

Landcare Week 2005 – Focus on Developing Your Projects

Mim Coulstock

Landcare Week 2005 is a great week to be a landholder, especially if you've been helping to improve the landscape in your area. Across Australia landholders' efforts to revitalise the landscape are being celebrated as part of Landcare Week with this year's national theme of 'Every Farmer, Every Paddock', promoting the landholder's role as stewards or custodians of the land they farm.

Landcare Week falls in September, Biodiversity Month, and runs from **Thursday 1st through to Wednesday 7th September**, which is national Threatened Species Day – auspicious for Barung as so much of our work focuses on habitat restoration (along gully lines, in riparian (creek) zones) and remnant protection.

In the peri-urban Blackall Range region, Every Farmer means all landowners, while Every Paddock means from one to 1000 acres. All landholders contribute to the health of the environment and all are caretakers of their land for a relatively brief time.

At Barung we will be celebrating local efforts to restore our unique local landscape, and we will be hosting a week of activities and workshops designed to help you – our landholders – develop realistic and achievable restoration projects on your own properties. These will include field days, walks and talks, hands-on workshops, and the launch of the second edition of Barung's *Blackall Range Landholders Guide*.

There will be a Wallum walk to discover the delights of our coastal strip (hopefully still in flower), a riparian tree identification walk, and a fern walk and workshop to learn more about our feathery ground dwellers.

We will visit several existing private project sites at opposite ends of the Range to learn how others have achieved landscape restoration and to celebrate their achievements.

We will be hosting a 'Sense of Place' walk and discussion to gain a deeper understanding of where we live, and a 'Scats & Tracks' walk to learn how to read the signs left by our fauna friends.

One field trip site in the upper Maroochy catchment will provide an excellent learning example of large-scale weed control, regeneration and revegetation. This site has been transformed from degraded, weed-infested steep paddocks to rainforest over

approximately 10 years! Discussions will include site preparation and weed removal, species selection, maintenance, use of contract labour and much more.

The other field trip, to the Genesis property on the way to Conondale, will focus on 'Planning for On-Ground Works'. Genesis's experiences over the past 12 months in planning environmental works on the 34 ha property, which is severely beset by a range of intractable environmental weeds, could prove beneficial to other owners and managers of rural properties around the Blackall Range. Specific on-ground activities and associated

planning and operational management issues to be discussed include: boundary, internal and electric fencing; access tracks and firebreaks; prescribed burning; water supply systems for stock and drainage; weed control operations; agistment grazing; and forestry operations.

And of course we will be hosting at least one activity focusing on our threatened species and the habitat they need to keep them from the edge of extinction.

Landcare Week provides a great opportunity for members to share experiences and get to know both each other and Barung staff during the daily BBQ lunches and social times.

As an organisation, Barung can facilitate environmental repair and assist you as landholders to access funding for projects and increase your knowledge and skills, but without your passionate involve-

ment, we are limited in how much we can achieve on-ground. Most land is owned privately and most of our creeks and remnants lie on private property, so we need your help to achieve our environmental goals.

Please find inserted in this Newsletter an Expression of Interest form to help us build a database of landholders who are keen to access funding for environmental repair projects on private land. If you are planning works on your place, then Landcare Week might be a really good place to get you thinking about all the things that need to be considered.

Please see the Landcare Week Program insert for more details of September's activities.



Landcare Week at Barung – an excellent chance to connect with people with similar interests – and full of interesting information and activities.



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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Barry Liddell)

Garth Riley	Jeff Scott
Barbara Hays	Valerie Martin
Wayne Parcell & Allen Ostafie	Michael & Deann Cumner
H Beck	A & N Donaldson
Ranald Millar	Bryan Grant
Peter Kerridge	Luke Davison
Keith Hickman	Garth Wright
Yvonne Mangan	Matt Preston
Anne Friend	Rod & Coralie Waldron
Tara Witkowski	John & Kumari McMaster
Dee Dent	Marlene Jackson
Donald Greenfield	Sue & Steve Quinlan
Daniel Wicher	Mary Ann Law
Zoe Jung	

WELCOME BACK

Shanyn Todd	Jacinta Foale
C Donohue & H Rosenbaum	Bryan Grant
Theo Van De Pitt	Denis & Belinda Gicquel
Kaye Ryan & Peter Allen	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

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

Donations of \$2 or more to the Barung Environmental Gift Fund 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.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Lin Fairlie

In this modern world change is inevitable but the rate of change can pose difficulties. Managing change is very important and contributes to community and organisational stability. This is certainly true in Maleny at this time where the changes on the banks of Obi Obi Creek are being wrought for the wrong reasons. Hopefully, at Barung, the changes are smaller, desirable and are able to be managed, this being the aim of the Management Committee and the various subcommittees as we look forward to increased staff levels, more onground projects and the move to larger premises.

Thank you to Juanita for her Expo skills over the past two years and to both Angie and Juanita for their huge contributions in the Barung office. We welcome Fuschia Collard into the Admin Officer role and already she is fitting well into that demanding position. John Muir has returned to the newly created NRM Regional Arrangements Coordinator position based at the 'other' Barung office at 27 Coral St. This BMRG position, hosted by Barung, is funded by the BMRG with contributions from SEQWCG and NRMSEQ. Mim is now our External Coordinator and she is also located in the new office. The newly created Operations Manager position is yet to be filled. There is no news on Barung's move to Armstrong's farm or any other new 'home'.

For members who do not live in or near Maleny I feel an update on the proposed Woolworths site is appropriate. Barung has expressed concern from the very beginning about the destruction of vegetation and hence habitat on the banks of Obi Obi Creek. Details of the responses from the Maleny community can be found at www.Malenyvoice.com. Barung, as an organisation, has not expressed an opinion about the actual development, but many Barung staff, members and Management Committee have, as is their right as citizens. The whole saga is more than unfortunate and at all stages has indicated how communication flaws can result in poor decisions and unnecessary rates of change. Barung was consulted by the original developer and so commented on the species selection proposed in the landscape plan. Since the change of developer and site plan we have not been consulted, but are trying to obtain a copy of the revised landscape plan. As you may have read or seen on TV, scientific investigations indicate there are over 30 platypus burrows around the bank which can extend for up to 30 metres under the construction site. The very large clump of bamboo will need to be handled skilfully over time in order that the burrows under it do not collapse as the roots rot. All of the above concerns have been expressed to Caloundra Council along with concerns about Madeira vine and other weed infestations etc.

Still on the theme of change, the Barung AGM and annual treeplant will be held on Saturday 15th October at a site to be confirmed. Please put this date into your diaries now as we need our members to attend and communicate with us. Contact the Barung Office for Management Committee nomination forms. There will be at least one vacancy on the Committee so if you have the interest and a little time please consider nominating. Most, if not all, of the Executive positions will be vacated and are filled from the Management Committee. Barung's various subcommittees also require a range of skills and interests, and with the move to a new site getting close, experience in project management will be needed. As YOUR Landcare group, Barung is continually seeking to identify your needs as we all work towards better natural resource management. Only by exchanging ideas and information can we achieve our goals. Please visit Barung, ring, email or write so that we can all work together.

2005 Barung Landcare Annual General Meeting

Mim Coulstock

Although still more than two months away, we would like all members to note that Barung's AGM and AGM 'Bridge the Gap' Treeplant will be held on Saturday 15th October. We will confirm the site for the meeting and treeplant in the October/November Barung Newsletter, but urge you to keep the date free.

Our AGM treeplants always attract a good proportion of the local Landcare membership, and are followed by a BBQ lunch and the AGM in the afternoon. The AGM is a good opportunity to hear first-hand what Barung has achieved for the local environment over the past 12 months, and to catch up with the Committee Members who are your elected representatives to guide Landcare in the region.

The Committee do an amazing job ensuring that Barung stays on track ethically, environmentally and financially, and that we fulfil our aims and aspirations for the local community. All Committee members are volunteers and bring a vast range of skills and expertise to the organisation.

We are delighted that the majority of MC members will be staying on the Committee for the next 12 months. However there will be at least one vacancy, so think seriously about whether you have the passion and time to make an extremely worthwhile contribution to your local area by stepping up to the challenge of nominating for a position on the Management Committee. MC members are of all ages and from all walks of life. Some are not even landholders – but they all have a deep belief in Barung's on-going role for the environmental health of our unique region.



Winners Of Maleny Wood Expo Volunteer Prizes

Congratulations to the following Expo volunteers who won Volunteer Prizes, and thank you to the respective prize donors for their support of the 2005 Maleny Wood Expo:

1. **Peter Von Pol** – Property Appraisal from *Forest First* valued at \$200
2. **Glen Higson** – *Beth's Beauty Spot* Voucher valued at \$50
3. **Brenton Dorling** – *Rather Bizr* Voucher valued at \$40
4. **Chris Gould** – *Top of The Range Meats* Voucher valued at \$20
5. **Kim Warehan** – *Maleny Network Video* Voucher valued at \$20
6. **Brian Kennedy** – *Maleny Network Video* Voucher valued at \$20
7. **Wendy Valentine, Roseanna Foote and Jolyon Froude** – each a *Maleny Film Society* Voucher for free entry for two people to one film night.

Thank you to these generous sponsors for supporting our Expo volunteers. To the winners, please drop into the Barung Office to pick up your vouchers – and enjoy!

Blackall Range Landholders Guide 2nd Edition - *Out now!*

Katrina Shields

We are pleased to announce: the new *Blackall Range Landholders Guide* is hot off the press!

Written by a range of local experts for local conditions, the Guide could save you years of trial and error and may inspire you to start new projects that can make a real difference.

There are chapters on revegetation and regeneration of native flora, native fauna issues for the Range, understanding water cycles and catchments, sources of help and funding for projects on your land, and an extensive listing of contacts from snake catchers to water testers.

There are also new chapters on ecological house and garden design, living with fire risk, history of land use on the Range, ecological weeds and much more.

Whether you have been on the Range for generations or arrived last week, there's sure to be something in the Guide for you.

Edition 2 has more than doubled the content of the first edition (first released in 1996 and quickly sold out) with 100 pages of up-to-date tips, photos and information on all aspects of caring for your land.

The *Blackall Range Landholders Guide* 2nd Edition costs \$13.50 if you drop in to pick up your copy, or \$16 posted. To order a guide through the mail, use the order form in this newsletter or phone the Barung office to pay by credit card over the phone.

There are a lot of people to thank for this publication. More than 20 contributing authors and photographers and a relay team of editors over the past five years are individually acknowledged in the guide. I edited and coordinated the completion of the Guide over the past seven months. I would like to say a particular thank you to Penny Smith for the layout work and Glenis Ayling for her careful checking and proofreading.

Thank you also to publication sponsors Caloundra City Council, Maleny & District Community Credit Union (Community Grants Program) and the Burnett Mary Regional Group National Landcare Program (Sustainable Land Use Project). We also thank Caloundra City Councillor Dick Newman, who got behind Barung and made completion of this guide a reality.

Most Popular Exhibitors at 2005 Maleny Wood Expo

Thanks to Barung's volunteers, the final tally has been made for the Most Popular Indoor and Outdoor Exhibitors at the 2005 Maleny Wood Expo.

Our local wood sculpting master, **Donald Powell**, was voted **Most Popular Indoor Exhibitor** by more than 1800 Expo visitors. Don has won a Gift Voucher compliments of the Terrace Seafood Restaurant, valued at \$100. Don was also second prize winner in the 2005 Wootha Prize at the Expo, so 2005 will be a year to remember!

The **Most Popular Outdoor Exhibitor** was **Fab Slabs** from North Arm. Fab Slabs have won a \$50 Voucher compliments of Graatz Mexican Restaurant in Maleny.

Thank you to both of these sponsors for your support of the 2005 Maleny Wood Expo and our fabulous woodworkers.

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 Western Catchments Group

Bruce Lord

Funding available: Call for projects –

We are now offering funding for individual landholders, community & industry groups for on-ground projects protecting and improving the condition of our land and water resources and biodiversity in SEQ Western Catchments and which address regional priorities identified within *Healthy Land – Our Future*, the regional NRM Plan. Locally, the Upper Stanley River catchment has been identified as a priority area for on-ground actions. To apply for funds, contact Upper Brisbane Community Liaison Officer Bruce Lord for an EoI form and information pack, on 3816 9720 or 0427 013 284 or upperbris@seqwgc.com.au



Community Contact Officer – Cheryl McLeod is the new Community Contact Officer for the Upper Brisbane & Stanley catchments. Cheryl will ensure community in these catchments have continued access to relevant NRM information, and will support and strengthen existing communication networks and promote opportunities for the community to be involved in regional implementation programs. Cheryl, also Waterwatch Team Leader for the Upper Brisbane & Stanley catchments, can be contacted on 5422 0516 or cmcleod@seqwgc.com.au

Water Quality – Although the water quality of the Upper Brisbane River Catchment has been monitored by community in the past, this data has not been accepted as valid. It is important we know the state of our creeks and whether we need to do anything to protect them or restore their health. A trial of accrediting community members doing water monitoring under the Healthy Waterways EHMP program is currently taking place. Training will be fully accredited, include training manuals and assessment, and focus on selected EHMP-specific ecosystem health assessment methods in both freshwater and estuarine ecosystems. The trial will end in September this year, with one of the outcomes being a cost-benefit analysis to determine if a capacity-building approach is a feasible proposition and of benefit to stakeholders and the EHMP. Interested people please contact Cheryl McLeod.

Burnett Mary Regional Group

Tamara Boland

Growing Regional Landcare – This is

the title of the new National Landcare Program funding application just submitted. This new round of funding sees five more groups participating in the already strong Burnett Mary Regional Landcare Partnership established in 2003/2004. The massive gains made by the partnership have encouraged new groups to form and old groups to reform.

Growing Regional Landcare will compliment a continuing application entitled Regional Landholder Ownership of Sustainable Landuse Solutions and Implementation. Together the two projects give Landcare groups the operational capacity to manage on-ground works and, most importantly, to participate in partnership with other Landcare groups in the region.

The focus of the on-ground works is to identify Sustainable Agriculture issues of particular priority to each group's subregion. Solutions and/or potential solutions are identified through

consultation with partner Landcare groups, industry, government, and others. Pilot plots and/or demonstration sites are identified to trial management practices, and enhance landholder ownership of Best Practise. Each group plans, implements, then monitors and evaluates one or more sites and then extends their findings or BMP through field days and workshops.

Growing Regional Landcare and Regional Landholder Ownership of Sustainable Landuse Solutions and Implementation through the Burnett Mary Regional Landcare Partnership provide an essential link between science and the paddock. Both these proposals put landholders in the drivers' seat of discovery in the field of Sustainable Agriculture, increasing ownership of the findings and accelerating adoption. These projects will maintain the employment of a part-time project officer for each Landcare group (Barung's Project Officer being Jackie Montgomery).

Phase 2 Implementation – Phase 2 of *Country to Coast – a Healthy Sustainable Future* will roll out mid-July. At the start of this month NRM Plan Activity Detail proformas were sent to members who had previously indicated their intent to partner in plan implementation. In Phase 2 ALL members and Research and Development Organisations will now be invited to submit an Activity Concept for the implementation of our region's NRM Plan. If you would like to get a 'head start', all the forms are now available on the BMRG website www.burnettmarynrm.org.au. If you would prefer the documents mailed to you in hardcopy, call the BMRG office on 4132 8333.

Natural Resource Management SEQ

Susie Chapman

Thankfully projects are about to hit the ground now and regional NRM moves on into the brave new world. This process has been demanding on everyone to say the least and it's a tribute to everyone's patience and input that we are all still moving onward.



Roundtables – We have now completed the initial roundtable discussions across the region looking at the maps generated with support from NR&M, EPA and local governments and groundtruthed with the local community. The priority areas of high risk and high asset for biodiversity, water quality and landscape attributes will be the focus of funding attention and collaborative action which is progressively being defined.

Rainforest Recovery – We have recently been informed that the National Competitive Cross-Regional Bid for Rainforest Recovery submitted by BMRG, SEQWCG and NRMSEQ has been successful. This will focus on four key areas including the upper Stanley and Kin Kin catchments. Unfortunately many of our well-conceived proposals such as pandanus dieback research and collaboration, littoral studies and 'canopy-killers' didn't make it.

Groundwater Monitoring – Andrew Todd is now developing a framework for community groundwater monitoring, starting with the Eudlo and upper Obi catchments. See separate article in this newsletter.

'SEQ Catchments' – Just so we don't get too complacent, another change is afoot. In September NRMSEQ and SEQ Western Catchments will amalgamate to form a new group called SEQ

Continued on page 8 ...

Barung hosts Regional Arrangements Coordinator

Regional arrangements have created real and lasting natural resource management (NRM) partnerships in South East Queensland.

A Memorandum of Understanding to support the community and industry sectors where boundaries of three regional bodies converge in South East Queensland has come into effect.

The MoU will formalise a partnership initiated by the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Inc (BMRG) with South-East Queensland Western Catchments Group (SEQWCG) and Natural Resource Management South East Queensland (NRMSEQ) regional bodies to support a Regional Arrangements Coordinator. The position will be hosted by Barung Landcare Association Inc in Maleny.

Under the MoU, the salary of a full-time equivalent NRM Coordinator will be supported by BMRG. SEQWCG has agreed to fund travel related expenses for the position and NRMSEQ is contributing computer equipment. Office accommodation and professional support will be provided by Barung Landcare.

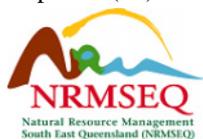
This position will assist the community to engage with three regional bodies where their boundaries converge. These multi-regional troops will be critical in achieving targets in regional NRM Plans.

John Muir has been selected as the successful candidate. John's long history in the area will ensure that maximum support to local groups in all three regions can commence immediately. John will be working out of the 'other' Barung Office at 27 Coral Street, Maleny, and can be contacted on 07 5499 9518 or 0429 943 153.

BMRG is the peak coordinating body for natural resource management in the region under the Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality programs in the Wide-Bay Burnett district.

As a non-government, non-profit organisation, BMRG is working with the community, industry and governments to manage, restore, use and conserve the diverse and highly valuable natural resources of the vast Burnett Mary region.

For additional information contact BMRG Executive Officer Dr Deborah Scott on email deborah.scott@burnettmarynrm.org.au or phone (07) 4132 8333.



EFTPOS facility available at Barung Landcare

Staff News

by Mim Coulstock

Welcome Fuschia, our new Admin Officer



Fuschia Collard has lived on the Range for the past nine years and has indulged her commitment to protecting our unique and beautiful environment and native wildlife through her involvement in various reforestation programs and volunteer work.

Along with her daughter, Samara, who is following in her mum's environmental footsteps, Fuschia worked at the Koala Hospital at Beerwah, and they have both been regular tree planters at Barung community tree plants and at the Woodford Folk Festival site.

Fuschia comes from a banking and admin background, and her ability to remain calm and focused in the midst of a hectic environment is a great asset when working at Barung!

We are delighted to have her join the Admin team, where she is ably assisted by regular vollies Dawn Svenssen (Mondays), Barry Liddell (Tuesdays and Fridays) and Val Phillips (Wednesdays and Thursdays).

Thanks to Trish

As anyone who has been into the Barung Office in the past couple of months is aware, our esteemed Treasurer, Trish Brunton, has been keeping the flag flying between Admin staff.

The Barung Office is a complex place – not only is it the meet-and-greet face of Barung, but it is responsible for all record keeping, sorting and filing the immense amounts of information that come in each month. It's also the hang-out area where everyone goes if they just don't know!

On behalf of all staff and Committee Members, I'd like to thank Trish for her dedication to bridging this gap between staff, enabling the office to run smoothly while getting everything up-to-date for the hand-over to Fuschia.

And Welcome Back, John

With great pleasure we welcome John Muir back into the Barung fold. John has won the Regional Arrangements Coordinator position that is funded through the Burnett Mary Regional Group and hosted by Barung.

John will be working across the Noosa to Nanango rim-region to develop on-ground projects that cross over regional boundaries – a job for which he is undoubtedly suited considering his love of networking and matching and marrying.

John and I will be working closely once again – we started as a team at Barung in 1996 for four years, and now we'll be teaming up at the 'other' Barung Office at 27 Coral St, Maleny. Welcome back mate!

DEADLINE - Wed 14th September
for October - November 2005
Newsletter contributions



Please renew your membership - your support is very important to Barung.

THANK YOU

Winter: Time for woody weed control & site prep

CONTRACTING SERVICES by Jolyon Froude

The onset of winter in our part of the world brings a welcome reprieve from the heat and humidity of summer and autumn and the associated rapid rate of plant growth. For revegetators, this brings an equally welcome reprieve from the prolific weed growth of the growing season and an excellent opportunity for the control of woody weeds and preparation of new planting sites for the next planting season. Cooler weather makes working conditions more amenable to the often physically demanding process of stripping back weed cover. Dealing with plants that are near-dormant also makes the process easier.

Revegetation sites usually exhibit some degree of woody weed growth, ranging from scattered plants to completely dominant cover. Perhaps the most ubiquitous weed in this category is lantana, but others include wild tobacco, camphor laurel, privet, coral tree, yellowberry, blackberry and raspberry. The control of these woody weeds will reduce their spread, encourage regeneration of native plants and/or allow appropriate native species to be planted to replace the weeds.

Remember to be strategic:

- use control methods appropriate to the site and situation
- work with the seasons
- be thorough
- don't clear more area than you can manage.

And remember woody weed control requires follow-up work, often for many months or years. There is little point in replacing one lot of weeds with another. Replacing the weeds with native vegetation provides the best long-term solution.

Over the past year, the Barung Contracting Services team has dealt with many sites that have been completely dominated by woody weeds, especially lantana. We have developed an excellent strategy to regenerate these areas with native plants while utilising the seasons. This process unfolds as follows:

Step 1 – Manual control of weeds in winter using brush hooks and cane knives, poisoning major weed bases while clearing around and identifying native plants with marking tape.

Step 2 – Spraying the weed re-growth in spring/summer once it has reached about 30-50 cm in height and re-spraying if necessary, taking care not to spray regenerating natives.

Step 3 – Planting in late summer/autumn as necessary to supplement natural regeneration.

Step 4 – Regular on-going weed maintenance around establishing trees until canopy has formed.

It is amazing how much natural regeneration can occur on some sites after weed control stimulates dormant seeds in the soil to germinate. Regeneration of pioneer species such as macaranga, homalanthus (bleeding heart), pipturus (native mulberry) and trema (native peach) can sometimes exceed 50 plants per square metre! Every native plant that regenerates naturally is one that doesn't have to be planted. The quantity and diversity of the natural regeneration varies widely between different sites and is usually supplemented with some additional planting to increase plant density and/or diversity.

And weed control is not the only activity that can be undertaken over the winter period to prepare for the next planting season – there's also fencing, spraying and project planning.

So give me a call while the cool weather lasts so we start on replacing your patch of woody weeds with a forest of native trees.



Twelve months after dense lantana was cleared, native pioneer species are prolifically regenerating.

**BARUNG
CONTRACTING
SERVICES**
for landholders

- ✓ 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

Groundwater Monitoring - opportunity to participate

A project to monitor groundwater has just been initiated within the Eudlo and Obi Obi catchments by the Groundwater Investigation Group (GIG), which formed some 10 months ago. The objective is to start up community-based groundwater monitoring of watertable levels, rainfall and groundwater quality within the two trial areas, Obi Obi and Eudlo, so that we can learn more about groundwater in these areas and how it interacts with surface waters.

Community-based monitoring involves the coordinated collection of groundwater information by the community, a concept already widely used for monitoring surface water quality. Assistance and training will be provided through the project.

A Project Officer, Andrew Todd, is coordinating the monitoring. Andrew is keen to hear from people interested in the project and anyone who has a bore within the two trial areas that they would be happy to make available for monitoring. Please contact **Andrew** on 54412938 or 5476477 or **Lin Fairlie** on 5435 8038.

The GIG was formed by local community groups, including Maroochy Waterwatch, Barung Landcare, MRCCC, and the Maleny Greenhills Group, and includes supportive representation from Regional NRM Groups (NRMSEQ & BMRG), Councils, NR&M, Universities and local industry. Initial funding to support the project is being provided by NRMSEQ and BMRG.

Landcare Week delights!

REVEG IN PROGRESS by Greg Smyrell

Seed Shortage - Last year's drought and the severe dry earlier this year (which seem so far away now) have had a major impact on the fruiting patterns of our local plant species. Now we have a shortage of seed for some key revegetation species at the Barung Nursery.

We would appreciate members collecting seed for the Nursery. To collect seed, you need to know which species to target, when they're likely to fruit, and how to treat the seed to maximise viability.

In response, the nursery team and I are working on a seed collecting booklet for our region. The booklet will list most of the revegetation species the Barung nursery tries to stock, with a rough guide to timing and appearance of ripe fruit etc. There will also be a few hints on seed collecting, some specific to individual species and others relevant to most or all species. For example, before collecting large amounts of seed always check to see if the seed has a developed embryo by carefully cutting a number of seeds in half.

We are hoping to have this booklet ready by Landcare Week in early September.

Reveg workshop - Landcare week this year (in the first week in September) is shaping up to be a full week of interesting and dynamic activities. I'm currently working on a full-day workshop on revegetating areas large and small. The workshop will look at planning, implementing and maintenance. Site assessment, soil characteristics, plant selection, evolution of the system, current best practices and some of the pitfalls to watch out for are some of the topics to be discussed. Most of the workshop will be in the field looking at current and past projects.

Sense of place - this term can mean so many different things to different people. I'd like to invite you and others in our community for a walk and discussion focussing on 'Our Place - Blackall Range, Obi Obi Ck and Maleny' to be held during Landcare Week. Let's see what develops...

Time on your hands? - Every now and then enthusiastic people rock up at Barung with an hour or two to spare, wanting to get their hands dirty in an on-ground reveg or regen project. However because our time is planned and committed, we generally aren't able to accommodate people on the spot, and we lose this much-needed positive energy for the environment. So here's an opportunity if you have a couple of hours to spare and energy to share.

A number of our recent CJP Team have volunteered to start 'Friends of' reveg groups to continue reveg and regen work at the Maleny Entrance Site (below the High School) and along the Obi Obi Boardwalk. Both these sites are entering their next stage of development and could do with a helping hand.

Interested people will be given training and backup support. Work would mainly be pruning, planting and weeding. We will be launching these groups in Landcare Week.

Combined film showing - Check out the Fridge Calendar in this issue of the *Barung News* for the many events Barung staff have planned for Landcare Week as well as other scheduled events. One not to miss is a combined night with the Maleny Film Society and Barung presenting 'Wild Spaces' on Saturday 17th September at the Maleny Community Centre.

Australian Government Community Water Grants

Maleny Workshop

The Australian Government is calling for project proposals for Community Water Grants to encourage increased community awareness and involvement in saving and protecting water resources.

Barung Landcare will be hosting an information workshop on these Community Water Grants at 1pm, 16th August at the Neighbourhood Centre Meeting Room, 27 Coral St, Maleny.

Community organisations can apply for grants of up to \$50,000 for **on-ground works** that

- increase water saving and efficiency
- recycle and reuse water
- improve river or groundwater health.

Who will be eligible to apply?

Grant recipients may include community groups e.g. service clubs, sporting associations, environment groups including Landcare, Rivercare, Coastcare and 'Friends of' societies. Indigenous and multicultural groups, universities, church groups, local government, catchment management authorities, the community care sector (e.g. hospitals, nursing homes, childcare centres) and non-government organisations are also eligible.

What types of projects will be funded?

Projects that are community-oriented and have clear public benefits will be funded, including

1. Water savings/efficiency

- Improving water efficiency of buildings such as schools by installing water-saving devices
- Improving water supply infrastructure to reduce losses from evaporation or leakage
- Capping disused or unnecessary public bores

2. Water reuse/recycling

- Using rainwater, greywater, treated effluent or stormwater to maintain open space and sporting fields or as components of water sensitive urban design along creeks and parks and in buildings

3. Surface and groundwater health

- Improving surface or groundwater health, such as erosion and sediment control, and catchment and riverbank maintenance
- Cleaning up a water or wetland
- Reducing pollution in rivers, groundwater or coastal waterways

See a link to demonstration projects at www.nrm.gov.au/water-fund, or for further information call **Ashton Berry** on 07 4124 8501 or e-mail ashtonberrybm@bigpond.com.au

Wanted

A microwave, please

Staff, volunteers and workshop participants at the Barung Resource Centre will be greatly appreciative!

A Ferny Understorey

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

I was very impressed during a visit to NZ earlier this year by the many species of ferns carpeting the forest floors. Not for nothing is the fern a national symbol! I was also interested to note, while walking the trail below Lake Baroon, that the predominant understorey plants were ferns. I then noticed the developing understorey in a less visited area of my regenerating forest was, surprise, surprise, ferns! It's not a bad idea to occasionally stop admiring the trees and check out the ground.

Finding suitable understorey plants for rainforest gardens can be a challenge as many shrubby plants tend to get leggy in the shade. A protective cover for the soil is essential. Enter the fern.

Ferns are many and varied and not all are delicate. They can be used for edging garden beds, binding the soil on banks, as feature plants or as ground covers, and the list goes on. The well-known ones in most native gardens would be the basket ferns, epiphytic staghorns and elkhorns, and probably treeferns. My little creek has a natural population of treeferns which are steadily multiplying now their habitat has been stabilised.

The big epiphytes will grow a lot faster with a regular light spray of water but will still grow quite well if the aspect is correct. Check out the dominant direction for your rainfall. Any naturally growing plants in our area are on the south-east facing side of the host trees, along with a varied array of lichens.

At the other end of the size scale, the common maidenhair *Adiantum aethiopicum* is exceptionally hardy in a dry shaded position, doesn't mind being divided with a spade, and makes a delightful frothy edge to a shrubbery. It resents total shade so tends to remain as a sizeable edge plant. So long as the wiry rhizomes remain cool and protected under the mulch, water doesn't seem to be an important issue. The rough maidenhair *Adiantum hispidulum* is a tough widespread fern which has attractive pink new fronds and does best in a semi-protected position. It's often found as individual clumps on slopes or against old exposed tree roots. I'm trying it as a ground cover under the canopy of a large *Homolanthus populifolius* and don't expect it to need any water once established. Unfortunately mistflower tends to favour the same habitat and will out-compete it, but once the mistflower has gone, this fern can become a single species carpet in selected areas. *Doodia aspera*, the prickly rasp fern, is another hardy fern with bright pink or red new fronds. It will grow in large colonies and will tolerate root competition and also more exposure.

Another exceptionally hardy and larger species is binung *Christella dentata* which has a short creeping rhizome and grows into rounded spreading tussocks. This one is naturally colonising our steep dry slopes, mostly in at least light shade. It also grows on the edge of a road gutter so additional plants have been added to the recently cleared road embankment. It should establish well during the cooler months. Its final purpose will be to hold the bank, form an attractive visual edge for the rainforest trees planted on top of the bank, and eventually spread under them. *Blechnum nudum* is another tall fern which favours moist sheltered situations.

A narrow edging of what is possibly giant brake, a *Pteris*, has developed along the top of a gully after a 2-3 metre high lantana wall was removed. The relatively tall clumps do not appear to be spreading back among the trees where native forest grass dominates the understorey but are definitely out-competing the annual weeds along the edge. It will need watching in case it becomes too vigorous for the ornamental garden, but I just love it when nature does my landscaping for me!

CJP 'Mark I' Rap Up

Ed Surman

The first Community Jobs Plan project, partnered by the State Government's Department of Employment and Training, the Hinterland Business Centre and Barung Landcare, has come to an end ... and what a precedence did it set!

Throughout the seventeen-week project, there were many positive achievements.

The environmental outcomes are the easiest to measure and quantify. A massive 27 m³ of weed propagules (mostly Madeira vine tubers) were removed from sites along the Obi. 1990 native plants were planted and cared for by the dedicated crew of willing workers, thousands of plants tubed up or potted on in the nursery, and weeding and general nursery work was carried out. The reveg team brush-cut, weeded, and sprayed thousands of square metres of revegetation sites.

Community outcomes are noteworthy. The CJP team, along with the army of volunteers, provided the backbone for the huge task that is the Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Expo. CJP participants not only worked for weeks to set up and pull down this nationally renowned event, but also came in over the weekend and volunteered at the Barung tent, imparting the wealth of environmental and land management practices they had learnt throughout their project. In fact, one of the aspects of this team that made working with them so rewarding was listening to them engage the public, informing passers-by about what and why they were doing what they were doing. The whole team acted as ambassadors for landcare, raising awareness of the issues affecting our natural heritage. The team helped a range of community organisations such as the Bellthorpe Progress Association, the Maleny & Districts RSL, Mooloolah Waterwatch, and the Genesis land foundation.

There were also a lot of personal benefits for all involved. Friendships were formed, the team worked together very well, consistently displaying the ability to accept and value each other's differences. We learnt about our strengths and weakness, we inspired and encouraged each other. The attitude displayed by all participants made work a fun and enjoyable experience. One of the benchmarks for success for CJP projects is the employment outcomes. We are happy to report over half the team has gained employment or is going on to further studies. Well done team!

Barung Landcare would like to thank the Department of Employment and Training, the Hinterland Business Centre and all of the community groups that provided us with meaningful work. And last but not least, thank you to the team that has created a lasting impression: Dee Dent, Valerie Martin, Daniel Wicker, Leon Shingles, Zoë Jung, Tara, Donald Greenfield, Jeff Scott, Keith Hickman, Gaby Luft and Steve McLeish.

The State of the Region ...

... continued from page 16

Catchments. Our Regional Investment Strategies (RIS) will remain distinct till the end of 2005, and a new combined RIS will be developed for next year.

Mooloolah Landslip – An extensive landslip in the upper Mooloolah catchment is now being addressed by Mooloolah Waterwatch & Landcare. Through an NLP grant the group is coordinating a stakeholder response and monitoring the stream during rain events.

Would you like FUNDING ASSISTANCE for an ON-GROUND PROJECT?

Barung is building a database of landholders interested in accessing funding to undertake on-ground works on their own properties.

If you would like to be included on this database, please complete the Expression of Interest form included in this newsletter and return it to Barung as soon as you can.

The three regional bodies in this area (BMRG, NRMSEQ and SEQWCG), through which federal funding from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and National Action Plan for Salinity

and Water Quality (NAPSWQ) for on-ground projects will be devolved, have now completed their investment plans and strategies. The next phase is on-ground implementation in line with these strategies.

It is possible that not all projects will be eligible for funding, or that we will receive too many EOIs to be able to assist everyone. Projects most likely to be funded will be those in line with targets outlined in the regional plans.

Please ring Mim on 5499 9514 if you have any queries.

Weeds on the Obi

Ed Surman

Recent events in Maleny have seen the community's passions for our creek as stirred up as turbid water after an excavator digs footings in the riparian zone. Cries of 'platypus need protecting', 'what about the coast's drinking water?' and 'what about our community?' have been the topic of conversation in the coffee shops along Maple Street.

These are all valid concerns, but let's not forget that the Obi has an insidious threat which has been growing and spreading steadily over the years – a menace that threatens all the ecological values that we are used to our magical creek system providing. So what is this threat?

Weeds, weeds and more weeds – Madeira vine *Anrederia cordifolia*, morning glory vine *Ipomoea indica* and cats claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati*. I call these weeds 'transformer species'. They modify the micro-climate where they grow, mostly by smothering the natural vegetation, killing the canopy, and letting sunlight bring in secondary weeds, thereby destroying the ecological integrity of the sites they infest.

Both weeds and development can threaten water quality, habitat and soil stability. As a community we feel the threat to our sense of place. So how do we exercise our responsibility to nurture and shape the surroundings in which we live?

Both issues require all parts of the community to come together, to act and take their full share of responsibility. Landholders, Barung Landcare, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group and other community groups, with the assistance of volunteers and local, state and Federal governments, have been working on weeds in the Obi Obi Creek system for more than a decade.

If you are driven by a passion for our local creek then you are invited to give Barung a call on 5494 3151 and register your interest to be involved in a once-a-month 'Obi Weeds' working party to tackle the weed issue in our precious creek system. If you have four hours a month to invest in our local environment, please call and register. You will receive training and you will make a difference, have a social time and the chance to channel your passion back into the earth in a productive and rewarding way.

I would like to congratulate and thank the team of volunteers that removed 0.7 m³ of Madeira vine from a development site on the Obi. Well done! Your efforts and passion for the creek are inspirational. I for one am proud to live in such a community.

About your Chainsaw Certificate

If you obtained your Chainsaw Certificate before January 2002, you will receive a lifetime certificate when you renew.

Sidewinder tree injection kit available for hire

Caloundra City Council have supplied Barung with a sidewinder tree injection kit (for killing woody weeds such as privet and camphor laurel) to hire out to landholders. The minimal hire fee (\$5.00 per day) covers the cost of replacing batteries and drill bits. Landholders supply their own Glyphosate. Barung staff provide training in the safe and correct way to use this tool.

To book the sidewinder and training, please call Barung on 5494 3151 a few days before you want to pick it up.

Workshops and Tours

Barung Landcare runs courses like these fairly regularly. Ring the Barung Office on 5494 4005 to register your interest in an upcoming course, so we can proceed with planning.

Chainsaw Levels 1 & 2 (accredited training for chainsaw safety & maintenance) – courses usually run quarterly

Sidewinder (herbicide injection system) – training run according to interest/numbers

ACDC - Agricultural Chemical Distribution Course (accredited training; required for using chemicals on public land and for contractors using chemicals) – courses run according to interest/numbers

Climate and Weather Management (using information about weather forecasts, seasonal outlooks and the SOI to reduce the risks to the producer from climate variability) – seeking expressions of interest to initiate

Recycling Tour (free of charge by the Caloundra City Council – find out what happens to your waste and how to reduce landfill) – seeking expressions of interest to initiate.

Do you have weed trees?

We need sites for the hands-on component of Barung's regular Chainsaw Level 1 and 2 courses. (All Chainsaw Course participants are fully covered by the trainer's insurance.) *This is a great opportunity to fell weed trees on your property!*

Sites must:

1. have weed trees for removal (slash pine, broad-leaved privet, camphor laurel, Chinese elm etc.)
2. be relatively flat – less than 20 degree slope
3. be away from power lines
4. have reasonable access.

To discuss your site, ring Bob Collins on 0414 770 882.

Landcare in the Philippines - Update

by John Muir

After my previous 5-year Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) funded project on Landcare in the Philippines and SEQld Horticulture finished with Barung in June last year, I took up a position with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in the Philippines.

CRS was a new partner in a second phase of the Landcare in Philippines program, this time funded by AUSAID and USAID. I was employed as their in-country Agri-NRM adviser to help set up their new Landcare project, based in the city of Davao in the conflict-embattled island of Mindanao in the south.

After my family joined me over Xmas it became apparent it was not safe for us to raise a young family, with bombs in local bus stations, kidnapping and hostage-taking and terrorist warfare ongoing with the government. So after nine months I have returned to Maleny to take on a new inter-Regional Landcare Co-ordinator position based at Barung again. One good outcome of my leaving is that it has really left it up to the Filipinos to develop their own version of Landcare in the Philippines after five years of capacity-building from our previous project.

Many other international funding agencies and non-government organisations are now also looking at Landcare as an approach in addressing sustainable agriculture and community NRM issues in developing countries. For example a large USDAID project I also advised on for CRS had a significant Landcare component in its implementation. And the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is also looking at Landcare in Indonesian Central Sulawesi projects presently, to link with the Philippines Landcare program.

To address the long term sustainability issues of landcare in the Philippines, the Landcare Foundation of the Philippines Incorp was established over two years ago. It came about with Spanish Government Aid funds of \$250,000 being deposited into a Landcare Trust Fund, with the annual interest earnings utilised for Landcare projects. Ms Aurora Laotoco (Au Au), the Executive Director, was one of the previous Landcare Co-ordinators on the Landcare project and has visited Barung several times now. As none of the Trust funds could be used for capital items, the Foundation requested Barung to sponsor the purchase of a computer for the Foundation's new office (see photo of Au Au and Sam).

A local Landcare group (now one of over 400), Lantapan Landcare also requested Barung to assist with the building of a Landcare Training Centre. \$500 was donated towards its completion (see photo). All the labour was done by local Landcare members.

Barung's involvement in this International Landcare project, and the many international visitors, networks and contacts made through the project, provide a good footing for Barung moving into future developments of International Landcare. (Please see also the accompanying article by Barung Committee member John Wightman for a potential 'Expression of Interest' by members in such International Landcare activities and prospects.)



Top: John Muir with Mr Gliceto Butch Dagondon, President, Landcare Foundation of the Philippines.

Above: Ms Aurora Laotoco (Au Au), Executive Director of the Landcare Foundation of the Philippines, and Project Officer Mr Sam Jumawid with computer sponsored by Barung Landcare.



Right: Members of the Lantapan Landcare Association at their Landcare Training Centre, built with financial assistance from Barung Landcare.



Australian Rainforest Conservation Society Inc.

Annual Appeal

Australia is among the top ten countries in the world with respect to the diversity of its plants and animals. For the past 23 years, the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society (ARCS) has been striving to preserve that diversity through the protection of our rainforests and other native forests.

ARCS is a non-profit, non-government incorporated organisation. While the Society receives small grants from the Australian and Queensland Governments, it is fundamentally dependent for its survival on donations from its members and the public.

All donations are used to support the Society's conservation activities, including research, field surveys, submissions, public campaigns and lobbying. Donations to the Society's Rainforest Conservation Fund are tax-deductible under Australian taxation regulations. **Make your donation online now by credit card, or mail a cheque to ARCS.**

More info: www.rainforest.org.au
Ph: (07) 3368 1318
Post: 19 Colorado Av, Bardon Qld 4065

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Mark Fentiman Dental Surgery
Lilyponds Holiday Park
Frasers' Selection
Mulchmakers
Maleny Motor Trimmers

Barung International Landcare

Your Landcare Group Needs YOU

John Wightman

Many members of the wider Barung Landcare Community are aware our sphere of influence extends well beyond the Sunshine Coast and Hinterland. Maleny receives many visitors each year and many find their way to Barung. Some just wander in and look around the nursery. Others come deliberately to learn more about a 'conservation group' that walks and talks at the same time. This they do by chatting to whomsoever is around while others receive more formal indoctrination into the meaning of Landcare and what Landcare groups can do. Some of these people come from overseas. But it goes further than that.

Someone who certainly walks and talks at the same time is John Muir. He was deeply involved for five years in a successful landcare operation in upland villages in Mindanao, the Philippines, during 1999-2004. This was a project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. It is now regarded, internationally, as a landmark in the evolution of bilaterally managed agricultural development projects. The community engagement characteristic of the landcare approach gave the farm families immediate ownership of proposed changes. This was seen by people in the Philippines and in Australia to be a much more effective means of implementing change than the more normal 'top down' modalities of agricultural development projects. When the project ended in June 2004, there were more than 4230 families in 400 Landcare groups across the three project sites on Mindanao Island. The message from them was 'give us more!'

The outcome is that AusAID and other international donors have agreed to support the expansion of this initiative so that it can extend the lessons learned in the 'research' phase, in which principles of engagement were established, to a much wider implementation exercise.

The thought in Barung is that there may be other people living in Barung's people catchment area who can contribute significantly to agricultural and rural development in Asia and the Pacific Nations. Some people already have experience working in less developed countries and some have accumulated experience in Australia and would like to apply it overseas. Others may just want to give something of themselves to people who have very little.

At this stage, the Barung Management Committee has: 1) a blank screen, 2) an International Working Group, and 3) a chicken and egg situation. Do we look for projects or parts of projects we can link to and look for people to fill them? Or do we define our human resource and then try to find project profiles to fit it? As is normal in life we shall probably do a little of both at the same time. Barung could certainly make an impact in Pacific communities, and there is some manoeuvring going on in that direction. At the same time, we need to accumulate an impression of the people who might be able to contribute to such projects.

Another pressing question: when can/do we move and establish our own educational and accommodation facility for running Landcare courses? We certainly hope that this will be a more prominent aspect of Barung's future activities. Again, for this, we need a cadre of experienced people to act as tutors.

At this very early stage we would like to know of anyone who is interested in participation. *(Continued next column).*

Please let us know - briefly, and with no commitment on either side - if you are interested in joining Barung's International Landcare team, indicating whether:

- you have previous experience of working in a developing country and what it was
- you have experience you feel might be of value in an overseas development project.
- you feel you have no specialist experience but would like to 'learn as you go'
- you could contribute as a tutor to Landcare training courses on topics relevant to the needs of overseas people and in which subject areas you can help.

Consider whether you are thinking in terms of offering yourself for a long period of work overseas (6 months, 3 years), or for periods of weeks at a time.

Send to Barung, by email, fax, or snail mail, or hand, a written expression of your interest, or contact John Wightman on 5429 6550 or at intipm@ipmmaleny.com

Limited opportunities = Confused students

A TRAINEE'S TALE by Jake Smith-Moloney

Hello readers, it's time for another instalment of my regular newsletter contribution.

The topic of this article is devoted to all the students currently studying to complete their Year 12 assignments and tests. A long time ago (in a galaxy far, far away), I finished High School and I had an extremely vague idea of the direction I wanted to head in. With a general interest in both science and ecology I decided to pursue further education in the form of a BSc Environmental Science Degree. This in turn led me towards Green Corps and onto my traineeship at Barung. And now I reckon my occupational position couldn't get much better. I love my job!

My point is that I knew the general direction I wanted to head in at the end of High School, and this has paid off.

As the class of 2005 prepare to graduate, they need to know about exciting avenues for the future, so I am going to approach Maleny State High School to see if I can talk to interested students about my experiences in tertiary education and environmental work. I will determine whether there is any interest in environmental occupations, and hope to encourage such interests through discussion and education about local environmental issues.

I would also like to approach local environmental employers about taking on High School graduates and creating opportunities for work and/or training in their fields of expertise. Encouraging programs such as Green Corps and promoting the advantages of local traineeships and apprenticeships may increase local youth involvement in the community and perhaps help stem the mass exodus of High School graduates from small towns to the big city as they seek increased opportunities for work and tertiary education.

As always, I am contactable at Barung most of the time during the week but you can also email me at Ze_Bacon@hotmail.com if you have any comments or ideas to help me out. By the time you are reading this I will have completed the first full year of my traineeship, woo hoo! Hope I can continue on at the same pace and finish within the next two years or so. Until next time, try to keep warm and enjoy this winter.

Pararistolochia praevenosa

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Pararistolochia praevenosa is a large woody, multi-stemmed vine found in subtropical lowland (<600 m) rainforests on basaltic slopes, creek banks and volcanic alluvial soils bordering streams.

Its big claim to fame is as a host plant for the beautiful Richmond birdwing butterfly. This vine was once found in lowland subtropical rainforest from Grafton to Hervey Bay. With clearing of the rainforest (less than 1% remains), the butterfly, once common in Brisbane, disappeared from much of its range. Only small remnants of lowland rainforest remain, generally on creek banks near Yandina, Nambour, Mapleton, Palmwoods, Maleny, Peachester, Neurem, Woodford, Beerburum and Mt Mee.

During the 1990s, the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Project saw the planting of thousands of vines in gardens, schools and revegetation projects in south-east Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales in an attempt to stabilise and link populations of the butterfly.

Young shoots, petioles, and very young leaves of *Pararistolochia praevenosa* are densely covered in velvety brown hairs. As they age, the leaves become quite rough on the upper surface, while retaining the velvety feel to the lower surface. Mature leaves are quite stiff and rough with conspicuously reticulate venation, and with sparse brown hairs on the petioles and veins of the lower surface. Leaves are ovate to elliptic in shape, and can vary greatly in size from 7-25 cm long by 2.5-8 cm wide. Mature leaves are dark green, while young leaves are somewhat lighter and shiny. The base of the petiole extends into a horizontal ridge which runs three quarters of the way around the stem.

The 2 cm long tubular flowers are not particularly showy, but are interesting with their unusual shape and yellow, purple and brown colouration. They are pollinated by tiny midges which are associated with leaf litter and which are attracted by the flower's odour. The 3-4 cm long fleshy fruits are oblong to ovoid, ribbed, and orange or yellow when mature. They contain many heart-shaped seeds, each approximately 7 mm across.

Richmond birdwing caterpillars need a large amount of vine for their food requirements. Very young leaves are poisonous to them, and older leaves are too tough, so it's important to have colonies of vines to support the butterflies. Easy to achieve in established revegetation sites, it is still helpful to plant vines individually in gardens. Around Maleny where many vines are growing naturally, every extra vine helps to extend and link the areas available for butterflies. We have had caterpillars on plants in the nursery!

The Richmond Birdwing Conservation Project gives the following advice for growing Richmond birdwing vines:

- Good drainage (preferably slope) is essential. Large tubs are an excellent way of growing the vines when ground conditions are not suitable.
- Semi-shade or a sheltered position is preferred.
- Vines need good mulching and frequent watering during dry periods.
- Regular doses (every 3 months) of slow-release fertilizer are recommended.
- A support structure for the vine is needed – either another plant or trellis.
- Plant vines no closer than one metre from the base of another plant, to minimise competition for nutrients and moisture.

They also recommend planting out from a minimum pot size of 14 cm, as in their experience tubestock struggle to survive.

Richmond birdwing vine

NURSERY SPECIAL - Barung Nursery will have *P. praevenosa* plants available in 14 cm pots during August and September at \$5.50 ea (normally \$6.60).

Pararistolochia praevenosa at the Obi Partnership remnant. [Wayne Webb]



A Richmond birdwing caterpillar on a potted vine at the Barung Nursery. [Wayne Webb]

Planters keep on planting

NURSERY NOTES by Wayne Webb

What a change from last winter. The continuing showery weather has meant plenty of moisture in the ground. Regular tree planters are still coming in for stock. Many say they normally wouldn't plant at this time of year, but their existing trees are still actively growing so they're prepared to take a chance on planting a few more. Just be careful in frosty areas; winter is by no means over.

Spring looks like being a really busy time in the nursery. Greg and Ed both have large projects coming up, in the vicinity of 20,000 plants. So we're trying to squeeze as much as we can into our little nursery and looking at growing-on stock off site. Thanks to Joan (nursery sub-committee) and John Dillon, who have taken a load of tubestock over to their shade house at Hunchy.

Greg's seed collection walks haven't been yielding much of late – the result of the dry summer. Greg reports, however, that some species are coming into flower early, so hopefully this spring/summer will be good for seed collecting. The native olive *Olea paniculate* is cropping heavily at the moment. Remember, we need our members with remnant vegetation to watch out for seed. Please label any seed donations with your name, species name, location and date, and include a small branch to verify identification. Please drop in and see us if you aren't sure about collecting seed. Watch for these over the next couple of months – *Acronychia*, *Rhodospiera*, *Cryptocarya erythroxylon*, *Argyrodendron actinophyllum*, *Aryteria divaricate*, *Mischocarpus anodontus*.

We're renovating our cutting propagation benches. Our old bench was looking a bit the worse for wear, with uneven heating. So out went the sand then our resident handyman, Max Smith, set to work with the rust converter and oxide paint to give the bench a new lease on life. He then made up a new frame to carry the heating cable, I've sorted out the mist plumbing, so with some clean gravel it will soon be back in use. We have also modified the bench that volunteer Andrew Mahon made up for us last year, so we will soon have two propagation benches in full operation. This will allow us to grow more groundcover and small shrub species, and try some of those harder to propagate tree species such as *Backhousia citriodora*.

Remember, members are always welcome to help in the nursery. Drop in and see us if you feel you have some time to spare.

Who is the farmer?

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

by Jackie Montgomery

Primary producers are an important aspect of our landscape, an important part of the Australian economy, and have a vital job growing the food we eat each day. Some of you may remember the stickers that said 'Thank a farmer for your next meal'.

These days you don't find farmers walking around town in their gumboots, or driving around in tractors (unless you are stuck behind one on the road!). So how would you know a farmer when you saw one? There used to be so many in the area. At one time all the landholders in the Maleny district were farmers – dairy farmers. They were the original community.

I'm very fortunate with my role at Barung. I've been out and about talking to our local dairy farmers – we've been getting to know one another. It is great to get to know those who spend most of their life on the land and produce the goods to feed Australia's non-farming community. I've heard it said that there is a 'them and us' mentality when it comes to the farming community and the rest of the population, but I tend to disagree. Personally, I think it is more to do with living different lifestyles and a lack of communication between many sectors of our now semi-rural/suburban community. Building friendships and good communication are so important in every community.

Here's a story of a day in the life of a Maleny dairy farm. Farms and farmers are not all the same. Larger dairy farms will have to put in longer hours and will often have more than one worker.

A Dairy Farmer's Day

Garry Martin is a local dairy farmer. He works a small dairy farm of 83 acres and agists 40 acres of the adjoining property. There are between 60 and 70 cows to milk of a morning and evening. The cows need milking 7 days a week.

5.30 am (ish): Milking, feeding, preparation. Cows are mustered and brought to the milking shed. Mothers with very young calves are separated from the rest of the herd and put in the calf pen so the calves can feed. Eight milking machines milk eight cows at a time. Firstly udders are washed, and then the milking cups are placed on them. As one set of cows finish another set is brought in. Once all milking is completed, the machines are rinsed out and the shed is hosed out. The larger calves are given molasses and grain in a trough. Electric fences in the strip-grazing area are moved.

8.30 am (ish): Breakfast at last.

Between milking: This is the time for general farm maintenance work. Work includes fence maintenance, machinery maintenance, cleaning up creeks, weed removal, and putting fertilisers on the pasture if it looks like rain. The milk truck comes every other day to pick up milk for processing.

3 pm: Time for milking again.

6 pm (ish): The working day is usually finished.

A relief milker comes in to milk the cows if Garry is sick, away or goes on holiday. Most of the time he does the work himself. The fresh air, being one's own boss and the healthy lifestyle makes dairy farming an enjoyable job in Garry's eyes. His wife has a job off the farm. Milk prices have been low for many years, but this farmer feels there is a future in dairying – prices have to pick up soon because demand will outgrow the supply, and too many farmers are leaving dairying.

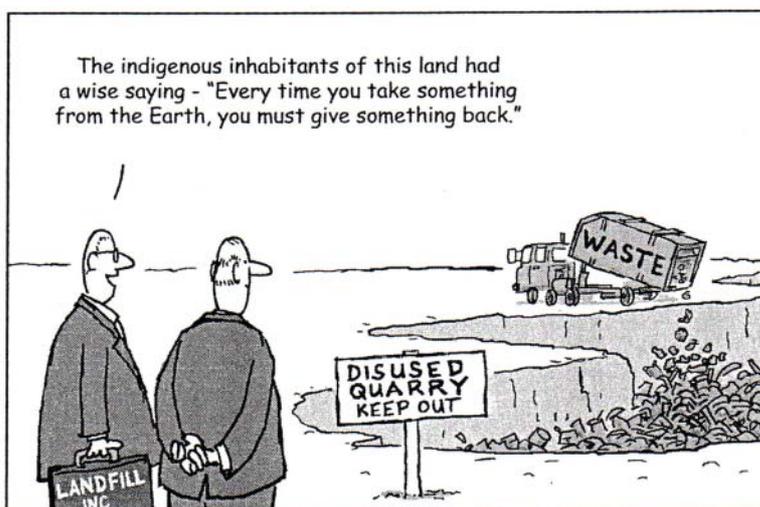


LET'S GET TOGETHER

- Meet others
- Share knowledge
- Work together
- Participate
- Support each other
- Have fun!

JOIN OUR
ENVIRONMENTAL
DISCUSSION GROUP

Phone Barung to find out more!



By Chris Madden from his recent book *The Beast that Ate The Earth*

Thank You to ...

... *Trevor Carbury* for donating prize money won at the Caloundra Show

... *Eve Witney* for making the Admin Procedures Manual more user-friendly

... *Leon Shingles* for fixing our urn

... *Irene Keaton, Sue Jenkins* and *Keith Hickman* for attending Barung's display at the Caloundra Show

... *Peter Brunton, Juanita Anderson, Gaby Luft, Christine Liebergreen, Max Smith, Penny Smith* and *Heather Spring* for moving the Expo Office

... *Val Phillips* for feeding the troops, on more than one occasion!

... *Colin Phillips, Valmai Phillips, Max Smith, Marion Adamson, Madee Sommers, Noel Denning, Patrick Cavanaugh, Shanyin Todd* and *Jake Smith-Moloney* for the June/July Barung Newsletter mailout.

Letters

Thanks to team for Wood Expo effort

Dear Barung Landcare Team,

We thank you for the huge team effort which you perform each year at the Wood Expo.

We appreciate the qualities that bring so many people together to produce such a fine community event.

Thanks!

Gillian Pechey, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

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ERECTORS WANTED!

Barung needs people able and willing to be called on to erect the Barung spider tent and to help set up and take down displays. This may be for Barung events, such as Landcare Week, the AGM and social events, or at shows.

The Tent: It takes six to ten people to set up/pull down the Barung spider tent. The tent is large and heavy and needs fit people to defeat it. A fit group who has experience (which you only gain through practice!) would need about ½ hour to set up or pull down the spider tent.

Displays: Putting up/pulling down displays is not as arduous, especially static displays that need not be attended.

We usually have advance warning for when the tent is needed. But we do not always have staff on hand to help. Signing up doesn't mean you would have to set up/pull down every time. It just means you will be on our list as someone we can contact to see if you are available.

Anyone interested in any of the above should contact BARUNG ADMIN on 5494 3151.

Opportunities & Events

Sustainable Futures and Resilient Communities:

The Gondwana Centre, a non-profit ecological adult learning centre in south-east Queensland, is hosting a 5-day multidisciplinary dialogue-based forum – a Courageous Conversation – with key policy makers, government representatives, industry players, community and environmental activists and emerging leaders. Participants are challenged to critically review the current sustainability paradigm and create alternative visions of sustainability that are socially equitable and environmentally sustainable.

Where: The Gondwana Centre, Binna Burra

When: 22-26 August 2005

More info: www.gondwanacentre.org.au

Contact: Dr Sally MacKinnon

Ph: 5533 3646

Email: safehaven@austarnet.com.au

Big Scrub Rainforest Day

Big Scrub Rainforest Day is an annual event celebrating our care for and restoration of the environment. Attracting over 4000 people, the celebration starts at 7 am with bird watching walks and continues until 4 pm with a program of over fifty presentations, workshops, guided walks and performances for landcarers and their families.

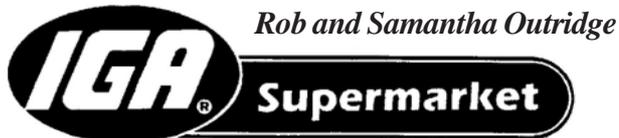
When: Sunday 4 September

Where: Rocky Creek Dam, in from Byron Bay

Admission: Entry by gold coin (all activities free)

More info: www.rainforestrescue.org.au

Ph: (02) 6627 0120

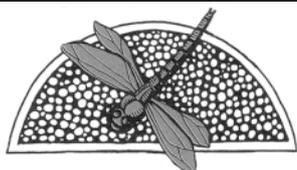


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Fruits of Death ...

... continued from page 16

specialise to the consumption of highly toxic plants you often have very little competition. The specialist adaptations of the Richmond birdwing, however, have left it very vulnerable. The loss of its specific food plant to habitat clearance has been a major blow, but on a more sinister level the introduction of a South American vine species Dutchman's pipe *Aristolochia elegans* has been its greatest threat. *A. elegans* is related to our local birdwing food plants but contains much higher levels of toxins – ironically, the same toxins that attract the Richmond birdwing in the first place! The butterflies lay their eggs on this vine but the caterpillars soon succumb to the higher levels of toxins.

So far we have mainly discussed (very briefly) the chemical defences of plants against herbivores. The protection of their leaves and stems from the greedy herbivores is understandable, but what about fruit – surely they wouldn't be poisonous when they need to be eaten, to be dispersed? Or would they?

Birds and mammals are the main seed dispersers and both groups of animals have quite different digestive systems. Birds are often better seed dispersers because their digestive systems allow seeds to pass through quickly and unharmed. Many birds also appear to have developed greater tolerances or immunity to fruit toxins as opposed to many mammals that are a better guide to us as to what is and isn't edible.

Generally we can taste what is all right to eat in regard to fruit, but this is not always the case. Fruits such as those of white cedar *Melia azederach*, chain fruit *Alyxia ruscifolia* or tie bush *Wikstroemia indica* don't taste too bad at all from personal experience, but apparently are listed as poisonous. Even more insidious is the finger cherry *Rhodomyrtus macrocarpa* of north Queensland. Its tasty fruit are documented as causing blindness when consumed, but it is possible a fungus present on the skin of the fruit may cause this injury.

To add more confusion to the issue many fruit that are apparently edible, taste – well let's be honest – awful! Native grapes *Cissus sp.* are extremely astringent and to my mind are far from edible but it is quite likely that birds do not even detect this discomfort and the astringency merely acts to speed the travel of the seed through the bird's gut, preventing digestion of the seed.

In finishing I hope I haven't left you all feeling that our native forests are full of 'poisonous potential', with toxic fruit ready to jump down your throat at every bend in the trail, or stinging tree leaves waiting in ambush! After all your average domestic exotic garden can be a far more dangerous place with a whole suite of garden plants that you take for granted being extremely toxic! Plant poisons are in fact a part of life. Without them the herbivores would know no limits and deserts would be our domain. Hmmm, 'limits' ... now there's an interesting concept for us humans ...

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Poison in Paradise or Fruits of Death!

TURKEY TANGENTIAL by Spencer Shaw

What a dramatic and attention-grabbing headline! There's nothing quite like a bit of fear to bring out the voyeur within. Given the recent removal of a white cedar tree from a park in Maleny, I think however it may be timely to look at some of our poisonous plants.

Over the millennia, plants have evolved various means to stop us greedy herbivores and omnivores getting too carried away and eating them all into oblivion. Some are prickly – such as the tendrils of lawyer cane *Calamus muelleri*, some are hairy – such as the fruit of foam bark *Jagera pseudorhus*, some are tough – such as the leaves of *Wilkea macrophylla*, and some are ... poisonous!

Well actually most if not all plants have developed some form of chemical defence system. Take many of the leafy vegetables we eat, such as spinach or silverbeet. Their leaves are laced with

oxalic acid, an irritant that is removed when we dispose of the water we cook them in.

Quite often survival comes down to the tolerance and adaptation that animals develop to the range of chemicals that plants defend themselves with. For example 1080 or sodium fluoroacetate is a chemical commonly used for poisoning feral animals in Australia. It also occurs naturally as a defence chemical in some Australian plants and consequently many of our native herbivores have developed varying degrees of tolerance to it.

Another interesting example of a specialist plant-animal relationship is that of the Richmond birdwing butterfly and its host plant. The Richmond birdwing *Ornithoptera richmondia* has evolved with its local food plant *Pararistolochia praevenosa* the Richmond birdwing vine. The vine *P. praevenosa* has a powerful chemical arsenal that keeps most other herbivores away, but the Richmond birdwing has developed a high level of tolerance to these chemicals and its caterpillars can feed on the new growth. This degree of specialisation by plant and animal has many advantages. For the plant, its toxicity allows only specialist herbivores to feed upon it; for the animal, if you can adapt and

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