



Barung Landcare Association Quarterly Newsletter Spring 2017

www.barunglandcare.org.au

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

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Barung Resource Centre

38A Coral Street
PO Box 1074
MALENY Q 4552
Mon to Fri: 9 am - 4 pm
07 5494 3151
info@barunglandcare.org.au



Barung Nurseries

0429 943 152
nursery@barunglandcare.org.au

Community Nursery:

Porters Lane NORTH MALENY
WED to FRI: 9am - 3pm
SAT: 9am - 12noon

Production Nursery:

135 Forestry Rd
LANDSBOROUGH
by appointment

THE BARUNG FAMILY

VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

BARUNG STAFF

Barung Resource Centre & Projects

Jonathan Waites	Projects Officer
Theresa Bint	Office Manager
Den Lalor	Admin/Project Support Officer
Steve McLeish	Events Coordinator

Barung Nurseries

Wayne Webb	Production Nursery Manager
Cam Burton	Community Nursery Manager
Maia Stegman	Assistant Nursery Manager
Greg Smyrell	

Barung Natural Area Services

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

...and our many Volunteers.

Cover: Bird's eye view of Upper Cedar Creek
Conondale flowing into the Mary River

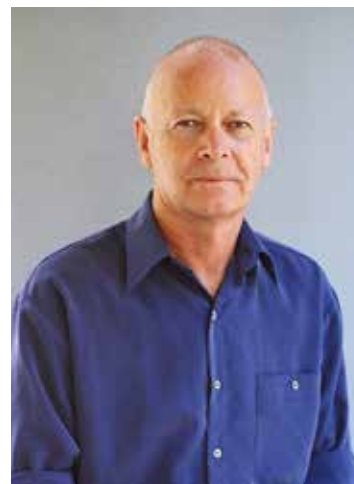


President's Report

Barung is in Better Shape Than Ever!

During my tenure as President over the last three years, it has been necessary to restructure Barung 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 thrive. This is now beginning to happen. 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 team 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.

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 so, I would like to thank Sunshine Coast Council for their financial support.

Barung Landcare Association has been able to maintain its community-based environmental ethos and mission: working to develop ethical solutions for a sustainable future. Organisations like Barung are needed more than ever as our natural environment is increasingly put under threat.

A big thank-you to members, volunteers, staff and committee members for all the great work they have done over this last year to make Barung Landcare prosper.

Lindsay Kruger

Barung Landcare acknowledges the Yinnibarra people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand.

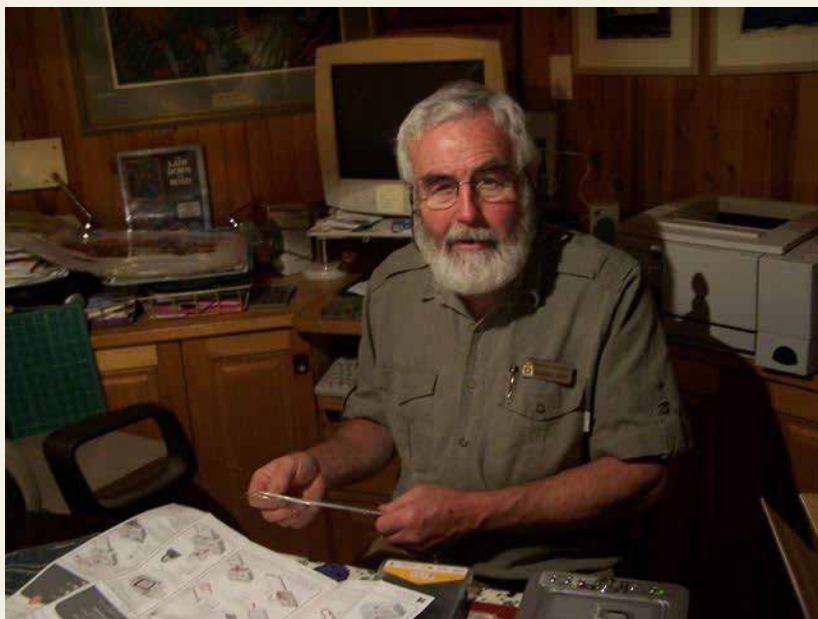


Vale, Richard Dent

I'm sad to report that long time Barung supporter Richard Dent passed away on the evening of Thursday, 5th October.

It was a chance meeting a couple of months ago when Richard exclaimed that he needed to speak with me. He reminded me that he still had a small brass stud of mine from 20 years ago sitting on a shelf in his machine shed and that I should call in to pick it up one day. Richard had some wonderful metal-turning machines.

I first met Richard and Jill Morris 25 years ago in Maleny when Jill joined Black Possum Publishing, a local creative writing and publishing co-operative. I was not a member; however, friends of mine were. Over the years I had many chance meetings with Richard outside Peace of Green in Maple Street, Maleny, when he delivered Jill's Greater Glider Publications books.



A short while after our first meeting, I needed some brass studs produced for a project and I knew Richard had the skills and machinery lathes to do the job. He had expertly honed his engineering skills when he'd been part of the Australian Army's Electrical Engineering corps. The brass studs I needed had to be exact copies of the originals.

Richard set to work and produced brass studs that were TRUE to the original sample. Being TRUE to the original is a term that some of you would have heard before. They were exact copies: I couldn't tell the difference between what he'd made and the original one.

When I got to know Richard better, I found that the word TRUE was intrinsic to his character.

It was TRUE what he said about the way the brass studs needed to be produced.

He was TRUE to his word in business arrangements.

It was TRUE when he told me many years ago that it was urgent for environmental repair be done.

He and Jill have been TRUE and conscientious over many years in revegetating parts of their Book Farm at Reesville with local provenance trees from Barung Landcare, connecting strategic flora and fauna corridors.

Richard and Jill have been TRUE to Barung Landcare over many years and to the work that we do. The organisation thanks them for their commitment. It's people like Richard who give enthusiasm to others to continue good works.

I found Richard to be a TRULY gentle man.

... and it is TRUE that our world needs more Richards, not fewer.

Barung Landcare's members, volunteers, staff and committee extend sincere condolences to Jill and family on Richard's passing.

Lindsay Kruger
President
Barung Landcare Association Inc



Birds of the Blackall Range

Common Bronzewing

By Eric Anderson

The Common Bronzewing is a largish (28-36 cm long) robust pigeon, with a small rounded head, broad rounded wings, a deep chest, and a short slightly rounded tail. Generally their upper-parts are dark brown with a paler brown edge to each feather. A dark stripe runs from the bill to the eye and below this runs a thin white stripe to the level of the neck. The side of their neck is pale grey with a whitish throat and pale mauve breast shading to brownish grey on the abdomen. Their primary wing feathers are dark brown while their secondary wing feathers and outer wing coverts show iridescent metallic green or bronze bordered by pale brown. The male has a yellow-buff coloured forehead and pink breast while the female has a blue grey forehead (not buff) and a less pink breast. Young birds are similar to adult females but usually duller in colour and browner.

Common bronzewings are endemic to Australia and found over most of the continent. They are found in almost every habitat type, with the exception of the most barren areas and densest rainforests. They are normally seen alone, in pairs or in small flocks and are rarely found far from water. In the inland if you want to know where there is water, watch the bronzewings flying to and fro at dawn and dusk. These very shy birds spend very little time in trees, mainly to roost or nest or occasionally to look for predators.

Nesting may occur at any time of the year but a peak activity occurs from August to February. Nests may be built at any height from ground level to 20 metres in height. Nest structures may vary from flimsy to substantial. Two cream or white glossy eggs are laid and incubated by both sexes for a period of 14-16 days. Chicks are fully feathered by 17 days old and fledge between 16 and 20 days old.

Their diet includes the larger seeds of native shrubs and trees and some grasses. In areas of human disturbance, cultivated grains such as wheat and seeds of weeds are important food sources. Some insects are also eaten. Feeding occurs in pairs or small loose parties, foraging on the ground by walking and pecking, mostly in early morning and late afternoon. When flushed they take off with a loud clutter of wings, then land in a nearby tree, perching stiffly and bobbing and craning their head, or fly off swiftly. They drink water at dawn or shortly after dark, usually alighting some distance from, then walking cautiously to, the edge of water.



Female Bronzewing



Male Bronzewing



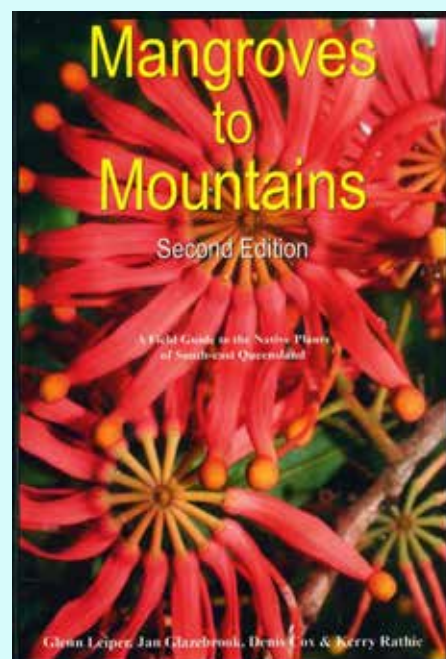
New edition of Mangroves to Mountains

This edition updates and extends the previous "revised edition" which was originally published in 2008. It is completely revised with updated plant names, over 250 additional species, and rewritten and expanded plant descriptions incorporating more detail in many cases.

"Mangroves to Mountains" is a 576 page full colour field guide, ideal for identifying the native plants of south-east Queensland and northern NSW and is the most comprehensive for the region. But the area of coverage extends further north and south because many of the plant species covered are not just limited to south-east Queensland.

It now provides comprehensive coverage of the region's orchids, eucalypts, wattles, mistletoes and flowering rainforest trees, shrubs and vines, as well as an increased number of species in the other habitat types.

Available at Barung Landcare's Online Store and Resource Centre
Please visit our online shop: www.barunglandcare.org.au/e-shop
Barung Resource Centre: 1/38A Coral St., Maleny Qld 4552





Progress along the Mooloolah River - Barung Natural Area Services

Barung Landcare Natural Areas Sunshine Coast Team currently maintains a portion of the Sunshine Coast Council local government area known as Hinterland South. A large portion of this area includes the Mooloolah River with individual sites spanning from Balmoral Ridge to Ewan Maddock Dam.

The sites vary and contain areas of good bush, remnant systems, riparian vegetation as well as several revegetation project areas. Primary weeds throughout this area include Madeira, Cats Claw, Singapore Daisy and Hygrophila. To date we have worked systematically in this area for the past 3 to 4 years, implementing various methods for regeneration and weed control as required by council.

We are seeing positive progress in most sites with increased connectivity along corridors. Wildlife sightings are common and we have just spotted our second sighting of a Platypus in the past 3 years at Mooloolah Nature Refuge off Stevens Rd.



Thanks to the dedication of our Sunshine Coast Team and local landholders we are seeing great results through this region and others.

Simon Peters, Barung Natural Area Services.



Plants for Native Bees brochure

Plant Local Native Plants for Native Stingless Bees

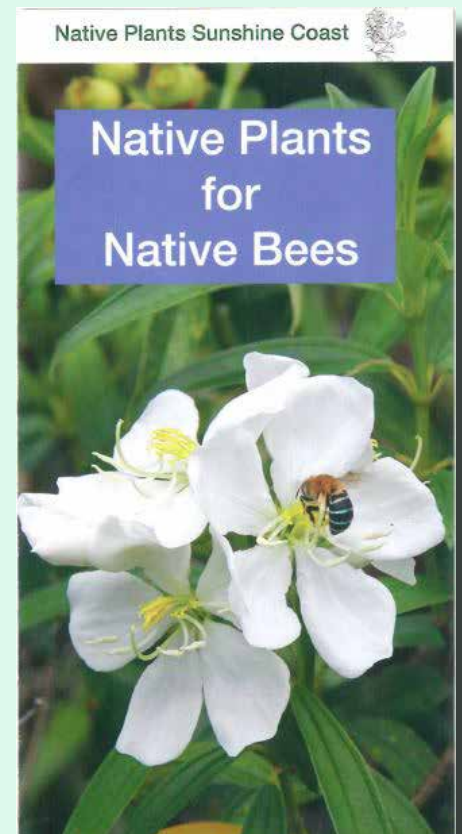
Most of us are aware of the importance of native bees: they pollinate our native plant species and have an important role in the pollination of many agricultural crops. With native bees under threat from land clearing, habitat destruction and pesticides, it makes sense to support local populations by planting our gardens with local, native bee-friendly species.

Our friends at Native Plants Sunshine Coast advise to aim for a range of flower colours including blue, purple, white and yellow (bees have good colour vision) and a variety of flower shapes to suit different pollinators. Choose a sunny spot and plant in clusters to provide massed flowers for visiting bees; plant in layers to provide a variety of heights, from trees down to ground level.

An example of a planting to take all these factors into account may include trees – *Eucalyptus*, *Acacia* and *Corymbia* species; shrubs such as *Pavetta australiensis* with its perfumed white flowers; climbers and scramblers like the beautiful purple-flowered Native Sarsaparilla *Hardenbergia violacea*; and low growers like *Scaevola albida* (fan flower).

A shallow tray of water with pebbles in it provides a suitable watering-spot: bees have short legs and are not good swimmers!

For more information on our local species, visit Native Plants Sunshine Coast's website www.npqsuncoast.org and look out for their excellent colour brochure "Native Plants for Native Bees". We also have a few copies at Porters Lane Community Nursery – get your bee-friendly plants there too!





Plastic free July and new habits

By Theresa Bint

Towards a (somewhat) Plastic Free Life

It is a truth universally acknowledged that an office in possession of no biscuits is not a happy office*. With that in mind, I embarked on a biscuit-buying quest in Plastic-Free July. Unfortunately, I discovered that finding biscuits without some sort of plastic packaging is nearly impossible. Tins of biscuits are scarce until closer to Christmas and one tin I did find in a supermarket was – you guessed it – wrapped in plastic!

Promoted via social media, Plastic Free July was a challenge to accept no single-use plastic during the month of July. The aim was to draw attention to a massive problem and to help people change habits. Particularly targeted in the campaign were the 'big four' of disposable plastic: plastic shopping bags, water bottles, drinking straws and coffee cups.

I signed up because:

- I am alarmed about the amount of plastic waste in the world
- I hate plastic bags – they are ubiquitous, ugly and dangerous
- I thought I would learn something
- PFJ was promoted by the Marine Conservation Society, One Million Women and other groups I support and respect.
- Also, I knew that I could chuck it in any time!

As it turned out, PFJ was actually quite enjoyable and once I started, I really didn't want to stop - avoiding that plastic made me feel good! I found that thinking about purchases (rather than grabbing from supermarket shelves with little thought) made me feel more "me" – I was buying what I wanted and NOT buying things that didn't fit with my beliefs/philosophy. I enjoyed the experience and actually found it a bit empowering. We didn't ask for the "convenience" of plastic-wrapped everything. Now packaging is more important than price when I make a purchasing decision.

There were many positives in this exercise – interactions with shopkeepers went to another level and I feel, a better one! Everyone was immediately "on board" with the idea and happily packed/weighed purchases such as meat or fish into the containers I'd brought. Others were fine to put things directly into paper bags. Shopkeepers also let me know that other people are bringing their own containers for purchases. A 'win' moment for me was halfway through August when I ordered some chicken pieces at the local butcher and was asked "Did you bring your own container?"

My partner and I got some very strange looks as we exited Rivers with armfuls of clothes and shoes – that's right – no bags! As it was only about 15 metres to our car, it really didn't seem like a big deal. Later on, at a clothing shop counter I explained what I was doing and that I didn't need a plastic bag. "Plastic Free July?" said the shop assistant – "Are you doing Dry July too?" "Hell no!" was my very quick response. I mean, really.



Microplastics: broken up but not broken down.

Source: Creative Commons

So, the result for me was the realisation that there was a lot of unwanted plastic in my life, much of which was avoidable. Plastic is everywhere – we are conditioned to pick it up without consideration. It doesn't take much to change that conditioning! With a little organisation and preparation – always carrying containers and bags and a keepcup, for instance – I can change my shopping habits immediately and permanently. And I have!

I know this is a tiny step with a tiny impact, but for me it's about changing the way I think about consuming and taking responsibility for all the materials I purchase. I've found some great alternatives to plastic products – things that feel more wholesome, like beeswax food wrappers and “No Pong” deodorant (which comes in a nifty little tin). I think my post-plastic life is a much better one!

Postscript

Although this article was meant to be a light hearted look at changing habits, recent articles in The Guardian have shown that plastic pollution is far, far worse than suspected or feared. Plastic microfibers have been detected in drinking water, soil, salt, beer, animal guts and the air around the world. 94% of tap water samples in the U.S. contained plastic particles; 72% in Europe. Our planet is “pervasively polluted with plastic”.

Don't buy it and they won't make it! It's become urgent to get away from products that produce microplastic. It's estimated that one load of laundry can release 750,000 plastic particles. That's just ONE LOAD. And it's not just the particles themselves – nanoparticles can harbour pathogens and harmful chemicals and are small enough to enter animal and plant cells and therefore human organs. Plastic microfibers and particles come from carpets, synthetic clothing, car tyres, water bottles...the list goes on.

What can we do? The answer is that everyone can do something. Refuse the plastic packaging; find alternatives made from glass, bamboo, natural fibres; maybe learn to do without some things. The planet will be better for it!

*Apologies to Jane Austen



Annual General Meeting

BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN: 48 562 796 065

On Saturday 25th November 2017

At Maleny RSL

10.00 am: Registration & Morning Tea

10.30 – 11.30 AGM

Nature of Business

- **Confirm Minutes of 2016 AGM**
- **Auditor's Report for 2016-17**
- **Awarding of Life Memberships**
- **Election of Office Bearers**
- **Guest Speaker**

This is a great opportunity to be fully updated about all of Barung's many activities, so do come along. Please RSVP to 5494 3151 or info@barunglandcare.org.au

Please see www.barunglandcare.org.au for Management Committee Nomination Form and a Proxy Form if you are unable to attend.





Hinterland Bush Links - Ecology Course 2017

This year's Ecology Course was a great success. From the start, the participants were fully engaged with the field and conservation planning activities. Barung's Theresa Bint added zest to every project undertaken. Those attending included landholders, catchment care coordinators, Land for Wildlife officers and environmental consultants. It's great to know that all these people will carry the acquired knowledge and experience back to their own restoration and wildlife corridor projects.



Some highlights of the course were the finding of the threatened Marbled Frogmouth at a new location at Bellthorpe, the walk through old-growth forest at Branch Creek, and the visits to some interesting properties where local landholders are meeting the challenges of restoring habitat. The professional instructors & presenters on the course did a great job and it was wonderful to see the networking between participants – so much experience shared.



Many thanks to Sunshine Coast Council for their supporting grant for the course, and for the loan of Marc Russell as an instructor. Thanks also to the Bellthorpe Progress Association, Barung Landcare, local landholders and the many individuals who volunteered their time and energy to make the course run so smoothly.



The course will be held again in 2018 so keep your eye out for advertising early in the year. It will be held over two weekends at Bellthorpe, probably in August-September. For early enquiries about the course, contact Susie Duncan ph. 5429 6622.

(Photos by Susie Duncan)





Wildlife Friendly Gardening

By Joan Dillon

Barung is fortunate to have the Conondale Ranges at its “back door” and the coastal Wallum at its “front door”, providing us with many plants for our gardens. Having recently spent a weekend at the Noosa Wallum Festival, I’ve come back inspired by the Wallum. Some plants with specialist requirements for soil type and water availability are of course unlikely to thrive on the Range, but we can experiment and document our results. A few specific plants simply aren’t available as no-one has worked out how to propagate them. These inevitably include the boronias and *Ricinocarpus pinifolius*, Wedding Bush.

Anyway, we can grow *Pultanaea paleacea* and *Aotus lanigera*, both with bright yellow pea flowers, *Hardenbergia violacea* (purple pea flowers), *Hibbertia vestita* with its open gold flowers, the larger and more vigorous *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* as a substitute for *Conospermum*, plus *Petrophile shirleyae* and various shrubs found across the Sunshine Coast. All of these are generally or periodically available from the Porters Lane nursery, depending on whether propagation material could be collected at the right time. Those named are ground cover or dense shrubs which develop into that all important lower stratum in the garden which is favoured by small birds, lizards and other fauna needing protection from predators.

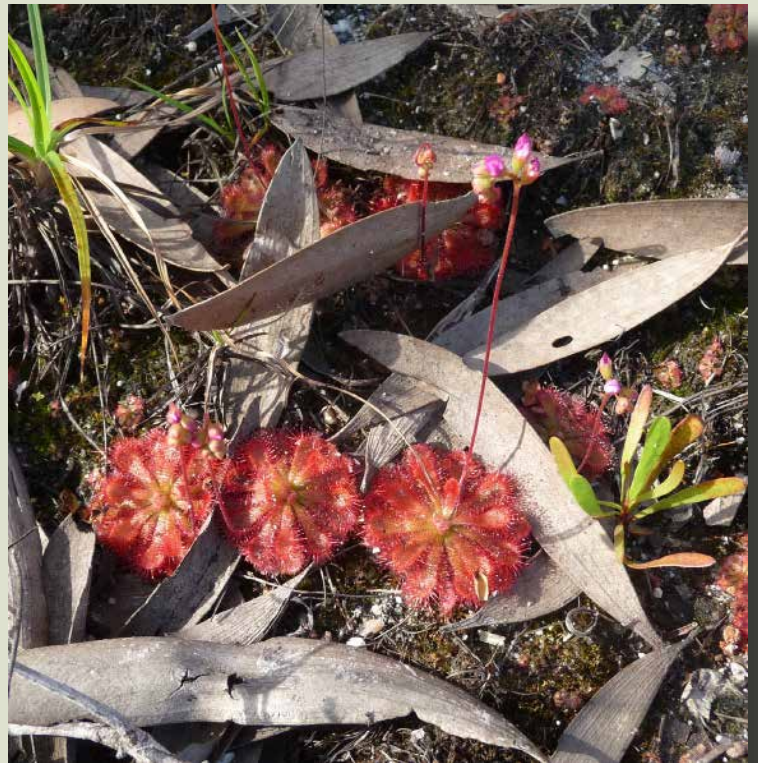
At a higher level, the delightful, tiny Scarlet Honeyeaters have moved from the early flowering *Melaleuca viminalis* into the slightly later *Melaleuca saligna*. If you wish to keep the wildlife in the garden, make sure it contains plants with a sequence of food sources. Some birds are of course migratory but you’ll want to welcome those seasonal visitors with a healthy breakfast. A pair of Little Friar Birds has been noisily flying between the melaleucas and banksias for some time now. They do squawk a lot.

Green tree snakes are getting active as the weather warms and our large python is moving around, scraping off its old skin on the wire mesh wall of my work area. The birds made a huge fuss when they spied it but kept out of strike reach. It was very entertaining to watch. Bandicoots are digging wherever they can find some soil moisture so further planting will have to wait until we have some real rain. Anything surrounded by mulch is fair game as far as the digging fraternity is concerned and I won’t mention brush turkeys. However, where there is established ground cover, they don’t attempt to scratch or dig.

Despite the dry weather, it’s a lovely time of the year for enjoying the garden.



Heath and paperbark



Insectivorous *Drosera* species



Barung on the Maleny Community Precinct

A members' meeting was held recently to update progress on the long awaited "move" to the Maleny Community Precinct. For some time now Barung's office administration and the community nursery have been separated with the nursery in a temporary location on the Precinct at North Maleny. With a lease with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council due to be signed any day now, architect Tim Guymer has been engaged to design a new nursery space combined with a building to serve as an administrative hub and meeting rooms.

The land is far from ideal with a considerable slope, but Tim's plan recommended terracing the block into a series of flat areas separated by landscaping rather than having to build expensive retaining walls. The vision of our beautiful native plants on display in these gardens with a modern building "up the back" and wheelchair-friendly graded walkways through the nursery seemed to win the support of members.

Of course this was an initial concept plan and Tim is undertaking further consultation with staff to hone in a more detailed design as the project progresses. It should be possible to relocate the nursery to the site by the middle of 2018 and to start work on realising this vision. There is considerable fund raising to be undertaken to finance the building and we look forward to involving members in some fun-raising as well.

Elaine Green Ricketts for the Management Committee



Coral Fungi in the Genus *Ramaria*

By Solveig Gillis

Ramaria is one of several genera of fungi that are grouped together because of their resemblance to coral. The fruiting bodies of coral fungi typically consist of upright narrow branches with a delicate structure. The corals are a group of very beautiful and photogenic fungi, with colours ranging from pink and red to orange and yellow and to blue and purple. There are probably about 100 species of *Ramaria* in Australia, but only 19 of these have been scientifically described.

Originally all the coral fungi were placed in the genus *Clavaria*, but this genus is now distinguished from *Ramaria* by having white spores and a generally simple unbranched structure, whereas the genus *Ramaria* has brown spores and multiple branching.

Although some genera of corals are important in the breakdown of litter or wood, *Ramarias* are mycorrhizal fungi, forming partnerships with trees, especially eucalypts. The yellow *Ramaria* pictured here was found in the Linda Garrett Reserve, Mapleton, on a recent foray by the Queensland Mycological Society. It has been identified as *Ramaria sinapicolor* by Dr Tony Young. This beautiful species is common throughout SE Queensland.



Ramaria sinapicolor



Rubbish & Recyclables: What's What

By Jonathan Waites

Sandie Johnston from the Waste 2 Resource Program team at Sunshine Coast Council recently presented a workshop for us about recycling and waste management on the Sunshine Coast. We were particularly interested in what goes in what bin. There are three bins: General waste (Green lid, currently being changed to Red lid); Recycling (Yellow lid: available in 240 or 360 litre) and Garden waste (Lime green lid). Recycling and Garden waste bins are emptied on alternate weeks.

Materials placed in the Recycling bin are collected fortnightly and taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Nambour where they are sorted into different material types and non-recyclable items removed. Recyclables are then sold for processing. Hoses and lengths of rope are particularly disliked at the MRF because they can become entangled in equipment bringing work to a halt until it has been cleared and/or machinery repaired.

In short:

- Steel or aluminium cans and aerosols can go in the yellow bin, along with plastic containers – but not their lids e.g., ice-cream container lids, plastic milk bottle lids
- Milk cartons, juice containers and tetra-paks can go in – but no take-away coffee cups. (Consider purchasing a reusable cup and keeping it in the car or your bag: some coffee shops offer a discount if you provide your own cup). See <https://www.responsiblecafes.org/> to find the closest to you and the discount they offer
- Polystyrene seedling trays marked with the recycling triangle, enclosing the numeral 6 are recyclable
- Don't put bundles of materials (e.g., plastic milk bottles) in plastic bags into the recycle bin; keep the soft plastic out and include materials individually
- Empty your containers e.g., soft drink bottles, milk bottles. They tend to explode when compressed and the aged contents (such as milk) can be very, very yucky. In fact washing food containers before throwing them in the bin is appreciated by those working at MRF; it also makes your bin less attractive to wildlife while it awaits collection

Barung has a number of copies of the council fact sheet on Kerbside Recycling at our office in Coral St which has more information re what goes in and what stays out. Alternatively you can download a copy from council's Recycling Fact Sheets website. Some recyclable materials not handled by council's MRF may be deposited at the following collection points,

- Printer/Toner Cartridges can be put in the collection box at the Barung office (38A Coral St, Maleny)
- Soft plastic bags including shopping bags and soft plastic packaging can be deposited in a REDcycle collection bin at Coles stores, e.g., Coles Nambour, Coles Caloundra (Sunland) and Coles Kawana Waters.
- Battery World stores collect used batteries for recycling. The two closest stores to Maleny are at Stockland Caloundra and Aerodrome Road, Maroochydore.
- Polystyrene foam (Expanded Polystyrene – EPS) can be recycled in Brisbane, <http://www.polyrecycleqld.com.au/domestic-services.html>

To find collection points for other recyclable materials you can try <http://recyclingnearyou.com.au>



The Waste Hierarchy Pyramid and Plastic Free July

Recycling is a great idea, but it's not a "get out of jail free" card to consume as usual. In fact, looking at the Waste Hierarchy Pyramid recycling is second last on a list of practices that deal with the consequences of our consumption choices, beginning with the most desirable at the top of the pyramid (Avoid) and descending to the least (Landfill). With this firmly in mind, our Office Manager Theresa Bint, decided to take on the challenge of living plastic free for the month of July. She shared some of her experiences with us at the workshop. Here are some of the things she discovered while attempting to live without plastic.



- Laminating paper is one of the silliest things we do in the office. Converting compostable material (paper) into landfill by covering it in plastic seems absurd.
- Promoting PFJ to retailers when shopping (avoiding having loose products e.g., meat, wrapped in plastic) felt a bit embarrassing at first, but most were interested and supportive when requested to place products in the containers Theresa provided
- Trying to avoid purchasing products wrapped in plastic (e.g., biscuits for morning tea in the office, a necessity) was almost impossible. As well it is almost equally difficult to purchase a product which, if not made entirely of plastic, doesn't include some plastic componentry. It quickly became obvious how insidious plastic is in our society
- Plan ahead – keep shopping bags and reusable coffee cups in the car, take suitable containers for bulk products
- Some things could be done without (squeaky plastic chickens), some could be justified (plastic corks in wine bottles). Others could be replaced with alternatives, such as deodorant in tin containers rather than plastic, make your own toothpaste (yuck!!!), Eco Wraps – a reusable product to replace plastic food wrap, Onya fruit and veggie bags
- A strong sense of personal empowerment. The challenge provided opportunities to take responsibility for choices based on values. This then afforded a sense of no longer being caught up with the mob, of now having the ability to step to one side and consider, do we really need this product?



Sarcopteryx stipata Steelwood or Corduroy Tree

Sarcopteryx stipata, also known as the steelwood or corduroy tree, is a subtropical evergreen rainforest tree found throughout eastern Australia, from the Bulga Plateau in NSW north to Fraser Island: the name 'steelwood' refers to the very tough, axe-resistant timber.

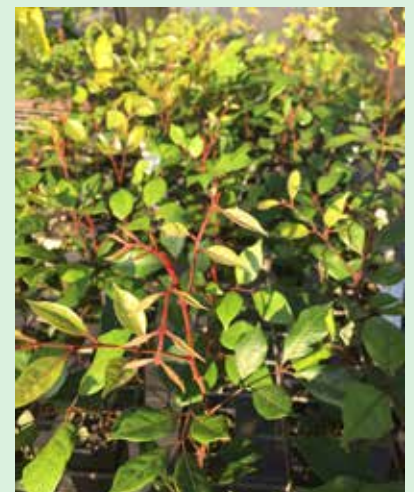
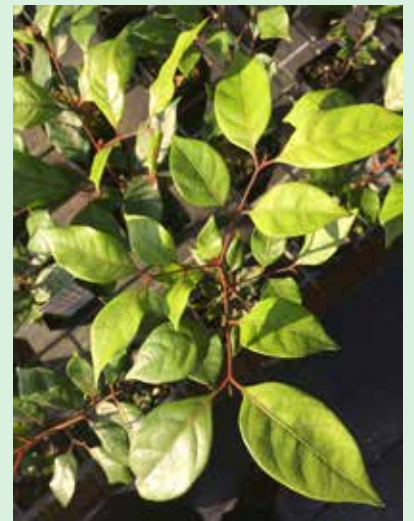
Steelwood usually occurs as a small bushy tree or large shrub to about 10 metres with grey, wrinkled bark. Branchlets, petioles and new buds are densely rusty-hairy; the fine-pointed, compound leaves are a beautiful pink colour when new and shiny green above when mature.

Small, creamy-white, five-petalled flowers appear from August to October on panicles. Fruits mature in November and December and are showy, red or pink fleshy capsules to 13 mm in diameter with three cells; bitter juice is secreted when the fruit is cut. The bright yellow aril encases three brown/black, shiny cylindrical seeds.

Ripe steelwood fruits are eaten by bowerbirds, pigeons, green catbirds, Lewin's honeyeaters and other fruit-eating forest animals.

Steelwood is a member of the soap berry family (Sapindaceae) along with lychee, maple, guarana and, of course, soapberry. The genus name *Sarcopteryx* means "fleshy wing" referring to the often wing-shaped fruit.

Sarcopteryx stipata seedlings are available now from Barung Landcare's Community Nursery in Porters Lane, North Maleny.





Walks on the Wild Side

By Raine See

The last two walks were very successful with children enjoying them as well as the regulars and a few new walkers. The walk at the Maroochy Wetlands was enhanced by the presence of Eric Anderson who shared his extensive knowledge of mangroves: Eric had us licking the leaves of the River Mangrove to taste the salt which was a source of culinary salt for the indigenous people. A beautiful family with six children joined us and it was heartening to watch their interaction with the wetland environment.

The most recent walk was around the Linda Garrett Circuit in the Mapleton National Park on the day winter came to the range! Gretchen Evans joined us on this walk and showed the delightful children on this walk how the fungi looked through her eye glass. It is always great to have leaders with environmental knowledge to share.

This month we plan to check out a wildflower walk at Caloundra. Please join us. More information coming soon.

Thanks to photographer Halina Green.





Recycle Six-pack Holders for Barung Nursery

These may look like ordinary beer bottle caddies to you, but to our Porters Lane Nursery staff and volleys, they are perfect seedling carriers. Plant tubes fit snugly into the compartments.

So, please save your six-pack and four-pack holders and drop them in to Porters Lane or the Barung office in Coral Street. And if any full bottles are accidentally left in the holders, that's really not a problem. We know how to deal with them!

Barung's Community Nursery is at 26 Porters Lane, North Maleny.



Barung Landcare Community Nursery

Open Wed, Thu, Fri (9am - 3pm)
and Saturday (9am - noon)
Phone 5302 9900 / 0429 943 152
nursery@barunglandcare.org.au



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Louise Bishop

John Boucher

Cam Burton

Bob Burton

Matt Campbell

Mark Cowan

Paula Crozier

Bill Crozier

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Debbie Felius

Sven Felius

Dan Gynes

Geoff Heslop

Summa Hueneke

Josh Jeffery

Jonathon Jordan

Anya Laszynski

Shawn LeClerc

Brooke Lightbody

Phillip Lineham

Ann Lineham

Brenda Matthews

Greg McDonald

Ann McGrath

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