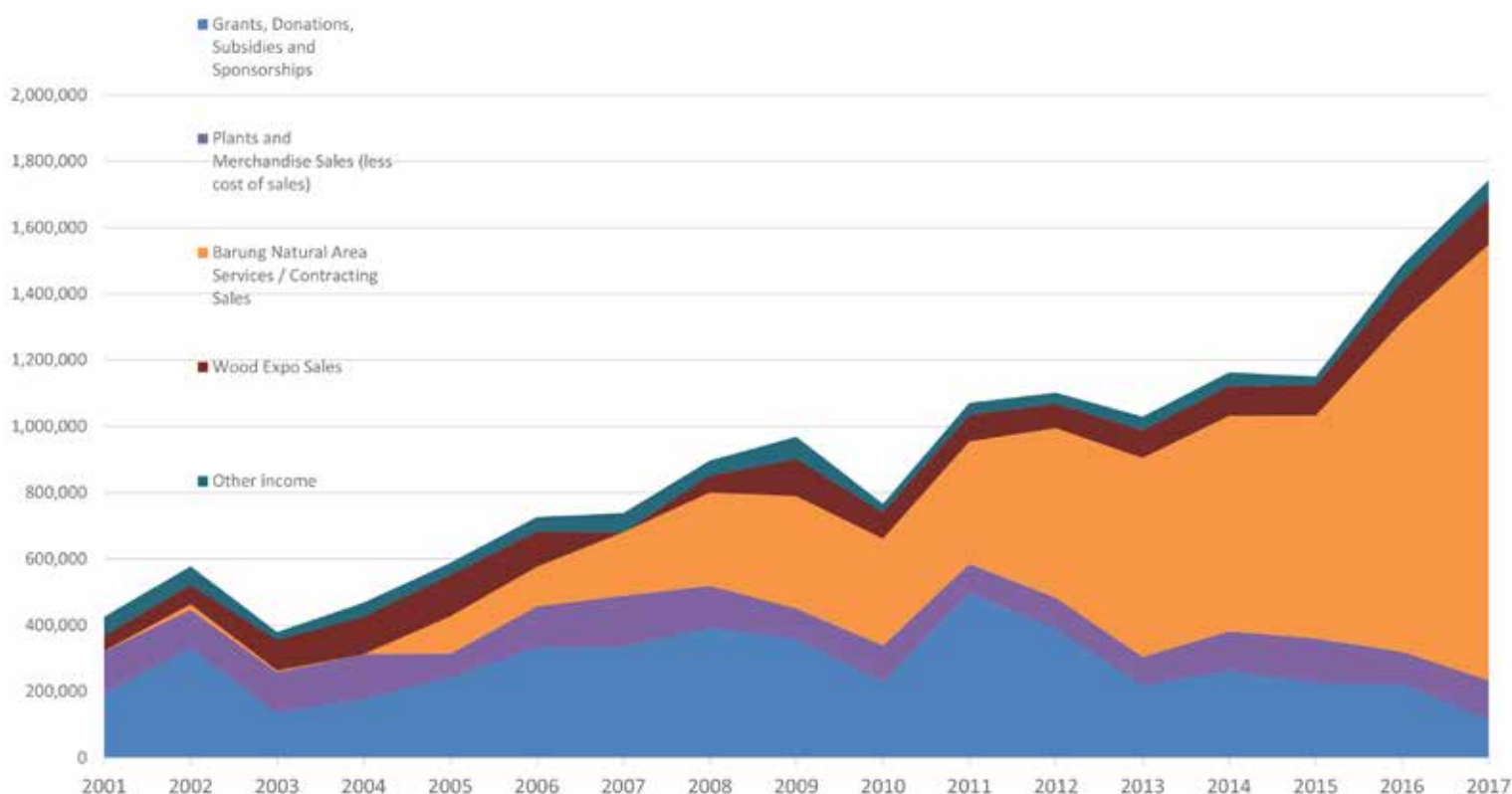
To our dedicated contracting staff who share our passion for environmental repair: Adam Houlden, Alana Trott, Amanda Miller, Annaliese Walker, Ben Symons, Brett Nelson, Col Fletcher, Dan Gynes, David Luhrman, Dawn Mickelo, Donna Morgan, Evan Millwood, Jonathon Jordan, Joseph Rosenberg, Maddighan Taylor, Katherine Seehuusen, Luke McWilliam, Mark Berndsen, Mathew Preston, Matt Campbell, Michael Vermeulen, Nathan Bignell, Neal Rolley, Peter Splatt, Richard Kinkead, Simon Peters, Stephen Bond, Steven Rose, Tanya Ellison, Tanya Ellison, Teree France, Wendy Conway.

To our regular volunteers who have been integral to Barung's dynamism from day one, your commitment is inspirational: Alan Felmingham, Trevor Sauer, Kim Micheal, Elaine Heathwood, Annie Potter, Sue Briskie, Peter Atherden, Alex Perry, John Kerslake, Peter Atherden, Oscar Thielen, Katusha, Barb Dilworth, Cory Pampling, Sarah Penny, Brandon Juric and Trey Hayes. Lindsay Bailie, Gretchen Evans, Mathew Davies, Peter Milton, Hagan Burton, Kellie Huddy, Ian Hitchcock, Craig Hosmer, Daryl Reinke, Esther Bradshaw, Robert Foote, Vera Wearing, Linda McKee, Simon Wells, Sean Leigh, Greg Windsor.

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 Income Sources Financial Years 2001 - 2017





# Treasurer's Report for 2017 Barung Landcare AGM

*Alan Harrington*

The 2017 was a very successful year for Barung financially. We achieved a very healthy surplus that will go a long way to ensuring the success of many of Barung's activities. During the year we have continued the policy of upgrading equipment and providing new machinery and IT systems that go towards streamlining our activities and improving and enhancing our services to members.



We are in a very good financial position to meet the costs associated with the initial stages of the proposed move to the Maleny Precinct.

Particularly pleasing has been the very valuable (and increasingly significant) financial contribution our Natural Areas Management team has contributed to our financial success. This has occurred in a very competitive market that is coming under increasing compliance costs.

The 2017 Wood Expo was also a huge success on all fronts, achieving a record surplus!

I personally would like to thank all the staff and volunteers that have been so helpful and contribute to this success. In particular I would like to thank Theresa Bint and Den Lalor from the office, both of whom it is a pleasure to work with!



*Alan's ancient Maleny Wood Expo cash ledger has clearly absorbed much blood sweat and tears*

# Barung Project Co-ordination 2017

*Jonathan Waites*

Barung ran 16 workshops this year which attracted nearly 300 participants. We have begun two on-ground projects involving five properties and completed a series of workshops about native rehabilitation and revegetation. Barung has also signed an MoU with the University of Queensland and as a result we are now a Cane Toad Challenge Affiliate.

## Funding

Barung has completed the third year of our three-year **Environment Levy Partnership Funding Program (ELP): Community**

**Landcare in Action** agreement with Sunshine Coast Council. The funding is available for community groups to help offset their operational expenses and provides a way for council to 'work in partnership with the community to achieve Council's priorities'. We have applied for a new partnership agreement which will run for the next three years, 2018 – 2020.



ELP grant funding has been of enormous benefit in offsetting some of the costs associated with our advocacy work. It has supported salaries for extension, management and administration officers as well as office rental costs. Directly and indirectly it assists us to provide information (e.g. plant selection guides), run events (e.g. Maleny Wood Expo), hold talks (e.g. Cane Toad Challenge), community support (e.g. visit to Montville State School on National Tree Day for Schools to identify plants for students) and the dissemination of written information (e.g. the quarterly Barung Newsletter). Funding which supports these types of activities is rare and extremely important in providing Barung with the capacity to further its objectives.

## Projects

It has been particularly exciting to be able to offer five landholders devolved grant funding for on-ground work this year, provided by Burnett Mary Regional Group and Healthy Land and Water, the two regional groups that cover Barung's 'area of interest'.

The **Blackall Range Rainforest Recovery** project is supported by Healthy Land and Water through funding from the Australian government. It is aimed at improving the integrity and connectivity of Lowland subtropical rainforest through a program of weed control and revegetation on two strategically situated properties, one in Pumicestone Passage catchment and the other in Mooloolah River catchment. The project will result in strategic weed control over 4ha to control a range of weeds including Morning glory (*Ipomoea indica*) and Large-leaved privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), which will support natural regeneration and planting over 1ha.



Funded work carried out by Barung Natural Area Services will be complemented by landholder in-kind support through Sunshine Coast Council Landholder Environment Grants. Work on these properties will strengthen the bioregional corridor linking Mt Mellum with the Mooloolah Valley and the Stanley River, an identified strategic landscape linkage, enhancing Richmond birdwing butterfly and Glossy black cockatoo habitat. The Conservation status of both species is listed as Vulnerable in Queensland.



The **Enhancing Lowland Subtropical Rainforest Communities: Barung Landcare** project has also been supported by Healthy Land and Water through funding from the Australian government. It too is focussed on strengthening lowland subtropical rainforest, in this case on three properties in the Stanley River catchment in the Peachester area. The project will fund Barung Natural Area Services to carry out strategic weed control over 2.5ha to encourage natural regeneration, as well as planting 600 tubestock over 0.1ha. Maintenance will be the responsibility of the landholders.

Both of these devolved grant projects will support the endangered ecological community lowland rainforest of subtropical Australia.

The **Revegetating the Range** (RtR) project funded by Burnett Mary Regional Group through the Australian government's National Landcare Program consisted of five half-day workshops. The first (*Native Seed Collection & Propagation*) was held at the Production Nursery at Landsborough where we had the benefit of Wayne Webb's knowledge and experience. The remaining workshops (*Native Plant ID and Weed Recognition*, *Planning Preparation and Commitment*, *Planting Methodology: the Theory and the Practice*, *Maintenance and Follow-up*) were held on-site at Denis Wood's property, 'Laughing Waters'. These were led by rainforest ecologist, Greg Smyrell. The third workshop included a small treeplant into a section of a larger part of the property that Denis is currently revegetating.



The workshops took participants through the complete process of planning, preparing, planting and maintaining a revegetation project on one site over a twelve month period. Each workshop included a discussion of the general theory relevant to the workshop topic (e.g. site preparation) followed by a more specific discussion, and reasoning for, the approach chosen for that particular project site. There was also a practical component or demonstration applicable to the topic under discussion.

We are very grateful to Denis Wood for allowing us access to his property where we ran four of the workshops as well as generously providing us with the use of his cabin and facilities.

**Gardens for Wildlife** (GfW) is a 'condensed' version of Land for Wildlife. It aims to support urban and peri-urban landholders who may not qualify for Land for Wildlife but never the less aspire to provide habitat for wildlife in their backyards and contribute to habitat connection across the landscape. Since its inception in 2014 there are now over 220 GfW members of which 167 are also Barung members.

There were seven GfW workshops held attracting more than 100 participants. Four of the events were hands-on in our front garden at the Hinterland Business Centre under Joan Dillon's guidance where we have instigated the transformation of a pre-existing garden bed and lawn area into a developing wildlife friendly garden.

I would particularly like to thank our volunteer workshop presenters:

**Eric Anderson** who presented the ever-popular Birds in our Backyards workshop and was one of the lead proponents of the Gardens for Wildlife project.

**Jenny Allen** who invited us to explore her property with her as she celebrated the 20-year anniversary of her Permaculture, wildlife friendly garden.

**Joan Dillon** who has supported the GfW project since its inception and continues to drive the Making your front garden for wildlife series of workshops. In addition to organising and hosting five GfW workshops this year, Joan has spent time in the 'front garden' weeding, watering and replacing species that have perished during the extreme dry period.



The **Cane Toad Challenge** (CTC) is 'a University of Queensland (Institute for Molecular Bioscience) (UQ) community engagement and citizen science initiative, designed to fast track public access to innovative cane toad tadpole trapping technology co-invented by researchers from the University of Queensland and the University of Sydney.' Professorial Research Fellow and Group Leader at the University of Queensland, Rob Capon, came up to Maleny and talked to an enthusiastic audience on the research his team has been doing regarding development of a new chemical control for cane toads.



*Native Bee Workshop with Dr Tim Heard*

Barung has joined the CTC as an Affiliate member having co-signed a MoU with UQ which is valid for three years. It allows us to contribute and participate in CTC activities, provides us with access to technical advice and BufoTabs (when available) – the manufactured bait which attracts Cane Toad tadpoles into a simply designed (and easily made) trap. We will keep members informed about the CTC and the availability of BufoTabs via the Barung Newsletter and Facebook site.



All of these projects (except *Revegetating the Range*) will continue into the 2017 – 2018 year.



*Eastern Sedgefrog at Frog Hollow, North Maleny*

*Photo: Jonathan Waites*



# Barung Natural Area Services

*Luke McWilliam*

This year concludes my position of Barung Natural Area Service coordinator/manger and I now move into the new role of Business Development Manager. Kate Seesuuson has taken on the Natural Area Mangers role. I am very proud of the milestones that have been achieved as the BNAS coordinator/manger.

Some of these have included:

- The capability to undertake multi-million dollar projects, supported by a team of skilled professional staff
- The integration and streamlining of the nurseries with the natural areas service department.
- The alignment and increase of field staff wages
- The improvements in OHS, including OHS reporting systems
- The upgrading of the BNAS vehicle fleet
- The better utilisation of resources at Landsborough
- The modernisation of almost of all plant equipment
- The improvements to the nursery access, loads and nursery equipment
- The addition of our training programs, including Skilling for Queenslanders, who will become our valuable future staff members.

multi-



As per previous years, I am proud to say that all of our contracts were completed ahead of time and within budget. It's been a pleasure to work with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council as we enter the third year on their panel as preferred contractor for the Hinterland Central zone.



Major projects for the year included:

- The Mary River rehabilitation project (42 000 plants)
- Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Baroon Pocket Dam Landslide Remediation Program (5 000 plants)
- Healthy Land and Water Northbrook Creek Cats Claw Control
- Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Creek Cats Claw Control
- Forestry road rehabilitation project 2
- Hinterland Bush Links Upper Mary River Weed Vine project



Barung Natural Area Services is in the final stages of the certification process for our quality, environmental and occupational, health and safety management systems as per Australian/International Standards.

Our clients are increasingly requesting this certification and the process of certification will improve our opportunities for obtaining work in future.



connecting restoring protecting

As the business development manager I am looking forward to managing the movement to Maleny Community Precinct.

Barung Natural Area Services would like to thank local landholders who continue their important conservation work in the Blackall Range for entrusting our team with their projects and we give thanks to the Barung committee as stewards of Barung.



# Barung Community and Production Nurseries Report 2017

## Cam Burton

Barung nurseries had a very successful 2016/17 year with Wayne leading a team of 'Vollies' propagating and nurturing thousands of local plants at the Landsborough production nursery, whilst Greg, Cali and the Porters Lane 'Vollies' cared for and provided insightful information to our community of 'revegers' and gardeners.

Barung was the nursery of choice of many 'Land for Wildlife' property owners who received plant vouchers from the Sunshine Coast Council. From Barung Nurseries, a big thank you to those land owners for choosing Barung and to the Sunshine Coast Council for supporting the program. We are always trying to supply the best quality and most diverse range of plants for your revegetation projects.

Again we participated in successful events including the Queensland Garden Expo at Nambour and the Maleny Wood Expo. The Garden Expo was an opportunity to meet new people and introduce them to our fantastic local flora for use in gardens and to help support conservation efforts. Our wonderful display of plants and informative service helped to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Maleny Wood Expo.

A big thanks to the 'Vollies' who contributed to the successful running of both of these events.

Another major achievement for the nurseries this year was to supply the Barung Natural Areas team with thousands of plants, supporting revegetation works across the Range and surrounds. The most significant project for the Barung team was a planting project at Kenilworth. The nurseries supplied a forest of trees (some 40,000 tubes) for this project which will in time provide substantial environmental benefits for the Mary River.

Last but not least, as the 2016-17 year drew to a close, it was time to say goodbye to one of Barung's stalwarts, with Cali Salizman returning home to the US. Cali made good on a promise to return home to care for her elderly uncle, who was an important influence in her environmental education. Cali worked tireless hours throughout the year to ensure Barung nurseries' success.

With Cali saying goodbye there was an opportunity for some new team members to join Barung: both Maia Stegman and Cam Burton have joined the nursery team.

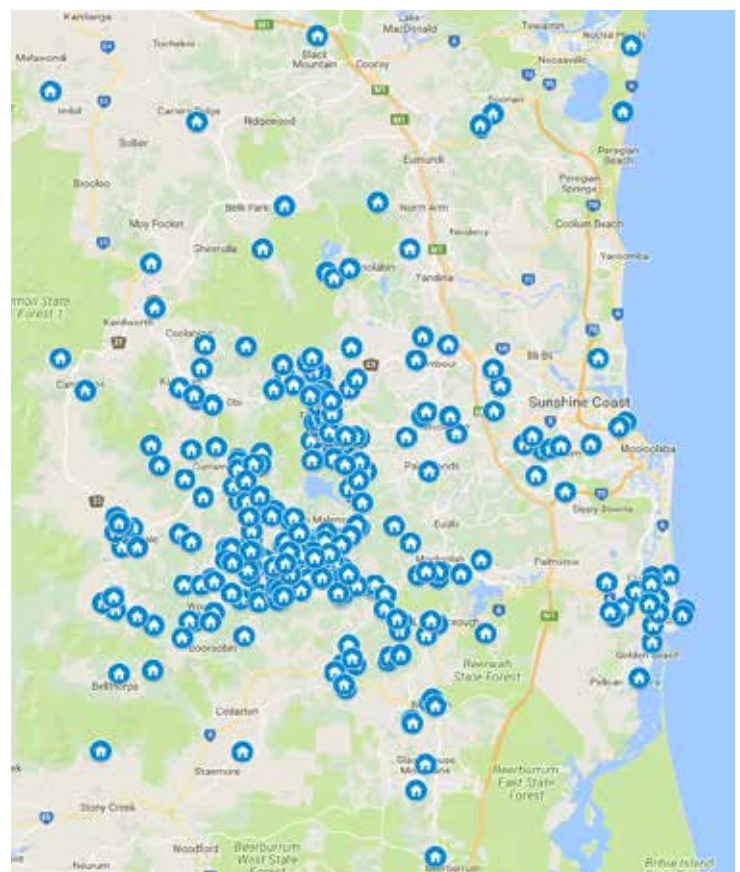
Maia has a real passion for local plants, has run her own retail indigenous plant nursery in Brisbane and has a background in community housing advocacy. Cam began his career completing a Landscape Gardening apprenticeship and quickly developed a keen interest in the local flora where he grew up in Melbourne. Before Barung he was a trainer with Greening Australia in Brisbane.

Another year flashes by, and now with a new look team, we focus on supplying our supportive members with plants, whether they be for revegetation or for wildlife gardens, to help conserve and celebrate the unique and diverse flora of the region.

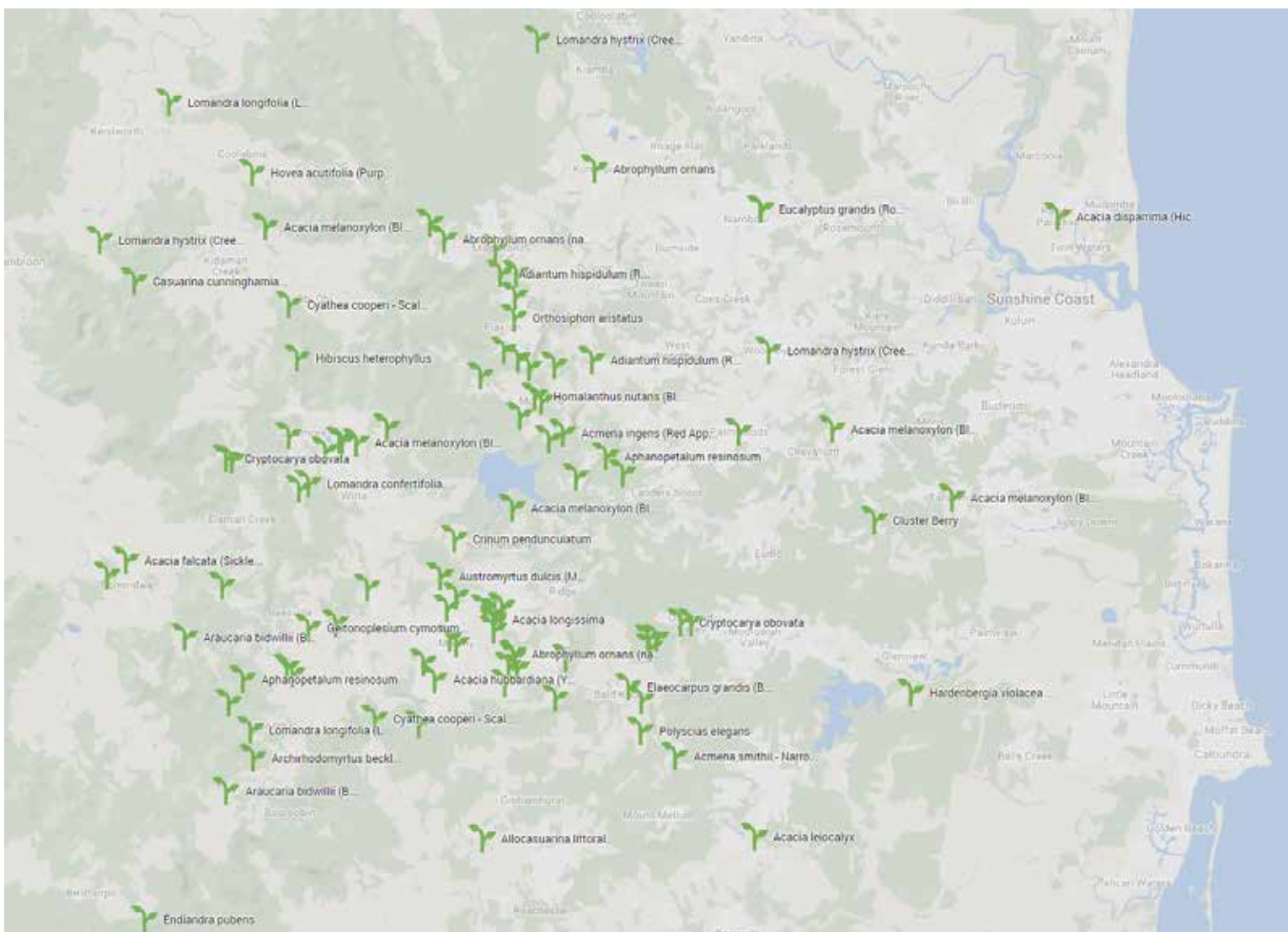
Thanks from the nursery team for your ongoing support.







Barung Landcare Membership distribution November 2017



Barung nurseries supply a diverse range of local native species in small and large quantities to a wide geographic area. The map shows where a selection of Barung plants supplied in 2016-17 are now growing across the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

# Resource Centre and Administration Report 2017

*Theresa Bint - Office Coordinator*  
*Den Lalor - Admin Officer*



## **A Landholders' Guide to Living on the Blackall Range**

The creation of the 3rd edition of the Blackall Range Landholders Guide was a major part of life at the Resource Centre for several months! Elaine, Den and Antonio formed the core of the force and were helped by many other staff and vollies. Thankyou all – what a sterling job!

The launch was held in April in the beautiful setting of the Visitors' Centre at Mary Cairncross Reserve. Barung members, sponsors and guests enjoyed the beautiful view and equally impressive building then were entertained by inspiring (and more than a little amusing) stories from all of the book's authors and editor Elaine Green Ricketts. Copies of the guide have been lodged with the National Library of Australia and the State Parliamentary Library. It is currently stocked by Barung, many real estate agents, Rosetta Books, shops and post offices as well as the Information Centre in Maleny, Montville Market and Mary Cairncross Reserve's Rainforest Discovery Centre for the very reasonable price of \$20.

## **Barung News**

The seasonal newsletter continues to be a platform for interesting and informative articles, Barung notices, as well as some truly outstanding photography. It reflects and benefits from the remarkable breadth and depth of knowledge, interest and expertise amongst Barung members, volunteers and staff. Thanks in particular to volunteer Antonio for his invaluable work in compositing this and many other 'in-house' publications.

The electronic version of the Barung News is distributed to more than 750 email addresses each quarter and we print around 200 copies for mailing and local distribution.

## **Maple Street Kiosk**

Barung has a regular presence each Thursday in the kiosk in Maple Street, just near the Information Centre. Thanks to a stalwart band of vollies, including Helen, Antonio, Raine, Paddy, Lyn and Kellie, we keep Barung's name and logo "out there" as well as displaying a range of plants and books for sale. It's a great way to direct people to Porters Lane nursery too!

## **Sales**

The Resource Centre stocks a range of books (and a few other items, such as calendars and nesting boxes) for sale to walk-in customers as well as for meeting the orders placed via our on-line shop. Plant ID books such as *Mangroves to Mountains* are strong sellers; the *Fungi and Mushrooms of the Sunshine Coast* pocket guides have also proved popular.

## **Administrative support**

The Resource Centre provides administrative support to the whole of Barung Landcare and the Maleny Wood Expo including grant applications and tenders, accounts, payroll, volunteer management and lots more. From here we administer all Barung family websites and social media accounts including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



# Some Administration Statistics for 2016 - 2017

There has certainly been a marked increase in activity within Barung Landcare that has resulted in a corresponding administrative burden. The ongoing implementation of new administrative systems and tools goes a long way towards our organization working more efficiently and providing valuable and easily assessable data that is vital for current operations and future decision making.

**Much thanks to the staff, committee and admin volunteers who contribute, collaborate, interact and help evolve Barung's administrative processes.**

**Financial Transactions:** over 10,000 including

- 2,704 Expense Transactions
- 7,303 Sales Transactions (*not including Wood Expo Gate or Raffle Sales*)
- 3038 point of sale transactions (*from multiple locations that feed directly into Barung's accounts*).
- \$36,808 online payments (up 78% from 2016 - *includes workshops and events, online shop, memberships, Wood Expo tickets, books and tshirts*).
- 680 payslips processed for 43 employees

## Engagement

- 106,728 membership and contacts emails sent
- 1642 membership emails
- 94,376 events and workshops emails
- 1071 event and workshop registrations
- Over 3000 Barung Newsletters emailed and over 800 printed
- Over 1500 walk in and phone call enquiries

## Administration

- 16 Managed mobile devices (used for Point of Sale, BNAS Data input, staff email and communications etc)
- 12 Desktop and laptop computers
- 30 email accounts
- 57,245 emails sent and received through operational accounts last 6 months
- 8,372 files added last 6 months to a total of over 280 giga- bytes searchable cloud



## Social Media and Websites

Website and social media presence for Barung Landcare, Gardens for Wildlife, Barung Community Nursery, Maleny Wood Expo and Barung Natural Area Services.

- **4794 Facebook followers** across Barung's 5 facebook pages. Targeted individual posts reached over 40,000 during Wood Expo.

- **114,183 total websites pageviews:**

malenywoodexpo.org.au 46,368 **(+5.5%)**

barunglandcare.org.au 67,815 **(+6.8%)**

*Targeted advertising through Barung's Google Ad Grant reached 120,777 people in 2016-17.*

... and much, much more ...



# Maleny Wood Expo 2017

Steve McLeish



This year's Maleny Wood Expo was another outstanding success with more than 10,000 visitors welcomed over the 3 days.

The weather was fantastic. The diversity and skill of the artisans' displays, the vibrancy of our local musicians and the array of delicious foods made for a inspiring 2017 event.

The inclusion of the Junior Landcare Paddock (children's skills workshops) proved to be a hit with visiting families. The 'JLP' is a hands-on experiential 'village' with a mission to inspire young people to work with natural materials, engaging them with the age old skills, knowledge and traditions of woodcraft. We are working to expand this area in 2018.



Also this year Barung and the Wood Expo were proud to host a delegation from New Caledonia and the Marquesas Islands including two traditional timber carvers. This project was a collaboration between Barung, Sister Cities and Sunshine Coast Council. The visiting carvers along with Shane Christensen, a local artist, carved three beautiful poles which were then gifted to Barung. It was a warm and creative cultural exchange.

The Wootha Prize has now cemented its reputation as one of Australia's best timber related competitions. The high quality of craftsmanship in final entries was extraordinary. The theme for 2018 Wootha Prize is 'Joined'. Application forms are available on the Maleny Wood Expo web site :

[www.malenywoodexpo.org.au](http://www.malenywoodexpo.org.au)

Planning for the 2018 Wood Expo is well under way. We are already fielding many enquiries from potential new exhibitors and facilitators. Our reputation as a unique event is growing. Many networks have been established over the years and a co-operative, communal feel exists among the exhibitors, contractors and volunteers - both the old timers and the newcomers. This helps with fine tuning the event...a smile goes a long way!

The Maleny Wood Expo is truly a community event with a national reach. Our survey results indicate overwhelmingly that we are providing a wonderful visitor experience.

An enormous thanks must go out to the Maleny community for its support. Thank you to all the Barung volunteers who take such pride in being the friendly, welcoming face of the Expo... to all the local businesses who generously donate their goods and services and many thanks to all our sponsors and supporters.

Congratulations to Barung staff, members and volunteers for hosting such a unique and quality event providing so much for so many.





# Maleny Wood Expo 2018

The Maleny Wood Expo is clearly Barung's major fundraiser for each year and we gratefully acknowledge all who support it. The Wood Expo will be held on Saturday May 5th, Sunday May 6th and Monday May 7th in 2018.

What makes the Wood Expo a unique event are the more than 100 quality exhibitors and the fact that visitors can engage directly with artisans, toolmakers and craftspeople.



The wonderful exhibition of top quality craftsmanship in the Wootha Prize is a highlight of the Main Pavillion and the prize money for the Wootha Prize has been greatly upgraded to \$10,000 for first prize.

We believe that this makes it the richest woodworking prize in Australia. Thanks to the Sunshine Coast Council for this major boost.

The theme is "Joined". See the website [www.barunglandcare.org.au](http://www.barunglandcare.org.au) for full details and think about 'having a go' or let your talented friends know about this.

*2nd Prize in 2017, 'Gossamer Wings II' by Jeanette Rein*

The Junior Landcare Paddock was introduced last year with support from Queensland Water and Land Carers and the Sunshine Coast Council. It was a huge hit with over 1,000 children enjoying wood-related activities. Kids of all ages learning from experienced woodcrafters to work with natural materials and used real tools – under supervision of course! Cool Stools and Mothers' Day presents were proudly carried around the Showgrounds. The Kids' Workshops will again be a feature of the Junior Landcare Paddock and Barung hopes to expand the available activities so that more kids and parents and grandparents can join in and receive their wooden medallions but...we need more volunteers.

More than 10,000 people visited the Expo over the 3 days and last year over 240 people volunteered. For the 2018 Wood Expo several key volunteer positions are vacant. In particular we need people to run the raffle. Pre-sales and sales of raffle tickets at the Expo generated around \$10,000 of much-needed funds for Barung. The Barung BBQ is also a significant fund-raiser and we are looking for people with some catering experience to co-ordinate the BBQ. People are always needed for the Admission gate and Registration tent. A more active role for volunteers is assisting with the Thursday and Friday set-up and Tuesday take-down. It's a great family friendly event so why not get involved?

If you would like to volunteer give us a call 5494 3151 or email [info@barunglandcare.org.au](mailto:info@barunglandcare.org.au)

Ticket sales will be available online with early bird discounts. Please tell your friends!



# Maleny Community Precinct Update

*Ian McMaster*

As you may recall from last year's AGM, we advised members then that we had Council support for a move to a newly defined site on the Precinct. I suggested at that stage that if all went well, we should have been able to relocate our Porter's Lane nursery to the new site during this year. It turns out that this hope was wildly optimistic, and while I think we have made good progress in some areas, being able to speed the overall process up depends on the actions of a range of other people.



First, let's look at the areas where we have made progress.

**Site Layout:** Our architect Tim Guymer has been working closely with the Committee and our nursery staff to finalise the site layout. You may recall that one of our concerns was whether we could get all of Barung's activities onto a single site in the event that we were unable to secure permanent tenure on the Landsborough site which houses our commercial nursery and contracting business. As our operations continue to grow, that has become a bigger ask, with Landsborough producing nearly 50% more plants last year than the previous year. Following discussions with Council, both they and your Committee see the Precinct site focusing on the Community Nursery and environmental education, and for the larger scale commercial operations to remain at Landsborough, which provides much more scope for developing the commercial arm of the business. As a result, our current plans assume that the new site will not need to accommodate a big nursery, and landscape design is focusing on improving ease of access. As part of that process we have recently had a detailed survey of levels done over the site and its immediate surrounds, to enable more accurate layout planning. Arrangements are in hand for our architect to meet with Council Planning officers to determine the onsite parking requirements, as this will affect final layouts.

It is important in this scenario that we obtain greater certainty over our tenure at Landsborough. We have been assured by Council that this should not be a problem, and have made formal application for an extended lease over the site. We await their formal response.



**Water Supply:** Our current Porter's Lane nursery relies on water pumped from Obi Obi creek to provide irrigation for the nursery. This remains an option for the new site, but it is expensive in terms of fuel and maintenance. We have been talking to Unity Water about the possibility of accessing their treated recycled water, the main pipeline for which runs along our site's boundary. The informal responses have been quite encouraging, and we have made a formal application for service. We are awaiting their response.

In discussion with Unity Water, we also explored the possibility of encroaching on part of their lease that is not currently planted up. While we don't need extra area, having a greater width across the slope would give more flexibility to have most of the nursery activities on a single level. Again, this was viewed constructively, and Council officers undertook to see what would be required to move the proposed boundaries.

**Informing Members:** In September we conducted a members meeting at which our overall intent for the site was discussed, draft site layouts were shared, and the pros and cons of the site debated at length. The consensus of the meeting was strongly in favour of moving ahead with the Project, recognising that there were still many hurdles to be overcome prior to completion.

**Lease Agreement:** During the year we signed an Agreement to Lease with SCRC. This agreement sets out the terms under which a lease would be granted, and gives us a year to put in a business plan and formally apply for a lease for the site. The Business Plan has been prepared, and is ready for submission pending final resolution of the site boundaries.



### What are the next steps?

Our next major step is to submit the Business Plan and apply for a site lease, something we had hoped to do this year, but it may slip to early 2018.

Following granting of the lease, we would then complete the preliminary works needed to make the site suitable for relocation of the nursery. That will require earthworks, drainage, power supply, water supply, and access and parking spaces. Council have indicated that they will provide funding, indicatively of around \$200k, which we expect will cover most of these costs. All being well, we could expect to be ready to move the nursery in the second quarter of next year.

The final stage will depend heavily on our ability to raise funds for the development, but with the improved financial performance of our commercial businesses, a substantial amount should be available from our own resources. Barung simply cannot do this without significant support from members and we look forward to involving you in some 'fun' and fundraising in 2018.

# Walks on the Wildside Report

2017

*Raine See*

It is now over three years since I started the walking group. It was originally aimed at getting children back into the forest based on the theory that we need the children to help save natural environments in the future. If they don't know nature, they won't love it, and won't bother fighting for natural environments. I haven't been as successful as I would have liked with getting children back in the forest. Possibly this is because most people up on the Range are already aware of the benefits and take their children into the forest as a family activity - which is better really. Interestingly though I have a group of older people who come most months, the group being mostly around 15 people.

On researching the benefits for older people I have found them to be considerable. Some doctors are now prescribing nature as a cure for lots of modern ailments such as stress, high blood pressure, depression and sleep problems. It has become a recognised relaxation and stress management strategy in Japan where it is called 'forest bathing' or Shinrin-Yoku. Experiments have shown very reduced levels of blood glucose for diabetics who walked regularly in the forest. The benefits are borne out in the thousands of years of knowledge and tradition among indigenous people. Walking in the forest is said to increase the flow of 'eros' the life force.

I have decided to change the name of the activity from Walks on the Wildside (never very original) to Rambles around the Range. The reason for this is that we don't hike! Hiking seems to be about destination and how many kms you can go. Our 'rambles' are about immersion in the forest. We go slowly, we look for birds, discuss plants, look for anything usual and talk about what we see. We often have knowledgeable people (thank you Eric, Diana and Gretchen) who see and know things that they are happy to share. We have lost a few people who are looking for something more 'energetic'. That's fine, there are lots of faster walking groups and some of our walkers are in their eighties. On one walk we had them from 18 months to 81!

So watch out for email alerting you to our activities. We have become a social group with a picnic morning tea after the walk and even poetry recitals happening spontaneously! Think about joining us in 2018.

Cheers from Rambling Raine





# Barung Staff 2017

## Skills and Qualifications

Barung Landcare is a significant employer with staff numbers averaging 40 each year. The workforce is highly skilled in natural resource and also business management as the table below attests.

Barung staff also learn on the job and improve their formal qualifications as they go along. The Management Committee is grateful to this motivated group of people as quite simply, without them, there would be no Barung Landcare.

Keep up the good work!

17	Chainsaw Level 1
16	HLTAID003 Provide first aid
15	HLTAID002 Provide basic emergency life support
15	ACDC Commercial Operators Licence
15	HLTA311A Apply first aid
11	Chainsaw Level 2
11	Construction Safety White Card
5	CERT III Horticulture
5	CERT IV Training and Education
3	DIPLOMA in Conservation and Land Management
3	CERT III in Conservation and Land Management
2	CERT IV Small Business
2	Blue Card working with Children
2	CERT II in Horticulture
2	Bachelor Environmental Science
1	CERT III Solid Plastering
1	CERT III Tour Guiding
1	CERT III Wall and Floor Tiling
1	CERT IV Business
1	CERT IV Horticulture
1	ChemCert Accreditation
1	Advanced Cert in Pastoral Zone Management
1	DIPLOMA in Applied Science
1	DIPLOMA Business
1	Bachelor of Applied Science (Natural Resources Management)
1	Bachelor of Applied Science (Horticultural Technology)
1	Bachelor of Arts
1	Bachelor of Coastal Studies
1	Bachelor of Land Management (Ecological Agriculture)
1	Bachelor of Science (Zoology)
1	Graduate Certificate in Environmental Management
1	Graduate Certificate in Sustainability
1	Master of Scientific Studies (Botany)



# Report of the Mt Mellum Land for Wildlife Network 2017

*Christine McMaster*



The Mt Mellum Land for Wildlife Network, auspiced by Barung Landcare, continues to encourage, educate, support and promote social activities with landholders of the Mt Mellum area who are committed to the conservation and restoration of the local habitat.

In the past year we have held four activities: a gully-scramble at the Council Reserve at MacDonalds Rd with the wider Land for Wildlife network of the Sunshine Coast; a walk through the forest area (vegetation now bulldozed) at the Steve Irwin Way/Caloundra Rd/Bruce Highway interchange; a spotlighting evening at the western section of Mt Mellum and a walk through Cahill's Scrub at Peachester.

Our Workplace Health and Safety policy is now in place.

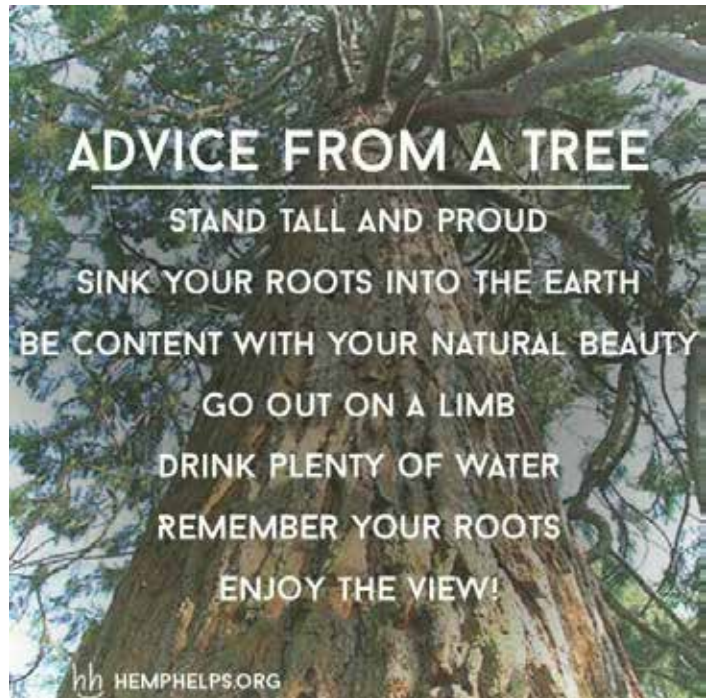
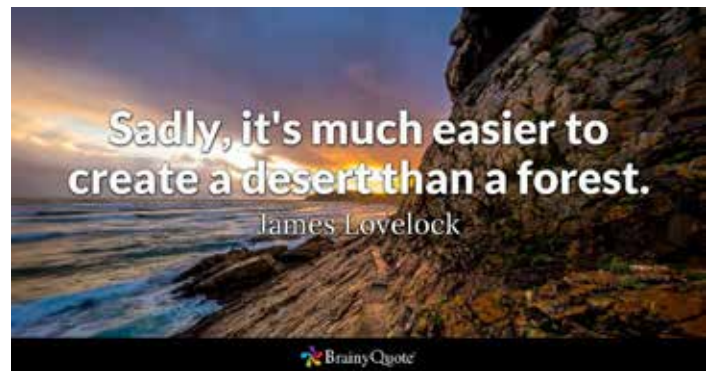
The Network is grateful to Barung for covering us under its incorporation structure, to the people who have led activities, to local Land for Wildlife advisors Nick Clancy and Alan Wynn for their ongoing assistance, and to the group members who contribute so freely.





*Many thanks to our*  
BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Brush Turkey Enterprises  
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Hanson Construction  
Happy Little Gardener  
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RB Safety and Training Services  
South East Land Repair  
Suncoast Hardwoods  
Sunshine Coast Koala Rescue



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...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.**

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