



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Barung Landcare Association Seasonal Newsletter

Winter 2019

www.barunglandcare.org.au



*Bat Chat
& Upcoming Workshops*

*Maleny Wood Expo 2019
Report*

*Barung Natural Area Services
Access all areas!*

*Barung Community
Nursery Report*



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Soundararajah Stephen Dixon
Tanya Ellison
Trevour Pitt
Wendy Conway
Christopher Cassens

...and our many Volunteers.

Welcome to the Winter Edition Barung News

This year we celebrate
30 Years of Landcare!

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ISO 14001 ENVIRONMENT
Certified System



AS/NZS 4801 SAFETY
Certified System



ISO 9001 QUALITY
Certified System

Barung Landcare acknowledges the Jinibara and Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi peoples who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand.

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

Cover:
One of a mixed group of more than 2,000 Black (Pteropus alecto) and Grey-headed (Pteropus poliocephalus) Flying-foxes that have established a new roost on the Obi in Maleny.

Birds of the Blackall Range

Eric Anderson

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

Calyptorhynchus funereus

The Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo is a large (550-650 mm) almost wholly black cockatoo, except for pale yellow to whitish feathers in the tail and a large yellow patch on the side of the head - which explains its alternate name of Yellow-eared Black-Cockatoo. The male has a blackish bill and red around the eyes, while the female has a bone-coloured bill, the skin around the eyes is grey and the yellow cheek-patch is larger.

This slow-flying bird with deep wing beats is the most commonly seen black cockatoo in our region. Flocks of six to a dozen birds can be seen and usually make their presence known by their harsh and discordant cries. They occur around south-east Australia from Rockhampton (Qld) to southern Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island (SA), as well as in Tasmania.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos feed on a wide range of food, mostly seeds of forest trees including acacias, banksias, eucalypts, hakeas and exotic pines. They also feed extensively on the larvae of wood-boring insects, which occur in these plants and are believed to form a major part of their diet.

Their breeding season is variable but generally March-August in the north. The nesting site is a hole in a tree, usually in the main trunk of a dead tree and placed high up from the ground. Two eggs are laid and are incubated for 28 days by the female who is fed at the nest by the male. Usually only one chick survives and leaves the nest at about 11 weeks.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus funereus
(top - female , below- male)



Working together to care for our country
LANDCARE WEEK | 2-8 SEPTEMBER 2019



Talks & Workshops in Landcare Week

by Jonathan Waites

Landcare Week (2nd – 8th September) is coming up and Barung has organised a week of events, three talks and two workshops, as well as a Saturday morning workshop later in the month. This year is the thirty-year anniversary of the Landcare movement, a partnership between community, agriculture and conservation, launched by the late Bob Hawke in 1989.

However, 'landcare' began a decade or so prior to this date in Victoria, born out of rural community concerns relating to soil loss with the advent of groups such as the Warrenbayne-Boho Land Protection Group. Similarly, Barung Landcare was 'officially' recognised after incorporation in 1990 but began sometime earlier at the instigation of community members concerned about local environmental issues, particularly landslips. The soil connection is interesting; both from a perspective of geographical distance and the recognition of soil being at the root of civilisation.

Another point of note is the fact that this thirty year plus social movement is a product of community instigation, rather than government policy – perhaps the dominant factor in determining its longevity to date.



An Obi Bat Chat – Monday 2nd September

A mixed group of more than 2,000 Black (*Pteropus alecto*) and Grey-headed (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) Flying-foxes appear to have established a new roost on the Obi. Join Sunshine Coast Conservation Officer Tyron de Kauwe on the Obi for a chat about these fascinating flying mammals. Be part of the discussion about where they have come from, why now, and a bit about our regional populations.



Koala-friendly dogs for conservation – Tuesday 3rd September

PhD candidate at the University of Sunshine Coast, Katrin Hohwieler, works with the Detection Dogs for Conservation team based at the university which uses specifically trained dogs that help them tackle difficult conservation problems. In particular, the team's main focus lies in koalas and their conservation, for which data has to be collected and analysed. The dogs help the researchers to find the data! Come along and learn how the dogs' noses make it possible to answer important questions about koala populations more quickly and accurately than people are able to.



Designing a Garden for Wildlife in a peri-urban landscape – Wednesday 4th September

This morning workshop will be presented by our Nurseries Manager Cam Burton on a property at Witta. Applying an interactive format, Cam and participants will endeavour to tease out the range of threats and opportunities that exist in developing wildlife habitat in a peri-urban setting, while cocreating a garden which meets the aesthetic aspirations of the landholder.



Yarning about language, culture and plants with Aunty Bev Hand – Thursday 5th September

We invite you to come along and join us for a light lunch and a yarn with Kabi Kabi woman Aunty Bev Hand at our nursery on Porter's Lane. 2019 is the International Year of Indigenous Languages, declared by the UN to raise awareness of the crucial role that language plays in people's lives. Aunty Bev will lead us in a discussion about the importance of language supporting culture and the contribution that can be made through the use of Indigenous plant names.



Native Seed Collection & Propagation – Friday 6th September

This will be the third time Wayne Webb (Production Nursery Manager) will run this very popular workshop. It will cover a range of seed collection issues including methods, etiquette and recognition of seed maturity. Wayne will take participants on a walk to harvest fruit or seed, depending on what is available.

The second part of the workshop will cover propagation methods relevant to different seed types. There will be demonstrations of planting out seeds into trays, pricking out germinated seedlings and potting them up; there will also be opportunities for some hands-on practice!



Interpreting Place – Saturday 21st September

In this workshop we, like celebrated English historian and ecologist of British woodlands and landscapes Oliver Rackham, will seek to "interpret the natural and artificial factors that have influenced the development of an area of vegetation to its present state".

This morning workshop will be co-presented by local ecologist Greg Smyrell and retired geologist Fergus Fitzgerald.

Upcoming Events

A Canetoad Tadpole Trap Building Workshop is planned for the not-too-distant future – watch out for our email advising date and place.



Fungi Foray

by Theresa Bint

This alien-looking creature is *Aseroe rubra* - also known as the Starfish fungus or Anemone stinkhorn. It's fairly common across eastern Australia and is also found in New Zealand and several islands in the Pacific. *Aseroe rubra* is a saprotrophic (decomposer) fungus found in wood mulch or rich soil – you'll often spot it in parks and gardens. It was the first indigenous fungus to be described in Australia, collected in southern Tasmania in 1792.

Aseroe rubra belongs to the family Phallaceae – the stinkhorns. The species in this fungal family can be phallic shaped, have a cage or net-like structure or radiating arms. Many are brightly coloured – yellows, pinks and reds. This particular stinkhorn grows from a whitish 'egg', developing 5 – 11 red, bifid (deeply divided into two limbs) arms, radiating from a central disc. In the centre of the disc is the olive-brown gleba, or spore mass. The gleba has a foetid smell and attracts flies which then distribute the spores.

These recyclers are an important part of any healthy ecosystem – breaking down organic matter and recycling valuable nutrients.



Fun Fungi Fact

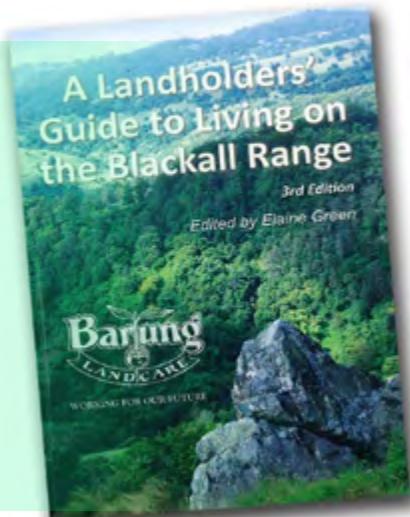
Aseroe rubra is also the fungal poster child for **Fungimap**, a not for profit, citizen-science organisation dedicated to furthering the conservation and knowledge of Australian fungi.

fungimap.org.au



Blackall Range Landholders Guide – free copy for members

This excellent local resource, published by Barung and edited by Elaine Green is available from the Barung Community Nursery at Porters Lane and from the Resource Centre in Coral Street. It's only \$20 but Barung members get a copy free! Drop in to the office or nursery to pick up yours. One book per membership; pick up only.



Barung Nurseries

Maia Stegman - Assistant Nursery Manager

Wood Expo and Garden Show

It's been a very busy few months for the nursery since the last newsletter. As well as our usual activities, we've participated in both the Maleny Wood Expo and the Qld Garden Expo, with a large nursery stall at each event. A significant part of our involvement is providing information, advice and advocacy around local native plants. A very big thank you to all volunteers who contributed, from producing and caring for stock to packing and setting up plants and volunteering on the stalls.

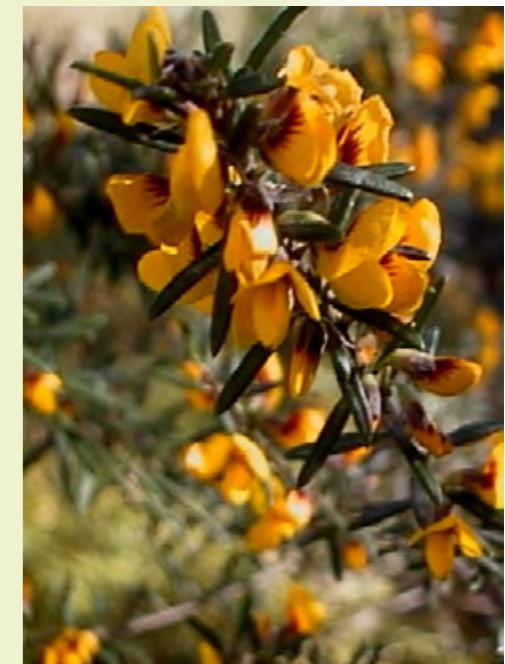
Recently our propagation nursery had a visit from volunteers, committee and staff from Gympie Landcare. This was very enjoyable and it was great to exchange ideas and experiences with other people passionate about protecting local habitat and biodiversity.

As always, another big thank you for the dedicated efforts of everyone who's brought seed in to the nursery for us to propagate. We strive to have a diverse range of local plants available, and this really helps achieve our mission. Some seeds we'd love more of at the moment are *Pittosporum multiflorum* (Orange Thorn), *Polyscias elegans* (Celerywood) and *Lomatia silaifolia* (Crinkle Bush). Please call the nursery on 0429 943 153 if you're unsure if seed is mature, or for any related questions. Remember seed can only be collected in reserves and other protected areas if you have the correct permit.

Flowering Now

If you've been walking in open forest on or around the Range in the past few weeks you may have seen some of our local Fabaceae (Pea-flower) species coming in to flower. After the relative quiet of early winter, the Pea Flowers usually start blooming around midwinter, marking the lengthening of daylight hours (and often the coming of the coldest months)!

The Purple Pea Bush *Hovea acutifolia* is flowering at the moment – if you visit the nursery you'll see a spectacular example in flower as you walk in. Other Fabaceae you may come across are the orange flowering *Pultenaea* species, the pale pink/white flowering Indigofera australis, and the Native Sarsparilla vine *Hardenbergia violacea*. The Fabaceae tend to be fast growing, and flower when they are young. They are attractive to many of the native bees, and some species are also butterfly host plants.



Fabaceae

Barung Community Nursery

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

Latest Plant Availability List at
www.barunglandcare.org.au/Plantavailability

Insects Need Our Support (and we need theirs)!

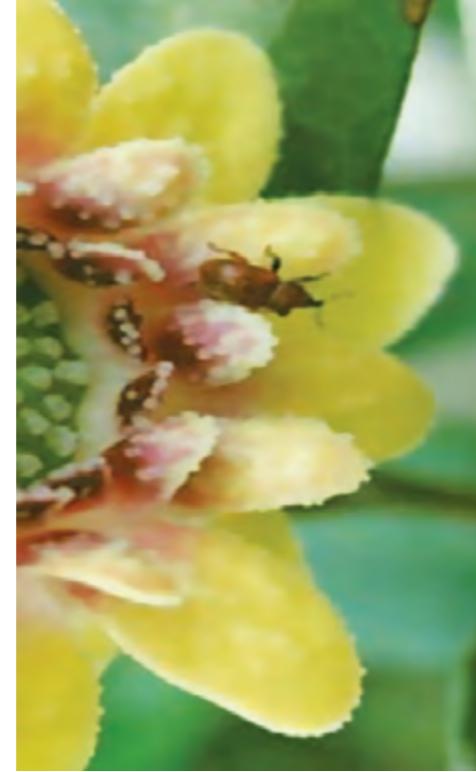
by Maia Stegman

Recently Wayne came across an article about the decline in Bogong Moth numbers and the effect this has had on the Mountain Pygmy Possum in the Alps. This has sparked conversation at the nursery about the potential impacts of the decline of insects in general, and what we can do about this at the local level.

The majority of flowering plants are pollinated by insects. This is very much the case in subtropical rainforests, with small beetles, flies and wasps as the main players. Scientists generally agree that many insect species are declining globally, and that land clearing is one of the culprits, along with pollution, insecticide use and climate change. Clearing causes loss and fragmentation of habitat, fuelling a cycle of decline in insects, plant pollination, and wildlife diversity.

As well as butterflies and bees, a multitude of other insects both rely on and are relied on by our plant communities. One example is the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly vine, *Parastalochia praevenosa*. The dependence of the butterfly on this vine for breeding has been highlighted very successfully in recent decades. But whilst the butterfly needs the vine to reproduce, the vine in turn relies on tiny biting midges in the genus *Forcypomyia* for pollination (as does the Cacao plant, source of chocolate!). Without the midges, the plant can't produce seeds. Hence the continued survival of a midge is also essential to the survival of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly (and chocolate!).

Some insect and plant species have evolved such close relationships that without each other neither can reproduce, a relationship termed 'obligate mutualism'. Every species of fig, including all our local *Ficus* species, has its own pollinator species – a wasp which completes most of its life cycle within a single fig fruit. Only the adult female wasp leaves the fruit, to lay her eggs in another developing fig and start the cycle again. Flowers can also serve as insect incubators: the local Bolwarras (*Eupomatia laurina* and *bennettii*) are each pollinated only by a weevil that lays its eggs in the dying flower. *Pittosporum revolutum*, *Breynia oblongifolia*, Glcidions, Wilkieas and Rapaneas all have interdependent relationships with particular insects that use their flowers and fruit as breeding sites in return for pollination. Without these insects, the plants will flower but won't be able to produce seed – without the plants, the insects won't have anywhere to lay their eggs. These potential feedback effects could have harsh consequences for local biodiversity and ecosystem health.



Eupomatia bennettii with Weevil



Richmond Birdwing
Butterfly Vine
*Parastalochia
praevenosa*



Photo Courtesy of Ray Seddon

Many insects are generalist pollinators – they don't seek out just one species of plant and instead gather pollen and nectar from many flowering plants. Plants with generalist pollinators face another challenge if they are to produce seed, because their pollinators can be easily distracted away from carrying pollen between flowers of the same species. Dioecious plants (with female and male flowers on different individuals) are particularly vulnerable, especially if they aren't growing closely together. The White Bollygum *Neolitsea dealbata* is one local example.

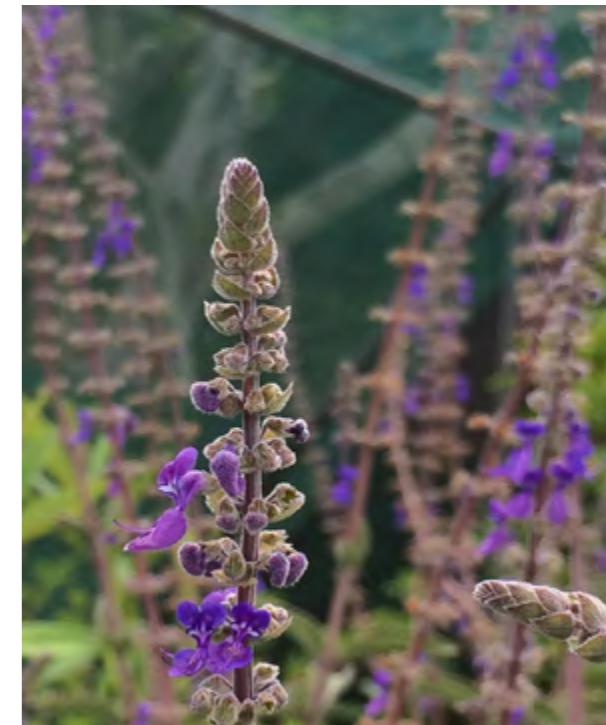
Insect-plant relationships effect the whole food web - fruit and seed eaters depend on pollination, and as shown by the Mountain Pygmy Possum, a decline in insects isn't good news either for the animals who eat them.

This leads us to – you guessed it – another reason to plant local species! Whatever size the planting, a diversity of local species will help support a diversity of insects. Whilst acreage provides a great opportunity for revegetation, smaller gardens have a role to play too (and can provide a pesticide free haven as well!). Many of our local shrubs and understorey plants are ideal for gardens, and a dense planting such as a mixed hedge can host a variety of insects. If you're unsure where to start, some are listed below. Our local *Plectranthus* and Paper Daisy species are also magnets for insects, flowering for months at a time. Basing a planting around species growing in nearby remnant vegetation is a good start, and of course we're always very happy to provide planting advice at the community nursery in Maleny.

Some shrubs for smaller gardens: *Pittosporum revolutum* and *multiflorum*, *Breynia oblongifolia*, *Psychotria daphnoides*, *Tasmannia insipida*, *Eupomatia laurina*, *Alchornea ilicifolia*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* and the pea-flowers mentioned above.



Pittosporum undulatum



Plectranthus parviflorus



Ozothamnus diosmifolius

Further Reading:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-02-27/bogong-moth-decline-in-australian-alps/10850036>

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/insect-declines-are-stark-warning-humanity>

Geoff Williams and Paul Adam The Flowering of Australia's Rainforests: A Plant and Pollination Miscellany
CSIRO Publishing 2010

Who are the pollinators in Australia's subtropical rainforests?

<https://australianmuseum.net.au/blog-archive/science/amri-pollinators-australias-subtropical-rainforests>

At the Barung Office



Not content with springing up all over the front garden at Coral St, fungi are now part of the building! This orange bracket fungi (or more accurately, Scarlet Bracket Fungus - *Pycnoporus coccineus*) is currently decorating our office door. No complaints from this cluster of mycophiles – although the door is a little worse for wear!



A significant help in reducing our carbon footprint here at Coral Street is having the use of Den's electric vehicle for trips into town or up to Porters Lane. The Minicab MiEV – or "Microwave" as it is known around the office – has a range of 100 kilometres and costs about \$2 to charge. Thanks Hinterland Business Centre for supporting the charging facility.

Welcome to our Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees!

Eight participants will work towards their Certificate I in Conservation and Land Management over the next 24 weeks. We'll bring you updates of their progress in future newsletters.

Recycling in Maleny – some options

You can now leave those pesky plastic bread bag closures or tags at the Barung Office – we'll send them off to TerraCycle to be turned into useful things like garden furniture and building materials'. We also have containers for pens, highlighters and markers and printer cartridges.

Old mobile phones can be deposited in the box at the Maleny library; soft plastics in the bin at the front of the IGA; oral health care items (toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes) also in a bin at the front of the IGA and you can take your single-use and rechargeable batteries to the Star Discount Chemist in Maple St where Rotary has provided collection bins.



Out & About by Jonathan Waites

Further Adventures in Nature Journaling

We held another nature journaling workshop with Paula Peeters from Paperbark Writer on a glorious sunny day in early June. This time we enjoyed multiple venues dotted along the Maleny Trail at the south-western end of the Maleny Community Precinct, pausing at several sites between the Boardwalk and Parkland Dr. The very favourable response overall from participants contained in a survey following the workshop suggests we should hold another focussing on some other aspect of the



Barung Volunteer BBQ

The post-Expo barbecue thanking our wonderful volunteers was held on the Maleny Community Precinct at the Beersheba Living Museum again this year. Our president Ian displayed his skill as "Tongmaster" (as tradition dictates) producing a variety of meaty delights on the verandah amidst sleet and gale force winds while vannies enjoyed the comfort of the interior. Mark from Maple 3 provided a lovely basque style veggie hotpot which was appreciated by one and all. While the numbers were somewhat reduced in comparison to past years (no doubt due to a reluctance to leave home in inclement weather) a fine time was had by all.

Maleny State High School Planting

Barung Nursery were pleased to be able to respond to a request for trees from Maleny State High School. The nursery was able to donate tubestock to an enterprising group of Year 8 Enterprise Studies students who organised and held a tree plant on school grounds in early July to commemorate World Environment Day (WED). The planting builds on earlier tree planting efforts at the school and we commend their initiative in choosing to recognise our local environment in such an appropriate way.



Cleaning up the Obi

Local artist Joanne Turner and twenty enthusiastic volunteers ran another successful cleaning up the Obi event in July. Not only did they discover the usual bottles, cans and plastic refuse but hauled out a bike (our very own Mulga Bill mishap?) and a sign (perhaps the one Mulga Bill failed to observe?). The various aquatic explorations were followed by a well-earned bbq with snags donated by our local IGA. Keep alert for the next event in spring – there are going to be kayaks! sign (perhaps the one Mulga Bill failed to observe?). The various aquatic explorations were followed by a well-earned bbq with snags donated by our local IGA. Keep alert for the next event in spring – there are going to be kayaks!



Free Trees for National Tree Day

In recognition of National Tree Day and Schools National Tree Day Barung has offered seven of our local schools 50 tubestock to plant as they wish.

Peachester State School have used their tubestock to expand the school's Indigenous Forest Walk with this year's theme being food plants for Yellow-tailed black cockatoos. They finished their planting day with a visit from Uncle Noel, Jason and BJ and a sharing of Jinibara culture.



Life in Miniature by Ian McMaster

Geometrid moths are among our largest and most diverse moth families, with many colourful and spectacular moths. Most of them are night flying, so are rarely seen by most people. There are well over 1000 species in this family recorded in Australia, and we have found over 200 species here on the Sunshine Coast.

The emerald moths - many of which are green coloured - are one of the five main subfamilies, and are the subject of today's article. Geometrid larvae feed on a vast array of plant species, and are specialised green leaf feeders, unlike a number of other moth families, which feed on dead and fallen leaf litter.



Many of these moths are "dimorphic" - literally "two forms" - meaning that the male and the female look quite different. The upper left one above is a male of the species *Agathia prasinaspis*, the one on the right is a female of the same species.



Eucyclodes is another genus of the same subfamily, that have attractive lacy white patterns on a deep green background. This one above left is a male of the species *Eucyclodes fascinans*, which is uncommon, but has been found in rainforest here and in north Queensland.

Eucyclodes insperata (above left) is much more common, and is found all up the east coast, from Melbourne to Cairns.



This species used to be known as *Urolitha bipunctifera*, but seems recently to have been given a new name, *Metallochlora neomela*. Its old specific name referred to the two spots at its tail. These spots are a very useful protection for the moth, as predators often mistake them for eyes, and snip out the tail of the moth rather than consume its head and body, as you can see in the second example.



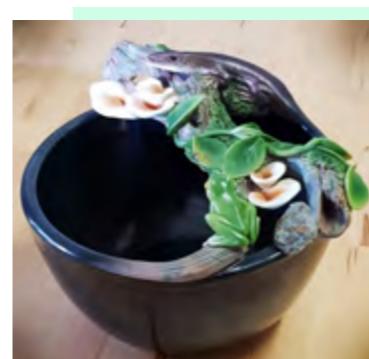
Finally, just to demonstrate that not all emeralds are green, here are a couple of more subdued species. The upper one is *Rhuma subaurata*, an uncommon grey and brown coloured emerald that is found in rainforest from north Queensland to central NSW.

The lower photo is of *Pingasa chlora*, a white moth with grey patterns across it. This is a common moth around Brisbane, and its range extends northwards to tropical Asia. It invariably rests with its wings spread, as in the photo, and often on lichen covered palm trunks, where its pale blotched colour make it all but invisible.



Maple 3 contributed their latest proceeds from donations given for their spent coffee grounds (excellent for compost and worm farms) to Barung - \$175!

Big thanks to Mark and the Maple 3 crew.



Some Happy Wood Expo Raffle Feedback

Dear Barung friends,

Our sincere thanks to you all and Lindsay Muir for the beautiful ceramic bowl that we were incredibly fortunate to win in the Wood Expo raffle. It is a truly delightful piece of art and one we are privileged to display on the bookshelves in our living room. It is something we will always treasure.

For us, winning something in the raffle was icing on the cake. We had a marvellous day at the Expo and came away once again feeling quite humbled by the contributions made by so many volunteers, notably from Barung of course but also the Bayside woodworkers (so many wonderful projects for children) and the Wooden Boat Association (more child friendly projects).

This year was our fourth or possibly fifth Expo and we will be back again next year!

Thank you all again, Richard and Kate

MALENY WOOD EXPO

from seed to
fine furniture



Maleny Wood Expo 2019

Steve McLeish,
Maleny Wood Expo Coordinator

2019 was our 23rd Maleny Wood Expo. We had over 10,000 visitors over the 3 days.

Here is bit of feedback from a first time exhibitor:

"We would like to thank you for a FANTASTIC weekend at the wood expo.

I have been involved in many markets and expos but never have I been to one as good as the show you and your team of workers put on for all of us on the weekend. All your staff are to be congratulated on the incredible job they did. Being reasonably new to the timber game I was amazed at the talent of the exhibitors and the help we received was overwhelming".

Dave and Adrienne Gow - Auswood Bow Ties

Once again we built the Wood Expo at the Showgrounds in the rain!! Oh well, we're getting better at it.

I was worried about the grounds but we were able to bump all exhibitors in place without too much disruption to pathways and the grounds.

Saturday's rain certainly dampened everything, including the visitor numbers... but I was very surprised at how many braved the weather. Many exhibitors said it was their best day.

Sunday, the sun came out and the site had a chance to dry up. The cars rolled in and it was a wonderful day...and Monday being another sparkling day helped boost our visitor numbers.

Once again, a highlight for me was the children's activities in the Junior Landcare Paddock. The addition of the Bayside Woodworkers' group workshops and the Canoe making proved to be a great success. We will continue to build on these sort of activities for 2020.

I was happy to see many, many families at the Expo this year. It has been our aim for the last couple of years to make the Wood Expo more family-friendly and to create an opportunity for our young folk to learn the old skills. It warms my heart to see a youngster beaming with pride at their creation while an old craftsman holds back a tear of joy at being able to pass on inspiration and knowledge.

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

Enormous thanks must go out to the Maleny community for its support. Thank you to all the volunteers who take such pride in the Expo...it could not happen without you. Thanks to all the local businesses who generously donate their goods and services. And many thanks to all our sponsors and supporters, your contributions are greatly appreciated...with your support we can continue to create an event that benefits so many.

Work on the 2020 Maleny Wood Expo has already begun. The dates are set: 2nd, 3rd and 4th of May 2020.



Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 Sunshine Coast Wootha Prize

1st Prize: "Torrent HiFi with Speakers" by William Bayliss
- Sponsored by Sunshine Coast Council.

2nd Prize: "Tricholoma - Nest of Tables" by Alby Johnston
- Sponsored by HQPlantations.

3rd Prize: "Jewellery Stand" by Broc Cattley
- Sponsored by Ben Messina Gallery.

Highly Commended Award: "Don't Move a Muscle"
by Murray Douglas - Sponsored by Geochempet Services

Tiny Treasures Award:
"Queensland Tribute" by Robin Cromer.

People's Choice Award: "Flight" by Josh Marks
- sponsored by HQPlantations.



Official Destination Partners



Wildlife Friendly Gardening

by Joan Dillon

Mostly Insects but also birds

The 2019 Nambour Expo has come and gone but between promotion by Native Plants Queensland (NPQ) Sunshine Coast & Hinterland and sales by Barung and Coolum nurseries, our local native plants featured well.

There's no doubt that colour attracts and a hanging basket featuring *Dampiera stricta* 'Glasshouse Glory' could have been sold many times! Minimal Google research suggests that this plant may be a natural hybrid. The flowers are larger and a more vibrant and deeper blue than the actual species. There are no Plant Breeders Rights over it (PBR). Various interstate nurseries stock it but it seems to be a relative latecomer to the area that bears its name.

The other NPQ attraction was a flower arrangement which provided an opportunity to direct visitors to the two landcare nurseries for sales. Working together is good for all of us and gardeners do love colour.

Whilst it's still winter by the calendar, spring is springing on the Sunshine Coast. New growth is everywhere in shades of green, some foliage tinged with red, soft silky grey tones, pink and on, just about across the spectrum. Some Melaleucas (Callistemons) are in flower, *Hovea acutifolia* is opening its buds in the sunshine, wattles, blue *Helichrysum* and yellow *Xerochrysum* are blooming, *Patersonia sericea* is sending up flower spikes and the Council's wildflower walks are being advertised. If members are not aware of these, get onto their website and make a booking. For those new to the area it's a great way to see our plants in their natural environment in company with knowledgeable guides. Insects are attracted to the flowers, do their pollinating job and then of course seeds are produced and mature in time ready for more planting. A real win/win situation. Wildlife friendly gardening makes a difference in more than one direction.

All but two flowers in the accompanying photo are from the Sunshine Coast region, with the fluffy wattle and pink *Phebalium* found naturally a little further west. Very local *Phebalium woombye* is covered in buds but not quite 'out' yet.



The large *Melaleuca virinalis* is covered in buds so it won't be long before our usual five honeyeater species arrive, perhaps with a couple of extras this year. A neighbour who is a keen bird watcher recently counted 80-100 Chestnut Breasted Mannikins at his place. Admittedly they were feeding on exotic grasses and annual weeds but at least we know they are around in numbers! So long as they are not seriously invasive, weeds can have their uses.

Happy spring gardening; the weather is perfect so get out there and enjoy it. We still have moisture in the soil, but it could be dry over the next few months. Who knows!?



Barung Natural Areas Services

Barung's Natural Area Services crew recently took delivery of an Argo all-terrain vehicle. The Argo – a six-wheeled amphibious vehicle – will enable the BNAS crew to reach areas not accessible by conventional or 4WD vehicle. In addition, equipment, plants and mulching materials can be taken directly to where they are needed, saving many hours of carrying gear to work sites. Spraying and watering can be done from the Argo; again, much time is saved that would otherwise be spent returning to vehicles to refill spray tanks. So – less wear and tear on people and vehicles and an increase in efficiency for the BNAS team! Six BNAS staff have completed the Argo training course and are qualified to operate the vehicle.

BNAS has undertaken revegetation, restoration and weed control projects in partnership with Sunshine Coast Council, Moreton Bay Council, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, Hinterland Bush Links, Healthy Land and Water, Mooloolah River Water Watch and private landholders on the Blackall Range.

Thanks to our hard working BNAS crews for their continued excellent work and we look forward to the busy year ahead.





Eric Anderson AM

Congratulations to past Barung President, long-term committee member and Life Member Eric Anderson on his receipt of an AM (Member of the Order of Australia) in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List for "significant service to conservation and the environment".

Eric enjoyed a 39-year career with Queensland Department of Primary Industries while concurrently playing an active role in a number of community groups and professional organisations. He has been a member and volunteer of BirdLife Southern Queensland since 1977 and Member/Delegate of the Glossy Black Cockatoo Conservancy since 2007; A foundation member of the Mackay Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants Queensland Region since 1978; Co-founder of the Russell Family Park Bush Care Group in 2008. Over his working life he has contributed thousands of plant specimens to the Queensland Herbarium and produced Plants of Central Queensland: Identification and uses of native and introduced species which was first published by DPI in 1993 and an expanded second edition published by CSIRO in 2016.

Eric has been an active and enthusiastic member of Barung's Management Committee from 2004 to 2009 and served as President from 2009 to 2014. He also acted as Operations Manager in a voluntary capacity from 2011 to 2014.

On behalf of the environment and us all, thanks for all you've done and continue to do in support of conservation.

Recycle Toothbrushes and Toothpaste Tubes

Check out the oral care waste collection bin at Maleny IGA (in front of the check outs)

The River School has registered for the 2019 Colgate Community Garden Challenge. The challenge is for schools to collect oral care waste (such as empty toothpaste tubes and scraggly toothbrushes) as well as online votes to support their chance to win one of five recycled community garden sets (valued at \$6,000 each). The garden sets will assist them to establish their own garden beds and produce home grown fresh vegetables.

Schools are able to earn 'Garden Points' when they send the waste they've collected to TerraCycle for recycling and by harvesting online votes from the community. The Garden Challenge is the result of a partnership between Colgate, Chemist Warehouse and TerraCycle.

So, reduce your contributions to landfill by dropping that empty toothpaste tube in the small green wheelie bin at IGA (NOT the soft plastics wheelie bin!) while supporting a local school to grow some veggies. And thanks to IGA for providing us with an opportunity to drop off the empties while picking up the full ones.



Thanks!

Thanks To Barung life member Ashley Sewell for his kind donation of a fine set of display boards for our use at workshops and functions.



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Through the Maleny IGA's Community Benefit Club (CBC), customers' points convert to dollars for Barung!

For your CBC points to benefit Barung, you need to nominate Barung as your group of choice on the CBC Customer Application Form. New and existing customers can use this form to nominate Barung as the preferred recipient group of their CBC loyalty shopping points.

Barung gratefully acknowledges these organisations for their partnerships & support:



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