

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

April-May 2006



Volunteer at Expo for Fun, Friendship & Landcare

by *Mim Coulstock,*
Expo Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who has offered to help fill the 400 odd volunteer spots at the the Maleny Wood Expo.

Despite all of our hard work, the Expo would not happen without our team of valiant volunteers, both prior to and on the actual Expo weekend. Expo feedback every year highlights the friendliness of our volunteers and the lovely atmosphere they create at the event.

All Expo volunteers, whether helping before, during or after the event, receive free plants, free admission and free coffee in appreciation for your time.

Before the expo, we need raffle ticket sellers for Maple Street over Easter (Sat, Sun and Mon) and on Saturday 22nd April. Long-time Barung volunteer, Lin Fairlie, is coordinating the raffle roster so please ring her on 5435 8038 if you can help fill these 2½ hour shifts. This is a great way to contribute if you are away over the actual Expo weekend but would still like to help.

We also need quite a team on the 24th, 26th and 27th April to assist with erecting the hessian fencing and putting up tents.

On Wednesday 26th from 9 to 10.30 am we need an able-bodied team to relocate gymnastics equipment from the Maleny Fitness room to a container outside. Maleny Fitness instructors will supervise. It would be great if the same team could replace the equipment from 11 am to 1 pm on Tuesday 2nd May.

We are looking for someone with a catering background or interest to help run the Maleny Country Café over the Expo weekend. Kate Fraser, who ran it in 2004 and 2005, has a wealth of experience to share with the new coordinators. If you would like to run this with a friend, that would help to spread the workload.

Although we have everything organised for the Landcare Bar & BBQ, we do need someone to run it over the weekend. This entails opening up in the morning, overseeing volunteers and making sure everything runs smoothly, and closing up at night. Last year's Coordinator is happy to give a full run-down on duties.

Apart from that we still have many roster spots to fill – for raffle ticket sellers, parking attendants, entry ticket sales, Café and Landcare BBQ cooks and helpers and many other positions.

So, if you can offer Barung a few hours (or more) before and/or during the Expo, please get in touch with the Expo Office as soon as possible. Ring us on 5429 6566 or drop into the old Butter Factory in Coral Street and talk to Jane.



29 april to 1 may 06 / maleny showgrounds
www.malenywoodexpo.com

*Volunteers
Norman, Penny,
Irene and
Elaine
contributing to
the continuing
success of
Maleny's Wood
Expo in 2005*



FREE Flag-making Workshop

Barung members are invited to join artist, Penny Smith, and Maleny Art & Craft Group members in an enjoyable and FREE workshop hand-painting colourful decorative fabric banners.

Gain an understanding of colour and design while you develop symbols and banners celebrating the Maleny Wood Expo theme – sustainable use of Australian native timbers – to decorate Maleny during the Expo.

When: Wednesday 19 April, 9 am - 3 pm.
Come for an hour or come all day!

To book: Phone the Expo office on 5429 6566

*Supported by the Regional Arts Development Fund,
a Qld Government and Caloundra City Council
partnership supporting local arts and culture.*

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Barry Liddell)

Anthony Atkinson	Neil Cook
Jon & Deb Fogg	Greg & Michelle Shields
Joe & Joan Abercrombie	The Booroobin Sudbury
Malcolm Warfield	Democratic Centre of
Judy Mason & Andrew Marnie	Learning
Anne Kemp	Wayne & Lee Reid
Jenny Wellstead	Adam & Louise Vlieg
L McCorley	Tamara Messinbird
Julia & James	Mellissa Zulpo
MacDonald-Buchanan	Robyn Cameron
Peter Le Muth	John Hall
Sheila MacLachlan	Eric Kiernan
Mary Tucker	Virginia & John Kennedy
Cate & Doug Patterson	Mr & Mrs M Green
Matt Kilby	Melita & Dean Hoek

WELCOME BACK

Peter Clark	Geoff & Del Smith
Peter Turner	Carmel Givens &
Neil Holloway	Rid Kennedy
Dee Chia	Robert & Liz Shearer
Paul MacKay	Coral Croke
Trevor Wilson	Sally-Ann Edwards

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

Renew your Barung membership
over the phone
with your credit card.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Bob Hall

Check out the Calendar insert for the great range of activities being run or supported by Barung Landcare over the next couple of months. Seminars, information days, workshops, seed collection walks, plant identification sessions and tree plantings and an Expo, to name a few.

Members and non-members are welcome to take part in these activities, and indeed, I urge you to support Barung in this way. The dedicated staff and volunteers who plan and run these events are among Barung's key strengths.

Barung's web site (www.barunglandcare.com.au) is being redeveloped and will be under continual improvement as a valuable source of information. In the meantime, try out the online calendar at www.barunglandcare.org.au and let us know how useful you find it in planning ahead.

A renewed emphasis on membership is underway and our target is 1000 members by the end of 2006. So talk to your friends and neighbours about joining Barung Landcare. The member's discount on tubestock is just one of the wide range of benefits to members, particularly if you also volunteer.

On the organisational side, the Functional Support Groups are coming together. It has taken longer than we planned but I wish to thank those members who responded to the call in the February-March *Barung News*. It's not too late to indicate an interest. Barung is keen to tap into the expertise of its members and this is an excellent way to contribute.

The Maleny Wood Expo (29 April – 1 May 2006) is just three weeks away so it is a hectic time for Expo Coordinator, Mim Coulstock, and her capable team. Volunteers are a key part of our successful Expos so please register to help and gain the satisfaction of being part of a great team putting on a very worthwhile event.

The large devolved grant application covering many landholdings in the Upper Mary River has been lodged with the Burnett Mary Regional Group and a follow-up presentation was made to the Board on Thursday 9th March in Wondai.

You will be aware of the very progressive Maleny IGA initiative in establishing a Community Benefit Club. Can I suggest you think about Barung Landcare when nominating a community group when registering.

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual / family membership	\$ 20 pa
Business membership	\$ 55 pa
Business sponsorship	\$275 pa

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

When your BUSINESS supports Barung Landcare, you will be acknowledged in the bimonthly *Barung Landcare News* (750 distribution) and at Barung displays, and you are entitled to three free trees and discounts on plant purchases at the Nursery.

Contact the office at Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 or email barungadmin@big.net.au for a Business Sponsor form.

Opening Hours

Barung Nursery and Offices

Monday to Friday	Nursery & Offices	8.30 am - 4.00 pm
Saturday	Nursery only	9.00 am - 12.00 pm

What's in store for 2006 EXPO VISITORS!

by Mim Coulstock, Expo Coordinator

With only three weeks to go, the Expo Office in Coral Street is a veritable hive of activity. Juanita, Jane and our wonderful volunteers Julie and Ewald are working non-stop to tie down loose ends. With the main marketing thrust in 2006 being the insertion of 115,000 Expo programs into the *Courier Mail* the week before Expo (thanks to Caloundra Tourism sponsorship), we are flat out trying to lock in exhibitors in all areas of the event.

As well as more new and exciting woodworkers this year, we have more tool displays and demonstrations for the hardcore woodies. Ever-exciting displays of mobile milling and chainsaw carving will keep visitors enthralled as the chips and sawdust fly.

MasterClasses at this year's Expo offer local and regional woodworkers and artists the chance to tap into the knowledge, artistry and skills of three master craftsmen:

- Ross Annel, local award-winning designer and contemporary furniture maker, will run 'An Introduction to Steam Bending for Furniture Makers' for participants to learn techniques and technology for steam-bending solid timber.
- Curt Swenson, renowned fine furniture maker, will teach 'Windsor Stool Making' focussing on the design elements that have endured for hundreds of years and that make Windsor chairs so delicate yet strong.
- Paul Stumkat, award-winning sculptor, will teach 'Tree Frog Carving' in camphor laurel. Paul's work displays a passion for the natural environment and has been commissioned by Australian museums and international collectors.

Now in its third year, the **Wootha Prize** is a prestigious national woodworking competition, attracting contemporary designers and innovative craftspeople in the promotion of our beautiful native timbers. Make sure you visit this exciting exhibition on the stage in the Main Pavilion.

The **Taste Maleny Produce Store** is steaming ahead with many new local producers keen to display.

The **EcoLiving Expo** has expanded dramatically, featuring displays of power, waste and water systems as well as designs, materials and products for our homes. The EcoLiving Expo displays will encourage us to rethink about footprint we leave on our land and communities and future we offer our children.

The **Sustainable Homes** program will both exhibit and hold daily information sessions to promote the importance of sustainable design at the household and community level.

Workshops promoting straw bale building as a sustainable and versatile construction option, and looking at the structural

requirements etc, will be run by Chris Newton from Earth-n-Straw, Brisbane. Chris, involved in straw bale building for nine years, is president of AUSBAL, the Australian straw bale building association. Places in these two workshops are limited and bookings are required. Chris will also do a short general talk on Saturday afternoon about building with strawbales.

The **Soapbox Theatre's** move to the EcoLiving Expo will feature a range of talks, seminars and workshops offering visitors the opportunity to listen to expert and sometimes controversial speakers on all aspects of natural resource management and sustainable living. Living with Fire, Living with Weeds and Living with Wildlife sessions will run over the weekend as well as talks on sustainable building and Community Supported Agriculture.

The 2006 **EcoTour Program** will complement the living sustainably theme with EcoGardening Tours, EcoHousing Tours, and a full day Off-Beat in the Rainforest Tour complete with a picnic lunch. Farm Forestry Tours, focusing on different aspects of growing trees for profit, will run from the Expo on Saturday and Monday. Again, these tours must be pre-booked.

In the **Landcare Paddock**, the Barung display will focus on Pigeons of the Range and the habitat they need for the future, while natural resource management displays will promote environmental initiatives underway to preserve the unique biodiversity of south-east Queensland. Chris Martin of Weaving Wizardry will be weaving a huge sculpture from cats claw creeper, and you can join Judy Wolski and friends to make your own basket from Maderia, morning glory or moth vine. What a great way to bring our devastating vine weeds into the public eye!

Our Landcare Paddock sponsors, the Burnett Mary Regional Group and SEQ Catchments, are hosting displays where you can talk to staff from both groups to find out more about regional priorities and funding assistance available to help with your on-ground rehabilitation works.

The Blackall Range has long been recognised as a prime area in Australia for growing boutique rainforest cabinet timbers and **Farm Forestry** exhibitors will be on hand to answer any questions you have about growing trees for profit.

And when you need a break, you can pull up a haybale and relax with a beer and burger at the **Landcare Bar & BBQ!**

Entry to the Expo is \$10 for adults and youth under 16 are free. Entry includes free parking at the Showgrounds. New in 2006 will be a non-stop courtesy bus running from the Showgrounds to the Quota Quilt Show at the High School and the Maleny Arts & Crafts Group Art Fair in Maple Street.

Please contact the Expo Office on 5429 6566 if you can help local Landcare by volunteering over the weekend, or if you would like more information on any aspect of the event – or visit the expo website: www.malenywoodexpo.com

Maleny Wood Expo is delighted to acknowledge our major sponsors:



Calling All Birdos!

NURSERY NOTES by Wayne Webb

With our Wood Expo rapidly approaching, we need to get planning for our Nursery tent education and plant displays. This year I am featuring our local pigeons. If anyone is interested in helping put this together, can they please contact me at the nursery. I would like to have good photos of all the local pigeons and doves, also nests, food trees, etc. Recordings of their calls would be great, as would historical information, eg recipes for pigeon pie!

Don't forget to drop by the Nursery tent when you're at Expo. As well as the display on our pigeons, we will have hundreds of local rainforest plants on sale. You can talk to our experts about your revegetation / regeneration projects, and Ashley Sewell will be there with his impressive display of timber samples and his new book on Australian timber trees.

With the heavy fruiting of many species over summer, the nursery is now bursting at the seams, and we still have many species needing to be tubed. With this in mind, we have decided to remove the container holding Expo 'stuff' to behind the Expo office, and relocate the holding bay for media. This will open up a further 150 sqm (approx) for us to grow sun-hardened stock. We will also be able to pot more species up to megatubes.

The amount of seed being brought into the nursery has dropped off over the last month, after the rush over summer. There are, however, still important species to collect in the coming months. Among these are *Cryptocarya obovata* and *C. glaucescens*. Both may be picked from the tree once the fruit has turned from green to black, or picked up from the ground when fallen. Fruit from the ground will often be attacked by grubs, so it is a good idea to put it in a bucket of water. Fruit that floats is no good and can be discarded. The others can be soaked for a day or two to kill any grubs before they do any damage. Soaking will also help soften the skin to facilitate cleaning.

Barung Landcare's nursery has been chosen by Maroochy Shire Council's Land for Wildlife 'Seedling Grants' programme as a supplier of native tubestock (along with Floribunda Bushcare nursery, Mooloolah Waterwatch nursery and Noosa & District Landcare nursery). Successful applicants can nominate their preferred supplier/s and are issued a voucher to bring along to the nursery. The grants have been allocated for the 2005-2006 financial year, but it is hoped, subject to funding, that this will be an on-going grant available each financial year. Owners of registered Land for Wildlife and 'working towards registration' Land for Wildlife properties in Maroochy Shire were able to apply to council for up to 300 free seedlings. Each applicant is ranked against set criteria with the highest ranking projects approved. If you feel you have a good project but need advice, the Biodiversity Partnerships Officers are available to discuss your project with you. Phone Richard Newton on 5441 8138 or Stephanie Cumming on 5441 8002. (See articles on pages 5 and 7 of this issue.)

Bird Photography

with Wayne Ellis

When: Thursday 20 April from 6 pm

Where: Maleny Show Ground Pavilion

Wayne is guest speaker at the Hinterland Photo Club meeting where he will share his tips and tricks for getting great shots of birds (of the feathered variety!).

More info: Jens Hetzel (Photo Club President) on 5439 9415

Birthday Party CRASHED!

Barung Landcare in conjunction with NRMA insurance and Caloundra City Council were planning to celebrate 10 years of the Obi Obi Boardwalk with a community tree plant on Saturday 18th March. As well as the treeplant (extension, understorey and structural plantings), the day was to include interpretive walks, a BBQ and a Boardwalk birthday cake.

Unfortunately the event had to be rescheduled as the strong winds several weeks ago put a crashing halt to the party by bringing down the only remnant tree, a large flooded gum. The fallen tree has taken out approximately 10 metres of the timber boardwalk.

In the meantime Barung Landcare, co-managers of the site with Caloundra City Council, request that people stay off the Boardwalk because it is unsafe for pedestrians. Quite a few of the recently planted trees have been damaged by people having a look at the damage or trying to make their way around the fallen tree.

When the Boardwalk has been repaired, we will advertise the new treeplant date in *The Range News*.



[Photo by Ewald Schober]

Sustainable Energy Expo

'Power to change'

When: Saturday 8 April

Where: University of the Sunshine Coast

What is sustainable energy? See it, experience it, hear it, win it! Free energy-efficient light bulbs to the first 100 Expo visitors, and four Clipsal Cent-a-meters to be given away. Astounding exhibits, interactive workshops, great presentations and samples to be won.

More info: Karen Robinson on 5459 4751 or 0414 632 123

Queensland Landcare Conference

When: 21-24 August 2006

Where: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

With the theme 'Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide' the conference will look at the linkages between producers and consumers; policy makers and land managers; strategies and action. With field trips to south-east Queensland's unique landscapes, a diverse range of speakers and topics and social events, the event will cater to a wide range of delegates from urban, rural and peri-urban locations.

Updates: www.landcare.org.au/Conference.htm

More info: Samantha Morris on 07 3211 4413
or sam@landcare.com.au

Dog Aware Communities

Wild dogs (dingoes, feral domestic dogs or crosses between the two) have been in the Australian landscape for over 5000 years.

Living in a rural environment means that wild animals – native or feral – are a part of the landscape, and at some stage everyone in this landscape will cross paths with them.

Everybody in the rural landscape has a part to play in making sure that pest animals – such as wild dogs – don't become a problem. Everyone needs to be 'dog aware'.

Being dog aware means understanding:

- that wild and domestic dogs have an impact on you, your family and your community
- that wild dogs will at some stage share your living space
- how best to minimise the effects of wild dogs
- that everyone has some responsibility to reduce problems with dogs.

Being dog aware means you understand that wild dogs will live wherever there is food, water and shelter. They can be found on grazing land, on the fringes of towns, in rural-residential estates, and in natural forests.



Being dog aware also means that if you own a domestic dog, you take responsibility for that animal. Dog owners in dog-aware communities care about their neighbours, their rural

surroundings and native wildlife – they don't let their dogs roam.

In dog-aware communities, everyone can take action that helps to prevent wild dog problems:

- If you own a dog, be a responsible neighbour and don't let it roam.
- Don't feed wild dogs deliberately or inadvertently. Never leave food around and make sure that compost heaps are secure.
- Don't approach or encourage wild dogs. Dogs that lose their fear of humans are a hazard.
- If you are carrying out wild dog control, make sure your methods are legal and effective. Inform and work with your neighbours.
- If your neighbour is undertaking a wild dog control program, understand that this is part of living in a rural landscape and that their control efforts will benefit the whole community.
- If you have valuable animals, consider holding them in secure, fenced, dog-proof enclosures or protecting them with livestock guard dogs.
- Report incidents with wild dogs to the Caloundra Council Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 112 or 5420 8200. Good information is needed to be able to plan effective wild dog management.



Private Landholders' Grant\$\$\$

Rural landholders in both Caloundra and Maroochy shires are invited to apply for small grants (up to \$1000) to undertake NRM projects on their properties - projects that aim to help preserve and protect the area's natural values.

Landholders must demonstrate that their project will have a wider community benefit beyond their property (eg actions aimed at improving water quality, reducing soil erosion, etc).

These include activities such as:

- Fencing streams to exclude stock
- Installing off-stream watering points for stock
- Soil conservation/erosion mitigation works
- Strategic revegetation projects (rehabilitating degraded areas, protecting remnant vegetation, habitat for rare or threatened species)
- Strategic weed control of priority species.

Activities that are generally ineligible for funding include:

- Activities that are considered the normal responsibility of rural landholders, such as boundary fencing or fire management

- Wages for landholders to undertake their project.

The requirements for each Council's scheme vary, so make sure you obtain the correct information kit, form and advice for your project.

Caloundra City Council

Applications due by: Thursday 13th April

Info kits and forms available from: Caloundra City Council's customer service centre on 5420 8200

More info: Land for Wildlife-Conservation Partnerships Officer, Nick Clancy, on 5420 8200

Individual grants: to \$1000

Total budget: \$25,000



Maroochy Shire Council

Applications due by: 4.00 pm Friday 21st April

Info kits and forms available from: Maroochy Council's website, and follow the links through OurEnvironment/Biodiversity/BiodiversityGrants/NRMgrants

More info: Council's Biodiversity Partnerships Officer, Richard Newton on (07) 5441 8138

Individual grants: to \$2000

Total budget: \$30,000

N.B Projects with a developed plan or part of a wider property plan OF ONGOING WORK will be considered favourably.



THE STATE OF THE REGION

Properties in the Barung area fall within one of three regions that meet in the headwaters of the Blackall Range: Natural Resource Management South East Queensland (NRMSEQ), South East Queensland Western Catchments Group (SEQWCG) and the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG). These regional bodies direct all natural resource management funding such as National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAPSWQ), Natural Heritage Trust 2 (NHT) and National Landcare Program (NLP). It is important to know in which region your property lies.

SEQ Catchments (Sunshine Coast)

by Susie Chapman

Water Supply – With dramatic changes in climate such as breaking 100 year drought records overlaid with exponential population growth, major decisions are needing to be made in SEQ to improve our water supply security. To raise the level of public understanding about the options, we hosted a free public forum on March 11th at the USC in collaboration with iSHaRE (Institute for Sustainability, Health & Regional Engagement) and AWA (Australian Water Association). This forum came just after the Premier's announcement of a Water Planning Commission which will make the broader decisions for SEQ. A level of despair was in the air that this body will override local will on the Sunshine Coast. As we enjoy good rainfall, the rest of SEQ has its eyes on our water storages. The point needs to be made that the most secure supply of water that actually increases with population growth is recycled water which does not necessitate a new storage dam. There was agreement on recycling in general, but when it came to indirect potable reuse (back to the reservoirs) it is obvious more education is needed to allay unfounded fears, particularly with politicians. Assoc Prof Greg Leslie from UNSW who has worked on reuse plants in Singapore and the US was very clear about the excellent quality of water that is possible with good treatment.

Sustainable Energy Trade Expo – April 8th – We are co-hosting a trade expo with SCEC and the USC (iSHaRE) to showcase renewable energy technologies at the USC on April 8th. Speakers include Prof Ian Lowe, Dr Graeme Pearman (CSIRO) and Member for Hervey Bay Andrew McNamara. Contact Karen Robinson on krobinso@usc.edu.au or 5459 4751.

Landslip Field Day & Video – Congratulations to John Muir at Barung for organising an excellent landslip day on February 16th and thanks to hosts, Deb and Terry Bishop. As a result of the day we will be funding an educative video through Barung that will follow up on the 1992 video produced by Gympie Landcare.

Camphor laurel mapping – We are negotiating satellite imagery for the region which will allow us to coarsely map camphor laurels, followed up with ground-truthing by community groups. A meeting will be held at the USC in mid-April for those interested.

SEQ Catchments (Stanley River)

by Bruce Lord

SEQ Catchments was officially launched and our Regional Investment Strategy 2006-07 announced by the Australian and Queensland Government at the Bundamba Wetlands on 16th March. The day showcased and celebrated the vital work being undertaken by community groups, industry organisations, local, state and Australian Governments, research and educational organisations and individual landholders to protect and enhance the condition of our unique environment and ensure the natural resources are sustainably managed. In keeping with our focus of supporting and enhancing current partnership arrangements and establishing new opportunities for co-investment, we look forward to building on existing effective partnerships developed with groups such as Barung and Bellthorpe Progress Association, Caboolture and Caloundra Councils, and local landholders who are currently working together to protect or improve the condition of the land, water and biodiversity of the Upper Stanley catchment.

Congratulations to the Barung Landcare team on the successful **Restoring Threatened Species Frog Habitat workshop** on Saturday 11th March. With the interesting morning session devoted specifically to increasing awareness of the region's diverse frog populations and the threats they face, the afternoon session's focus was broader with presentations on proven practical approaches for local habitat restoration and riparian management and of local initiatives from Caloundra & Caboolture Councils and SEQ Catchments. As a supporter it was pleasing to see the interest of over 50 people and we look forward to the local application of lessons learnt during the day.

Following on from the success of the Water for Life information day held in Woodford recently, the **Stanley River and Tributaries Water Advisory Committee** are inviting members of the public to attend a meeting at the Woodford Bowls Club on Thursday 27th April to facilitate increased community participation in the development of the Moreton Water Resource Plan. Contact Alan Magnay 5496 3675 or Steve Stevenson 5497 1355.

Burnett Mary Regional Group

by Clinton Muller

Regional Landcare Group Meeting: The first Regional Landcare Meeting for 2006 saw groups converge on Baldwin Swamp, Bundaberg on 6th March for the meeting hosted by Bundaberg and Urban District Landcare Group and generously supported by QWaLC. The event continues to be a significant drawcard for the groups of the region to interact with one another and officials, which included new State Landcare Coordinator, Tony Gietzel, and QWaLC Executive Officer, Brenda Walhain. Next meeting will be 19th June, hosted by Small's Creek Landcare at Eidsvold.

Private Forestry Workshops to commence: BMRG has partnered Private Forests Southern Queensland (PFSQ) to deliver a series of workshops for landholders on sustainable private native forest management in the light of the recently released Private Forestry Code of Practice and related legislation. In addition, demonstration sites of representative forestry properties will be established across the region. (*See notice on page 7 in this issue.*)

Landcare sponsorship – State Landcare Conference: The BMRG Board of Management has again approved sponsorship for the Queensland Landcare Conference and has allocated funds to support Landcare member attendance at the conference. The conference, to be held in Brisbane this year on the 21-24th August with the theme 'Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide', will again provide an ideal networking opportunity for groups. To apply for financial assistance to attend, complete the Professional Development Application Form on the BMRG website under Funding Opportunities. While you're there, feel free to look around our new updated website at www.burnettmarynrm.org.au

Landcare Group Boundaries Mapped: BMRG Technical & Geographical Information Systems Officer, Alice Fisher, is currently assisting Landcare groups across the region with mapping their borders. This mapping information will be made available through an interactive GIS program on the BMRG website.

Want the Lowdown?: To subscribe to the BMRG monthly e-newsletter *Landcare Lowdown*, send an email with 'Subscribe' in the subject line to clinton.muller@burnettmarynrm.org.au

Weed vines NEEDED

by Lin Fairlie

Yes, you did read the heading correctly.

Have you checked the tops of your trees for the flowers of moth vine and Maderia vine lately? These vines are both flowering now, and often their presence can only be detected when they reach the tops or open sides of your trees.

While many of us have been beavering away to remove these weed vines and more from our properties, lengths of these vines are needed for Expo!

One of the activities at Expo will be basket weaving with weed vines. An expert in this field will lead the classes but the raw material – the vines – are up to Barung to supply.

You can start collecting the vines now, rolling them into circles or hanks about 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter which will fit into a bucket when the time comes to reconstitute them.

- Moth vine's sap will dry out and the vine is easily removed by its roots.
- With morning glory vines, the thicker stems of the older vines are needed, not so much the new runners.
- Take care when removing Maderia vine not to spread the nodules.

The workshop will be great fun but its success depends on an adequate supply of vines.

If you can supply these vines in any usable quantity (and achieve weed removal), please contact Lin Fairlie on 5435 8038 or linfair@bigpond.com or leave your name and contact details at Barung.

Happy weed vine removal!



Recyclable materials NEEDED for Expo

Can you contribute to the success of Instrument Making in the 'Kidz Zone' at Expo?

Start collecting now and bring your contributions to the collection bin at the Expo Office after Easter.

We need materials such as

- Rolls – toilet rolls, Glad Wrap tubes, dress fabric rolls etc
- Australia Post poster tubes
- Canvas or heavy duty plastic off-cuts
- Small seeds or nuts (which will not shoot if lost on ground)
- Rope or string to tighten drums (not nylon)
- Decorative items for decorating drums eg seed pods, gum leaves etc for collage
- Fabric off-cuts – coloured, including ribbon etc
- Coloured paper off-cuts
- Sticks suitable for drum sticks
- Or other things which could be useful.

If you can't help over the Expo weekend, you can still contribute by collecting materials for Kidz Zone or by collecting vine weeds for basket making (see article above on Weed Vine Weaving).

Thank you, in anticipation, for helping to make Kidz Zone a success.

Land for Wildlife on the Blackall Range



Land for Wildlife encourages landholders to protect their bushland and integrate nature conservation into their land management practices.

Wildlife habitats on private land are the key to the survival of plants and animals not protected in National Parks and Council Reserves. In south-east Queensland 70 percent of bushland is privately owned. Sustainable management of this land is the key to successful flora and fauna conservation in the long term.

Land for Wildlife is a free, voluntary, non-binding program for mostly private landholders, although schools, businesses, golf courses, community-managed land and cemeteries can all be registered. When you are interested in joining Land for Wildlife an Extension Officer undertakes a property assessment, offering you the chance to ask questions about your bushland, native plants, weeds and wildlife.

Properties eligible for registration in Land for Wildlife generally have at least 1 hectare (2.5 acres) of bushland managed primarily for conservation. Groups of smaller landholders may also be eligible for registration. Properties not currently eligible for registration are able to join Land for Wildlife as a 'working towards registration' property. All properties receive regular newsletters with information on nature conservation aimed at private landholders and a folder of detailed technical notes covering nature conservation topics. Registered landholders also receive the Land for Wildlife sign.

Regular workshops and field days are held covering topics such as plant and animal identification, property planning, revegetation, fire and biodiversity, plant propagation, bird watching, spotlighting and nest box building. Importantly, Land for Wildlife puts landholders into contact with similarly minded people, allowing them to exchange ideas and network.

Land for Wildlife started in Victoria where it has been running successfully for the last twenty years. In this area, Land for Wildlife is managed by Greening Australia at the State level and SEQ Catchments at the regional level, and delivered through participating local government authorities – Caboolture, Caloundra and Maroochy Councils have had active Land for Wildlife programs since it started in Queensland in 1998.

For more information on Land for Wildlife, contact the Land for Wildlife Extension Officer in your area:

Caboolture Shire Council – Brad Dines 5420 0100

Caloundra City Council – Nick Clancy 5439 6433

Maroochy Shire Council – Stephanie Cumming 5441 8002

Forestry Workshop Series

Managing & selling timber from freehold native forests - make the most \$ from your native timber asset using sustainable management and complying with the the Qld Forest Practice Code.

Where: Esk, Dalby, Eidsvold, Wondai

When: 5 days through March, April May and June

Cost: \$330 for all 5 days, or \$100/day for single days (half price for members of AgForce and Timber Queensland)

More info/to book: Rohan Allen on 0408 769 918 or rohan@timberqueensland.com.au

Soils & Rocks on the Range

REVEG AND HABITAT by Greg Smyrell

When revegetating, I believe that getting the right plants in the right place at the right time (successionally) at the right densities will create a structured system much earlier, saving years of costly maintenance. One key to successful revegetation in our region is understanding the local geomorphologies and associated vegetation systems.

Late last year Barung held a workshop looking at geology, soil types, soil properties and vegetation systems in relation to soils/geology. Jon Burgess from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines led the day, imparting his wealth of knowledge on soils and rocks. I chipped in with some of my early observations of plants and plant systems growing on the differing soils and landscapes.

We initially looked at a number of different sites on the upper Obi Obi Ck (from its source to town), then looked briefly at what is happening on the escarpments (upper Bridge Ck). What we found is that the Blackall Range is generally capped with basalt soils. It is mainly the red that we see, while black basalts are generally on the escarpments and benches with odd appearances elsewhere. These basalt soils evolved from volcanic activity approximately 27 million years ago, making these soils young in an Australian context. The black is a very rich and heavy clay and when cleared of vegetation in steep areas this is where most of our land slip problems occur. The red, though still a clay, is not as heavy and as rich as the black, from which it has weathered down. It's the breaking down of irons and rusting that changes the colour. Both these soils supported rainforest vegetation. The red, together with the high rainfall of our region, supported a complex subtropical rainforest with a tall (25-40m) canopy and emergents and a high diversity of species. The black supports a similar system on the escarpments where the drainage is good, just a slight difference in dominances and a few species not shared by either system. On benches and a small number of areas where the black is on flatter sites, the drainage is generally poor and the vegetation it supports is significantly less diverse and has a much lower canopy (10-25m) and resembles a drier vine forest in structure and species even though it can be quite wet for long periods.

Two other volcanic-based soils on the Range, andesite and rhyolite (and also a small amount of granite on the western escarpments), are about 250-300 million years old and have similar properties. Also with similar properties are the Amamoor Metasediment beds, about 350 million years old, which are mixed-sediment rocks such as mudstone, shale etc. The heat and pressure caused by the earth pushing these rocks up to sites such as Howells Knob has turned them into metamorphic rocks with different properties. These three older soils support similar type forests. The soil colours range from dark orange-red to yellows to pale creamy whites. The lighter coloured soils have had greater leaching/weathering and support much of the sclerophyll (eucalypt) systems we see on the range. The darker orange-reds support a complex rainforest similar to but noticeably different from the basalt rainforest systems.

On any major creek or river system there will be alluvial soils. In the upper Obi there weren't many or large areas where these soils built up, and the majority that were here were cleared for agriculture. These soils in the upper Obi are dark brown in colour and from my observations they appear to have supported a similar rainforest type to the black basalts.

Lastly we have the Landsborough Sandstone formed about 200 million years ago, common on the eastern escarpments with a few seams coming through higher up. One of these seams is

noticeable on the Obi Boardwalk in the middle of Maleny, another not far from town in the upper Bridge Creek catchment. These are mostly poor, leached soils and support eucalypts and brush box-dominated systems. However there are areas with rainforests growing on sandstone, usually along waterways. I have come to no true conclusion yet but I believe the basis of these soils is alluvium and/or colluvium of other soils settling on the sandstone and supporting a rainforest system.

Slip Sliding Away

*by John Muir,
Regional Arrangements Coordinator*

The headwaters of the Mooloolah and Maroochy rivers were in focus at the SEQ Catchments-sponsored Landslip workshop and field day on 16th February. Landslip is a large-scale problem in escarpment areas, with more than 900 landslip sites identified in past surveys, now indicated by the new local government planning scheme's landslip hazard mapping zone.

Underlying geology and soils of the hazard areas and possible causes and options for preventing or repairing landslips were discussed, as the group visited landslip sites where restoration works have occurred (usually revegetation with local species).

Two highlights of interest were that

- groundwater intrusions from springs and rising watertables can increase the weight of the soil mass, contributing to slips, and
- slope is not the major factor in determining the likelihood of landslips, because slips also readily occur on flat land.

Future funding will be directed toward potential project sites as well as an educational video featuring sites that have been repaired and stabilised with earthworks, drainage and revegetation.

Greg Smyrell, Barung's Revegetation & Habitat Officer, has drafted up a list of species suitable for planting at landslip sites.

SEQ Catchments is working through the local community groups of Mooloolah Waterwatch & Landcare, Maroochy Catchment Care and Barung Landcare to implement this project on landslip education and on-ground works. Contact these groups for more info or John Muir on 5499 9518 or 0429 943 153.



Warwick Willmott and Jon Burgess address the crowd at Terry and Deb Bishop's Balmoral property. [Photo by Greg Smyrell]

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Life members, you will receive yours in the post soon.

All other members, you will receive a Barung Membership Card when you renew.

Name That Stream

Does your local stream have a name? Of course it does, you say. We've been calling it that for years, just as the people before us called it that as well.

Well, you may be surprised to hear that most of our local waterways don't have an official name – recognised by the State Government under the *Place Names Act* (1994) and recorded by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (NR&M) on the Place Names Database.

The streams in the Lake Baroon catchment that *are* named are Obi Obi Creek, Bridge Creek, Falls Creek and Walkers Creek. Streams joining these creeks are just known as unnamed northern tributary of Bridge Creek, etc.

We want to know what you call the creeks in your local area!

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, in partnership with the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc, AquaGen, Queensland Waterwatch and Barung Landcare, is conducting the 'Name That Stream' activity to get the community's input into naming streams in the Lake Baroon catchment. The input we receive from you will be used to apply to NR&M to get our local waterways named.

Why should we bother to Name That Stream?

Naming local creeks will help us all to protect them better. We can't get close and personal with a little creek unless it has a name – we generally just end up talking about the whole subcatchment. We could refer to Bridge Creek tributary no. 3 or Obi Obi tributary no. 5, but it would be more satisfying if the creek had its own name, taken from its own unique history.

A creek named by a community, based on the history of that community, generally has a higher chance of being looked after by the community.



Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

19 Coral Street Maleny
PO Box 567 Maleny 4552
lbccg@ozemail.com.au
07 5494 3775

How do I have my say?

'Name That Stream' brochure stands are being set up at the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group office, Barung Landcare office and Maleny Library. Our dedicated LBCCG volunteers will also be attending the street stall in Maple Street in May with brochures.

The brochures contain all the information you need to get involved in naming that stream. Refer to the map and write in the name you know your creek as or what you think it should be called and return the brochure to LBCCG (details in brochure).

If you have any information on the history of your local stream and its local name we would be very interested to hear it. Please fill in your contact details on the 'Name That Stream' brochure or drop a brief written history of your local creek's name into any of the promotional stands or email to lbccg@ozemail.com.au

Waterway rehabilitation projects

If you feel your local creek (in the Lake Baroon catchment) is in need of rehabilitation, how about starting a waterway rehab project? Fill in your contact details on the Name That Stream brochure and Susan and Murray at LBCCG will be happy to help you develop your project and source funding to help pay for it.

Waterwatch

Did you know that there is an active community Waterwatch group in Maleny? Waterwatch Queensland is part of a national community-based waterway



monitoring network with a vision of healthy waterways. If this sounds like something you'd like to get involved in – perhaps you have a particular water quality issue in a waterway close to you, or maybe you just want to learn about waterways and the ecosystems they support – then fill in your contact details on the Name That Stream brochure. We at LBCCG will contact you and talk about the level of involvement that suits you.

Barung trees for the Obi site

Barung members will be pleased to hear that the Woolworths site developers have agreed to purchase an initial 1000 native plants, suitable for the Obi Obi Creek riparian zone, from the Barung Nursery. This will ensure that diverse and appropriate local providence species will be planted on the banks of the Obi. Barung will continue to have input and monitor the site so that positive revegetation and repair of the site is achieved.

ORDER NOW

BARUNG WINTER CLOTHING STOCK

*All with Barung Logo
Perfect for the reveg patch on wintery days!*

Available in S, M, L, XL & XXL

Polar Fleece Jackets (Bottle green)		
Adult	Members - \$35	Non Members - \$40
Kids	Members - \$30	Non Members - \$35
Polar Fleece Vests (Bottle green)		
Adult	Members - \$30	Non Members - \$35
Kids	Members - \$25	Non Members - \$30
Long-sleeved Shirts (Bottle green and Khaki)		
Adult	Members - \$40	Non Members - \$45

Ring the office soon to order

BLUE TRIANGLE

Graphium sarpedon choredon

BUTTERFLIES OF THE RANGE by Bob Miller

This was the first of the butterfly larvae I raised all the way from egg to adult. Where we lived in Sydney, we had a camphor laurel tree approximately 3 metres tall (already growing there when we moved in) which attracted this butterfly.

I had always admired the butterfly known as 'the blue triangle' from the first time I had seen one.

Its speed was incredible, and even when feeding it kept its wings in constant motion, ready to move on at the first sign of danger. (This constant wing motion is typical of all of our swallowtails.)

The adult butterfly has a wingspan of approximately 55 mm. Its wings are a bright sky-blue, with a black border approximately 8 mm wide around the outer edge, which creates the typical 'blue triangle' shapes on each side. The lower wings have four blue spots included in their black border.

The underneath of the butterfly is the same as the top, but duller, with some red markings added. The male and female look identical, with the main identifying feature being feathers that appear on



the male on the inner edge of the lower wing, upperside, when the wings are expanded.

The larvae are smooth and olive-green when young, changing to a beautiful lime-green colour, with one lemon-yellow band running left to right across the upper body.

The pupae are lime-green, with raised ridges running from head to tail, imitating perfectly the venation and colour of the underside of the leaf on which it pupates. The raised projection on its head does not detract from this camouflage.

Since moving to Queensland, I have discovered that camphor laurel is a horrible pest and many natives can be used as substitutes. The best I have found, if you have the room, are *Cryptocarya erythroxylon* and *C. triplinervis*. These alternatives will serve as food sources for both birds and butterflies, losing none of the habitat features offered by the camphor laurel.

These alternatives can be obtained from Barung Landcare, Maleny. So lose those camphor laurels and replace them with the native equivalents.

Further information can be obtained by reading *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael F. Braby, 2000.



(Above) Blue triangle pupa (from side) and (top right) adult with wings closed. [Photos by Bob Miller]

Busy, busy!

A TRAINEE'S TALE by Jake Smith-Moloney

Hello Barung readers, time for an update from the Barung trainee. Wow, it's March already. I guess time does fly when you're having fun. Well, the last six months have run along at quite a pace.

Not only that but in the last six months I have done more on-ground work than any other time of the year (excluding the intense craziness of the Wood Expo). Apart from doing a lot of contracting and on-ground work, I have also been involved with the local Green Corps team, teaching plant identification and assisting in directing them in reveg and regen works.

I would like to send a big shout out to the Green Corps crew who will be graduating on Friday 24th March. Well done everyone, I am proud of all of you. I wish you luck in your future endeavours and I hope you take something away from your Green Corps experience that will stay with you throughout your life.

As always I can be contacted at Barung during business hours most of the time, or you can email me at Ze_Bacon@hotmail.com if you have any comments or if you just want to have a chat.

Earth Beat!

by Jacinta Marlick

On Sunday 12th March Green Corps held Earth Beat, our youth initiative project at Gardners' Falls. The aim of Earth Beat was to unite our community, primarily youth, with the environment. And what a great site for our project!

Despite a few showers, Earth Beat was a great success. The day comprised of tree planting, prizes, music and food, which seemed to be enjoyed by all who were involved.

Within an hour and a half, the work was complete by approximately 60 workers. There are now 600 new plants that will thrive along the banks of the falls, providing shade, earth stability and habitat which will help sustain our environment for the future generations.

Green Corps would like to thank Caloundra City Council and Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group for funding, Barung for their on-going support, and Maleny SES for assisting on the day. Thank you all who sponsored, donated and supported Earth Beat; your generousities are greatly appreciated. And thanks to all who got involved with Earth Beat, your efforts will go a long way.

Blurring the Edges

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

I've noticed lately as I've been out and about that there are 'gardeners' and 'revegetators', often the same person. Both pursuits are land management. The end results are very different which is natural since the desired outcomes are different, but somehow the approaches are seen as separate. Why?

Is it because we view the garden as our detailed personal creation and the reveg as part of a larger, more pastoral landscape, or have we simply not thought about it much at all? Some 'gardens' on, for example, half-hectare blocks manage to combine the two by retaining a level of control but planting trees more commonly associated with a revegetation project, and it works well. Other properties with fantastic revegetation projects also have gardens with a high percentage of exotic plants. Odd, isn't it?

It is possible to bring the two together without losing favourite plants. The trick is to view the garden and the reveg as overall land management and to blur the edges. I admit to owning a few clumps of agapanthus because I love the blue flower heads but they are *not* allowed to set seed. There's really no reason why a managed exotic plant which blends nicely with dianella, lomandra, crinum and other strappy-leaved locals shouldn't be used in the garden, although certainly not in the reveg!



A very blurred edge!

[Photo by John Dillon]

However, there are many local plants which inhabit the boundary between the forest and more open spaces (more light). These are ideal candidates to blur the edges and are often bushier in a garden setting than in nature. *Archirhodomirtus beckleri* is a delightful shrub with small white to pale pink flowers and masses of stamens, as befits a member of the family *Myrtaceae*. Various smaller members of the genera *Gossia* (syn. *Austromyrtus*) and *Backhousia* can be used in the same way.

Quite a number of small trees and large shrubs can be used as edge species. Small leaves, brightly coloured new foliage and a reasonably dense growth habit are useful features when choosing the garden/reveg combination plant. Don't forget the understory either. Depending on light conditions, ferns and a range of ground covers will help to make the transition.

Trees can also be used to link the garden and the reveg by planting them in both situations, particularly useful if the reveg is separated from the garden by, for example, a paddock. Try the flame tree *Brachychiton acerifolium*, wheel of fire *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, or the lovely *Grevillea hilliana*. The links will be obvious when the trees are in flower.

You might choose to use 'safe' non-local shrubs and small trees at the junction between the garden and the reveg. My garden design uses the driveway as a divider between the two areas with

Buckinghamia celcissima as the bushy foreground plant for the reveg. Part of its role is to soften and hide the trunks of both pioneer and permanent trees. It's a north Queensland species but produces magnificent flower heads and minimal fruit.

If you live in an area dominated by eucalypts, there will be different range of plants to choose from, and probably more flowering options, especially in spring. Banksias and various pea flowers can be repeated in the garden and the understory or midstorey edge, creating a natural flow. You'll be aware of fire but so long as there's a degree of repetition then using lawn, for example, to separate the garden from the bush won't spoil the feeling of continuity.

I often go into Barung with a very clear 'design intent' and can usually find a plant which will do the job I want.

Good Governance

by Darryl Ebenezer, Operations Manager

The responsibility for good Governance of an organisation lies with the management committee. Governance includes:

- Ensuring compliance with legal and financial requirements
- Ensuring monitoring and supervision of staff
- Formulating realistic strategic plans
- Developing policies and procedures
- Recruiting committee members.

The role of the management committee includes

- Accepting responsibility for all aspects of the organisation
- Protecting the organisations' people, property, income and reputation
- Delegating authority for tasks, duties and responsibilities within the management committee, to employed staff, and to volunteers
- Formulating policies and procedures to set boundaries (provide clear guidelines).

Management committees are the backbone of organisations, and they have an enormous job to do. They need to get consensus amongst themselves, whilst representing their members. They need to weigh up and act on complex matters in very challenging environments. These responsibilities can be taxing, and they are done voluntarily. All of the operational activities of an organisation flow from solid governance structures and processes.

Often management committee members are recruited because of their expertises in particular areas, as well as their commitment and passion for a particular area of work. In our case at Barung Landcare, our management committee members are just as I've outlined – people passionate about the environment, with many and varied talents, skills and knowledge which together benefit all aspects of our organisation.

Since I've been in the new role of Operations Manager I have observed there are many committed and passionate people working in the Landcare arena. This is heartening and should be acknowledged more often. Good governance involves developing more strategic and sustainable approaches to the work, thus, assisting the dedicated people in Barung Landcare to be in a better position to more effectively and efficiently engage in this important work.

Good governance structures and processes enable committee members and staff to sustain themselves personally, professionally and organisationally. Together, we couldn't be involved in a more worthwhile cause.

Our Community Hopping Mad about Frogs

by Ed Surman

On Saturday 11th March, 55 people gathered together in the Maleny Community Centre in the name of our local frogs. The 'Restoring Habitat for Stream Dwelling Frogs of the Upper Stanley Catchment Workshop' was a great success. Unfortunately we had to cancel the field trip due to inclement weather.



Harry Hines from the Environmental Protection Agency talked about frogs in our part of the world. Harry does some great frog calls! He is also a wealth of information on all things amphibian.

Diana Hughes spoke about the findings of her thesis on the Habitat Requirements of Stream Dwelling Frogs. It would definitely seem that healthy riparian zones with good vegetation structure are very important to our amphibian friends. So plant those creeks up now!

Pearl Symonds, a veterinarian researching disease in frogs, talked about disease as a threatening process to frogs in our region. Gone are the days of sharing tadpoles with neighbours and friends. It seems that moving frogs and spawn around is a definite no-no due to the risk of spreading disease. Pearl also alerted us to signs of disease in amphibians. If you think you have a sick frog, give us a call or send a photo. We can pass your details on to Pearl.

Barung's Greg Smyrell and Ed Surman (that's me) talked about practical works landholders can undertake, such as revegetation and bush regeneration, to ensure we retain good frog habitat.

Brad Dines and Nick Clancy from Caboolture and Caloundra Councils spoke about local government programs that assist landholders who wish to manage their land for conservation, namely Land For Wildlife and formal Conservation Agreements. If you are interested in these programs contact your respective council or call us at Barung and we are happy to steer you in the right direction. (*See the Land for Wildlife article on page 7.*)

The day was wrapped up by Bruce Lord from SEQ Catchments, one of the regional bodies managing natural resources in our part of the world. Bruce spoke about the role of the Regional Bodies and how community groups and landholders can access funding that will help achieve the stated regional targets.

The day would not have been possible without the support of Barung volunteers, Val, Ewald and Julie. This dynamic team provided a great feed that will be remembered.

The day was sponsored by the Threatened Species Network, SEQ Catchments, and Caboolture Shire and Caloundra City councils. I would also like to express my thanks to the speakers who so willingly gave their time to share their knowledge with us all. Most of all, on behalf of the region's frogs I'd like to thank everyone who attended to learn more about what we can do to preserve frogs and frog habitat.

Queensland PlatypusCare Newsletter

View at www.wildlife.org.au/platypuscare_news_1.pdf or contact Scott Burnett, Wildlife Queensland, on 07 3221 0194 or platypus@wildlife.org.au

Nasty's flowers easy to spot

WEED WATCH by Ed Surman

Maderia vine is a high priority weed. If you care for our highly diverse and beautiful natural assets, eradicating this problematic plant is a must!

Also called lamb's tail vine (for its flowers), Maderia vine is a smothering plant that can climb high into the canopy, overwhelming the host plant with sheer weight and eventually killing it. Like all smothering vines, Maderia vine can transform the ecology by killing the canopy, allowing light onto the rainforest floor and triggering secondary weed infestations.

Once established, Maderia vine *Anredera cordifolia* (recognised on the Global Invasive Species Database as affecting ecologies throughout the Pacific region) is difficult to control. Early detection makes eradication easier. At this time of year, Maderia vine is conspicuous with its racemes of showy white flowers, so now is a great time to wander down the back of your block and along your gullies to look for the vine.

Maderia vine most often establishes along creek lines and on the edges of rainforests. It spreads via numerous aerial tubers produced along the stems, aided by gravity and water flow. I have also seen the vine spread by birds carrying bits of vine (with tubers attached) for nesting material and unfortunately also by irresponsible (hopefully unknowing) people dumping garden waste or moving soil infested with tubers into bushland. Numerous offspring sprout from tubers, severely limiting any natural regeneration.

Leaves are fleshy, rounded and heart-shaped, typically 2-11 cm long. Newer stems are reddish. Flowers are small, white and fragrant, arranged in racemes. Maderia vine flowers from January to April, so local flowering is just about finished. Fortunately the pollinator for Maderia vine is not present in Australia so fruit is rarely set.

Eradicating Maderia vine requires long term vision, patience, and being prepared to revisit the infestation regularly over a period of time. It helps to keep in mind what we are trying to achieve. Sometimes it's necessary to sacrifice some native ground cover in the process of eradicating the Maderia vine – you can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs.

Maderia vine eradication requires a strategic approach. You may need to use a number of techniques, from physical removal to chemical control. Research into a potential biological control is being undertaken in conjunction with CSIRO and scientists from South America where the plant is native.

When physically removing Maderia vine, spread tarps on the ground to catch falling tubers. Tubers are very persistent and are best drowned in water drums, frozen or burned. I have seen tubers resprout after being bagged for more than six months, and have heard reports that tubers can survive for a decade in the soil.

Effective chemical control is difficult and requires follow up. We encourage landholders considering chemical control to seek advice from any of the experienced local contractors such as Barung Contracting Services on 0429 943 156, Brush Turkey Enterprises on 5494 3642 or Native Seeds on 0439 781 764. Experienced operators will be able to assist you in developing a strategy individually tailored to your situation. A good plan is a great start.

Thanks to the Maleny Community Credit Union Community Grants Program, Barung Landcare is now mapping where Maderia vine occurs. If you have Maderia vine please call 5494 3151 and leave your details including your Lot Plan number (see your last rates notice). Accurate information on a landscape scale will help us beat this botanical menace.

What makes a good Revegetation Contractor?

CONTRACTING SERVICES by Jolyon Froude

The last decade has seen a surge in interest in environmental restoration on the Blackall Range and beyond. Many private landowners are now undertaking regeneration and revegetation projects on their properties to address issues of environmental degradation. Given the labour-intensive nature of this work, many landowners will consider the use of Contractors to increase the amount they can achieve. Consequently, the growth of interest in environmental restoration has been paralleled by an increase in the number of Contractors offering services in bush regeneration, revegetation and farm forestry. Although this work is largely based on manual labour, good Contractors need to be far more than just hard physical workers. A good revegetation/regeneration Contractor will draw on extensive knowledge, skills and experience in order to efficiently achieve good project outcomes. Some of the key attributes of a good contractor are:

Plant knowledge: An excellent knowledge of both indigenous and introduced (weed) vegetation is vital for almost all aspects of environmental restoration work. Being able to distinguish between native and exotic plants at a glance is essential for the bush regeneration process, which involves facilitating natural regeneration processes through strategic weed control. Plant knowledge is also vital for the selection and lay out of an appropriate mix of species for revegetation projects. The diversity of vegetation in our part of the world means that there is a vast amount to know.

Understanding local ecology: A good knowledge of the ecology of local plant communities is integral to their successful restoration. A good Contractor should be able to assess the attributes of a site and select appropriate restoration strategies accordingly. An understanding of local soil types and the plant communities that they naturally support will provide a basis for selecting appropriate species for revegetation projects. A Contractor involved in a revegetation project should aim to do far more than just plant trees. Instead, they should aim to re-build an ecosystem that will ultimately resemble the structure and function of natural systems and be relatively weed-free and self-sustaining. The incredible complexity of natural systems makes this a challenging process.

Chemical use: Herbicides are often an essential part of environmental restoration processes, and Contractors should possess suitable accreditation for chemical use such as an AC/DC licence. Combined with experience, this will allow the Contractor to select herbicides and application techniques appropriate for the present weed species and circumstances and to ensure that damage to non-target (native) plants is minimised. It is also necessary for Contractors to possess a current chemical application licence through the DPI.

Chainsaw use: Chainsaws are often utilised in the environmental restoration process for control of woody weeds. Contractors engaged in such use should possess appropriate accreditation and experience for this.

Insurance/workers compensation: Contractors should be covered by Public Liability insurance cover (usually \$10 million) and workers' compensation cover in the event of accident, injury or damage to property.

Tertiary education: Many Contractors in the environmental restoration field will back their practical experience with tertiary

qualifications in Environmental Science, Natural Systems Management or similar. Gaining such qualifications requires a substantial investment (in both time and money), and gives an invaluable overview of theoretical knowledge to guide on-ground works.

Successful Environmental restoration requires far more than just hard physical work. By involving good Contractors, landowners are engaging the extensive knowledge, skills and experience necessary for efficient work practices and good long term outcomes. Barung Contracting Services offers this and the backing of an organisation involved in the cutting edge of Landcare for sixteen years.

BARUNG CONTRACTING SERVICES for landholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ reveg, regen & farm forestry✓ project management - planning, site prep, planting, maintenance✓ weed identification & control✓ property planning & consultancy✓ environmental landscaping
	ring Jolyon - 0429 943 156 or Barung Office - 5494 3151

For Barung Members

Nursery Plant Credit Program

As a Barung member, with \$250 you can set up a Plant Credit that gives you a discount of 25% on tubestock, megatubes and some more advanced stock. No need to pick up all the plants at once - you can take them as needed in whatever quantity you require, subject to availability.

If you are interested in this program, talk to Wayne or Cali next time you're in the Nursery.

Now open for applications ...

Australian Government Envirofund



Round 8 Grants

Grants for as little as a few hundred dollars or up to \$50,000 are available from the Australian Government Envirofund - the community component of the Natural Heritage Trust - for community groups and individuals to undertake small on-ground projects tackling important local natural resource management problems.

Eligible activities include planting native vegetation, fencing to manage stock access to vegetated areas and watercourses, weed and feral animal control, skills and awareness raising, and monitoring.

For more information on all the eligible activities and for application forms:

www.nht.gov.au/envirofund or 1800 065 823

Applications close 5.00 pm Friday 28 April 2006

Doing it for the Birdwing

by Eva Ford, Mary River Catchment

Coordinating Committee

In the past the Mary River and its tributaries have provided vital links throughout the countryside for many animal species and the Richmond birdwing butterfly is definitely one of those. With its dependence on the *Pararistolochia praevenosa* vine which grows in association with wet vineforest, the riparian zones of the river and creeks used to provide links for the butterfly between the Conondale, Blackall and Bunya ranges all the way to Hervey Bay. That was then! Now the range of the butterfly has been reduced due to land clearing throughout the last century and even in recent times. Vine weeds and drought also put huge pressure on this native vine species. Riparian zones are protected now by legislation but in many areas, particularly along the river itself, the vegetation was cleared to the water's edge. Trees have immense trouble re-establishing themselves along the river banks as the river becomes free to meander at will and banks become unstable.



To return the butterfly, and its host vine, to the length of the Mary River is a huge task. The nearest populations are around Kenilworth and maybe Kin Kin. The Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network (RBRN) and the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) are tackling this challenge in small chunks, building outwards from existing known habitat and populations.

The Maroochy Shire Council has recognised the value in preserving and expanding the food source for the butterfly larvae and has funded a project in the Mary River section of the Maroochy Shire to re-plant vine clusters to encourage butterflies to expand their current range.

400 vines have been distributed to property owners for planting this summer. Ten property owners have taken up the offer and are planting groups of up to 50 vines on their properties. (Thirty to 300 vines is ideal!) The geographical spread of these properties is a big consideration as the female butterfly will travel up to 30 kilometres after pupating. This is a fabulous effort from excited property owners and a great start to extending the northern parts of the butterfly's present range and reducing the possibility of further local extinctions (the most northern known colony at Kin Kin looks to have been recently decimated by the effects of drought on the vines).

As with many fauna species, if suitable habitat is provided they will usually recolonise an area provided there are populations in the near vicinity.

Ultimately we hope to get the butterfly back to Gympie with just a bit of effort from councils and property owners. The planting program has proved to be a success initially in Maroochy Shire and property owners have shown they are willing and eager to see the butterfly in their neck of the woods. The MRCCC is further seeking funds to support those who wish to participate particularly in the Maroochy, Noosa and Cooloola Shires.

If you are interested in the recovery of the Richmond birdwing butterfly or in helping to re-establish the butterfly's habitat contact MRCCC (5485 0171 or mrccc@ozwide.net.au) or the RBRN (3374 1608 or 3200 7432 or Susanne.Scott@bigpond.com)

Photo: Richmond birdwing butterfly (male).

[Photo courtesy of Don Sands, CSIRO]

Thank You to ...

... *Cilla Rose* for the best vacuum cleaner we've ever seen
... *Fuschia Collard* for a vacuum cleaner for the other office
... *Jill Collard* for a sandwich maker
... *All the Barung volunteers* for the **many** tasks you achieve with smiles on your faces!
... *Marion Adamson, Madee Sommers, Max Smith, Patrick Cavanaugh, Colin and Val Phillips* for helping with the February-March *Barung News* mail out.
... and a special thank you to *Ewald and Julie Schober* from Val for helping her cater for the Frog Workshop held in the Community Centre on Saturday 11th March (great job guys)
... and a *very* special mention to *Samara Collard* for all the help she gave us - what a pleasure to work with such a responsible young lady!

A Special Thank You to ...

... *Pioneer Permanent Building Society* for donating \$1500 per year for the next two years for insurance and registration for the Barung vehicle.

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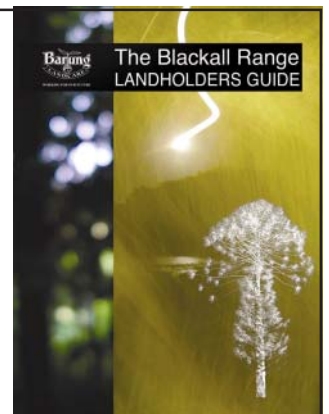
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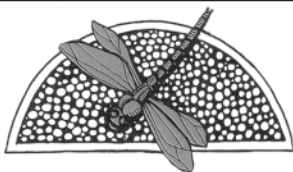
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Bottled at the Source

Playing with Poison ...

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the site I was struck by the absence of any vegetation other than the salvinia, either in the water or on the banks up to a height of several metres. What had previously been an area with a diverse range of wetland plants was now completely dominated by salvinia.

This monoculture was not just the result of this weed being present, but surprisingly was also due to the 'management' techniques that had been undertaken. A contact herbicide had been sprayed on the salvinia and everything else even remotely close to it and up to several metres up the banks. This, I would say, is the management technique that has been undertaken in this area for many years and has resulted in the elimination of all the wetland vegetation from the water's edge and in the water – except for the salvinia. The salvinia was burnt by the herbicide but because of its rapid vegetative growth was able to recover and spread again. The absence of any vegetation on the water's edge, even exotic, was leading to erosion, bank collapse and poor water quality.

The sight of a fish flailing about on the water's surface, due to the deoxygenation of the water from rotting vegetation and the thick blanket of salvinia, brought home to me just how far we have to go in educating some vegetation managers.

Weed management through herbicide use is not a solution. Reestablishing stable native vegetation communities is our objective and herbicides are but one tool we may choose to use to reach that objective.

In the case of the salvinia on this site, a combination of physical removal, herbicides and most crucially, regular follow-up work is required to remove this weed. The water's edge will need replanting with suitable water plants because the regular application of herbicides will have exhausted any natural seed bank. These edge plants will be crucial in stabilising the water's edge and providing habitat for a wide range of fauna.

This site can become a thriving healthy ecosystem, not through eliminating the salvinia but through managing the area as a whole with control of the salvinia being a component of that management. This may seem like a play on words, but it's at the heart of what Bush Regeneration is all about. A bush regenerator's main onground practice is the control of weeds in natural areas, quite often with herbicides, but it's so much more than the control of weeds. You must see the site's potential, its resilience to bounce back when you step in to control the weeds. Herbicides can be a vital component of this work, but they are not a means to an end in themselves.

It's that wonderful little bit of pink matter atop our shoulders that is our greatest tool. Like all good vegetation management tools, it must be sharp and well oiled. Unfortunately there are some very blunt, rusty models being used out there.

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Mark Fentiman Dental Surgery

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Maleny Motor Trimmers

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All donations to Barung and
the Barung Environmental Gift Fund
are Tax Deductible!

Playing with Poison

TURKEY TANGENTIAL

by Spencer Shaw, Brush Turkey Enterprises

I'm sure that from the beginning of time Man, in his more deluded moments, has dreamt of controlling the beast that is nature. Our fear of the silent green monster beyond our tamed backyards that waits to swallow us up in its verdant leafy arms, if we were to lose control, is a psychosis that many suffer from.

First there was the blade and flame to tame the wild forest and these tools gave man power to shape the landscape. Then in the 20th century herbicides were developed and became widely available. Herbicides are a group of manufactured, synthetic chemicals that either control or kill vegetation. Weeds are plants that humans deem unsuitable for growing in a particular area and are prime targets for the use of herbicides. For the purposes of this discussion the main weeds that we will cover are environmental weeds. Used wisely and as a component of a management plan, herbicides can be an effective tool in the control of environmental weeds that pose serious threats to our natural

areas. However, when weed management issues are based purely around the elimination of particular plants without any understanding of the ecology that those plants are thriving in, all sorts of problems can occur.

Surely removing weeds from a natural area is as simple as killing the targeted weeds by either mechanical or chemical means? Then nature will take over and fill the gaps? Well not quite. Any management technique of weeds has the potential to create more weeds if not undertaken with a level of knowledge about the ecosystem you are working with. Simply put, weeds most often thrive in disturbed ecosystems. When we undertake weed management work, we create further disturbance.

Environmental weed removal has to be based on tipping the balance in favour of the local native vegetation so that it can retake the site, not purely on removing the weed.

An example of weed control gone mad that I've recently encountered is in a river system where our team has commenced bush regeneration works. *Salvinia (Salvinia molesta)*, a noxious weed of still water, had become established in a series of billabongs and feeder streams adjoining a major river. When I first inspected

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