

# Bridge the Gap



## IGA CONNECTION Update

by Mim Coulstock

Thank you to everyone who has already donated money for trees for the IGA Connection Treeplant. We have now raised \$3480 from community donations, and this is just the beginning!

The initial donation forms distributed through the *Barung Newsletter* generated a great response from Barung members as well as several requests from other groups and organisations such as the River School, the Maleny Community Centre etc for forms to distribute to their own members.

In October letters were sent to all community organisations who have benefited from Rob and Sam and the IGA's generosity, and feedback from this has also been good.

During the Universal Providers 100 Year celebration we set up camp on Maple Street and talked to hundreds of local people about the project. Many donated



on the spot and many others took forms home with them.

If you have not already responded, please make sure you send, bring or phone in your donations, and encourage your friends to do the same.

Many people have asked when the community treeplant for this project will occur. Like most on-ground projects, the devil is in the detail. At this stage we are hoping to be ready for planting by September-October 2006.

We will keep the fund-raising open and are talking to other groups such as Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group and the Burnett Mary Regional Group about matching the funds that we raise through the local community.

By doing this, we will have enough money to do the job properly.

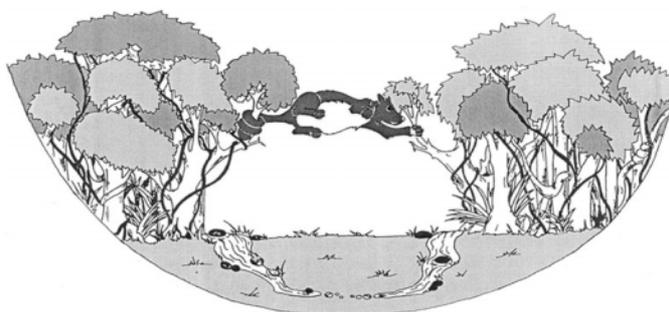
Considerable site preparation is required – removal/control of broad and small-leaved privet, camphor laurel, morning glory, turkey rhubarb, mistweed, blackberry, and many other environmental nasties no doubt.

There is also the issue of the deep culvert/ crevasse where the creek enters the Obi. Thanks to Dick Newman we are now waiting for a Council engineer to meet us on site to work out the best solution.

We are applying for a Green Corps team for this project. If successful, they will begin in early May and will assist with site works and community liaison, and help coordinate the community treeplant.

So, as you can see it is not just raising the money and planting the trees. Hopefully all weed and site prep will be done before winter, but because this site is in the frost zone we will wait until spring for planting.

Not only will the 'IGA Connection' provide a lasting thank-you to Rob and Samantha and the IGA but it will create an essential linkage to help preserve the viability of this isolated historic remnant in the Maleny Showgrounds, improve the quality of the water entering Obi Obi Creek, and restore the banks of the creek from a weed-infested rubbish heap to a beautiful rainforest that will enhance the Maleny Showgrounds.



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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

*(Compiled by Barry Liddell)*

Robyn Allsopp	John Crocker
Marcus Ringuet	Jodi Robson
Gordon Sutherland & Nicola Baker	Brian & Margaret James Don & Jacquie McDonald
Harris Tagg	Greg Harrison
Alan & Susan Marchant	Taman Sari
Norman & Robin Dobson	Olwyn & James Trstenjak
B Harber	M Latic
Paul Moore	Anne Arnett
Evan Jones	Tony & Donna Smith
John Dixon	Rowena McIntosh
Keith Drake	Matt Sheild
Patricia Weggart	Campbell Foster
Graeme Jennings	Sue Lewty & Helen Burnett

## WELCOME BACK

Douglas Robertson	Ralph Freestun
M Gudmundsson	Leanne Sommer & John Robertson
Frank & Sally Elmer	Gary Scott
Cliff Hanna	Hanicek Schoenberger
R Dent & J Morris	Rodney Castle
Gary & Vivienne Bochow	John Smith
Russell Kleidon	Alan & Claire Wynn
Maureen Cooper	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*by Lin Fairlie*

Another successful treeplant was completed as part of the Barung AGM in October and our thanks go to all the members and friends who took part in the event. About 400 trees were planted.

Our thanks go to the retiring Management Committee members Bridget Sparkes, John Poulson and Trish Brunton and we look forward to their further contributions to Barung in other ways. Special thanks go to Trish for her four years as treasurer and the way she so ably stepped into the admin position during Angie's absence.

Welcome to new committee members Pat Fuller and Michael Howard (as Treasurer). Together they bring much experience and enthusiasm and we look forward to working with them. There is still an unfilled position on the Management Committee and we appeal to any member who is even slightly interested to speak with any Management Committee member or with Mim or Darryl in the Barung offices for more information.

The year ahead will be very busy with Expo on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006. Please write these dates in your diary now as the Expo's success requires extra help in the weeks before as well as over the weekend. As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter Barung is hoping to host a Fungi workshop in February so that members can learn about and become part of the fascinating world of macrofungi which occurs in the lower sections of your forest.

In the New Year there will be community consultation carried out by consultants about the future of the Tripcony Hibiscus Caravan Park area at the entrance to Caloundra. The leases on this area owned by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines run out in 2009. I am on the Consultative Committee representing the environment and residents of Caloundra City Council so if you would like further information about this very important site which fronts Pumicestone Passage, the international RAMSAR site and the Fish Habitat Reserve of Pumicestone Passage, please contact me. Caloundra City Council is well aware of the special values of this last, large, open space area on the Passage but the final decisions are not up to them, even though they are an important player in the final outcome.

We've started talking again to Caloundra City Council about Barung's move to Armstrong's farm. An enormous amount of expertise and planning must go into this strategic move and it would be so helpful if there are members who feel they have the skills to assist us. Water quality for the nursery, as we hope to use treated effluent if we go to this site, will be one area requiring extensive investigation. So if you have expertise in this area in particular we would love to hear from you.

The weather has been good for planting so I hope you have plans to purchase more trees to take advantage of the summer rains. Remember Barung closes down over the Christmas New Year period at lunchtime on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will reopen on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2006. A native tree can make a wonderful Christmas tree and can then be put into the ground. Also trees as gifts or gift vouchers can also be purchased from Barung.

Seasons greetings and best wishes for a safe and happy 2006.

## Opening Hours

*Barung Nursery and Offices*

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

# SUPPORT FOR LANDCARE

## *Caloundra City Council backs Barung*

Caloundra City Council has again demonstrated its appreciation of the work Barung undertakes in the Sunshine Coast hinterland by supporting the Coordinator and Reveg/Habitat Officer positions to the tune of \$75 000 during FY 2005-06.

As Cr Newman said, 'I believe community and Council can both get better environmental results by putting some funds into Barung. We will all be monitoring the results and, if successful, looking towards provision of recurrent funding for local landcare.'

This vote of confidence in landcare's ability makes both of these positions possible. Without this local government support, Barung could not afford either of these positions.

The Coordinator's role focuses heavily on attracting funds for natural resource management to the region, and ensuring the efficient and effective use of these funds to achieve maximum outcomes. This entails considerable time writing funding applications for all levels of government as well as smaller funding bodies, and ensures that Barung has the staffing capacity to realise our on-ground ambitions, both on Barung sites and on private lands. Mim Coulstock fills the Coordinator's seat.

The Reveg and Habitat Officer position is invaluable to Barung, providing non-project based expertise to coordinate our broad range of on-ground projects. This position is currently filled by Greg Smyrell, and allows him to use his significant skills to refine Barung's understanding of local ecological systems, undertake flora and weed surveys, assist CCC with management of their local environment reserves, increase members' native flora skills, and oversee our own revegetation and bush regeneration projects among other jobs.

Thank you to Caloundra City Council for supporting this funding, and especially to our local Councillor, Dick Newman, for his recognition of Barung's role in our community.

## *MDCU opens new doors for Barung*

Maleny and District Credit Union members' recent approval of a grant for Barung to purchase a laptop and software for Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping is a real bonus for the local environment. This equipment will enable us to accurately record all sorts of information about our natural resources – locations of rare and threatened flora, significant remnant vegetation, weed infestations, landslips, and project sites.

The equipment will be available for use by other groups including the Bellthorpe Progress Association, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, and Mooloolah Waterwatch and Landcare.

This mapping information will feed into regional body and local government databases for better management of natural resources in the future. Caloundra City Council staff have agreed to assist with GIS training for Barung and other staff. It is hoped Barung will become a 'hub' for NRM mapping in the local region.

## *RADF flags for Expo*

Through Caloundra City Council's Regional Arts Development Funding, Barung recently received a small grant to run flag-making workshops early in 2006. Local artist, Penny Smith, will be coordinating several workshops with local school children and one with Maleny Arts & Crafts and Barung members.

Through these workshops, participants will create large fabric flags with environmental themes for use during the Maleny Wood Expo, both on the Expo site and in Maple Street. The flags will also be available for use during other community events post-Expo.

# Expressions of Interest for FUNDING ASSISTANCE

*by Mim Coulstock, Barung Coordinator*

Since including an Expressions of Interest form in the August-September *Barung Newsletter*, we have been inundated with responses from Barung members who would appreciate funding assistance to undertake on-ground projects on their properties – but there's still room for a few more.

All three regional bodies have different processes for devolving funds, but with a database of interested landholders and potential projects I can respond quickly when opportunity knocks.

***Mooloolah or Maroochy River catchments:*** We some funding through Natural Resource Management South East Queensland (NRMSEQ) for landslip identification and planning, so if your property is in the headwaters of the Mooloolah or Maroochy Rivers or their tributaries and you have landslips, please put in an EOI.

***Upper Stanley River catchment:*** I hope to be working on a habitat restoration application with South East Queensland Western Catchments Group (SEQWCG) in the near future, so if your property lies within the Upper Stanley River catchment, make sure you submit an EoI.

***Mary River catchment:*** We are finalising a large devolved grant application to the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), which includes most of the Mary River catchment members' projects.

There are other funding opportunities outside the regional body process and we are keeping an eye on these too. Help me to help you – let me know what you want to do to address issues on your property – revegetating creekbanks, bush regeneration or remnant protection for restoring fauna habitat, arresting landslips, addressing serious weed threats, or anything else that is impacting on our management of natural resources in the region.

Drop into either the Barung or Expo office to pick up an EoI form or email a request to [info@malenywoodexpo.com](mailto:info@malenywoodexpo.com)

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## Barung'S 2004-2005 AGM AWARD WINNERS

The *2005 Phil Jacobs Farm Forestry Award* was presented to Phil Wilson and Christopher Deane of Eco Hardwoods. Both Phil and Christopher have been involved in the farm forestry industry for many years and have contributed to community-driven farm forestry groups for well over 10 years. As a team – Eco Hardwoods – they are formidable. Eco Hardwoods access timber from farm forestry plantations and salvage timber from development sites, private landholders and road clearing and turn this timber into wood products for the building and furniture trades. Well done – you have been instrumental in bringing the sustainable timber industry into the public arena.

The *2005 Land Restoration Award* went to the Bellthorpe Progress Association for their tremendous community effort in restoring native vegetation at Bellthorpe reserve. The group has held monthly working bees for the past few years, followed by luscious morning teas and talks in the Bellthorpe Hall. They are now taking the knowledge they've gained back onto their own properties where they are undertaking similar habitat restoration programs. Our hats go off to you all – it is a pleasure attending your working bees and you are a shining example of how much a small community can achieve 'on the ground'.

# 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.

## **Burnett Mary Regional Group** by Clinton Muller

**Landcare Groups getting' busy** – Like most places, the Burnett Mary Region has enjoyed some great spring rainfall, a very welcome early Christmas present indeed. But unfortunately for the farmer, keen conservationist or active gardener, the favourable weather has also provided ideal growing conditions for those pesky weeds. Healthy weed populations coupled with some outstanding on-ground demonstration activities have kept Landcare groups across the district on their toes as we continue to roll out the Regional Landcare Partnership arrangements.

The Regional Landcare Partnership continues to demonstrate an ideal model for the engagement of the Landcare Groups in the region, particularly as we look forward to the last Regional Landcare Meeting for 2005 in Tiaro. These meetings provide an ideal opportunity for groups across the region to come together and share ideas and activities and identify cross linkages. Funding provided to groups this round is targeted towards on-ground works, following on from the very successful round involving the production of sustainability kits which saw BMRG contributing toward Barung's very popular *Blackall Range Landholders Guide*.

A number of groups have formed strong working relationships with their local communities and industry and are trialling some really exciting practices on the ground. Projects include native species for farm forestry, riparian restoration works, saline site reclamation, and weed management and organic fertiliser trials.

**New Catchment Officer** – BMRG has recently signed off with Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group and AquaGen Water and Renewable Energy to employ a Catchment Officer for the Lake Baroon Catchment. In another article in this newsletter, Murray Dunstan, the new Catchment Officer, explains his new duties.

**Event & Professional Development Sponsorship** – Any groups or individuals seeking BMRG sponsorship for events or professional development activities are invited to complete the application form posted on the BMRG website ([www.burnettmarynrm.org.au](http://www.burnettmarynrm.org.au)). All applications should be completed in conjunction with the guidelines on the site. Applications are assessed on a quarterly basis, so please take this into consideration when submitting requests for up-coming events.

## **Natural Resource Management SEQ** by Susie Chapman

By the time this goes to print, NRMSEQ and SEQWCG will be wedded in regional bliss as SEQ Catchments Ltd as of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Aah.

A number of new regional projects have grown wings since we last spoke. Here is a taste...

**Reconnecting our fragmented landscape** – We are receiving funding from NR&M to undertake a needs analysis of peri-urban residents in SEQ in relation to natural resource management (NRM). This largely relates to the area beyond the urban footprint. Local hero Dr Peter Oliver will be joining colleagues Dr James Whelan and Dr John Mackenzie to conduct this social survey which will include designing and trialling an effective suite of incentives. Self-interest has been identified as one of the seven key regional forces acting against sustainability in our regional

NRM plan, and it is self-interest we need to understand if we are to seriously address the preservation and improvement of our natural assets.

**Mass movement** – Of land, not of people in this case. The earth is moving dramatically along the eastern slopes of the Blackall Range escarpment where the sandstone meets the basalt. Barung is working with the Maroochy and Mooloolah catchment groups, NR&M, councils and us to raise awareness and understanding, and develop a strategic approach to preventing and rectifying the situation. John Muir will keep you posted.

**Looking for the smoking gun** – Two research studies are underway focussing on the impact of septic systems on the waterways in the Pine Rivers and north Maroochy catchments – looking for the elusive 'smoking gun'. These complementary projects are an excellent collaboration between NR&M, Healthy Waterways, University of the Sunshine Coast, Pine Rivers and Maroochy councils and ourselves and will be the latest task to calibrate the spatial models of the Non-sewered Areas Audit of SEQ.

**Renewable energies** – Projects addressing renewable energies will soon trial a number of approaches on the Sunshine Coast through SCEC, USC, Regional Futures Network and the Maroochy Catchment Centre. Projects will include the Qld Sustainable Schools Initiative (QESSI), *Power to Change* Trade Expo in March, and an Earth's Choice renewable energies investment campaign.

**Citizen Senate II** – On December 8<sup>th</sup> we will host the second Citizen Senate at Parliament House to review the year's progress in regional NRM. Leading up to this there will be a series of bus trips around the region for anyone interested to check out the projects first hand.

Heaps more happening – check out [www.nrmseq.com](http://www.nrmseq.com)

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## Groundwater Monitoring

The Groundwater Monitoring Project is going well, with about 20 sites now identified within the upper Obi Obi and Walkers Creek catchments. (The project will be focusing on these areas before expanding to include the rest of Lake Baroon catchment. A similar trial is being done in the Eudlo Creek catchment on the coast.) An information manual and monitoring gear are currently being put together so monitoring should start soon.

The Sunshine Coast Groundwater Investigation Group (GIG) is coordinating this project, in conjunction with Barung Landcare and the Lake Baroon Catchment Group.

The objective is to monitor groundwater levels and quality in as many private bores as possible. Landholders are being asked to either monitor water levels in their own bores or, alternatively, make their bores available for monitoring. Access to the many springs in the area has also been requested, so that these can be mapped.

Response from landholders so far has been excellent, with many people keen to keep an eye on their bores. However because some bores are difficult to access more bore sites are needed.

For more information please contact Andrew Todd on 5441 2938 or 5446 7025 or the Barung Landcare office on 5494 3151.

# 2006 MALENY WOOD EXPO

by *Mim Coulstock*

Plans are well underway for Expo 2006 – 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006 at the Maleny Showgrounds! We have a new office – freshly painted and rearing to go. Funding applications are hitting the mail, Juanita has redesigned our marketing strategy, and Heather Spring is pounding the pavements in search of sponsors.

Jane, our wonderful CJP assistant, has been persuaded to stick around and assist with Expo Admin during the peak period from now to May 2006, and the draft program is already on Penny Smith's computer.

The next thing on the list is to hear from Barung (or community) members who have the talents and time to volunteer as Area Coordinators. We need ACs to coordinate the following:

1. Raffle ticket sales before and during the Expo (February until end of Expo)
2. the EcoTour Program (early January until the Expo)
3. Expo Volunteers (March until after the Expo)
4. Taste Maleny Produce Store
5. Preview Party
6. Landcare Paddock displays
7. Maleny Country Café (Barung catering venue)
8. Landcare Bar & BBQ (Barung catering venue) and
9. Soapbox Theatre.

If you would be interested in helping out prior to Expo with any of these areas, please give me a ring at the Expo Office on 5499 9514 or email me at [info@malenywoodexpo.com](mailto:info@malenywoodexpo.com)

If you would like to take on one of these jobs with a friend, you can both ring me! Or if you would like to find out more about what is involved or if you have other talents but are not sure where you can fit in – ring me!

The Expo is a wild and wonderful event and lots of hands do lots of things that you would never imagine to make it happen, so there's sure to be a special place for your particular skills. We'd love to have you on board.

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## Sustainable Land-use Project

### *Thank you Jackie*

Thank you to Jackie Montgomery, who worked on the Sustainable Solutions project from its beginning in mid-2004. Jackie's contributions to the project have been widely applauded within Barung, particularly her approach to re-establishing relationships with the local dairy farming community.

Jackie played a major role in organising Landcare Week in 2004, and subsequently run a number of workshops that significantly benefited local landholders – particularly the Fire and Biodiversity workshops. Jackie, your cheerful smile will be missed around Barung, and we wish you the best with your involvement in the Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative.

### *And welcome Ed*

Ed Surman will be the new face of the Sustainable Land-use Project, which continues to be funded by the National Landcare Program through the BMRG.

The project's focus early in 2006 will be on implementing two on-ground demonstration sites that contribute to sustainable farming. Two sites with severe bank slumping in lower Elaman Creek have been selected to demonstrate the effect on such slump areas of stock exclusion and planting with appropriate species. If funding becomes available, large woody debris will also be placed in-stream to help create fish habitat and divert flow from the slumps.

Many farms in the area suffer extensive bank slumpage due to loss of vegetation on creekbanks, especially on outside bends of creeks. Although landowners are understandably reluctant to lose paddock area through fencing off creeks, slumpage over sufficient years will equate to land lost through fencing. Fencing and replanting these 'at risk' banks has many other spin-offs for both freshwater and terrestrial biodiversity, and contributes to improved water quality in our waterways.

# 2006 Wootha Prize

Application forms are now available for wood artists to start thinking about entering a 'Seat for One' in the 2006 Wootha Prize.

2006 will be the third year of The Wootha Prize, the feature exhibition at the Maleny Wood Expo.

In keeping with the Maleny Wood Expo's objectives to achieve positive outcomes for our environmental future, all Wootha Prize entries must be created from sustainably harvested native timbers, recycled timbers or weed timbers.

The competition is open to wood artists nationally. The designer of the best 'Seat for one' will receive \$1500, with \$750 and \$500 for the second and third place winners. All prize winners also receive quantities of sustainably harvested native timber.

Artists have until 17<sup>th</sup> February 2006 to submit their applications to the Expo office. For more details:

**Website** [www.malenywoodexpo.com](http://www.malenywoodexpo.com)

**Phone** 07 5429 6566

**Email** [admin@malenywoodexpo.com](mailto:admin@malenywoodexpo.com).

the  
**WOOTHA  
PRIZE**  
2006  
national woodworking competition  
theme: seat

**First Prize** \$1500 + \$500 value of sustainably harvested cabinet timbers  
**Second Prize** \$750 + \$250 value of sustainably harvested cabinet timbers  
**Third Prize** \$500 + \$250 value of sustainably harvested cabinet timbers

Works to be exhibited from  
**29 April to 1 May 2006**  
at the  
**MALENY WOOD EXPO**  
from *Chainsaw to Fine Furniture*™

Applications close 17 February 2006  
For information + application forms:  
**07 5429 6566**  
[info@malenywoodexpo.com](mailto:info@malenywoodexpo.com)  
[www.malenywoodexpo.com](http://www.malenywoodexpo.com)

sponsored by: Barung Landcare  
Bold in Gold Fine Art Gallery  
David Linton Furniture & Timber Works

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

# The Changing Balances

*REVEG IN PROGRESS* by Greg Smyrell

A number of years ago a friend told me a parable about a peasant farmer in times gone by. I've forgotten most of this story but it started something like this.

One day a beautiful wild stallion turned up at the farm and the old farmer and his son quickly yarded the animal. Later that day the farmer's neighbour came over and looked at the horse and said to the farmer, 'What good luck you have gaining this magnificent beast!'

'Good luck, bad luck, who knows?' replied the old farmer.

The next day the farmer's son, a healthy young man, decided to see if he could ride the new horse. The young man was thrown awkwardly and broke his leg. Later that day the farmer's neighbour came over and said, 'What bad luck, now you have to do the harvest by yourself.' The old farmer replied, 'Bad luck, good luck, who knows?'

A week later the king decided to wage war on one of his neighbours. The king's army went through the regions taking all the fit and healthy young men to help fight his war. The farmer's neighbour had his two sons taken. Later that day he visited the old farmer and saw his son still there with his broken leg and he said to the farmer, 'What good luck you have, not having your son risk his life at war.'

'Good luck, bad luck, who knows?' said the old farmer.

The story goes on and on, twist after twist, good luck, bad luck, bad luck, good luck – who knows?

After nearly thirty years of bush regeneration I've gained a strong dislike for foes such as camphor laurels and privets, but recently I've been told a story and made some observations that made me recall that old 'good luck, bad luck' parable.

On a seed walk at Ted McCosker's at Mapleton, Ted remarked that he believes most of our native pigeons would have become extinct if it wasn't for the camphor laurels. My immediate thought was, 'What rubbish!', thinking of the dozens of native laurels and many other fruiting plants our native pigeons eat.

However I was on the wrong tack! Ted went on to tell about how it was when he was younger. Getting to the butcher and affording meat wasn't like it is today. Many families would go down to the scrub and shoot a dozen or so pigeons for dinner. The numbers of birds were dropping and it was getting harder to get a feed, when along came the camphor laurel trees and the pigeons started eating their berries. The meat of the birds became strongly tainted and wasn't palatable anymore, so people stopped shooting them and the birds were able to build up their numbers again.

Recently we've been working on a number of regeneration projects in thick privet areas. Whereas the small-leaved privet *Ligustrum sinense* hardly allows anything to regenerate under it, the large-leaved privet *Ligustrum lucidum* will allow a certain amount of indigenous plants to germinate underneath. Selectively poisoning large-leaved privet over a number of years and opening up the heavy canopy allows the naturally occurring species underneath to take off and for some to find their place in the canopy. If this is done too fast the weather can get in – too much sun or frost may burn these tender, unhardened plants, so the privet works as a pioneer or nursery species.

Very few of our naturally occurring plants have the ability that privet has to reclaim pasture/open areas, particularly along our major waterways which, through clearing, have become too cold for many local species to establish themselves. So without this

privet, would we be able to regenerate major areas as quickly and cost effectively as we can where privet now occurs?

Lastly on this theme, on our most recent revegetation plantings we have had major damage from hares chewing off our plants. Most of these plants will recover but may be malformed and miss the great growth opportunities of this summer, so they may require an extra year or two of costly maintenance. So why the increase in hares? Simple: less predators. Why less predators? Major wild dog baitings. So good luck, bad luck – who knows.

On the subject of hares, I was told many years ago to use blood and bone or urine because hares dislike the odour of these materials and leave the plants alone. I've had reasonable success with these methods, but was wondering if anyone else has methods for protecting their small plants from hares or other pests.

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## Green Corps: Keeping youth in the environment

*A TRAINEE'S TALE* by Jake Smith-Moloney

Well, we have reached the tail end of the year and everyone seems to be going a bit silly from the heat and the looming chaos of Christmas. Who would have thought that a time for relaxing and catching up with family and friends results in crazy Christmas shopping and spending hours in the kitchen preparing Christmas lunch? What scares me the most is that while we are occupied with festive activities, both garden and environmental weeds are growing like crazy, making the job all that much bigger when we all head back to work. I am drifting off topic here, oops.

Back to the topic: the current Green Corps team based out of the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre. These environmentally minded individuals have been spending most of their time removing lantana out at the Genesis site. I have been spending one day a fortnight assisting in on-ground revegetation and regeneration works and helping with training and education. I have found this work very rewarding because I get to spend time with and teach people my age who are just as passionate about local environmental issues as I am.

Green Corps is a great way of introducing younger members of society to environmental industries, but the viable opportunities available to participants after Green Corps are limited. The job may be ethically rewarding and enjoyable, but if you can't afford to feed yourself or keep a roof over your head then you will probably end up in serious financial trouble and mentally distraught.

Without contracting work to supplement my income I found it extremely difficult to cover the costs of living. Many Green Corps team members gave up previous employment to get into this project; they have an amazing amount of enthusiasm and are keen workers and students. It would be a shame if there was no follow-on employment for these eco-passionate, hard-working youth.

Hope you all have a safe and merry holiday period – but remember weeds don't go on holidays so keep on top of your reveg plot/garden. As always I am contactable (most of the time) at Barung during the week. Emails on this or other related topics can be sent to Ze\_Bacon@hotmail.com

*Found at AGM Treeplant*

Pair of garden gloves and a lady's cloth hat

# Bush Regeneration:

## *The strategic approach to rebuilding remnant rainforest*

*CONTRACTING SERVICES by Jolyon Froude*

Last month the Contracting team completed work on two local properties as part of a Rainforest Recovery Project facilitated by Barung with the aim of protecting and enhancing several key rainforest remnants in the Maleny area.

The first property we worked on belongs to Maureen and Mitch O'Brien. This amazing 100 acre property ranges over a series of seven natural terraces cascading down the side of the Range in the upper Stanley River catchment. Maureen and Mitch are extremely dedicated land owners, working tirelessly over the ten years they have owned the property to control large-leaf privet, lantana and a range of other weeds. They must have poisoned tens of thousands of privets, earning Maureen the nick-name of 'the Privet Lady'.

The property has abundant remnant rainforest confined mostly to the gullies and steep slopes between the flatter natural terraces, and the decade of weed control has seen massive amounts of native plant regeneration spreading out from these areas. As well as poisoning privet, other techniques used to achieve this outcome have included progressive spraying of lantana and herbaceous weeds and strategic cattle grazing. The property is home to several rare and threatened species and is one of the most impressive large-scale rainforest regeneration projects I have seen.

The second site we have worked on is the Book Farm in the headwaters of the Obi Obi Creek at Reesville. This is owned by Richard Dent and Jill Morris who are strongly committed to the preservation and enhancement of the key rainforest remnant on the property. This is probably the best vegetation remnant on the upper Obi, consisting of six acres of undisturbed subtropical rainforest along the creek, surrounded by regenerating forest and plenty of privet, lantana and other weeds. The value of this small remnant is clear when viewing the surrounding area, which has been almost completely cleared for dairy farming.

On both properties our contracting work was focused on the Bush Regeneration approach: the strategic control of weeds to facilitate the natural regeneration processes of the forest systems.

This sounds simple enough ... The key is being strategic and efficient in undertaking the work. There are always more weeds than resources to remove them, so it is important to focus on areas and techniques that will maximize the positive outcomes. Working out from more intact areas into more disturbed areas is one of the main strategies. It is also important not to clear too much at once thereby increasing light levels too dramatically and creating perfect conditions for other weeds. *(Continued next column.)*



*Piles of lantana and other weeds cleared from the edge of the Book Farm vegetation remnant. (Photograph by Greg Smryell.)*

Plant identification skills are vital ; being able to pick out a dozen or two weed species from well over 100 natives at a glance is the essence of the process!

When we think about enhancing and extending remnant vegetation we often (sometimes too often) focus on planting trees. However at the right site the bush regeneration approach offers a range of advantages over tree planting. It is usually much more efficient in terms of time and money to remove the weeds and facilitate natural regeneration than it is to plant and establish tube stock. The regeneration approach also ensures that the right species are used (nature doesn't make mistakes!) and that inappropriate genetic material from elsewhere is not being introduced to the site through planted stock.

Remnant rainforest patches are of immeasurable value. They provide immense insight into what the landscape was like before it was cleared – the nature of the plant communities and how they were distributed. Bush regeneration is usually the best way to protect and enhance the integrity and long-term sustainability of remnant patches. If you are a local landowner interested in protecting and enhancing remnant vegetation, Barung Contracting can give you advice and practical assistance with all aspects of the process.

## Lucky Draw Winners

For buying a *Blackall Range Landholders Guide*:

Congratulations to **Phil and Judy Holden** from the Montville Newsagency, the lucky winners of a \$100 Barung Gift Voucher (drawn at the Barung AGM 15<sup>th</sup> October).

Just remember ... *You're all lucky winners if you own a Blackall Range Landholders Guide!*

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

## Christmas Closing Dates

The Barung Nursery and Offices will close for the end-of-year break at

**Lunchtime on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

Staff in nursery and the offices will throw the doors wide open again with New Year enthusiasm on

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2006**

*Barung staff wish all members and vollies a delightful and safe Christmas and New Year period.*

# Caper white

## *Belenois java teutonia*

*BUTTERFLIES OF THE RANGE* by Bob Miller

One of the most common questions I am asked around this time of year is, 'What are those white butterflies that are flying over in their thousands?'

Well, the answer is, 'The caper white butterfly, *Belenois java teutonia*.'

They are actually one of our 'migratory' butterflies and can often be seen at this time of year literally in their thousands, all seemingly flying in the same direction. These migrations can actually last for a couple of weeks at a time.



Clockwise from left: Caper white larva, adult from top, and adult from side. All photographs by Bob Miller.

I have observed the white eggs (which later turn yellow or orange) being laid on the young foliage of the foodplant in the hundreds.

The larvae that emerge from these eggs are an olive-green to chocolate-brown colour, with yellow spots and sparse white hairs. They feed in large groups and, if enough are present, will easily defoliate the foodplant.

When ready to pupate they move to the underside of a leaf, if any are still present, or if not, to the trunk of the tree or a branch. Here they spin a small pad of silk onto which they attach their abdomen and a silken girdle to support their thorax. They then split their larval skin, slipping it slowly down the body and eventually dropping it to the ground, exposing the naked pupae.

The pupae can be white, pink or even almost black, with brown mottling. They have a raised projection on their back and a point on their front end. As mentioned earlier, they always hang upside down supported by their tail and a central silken girdle.

The male adult, about 55 mm from wingtip to wingtip, is mainly white. The upperside has an outer edge of black with white spots. The underside is similar with the addition of darker markings following the vein lines. Spots on the hindwings, in a small area close to the body, and underneath contain splashes of yellow.

The females are about the same size as the males and are very variable in colouration. The upperside on some can look the same as the males' and others will have the white areas replaced by an orange-pink colour with the black areas more extensive. The underside is also darker than the males' and the white areas are replaced with yellow, even on the underside of the forewing.

The main larval foodplant for the Maleny area is *Capparis arborea* (brush caper berry or native caper). I will guarantee that if one is planted it will not take long for the butterflies to find it. Barung Landcare stocks this plant whenever availability permits.

# Turn weedy vines into basket cases

*WEEDS, WEEDS, WEEDS* by Lin Fairlie

One thing the weed vines have in their favour is the showy flowers they produce at their own particular time of year (which, of course, is why they were brought into Australia in the first place).

Why, you may ask, do I think showy flowers are a good thing when we spend so much of our time trying to remove weeds? Well, at least it helps draw our attention to them – at other times of the year, we may barely notice them climbing through the trees. So what is giving itself away now?

- Cat's claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati* has finished its distinctive yellow flush high in the tree tops and along fences
- Morning glory *Ipomoea indica* continues its sneaky crawl in just so many places – there is even a derelict house in town where morning glory is trying to get in through the windows
- The cream catkin-like flowering heads of Madeira vine *Anredera cordifolia* have finished
- So of the climbing weeds that leaves moth vine *Araujia sericifera* – its pretty white and pink flowers are just starting to tell us where it is established.

Many fence posts and tall trees are supporting the green, pink and white veil at the moment, so this is the time to get in there at its roots and pull out the vines. They are easily removed from the soil and can just be left to hang over the fence or in the branches of trees along the forest edge.

Please try to remove as many as possible now before the choko-like fruit develop and release the thousands of wind-blown seeds.

I remove as many small moth vine seedlings from my reveg patch as any other weed, apart from privet. Moth vines seedlings even outnumber Himalayan ash seedlings, of which I have many due to the wind-blown production of my neighbour's specimens.

Another thing in favour of a number of weedy vines – but not enough in favour to justify us leaving them to grow – is that moth vine, morning glory and privet can be used to make 'weed baskets'. Thin privet branches can be used for the handle, moth vine for the top rim of the basket and also, along with morning glory, for the body of the basket. The white sap dries up by the second day so pull your vines out the day before you want to use them.

It is quite therapeutic to pull vines out knowing that something can be made from them and that it does not just all go to waste.

No one has suggested a use for the large seed pods so let's get as many vines out now as we can before the pods form.

Happy basket making.

## *The Blackall Range Landholders Guide*

The essential guide to living on the Blackall Range

Available from Barung Landcare

\$15 (plus \$3 if posted)

Also available at

Rosetta Books, Maple Street Co-Op

Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve



# Working Cross-regionally in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland

By John Muir  
Regional NRM Arrangements Coordinator

The first three months of this new regional NRM position (hosted by Barung) has been mostly catching up with the numerous stakeholders in the three regions that meet at the Blackall Range (NRMSEQ, SEQWCG and BMRG), and facilitating projects for the delivery of their Regional NRM Investment Strategies.

The project area spans from Noosa south around the Blackall Ranges via the Sunshine Coast hinterland to Peachester, and the upper Brisbane Valley area around Kilcoy. The stakeholder groups involved range from Landcare, Catchment Care and Local Government to local environmental and industry groups, progress associations and landholders. South-east Queensland, with its unique fauna and flora, good quality agricultural land and high demands on natural resources (water, land and vegetation) has the fastest growing population in Australia, and this makes for potential conflict and compromises.

Most of the groups I've met with are still in the information awareness and understanding phase. Some have progressed to the project development and implementation stages. How these groups focus themselves and where they fit into the wider strategic regional planning processes still needs more understanding.

There seems to be an opportunity for localised project-focused 'community clusters' forming or working with existing groups eg the Narrows Road Group, Crystal Waters, Booroobin, Landsborough, Bellthorpe, Peachester, Conondale and Reesville. There is also room to increase the capacity and role of some groups from solely on-ground project implementation to wider educational awareness and capacity building. The role and function of different groups is constantly changing and evolving over time.

Potential projects based on similar themes that have been identified by most groups include

- PMP – Property Management Planning
- Farm Forestry
- Native Forest Management
- Weeds
- Grazing Management
- Peri-urban and Rural Residential issues, and
- Remnant protection and Revegetation.

Communication and information flow between stakeholders in NRM, at all levels, and facilitation of a more strategic approach is crucial for the future involvement of such regional initiatives. Grass roots ownership and empowerment should underpin all community engagement processes.

Lessons learnt from the previous Decade of Landcare suggest that social and human capital can be built from the bottom up, with strategic support from wider regional NRM planning processes. Now is also the time for implementation and on-ground targets and milestones to be met, to improve the natural capital assets.

I am based at Barung Landcare's 'other office' in Coral St (old Dairy Factory) and can be contacted on 0429 943 153 or 5499 9518.



Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

## Implementation Plan for Baroon Catchment

by Murray Dunstan, Lake  
Baroon Catchment Officer

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group is hosting the new position of Catchment Officer for Lake Baroon catchment, in conjunction with AquaGen Water and Renewable Energy and BMRG (Burnett Mary Regional Group).

As the new Catchment Officer, I will be aligning the NRM Plan *Country to Coast*,

*a healthy sustainable future* with the Lake Baroon Catchment Management Strategy to develop an Implementation Plan. This document will specify strategies for improving water quality in Lake Baroon, and provide a framework for protecting and enhancing riparian lands in the Lake Baroon catchment. A draft document for public comment will be available in December.

I will then begin sourcing funds and administering on-ground works for improving water quality in Lake Baroon catchment, including fencing off riparian areas from stock, developing off-stream watering facilities, installing stock crossings, removing weeds and enhancing riparian revegetation. I will also develop and present education programs and field days for the public and industry.

I have consulted in and taught water-related environmental topics on the Sunshine Coast. I'm interested in projects that maintain commercial activities and production while sustaining or increasing water quality, and I'm particularly interested in novel approaches to water quality improvement.

My position will complement the services already offered by Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group. I can be contacted at the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group office at 19 Coral Street Maleny on 5494 3775 or 0438 448 508 or [murraydunstan@iinet.net.au](mailto:murraydunstan@iinet.net.au)



## Splatter that lantana!

by John Hunter, NSW National Parks & Wildlife

Glyphosate is registered for splatter gun use on lantana at a concentration of 9 parts water to 1 part glyphosate. In our experience this method is extremely time efficient and allows us to treat areas that are totally impractical to treat using 100:1 overspray or Quickspray. The method is best for dense, lush lantana (full of water and growing). Advantages include:

- It is not necessary to cart large amounts of fluid around.
- There is no runoff onto the soil.
- With care, desirable plants under the lantana can be avoided.

Modified stock drenching guns (with the drench nozzle removed) work well as splatter guns. To get the maximum range, incline the gun at a 45 degree angle and squeeze out a continuous stream as you smoothly bring the gun to the horizontal position – this gives a line of 9:1 across 15 metres or more of thicket. Deliver two squirts onto the foliage of each bush, or one squirt every 1-2 metres.

If you use the splatter gun method for lantana control in your area, please let me know how it goes on 02 6650 7111 or at [john.hunter@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:john.hunter@environment.nsw.gov.au)

# Thinning and Pruning

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

Every garden, presumably even a modern minimalist garden, will need thinning, pruning, perhaps re-creating, at some stage in its life. Good initial planning will reduce the scale of the task, but few plants obey their label guidelines, and some will eventually dominate. Large botanic gardens also undergo some level of reconstruction as time passes. You are not alone!

So, time has passed, and decisions have to be made about which plants to prune and which to remove altogether. Everyone makes mistakes, or more accurately, unforeseen errors, (see label guidelines above) but it's still like losing treasured friends! It's quite common practice to initially overplant to gain quick cover but an appropriate alternative would be to plant sacrificial groundcovers to fill in the early spaces. Good candidates are the various scaevolias, *Brachyscome multifida* (available in several colours), the cheerful bright yellow hibbertias (especially *Hibbertia vestita*), and *Helichrysum ramosissima*.

Densely planted gardens which protect the soil, shade out weeds etc will need thinning at some stage. Pest and/or disease problems may also be a reason for thinning. These can develop in very humid conditions when there's not much air circulation and foliage remains moist. Disease, however, is not normally an issue with local native plants growing in their own environment as problems mostly occur with plants already under stress.

Too much shade, or sun, poor drainage and sudden changes in soil moisture levels, and being well outside the natural climatic zone, are common causes of stress and sometimes death. I did try a couple of potentially beautiful arid zone emu bushes but a heavy clay soil and humid SEQ really wasn't for them! The birds loved them during the one season they flowered but they were stressed, the local insects came in droves, and I finally pulled them out.

Seasonal pest attacks can often be ignored since the plants recover, but if a particular specimen demonstrates a tendency towards insect infestation and therefore the need for regular control measures, remove it. Life is too busy to deliberately create unnecessary work. Some leptospermums will be attacked by scale and then attract sooty mould if they become shaded out by adjacent shrubs. In order to maintain a healthy and therefore attractive garden, either the leptospermum goes, or its neighbour.

Another pest which can cause problems and result in selective plant removal is the web-forming caterpillar which stitches together very small leaves leading to defoliation. Candidates for attack are certain leptospermum and baeckia cultivars. Enjoy them for a while and then remove them to create space which will rapidly be filled by adjacent, larger leaved and less susceptible shrubs.

If you want your garden to remain neat and tidy (controlled?), then regular pruning will be the order of the day. This should be programmed in from Day One to maintain dense foliage and promote flowering. Many natives, especially the callistemons, respond to tip pruning but sprawlers such as midyim (*Austromyrtus dulcis*) can be hacked back quite severely. Once the root system has been established, many melaleucas, particularly *Melaleuca thymifolia*, will come back from a stump.

Don't forget that our small-leaved syzygiums and *Austromyrtus* cultivars such as 'Blushing Beauty' can be hedged and even used for topiary, if you're into that sort of thing. Lemon myrtles can be pruned, and have to be when grown as an orchard crop tree. Native mulberry *Pipturus argenteus* can be pruned hard and will create a dense protective cascade of foliage on the edge of your revegetation areas. Don't be afraid to prune but a regular light haircut is likely to give the best results.

# The 'Doing' at Barung

THE CORNER DESK by Darryl Ebenezer

*The tree's branches sway*

*The leaves ripple in the wind*

*The trunk sits quite still*

(Anonymous)

Having become an active and quite literal participant in the 'tree change' movement I have now begun to notice and learn about things within the natural and built environments that I would have previously glossed over or just plain missed. I have spent the first two months of my new role as Operations Manager within Barung integrating a whole new way of thinking and doing into my previous experiences and practices.

A lot of 'doing' happens within Barung and the wider community:

- Potting many hundreds of tubes each week out the back of the Nursery and helping to keep the office under control is an integral aspect of Barung's success and satisfying for the people involved (Volunteers)
- Supplying 9500 thousand native tubes to be planted into the local environment does make a difference (Barung Nursery)
- Working five days a week clearing weeds and planting native vegetation does change the landscape for the better (Barung Contracting)
- Providing advice and an opportunity for people to grasp a vision of what is possible in their backyard is enormously valuable (Barung Revegetation and Habitat Officer)
- Participating in the education and training of Green Corp and CJP participants contributes to the life experience and future of these individuals and the whole community
- Planning and implementing an opportunity to display the many facets of wood and sustainable living will change people's attitudes and the way the environment is viewed (Barung Maleny Wood Expo).

As you can see, plenty of activity occurs each day and week in the life of Barung.

All healthy organisations need to ensure that both their activities (such as I have mentioned above) and their maintenance functions are attended to.

Part of my new role is to attend to these 'maintenance' functions. Areas such as healthy relationships, good communication processes, good governance, sound fiscal management, and a shared vision of where the organisation is heading.

I have enjoyed planting one tree (many thousands more to go), visiting a creek for a meeting, and learning about seeds and weeds.

A great place to work and make a visible difference. In the next newsletter some thoughts about good governance and a shared vision.

## BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

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

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

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

Contact the office at Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 or email [barungadmin@big.net.au](mailto:barungadmin@big.net.au) for a Business Sponsor form.

# CJP team wrap up

*CJP TEAM NEWS by Ed Surman*

The allotted time for our second wonderful Community Jobs Plan Project is rapidly drawing to an end.

Community Jobs Plan or 'CJP' is an initiative of the Queensland Government Department of Training and Employment. Our projects are delivered through a co-operative arrangement between the Hinterland Business Centre and Barung Landcare. As lead agency the Hinterland Business Centre does all project administration. Barung supplies the on-ground project sites and resources to enable these great teams to achieve massive amounts of work.

As team leader it is wonderful to have introduced seven people to each other just 15 weeks ago and to watch them learn and work together and see genuine friendships develop. It is easy to supervise a team who are prepared to work together, who agree that work is fun *and* meaningful, and that what we do will make a difference.

And what a difference we can make. Here are some hard cold stats of what we have been up to over the last 13 weeks:

- Removed 7 m<sup>3</sup> of weeds from various sites, including 1.5 m<sup>3</sup> from the Maleny Entrance Site and the Obi Boardwalk
- Maintained a minimum of 26 210m<sup>2</sup> of Barung's project sites through hand weeding, brushcutting and spraying
- Conducted structural pruning at the Obi Boardwalk, Pacific Plantations and Maleny Entrance sites
- Cooked for 250 workshop participants during Landcare Week
- Planted 4220 native plants
- Assisted Mooloolah Waterwatch, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, Bellthorpe Progress Association and the Genesis Foundation with on-ground work
- Provided training and assistance to the Genesis Green Corps
- Collected 2 kg of seeds for the Barung Nursery, and assisted with propagating tube stock in the nursery
- Weeded stock in the nursery and the nursery surrounds
- Set up the Barung tent for Landcare Week and Barung AGM
- Raised funds for the IGA Community Treeplant Project, and gave out brochures, posters and Landcare information at the Barung stand during the IGA celebrations.



Congratulations and thank you to Phil Hands, Michelle Smith, Jason Walters, Michelle Cormac, Deborah Ward, Shanyn Todd and Tony Bright of the CJP reveg team for their hard work, willingness to learn and friendship. These people are very pleasant company, ready and skilled for work, and have an all-round understanding of conservation and land management.

If you require a willing worker, give me a call at Barung Landcare – I can recommend the right person for you.

**NEWSFLASH:** The whole team has been employed to undertake tree planting on a project at Sippy Downs. They start work on Wednesday 28th November. Congratulations team! And Jason Walters has begun a full time traineeship with Greening Australia – go, Jason!

# Experiencing CJP

*by CJP participant Debbie Ward*

My understanding of 'working together as a team' and 'team effort' has expanded during these past 15 weeks, due to the diversity of personalities that make up our CJP team.

Seven people came together with one idea in mind – Love of the Land. This love broke down barriers, forgave, overlooked, added to, and grew in friendship.

Under the enthusiastic guidance of our team leader, my knowledge grew. With fun and laughter we planted, cleared, sprayed, weeded and brush-cut up and down the Obi Obi, down the Stanley River, around Echidna Creek and the Mooloolah River.

These days are drawing to a close and this team member admits that she'll miss the comradeship as she works her own plot of soil. On the other hand, a new outlook has risen from the knowledge she has gained.

# The Itchy & Scratchy Team

*by CJP participant Tony Bright*

The current CJP team's focus is agricultural and environmental work-related training. This training covers aspects of the nursery industry through plant ID, seed collection and propagation. Field training includes weed control, reveg, regen and tree planting. Workplace Health & Safety is also an important aspect of training.

This program not only provides the above training but also puts individuals into a team situation that has other benefits apart from specific training in industry-related topics. These include group dynamics, being able to work as a part of an efficient and productive team, respect for each other's strengths and weaknesses, and reliance on the group rather than the individuals for successful completion of projects. The knowledge and expertise that eight people have on varying work-related topics creates a melting pot and information database that eventually benefits all participants and increases individual productivity.

The team has been involved in many and varied 'other activities'. During Landcare Week the team set up marquees and interactive information and cooked lunch for and generally hosted visitors. The team also contributed to the Endangered Species Day presentations. CJP helped to prepare the site and set up for Barung's AGM and treeplant at Maleny Showgrounds. CJP members attended a stall at IGA's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday where the IGA Connection Treeplant and the *Blackall Range Landholders Guide* were promoted. The team has also worked with the current Green Corps group at their Genesis site.

During the term of this program the team has had the opportunity to visit many sites that normally would not be accessible to the general public. Some of these forest and riparian worksites are stunningly beautiful and provide further incentive to continue the work to enhance and protect these unique and threatened systems. It also makes the discomfort of scrub itch mites, ticks and bites as well as other scary things a little easier to tolerate.

In conclusion participation in this valuable CJP project has had a positive benefit for all team members and given them the opportunity to contribute some practical and beneficial returns for both the local community and the environment. The team would like to thank Barung, The Hinterland Business Centre, Naomi Miller from DEET, and the Queensland State Government for their various contributions to the success of the program.



# It's seed collecting time

*NURSERY NOTES* By Wayne Webb

Many of our rainforest species are seeding prolifically this year, no doubt in anticipation of the good season. We have been busy collecting as time permits, as well as receiving donations from members.

Thank you to all those who have brought in seed. I tend to take my predecessors' view of not thanking particular donors by name in the newsletter for fear of offending those I forget. I feel, however that a special 'thank you' must go to Trevor Carbury. Trevor has a grazing property at Elaman Creek with significant areas of remnant rainforest vegetation from which he regularly brings in good quantities of seeds. Recently he has brought in bags of foambark (*Jagera pseudorhus*). *Jagera* is very attractive tree which performs well on tougher sites, but unfortunately the seed capsules are covered in very irritant hairs, making seed collecting and cleaning a rather unpleasant task.

We have also received good quantities of seed from Diana O'Connor of Flaxton (*Synoum glandulosum* and *Mischarytera lautereriana*), and from Jill Morris and Richard Dent from the Book Farm at Reesville (*Castanospora alphandii* and *Syzygium hodgkinsoniae*).

Greg's fortnightly seed collecting walks have also been yielding greater amounts and variety of seed. Our propagation shed is now bulging at the seams, but while the seed is there we have to collect and sow it. Seed of many rainforest species cannot stored, and may not be available next year.

Seed to look out for in the coming months include *Guioa semiglauca* and *Mallotus philippensis* (red kamala). Both are important species for revegetation, but have been in very short supply in the nursery. *Guioa* seed tends to be taken by birds as soon as the capsules open, but if bunches are picked and brought in when some (say 10%) of the capsules are open, they should continue to open over the next week or so. We can go over the bunches each day and process any seeds ready. With *Mallotus* seed you also need to wait until some of the capsules are opening before harvesting. Unfortunately many red kamala trees produce seeds without embryos. It is therefore worthwhile cutting a sample of seeds from a tree before collecting. The seeds are small (approx 2 mm diameter), round and black. When cut through they should be filled with a white embryo. Good seeds will also sink if placed in water. Anybody wishing to collect seed can contact us at the nursery for more details.

With all the seed about this year we have lots of exciting species coming available in the nursery. And with all the storms about, what better time to plant? How about giving your friends and family a Barung Gift Voucher this Christmas and they can help reinstate some of our beautiful Blackall Range rainforest.

Barung has obtained a small equipment grant from the Caloundra City Council to have two additional potting/seed-cleaning tables and a weeding bench manufactured. These will make life easier in the nursery because we will be able to leave seeds spread out awaiting processing and still have room for our vollies to pot up tubestock. A big thanks to the Council.

Cali and I recently spent a day travelling around Maleny with Greg Smyrell and Jon Burgess, a soil scientist with DNR&M, looking at our local Blackall Range soils, their derivation, characteristics and related vegetation. Many of our local plants have a definite preference for particular soils and this needs to be taken into account when selecting species for both reveg plantings and gardens.

# Decaspermum humile

(syn. *D. parvifolium*, *D. paniculatum*)

SILKY MYRTLE Family: Myrtaceae

*PLANT PROFILE* by Wayne Webb

Silky myrtle is a beautiful shrub which is very suitable for mixed screen plantings because it remains bushy to the ground. As a garden plant silky myrtle will grow as a shrub to around 4 m. In remanent vegetation it is often seen as a 3-4 m shrub up to a small tree of 8 m. Alex Floyd, however, reports in his book *Rainforest Trees* that it may grow to a tree of 25 m in height and a stem diameter of 45 cm. (I don't think there is much risk of it growing this big in your back garden.)

When in flower, silky myrtle is covered in fluffy white (or pale mauve) perfumed blossom. Each flower is approximately 7 mm across. Flowering time is generally reported to be autumn, although the specimen at Barung has just had a heavy flowering in October. This is probably due to climatic variations. Flowers are followed by small black globular berries, 3-6 mm in diameter. Each berry contains around ten seeds, hence the name deca (ten) - sperma (seed). Fruit are edible and would attract small fruit-eating birds to your garden, particularly if they have the protection of dense neighbouring vegetation.

Leaves are simple, opposite, ovate-lanceolate and 2-5cm long by 1-2cm wide. They taper to a long fine tip. Young shoots are covered in fine silky hairs. Leaves of flowering branchlets are much smaller than leaves of non-flowering branchlets.



*Decaspermum humile* occurs mainly in drier rainforests from near Gosford in NSW to northeastern Queensland, and northwards through South East Asia to India. It generally occurs on shallow stony soils of volcanic origin. Locally it occurs in the drier areas around the edge of the range (eg Reesville) and down off the range in places such as Elaman Creek.

Silky myrtle is easily propagated by seed, which should be cleaned from the fruit before sowing. This is easily achieved by gently mashing up the berries in water and floating off the flesh, leaving the seeds in the bottom of the container. The seeds are then sown over a propagation mix and lightly covered. *Decasperma* may also be propagated by tip cuttings.

## NURSERY SPECIALS -

Silky myrtle will be on special in Barung's nursery during December and January at \$1.75 each in native tubes.

Also discounted are *Bracteantha bracteata*, the yellow everlasting daisy, at \$1.50 each, or 5 for \$5 (while stocks last).

# Rainforest Recovery and Coxen's Fig-Parrot

by Ian Gynther, Qld Parks & Wildlife Service

Using a relatively small amount of funding provided to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Commonwealth's NHT2 program, the Coxen's Fig-Parrot Recovery Team and the South-east Queensland Rainforest Recovery Team have pooled their available resources to get 'a bigger bang for their buck' in undertaking some habitat restoration work on the Blackall Range near Maleny.

The combined, short-term project is benefiting from the skills and experience of Barung Landcare Assoc. in implementing the on-ground actions. From September to December this year the focus has been on six sites where rehabilitation or revegetation efforts are considered important for improving the integrity of the local rainforest remnants, enhancing the value of these remnants as movement corridors for wildlife or increasing the habitat potential for Coxen's fig-parrots, an endangered bird species that has been sighted in the vicinity of the target areas.

Work underway at each of the sites consists of one or more of the following activities: weeding, fencing, revegetation and maintenance of previously established plantings.

- Cat's claw creeper is the insidious threat at the Caloundra City Council reserve adjacent to 'High Tor' and the current project is extending the Council's eradication program there.
- Weed control and maintenance work is being conducted at 'Cloverdale' on Aplin Road and on Gap Road, Bellthorpe.
- Lantana removal and fencing to exclude cattle will encourage natural regeneration of rainforest on the escarpment edge property 'Windsong' on the Maleny-Stanley River Road.
- Similar activities, together with a small revegetation program, at the Book Farm in Reesville will enhance the quality of the existing rainforest remnant and expand its future area.
- This is also the aim for Caloundra City Council land at Nadi Lane, North Maleny, where the habitat improvement work is just a first step in restoring the rainforest corridor that once existed along this section of the Obi Obi.

The EPA and Barung Landcare are grateful to be receiving support and financial contributions from Caloundra City Council, the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, Barung's Community Jobs Plan and the Genesis Green Corps teams, and various landholders. Together we are making a small but nevertheless important difference to the integrity of the Blackall Range's rainforest ecosystems and the continued existence of Coxen's fig-parrot.

## The Glossy Black Cockatoo Conservancy needs your help:

- Protect she-oaks and hollow-bearing trees on your property
- Get involved in organised searches
- Report all sightings.



Source: BAAM Pty Ltd

If you have seen a glossy black-cockatoo or found evidence of their feeding (ie cone chewings) or would like to get involved in planning their future, contact **Lisa Bailey** at IndigiScapes (Redland Shire Council) on (07) 3824 8611 or lisab@redland.qld.gov.au

# Opportunities & Events

## Ag Chemicals Course

If you use chemicals on your property, council lands, or other private properties, you need to have ACDC certification.

An ACDC Certification course is being organised for late January/early February 2006. It's a one day plus two nights course. Cost will depend on number of participants, so the more we have, the cheaper it will be for all of us.

Please contact Cali at Barung to register an expression of interest. Exact dates will be announced as soon as we have the numbers.

## Chainsaw Courses

Levels 1 (two days) and 2 (one day) in January 2006. Dates to be announced once we have the numbers to run them. No need to have your own chainsaw. Contact Barung to express your interest.

## TREEPLANTERS ALWAYS NEEDED

If you:

- just love planting trees,
- are happy to work with a wide range of folk,
- feel good getting out there and helping with Barung's projects,
- have time to spare,

send us an email or give us a call and we will put your name on a 'treeplanters' contact list' of people who are keen to come out at short notice and assist on some of our project sites. Email Barung on barungadmin@big.net.au or phone 5494 3151 with your contact details and we'll add you to the list. Email contacts are great because we can just send out a group email which saves us a lot of time and money on phone calls.

## The fascinating world of Fungi

by Lin Fairlie

Have you seen the amazing macrofungi that suddenly appear in rainforests and eucalypt forests after rain?

Fungi play an essential role in recycling nutrients and in the health of forests but surprisingly little is known about Australian species. But we are in a prime position to add to the basic knowledge of fungi in this area.

In early 2006 Barung hopes to organise a *workshop* with experts from the Queensland Herbarium so that landowners can collect, correctly handle and identify fungi specimens, supplying the Herbarium with correctly prepared specimens if necessary for correct identification.

In the meantime, the FUNGIMAP project (based at the Melbourne Botanical Gardens) is mapping the extent of 100 relatively common species in Australia. The FUNGIMAP website is [www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap](http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap). FUNGIMAP members receive identification notes and regular newsletters. Reasonably priced detailed books can also be available.

Fungi make fascinating photographic subjects. If you are aware that interesting fungi can suddenly appear in your forest, take your camera with you whenever you go out. Photograph fungi from on top, the side and underneath if possible. Record the date and the exact location (GPS if possible) and start your collection of photographs, if not specimens.

With a little more knowledge, I am sure Barung members can become a source of scientific information for the 'wonderful world of the fungi'.

## Volunteer of the Year Award

by Val Phillips

Well, what a huge surprise to be awarded Barung's *Volunteer of the Year* award.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be in line for such an honour.

I think of Barung as an extended family of mine. Nothing is ever too much trouble if you need help. You are greatly appreciated here and shown it in so many ways, so when I buck in and help it gives me so much pleasure.

Barung is very infectious when you work here – it is very hard to get Barung and the people out of your system. Just ask people who have been there and done that.

## Thank You to ...

... *Jill and Graham Collard* (Fuschia's parents) for the kind donation of microwave after the other one ran out of steam!

... *Max Smith, Patrick Cavanaugh, Jane Williamson, Alan Beard, Col & Val Phillips* for the October - November *Barung News* mailout

... *Everyone* who planted trees at the Barung AGM

... *Ashton Berry* for hosting, and Heather Spring for coordinating, the AGM lunch

... *Everyone* who has donated to the IGA Connection Treeplant.

## Big Thanks to Joe of Montville Mist

... who keep us from dehydrating in this warm weather and even spoiling us with a water cooling system! Your ongoing support and generosity is Extremely Appreciated.

from the Barung Nursery, CTP team, and all staff and volunteers

## Special Thanks to Admin VOLLIES

The charming Dawn and Pam team on Mondays now keep the front office a lot more organised and also add their lovely smiles and professionalism to our happy office. Many thanks, Ladies!

And the amazing Dianne, who has only been here a very short while, has been a brilliant assistant to Val and Barry. Not only has she helped re-organise our Library but is also recording some much needed procedures. Thanks so much for joining our team.

And as always our office wouldn't function without the ongoing and steadfast support of Barry and Val. Words are not enough! We hold you both in high regard around here. Thank you so much.

from Fuschia in Admin

## More hands in the Library

At long last I have had some help in putting the final touches to our library. Dianne Roper has been doing a marvellous job sorting duplications, adding new books, and re-filing books that have been replaced in the wrong spot. After all the many, many hours of hard work, we hope the library will be put to good use.

from Val Phillips



## Letters

### Mayor appreciates Barung's Guide

Dear Katrina,

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the *Blackall Range Landholders Guide*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. I found the Guide to be a very interesting read and I have requested that copies be made available in Council libraries for the information of our residents.

The current edition of *Bush Hands* (Greening Maroochy's publication) has also included an article on the Guide and this can be viewed at [www.maroochy.qld.gov.au](http://www.maroochy.qld.gov.au) (select Our Environment and then *Bushhands* Newsletter).

Thank you again for letting me know of the Guide's availability.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Joe Natoli, Mayor, Maroochy Shire Council

### Thank you Ed and the CJP Team

Dear Ed Surman

What can I say?

On behalf of the creek I say 'thank you'.

Yes, another 20 metres of mistflower, lantana etc has been removed, and the creek is beginning to laugh and gurgle in a healthy way.

To Ed and his team: congratulations on a splendid job.

Ed's leadership, knowledge and guidance deserves a 10/10.

Regards,

Desley Schenberger

### Thank you Contracting Services

Thank you to Jolyon for an excellent clearing of lantana etc.

A little rain will see many new natives appearing on the slopes. Also thanks to Jake and Chris.

See you soon.

Regards,

Desley & Seb, Anita Craig and Layla

## Christmas Gift Ideas at Barung Landcare

### GIFT VOUCHERS

for plants from the Nursery or books from the Bookshop

### ADOPT-A RAINFOREST-TREE

to have a native rainforest tree planted near the Obi Obi Creek dedicated in your friend's name

*Give a little joy while you support Barung Landcare and the future of the Blackall Range and environs.*

**DEADLINE - Wed 18<sup>th</sup> January**  
for February-March 2006  
**Newsletter contributions**

Barung Landcare...



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

**THANK YOU**

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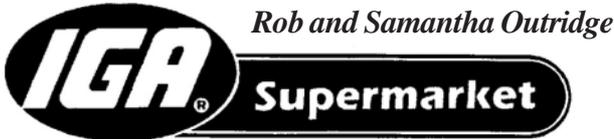
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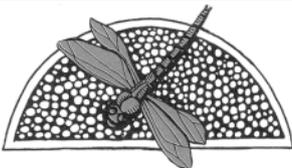
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## Spreading the Seed ...

... continued from page 16

your seed around, but you can only disperse downhill or downstream or under your parent tree, and who wants to grow up in the shadow of the 'oldies'!

That's where we can help. We can either decide it's too much effort to ensure the survival of the many wonderful species that make up the ecosystems of our area and allow threads to disappear from the magnificent tapestry of life that our local rainforests represent, or we can make up for our past indiscretions by spreading our local plants across the landscape again. I realise that many of you who are reading this are busily planting and regenerating local natives – but we need to do so much more.

However, let's get back to the example of the white apple *Endiandra virens*.

Standard Natural Regeneration practice says no plants should be introduced by planting. According to standard Natural Regeneration theory, regenerators should theoretically limit themselves to the preservation of existing remnants through weed control and the stimulation of natural soil seed banks – thus ensuring survival of local genetics. In the case of plants with large seeds, however, we are now crucial in dispersing their seed across a landscape from which they have been cleared. Our 'intervention' in this case will ensure their ability to be part of the future forests, and contribute to the potential for diversity in future ecosystems.

Just in case you thought that all large-seeded trees require our assistance to spread, let's also look at black bean *Castanospermum australe*. You may think that a rat is a rat is a rat, but our native bush rat *Rattus fuscipes* plays a role in our native ecosystems quite unlike that of the introduced ship rat *Rattus rattus*. Researchers from Griffith University (per. com. J. Kanowski) have found that if *R. fuscipes* disappears from rainforest to be replaced by *R. rattus*, the number of black bean seedlings actually increases. This is because *R. fuscipes* eats black bean seed and *R. rattus* is obviously yet to develop a taste for or, for that matter, a stomach that can cope with these toxic seeds.

Next time you plant a rainforest tree, think not just about this one tree you are planting, but also about the ecosystem it will add to, about how the lineage of this plant has evolved over millions of years, and about the role you and this plant are playing in the survival of its own kind and the ecosystems it and we are part of – into the future.

Ron Wilson

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**AUTO ELECTRICS**  
UNIT 2, 14 LAWYER STREET, MALENY, 4552

Phone: (07) 5494 3228  
Mobile: 0438 943 228

## BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Mark Fentiman Dental Surgery  
Lilyponds Holiday Park  
Taman Sari

Mulchmakers  
Maleny Motor Trimmers  
James & Suzanne Davidson

# Spreading the Seed

*TURKEY TANGENTIAL by Spencer Shaw*

When it comes to trying to grasp the wonders of nature, humans are unfortunate enough to be blessed with an attention span not much greater than that of a small intellectually challenged skink called Fred, whom other skinks call rather rude names.

We are limited to the view of what is directly in front of us. We are designed to live right here and right now, chasing the next mammoth or foraging for the next berry bush.

However this is not the way ecosystems work. They are so much more than what is here and now – they are the present, past and future all rolled into one. The ecosystems that we behold with our attention-deficient eyes are a reflection of all that was before them and also are crucial to what will come after. They are not just the plants, fungi and animals that our eyes can see but also the processes by which those plants and animals reproduce themselves and thus shape the future.

Ecosystems are magical things. Not in the ‘Harry Potter’ sense of the word but in the fact that we still know, very, very, very, very, very, very little about them.

What’s this all got to do with the spreading of seed, I hear you say? Well to prove my point I thought I’d quickly demonstrate the ease with which the human brain can get off the track ... or maybe that’s just me.

The forest remnants that are fortunate enough to have survived on the Blackall Range are a testament to the plants, fungi and animals that comprise them and their ability to survive and reproduce. However the reproductive ability of some or even many of the species that make up these ecosystems has been compromised. Will they all be part of the future ecosystems, yet to be?

For many plants and animals, the answer may well be ‘no’.

For example when large-seeded plants such as the white apple *Endiandra virens* disappear from an area, how can they move back into that area? Their fruit can be up to 80 mm across with seeds approximately 40 mm in diameter. How do you suppose a seed this size can move throughout the landscape? Even though many large-seeded plants exist in good numbers in the remnant forests of our area at present, their ability to disperse themselves throughout the landscape has been seriously compromised by habitat fragmentation. Water and gravity are great ways of moving

*... continued on page 15*

## The Barung Family

### BARUNG VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	<i>Lin Fairlie</i>
Vice President	<i>Bob Hall</i>
Secretary	<i>(vacant)</i>
Treasurer	<i>Michael Howard</i>
Committee Members	<i>Eric Anderson</i>
	<i>Pat Fuller</i>
	<i>Heather Spring</i>
	<i>Clayton Stokoe</i>
	<i>John Wightman</i>

### BARUNG'S MALENY WOOD EXPO STAFF

Coordinator	<i>Mim Coulstock</i>
Marketing	<i>Juanita Anderson</i>
Graphics	<i>Penny Smith</i>

### BARUNG STAFF

Coordinator	<i>Mim Coulstock</i>
Operations Manager	<i>Darryl Ebenezer</i>
Nursery Manager	<i>Wayne Webb</i>
Assistant Nursery Manager	<i>Cali Salzmann</i>
Contracting Services Coordinator	<i>Jolyon Froude</i>
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Regional Arrangements Coordinator	<i>John Muir</i>
Nursery Trainee	<i>Jake Smith-Moloney</i>
Administration Officer	<i>Fuschia Collard</i>
The CODLine Editor	<i>Eve Witney</i>
Barung Newsletter Editor	<i>Eve Witney</i>

*And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members*

If undeliverable please return to:

*Barung Landcare  
17 Bicentenary Lane  
Maleny QLD 4552*

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WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

*ph 07 5494 3151  
fax 07 5494 3141  
barung@sun.big.net.au  
barungreveg@big.net.au  
barungadmin@big.net.au  
barungnursery@big.net.au  
barungcontract@big.net.au  
info@malenywoodexpo.com*

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