



Barung Landcare Association Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2016

www.barunglandcare.org.au

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

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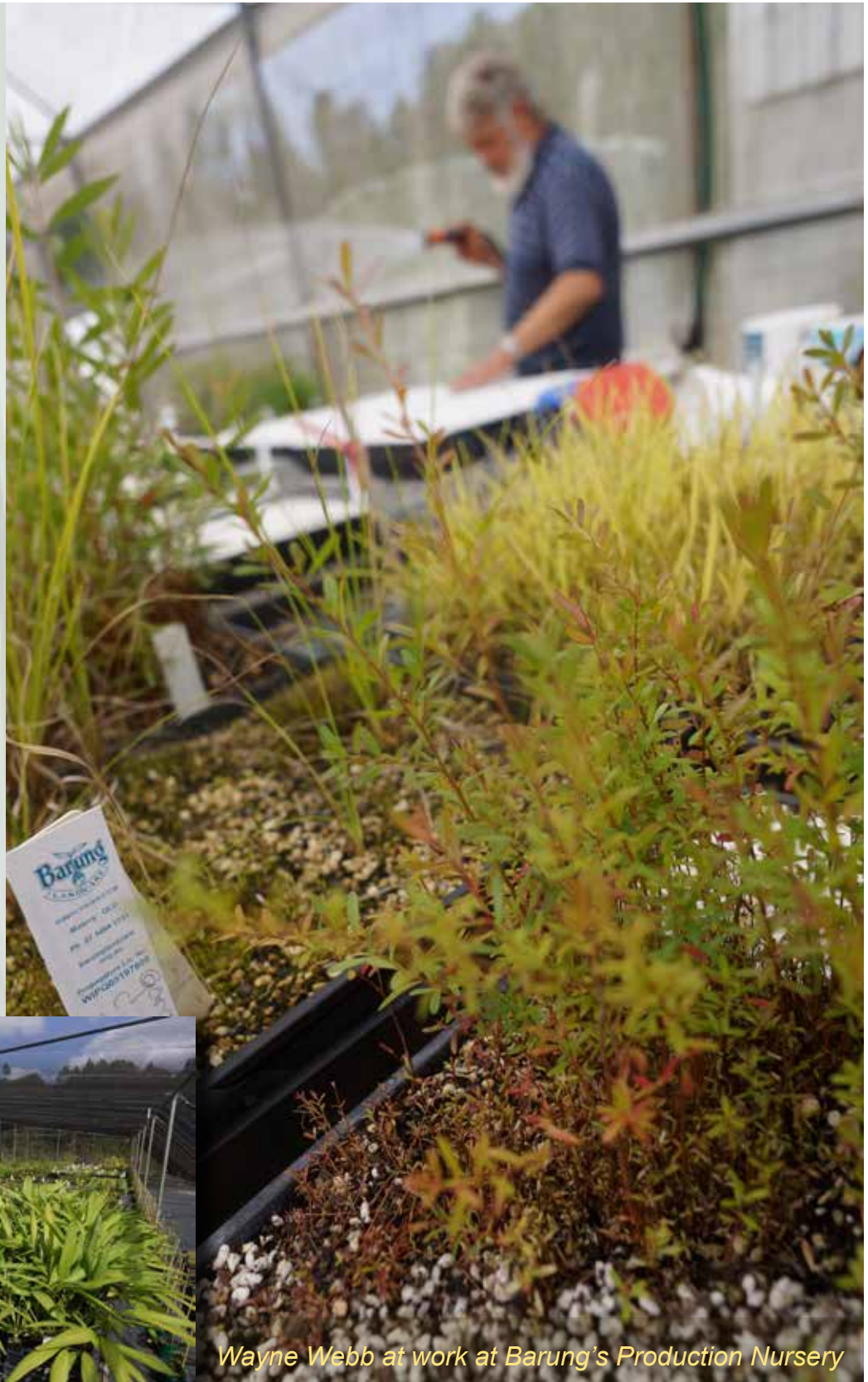
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**Barung Porters Lane Nursery
September Sale**

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Wayne Webb at work at Barung's Production Nursery



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

Retail Nursery:

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

Production Nursery:

135 Forestry Rd
LANDSBOROUGH
by appointment

THE BARUNG FAMILY

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Secretary	Raine See
Treasurer	Alan Harrington
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Theresa Bint	Office Coordinator
Den Lalor	Admin/Project Support Officer
Steve McLeish	Barung Events

Barung Nurseries

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Cali Salzmann	Retail Nursery Manager

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Simon Peters	Team Leader
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Annaliese Walker	Neal Rolley
Ben Symons	Richard KinKead
Brett Nelson	Stephen Bond
Dawn Mickelo	Tanya Ellison
Donna Morgan	Wendy Conway
Lisa Chin	

...and our many Volunteers.

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

Upcoming Workshops & Events

Barung Porters Lane Nursery sale

Start: Thursday, September 01, 2016 9:00 AM
End: Saturday, September 03, 2016 12:00 PM
Location: Barung Landcare Nursery, Porters Lane, Maleny [read more](#)

Little Yabba Bushcare

When: Friday, September 02, 2016
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Little Yabba Park, Cambroon [read more](#)

A Gardening Journey

When: Saturday, September 03, 2016
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location: Hunchy [read more](#)

Making Your Front Garden for Wildlife: Stage 3

When: Thursday, September 08, 2016
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Hinterland Business Centre, Maleny [read more](#)

Roving Restorers - Bushcare's Major Day Out at Rainforest Ridge, Curramore

When: Sunday, September 11, 2016
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM [read more](#)

Native Plant ID & Weed Recognition

When: Wednesday, 14th September,
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location: Flaxton [read more](#)

Barung Landcare Association's 2016 Annual General Meeting

will be held on November 5th
at the Maleny RSL
10:00 AM start. [read more](#)

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



Vale, Mal Thompson

Family man, farmer, founding member of Barung Landcare, and a good bloke

At around 6.00 pm on Monday, 1 August, Mal Thompson went to do some work at his dairy where he passed away. Mal valued community and was active over many years in doing his part to support Barung Landcare.

I met Mal and Margaret Thompson in 1989 at the founding meeting of Barung Landcare, the same year that the National Landcare Program commenced with the support of the National Farmers Federation, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Commonwealth Government.

Mal and Margaret were the first farmers to join Barung, right at the very beginning, and helped bring the concept of our organisation into existence. They contributed generously all the way through with ideas, and they were always there to help in many ways.

Due in part to Mal's collaborative efforts with others in 1989, Barung has become the large and influential organisation that it is today with 750 members. Mal and Margaret were made life members of the organisation many years ago. Mal gave with the same generous spirit to many other community ventures.

He was an innovator and introduced a buffalo herd to their Witta farm as way of maintaining the farm's viability when the big supermarkets slashed their milk price payments to farmers. The Thompson dairy supplies buffalo milk to a local cheese maker; you have



probably seen or bought this cheese from the IGA supermarket in Maleny.

His buffalo became pets and I think Mal would have had a wry smile at the unassuming way he died, tending to his animals. Like his buffalo, he was a resilient and gentle giant.

I will miss seeing Mal around the town, with his no-nonsense salt-of-the-earth demeanour and his friendly smile. He was a man who could talk openly and with dignity, but always respected the other person's feelings. Even as his health declined, he still wanted to contribute positively to the world to his last breath. He was at peace with his mortality.

Barung Landcare greatly appreciates Mal Thompson's contribution. It is people like Mal who make a difference. Mal Thompson respected our regional community, and you, the community, respected and loved Mal.

Our sincerest condolences and our heartfelt thanks go out to Margaret, family and his friends.

We will all miss him. He cared, and we will never forget him.

*Lindsay Kruger
President
Barung Landcare*



King Orchid - One of Mal's Favourites



Another Amanita

by Gretchen Evans

One of our annual forays is to the Cooroibah section of the Great Sandy Region of Cooloola. It is a very different ecosystem to the more usual rainforests or eucalypt forests which we often visit. It is a woodland area of Allocasuarinas, paperbarks, *Banksia robur* and some eucalypts.

Because of the sand there is quite a different range of fungi to be found and we always find several species of the genus *Amanita*.

Amanita is a large genus with over 100 species. During our recent field trip walking along the fire trail, we discovered 6 different species either at the side of the track or actually emerging through the sand on the track itself. There seemed to be *Amanitas* everywhere.

The most spectacular species was one we are calling *Amanita aff. rubescens* which means it looks like a species from overseas. But it is almost certainly not the same though it belongs to a group which stains reddish on handling. *Rubescens* means red. The stalk is red and the flesh and gills also stain red when touched.

Many *Amanitas* have a ring under the cap and in this species the ring is more like a spectacular skirt which is white on top and red underneath.



Thank you!

- John Muir for taking the time while on a short break back in Maleny to share some photos depicting his agricultural exploits in Cambodia. His talk covered contemporary events in the NGO volunteer environment juxtaposed with his experiences from an earlier stint some 20 odd years ago.



- Bernie and Leslie Porter (Range Earthmoving) for taking the time to meet with some of the committee and staff to give advice on our potential Maleny Precinct Site and some indicative costings for earthworks
- Edith-Ann Murray (Hinterland Business Centre) for clearing the front garden bed in preparation for our Creating Your Front Garden for Wildlife workshops
- Leanne Harper (Home Soil Solutions) for interpreting the soil test results from the garden in front of the Barung office and presenting them, along with a great deal of supporting information about soil management, to participants at the second Creating Your Front Garden for Wildlife workshop.

Birds of the Blackall Range

Rainbow Lorikeet

by Eric Anderson



A moderately sized brightly coloured bird a little over 300 mm long, gaudy, noisy, aggressive and conspicuous. Well known for its striking “rainbow” colours and is one of the most brilliantly plumaged of Australia’s parrots. Females are similar to males but have smaller and rounder heads.

They are found in most timbered habitats from rainforest to woodland wherever large trees predominate in all of eastern Australia from Cape York, without going much further west than the limits of the Great Dividing Range and extending through the near coastal areas of Victoria to south east South Australia. They have been introduced into Perth and are a vagrant in Tasmania

They are more or less nomadic, their appearance in districts mostly coinciding with flowering of eucalypts. While feeding they keep

up an incessant din. Insects attracted by the honey-laden flowers, are also eaten and form a considerable portion of their diet. However they are currently unpopular in my yard, as they have taken a liking to my mandarin crop.

At sunrise flocks of rainbow lorikeets leave their roosting trees and fly to feeding areas, where they remain during the day, sheltering from the heat of the sun amid the dense foliage. Towards sunset they return to their roosting trees.

The nesting season is June to January in Eastern Australia though some breed in other months. They nest in holes in trees, usually eucalypts, often near water. The female does most of the incubating and when sitting is fed regularly by the male. The incubation lasts 23 days. Both parents feed the young which fledge after 8 weeks.



Glossy Black-Cockatoo Birding Day

Sunday 30th October 2016

The next **Glossy Black-Cockatoo Birding Day** is being held on Sunday 30th October. The objective is to gain a better understanding of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo’s distribution, habitat use and population demographics over time in S E Queensland. If you would like to help and join in this “citizen science” initiative then contact the Sunshine Coast Coordinator Conor Jenkins.

P: 07 5499 5142

W: Conor.Jenkins@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au



For more details on the day checkout the Glossy Black Conservancy website www.glossyblack.org.au



Blackall Range Landholders Guide 3rd edition

The Blackall Range Landholders Guide first came out in 1997 and was revised in 2005. The idea behind the book was to compile information to assist people new to the Range to do the right thing by the environment.

Every location has its unique aspects in relation to its climate, topography and geology, plants, weeds and fauna. Understanding these empowers landholders to make the best possible decisions, particularly in establishing gardens or revegetation projects that will create habitat for our animal life.

The new 2016 edition includes updated information on local history, water, restoring native flora, native fauna, environmental weeds, farm forestry, fire dangers and new chapters on ornamental gardens by Joan Dillon, native Australian foods by John King and Fungi by Frances Gard.

The writers are all local people who are happy to pass on their collective wisdom to help you avoid making mistakes that can be costly and heartbreaking. Even seasoned residents will learn something new.

The book is currently in production and a launch date will be advised towards the end of the year. Just in time for a great Christmas gift!

Elaine Green (Editor)



Wildfoods Recipes

Bushfood recipes wanted!

Do you have a favourite bush tucker recipe? Are you a dab hand with finger limes or bunya nuts? Barung is planning a new edition of the Wild Food recipe booklet, first published about 13 years ago. We'd love to include your tried-and-true bushfood recipes for snacks, sweets, main courses and drinks, so please send them in to: theresa@barunglandcare.org.au



Midyim, Austromyrtus dulcis (bushtucker)



Gardens For Wildlife News

by Jonathan Waites

We have now run two workshops in our **Making Your Front Garden for Wildlife** series, a series of workshops developed to take people through the process of designing and instigating a wildlife friendly garden, specifically focussing on a front garden.

The first was held in July, attended by an enthusiastic group who have eagerly embraced the task of 'remaking' the garden areas in front of the Hinterland Business Centre. Joan Dillon took participants through a process to identify the objectives for the garden (wildlife habitat along with aesthetic appeal) and the constraints to what could be achieved. Prior to the workshop Edith-Ann Murray (manager of the Hinterland Business Centre) had the vegetation cleared from the existing garden bed in front of our office, providing the group with a 'clear' slate to work on. Following a discussion about plant selection, placement and sourcing, Joan demonstrated to the group a methodology for collecting a soil sample to assess the pH of the front garden bed. The implications of acid/alkaline pH on nutrient availability for plants was discussed as we tested our soil with a simple soil pH test kit purchased from the local hardware store.

Prior to the second workshop being held in August, the garden bed that Edith-Ann had cleared was weeded, 25kg of Organic Xtra applied and 4.5m³ of hard wood chip spread over the area to a depth of approximately 100mm. It was then doused with around 30mm of water via a sprinkler. A soil sample was taken and sent to a laboratory for testing.

At the second workshop, Leanne Harper from Home Soil Solutions walked us through the soil test results, supported by a detailed report she had prepared which included a biological gardening program. The main minerals needing adjusting according to the soil analysis were calcium, needing an increase to rectify a calcium/magnesium imbalance and a boost was needed in phosphorus levels. Leanne also demonstrated a number of manual soil



tests that could be performed to increase our understanding of soil properties. These included methods for assessing qualities such as soil texture and soil structure. Leanne's garden mantra is OMMM – Organic Matter, Minerals and Management practices. And remember, 'A gardener's primary job is to promote the life in the soil'.

The morning finished up with the group finalising plant selection (dependent on species available for purchase in this area), numbers and placement. Our next **Creating Your Front Garden for Wildlife** workshop will be held on Thursday 8th September and will include planting out the prepared section of Bed 1 and beginning to plan for the remaining areas. If you would like to join us (you don't need to have attended either of the preceding workshops) you can register on the Barung website www.barunglandcare.org.au or contact the office 5494 3151.



Leanne Harper of Home Soil Solutions taking a sub-sample for further manual testing from the initial soil sample dug from Bed 1.



Porters Lane Nursery September Sale

Making room for new stock.

September 1st, 2nd and 3rd
(Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

The following stock has been in tubes too long
and we need to make room for fresh tubestock
so grab a bargain while you can!

Ficus macrophylla

Ficus fraseri

Corymbia tessellaris

Acmena smithii

Allocasia brisbanensis

Eupomatia laurina

Pouteria australis

Eucalyptus grandis

Syzygium crebinerve

Tabernaemontana pandaqui

and other odds and ends



Only \$1.00 each or trays of 80 for \$75.00!

This doesn't happen often, so get ready to save
money! Bring a box and fill it!

Barung Landcare Retail Nursery Porters Lane, North Maleny

Open Wed, Thu, Fri (9am - 3pm)
and Saturday (9am - noon)

Phone 0429 943 152

nursery@barunglandcare.org.au



New Trolleys

Lifting and carrying of plants
just got a whole lot easier
at Barung's production
nursery with the construction
of much-needed new plant
benches and trolleys.
Production capacity is now
even greater!



No plants or animals were harmed during the creation of these trolleys!

Peter Fuchs with one of the newly constructed benches



Lichens

Ubiquitous in our subtropical environs, lichens often go unnoticed. Once you 'get your eye in' for lichens, however, you'll be overwhelmed by the extraordinary variety of forms and colours almost everywhere you look. Tufts of 'old man's beard', green and yellow-coated rocks, elegant blue-green leafy growths on tree trunks and fence posts are just a few forms.

Lichens consist of two organisms living in symbiosis: a fungus, which provides structure, protection, access to moisture and minerals, and cyanobacteria or algae, which photosynthesises and provides food. Lichens liberate nutrients from rocks, wood, rain, and air, providing food for invertebrates as well as vertebrates such as caribou.

Crustose lichens form crusts, tightly attached to the substrate; leaf-like, lobed lichens are foliose; lichens forming shrubby or strand-like growths are fruticose; squamulose lichens have scale-like, overlapping lobes.

Lichens attach to stable substrates and often establish on slow-growing parts of trees such as bark on trunks. They can grow on almost any surface, including rock, glass, plastic, plants and animals and in the most extreme environments, such as deserts and Arctic tundra. The richest diversity of lichens is found in tropical forests where there can be more than 500 species in a hectare.

Lichens existed on earth before dinosaurs and have been used by humans for food, dyes (including Scottish tartan), perfume and medicine. Extracts from lichens have been used in folk medicine in Europe, North America, Africa and Asia to treat a range of conditions including sore throats, breast cancer, scurvy, wounds and menstrual disorders.



2016 Annual General Meeting

Barung Landcare Association's 2016 Annual General Meeting will be held on **November 5th** at the Maleny RSL **10am start**

New Members

Bev Jorgensen
Kerrie Lonn
Agnes Macmillan
Kirsty Mann
Kaara Shaw, Private Forestry Service QLD
Gregory Thamm
Lisa Ward



National Tree Planting Day at Landsborough

National Tree Day was celebrated with a tree planting at Barung's Landsborough Production Nursery. Our enthusiastic crew had an enjoyable morning and planted 350 native trees.



School Tree Planting Day Montville

Barung's Nursery Manager Wayne Webb visited Montville State School on **Schools Tree Day**. Wayne answered questions from students and helped with tree identification in the school grounds.



We mourn the recent death of **Bob Taylor**. Well known for his active and generous support of the Friends of Mary Cairncross Association, he was also a long-term supporter of the Maleny Wood Expo, consistently volunteering his time over the Expo weekend for a number of years.



Walks on the Wild Side

July's Walk on the Wildside tackled Mt Ngungun. Forty-five minutes of climbing to the top of the mountain rewarded our group with amazing 360 degree views.



The vision we have with Walks on the Wildside is to reconnect people, especially children, with nature. 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. Walks on the Wildside meet at different places on the Blackall Range one Saturday a month for an hour's stroll in the bush, usually National Parks.

The WoW co-ordinator is Raine See; our Patron is Jill Morris, prize winning author of children's books based on nature and the environment.

Interested in a Walk on the Wildside? Do you have a walk you'd like to share? Contact Raine on 0412 031880. You can also find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/walksonthewildside.barung



Volunteering at Barung Landcare

Introducing Antonio, Barung volunteer.

Antonio has been providing invaluable assistance with the newsletter – he's a dab hand at compositing! Antonio can also be found tending the Barung kiosk in Maple Street on most Thursday afternoons – drop in and say hello.

Thanks, Antonio!





Wildlife Friendly Gardening

by Joan Dillon



The ornamental garden has long needed better access within and around it, plus improved drainage to combat mud after heavy rain. Concrete paths are not environmentally friendly, expensive and don't suit the landscape anyway. What to do?

Gravel was laid for the main access through the garden to the house. The path was easy to curve, could wend its way between a couple of trees without undue excavation and root damage, and rain soaked through it into the ground – no run-off.

Within the garden, a soft bark chip path was created. Cheap and also absorbed the rain, no root damage and the bandicoots love it. At least they possibly spend less time digging up the actual garden than might otherwise be the case. Definitely a wildlife friendly result. Groundcover plants tend to invade but some can be potted up for use elsewhere, others pulled out or pruned and some can be walked on. Occasional topping up is the only requirement, apart from filling in the bandicoot holes.

Drainage and surface erosion from water coming off the concrete base under water tanks was finally solved with a rock riffle. This is basically a rocky "creek" bed which follows the natural drainage line. A length of in-ground drain under the rock takes the initial flow and after that, rocks placed on the existing ground surface over some used shade cloth involved minimal excavation. No more mud, water flow slowed, any silt trapped between the rocks. Clean water can now flow down to a gully via an existing riffle constructed from larger rock and on a much steeper slope.

There is now space down what had been a bit of a no-man's land used as a path, for a whole new garden. Plants which will trail over the edges to create a natural effect have

been put in, and while small lizards have not yet taken up residence amongst the rocks, they are bound to come. Edging plants will provide extra protection.

In an area shaded from the afternoon sun, native rock orchids (lithophytes) are thriving and starting to flower. Our little resident Noisy Pitta happily hops across the new riffle in the late afternoon, pausing briefly to check out the edges for stray insects or perhaps snails. Our problems have been solved and the wildlife seems to approve; well, I think so anyway.

There is inevitably a need for some sort of "hard" landscaping in most gardens but it's always possible to work with the environment and the wildlife to create something interesting and possibly different. It's also a great excuse/opportunity to branch out with a whole new lot of plants for you and the wildlife.





Martina

Martina Gordon, stalwart Barung vollie and co-ordinator of the Wood Expo Raffle, recently relocated to the coast and has stepped aside from her role as a Barung Management Committee member. Martina brings enthusiasm and smiles with her: her visits to the Resource Centre, along with her dog Fritz, are always a high point of the day and we hope they continue! Thankfully, Martina will continue to play a role in Barung activities, including the Expo raffle. *Thankyou Martina!*



New books at the Resource Centre

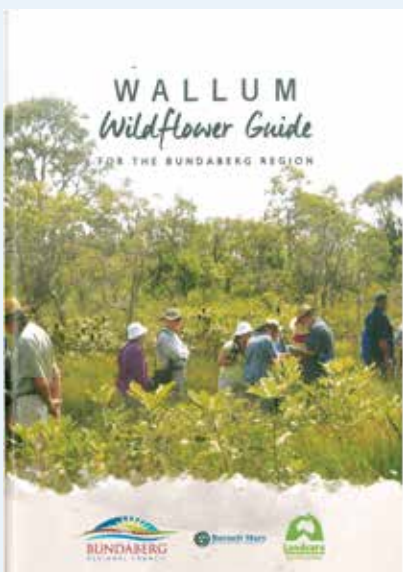
Wallum Wildflower Guide for the Bundaberg Region

Leeann Evans Editor

2014

A very handy guide to the beautiful heathland vegetation in the Bundaberg region. Most species will also be found in Sunshine Coast wallum areas. A concise colour guide with photographs, descriptions, common and scientific names (with a pronunciation guide – yes!), information on flowering times, preferred habitat and more. Plants are grouped by flower colour. Includes index of common and scientific names as well as a list of fauna found in wallum heathland.

75pp \$6.00 [purchase online here](#)



Australian Wildlife After Dark

Martyn Robinson & Bruce Thomson 2016

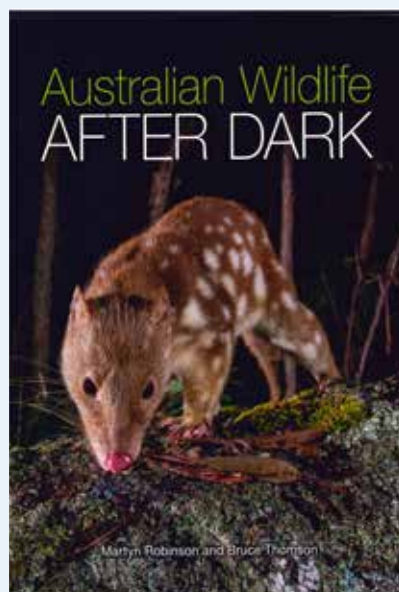
CSIRO Publishing

Some animals prefer the cover of darkness and so, although widespread, are rarely seen. Australian Wildlife After Dark brings 'hidden' fauna into the light and includes a surprising diversity of nocturnal creatures from cockroaches, moths and spiders to bandicoots, bats and birds.

Most chapters are organised according to the senses by which different animals navigate their world: vision, hearing, smell, touch and "senses we can't imagine".

An entertaining and informative book, beautifully illustrated with colour photographs throughout.

148pp \$35.00 [purchase online here](#)



These titles and many more are available at the Barung Landcare Resource Centre in Coral Street or from our online shop:

www.barunglandcare.org.au/e-shop



Revegetating the Range

by Jonathan Waites

Barung has been fortunate to receive Healthy Habitats funding through BMRG to run our Revegetating the Range project. The \$9,000 grant will support us in running five workshops up until the end of March 2017.

The very popular first workshop, Native Seed Collection and Propagation, was held in mid July with 20 keen participants gathering at our Landsborough nursery. Wayne Webb, Production Nursery Manager, took people to several sites and discussed various seed collection techniques. Seed collected included Black She-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*), Dwarf Banksia (*Banksia oblongifolia*), Wild May (*Leptospermum polygalifolium*) and Wallum Bottlebrush (*Melaleuca pachyphylla*).

The collected seed was brought back to the propagation shed where Wayne discussed seed preparation, propagation techniques and propagation media. He followed this up with a seed planting demonstration utilising Wild May seed that had been collected and prepared earlier in the week. The seed tray was deposited on a bench in the propagation tunnel where tips on watering and tunnel management were shared.

Moving into the potting shed Wayne demonstrated his preferred method of potting up, selecting from a tray of Red-fruited Palm Lily (*Cordyline rubra*); those who accepted the invitation to 'give it a go' realised it wasn't as simple a skill as it seemed!

Wayne demonstrates the tricky technique for potting up seedlings.



Photo: J. Godwin

Wild May (Leptospermum polygalifolium)

For those who would like some written support for their seed collection and propagation activities, Wayne suggested the following book (out of print but available second hand – have a look online):

Elliot, Rodger & Jones, David 1980, Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Suitable for Cultivation Vol 1, Lothian Publishing Company, Victoria.

Our second workshop in this series (Native Plant ID & Weed Recognition) is scheduled for Wednesday, 14th September, 9 – 12. It will be held on a private property in Flaxton, details are on the Barung website at www.barunglandcare.org.au.

Or you can contact the office on 5494 3151.



Montville Mist - Water, water everywhere!

Montville Mist provides essential support to Barung volleys and staff at the Retail Nursery and at the Maleny Wood Expo. Because of their generosity, fresh, clean water is always available to the hardworking Barung family members. Thanks, Montville Mist!



Many thanks to our BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Ananda Marga River School
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Barung Landcare Membership Rates and Benefits

Individual/family MEMBERSHIP \$ 35 pa

This entitles you to the quarterly *Barung News*, two free trees from the Nursery, discounts with participating, local businesses and enables you to support Barung Landcare's work in preserving and enhancing the natural environment of the Blackall Range and environs.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTOR \$ 55 pa

Business Contributors (\$55/year) are entitled to

- listing in the *Barung News* as a business contributor
- acknowledgement of your support at Barung displays
- three (3) free trees and
- membership discounts on Nursery plant purchases.

BUSINESS SPONSOR \$ 275 pa

Business Sponsors (\$275/year) are entitled to

- a business card size advert in Barung's quarterly newsletter x 4 issues
- acknowledgement of your support at Barung displays
- three (3) free trees and
- membership discounts on Nursery plant purchases.

Barung gratefully acknowledges these organisations for their partnerships & support:



Hinterland
Business
Centre



And also the Business Sponsors and Contributors whose advertisements appear in the Barung News



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

