

December 2004 - January 2005

The Tree Plant that Broke the Drought!

Trish Brunton and Mim Coulstock

Well, they thought Barung was crazy, planting 1000 trees on Sunday 17 October in conjunction with our AGM at Peter and Trish Brunton's property out at Curramore. And as we stocked up on beer and cold drinks in preparation for a hot day working in the sun, we thought they might be right.



This was after five months of dry, and the Bruntons were a little worried at the thought of hand-watering all those trees for who knew how long? But in the days just before, the black cockatoos flew over calling out (what we hoped was) a good forecast.

However, Sunday dawned grey and overcast and Barung members and friends began arriving. This crew knew what they were doing and the trees were soon put to bed in the ground, tucked in with mulch and watered from the dam. A demonstration by CVM (Complete Vegetation Management) of turning a patch of lantana into mulch kept us all enthralled before we retired for a gourmet lunch catered by Maple '3'.

As the meeting progressed during the afternoon, the temperature dropped, the chilly wind blew, the sky lowered. The AGM was chaired by returning President Lin Fairlie, supported by Kate Fraser, Heather Spring and Trish Brunton on the Executive Committee. Councillor Dick Newman welcomed on board to the Management Committee new members Bob Hall, Eric Anderson, Bridget Sparks and John Wightman, and returning stalwart Clay Stokoe.

Thank you to our guest speakers Peter Oliver, Noel Vock and Paul Marshall. Peter brought the house down with his insightful observations of partnerships in natural resource management (NRM), gleaned through years of working in the sector at all levels. Noel gave a wonderful wrap-up and overview of the Farmcare / International Landcare Project in which he participated on behalf of DPI, and the role of organisations such as Barung in taking Landcare into the international arena. Paul brought us up to speed with developments in Queensland Water and Land Carers, the peak body for all groups involved in natural resource management. Congratulations to the 2004 Phil Jacobs Farm Forestry Award winner, Laurie Capill, for his ongoing contributions to sustainable timber production and trees in the landscape.

Congratulations also to the co-winners of the 2004 Land Restoration Award, Craig Hosmer and Daryl Reinke, and Rod and Loma Carter and family (see article on page 9). Many thanks to Ashley Sewell and David Linton Furniture for making the beautiful trophies.

Formalities over and we were all swapping beer for hot drinks and talking of going home and lighting our fires. As the last person left, the clouds rolled in and then drizzle turned to rain, and for the next few days showers and storms plus the cooler weather favoured the trees that have never looked back.

Our thanks to everyone who turned up and helped, and to those who were there in spirit; to the gods who smiled on us all; to Ashton Berry of Burnett Mary Regional Group who paid for our gourmet lunch; and Caloundra Council and MRCCC for subsidising the costs of trees and mulch.

And so, another step is achieved in revegetating the catchment of the Mary River.



IN THIS ISSUE

Barung AGM & Treeplant breaks the drought!	1
From our President	2
New Members	2
Nursery wins SCEC Biodiversity Award	3
Farewell Marc Russell	3
Maleny Wood Expo 10 th Anniversary in 2005	5
Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Strategy	6
State of the Regional Groups	7, 8
Welcome to new staff Katrina & Eve	8
Butterflies of the Range	9
Barung Land Restoration Award winners	9
Nursery Notes, Plant Profile	10
Contracting Services - Lantana Control	11
CCC war on weedy vines	11
Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden	12
The Ornamental Garden	12
A Trainee's Tale	12
Envirofund Projects and funding deadline	13
Thank you to	14
Letters	15
Turkey tangential	16, 15

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Barry Liddell)

Terry & Jen Sternberg	Jenny & Rod Keys
Jacki & Sean Hinchey	Zoe McNally
Heather Armstrong	Mike Bugler
Sharon Cosgrove	Philip & Maria Yabsley
Robyn Graham	Brendan Stephen
Amy Wearne	Andrea Owtrim
Tony & Louise Barker	Kerry May
John & Glenda McCaw	Len & Margaret Hawker
Graham & Margo Rattey	Katrina Shields
Beth Scott	Philip & Jennifer Holden
Eve Beaman	Rosalind Woodward
M Bell	Josef Prodingler
Mal & Lyn Woodruff	

WELCOME BACK

Des Cosgrove	D & J Mannix
Sammy Ringer	Margaret Rutherford

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

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

When your business supports Barung Landcare, you will be acknowledged in the bimonthly *Barung Landcare News* (700 distribution) and at Barung displays, and you are entitled to three free trees and discounts on plant purchases at the Nursery.

NOTE: If your cheque is made payable to *Landcare Australia Limited*, the donation portion (\$35) is fully tax deductible.

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

Most, if not all, of our members will have welcomed the recent rain which started on the day of the AGM last month. The tree plant was a great success, as was the AGM, except for the cold wind that got up during the afternoon. The wind certainly kept formalities to the bare minimum.

I welcome the new members of the Management Committee – Bob Hall, John Wightman & Eric Anderson – and look forward to working with them and the continuing members – Clayton Stokoe, Bridget Sparkes, Kate Fraser, Trish Brunton & Heather Spring.

It will be a challenging year for Barung as plans to relocate are decided upon. Hopefully some on-ground actions will commence during this coming year. Whatever the choice of new location, Barung will require further input of skills to enable the best plans to be made and executed. This will be a really exciting time and if you feel you can contribute to this important evolutionary stage of Barung, please speak to Mim or one of the Committee.

Barung has pleasure in welcoming a new staff member, Katrina Shields, who is sharing the Coordinator role with Mim so that Mim can concentrate on planning the 10th Anniversary Wood Expo. We will also be welcoming a new revegetation officer in December as Marc leaves to move further north with his family. Many thanks are due to Marc for his contribution to Barung over many years and we will all miss his calm approach, dedication and amazing knowledge of native flora.

Barung is increasingly called upon to represent community views on many natural resource issues in the region. While I acknowledge that this is a way for all levels of government to find out what the community thinks, and while many of the Barung staff and Management Committee do have the required skills to attend meetings and to make these comments, lack of time is the issue. I am a representative on the Caloundra City Council Environment Advisory Committee so if you have any issues which you would like me to raise in that forum, please contact me. The minutes of this committee are distributed to councillors and the mayor and relevant staff so it is a way of raising the profile of issues.

In the past month several documents have been put out into the community for comment. The most important one was the Draft South East Queensland State Planning Policy. In November there was a public forum at the Maleny Showgrounds where the detailed maps were available for viewing. Our local member, Carolyn Male, also has a set of the maps at her office. Individual maps are not available, only the complete set for nearly \$400. This document is very important for the future of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland and at the time of writing only the printed document has been seen. This is also available on the website of the Office of Urban Management. Comments are due by the end of February and we urge people to respond. Copies of the Draft Plan are available for borrowing from the Barung Office.

Other documents are: Protecting Queensland's Waters, Draft Queensland Water Quality Guidelines; Draft State Planning Policy, Protection of Extractive Resources; and the Draft Integrated NRM Plan for South East Queensland. This last document is the regional plan for the area encompassing the coastal strip from Noosa to the NSW border, including the escarpment of the Blackall Range. When this plan is approved, projects will be formulated and dollars may start to flow.

If you are interested in these documents please contact Barung and we can let you know where you can obtain them. You may like to share your comments with us.

Barung Nursery Scoops SCEC Biodiversity Award

Nursery Manager Wayne Webb was proud to accept the Biodiversity Initiative Award at the recent Sunshine Coast Environmental Council annual awards night. Wayne accepted the award on behalf of everyone who has helped the Nursery grow over the past 15 years.

It is hard to estimate the actual impact that the Barung Nursery has had on local biodiversity over these years. Apart from the extraordinary feat of propagating more than 300 species and producing in excess of a million local native plants for home gardens, farm forestry plots and revegetation and regeneration projects on private and public lands, the nursery has provided the venue to inspire hundreds of local landholders to learn more about our local flora and fauna, and take positive steps to restore the health of our catchments.

Congratulations to the hundreds of people who have made the nursery what it is today – our volunteers, staff and management committees over the years.



Barung Reveg & Habitat Officer Marc Russell congratulates Wayne Webb, Nursery Manager, on winning the 2004 Biodiversity Initiative Award.

Our congratulations also to other Hinterland residents recognised at the SCEC awards for outstanding environmental initiatives – Mooloolah Waterwatch & Landcare, Ruth Parnell, Max and Trudi Lindegger, and the Woolworths campaigners.

Farewell Marc - your legacy lives on

Mim Coulstock

Like so many other landholders on the Blackall Range, the first person I met at Barung was Marc Russell. As Barung's Nursery Manager, Marc was the public face for local plants. Marc's incredible love for our local flora and fauna, fostered by his passion for our native forests, inspired me not only to learn more about these plants, but to enrich my life with my own revegetation and bush regeneration projects.

It is only now, nine years later, that I realise just how much his ability and willingness to share his knowledge and passion have influenced both our community and our local landscapes.

When Marc started with Barung as Nursery Manager in early 1996, his seed collecting background meant a huge increase in species diversity in the nursery. After more than three dedicated years building the Nursery (and disappearing on the whiff of a breeze to windsail the coastal waters ...), Marc took up the challenge of 'revegetating the Range' – through projects such as Corridors of Green (persuading more than 25 Bridge Creek landholders to



Our intrepid Reveg Officer sets out to ground-truth the Obi's vegetation maps.

rehabilitate their creeklines, among others), a Threatened Species Network Project and Stage 2 of Barung's NHT Reveg Project.

He has linked and protected remnants, created habitat for our rare and threatened species such as the giant barred frog and Coxen's fig parrot, encouraged countless landholders to join the ranks of Blackall Range revegetators and bush regenerators, and assisted other groups to establish nurseries. His inspiration gave birth to Barung's community 'Bridge the Gap' treeplants – now an annual tradition. The inaugural 'Bridge the Gap' treeplant saw over 500 people planting 4,000 trees in a morning!

And now it's time for him to move on. We wish Marc and his family all the best in the world for their new life and know that Marc's legacy will grow as our creekbank vegetation flourishes.

We invite everyone who has been touched and inspired by Marc's passion to thank him at a farewell party to be held in conjunction with Barung's Xmas party.

ATTENTION!

Barung's Xmas Party

is on Friday 10th December from 2.00 pm at the Resource Centre.

The Nursery will be closed

for the Christmas period from 23 December to 4 January. If you are planning to plant over the New Year, you need to plan ahead! The nursery and office will also be closed on 16 December for a 'think tank' meeting.

DEADLINE - Wed 19th January for February - March 2005 Newsletter contributions

Barung Landcare...



Please let us know of any change of address so we can keep membership data up-to-date.

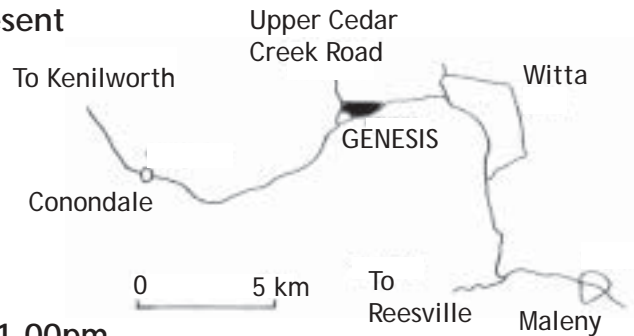
Please renew your memberships - your support is very important to Barung.

THANK YOU

Genesis Foundation & Barung Landcare present

Options for weed control and bush regeneration on steep rural land

Saturday, 11th December 2004, 9.00am to 1.00pm
The Genesis Land, 62 Upper Cedar Creek, Conondale



As part of its weed control and bush regeneration program, the Genesis Foundation invites you to a field day on its 35 hectare property between Witta and Conondale. Foundation benefactor, the late Stewart Sherwin, purchased the property in 1990, with a view to seeing its ecological restoration.

Many rural and rural residential landholders around the Blackall Range and south east Queensland face similar environmental management issues to the Genesis Foundation.

For many years the steep terrain, a well-entrenched host of environmental weeds, a lack of fencing and other infrastructure, and limited human and financial resources have challenged Genesis.

This year an injection of finance, with support from Caloundra City Council, the Australian Government Envirofund and Barung Landcare, is enabling the Foundation to undertake a range of new initiatives to control weeds and reinstate native forest vegetation.

Field day participants will have the opportunity to learn from the work Genesis has undertaken and gain an insight into techniques that can be used to manage their own properties. The field day will address

- landforms, climate, natural vegetation and history of the site
- environmental and economic challenges posed by the weeds lantana, morning glory, crofton weed, mistflower, white moth vine and introduced pasture legumes
- previous attempts to manage weeds and restore ecological conditions, and the variable outcomes achieved
- current and proposed initiatives.

*Bookings are essential. If you wish to attend this or future field days, please contact **Barung** on 5494 3151. For more information on Genesis and our environmental restoration activities, please contact Laurie on 5494 1923.*

Calling for Wootha Prize entries

There's still time to enter the second national WOOTHY PRIZE woodworking competition, with the theme of 'a Sculptural Piece'.

Once again the Wootha Prize will form the feature exhibition at the Maleny Wood Expo *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture™* in May 2005.

The Wootha Prize is open to wood artists nationally.

The deadline for submitting design ideas for the selection process is 26th January 2005.

In keeping with Barung's objectives to achieve positive outcomes for our environmental future, all works must be fashioned from sustainably harvested native timbers, or recycled or weed timbers.

The Wootha Prize competition reflects many of the challenges facing today's artists in marrying the demands for quality timber furniture and artworks with use of our natural resources.

Sustainable use of our unique native timbers offers many solutions to address this issue.



The designer of the best Sculptural Piece will receive \$1500, with \$750 and \$500 for the second and third place winners.

All prize winners will also receive quantities of sustainably harvested native timbers. Thank you to Bold in Gold Fine Art Gallery, Maleny, and David Linton Fine Furniture and Hill House Timbers for your generous sponsorship of these prizes.

Winners of the 2005 Wootha Prize will be announced at the Maleny Wood Expo Preview Party, April 29th 2005.

We are hoping to exhibit the 2005 Wootha Prize Exhibition at two regional galleries after the Expo.

*Full details of the competition and registration are available from Barung Landcare
email: barungexpo@big.net.au web: www.barunglandcare.com.au phone: (07) 5494 3151*

2005 10th Maleny Wood Expo celebration!

Mim Coulstock

Barung's Wood Expo spreads Landcare message to thousands

Ten years ago, Ashley Sewell approached the Barung Committee with the idea of a woodworking expo that would highlight native timbers. Passionate and persuasive about the possibilities, he talked about the talented woodworkers who lived on the Blackall Range and Hinterland areas. The committee embraced Ashley's idea, both for its educational outreach and fundraising potential.

In order to attract the general public, wood artisans working in sustainably harvested local native timber species were invited to exhibit their work at a (then) two day wood expo, which was widely promoted throughout the region. This first Expo was viewed as a major success, attracting about 20 woodworkers and 3000 visitors.

Since then, the Maleny Wood Expo has grown enormously. It has expanded into a three day event and attracted over 60 exhibitors and more than 11,000 visitors from south east Queensland and northern NSW in 2004. In the past nine years, over 54,000 adults and countless children have been introduced to the Expo's Landcare message and more than \$230,000 has been raised for Barung's projects.

The Sunshine Coast hinterland area covered by Barung is recognised nationally as a prime region for growing boutique rainforest timber species. The event brings the landcare message about salvage and sustainable harvesting of native timbers before a wide audience. It shows the connections between seed collection, propagation, farm forestry and revegetation, milling, harvesting and the final product, while providing funding for the continuation of Barung's work in the community.

Special features planned for 10th Anniversary Event

It's now ten years since Ashley's inspired idea and 2005 will see the 10th anniversary of this unique event now called the Maleny Wood Expo *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture*TM. The Maleny Wood Expo will be held on the Labour Day weekend which falls on Saturday 30th April, Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd May in 2005.

Plans are already well underway to make the 2005 event a fitting celebration of the Expo's success. Ideas at this stage include an Anniversary Landcare Dinner and Master Woodworking classes to be run throughout the weekend.

Special event requires extra equipment, and many hands to help

For the first time, we are looking for a dedicated **Expo Office**. Running the event out of the already overcrowded Resource Centre is no longer an option. The Expo office needs to be large enough to house at least three workstations, and have phone line/s if possible. We will also be looking for donations or loans of a **fax machine, desks, chairs, a filing cabinet and shelving**. So if you have any leads on a centrally located space, or can assist with office furniture etc, please let us know before Xmas.

We are also asking **Barung and community members** to put up their hands and become involved in the 2005 event. In 2004, more than 200 volunteers filled over 450 rostered places on the Expo weekend alone. We cannot put on an event of this size without your help.

I will be working exclusively on the Expo from January onwards, with Juanita Anderson as Marketing Coordinator and Penny Smith working her magic on Expo artwork. Thank you to our 2004 Area Coordinators who have offered to come on board again in 2005: Bridget Sparks as Raffle Coordinator, Peter Milton as EcoTour Coordinator, and Kate Fraser as the Taste Maleny Café Coordinator.

However we do need volunteers to coordinate other aspects of the event both prior to and during the Expo weekend: the Landcare Bar & BBQ, Parking, the Preview Party, and the Taste Maleny Produce Store. Past coordinators of these areas have the documentation and timelines in place to make the jobs easier. The Landcare Dinner will require the attention of a person with some experience in coordination as there are many aspects to this special celebration. We also need two people with good organisational and communication skills to coordinate the Wootha Prize and the woodworking masterclasses/workshops.

The other critical role, which requires a dedicated person with a friendly phone manner, is the all-important Volunteer Coordinator. Last year we set up a Volunteer Database which reduces the Volunteer Coordinator's workload. However this is one of the most important jobs of all. Without our volunteers there is no Expo!

If you are interested in taking on any of these jobs prior to Expo, please contact me or Juanita in the Barung Office as soon as possible. We will be sending out a volunteer registration form in the February/March Newsletter so you can nominate your preferred area for working over the actual Expo weekend.

Please mark the Expo dates in your diaries now and keep the weekend free to lend a hand for Landcare.



**maleny
WOOD
EXPO**

30 april - 2 may

From CHAINSAW TO FINE FURNITURE
the WOOTH A PRIZE 'sculptural piece' exhibition / master woodcraft classes + demonstrations
everything timber from farming trees to fine furniture / farm forestry + ecotours daily / music
+ entertainment / landcare information / native plants to buy / tools, timber + trade displays
'taste maleny' produce store / fine food + forest products / heritage woodcrafts + timber history



Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

The new LBCCG Project Officer, Susan Edols, has been busy re-visiting project applications for this financial year, resulting in some new projects now underway and others in the queue.

If you would like information on the LBCCG small grants programme for water quality improvement, or if you are already in the programme and would like further assistance, contact Susan at the LBCCG office at 19 Coral St, Maleny or telephone 5494 3775.

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group's New Strategy Viewed Favourably By Caloundra City Council

Susan Edols
LBCCG Project Officer

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group has recently drafted a Revised Strategy for the health of our catchment. After several discussions with Caloundra City Council members and officers to clarify issues, Caloundra City Council has agreed in principle to endorse the revised strategy. Our generous thanks to Cr Dick Newman for his supportive input to achieving this important step.

Sharon Harwood, principal author of the Revised Strategy, says, 'To coincide with the United Nations International Year of Freshwater, the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc. (LBCCG) in conjunction with the Caloundra Maroochy Water Supply Board (trading as 'AquaGen' Water) and Renewable Energy decided to review the 1997 edition of the Lake Baroon Catchment Management Strategy.

'This strategy is an amended and updated version of the 1997 *Volume 2: Policies, Strategies and Further Information* of the Lake Baroon Catchment Management Strategy. This document does not repeal the 1997 Strategy as the background details, technical information and issues remain contemporary and relevant. This updated Strategy will build upon the policies developed for the 1997 publication to incorporate:

- changing community values and perceptions regarding natural waterways and catchment management
- new Federal, State and regional legislation and guidelines addressing ecologically sustainable development with particular reference to water quality
- the revised 1996 ANZECC Fresh and Marine Water Quality Guidelines (2000), particularly aquatic ecosystem requirements and revised guideline values for primary contact recreation.

'This strategy ... was undertaken by choice and is the result of community based 'citizen science' efforts to achieve sustainable and balanced use of land, water and biological resources that are contained within and defined purely by the flows of surface water into the Baroon Pocket Dam.'

AquaGen has generously provided the funds to develop and publish this Strategy. Caloundra City Council kindly provided the digital data that form the basis of the Strategy maps.

The focus has been on developing a planning methodology that enables a monitoring system to measure the progress of the strategy in terms of protecting and enhancing the environmental values associated with water quality in the Lake Baroon catchment. Specific targets have been set to enable the implementation of the strategy to be monitored over time, to provide data for State of the Environment reporting, and to provide for and adapt to new information and changing circumstances.

This strategy has been written in two sections; the first relates to the priority issues affecting the entire catchment and the second relates specifically to each of the sub-catchments contained within the Lake Baroon Catchment.

THANK YOU, Sharon for all your hard work!

The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group expects the Revised Strategy to be published early in the New Year. Anyone wanting to obtain a copy should contact the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group's office at 19 Coral St, Maleny or telephone 5494 3775.



Montville Mist
Still Spring Water

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Bottled at the Source

David Woolston
A.M.I.A.M.E.



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BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

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Mulchmakers

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, South East Queensland Western Catchments Group and the Burnett Mary Regional Group. These regional bodies direct all natural resource management funding such as National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and Natural Heritage Trust 2. It is important to know in which region your property lies.



Tamara Boland

Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) is pleased to invite you to a regional natural resource management symposium **Farmland to Fraser: How to grow a region ~ science + community!**

The symposium is **free to our Members and the wider community** and designed to provide an opportunity to learn more about sustainability and management of our region's natural resources. The symposium has been sponsored by the National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality and will be held at the Central Qld University Campus in Bundaberg.

As the year is winding up, and so much has been achieved, the BMRG felt it was the perfect time to bring together BMRG, National, State and Regional speakers to provide stimulating perspectives on contemporary natural resource management issues.

So come and join us in discussing the issues that are important to our region. There are **only 100 SPACES available**. Contact Ruth Nemeth on 4132 8333 or admin@burnettmarynrm.org.au to receive a registration form and **RSVP by Friday 25 November**.

At the time of writing, BMRG are in the final throes of editing our **Regional NRM Plan** (Proposed title: *Healthy Country to Coast – A Sustainable Future*) for review by lower levels of State and Federal Government. On Monday (22 November) *Healthy Country to Coast* will be presented to the Board for approval and then to the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) the following day. Members can expect to receive their copy of the plan a day or two later (depending on the time it takes us to burn 350+ CDS!). We envisage *Healthy Country to Coast* will be released for public consultation a short time after this. The consultation period has been shortened to four weeks by the JSC, but BMRG is lobbying to extend this because of Christmas. BMRG will be holding 2 public forums, inviting all the public to provide comment and feedback to the region's plan. The BMRG team will also be happy to attend, speak at and answer questions at any meetings that individuals or groups would like to hold or have planned already. The public forums are expected to be held before Christmas, but stay tuned for further updates.

As you are all aware, the 3 regional bodies (Burnett Mary Regional Group, SEQ Western Catchments and NRM South East Queensland) that meet in the Barung area have been working tirelessly to collate the knowledge, information and concerns of each of the regions' communities to come up with the best NRM plan, to achieve the best NRM outcomes. These plans are 'living documents' and will be constantly updated to accommodate renewed technology, new data and changing needs within the communities. As always we appreciate the feedback and support that has contributed during the Plan's development, and look forward to a great 'sustainable future' together as a region.

There has been no word on the **National Landcare Program Funded, Cross Regional Arrangements Coordinator** to be based in the Barung Landcare Office. The word-on-the-street is that we are to find out in the very near future, so watch this space...

Natural Resource Management SEQ

Susie Chapman

This last three weeks during November we have taken our draft integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, *The Future in Balance*, out to the



people of south east Queensland. We held public meetings in twelve locations from Noosa to the border with afternoon and evening sessions at each place. What a wonderful team effort and great experience visiting all the different regions and talking at length about the local and regional issues. It was an interesting time to be consulting when the SEQ Regional Plan from the Office of Urban Management was also out there. Regional awareness was heightened and we picked up a few confused folk who found out lots about things they would never have known about.

Our consultation phase culminated in a unique and very successful Citizen Senate held at Parliament House on Saturday 20th November. Thanks to Peter Wellington MLA we had the use of the Old Legislative Assembly and the Annexe in which to perform this act of democracy. A Citizen Senate to review the plan was selected from respondents to public ads that reflected the demography of SEQ in income, age, gender and cultural background. Along with the NRMSEQ Board members they were treated to inspiring presentations on the state of the natural regional assets by various experts, and then deliberated about the issues together. The day was thoroughly enjoyable and will produce some interesting and telling outcomes... the Office of Urban Management want to repeat it for their plan, so we must have done something right.

We are about to be visited by Mr Greg Hunt, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment & Heritage. We'll be taking him around to meet some of the groups on the coast this week, and Barung will be meeting him at Dillons for lunch with other catchment groups. Greg, a Junior Minister himself, is new to the post and is very interested in what is happening on the ground.

This week also we are co-hosting with Maroochy Shire Council (with help from NRM&E) a Maroochy River Modelling Seminar and Workshop for modellers, monitors, managers and planners to gather and make some good connections in relation to place. This will be more than ably facilitated by our very own Peter Oliver and is shaping up to be an excellent opportunity for integration.

The Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) is about to be submitted to the Joint Steering Committee with the latest version of the plan tomorrow. The consultation phase and time for inclusion of changes was ridiculously brief but we have managed to meet the deadlines given to us yet again. What a team. Christmas is looking good. Hope you all have a good one.

... continued on page 8

FOAM BOXES and PLASTIC BAGS
always wanted for use in the nursery

THE STATE OF THE REGION

... continued from page 7

SEQ Western Catchments Group

Bruce Lord

Following the public consultation period, our draft NRM Plan *Healthy Land – Our Future* has been further refined, with feedback received during the public consultation period from stakeholders in the community, industry and all levels of Government, resulting in significant changes to structure and content. The refined version has been distributed to Board members for their consideration at the November Board meeting, prior to submission to the Joint Steering Committee (representing State and Federal Ministers) for accreditation of the Plan.



Following ongoing discussions with the JSC regarding requirements for the **Regional Investment Strategy**, we are currently developing a framework with the Board to undertake a prioritisation workshop on the revised action packages from the refined NRM Plan in early December.

SEQWCG is required to submit a Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) covering a 12 month period, based on Government funding sources. We are hoping the initial draft RIS will be submitted to the JSC in mid-December with contracts and funds being available in January 2005.

In response to the **latest round of National Landcare Program** Community Support grants, SEQWCG have submitted a regional proposal which incorporates a number of pilot projects across the region. With the overall aim of improving sustainable land use and NRM practices, this coordinated approach includes property and subcatchment planning to implement strategic on-ground activities in the Upper Brisbane catchment, support for best management practices in the dairy industry across the region, salinity management in the mid-Brisbane catchment, and weed control in priority areas.

Welcome to **Jim Ralph**, the new **Traditional Owner Liaison Officer** for SEQ Western Catchments region. Jim will work closely with Traditional Owners and Indigenous groups to ensure they are fully engaged and able to participate in the planning and management of the region's natural resources.

Riverine Habitat Condition Assessment project (WQ 04) will provide a baseline dataset on riverine habitat assessment using State-of-the-Rivers methodology. This snapshot survey of streams within the upper Brisbane and Stanley catchments will assist the regional planning process and will be used for ongoing assessment of stream condition, monitoring and rehabilitation efforts. More than 250 representative sites were surveyed in the Stanley, Upper Brisbane and mid-Brisbane catchments in February-March 2004 to provide a wide range of condition ratings. As a result of strong community interest, SEQWCG are planning to hold a workshop early next year to discuss initial survey results.

Red-eared slider turtle ALERT

NRM have declared an alert for the red-eared slider turtle, a declared pest recently found in Pine Rivers Shire. If seen, note exact location and contact NRM on 1800 999 367. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE – THEY BITE!** More information: http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/pests/warning_brochures/pdf/red_eared_slider_turtle.pdf

WELCOME to KATRINA & EVE

Mim Coulstock



Katrina Shields has joined the Barung ranks to assist with Coordination for three days per week. Katrina comes with a wealth of experience in working with community groups, and facilitation skills that are proving invaluable in these times of looking for a new home and redefining Barung's positions and roles

for the future. It will be a steep learning curve for Katrina to get her head around the many and varied aspects of Barung. At this stage she is liaising with the Regional Bodies and aiming to get the 2nd edition of the Blackall Range Landholders Guide off the computer and into the bookshops in time to launch it at the Expo.

It is with great relief but some sadness that I have passed the editorship and production of the Barung Newsletter into the capable hands of Eve Witney. Eve has been involved with Barung since the mid 1990s when she was the Project Officer for Barung's NHT-funded *Mary River Cod Community Network Project*. Currently she also edits



The CODLine – a catchment care publication that inspires and inform landholders and others about habitat protection and enhancement for our threatened species. Eve would love to hear from any Barung members who have a contribution to make to the Barung Newsletter.

Welcome on board to both of you.

Frog Project in upper Stanley catchment

A student from the University of Queensland, Diana Hughes, is surveying the habitats and populations of the giant barred frog in the upper Stanley River catchment, and is seeking permission from local landholders to undertake surveys on private land. If you are interested or can offer any information, call 5497 1253.

Free trees on Rates Notices

Bring in your 2004 rates notice if you live in Division 1 (Caloundra City Council) for your 2 free trees. Councillor Dick Newman has extended the time for this until 23 December. If you didn't claim your trees on your 2003 notice, bring it in as well.

Best Wishes to Trish

We all send our best wishes to our Treasurer, Trish Brunton, who after an unfortunate fall, has a titanium implant replacing part of the bone in her upper arm and so is on the way to having a 'bionic arm'. Hope to see you back on deck soon, Trish.

*Donations to the
Barung Environmental Gift Fund
are Tax Deductible!*

Congratulations to the winners of Barung's 2004 Land Restoration Awards

CRAIG HOSMER and DARYL REINKE

Craig Hosmer and Daryl Reinke have spent the last ten years transforming their property of 15.73 ha on the eastern escarpment of the Blackall Range between Flaxton and Mapleton.

The land was almost totally cleared, and had been used most recently for grazing. Weed invasion and the steep terrain made it marginal for primary production. Major weeds included lantana, glycine, privet and camphor laurel.

Craig and Daryl have focused primarily on removing weeds and revegetating gullies and slip-prone slopes. Work expanded in 2001 with a grant for rehabilitating the Echidna Creek riparian zone at the headwaters of the South Maroochy with their neighbours. In 2003, Maroochy Shire Council gave a further grant to extend the work upstream.

With a total of around 19,000 trees, shrubs and understorey plants in the ground, improvements in water quality, land stability and habitat are dramatic. Many areas now benefit from closed or closing canopies, and natural regeneration has taken off. The bird count exceeds 90 species, with wallabies, echidnas, the saw-toothed turtle and the great barred frog all welcome residents.

Daryl and Craig's goal is to revegetate as much of the property as possible, establishing large areas that will eventually become self-managing, and ultimately to have a covenant on revegetated areas that will protect them in perpetuity.

ROD and LOMA CARTER and Family

The Carter properties at Hunchy are right at the head of the valley on one of the streams feeding Petrie Creek, and include part of the escarpment up to the Montville/Mapleton Road.

Rod and Loma have been working to restore the vegetation on their farm in Hunchy since 1979. For several years they commuted



Marc Russell presents Craig Hosmer and Daryl Reinke with their beautifully crafted Land Restoration Award.

from Brisbane, cutting and painting groundsel, then planting trees and hand watering. Rod's family previously owned the farm so Rod has accumulated a wealth of knowledge about the area. His enthusiasm for planting is inspirational.

Rod's sister Kay and her husband Evan, as well as two of the Carter children and their families, are also valley residents and have actively contributed over many years to the rehabilitation of riparian vegetation along several of the headwater streams of Petrie Creek. Steep slopes have also been replanted, thus reducing soil erosion and providing additional habitat.

The work done by all the members of the extended Carter family has provided a firm foundation for the additional revegetation work being undertaken by more recent members of the Hunchy community. The Carters, of course, are enthusiastically embracing the new initiatives and working with the community to control weeds, fence to improve grazing management, and plant to widen habitat corridors and extend riparian vegetation.

Common grass-blue (*Zizina labradus labradus*)

BUTTERFLIES OF THE RANGE by Bob Miller

Have you ever had the time to just lay on the grass and watch the clouds drift by? Well if you have, you may have noticed small blue butterflies flying around the clover and wondered what they are.

The answer is probably common grass-blues (*Zizina labradus labradus*). This is by no means the only small blue butterfly you will have on your lawn, but it is probably the most common.

The reason they are so interested in the clover is because it's one of their larval food plants. The eggs (white or pale blue and shaped like a mandarin) can be found on any part of their food plants.

The larvae can also be found anywhere on the plant, but for such a common butterfly, not many are seen. When fully grown the larvae are about 10 mm long and lime green with a darker green stripe running from front to rear on the upper back. This stripe is mildly edged with white and the head is khaki.

The pupae are about 10 mm long, lime green, greyish or pinkish in colour with a series of darker green spots running along both sides. A noticeable dark green stripe is also found on the top of the pupae, near the head. They are always found suspended upside down, supported by the tail and a central silken girdle.



Common grass-blue larva and butterfly (Photos by Bob Miller)

The adult butterflies are about 20 mm across the wings in the male and about 23 mm across in the female. They are a lilac blue edged with brown on the upper side, and they vary between light grey to light brown with obscure markings on the undersides. The brown edges on the upper sides are broader on the females.

Adult butterflies are seen mainly flying near the ground around patches of their larval food plants, which include *Cullen tenax*, *Hardenbergia violacea* and *Indigofera australis*, regularly available from the Barung Nursery. The most commonly utilised food plant, though, is clover. Sort of makes you think twice about mowing the lawn!

Wow, What a Spring!

NURSERY NOTES by Wayne Webb

The big drama for the nursery during Spring was the Council's water restrictions. We were facing the very real possibility of having to move a large proportion of our stock down to the Council's nursery in Caloundra (and back again), a rather mammoth undertaking. The other option would have been to truck in water and hand-water the entire nursery (approx. 3 hours a day). We did get as far as buying a 5000 gallon tank, and received a donated pump (thanks to Mike of the Pump House and the Davy rep). Fortunately it rained on the day we had planned to start moving stock, rained a bit more, then a bit more, then finally the restrictions were lifted and we could breathe a big sigh of relief. Maleny is back to its old green self. Things are really starting to move in the nursery with lots of people starting on projects they've had on hold due to the dry.

Back in September we hosted a group of Year 3 students from Palmwoods State School – approx. 50 kids split into two groups. While one group was here, the other enjoyed a walk through Mary Cairncross park. At the nursery, we again split the group in two. I gave one group a demonstration on cleaning and sowing *Ficus* seed, then had the kids get their hands dirty while tubing up some *Lomandra* seedlings. Jake, meantime, gave the other half a demonstration in tree planting then set them loose to plant their own trees, before a half-time swap over. After the holidays the teachers picked up 20 figs (under the Coxen's fig parrot scheme) and 20 sheoaks (for black cockatoos, donated by Barung) to plant in the school grounds. The school has a great environmental program, and the kids were keen to learn.

In October, we had a visit from Tamborine Mountain Landcare Group. Mim gave them heaps of info on Barung's operations, before it was my turn to field questions on how the nursery was



Palmwoods State School Year 3 students putting their new tree-planting skills into practice.

run, because they are considering setting up a nursery for their operations. Great to make links with other Landcare groups.

Cali and Jake flew the Barung flag at the 2004 'Splash' festival on Chambers Island in mid-October, with a riparian habitat display and a selection of plants suitable for riparian restoration. Cali and I attended a 2-day workshop on seed collecting and storage hosted by Greening Australia. This is linked to the 'Millennium Seedbank' project running out of Kew Gardens in the UK to collect and put into long term storage a bank of seeds from around the world. It is hoped participants such as Barung will help by contributing seeds to the project, and a matching contribution to research is being conducted by the University of Qld. Cali and I obtained Level 3 certificates in seed collecting as a result of the workshop. Thanks to SEQ.WCG for funding our places.

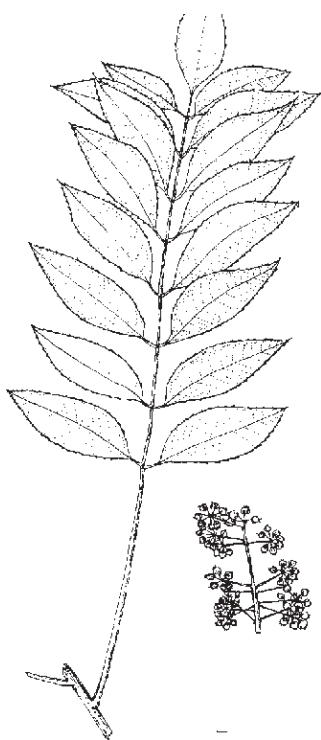


Illustration from Rainforest Trees of Mainland South-eastern Australia, A.G. Floyd, Forestry Commission of New South Wales, 1989.

PENCIL CEDAR *Polyscias murrayi* Family: Araliaceae

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Polyscias murrayi is often seen growing in disturbed areas around rainforest margins. It is very common in logged or cleared rainforest areas. Young trees may reach 5 metres or more before branching, and carry large (over 1 metre long) compound leaves atop a straight, slender trunk. This gives young trees a palm-like appearance. Older trees may reach a height of 20 metres, but are seldom seen in mature rainforests.

Polyscias murrayi is an ideal species to use in revegetation sites, being sun hardy, fast growing and moderately frost hardy. For best results at frosty sites, plant in Spring after the danger of frost is over. This gives them a chance to establish and grow to a reasonable height before frosts hit the following winter. Under good conditions this tree may grow up to 3 metres in its first year. It can be used to protect more tender species without becoming too dominant. It also make a spectacular specimen plant in your garden. Try planting three together.

The small flowers are creamy-green on 2-4 mm slender stalks, with 10 to 17 arranged in umbels, which in turn are arranged on large branching panicles from the end of the branches. Flowering period is from February to April. The fruit are more or less succulent drupes, usually two-lobed, rarely three-lobed, flattened on two sides, 4-6mm broad and surmounted by a small forked style. Fruit are purple-blue when ripe, from April to June. Fruit is produced reliably in large quantities, and is an important food source for a large number of bird species, including the brown cuckoo dove, Lewin's honeyeater, rose-crowned fruit dove, satin bowerbird and superb fruit dove.

Other common names for pencil cedar are white basswood, umbrella tree and pencilwood. It can be found from eastern Victoria to the Atherton Tableland in Queensland, on both shaly and basaltic soil types, with a preference for hillside forests. It does not like poorly drained situations, and can be damaged by strong winds.

***Polyscias murrayi* will be on sale in the nursery during December and January
– Native Tubestock at \$1.50 ea.**

Caloundra City launches War on Weedy Vines

Greg Brown, Pest Management Coordinator, Caloundra City Council

If your property looks like it belongs in a scene from *Day of the Triffids* – with vines threatening to take over – then Caloundra City Council has an incentive scheme to help you.

A Council-funded project, which includes a financial subsidy for Caloundra City residents, has been established in a bid to control some of the City's most invasive and damaging weedy vines.

Caloundra City has 12 of the 13 most invasive weedy vines in south east Queensland. Everything we can do to try to control them will make our City a better place.

The scheme applies to private landholders across the City, covering the cost of herbicides and/or contractors to the value of \$300.

This program is aimed at the five most serious weedy vines in the City – cat's claw creeper, Madeira vine, Dutchman's pipe, white moth vine and blue morning glory.

Landholders with these intrusive vines on their property are encouraged to apply. Call Council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 112 (local) or 5420 8200 (STD and mobiles) to register and you will be sent an information package and application form.

Lantana Control - Strategy is the Key

BARUNG CONTRACTING SERVICES by Jolyon Froude

The prize for the most prevalent, invasive weed in our humid, subtropical part of the world would probably have to go to the ubiquitous **lantana**, so common it is often considered a natural part of the landscape.

Certainly the Contracting Services team would agree with me; we have undertaken several major lantana control projects over the last few months and have the scratches and tick bites to prove it!

An extreme example of a garden escapee, lantana was introduced from Central and South America as an ornamental hedging plant in the mid 1800s. Lantana now covers an estimated 4 million hectares of eastern Australia. Almost always a sign of disturbance, lantana rapidly colonises open ground and takes advantage of the higher light levels that result from vegetation clearing. A number of biological control insects have been trialed over the last 90 years, but the diversity of genetic strains of lantana (expressed in different flower colours and growth forms) and the wide range of habitats the species occupies has resulted in low success rates. While we await a successful biological control agent for lantana, we must rely on other (more laborious) control techniques.

This can be very daunting, especially if you are faced with a dense, impenetrable thicket of woody stems climbing 5 metres or more up surrounding trees.

Control techniques fall into two categories: chemical and mechanical. Chemical control involves applying herbicide to either the foliage or freshly cut stumps. Mechanical techniques include using machinery such as tractors and excavators (where slope, access and natural regeneration allow) or brush cutters and hand tools in areas that are steep or difficult to access, or where natural regeneration is abundant.

To control lantana, approach the task strategically:

- Encourage natural regeneration processes by working from the outside edges of clumps where the growth will be thinner and native regeneration more prevalent. Work into thicker areas where native regeneration will be sparse or non-existent.
- Don't clear more than you can maintain; it's no use clearing one lot of weeds to have them replaced by another. If native regeneration is inadequate, additional planting may be required.
- Work with the seasons. Manual clearing is best carried out in the dryer and cooler winter months, when the lantana is less active and it is easier to spot native regeneration. Foliar



The effort of removing lantana is greatly satisfying when a magnificent giant such as this fig is revealed.

spraying is best carried out in the warmer months following rain when the plants are actively growing.

- A combination of control techniques is likely to be most successful. Mechanical techniques should be followed up with herbicide applications to the re-growth.
- Prioritise your control efforts, and accept that large areas will require a long-term approach.

Barung's Contracting Services team can make the lantana control process less daunting by helping with the planning or implementation of your lantana control project. Using the right strategies will make the job so much easier!

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- ✓ environmental landscaping



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ring Jolyon - 0429 943 156
or Barung Office - 5494 3151

Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden

Susie Duncan

This bushland botanic garden is a real gem on the Sunshine Coast. It is located at Tanawha near Buderim (next to Tanawha Golf Club), just off the Bruce Highway. A magnificent effort on the part of Maureen Sheargold and other enlightened members of the local community has resulted in the protection of a valuable 82 hectare remnant of the local forest.

Tallow-wood and turpentine on the higher slopes tower over an intact understorey which is largely weed-free. The cleared areas on the lower slopes have been planted out in a creative way to showcase plants native to subtropical coastal Australia. Established blackbutt and flooded gum along with naturally regenerating understorey species enhance the planted gardens.

Many regionally rare plants, such as king fern, have been established in the garden. These plants will provide an important seed source for their re-establishment at other sites where they have become locally extinct and for revegetation projects.

The bushland and gardens also provide valuable habitat for wildlife, with a diverse array of nectar and seed sources providing year-round food for birds and mammals. The lagoon and creeks are watery homes for frogs, fish and birds, and invertebrates abound in this restored landscape.

The dedicated group of volunteers who have worked so hard to establish and maintain this valuable site have cast their eyes over the bush block next door. It would be wonderful to see the two areas consolidated to ensure that an ecologically sustainable bush site is conserved for future generations.

Where's the Youth in Landcare?

A TRAINEE'S TALE by Jake Smith-Moloney

Being a trainee at Barung I get to work in a variety of situations with a diversity of groups and individuals in the environmentally conscious community. I have done all sorts of work, from tree-planting demos for primary school children to weed control for older members of the community. However, through all this I have not yet been associated with the 13 to 21-year-old 'youth' age bracket.

I'm concerned that, with the exception of programs like Green Corps, there is virtually no active youth involvement in local environmental issues.

I find this very disappointing. Firstly, it appears the youth don't consider local environmental issues to have much value to them. Secondly, the people I meet through Barung are significantly older or younger than myself, and as a result I have no one to discuss environmental issues with on a 'youth' level.

If anyone wishes to contact me with their comments or opinions on the involvement of youth in the environment, I can be reached at Barung during working hours or by email at Ze_Bacon@hotmail.com.

My traineeship is going well. I now have my Chainsaw Level 2 Certificate (thanks Bob) and hopefully soon my ACDC. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ornamental Birdlife

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

The garden has been significantly ornamented over the past few months with a wide range of birds. They have been attracted by the combination of food from nectar- and fruit-producing shrubs, habitat, and especially water.

Have you tried placing large terracotta pot saucers on the tops of old stumps, sections of tree trunk or wire frames, within or on the edge of the canopy? The birds perch on the edges to drink or more frequently jump straight in to have a joyous splash. They then fly up into the overhanging branches to shake the moisture off and preen their feathers. Watching them is a great way to waste time!

The saucers seem to be exactly the right depth. They need to be topped up every day, or given a quick rinse and then refilled. Every species from the tiny dusky honeyeater to magpies seem to enjoy a bath. The little ones even appear to take turns, or else favour particular saucers. A pair of colourful New Holland honeyeaters joined our resident population about two months ago and manage to compete quite successfully with the dominant Lewins.

Another source of entertainment is the Eastern whipbird. It hops along the edges of the garden beds, flicking leaves as it searches for insects and then makes a high speed dash across a patch of grass and into the safety of the canopy. It's our local 'roadrunner'. This bird is really favoured by lots of mulch and particularly fallen leaves as it is primarily a ground feeder. We're seeing increasing numbers as the garden matures and the shrub layer closes. They're either breeding, or they're moving out of the lantana into the garden. Admittedly the lantana habitat is steadily being reduced but there seems to have been no problem in adjusting to the change in layout of the real estate.

Fig birds and everything else interested in fruit enjoyed this year's heavy crop in our *Ficus virens*. Many have now transferred to the yellow raspberry plants which I manage as part of the production garden and it's really amusing to be picking on one side of the bush and find a Lewin honeyeater harvesting the fruit on the other side.

The fat yellow robins add wonderful flashes of colour as they dart down to grab insects from the grass and leaf litter, or fluff up their feathers after a bath. These small flying tennis balls are permanent residents and must consume large numbers of insects.

The one habitat lacking at present is an adequate grassland for the finches and other seed eaters. The little red-browed finches do occasionally visit the lawn but the chestnut breasted mannikins stay next door to feed on the tall *Setaria* (not exactly a garden grass). Choosing the right grasses for the garden is quite a challenge as they can choke out small shrubs, need periodic drastic cutting back, and provide wonderful cover for snakes! They are, however, the perfect ground cover in areas where the soil is prone to surface sheet erosion. The extensive root systems really bind the soil and the dense leaf cover protects from droplet impact during heavy rain. The bird populations they attract are highly ornamental, both for their colours and numbers, since finches tend to move in flocks.

The ornamental garden is clearly not just about plants. The more visitors and permanent residents it attracts, the more colour, movement and social activity there is for us to enjoy!

On the flowering front, the white or cream *Crinum* lilies, *Pavetta*, *Lomandra*, *Mallotus claoxyloides* (green kamala) and *Ozothamnus* were adding colour and perfume to the garden during October.

Upper Obi Obi Creek Reveg Grant Approved

In a great display of community cooperation, nine rural property owners at the lower end of Ruddle Drive with land bordering Obi Obi Creek joined forces in June and applied for an Australian Government Envirofund grant to assist with revegetating approximately 1.5 km of the north bank of the creek.

The application was made under the umbrella of Barung Landcare who will coordinate the work and administer the grant.

During 2005, work by the property owners will see the banks cleared of exotic weeds and planted with some 7500 native grasses, shrubs and trees. This will clean up and stabilise the banks, filter run-off and reduce erosion, as well as provide a significant corridor linkage to remnant vegetation upstream at Howells Knob.

The repair of this degraded riparian zone will provide far wider benefits, as the creek in this area is part of the headwaters for the Maleny Weir, feeding into Baroon Pocket Dam which supplies the water for most of the Sunshine Coast.

Barung Coordinator, Mim Coulstock, and property owner, Bob Hall, said they were very happy that the application had been approved and encourage other landholders to contact Barung if they have similar projects that could attract funding through this scheme.



IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

Applications are now open for Round 6 of the Australian Envirofund. Applications close at 5 pm on 18 February 2005.

Copies of the Guide and Application Form are available at www.nht.gov.au/envirofund

Please contact the Barung Office to see how we can assist you with your project.

Envirofund Project Success

Bellthorpe Progress Association

We have successfully completed what we set out to do in our **Envirofund project**, clearing and commencing rehabilitation of most of the degraded parts of the Bellthorpe Environmental Reserve area. A draft Management Plan has been prepared which describes what we need to do to maintain and protect the site. Many Bellthorpe people have benefited from the informative training sessions run during the project, improving their enjoyment and management of their own places, and the social interaction has been most enjoyable. **Our last working day of the year** will be 4 December, finishing the good work that Jolyon and his Barung crew and Ed and his Green Corp team have done. We will then have a **'Christmassy' morning tea** near the Hall at 10.00 am. Come along to share your experiences and join us in celebrating the successful completion of our second Envirofund project.

Barung Library Revamped!

If you need help identifying that mega-monster weed that's taken over last year's reveg, or are looking to identify (or maybe name after yourself) a new plant or animal species on the Blackall Range, where do you turn?

The answer is... the Barung Main Library, in our cramped and unfashionable Maleny office.

Over the past few weeks, something bizarre has happened to our once sleepy library – suddenly you can find what you are looking for!

Some call it 'a bloody miracle', others 'a revolution'.

Either way, Valmai Phillips (our fearless volunteer) has struggled on bravely, rejuvenating the library so that you can now easily find that elusive information you've been seeking.

Newcomers will be amazed at the breadth of this Barung resource – we have magazines, journals, maps, videos and all forms of human endeavour available for loan to our members. For more information on how to borrow from our extensive library, drop into the Barung Resource Centre next time you're in town.

The Barung Reference Library, housed in the Nursery Office, has a further wealth of information which both Barung and community members are welcome to browse – but not borrow.

Agricultural Chemical Distribution Certificate

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Are you interested in attending an ACDC course at a local venue?

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All manuals, tuition and licence are included.

If you are interested in attending, contact Barung on 5494 3151.

Cottage for rent

- 1 bedroom cottage on 6.5 acres near Peachester
- from early Feb 2005. Power, phone, rubbish collection, school bus past door, large vegetable patch, fruit trees/bushfoods, some grazing & creek.
- Good water supply for gardens and composting loo.
- Rent \$150/week (negotiable if you can help look after revegetation/orchards). Phone Marc on 5494 9608 (ah) or 5486 5995 (most weekends).

Thank You to ...

... *Douglas & Estelle Haynes* for donating a computer for the Expo office

... *Ron Wilson of Hinterland Auto* for donating labour to work on the Barung utility after rats had a go at the wiring

... *Gary Roberts, Mulchmakers* for the loads of mulch for the Nursery gardens and the Barung creek reveg site

... *Max Smith* for your handyman skills yet again – for the table extenders, the video shelf, for making a door to hide the mishmash of computer cables in the office, for interior decorating and demolition work and for Barung's Festival of Colour signs!

... *Mad Farm Productions* for kindly converting nursery footage to CD ROM for the SCEC Award presentation night

... *Julie Brown & Lara Emerson* for inspiring us with your reveg site (Julie) and for sharing your bird knowledge (Lara) at the bird walk in October

... *Maleny Mowers* for donating \$300 worth of goods to replace stock stolen in the break-in

... *Ashton Berry* for sponsoring the Barung AGM lunch

... *Colin Hastie* for overseeing the nursery drainage works and carport salvage

... *Val Phillips* for the fantastic job you've done fixing and streamlining the Barung Resource Library, and for letting us borrow your video camera for SCEC Award filming

... *Michael Bevege, Maleny Pump House & Geoff Hall, SEQ Representative, Davey Pumps*, for arranging donation of a pump during the nursery drought emergency

... *Valmai Phillips, Marion Adamson, Amanda Lutton* and *Max Smith* for the October-November *Barung Newsletter* mailout.

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Letters

Contracting Services are good value

To all at Barung

Please find enclosed our cheque, being payment for work done by Barung Contracting Services.

When we made the decision to engage Barung to assist in our reveg project, it was with some concern about the wisdom of spending public money in this fashion and also with what the members of our group might expect individually of the outcome. As part of our monthly workday, yesterday our entire group inspected the work undertaken by Jolyon and his people.

We would like to thank Jolyon for the patient and professional manner in which he handled the job. His ideas and direction have helped us to take a more sophisticated approach to our worksite. All of the things that Jolyon undertook have been done at a high standard and very much to our satisfaction. It was agreed generally that we had not only spent our money wisely, but also that we and the Envirofund had received extremely good value for the money. The whole experience has been a good one for our group and helps to create new enthusiasm.

Regards

John Young

Treasurer, Bellthorpe Progress Association Enviro Group

Warning on funnelweb spiders

Dear Mim

Since I wrote, 3 males (funnelwebs) have been reported so they ARE on the move. Warnings to all.

Dr Robert J Raven

Queensland Museum Scientist (Arachnology)

Phone (07) 3840 7698 or Mobile 0412 848 467

Email: RobertR@qm.qld.gov.au OR

Robert.Raven@mailbox.uq.edu.au

<http://www.Qmuseum.qld.gov.au>



Certificate of Appreciation appreciated

Dear Lin

Thank you for your letter and Barung's Certificate of Appreciation. It was an honour to contribute, if in a small way, to such an important cause. The new committee is strong and has the skills to address the challenges ahead. Please call on us to volunteer help, where we can, in the future.

Best wishes

James Davidson

(2003/04 Barung Management Committee Member)



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COLOUR IN THE RANGE

MISTLETOE References:

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MISTLETOES ... continued from page 16

Mistletoe birds are represented in Australia by a single species *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*. These little birds are mistletoe specialists with a specialised digestive system that can draw enough nutrients from the sticky pulp of the fruit but pass the seed through their digestive tract within half an hour (now that's what you call regular) completely unharmed.

Mistletoe seeds have a long sticky tail that passes through the digestive system. To completely pass the seed with its long tail, the little birds need to wipe their backsides on a branch, ensuring the seed is placed in the best position for it to grow. The seed tail also helps the seed to adhere to the branch.

Several other birds, such as honeyeaters and silveryeyes, also eat mistletoe fruit, and many birds, possums and sugar gliders take advantage of the nectar-rich flowers for a quick sugar hit.

There is also another intriguing set of animal–mistletoe relationships between mistletoe, ant and butterfly. Most of the butterflies known as 'Azures' of the genus *Ogyris* are exclusive mistletoe feeders and many also require the presence of specific ants. These butterflies and ants have co-evolved in the presence of mistletoes. The butterflies provide a variety of compounds (amino acids) secreted from glands on the caterpillars to the ants, and in return the ants provide protection to the caterpillars. Some Azures caterpillars hide under bark or in borer holes and some actually hide in the ant nests during the day. At night, the caterpillars travel in the company of ants to mistletoes high up in eucalypts, a return journey of up to 40 metres.

Mistletoes are at their most diverse in eucalypt and dry rainforest communities. In these areas mistletoes are often quite specific about their hosts. More amazingly, their leaves often mimic those of their host. *Amyema cambagei*, the sheoak mistletoe with its needle-like foliage, lives on *Casuarina* and *Allocasuarina* sp. There are even mistletoes that out-mistletoe other mistletoes, such as *Notothixos subaureus*, the Golden Mistletoe, which lives exclusively on other mistletoes.

One mistletoe species that does make a living in our local rainforests is *Amylothea dictyophleba* the Rainforest Mistletoe. It has very attractive upright red flowers that attract a variety of wildlife and it lives on a wide variety of rainforest trees. By the Mooloolah River, I recently saw an *Aphananthe phillipensis* (native elm) playing host to *A. dictyophleba*, which in turn was playing host to *N. subaureus*. I'm sure if I'd looked closer there would have been some ants and some caterpillars, a flash of red as a male mistletoe bird took flight, and a whiff of brushtail possum pee from the previous nights' feeding.

So next time you see a mistletoe, don't panic – the apocalypse isn't upon us. They are an important part of the intricate web of life, and if we keep playing with the threads we will all come undone. It could even be argued that it is worthwhile 'planting' mistletoes on our gardens and revege' plots to enhance diversity and return them to areas from which they have disappeared through land clearing. But that's another story.

Some local mistletoes and their hosts

Amyema cambagei on *Casuarina*, *Allocasuarina* sp.

Amyema congener on *Acacia*, *Casuarina*, *Callistemon* sp.

Amyema conspicuum on *Alphitonia excelsa*

Amylothea dictyophleba on various rainforest trees, camphor laurel

Notothixos subaureus on other mistletoes

Dendrophthoe vitellina on various tree species, mainly Myrtaceae

The Much Misunderstood and Mistakenly Maligned MISTLETOES

TURKEY TANGENTIAL

by Spencer Shaw, Brush Turkey Enterprises

Mention mistletoe to some folk and they will cross themselves, produce wooden stakes, silver bullets and cloves of garlic, and sprinkle holy water about. The thought of a plant drawing on the bodily fluids of another plant for its survival conjures up images of herbaceous vampires sucking the life out of *our* trees. Lets face it: being described as a parasite doesn't generate good press.

What possible good could these little triffids be doing out there in nature, I hear you say? Well I'm glad you asked.

There are 25 species of mistletoe in the family Loranthaceae and 8 species of the family Viscaceae found in SE Queensland, and also for good measure 10 species of the tree or shrub 'mistletoes' of the family Santalaceae.

These plants may draw on the moisture and mineral reserves of their hosts, but what many of us may not notice is what they give

back to the greater ecological community and the many species of animals and insects that depend on them, some almost exclusively. Research is now showing that mistletoes are a keystone resource in forests and woodlands worldwide. Mistletoes provide the habitat enrichment on which numerous species depend. Mistletoes have a disproportionate effect on the structure and function of forested ecosystems in relation to their size, resulting in increased biodiversity in most habitats.

So why have mistletoes been given such a bad rap? Well, besides the whole 'parasite' label being slapped on them, there are perhaps awful memories of Christmas parties where, under the mistletoe, you were forced to kiss someone you really didn't even want to shake hands with!

Mistletoes can get out of hand in some environments, contributing to tree weakening or death, but as with most natural imbalances they are not the cause but rather the symptom of greater ecological imbalance usually caused by – you guessed it – Us! Perhaps the predators of mistletoes became reduced, or conditions become more favourable for the mistletoe birds that are their major agent of dispersal.

... continued on page 15

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