



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

# Barung Landcare Association Seasonal Newsletter

Autumn 2019

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

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and more...



LAKE  
BAROON  
CATCHMENT  
CARE  
GROUP



Hinterland Bush Links  
connecting restoring protecting

## The Catchment Community Tree Plant p 6



ISO 14001 ENVIRONMENT  
Certified System



AS/NZS 4801 SAFETY  
Certified System



ISO 9001 QUALITY  
Certified System

MALENY  
WOOD  
EXPO   
*from seed to  
fine furniture*

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> May  
to  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
Maleny Showgrounds

## 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](mailto:info@barunglandcare.org.au)



## Barung Nurseries

Ph 5302 9900 0429 943 152  
[nursery@barunglandcare.org.au](mailto: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

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Ian McMaster
Secretary	Sue Brieschke
Treasurer	Alan Harrington
Committee Members	Fiona McGill Fiona Emberton

### BARUNG STAFF

#### Barung Administration & Projects

Jonathan Waites	Projects Officer
Theresa Bint	Office Manager
Den Lalor	Administration Officer
Katrina Atkinson	Admin Assistant
Steve McLeish	Wood Expo Coordinator

#### Barung Nurseries

Cam Burton	Nurseries Manager
Wayne Webb	Production Nursery Manager
Maia Stegman	Assistant Nursery Manager

#### Barung Natural Area Services

Kate Seehuusen	Manager
David Lührman	Operational Co-ordinator
Danielle Steele	Environmental Admin Assistant

#### BNAS Supervisors & Staff

Simon Peters	Evan Millwood
Donna Morgan	Iain Neal
Brett Nelson	Janet Stirling
Neal Rolley	Mark Berndsen
Ben Symons	Matt Campbell
Dawn Mickelo	Roger Lodsman
Joseph Rosenberg	Sarah Dickson
Allan Cooper	Stephen Bond
Darshana	Stephen Dixon
Soundararajah	Tanya Ellison
Ashleigh Shipman	Trevour Pitt
Kahli Hall	Wendy Conway

...and our many Volunteers.

Cover: *The Catchment Community Tree Plant - 13th April 2019*

## Welcome to the Autumn Edition Barung News

### Our regular features

We are privileged to have a great core of 'regular' contributors who make the Barung News the interesting and informative thing that it is. Local experts write about our local ecosystems and environments and we get insights into the world of butterflies, fungi, birds, trees, shrubs, frogs, gardens and people. *Thank you all!*



The 2019 Maleny Wood Expo Program is now available online shortly at :  
[www.malenywoodexpo.com/program](http://www.malenywoodexpo.com/program)  
(or just google 'maleny wood expo program'!)

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

Barung Newsletter - Published April 2019  
( Production Team: Denis Lalor, Theresa Bint )

# Birds of the Blackall Range

Eric Anderson

## Pacific Emerald Dove

*Chalcophaps longirostris*

The Pacific Emerald Dove is a small plump barrel-chested short-tailed pigeon 23-27 cm long. The head, neck and upper back is rufous brown while the rest of the back and wings are bright emerald-green. The males can be distinguished from females by their white shoulder patch. Their voice is a low-pitched but loud, penetrating coo repeated continuously.

The Australian race of Emerald Dove occurs primarily in coastal Northern and Eastern Australia and its associated highlands. Other races are found throughout Burma, Southern China, Taiwan, Philippines, South-east Asia, New Guinea and Vanuatu. They have been introduced onto Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands; they inhabit areas of rainforest, wet eucalypt and heathlands, but may also occur in areas of disturbed vegetation such as lantana thickets and regrowth forest.

They feed mainly on the forest floor on the seeds and fruit of native and exotic plants as well as considerable insect matter. Populations in rainforest areas may also feed under the roosting and feeding sites of other rainforest birds that excrete whole seeds in their droppings. When feeding, they walk and run nimbly and usually feed singly or in pairs, along paths, clearings and around human dwellings in forest areas.

Emerald Doves generally nest at any time of the year with a peak of breeding in spring and early summer. The nest is a typical flimsy platform of twigs placed in vines, tree limb or fork, or dense vegetation. Two creamy eggs form the usual clutch and incubation lasts 14-16 days. The parents share incubation duties, with the cock usually incubating during the day and the hen at night. Fledging occurs as early as 12-13 days old but some may remain in the nest for up to 3 weeks.



*Pacific Emerald Dove*  
*Chalcophaps longirostris*  
Photo - Eric Anderson



*White Beech (Gmelina leichhardtii)*  
Photo - Pete The Poet

### **The Ringtail School Gmelinas** by Nursery Volunteer Gabby Bell

*The old schoolyard Gmelinas stand silently, gnarled and scarred, slowly - incrementally letting go, as bits of branch fall to the ground - and with time - rot and crumble on to the hard-baked soil unappreciated - by the Eucalypts that rise; oblivious.*

*Limbs spreading and proud, the schoolyard White Beeches, with leaves - that the sun seared through - soft and hairy. A lime mellow light that drew children and laughter.*

*But now - the wooden stumps of the schoolhouse crack and the curlicue gate parts from a post. The Gmelinas - three - and the stumps at attention - in a row. A headmaster's dream.*

*With time sucked away - and, one-by-one - the last of the children mature, age, weary - then fade.*

*The chances were slim - promise lost for the planted Gmelinas. Few purple fruit withered though they held for a while.*

*Yet still they stand proud - the Gmelinas, their stark shadows long and gnarled trunks wry still admired, as the Eucalypts rise and the last lime leaf yellows - and falls.*

# Barung Landcare gains ISO certifications

After much hard work by Barung staff and committee past and present, Barung has been assessed and certified to the following management systems, standards and guideline:



ISO 14001:2015  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEMS



ISO  
9001:2015 QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



AS/NZS 4801:2001  
OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH AND SAFETY  
MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEMS



## John Dillon retires from the Management Committee

Our Vice President John Dillon has tendered his resignation from the committee, as he deals with some health issues. John and Joan are longstanding members whose contribution to Barung over many years has been outstanding, and John's latest stint on the Committee is no exception. We sincerely regret his departure, and wish him a quick return to full health.

## From Little Things Big Things Grow by Jonathan Waites

Our latest Gardens for Wildlife workshop with Joan Dillon focussed on pruning and weeding the main garden beds in front of the Barung office in Coral St, as well as making a start on the narrow bed on the eastern side of the site. The morning began with a discussion of the progress made over the last three years, including an assessment of species that had thrived and some which had failed.

Then our small but dedicated crew got stuck in: pruning, weeding and spreading a metre of hardwood chip mulch over weed gunnel on the first section of the last garden bed needing reclaiming. Thanks to Edith-Ann Murray (Hinterland Business Centre manager) for carting away the ute load of weeds and prunings that were produced from the morning's activities.

There is a collation of photos presenting a visual history of the garden from its inception to the present day in the front window of the office. Have a look if you're passing.



# Fungi Foray

by Theresa Bint

I didn't have to go far for this week's foray – once again the Garden for Wildlife in our front yard here at the Hinterland Business Centre has yielded fungal rewards.

Fungi come in a mind-blowing array of forms – jellies, crusts, stinkhorns and corals to name just a few – but one of the most intriguing forms is that of the bird's nest fungi.

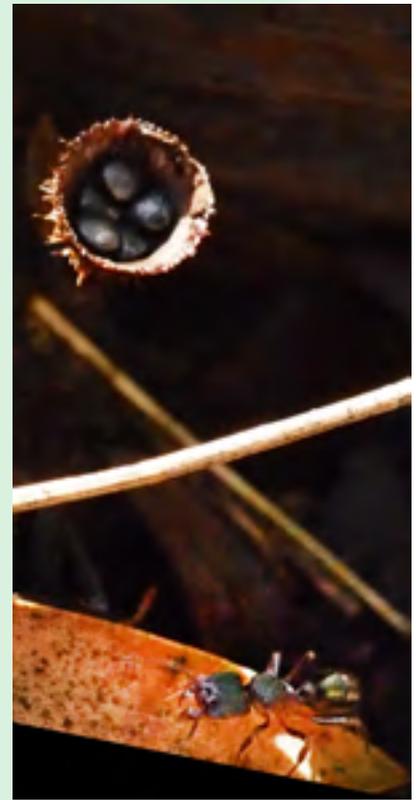
Often gregarious (ie, they appear in groups/troops), these recyclers are at home in decaying organic matter such as wood or bark mulch. Their tiny size means they are often overlooked – a shame, because they are amongst the most bizarre, incredible forms of fungi around (and that's saying something). Have a look with a hand lens or magnifying glass and you'll see...tiny little 'nests' filled with tiny little eggs. Maybe that's where the birds got the idea!

They have a widespread distribution in most ecological regions. The fruiting bodies or sporebodies are generally between 5–15 mm wide; 4–8 mm high; globe, urn- or vase-shaped. The cups have shaggy-hairy exteriors and smooth or fluted interiors. The 'eggs' are peridioles – capsules of spores, packaged for distribution. These fungi employ rain-splash spore dispersal: when a raindrop hits a 'nest' at the right angle, the 'eggs' are expelled to about 1 m away from the cup.

The peridiole sticks to the surface of the plant, leaf or whatever it has landed on; in some species the peridiole has a sticky-ended tail made of fungal threads that attaches it. The peridiole dries out, splits and spore dispersal occurs.

Bird's nest fungi are in the Family Nidulariaceae and include the genera *Cyathus*, *Crucibulum*, *Nidula*, *Nidularia*, and *Mycocalia*.

**Footnote: Gretchen Evans has been Barung's "fungi correspondent" for many years but is now taking a well-earned break. Thankyou, Gretchen – you've left big shoes to fill!**



*Birds Nest Fungi in the 'Garden for Wildlife' in front of Barung Resource Centre*



# An Introduction to Nature Journaling

by Jonathan Waites

Barung with Sunshine Coast Council organised two (morning and afternoon) well attended Introduction to Nature Journaling workshops with Paula Peeters as part of the recent BioBlitz held at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve. The wet weather failed to dampen the enthusiasm of participants, kept dry under the roof of the Outdoor Classroom nestled within the reserve, as they experimented with drawing and writing about their nature experience.

According to one participant commenting on the shared individual responses to a free writing exercise, “the workshop provided a unique opportunity to discover the fact that people often think congruently around similar subjects” while expressing similar sentiments in their own personal style.

Paula will be running a Further Adventures in Nature Journaling workshop on Saturday, the 1st of June, this time exploring a more specific aspect of the craft. Details will be finalised and advertised on the Barung website ([www.barunglandcare.org.au](http://www.barunglandcare.org.au)) early in May. Come along and experience for yourself Paula’s belief that ‘Anyone can draw, anyone can write. And that spending time in nature is good for you’.

In the meantime you can find out more about nature journaling at Paula’s website, [www.paperbarkwriter.com](http://www.paperbarkwriter.com), and see others interpretations of nature journaling at [www.facebook.com/groups/730965243675830](https://www.facebook.com/groups/730965243675830).



## Life in Miniature

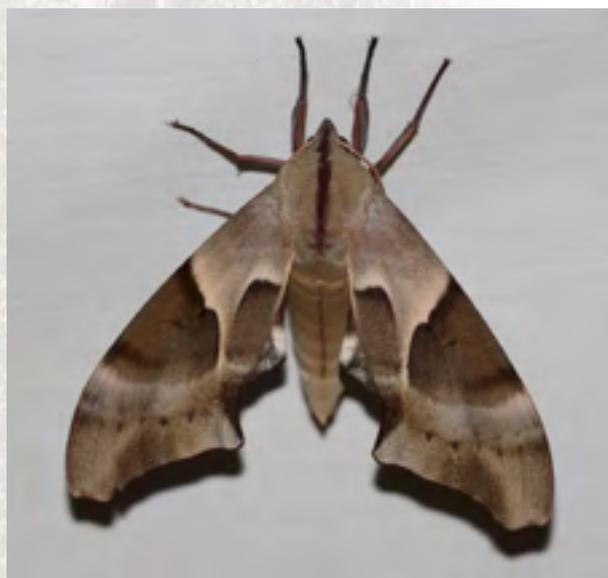
by Ian McMaster

Have you ever looked at the gorgeous colours of a butterfly or beetle in your garden, and wondered how many other spectacular surprises are out there awaiting your discovery? You might be surprised at the variety. Various estimates suggest the number of different living organisms that call Australia home is about half a million. About 60% of those are insects, and only one third of those are described and named.

We thought it might be interesting to expand our knowledge of this huge section of our ecosystem, so this column will provide a glimpse into insect life each edition. We will start with a moth you might well have seen if you have been looking at what is attracted to your lights on war wet nights recently.

This Triangle Hawk Moth is one of the larger of our many species of hawk moth, with a wingspan on about 12cm. They live up and down the east coast of Australia, in the wetter eucalypt forests, where their big green caterpillars feed on a number of eucalypt species. This warm damp weather is great for hawk moths! We had as many as nine different species attracted to our lights one recent wet night, including several of these (pictured).

**See what you can find in your garden and send in a photo of any interesting finds!**



Triangle Hawk Moth  
*Coequosa australasiae*

# The Catchment Community Tree Plant

## Saturday 13th April

by Jonathan Waites

What a fantastic morning! Blessed with near perfect soil moisture, holes dug, and a bright sunny day (but not too hot) it couldn't have been better. Thirty odd people from several organisations attended – SEQWater, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group (LBCCG), Hinterland Bush Links, Barung – and, amidst laughter and conversation, planted 1,000 tubestock in two and half hours (plus placing tree guards and mats). **A huge thank you to you all!**

Also thanks to LBCCG for providing us with a great planting site, preparing the site, providing plants (from Barung nursery) and feeding us on the day.

As well, thanks to Hinterland Bush Links and the Roving Restorers crew for all their support, including gloves and planting implements. And thanks to the people who agreed to don a red vest and act as group leaders, and to Rotary for lending us the red vests.



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE



LAKE  
BAROON  
CATCHMEN  
CARE  
GROUP



Hinterland Bush Links  
connecting restoring protecting



seqwater  
WATER FOR LIFE



For full details of upcoming workshops go to  
[barunglandcare.org.au/events](http://barunglandcare.org.au/events)

# Barung Nurseries

Cam Burton - Nurseries Manager

The hot summer months sees everything growing strong at the nurseries, not only the plants, but the weeds and the pests and disease. Its hard work for all the team to keep providing the healthy resilient plant stock we do, well done to everyone.

Some new stock coming through that we are excited to see soon at Porters Lane is *Alchornea ilicifolia*, the Native Holly.

Diana and Eric collected the seed and unusually it has given a fantastic germination rate. Talking with Wayne he says it has been the most successful germination rate in his 14 years at Barung.

The Native Holly is an understory and edge plant, typically of drier rainforests. It naturally occurs along the east coast, from near Wollongong to North Queensland.

A small tree or shrub to 7 m, it has decorative holly-like, spiny, glossy green mature leaves which flush a lovely bronze in new growth.

*Alchornea ilicifolia* is a dioecious species, where male and female flowers are produced on different plants. Therefore, typically a pollinator (wasp, ant, fly) is required to transport the male pollen to the female flower for fertilisation. Approximately 20% of our local rainforest trees and shrubs are dioecious, including *Neolitsea dealbata*, *Podocarpus elatus* and *Drypetes deplachei*.

But the Native Holly is not so typical, it holds a special place in botanical history as being the first (pollen bearing) species observed to produce fertile seed without pollen (Apomixis). A solitary female specimen collected in Australia and grown in the Kew gardens England produced seed without any male specimens available to her (women insert joke here).



*Alchornea ilicifolia*, the Native Holly.



Plant ID training at Porters Lane



A recent addition to life at Porters Lane is some informal plant identification training after morning tea on Thursdays. With help and guidance from new members Laurie and Gabby, we look into a particular feature that is associated with a plant family (or group of plants). For those keen homework is set to collect samples for review the following week. So far Di has been very diligent with her homework. I hope she does well on the test!!!

In early March volunteers and staff were invited to visit Douglas and Estelle Haynes property, to walk through a 20 year revegetation project. Over the years many Barung plants have gone into this very successful project. It was an opportunity for volunteers and staff to enjoy a walk through the 'bush' together and see the end result which starts with hard work doing tasks such as cleaning tubes, cleaning seed, tubing up and weeding. Thanks so much Douglas and Estelle, it was an inspiring morning.

Recently we have had some good news winning a grant to erect a shade shelter at Landsborough so next summer there will be some welcomed comfort through the heat.

Volunteering provides vital support to Barung Landcare and for individuals it provides the opportunity to learn about local ecosystems and plants, their propagation and care, as well as working around like-minded people.

**We welcome new volunteers to join us at either the Landsborough or Maleny nurseries.**

Latest Plant Availability List at  
[www.barunglandcare.org.au/Plantavailability](http://www.barunglandcare.org.au/Plantavailability)

**Barung Community Nursery**  
Porters Lane North Maleny  
**Open on Wed, Thu, Fri ( 9am - 3pm )**  
**and Saturday ( 9am - noon )**

# Cleaning up the Obi

by local artist Joanne Turner

Clean up Australia Day was held nationwide on Sunday the 3rd of March. It also marked the launch of **Clean up the Obi** in Maleny, a new activity focused on keeping our creek clean.

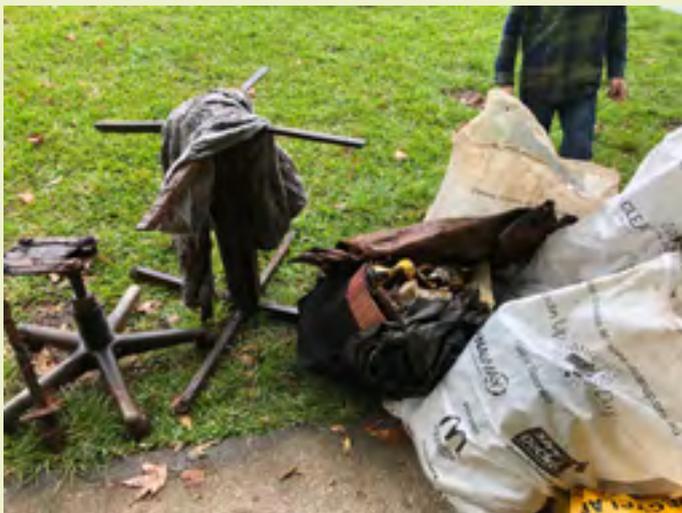
Early on a wet Sunday morning in Tesch Park, over 50 likeminded people gathered to bring a positive change to our precious little corner of the world.

Born from the sight of one of Maleny's much-loved local platypus with a rubber band wrapped tightly around it (rescue efforts continue), I felt that instead of merely feeling saddened by this I could make a difference to the local environment. Upon researching the issue I found that there were many worthwhile environmental groups in the area, however nobody was actually removing waste.

What I needed, was a crew of problem solvers willing to pitch in and take action, rather than bemoan the problem and try to place it in someone else's inbox. Luckily, Maleny is filled with such individuals!



*The Clean up the Obi crew on Clean up Australia Day*



Barung Landcare has been a huge help with this effort, loaning and donating equipment, photocopying a million flyers to go in school bags and into local shops. I also had a close crew of four others; Sara Peterson, Sammy Ringer, Kim Holcroft and Fi Emberton, who gave me great feedback, helped distribute flyers and co-ordinate the four clean up teams on the day.

Without the support of these wonderful women and the amazing locals who came out, this would simply not have happened. It was especially great to see all the kids pitching in, they were absolute champions and I'm so proud of their efforts. In fact it was great to see us all come together to make this happen.

I'm extremely grateful to live in Maleny, its very, very special place. ALL the locals, human & animal alike, deserve to live in a clean environment, we humans don't own the earth, we are merely a part of it, and we can all take small actions that will ultimately make a big difference, and importantly, teach this to our children.

**Clean Up the Obi will become a regular event for Maleny, with the next one set for just after Easter – if you missed out on the first, here's your chance to join us and make a difference to our environment!**

**Come along on Sunday 28th April, 7am – 9am**

Please register online here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2373124746033137/>

Suggest covered shoes, long pants and sleeves, hat, sunglasses/safety glasses, sunscreen and bug spray (there are small ticks about and mossies). Gloves, bags, rakes and pick up sticks provided, but bring your own if preferred.

# MALENY WOOD EXPO

*from seed to  
fine furniture*

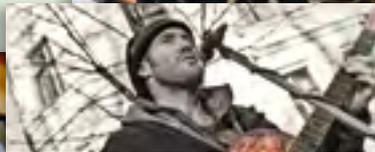
**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> May  
to  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019**  
Maleny Showgrounds

The 2019 Maleny Wood Expo is fast approaching! Mark it on your calendar so you don't miss this unique local event packed full of woodworking workshops and activities for all ages. There's plenty of entertainment from talented local musicians throughout the three days of Expo – pull up a hay bale, grab a coffee and a selection of the fabulous food on offer and enjoy the atmosphere of Australia's favourite wood show.

*There is plenty of entertainment this year at the Maleny Wood Expo from these talented performers in the Maleny Music Tent and roving throughout the expo.*



**CHILLORADO**



**Opening of the 2019 Maleny Wood Expo and the announcement of the winners of the 2019 Wootha Prize.**

Barung members, staff and volunteer are invited to attend The Maleny Wood Expo Opening night

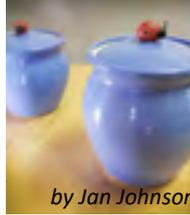
Friday 3rd May 6pm to 7:30pm  
Main Pavilion, Maleny Showgrounds

Please r.s.v.p. by Mon 29th April 2019  
Barung Landcare 07 5494 3151  
or [info@barunglandcare.org.au](mailto:info@barunglandcare.org.au)

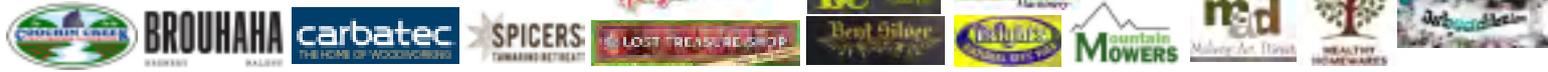
## **Volunteer for the Maleny Wood Expo**

Maleny Wood Expo Volunteer Coordinator Kellie Huddy still has some volunteer roles to fill.

If you can help out  
Phone Kellie Huddy  
07 5494 3151  
or email  
[info@malenywoodexpo.com](mailto:info@malenywoodexpo.com)



plus Gift Vouchers and more from our sponsors ...



## Bunya Dreaming

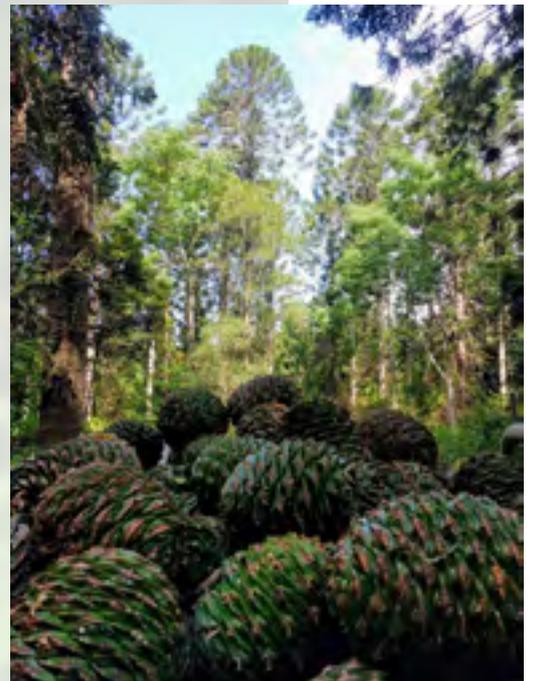
at Ewen Maddock Dam, 26th January 2019



This year's Bunya Dreaming saw 964 Bunya Dreamers celebrating the Bunya harvest on Kabi Kabi country and sharing Auntie Beverly Hand's dream of connecting people to country.

The day is about networking, strengthening community partnerships and promoting understanding of local Kabi Kabi culture through storytelling, art, food, and a series of Bunya-related "challenges".

The Bunya art was inspiring, as was the bunya-themed feast. There was much enthusiastic participation in the day's challenges – bunya storing, gathering and shucking, plant and animal ID and more. Well done to the deserving winners!



Barung is proud to continue to support and assist Bunya Dreaming – see you next year!

## Wildlife Friendly Gardening

by Joan Dillon

Some wildlife is more friendly than others. While many insects are beneficial, or don't really do much damage, the periods of high humidity during the past summer seem to have attracted a few less than welcome "guests".

First, Hibiscus Beetle, a tiny flea like insect which chews large numbers of small holes in the leaves of some, but not all, native hibiscus species. Hibiscus splendens with its large, grey, hairy leaves is unaffected whereas a native hybrid with large, pink flowers and reddish stems was hit so hard it has been removed. There are times when there is no point in persevering.

The other problem insect has been clusters of caterpillars, or possibly saw fly larvae, similar to the spitfires I knew in Sydney, that skeletonises the leaves of a bottlebrush sold as a small form of Callistemon citrinus. The clusters of the predator on leaves and twigs are easily disposed of by removing the damaged section plus larvae with your secateurs and dropping into dilute detergent.

The March rainfall has set up the garden for continuing growth during the autumn months. Autumn flowering is happening with several species and has been appreciated by many birds. Some original trees have died from old age, or possibly changed drainage, and are now serving as perch trees for small flocks of fig birds and orioles sunning themselves in the early morning prior to flying off and foraging for fruit.

Desirable seedlings can often be found under these trees. A dead tree can be dangerous in a garden setting, but if the garden is large enough can be a feature on the edge, as well as useful to the birds.

Native Wisteria, *Callerya megasperma*, has been dropping large red seeds, often found partly chewed. This is a tall woody climber with very attractive peeling bark along the stems that has come into the garden from the adjacent revegetation. Its spread will be contained but the purplish flower clusters are certainly reminiscent of exotic wisteria.

*Sophora fraseri*, Brush Sophora, is listed as vulnerable, and definitely worth growing in the garden for its bright yellow pea flowers and long cylindrical pods. Lantana and habitat loss have reduced its populations in SEQ.

Diversity is always the key to a successful and wildlife friendly garden. While invaders, from the plant or animal kingdom, do sometimes need control, more diversity results in less overall damage and certainly a greater diversity of wildlife. Take advantage of that soil moisture and do some more planting.



## Vale Dr Les Hall – Maleny's own chiropterologist

by Jonathan Waites



It is with sadness that we acknowledge Dr. Les Hall's recent death. Fondly known widely as the 'Bat Man', he will be missed amongst the scientific community as well as others who were fortunate to have been touched by his passion for nature, mammals and especially bats. Les had a lifelong interest in the natural world and an abiding enthusiasm to share his knowledge with everyone, expert and amateur alike. He did so in numerous ways including generous support for Barung and many other organisations in various events, talks and activities over the years.

Les's career included time spent with CSIRO's Division of Wildlife Research in Canberra and 26 years lecturing in Veterinary Pathology and Anatomy at the University of Queensland. Retiring to Maleny in 2001 he was a long-time and active director of the local Maleny and District Green Hills Fund.

Les has co-authored several books, contributed to many others and published over 200 scientific papers, including the first field guides for Australian bats, **Bats of Eastern Australia** and **Australian Bats**. In 2001 (with Greg Richards) he wrote the first book dealing with flying foxes, **Flying Foxes and Fruit Blossom Bats of Australia**. His more recent publications include **The Natural History of Australian Bats – Working the Night Shift** and **A Short Field Guide to Australian Mammals**.

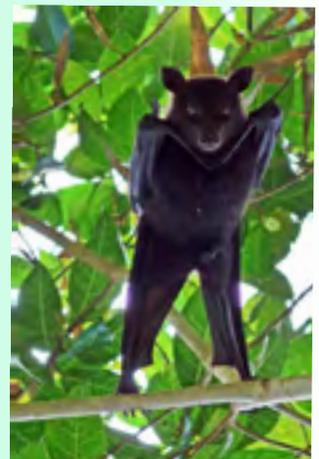


Photo - Les Hall

# Progress on the Precinct

*Ian McMaster*

After months of frustratingly slow progress, we have been advised that a minute will go to SCRC's March meeting seeking final approval for the terms of our lease on the Precinct. It is also expected that the minute will seek approval for the additional funding support from Council. Assuming these matters are approved, we will at last be in a position to kick off our fundraising campaign, and to plan the relocation of the Community Nursery to the new site.

Fundraising will be a big task, and I am currently looking for people with energy, enthusiasm, and hopefully some skills and experience in fundraising to join the Fundraising Committee. If you are such a person, or you know someone who might be interested, please contact me, or Theresa at the office, and pass on your or their contact details. We hope to have our first meeting of this committee during April.

Meanwhile, our Architect, Tim Guymer, has prepared a model of how the site will look when work is complete. The model will be the centrepiece of our display at the Wood Expo in May. These photos give you an idea of what the model looks like, but there is nothing like seeing it first hand to get a really good impression of how our new home will look. The plan is for the operation to be self sustaining, with an off-grid power supply, and water harvesting and storage to meet domestic needs, however we are planning to connect to the sewer network currently being planned for the Precinct.



*Sunshine Coast Council Media Release - 29th March 2019*



## **An opportunity to create a new tourist drawcard in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland was today given the green light by council.**

The Barung Landcare Association Inc. was granted a community lease by council to establish a state of the art environmental education and resource centre in Maleny. Division 5 Councillor Jenny McKay said the new facility would deliver economic benefits to Maleny and the wider hinterland.

"The Barung Landcare Association submitted a strong business case to council to establish a viable community native plant nursery and environmental education resource centre in Maleny. I thank my fellow councillors for supporting the proposal to grant the association a 30 year community lease," Cr McKay said.

"Council is satisfied that this proposed new facility offers strong potential from a tourism point of view. It'll build on our region's reputation in the ecology and environmental sustainability space as part of our commitment to create a healthy, smart and creative Sunshine Coast."

The decision by council to enter into a community lease with Barung Landcare Association is in accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012.

Stage 1 of the new development is contingent on the Barung Landcare Association sourcing \$190,000 for earthworks, power, water and drainage infrastructure. Councillor McKay has committed \$80,000 of divisional funding towards the Stage 1 earthworks. The remainder will need to be sourced by the association via community grants and fundraising.

## Barung Natural Area Services *by Kate Seehuusen*

BNAS has been very busy on projects both large and small across our wonderful region. In fact, in the past three months, we have installed and are caring for over 32,000 native plants on council and private land in both the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay regions. This figure doesn't include Whiteside Road Park, which is currently being prepared for another 4,500 new trees with the aim of the park becoming a Koala food and habitat mecca! Some of the species to be planted include; Blue Gums, Pink Bloodwoods, Moreton Bay Ash, Rusty Gums and Grey Iron Barks. We are certainly keeping the nurseries busy!

Thanks to our hard working BNAS crews for their continued excellent work.



*Moreton Bay Regional Council Koala Habitat revegetation works at Whiteside Road Park Samsonvale*

## White Birch Farm Forestry for the Opera House *by Jonathan Waites*

We recently received a request passed on to us from Carol Neal (Australian Forest Growers Inc) from Dinh Ngo at the Sydney Opera House who is interested in sourcing quantities of White birch (*Schizomeria ovata*) timber. The timber is for harvesting in 30 – 50 years and is to be used for repairs and maintenance to the Opera House.

Plywood veneered with White birch from Wauchope, NSW, was used in the Sydney Opera House for ceiling, upper walls and seating in the Concert Hall, as well as wall and ceiling panelling and doors in other internal areas. The veneer was specifically dyed to meet the opera house specifications (Wikipedia). Brush box (*Lophostemon confertus*) glulam (glued laminate) was also used.

White birch is a small to large tree to 35m, in Wet tropical rainforest, Sub-tropical rainforest and Littoral rainforest; it occurs north from the Bega district of NSW to Fraser Island, SEQ; also at Eungella (W of Mackay) and in north Qld. White birch produces an edible white fruit (that 'tastes pleasantly sour, juicy and refreshing' according to Noosa's Native Plants online), which is ripe from April to July. It is also found in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

If you are interested in growing white birch for the Opera House, Dinh's contact details are,

Dinh Ngo

Building Strategy & Documentation Specialist

Sydney Opera House

Bennelong Point GPO Box 4274 Sydney NSW 2001

T 02 9250 7470



*Photo - Pete The Poet*

They are prepared to cover plantation establishment and maintenance costs.



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