

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

February-March 2006



Expo 2006 - living sustainably beyond timber

by *Mim Coulstock*

Maleny Wood Expo Coordinator

In 2006, the Maleny Wood Expo will be expanding its horizons to include the built environment. This is a natural progression – looking at reducing our footprints – not just through our choice of timber, but in how we build our houses, and our energy and water consumption within our homes.

Ecohousing

For the past three years, our Expo EcoHousing Tours have been sold out within days. This, plus the interest shown at the 05 Expo for the Sustainable Living area – showcasing eco-friendly building products, solar and waste systems – is the direction through which we can expand the event while complementing the sustainable timber theme.

We plan to expand this venue in 2006 to showcase the latest innovations in the sustainable built environment. Wayne Petrie, Program Director for the Sustainable Homes Program, has confirmed their participation. The Sustainable Homes program is a Queensland legacy of the national Year of the Built Environment in 2004 – a year that highlighted the need for our built environments to become more sustainable through improved design and function.

Earth and Straw Pty Ltd, a resource service for strawbale building in Brisbane, have also confirmed their attendance in 2006. They have agreed to run at least one strawbale building workshop at the Expo. Workshops will be announced in *The Range News* when confirmed, so book fast if you are interested.

We are also asking any members who have houses that might be suitable for visits during EcoHousing Tours to get in touch with the Expo Office. Each house would be included on one tour – this means that approximately 15-20 people would visit for one hour during the Expo weekend.

Treasures from weeds & waste

Children will be able to join Brisbane-based artist, Velvet Pesu, in making 'instruments from recycled materials' throughout the weekend. This will require a large amount of specific recycled materials, so if you are able to help with collecting and preparing these materials, we'd love to hear from you at the Expo Office.

Weed weaving will feature in the Landcare Paddock. Renowned local basket weaver, Kris Martin, will be weaving his magic into a sculpture from cats claw creeper, and local legend, Judy Wolski, will be joined by her weed-weaving team to help visitors create their own baskets from local weed vines such as moth vine and

morning glory. What better way to draw attention to vine weeds than by seeing them turned into works of art!

Call for Volunteer Coordinators

So – it is all underway – many thanks to the efforts of Juanita Anderson, Heather Spring, Penny Smith and our new Expo Admin help, Jane Williamson.

What we do need to firm up in the next few weeks are the Volunteer Area Coordinators. We need help to organise and run the following aspects of the Expo:

Volunteer Coordinator – to phone 2005 and new volunteers, and fill roster prior to Expo – pleasant phone manner required!

Pre-Expo Raffle Sales Coordinator – to coordinate volunteers and oversee ticket sales in Maple St over Easter etc – this is an excellent opportunity to promote the Expo to visitors over Easter and raise funds for local landcare

At-Expo Raffle Sales Coordinator – to count and track raffle monies as volunteers finish their shifts, and ensure raffle is running smoothly

Landcare Bar & BBQ Coordinator – to coordinate planning, and run this Barung fundraiser – loads of fun and free sausages!

Maleny Country Café Coordinator – to coordinate menu, volunteers, and running of Barung fundraising café during Expo

Sustainable Living Talks Coordinator – to help design program, contact and confirm speakers, and oversee equipment and talk program during weekend

EcoTour Coordinator – to help plan and coordinate EcoTour Program, and oversee Tours during Expo weekend

Taste Maleny Produce Store Coordinator – to contact and confirm exhibitors, and help coordinate venue layout

Soapbox Theatre Coordinator – to help design program, contact and confirm speakers, and oversee equipment and running of talks during weekend

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Maleny Wood Expo
from chainsaw to fine furniture

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

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Barry Liddell)

Tony Bright	Jason Walters
Michelle Smith	Bronwyn Swartz
Jane Williamson	Basil Grove
Phil Hands	Kate & David Beard
Wakeman	Luke Brady
Melissa & Steve Chaddock	Elaine Beller
Brett Standring	Jenny Boal
Judy Gibson	Cr Dick Newman
Frank Shipp	

WELCOME BACK

Michael Farrar	Fuschia & Samara Collard
Brandenburg Landcare Group	Ray Seddon
John Martinkovic & Leisa Solomon	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

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

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

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

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

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

FROM OUR PRESIDENT(S)

by Lin Fairlie ...

Welcome to the first *Barung News* for 2006. I am sure you will find it interesting and helpful as always. Feedback on the newsletter is always welcome. Don't forget to check the address label to see that your membership is current.

While many people have been relaxing over the holiday period, spare a thought for the Barung staff who, even though on holidays over the Christmas break, had to check the watering system in the nursery each day because of the heat and go seed collecting on a number of occasions so as to not miss seed maturing in the hot weather. Thank you to Cali and to Greg, from everyone who plants trees, for keeping these important functions operating.

This year will see further changes at Barung following on from Darryl's appointment last year as Operations Manager. The Management Committee's role can now change to setting and overseeing Barung's future directions rather than the month-to-month operations as in the past.

Planning for the move to a new location will be a big focus for Barung this year. This will be an exciting time for everyone. We will need all members' involvement at some stage in the planning and execution of the move.

These are my last few words as President of the Management Committee, as Bob Hall now takes over and I step down to Vice-president. I will still represent Barung on committees and in some community matters. I have enjoyed the privilege of being Barung's President and I thank the staff, fellow Committee members (both past and present), and all other Barung members for your support over the years.

Welcome, Bob, to a chair which faces in many directions at the one time. Over to you.

... and Bob Hall

After four years as President, Lin wanted (and deserved) more family time. The Barung community is indeed indebted to Lin for her enthusiasm, energy and vast experience and we all say a very big 'thank you'.

Lin is not going far. She will continue as Vice-president and therefore be a member of the Barung Executive, and will continue to represent Barung on a number of external committees. She will of course be an invaluable advisor to me in my role as President.

Since the AGM in October the Management Committee has been reviewing the role and structure of the management of Barung. With thirteen employees, Barung is a significant small business with a very diverse range of activities. Changes have been deemed necessary to enable Barung to meet the challenges in three broad areas: firstly, the constant change in the administration of Landcare by the various levels of government; secondly, to make the organisation more responsive now that we have an Operations Manager on board to manage the day-to-day business; and thirdly, to enable the Management Committee to focus more on strategic issues such as where Barung is heading and its role in the community. These changes were endorsed by the Management Committee at its January meeting and will now be implemented.

This season's flowering of native plants has been excellent and Barung staff and volunteers have been out collecting large quantities of seeds. This puts a big load on the nursery and its dedicated potting volunteers, but it means Barung is well stocked

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Maleny Wood Expo 2006 ...

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NRM Display Coordinator – to contact and confirm exhibitors for NRM tent in Landcare Paddock, and coordinate venue layout

Master Classes Coordinator – to help organise tools, benches and equipment, and oversee the classes during the weekend

Hands needed on site

Because we don't have a CJP team this year, we will need extra hands to help erect the fence around the site and to sew the hessian onto wire stringers. The fencing will begin on Monday 24th April as Tuesday 25th is Anzac Day. We will need the fencing team back on Wednesday to finish the job.

On the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before the Expo, we will need extra hands to erect tents and put up signage and for a million other random jobs, and likewise on the Tuesday and Wednesday after the Expo when we have to pull it all down and leave the Showgrounds looking as if nothing has happened!

The sooner the better

Please make sure you fill it out the volunteer form included in this newsletter and return it to the Expo or Barung Office as soon as possible. This can save our Volunteer Coordinator hours of work and many phone calls! All volunteers receive a free entry into the Expo, a coffee voucher and two trees as a small token of our thanks for your time.

Please ring me at the Expo Office – 5429 6566 – if you have any suggestions for, or queries about, any aspects of the Expo, or if you have the time to take on any of the Volunteer Area Coordinator roles.



Presidents' Report ...

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with a wide variety of native plants. So now is a good time to buy and plant!

Mim and her Maleny Wood Expo *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* team are now gathering momentum to put on the best ever Expo in Maleny on the last weekend in April. A successful Expo takes a lot of volunteer support and the Expo team will be ringing members from March. There is also an Expo Volunteer EOI in this Newsletter, so please fill it out and return it to the Expo Office as soon as possible.

Volunteering at Expo is a good way for busy people, who otherwise may not have the time to assist their Landcare organisation, to be involved. I urge members and non-members to volunteer for even part of the weekend as it is a very rewarding experience.

Our current site has become far too small and a move to a more suitable site will provide great opportunities for Barung as well as many challenges for the Management Committee. We look forward to meeting these challenges during this year.

Best wishes for a great 2006.

Functional Support Groups for Barung

As a result of the change in the Barung Management Committee's role following Darryl's appointment as Operations Manager, we are introducing Functional Support Groups (FSGs) to replace the old system of Barung Sub-committees.

The FSGs will be made up of the relevant staff member/s, interested Management Committee and Barung/community member/s. The role of the FSGs will be to assist the senior staff member in his/her role in whatever way is most appropriate, to help resolve issues and to undertake forward planning.

FSGs will be set up initially for the Nursery, Revegetation & Habitat, Barung Contracting Services (BCS), Maleny Wood Expo, Education/PR, and Finance & Admin areas.

The FSGs will meet at least six (6) times per year and will report to the Management Committee on a regular basis through the Operations Manager. We would like to get these groups in place by the end of February as 2006 bringing action on all fronts.

If you – as a Barung Landcare and community member – are passionate about any of the above areas, and have relevant skills and/or expertise that you could bring to that FSG, please put in an Expression of Interest to Darryl as soon as possible.

SUPPORT FOR LANDCARE

New signage for Obi Boardwalk

Thanks to Department of Natural Resources & Mines Awareness Activity Grants, we have accessed \$2500 to design and implement new signage for the Obi Boardwalk. These funds will be added to the \$2900 we already have from NRMA Insurance and Caloundra City Council to produce six signs covering:

- The social history of the site
- The recent history of the site
- The relationship between flora and geology on the Range
- Our local climate
- Characteristics of a sub-tropical rainforest, and
- How the rainforest is being reconstructed on this site.

We also aim to produce a flyer for distribution through the Maleny Visitor Information Centre to encourage tourists to take a stroll along the Boardwalk.

Barung staff and volunteers have been talking about this project for many years now, so it is very exciting to have enough funding to finally go ahead. This signage is a great opportunity to provide stimulating and accurate information for both local Boardwalk users and visitors to Maleny.

QERD Funds to take Expo into future

The Maleny Wood Expo has been allocated \$10,000 from Queensland Events Regional Development program to undertake business planning to ensure the viability of future events. This will allow us to develop a business plan to grow visitor numbers and generate a more self-sustaining funding base.

Thank you for supporting Barung Landcare:



Queensland Government
Natural Resources and Mines



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THE STATE OF THE REGION

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

SEQ Catchments (Stanley River)

by Bruce Lord

Final call – funding assistance still available for local projects

Funding assistance is still available for projects which help address regional priorities identified in *Healthy Land – Our Future*. Landholders in the Upper Stanley can contact us directly to arrange a site visit from one of our technical officers on 3816 9720 or 0427 013 284 or upperbris@seqwgc.com.au – or speak to Barung ASAP.

Local partnerships already addressing local and regional issues in a coordinated and cost effective way include –

Barung Landcare's Restoring Threatened Species Frog Habitat field day on Saturday 11th March, including presentations on habitat requirements and disease threats, a field trip highlighting bush regeneration and riparian management techniques, updates on assistance and funding opportunities, and a tree plant.

Bellthorpe Progress Association's Running Creek Riparian project involving strategic weed control from Barung Contracting Services and group members across three properties to enhance natural regeneration and protect biodiversity values in the headwaters of Running Creek.

Bellthorpe Progress Association's partnership project with Caboolture Shire Council to reduce infestations of the weed *Setaria palmifolia* through a targeted strategic control program.

Caloundra City Council Devolved Grants Scheme which is providing assistance to landholders to undertake on-ground works to improve riparian management in the Upper Stanley.

Caboolture Shire Council helping to coordinate a riparian management project on the Stanley River floodplain above Woodford involving weed control (particularly cats claw creeper) and revegetation, and offering local landholders an opportunity to participate in property management planning and access to coordinated support for future activities.

The support of these organisations is greatly appreciated and highlights the value of the effective partnerships between local landcare and community groups, local governments and regional NRM bodies in the Upper Stanley catchment.

Burnett Mary Regional Group

by Clinton Muller

2006 is here! A prime opportunity for an update on key BMRG activities to benefit Barung Landcare throughout this year ...

Obi Obi to get the works – Funding has been approved under the BMRG plan for a project to improve and protect tributaries in the headwaters of Obi Obi Creek.

Desley Shoenberger, in cooperation with other residents of Narrows Road and surrounding areas, will be working to improve the water quality and quantity of flow in the Obi Obi. The works include the removal of an unused and unproductive small dam, weed control, active regeneration works, and revegetation activities to protect and stabilise the contours of the creek and provide vitally important habitat for creek inhabitants.

Barung's revegetation officer, Ed Surman, and BMRG's Biodiversity and Forestry Coordinator, Josie Kelman, have provided valuable advice and recommendations for restoring and managing the area.

New Officer for Mary LGA Cluster – The latest instalment of the Local Government Authority Cluster officers has been appointed for the Mary, with Darren McPherson to be based in Maryborough. BMRG is actively working to support local government authorities (LGAs) during the implementation of the region's NRM Plan, particularly through an innovative approach to strengthening partnership arrangements between LGAs and BMRG.

In the Mary area, comprising Caloundra, Cooloola, Hervey Bay, Kilcoy, Maryborough, Tiaro and Woocoo Shire Councils, one of four Local Government Support Networks has been established to increase the communication and coordination between LGAs and BMRG. These positions provide a dual benefit as they enable LGAs to have a greater influence in the strategic direction of BMRG, and also ensure that BMRG is fully aware of issues within, between and across LGAs for inclusion in forward planning of investments.

SEQ Catchments (Sunshine Coast)

by Susie Chapman

We are delighted to add the following terrific Sunshine Coast initiatives to enhance our natural resource management to the list of projects supported regionally:

Faunawatch – The Wildlife Preservation Society Sunshine Coast Branch has been supporting the monitoring of fauna species and education about their features and habits for the last six years. This useful data is reported to local councils and Wildnet and 30,000 entries have been logged since June. Dedicated Faunawatch Coordinator Keith Hickman continues to maintain and further this strong network, and in time we hope to roll this out throughout the South-East region.

Power to Change Trade Expo – The Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC) and the Institute for Sustainability, Health & Regional Engagement (iSHaRE) at the University of the Sunshine Coast are hosting a *Power to Change Trade Expo* on renewable energy technology and practice on **8 April 2006**. Keynote speaker is Professor Ian Lowe with a range of other captivating presenters and displays. If you would like to exhibit, call Karen Robinson on 5459 4751.

Noosa Living Smart sustainability website – Through the Regional Futures Centre and with support from Noosa Shire Council, Coordinator Jo Turner has developed an innovative and accessible website which leads browsers through the various goods and services promoting a sustainable life that are available in the SEQ region and beyond – see www.noosalivingsmart.com

Qld Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative (QESSI) is magnificently underway with a full spinnaker. Coordinated by Sandy McBride, this inspiring movement is based in the Maroochy Catchment Centre in Nambour, which has been the only community-based QESSI hub to be selected in Queensland. Sandy has brought together a strong and active team to support the development and implementation of sustainable education at its most practical in eight schools on the Sunshine Coast.

Camphor laurel mapping – The Sunshine Coast Camphor Laurel Timber Initiative will be mapping camphors in the new year using remote sensing and community ground-truthing, a necessary part of the strategic planning for camphor removal.

RAYED BLUE

Candalides heathi

BUTTERFLIES OF THE RANGE by Bob Miller

Anyone who has experienced 'Wallum country' will understand my hesitation to crawl through it on hands and knees, but unfortunately this was what I was going to have to do to get my next lot of butterfly lifecycle photos. I don't wish to portray the wallum as an inhospitable place – quite the contrary – during spring and early summer you cannot find a better display of wildflowers. It just seems that most of the plants that harbour those beautiful flowers have prickles on the ends of their leaves or, in the case of the gahnias, razor sharp edges. (For those who don't know, gahnias are referred to as swordgrasses, say no more!)

The butterfly I was researching is known as the rayed blue *Candalides heathi*.



Candalides heathi male adult
[Photo by Martin Purvis]

Candalides heathi pupa
from below
[Photo by Bob Miller]



Its eggs, white to light green in colour and small enough to fit four or five on the head of a pin, are laid singly on the leaves, flowers or stems of the foodplant, a species of *Westringia* that is scattered throughout the habitat. The plant itself is quite insignificant and most times can only be confirmed by the flowers. These I noticed varied from white to a light shade of mauve.

The larvae that emerge from the eggs are so small that, when raising them in containers, extreme care has to be taken not to lose the larvae when changing the food. Fortunately, they grow very quickly and it wasn't long before I was able to remove the old foodplants, confident that I was not throwing out larvae too.

When fully grown the larvae are approximately 16 mm long, green in colour with four brown spots on the head end, six brown spots running down the centre of the body and another two brown spots on the rear end. The outer edges of the body appear serrated. Looking at the larvae from the side, you will notice that the brown spots are actually on the top of small projections on the body. There is also a fine yellow line running the length of the body.

The pupae, approximately 12 mm long, range in colour from a golden-beige to black, and are always found suspended by the tail and a central silken girdle, either on the foodplant or on an object nearby. The front end of the pupae is rounded whilst the back is very flat, making an interesting geometrical shape.

The butterfly that emerge from the pupae have a wingspan of about 28 mm on the males, and the females are slightly larger. The uppersides of the wings are a copper-bronze, and the undersides are silver with a single line of black spots running around the outer edge of both the fore and hind wings.

Although I collected the eggs from a locally native *westringia*, I actually raised the larvae on coastal *westringia* *W. fruticosa*, which is commonly planted in landscape gardening and readily obtainable without disturbing the natural environment.

Further information on this butterfly can be had by reading *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael F. Braby, 2000.

IGA CONNECTION TREEPLANT Update

by Mim Coulstock

The IGA Connection Project aims to plant a living 'thank you' to Rob and Sam Outridge and the Maleny IGA's Community Chest program. The project has been inspired by the generosity of our IGA supermarket. Almost all community organisations in Maleny and the surrounding district, as well as almost all the people in Maleny through these organisations, have benefited from the IGA's generosity.

Barung Landcare is calling for donations of \$10 from all individuals and community groups who have benefited from the IGA's Community Chest Program. \$10 will provide the plant, mulch and stake, and maintenance for one year. Plaques with the sponsors' names will be installed around the site as a lasting record.

So far we have raised \$4200, with our largest sponsorship being \$500 from Rainforest Rescue in Byron Bay – who are just so impressed by the whole project. These funds will see 420 trees established and this will kick-start the revegetation project and help towards achieving our goal of linking the rainforest remnant behind the equestrian centre at the Maleny Showgrounds to the Obi Boardwalk section along Obi Obi Creek.

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group has agreed to put an additional \$5000 towards the project, and we will be using all funds to apply to the Burnett Mary Regional Group for additional assistance.

In late December Barung Landcare applied for a Green Corps team to implement this project. This will provide local youth with meaningful employment, accredited training, and a chance to make a significant contribution to the environment and our wonderful community.

If you have been touched, either directly or indirectly, by the IGA's generosity towards our community, we offer you a chance to give back by sponsoring a tree. You can do this simply by phoning Barung on 5494 3151, emailing barungadmin@big.net.au, or downloading a donation form from www.barunglandcare.com.au. Donations can be made by credit card, cash or cheque, and are tax deductible.



The IGA CONNECTION Treeplant is linking the rainforest remnant at the Maleny Showgrounds to the Obi Boardwalk section of Obi Obi Creek.

Perfect conditions for planting

CONTRACTING SERVICES by Jolyon Froude

Planting trees is certainly the most exciting part of the revegetation process, and as summer wanes and we move into the cooler autumn months, conditions become perfect for getting new trees into the ground. Decreasing temperatures and regular rainfall mean that high survival rates can generally be expected from plantings carried out during the late summer and autumn period. Cooler conditions make planting more enjoyable for plants and people alike. It also gives plants an opportunity to get established before the cooler and dryer winter months.

But before you run out and start madly planting trees, it is vital to give careful consideration to the long term outcome of your efforts. A truly successful revegetation project requires more than just putting trees in the ground. The ultimate aim of the revegetation process is the creation of a relatively weed-free and self-maintaining ecosystem that closely resembles the complex structure and function of a specific local plant community. Plant communities are more than just individual trees, they are a diverse range of specific species interacting to create a relatively stable ecosystem.

Barung's Contracting Services can provide advice and practical assistance with all aspects of the process, from planning and species selection through to preparation, planting and maintenance.

To achieve the best long term outcome with our tree plantings effort, close attention needs to be given to a range of factors:

Preparation – good site preparation well in advance of the planting date is vital to remove weed competition for seedlings and facilitate the planting process. Native plants have not evolved to tolerate the intense competition provided by exotic weeds, so intensive weed control is vital before and during establishment. Most site preparation will involve spraying the existing grass and weed cover with a suitable herbicide. It is very important that spraying occur at least 3-4 weeks before planting to allow time for the grass and weeds to die and start breaking up. If weed growth is heavy, such as thick grass or lantana, or if difficult-to-control weeds such as morning glory or Madeira vine are present, this time may need to be extended to several months.

Plant Spacing – most rainforest revegetation projects are planted at about two metre spacing to mimic the dense plant regeneration that occurs in a rainforest following disturbance. This will result in canopy formation after two to three years which will significantly reduce weed maintenance. Closer planting may be considered if smaller growing plants are used such as shrubs, lomandra or sedges.



Time for trees in the ground.

[Photo by Penny Smith]

Species selection – planting appropriate species is essential to the revegetation process. It is ideal to use species that occur naturally on the site or on similar soils within the surrounding area as these will be best adapted to the existing conditions. Factors such as soil type, drainage, frost, wind exposure, flood potential and proximity to existing vegetation will influence the species selection process. It is important to incorporate adequate numbers of fast-growing pioneer species to ensure rapid canopy development. Planting should also include bushy, low-branching 'edge' species around the perimeter of the site to seal the edge of the revegetation plot from outside influences such as wind, light and weeds.

Mulching – mulching is extremely beneficial for newly planted trees. It reduces both water loss and weed growth for the young plants as well as stimulating soil microbe activity.

Rebuilding native plant communities is a complex and long term process which can seem daunting. However, you can benefit from the knowledge, skills and experience of Barung's Contracting Services team to maximise the success of your revegetation project.

Interesting Websites

Natural Sequence Farming

www.nsfarming.com

Natural Sequence Farming (NSF) is a rural landscape management technique aimed at restoring natural water cycles that allow the land to flourish despite drought conditions. NSF offers a low-cost, widely applicable method of reducing drought severity and boosting productivity on Australia's farms and landscapes. The technique is based on ecological principles, low input requirements and natural cycling of water and nutrients to make the land more resilient.

Free tools for Property Planning

www.greenhouse.gov.au/ncas

Property owners who are interested in tracking vegetation change and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions from their property can now access a free toolkit to do so. This is a great tool for landcarers and project managers to assess changes on properties.

Bushland-friendly gardens

www.weeds.crc.org.au/bushlandfriendlygardens/bfg_home.html

Commonly available garden plants to avoid in your area because of their weed potential, from the Weeds CRC.

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

Going Feral?

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

I think I've created a monster; parts of my garden are going feral. It reminds me of my years in Darwin when the beautiful local palm *Carpentaria acuminata*, listed as endangered, as it certainly was in the wild (there aren't too many moist shaded gullies in the dry savannah woodlands), was spread all around our gardens by Torres Strait pigeons. The seed was nicely cleaned, ready to germinate, and produced healthy seedlings which we pulled out by the hundreds. It was eventually taken off the endangered species list.

Some of the Range locals are now behaving similarly. You might remember last year when the useful *Psychotria loniceroides* wilted sadly in the dry summer and I suggested that it wasn't the best garden shrub. I pruned one back to ground level, ignored the remainder, and as soon as it rained, the whole lot recovered, grew, flowered and fruited, the birds spread the ripe seed, and now I have dozens of them! I can pot some up but the rest are definitely 'plants out of place' – weeds? What a change in the seasons can demonstrate in terms of the resilience of our local natives. The ginger *Alpinia caerulea* and of course both major species of lomandra are doing the same thing. It shows how easily plants can spread if the right conditions are provided and I wait to see what happens next! Fortunately the various callistemons are behaving quite well in my less than suitable heavy clay soil.

I am of course very happy to see a naturally regenerating understorey in the revegetation areas; dianellas, assorted syzygiums, the ubiquitous psychotria, lomandras, callicarpas (velvet leaf) and so on. I do not, however, need hundreds of native olives *Olea paniculata*, macarangas, native mulberries, and dozens of sandpaper figs. Ditto *Guioa semiglaucula*, *Aphananthe philippinensis*, *Omalthus populifolius*, *Dysoxylum muelleri* and *Mallotus philippensis*. It's just amazing what comes up when any remnant trees have a good season, the 'new' trees start to fruit and the diversity increases. An eight-year old *Toechima dasyrrhache* fruited for the first time this year and so far every seed has germinated. I'm looking forward to trying it as a small garden tree. Look it up, and its cousin *Toechima tenax*, in Floyd.

It's also been a useful year to observe drainage patterns, or water flow, in the garden areas. I now know why a gully which has apparently been dry for years has no natural growth on its floor. It is of course a gully as a result of ... you guessed it ... erosion! The palms I planted to hold things together are now buried under mulch, branches etc. I dug them out twice but, after yet another downpour, gave up. It's all about learning to live in the environment which, in our case, means steep country. When the water flows, it flows fast. Substantial rock riffles will have to be installed along one gully line and a mix of lomandra and crinum lilies has proved useful in slowing the water elsewhere. The crinums are also showing feral tendencies as the large fruit are carried down the gullies and deposited in fertile silt layers. The plants grow extraordinarily tall in the shade so I will watch their progress with great interest.

Apart from 'feral' natives and rushing water, the hot, wetter-than-last-year weather has been great for growth. A large new garden area planted on a fairly dry slope has had ample opportunity to establish and only two rather small and not entirely local plants succumbed to the extreme heat.

It's been a season for observation rather than physical work but it's useful to pause occasionally, note what nature is up to, and reassess future plans. Successful and above all enjoyable gardens live within their landscapes and often take unexpected turns.



Gully line with crinum and lomandra. [Photo by John Dillon]

Slip Sliding Away ...

Funding opportunities and workshop

Landslips are a common feature of the Blackall Range escarpment area, especially in wetter years.

Caloundra City Council and Maroochy Shire Council have recently updated their landslip hazard mapping (as part of their planning schemes), identifying landslip sites as well as areas that are potentially more erosion-prone which could result in severe sedimentation and nutrient runoff into our creeks and rivers.

This critical environmental issue is part of the local Regional Natural Resource Management plans and a Key Investment Strategy Area.

Potential demonstration sites

Some funds are now available to set up Best Management Practice Landslip demonstration sites.

If you have a landslip site you would like help with and are willing for it to be used as a demonstration site – no matter which catchment you are in –

please contact John Muir on 0429 943 153.

Workshop and Field Visit

NRMSEQ has provided some funding to Barung Landcare, Mooloolah Waterwatch & Landcare and Maroochy Catchment Care for initial capacity-building for staff and landholders in their escarpment area of the Sunshine Coast hinterland, before on-ground works commence.

On Thursday 16th February an all-day workshop & field visit will be held for those interested in managing lands prone to landslip in the headwaters of the Mooloolah River.

When: Thursday 16th February

More info & booking: Contact Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 or your local group

For further advice on landslips, funding and activities, contact John Muir, Regional NRM Coordinator, on 0429 943 153.

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

Partnership Project inspires wider interest

Ed Surman, Barung's Sustainable Land Use officer, interviews Mick Walsh, manager of Pacific Plantations macadamia farm.

Pacific Plantations macadamia farm, situated just out of Maleny on Stanley River Road, has the distinction of being the oldest established macadamia orchard in Australia. Pacific Plantations is also the largest privately owned Australian macadamia nut processor, employing fourteen farm staff in Australia.

Pacific Plantations farm at Maleny is a major partner in the Obi Creek Partnership Project, one of Barung's flagship projects. The project is named the 'Obi Creek Partnership' because it draws together diverse participants to achieve the common goal of improving the health of Obi Obi Creek.

The partnership includes private landholders, Barung Landcare, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, Aquagen, Powerlink, Green Corps, Community Jobs Plan (CJP) and Conservation Volunteers Australia. All levels of government are involved, including Caloundra City Council, State Government (through the Community Jobs Plan Program) and the Federal Government (through Green Corps).

The project is designed to expand upon a significant remnant rainforest that has closed canopy over both sides of Obi Creek. The revegetation project is extending the rainforest over a kilometre upstream and downstream, working on both sides of the creek, and will one day create canopy closure over this section of the Obi.

During the interview I asked Mick how Pacific Plantations became involved in the project and how the company sees their involvement now – some two years later.

Mick indicated that they were reluctant to be involved at first, due to their initial anxieties about working with 'greenies' and the council. 'We didn't want other people coming onto the farm, checking out what we were doing. We also had concerns about maintenance of the site. After all, our core business is producing nuts,' Mick said.

Since that time, a great working relationship has developed between the partners where each has contributed to the positive outcomes. Barung has coordinated the whole project – the planning, species selection and treeplanting – and has provided maintenance through Green Corps teams, Community Jobs Plan teams, Green Reserve participants and Barung's Contracting Services. Pacific Plantations have contributed by slashing, removing woody weeds, supplying herbicide, installing water points and using machinery when required.

'Our view has changed,' said Mick. 'Now we feel good about the revegetation along the creek and are happy that we are changing the public's perception of farming.'

'I guess the general public who know nothing about farming often think that farmers like us don't care for the environment. We are very happy to help change that perception. One of the highlights of being involved in a project like this is demonstrating that this is not true, and that we are environmental managers.'

'We feel that we are leading by example. Recently we won a Landholder of the Year Award from the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group. One of the owners of Pacific Plantations was over from Hong Kong. He saw the award and it now hangs on his office wall. Within the organisation there is a lot of pride about what is happening here. Late last year we hosted the Australian Macadamia Society and when we started to talk about the

revegetation program it sparked a lot of questions and interest among other farmers.

'Since being involved in this project we've started sorting our rubbish for recycling and even have an oil recycling program, which extends to our oily rags. We are more aware of the environmental pest species of plants and are actively removing them from the orchard and surrounds.'

'We've also had many different people come onto the farm including various work teams, plus members of the community for workshops and field days. A huge community tree plant was organised by Barung's Green Corps team that worked here. In fact, we have employed one of the Community Jobs Plan participants full-time.'

Mick summed their involvement up by saying, 'All in all, this has been a really positive experience for us and the other partners. We think the Obi Obi Creek is an important waterway and by undertaking our revegetation project we believe that we are benefiting the whole community.'

A Shared Vision

by Darryl Ebenezer, Operations Manager

So what does it mean for an organisation to have a shared vision?

As mentioned in the President's column, Barung will be facing some significant changes and decisions in 2006, not the least the decision about Barung's new location. At present we are spread over two sites (Barung Resource Centre and the Expo Office) and lack the space to engage in a number of essential activities. To achieve positive outcomes for us all, and to continue to enact our organisational vision/mission, we will have to make decisions together to take the organisation forward.

Barung's vision/mission is: "Barung is working to develop ethical solutions for a sustainable future. We support local and regional community empowerment to conserve and enhance the rich diversity of natural resources of the Blackall Range and environs."

A sustainable future means a sustainable future for us, as well as the planet. At Barung Landcare, we must put energy into ensuring that Barung's vision, hopefully a shared vision, is enacted in the most ethical and effective way possible.

One way we can do this is to put energy into developing cooperative relationships throughout the organisation. This begins with recognising that contributions from everyone are needed to create a vibrant community-based organisation. All Barung's members are integral to the process.

Barung IS all the people who participate in and contribute to Barung's activities – community members, users of the nursery and Barung's services, financial members, paid and unpaid staff, management committee members and our external partners.

Throughout the organisation we can come together, share our collective wisdom and take up the opportunities that are before us to ensure our sustainable future.

Expo Office needs vacuum cleaner

Can you donate a working vacuum cleaner, please?

Hop along to the

Restoring Threatened Frog Habitat in the Upper Stanley River catchment

Workshop and Field Day



- When** Saturday 11 March, 9.30 am to approx. 5.00 pm
Where Morning session: Maleny Community Centre, Maple Street, Maleny
Afternoon session: Site visits and treeplant
Bring Field clothes, hat, water bottle, and **closed-in shoes** for treeplant
Cost FREE (includes lunch and teas)

The workshop in the morning will provide background and theory for the afternoon field visits. Guest presenters include Dr Harry Hines (Environmental Protection Agency) and Diana Hughes and Pearl Symonds (University of Queensland).

Harry Hines will talk about the frogs of the upper Stanley River with a special focus on the threatened species. Harry was instrumental in writing the *Recovery Plan for Stream Frogs of south-east Queensland 2001-2005*. Diana will talk about *Habitat requirements of Mixophes iterates*, uncovered during work on her PhD. Pearl, who is researching Chytridiomycosis, will speak about *Disease as a threatening process to endangered frogs*. We will also learn what we can do to minimise the impacts of disease on frogs.

After lunch, we will visit two project sites on the Stanley River, in Scotts Road, Booroobin. On-site discussions with Barung Landcare's Greg Smyrell and Ed Surman will focus on Bush Regeneration and Revegetation, while officers from Caboolture and Caloundra councils will provide information on the Land for

Wildlife Program and Voluntary Conservation Agreements. Bruce Lord from SEQ Catchments will talk about funding opportunities for private landholders in the Stanley.

From 3 pm onwards, field day participants can join in some hands-on habitat restoration – planting native species to restore habitat for frogs. Please wear closed-in shoes for the tree plant.

The workshop and field day are components of our Threatened Species Network (TSN) Project 'Restoring threatened frog habitat in the Upper Stanley Catchment'.

The TSN is a partnership between World Wide Fund for Wildlife (WWF) Australia and the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust. Additionally the day will be supported by the Caboolture Shire Council, Caloundra City Council and SEQ Catchments.

Lunch and morning/afternoon teas will be provided, so ring Barung by Wednesday 1st of March on 5494 3151 to book for this informative day, to learn how to make a difference for our very special stream-dwelling friends.

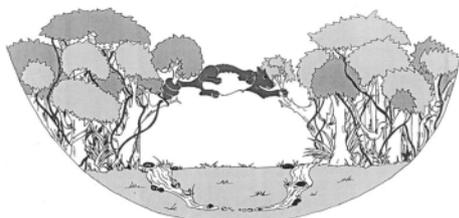


NRMA / Obi Boardwalk Community Treeplant

with Plant ID /Ecosystem Walk & Talk

Help with infill, understorey and extension plantings on Maleny's best-known reveg site. Help us add to the integrity of this famous Maleny landmark.

- When:** Saturday 18 March, 9 am – noon
FREE: Every treeplanter gets 2 free trees! and a FREE BBQ LUNCH – so please let us know you're coming for catering purposes.
BYO: Please wear hat, boots etc., and BYO tools & morning tea.



Festival at Gardners Falls

When 4th March

Keep Saturday 4th March free because the Green Corps Team are organising a huge Community Event at Gardners Falls for their community venture.

The Festival will celebrate an environmental upgrade of Gardners Falls with live music, BBQ & bunya nuts, fun events & free giveaways.

Check the Range News for further details.

2006 National Year of Community

The Federal Council of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) has declared 2006 as the National Year of Community. This will be an opportunity for people all over Australia to value, promote and support their local, regional, state and national communities.

A sense of community is a sense of living and working with one another, while coming together to meet challenges or to celebrate successes. Volunteers often provide the 'glue' for our communities – and 2006 is the year to promote and celebrate their grassroots achievements in communities around Australia.

For information and ideas to support this initiative:

- Email** yearofcommunity@bigpond.com
Phone 02 9517 4777

Get revegetating

NURSERY NOTES by Wayne Webb

The good season continues, at least in Maleny! Having flown up to Townsville to spend Christmas on Magnetic Island, I've come to realize how fortunate we are to be receiving the rainfall we're getting. The 'dry tropics' are extremely dry – I'd hate to be trying to do revegetation up there. Plants I put in the day before leaving are powering away. With our traditionally wet month (February) here, what better time to race into the nursery, grab some trees, and go home to get revegetating! The nursery is chockers with top quality stock.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we received from Caloundra City Council a small equipment grant to construct new potting benches. Our resident handyman and Green Reservist, Max Smith, has been busy and has produced two very solid potting benches and a mesh topped bench for weeding. Each bench measures 1.2 x 3 m. They have already been invaluable with all the seed coming in over the Christmas period. We have actually had room to spread the seed out while awaiting processing. A big THANK YOU to Max, and the CCC.

Thank you to those who have brought seed in to the nursery. We have plenty of *Guioa semiglauc*a already germinating, so last year's shortage should soon be rectified. We have planted some *Mallotus philippensis*, but as usual most seeds have been floating when placed in water, indicating low viability. Some have been OK, and we are still waiting for some trees to open their capsules, so hopefully we can get some germinated. The good season continues, with plenty of seed still to collect as other species mature.



Max, Madee and Peter put the new benches into action.

[Photo by Wayne Webb]

Our big problem at the moment is finding room in the propagation shed. With this in mind, Barung has purchased a 30 x 6 m shade house generously offered to us by Desley of Witta. Darryl Ebenezer (our Operations Manager) is currently looking into where it can be relocated.

Darryl has also been busy filling in forms, and we are now members of Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland (NGIQ), and hence Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA). NGIQ membership allows us access to a range of services and benefits, such as a variety of seminars, workshops, and information and diagnosis services. Membership to NGIQ will be invaluable as we look toward relocating the nursery and seeking nursery accreditation.

Green Corps: a job with soul

A TRAINEE'S TALE by Jake Smith-Moloney

What's in a job? Is it just something to occupy our time and make ourselves feel like we are achieving something in this life? Or are we drawn towards our occupations like moths to a flame? Does our hard work serve some greater good or higher purpose? Do we choose the jobs we want, or is it the other way around? Can you place a true value (not just a \$ value) on a person's job? I have been pondering these and other related questions of late trying to find the answers. I gave the current Green Corps the task of telling me what they thought of their job and what it meant to them.

'Before Green Corps I had no motivation, was depressed. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life and I couldn't see a bright future. I used to just party and was losing myself. Now, I'm halfway through the six months and already I am finding myself. I have cut down on partying 'majorly', and now have a positive outlook on life. I have learnt to love myself and learnt to respect the environment because it is important for all of our futures. In a way, Green Corps has saved me. It has made me excited about my life and has definitely opened my eyes. I go to work eager to learn.' Lisa Beasy – Green Corps Participant

'I have been in the area for about eight months and I feel that Green Corps has given me unique opportunities to immerse myself in the Maleny Community. I have met some incredible people and been lucky enough to share in their wealth of knowledge. I've really enjoyed getting my hands dirty and also like contributing back into the community. During this short time I have learnt a lot about myself and what my strengths and weaknesses are. The hardest thing about Green Corps is what I will do when I'm finished. There is so much I wish to pursue and learn more about, relating to both the environment and the community.' Kahlia Litzow – Green Corps Participant

'I think Green Corps is a good opportunity for young Australians to get into the workforce. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience to be enjoyed.' Corey Liles – Green Corps Participant

Green Corps for me was a very special experience; it was a springboard into my desired industry and at the same time quite influential for my character, helping me find out who I am in the greater scheme of things. Although I do miss my Green Corps days, I know that my life's work lies ahead of me, and that one day I might be back in the green and khaki of a Green Corps uniform but this time as a team leader.

I guess the real value of a job is what it means to you, from planting trees to answering phones, if it is something you believe in then you will always have job satisfaction. If you have any comments or input of any kind I am contactable at Barung most of the time or you can reach me via email at Ze_Bacon@hotmail.com

Wildlife Queensland e-news

Wildlife Queensland's e-news is an excellent way to keep up to date on what's happening in conservation issues, activities and events around Queensland, on the web and at Wildlife Queensland. Available to WPSQ members, WAM subscribers, friends and supporters.

To subscribe: email news.reply@wildlife.org.au with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.



Upper Stanley landholders receive funding

Nick Clancy, Land for Wildlife Officer, Caloundra City Council

Caloundra City Council recently obtain funding through SEQ Catchments to run a devolved grants program offering support to rural landholders in the upper Stanley River catchment undertaking natural resource management activities on their land.

Fourteen landholders were successful with their applications and collectively have received \$41,500 for revegetating riparian vegetation, fencing watercourses, and controlling priority weeds in areas of high ecological significance. As usual the major contributors are the landholders themselves. Collectively the successful grant recipients are contributing \$50,000 of in-kind and cash to these works.

The upper Stanley River catchment contains significant ecological values and is still home to a range of threatened species that have

declined or have suffered local extinctions elsewhere in south-east Queensland. It is also the source of Brisbane's drinking water. For this reason it has been identified as a key regional investment area by the regional NRM body.

If you live outside the Stanley catchment and missed out on this round of NRM grants, don't despair.

This year Caloundra City Council will again offer small grants (up to \$1000) to assist in undertaking these types of activities on rural land. The Caloundra City Council Natural Resource Management Small grants program will be advertised in local papers in coming months.

Blue Morning Glory ALERT

by Alison MacDonald, landowner, and Greg Brown, Caloundra City Council

Blue morning glory is a vine with three- to five-lobed leaves and bright blue/purple funnel shaped flowers, and it is spreading rapidly on the Range. It is a highly invasive environmental weed and we need to work together to protect our properties and investments as well as our neighbourhoods in general.

Morning glory spreads mainly through simple tissue transfer (just a small section of stem will do it). Contractor slashing of existing infestations has contributed significantly to the spread of morning glory on the Range because small sections of stem are carried on tractor wheels and equipment after slashing. However Barung staff are now also beginning to find evidence of spread through seed transferral via birds – a method previously unrecognised.

Morning glory tendrils can grow one metre per day, so it is critically important to deal with any new sites immediately. Once established, this vine is very hard to eradicate. Because it puts down runners which grow endlessly with new lateral runners every two centimetres, it forms a dense mesh which simply smothers everything in its path. Its roots are very shallow and fine and break easily at ground level. These then just regenerate.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Be aware and watch for any new infestations.
- Care for your own road frontage. This will ensure that current slashing does not cross your property, thus preventing infestation of your property.
- Eradicate any morning glory vine affecting your property.
- Get together with your neighbours to lighten the load.
- Take on responsibility for any common areas affected.

TREATMENT

Herbicide is essential, but it does not translocate to the end (3 to 4 metres) of each runner. Before spraying, pull up the ends and throw them back on the main body of the plant and then spray. If the morning glory is through a heavy infestation of other weeds, such as lantana, you will have to deal with the other weeds first to be able to reach the morning glory effectively.

If you have a very small infestation of morning glory, pull it out by hand (after rain), removing ALL roots. If you put all plant

Blue morning glory – attractive garden escapee and environmental terror – can smother all in its path.

[Photos by Barung Landcare]



material in large black rubbish bags and leave them in the sun for five days, they will die. Alternatively, burn ALL plant material.

Landholders report that MCPA and dicamba (eg Kamba M⁰) is the herbicide of choice at 3.5 ml per litre of water. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines have also had approved an off-label permit which allows pest control operators, members of environmental groups, and people employed as or working under the supervision of local and state government officers to control BMG using 2,4-D amine (625 g/L) herbicides (eg Amicide 625⁰) at 3 ml per litre of water.

As with using any herbicide, read and follow the directions on the label. Wear appropriate protective clothes – at least a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. Store all chemicals appropriately and securely.

Spraying is most effective from September to May while morning glory is flowering. Dying-off will be evident within seven days of the first spraying, and any areas that have been missed will become apparent. It is important to spray these missed areas immediately. Check every 6 to 8 weeks and spray any regrowth where necessary. It can take 12 to 18 months to eradicate a heavy infestation. Follow-up is the secret to winning.

For further information, contact Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 or Greg Brown of Caloundra City Council on 1300 650 112.

Heritage & Cultural Values

by Beverly Hand

A common misconception still held today is that prior to colonisation by Europeans, Australia was an untouched, unaltered land that was not cultivated. However, it must be realised that this country has been worked and altered by Indigenous Australians. Indigenous people have been occupiers, caretakers, natural resource managers and farmers of this continent for many thousands of years.

You may be thinking to yourself at this moment, 'Hang on, did they just say the Aborigines were farmers?' To this the reply would be 'Yes'. Indigenous peoples did indeed farm the land, but not in the European sense of farming. Indigenous people employed farming techniques such as herding, fishing, netting, plant propagation, tilling, pruning, harvesting, thinning and much more.

One example is how Indigenous people in south-east Queensland would push-fell *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp she-oak) into waterways and leave them there for a while, then later harvest shipworm for eating. This practice ensured future supply, as well as thinning of the tree. The existence of fish traps and middens on Bribie Island demonstrates the use of aquaculture techniques for sustenance.

A more highly recognised form of farming by Indigenous people is firestick farming. This was the planned firings of tracts of land at specific times in the seasonal cycle to encourage new plant growth that attracted animals. Fire also cleared vegetation for easier travel and enabled destructive, uncontrollable wildfires to be avoided. Therefore, years before the first European farmers arrived, the Indigenous people were aware, to some degree, of the concept of farming.

After more than fifty thousand years living on and managing the landscape of the Australian continent, Indigenous people have left behind relics of history all around us. All people alter and affect the land to some degree and therefore leave their mark on the landscape, depending on the land use practices.

As farmers can appreciate, there are difficulties associated with living off and working the Australian landscape. Indigenous people adapted well to the harsh moods of the land. Whilst they had no equipment at their disposal like that of the early pioneer farmers, they were ingenious in their technology. Traditional tools and weapons were made of weed, bark, reeds and other plant materials, as well as bone, shell and stone. The largest percentage of items left to examine from the past are stone artefacts.

Much information regarding traditional Indigenous culture is through post-European records, collections of artefacts and oral traditions. Another source of information is through the archaeological record. The archaeological record consists of physical evidence of past human activity that has been located at different places in the landscape.

It is important to find and document archaeological sites in order to help reconstruct the past. A better understanding of past human activity and land use management can be gained by knowing where sites are and studying them. Some examples of archaeological sites located in south-east Queensland are bora grounds, fish traps, middens, quarries, scatters of stone artefacts, scarred trees, axe grinding grooves and more.

So now you have some understanding of past Indigenous land uses and the importance of Aboriginal sites in the archaeological record. So what happens if you find stone artefacts on your property? Firstly, don't panic and please do not destroy the site

out of fear it may be sacred and thus have negative consequences for you. Not every site is considered sacred, in fact, only a small percentage of sites are sacred. Most of the time the sites will be recorded by archaeologists or an appropriate authority. The Indigenous community will be informed about the location and then, depending on the site's significance, it is either left as is or added into the Heritage Register. You would be advised on what action will be taken.

It is worth noting that landowners in Queensland have the power to appeal any decision made by a heritage authority on heritage issues. Landowners are not without power. Do not let all this scare you. Not all sites are significant enough to attract much attention.

It is important to note here that all Indigenous sites and artefacts that are over thirty years old are considered part of the Queensland Estate, which is covered by the *Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act 1987*. It is an offence to destroy, deface or damage Queensland Estate artefacts/sites. A copy of this act is downloadable from the Internet at www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/C/CultRecLQQEA87_01A.pdf

If you find any artefacts or a place you believe is a site on your property, please contact the Environmental Protection Agency at the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service on (07) 3227 6495. For general Heritage enquiries, please call (07) 3227 6499.

There is also a website about Heritage issues at www.env.qld.gov.au. The Regional Cultural Heritage Office can be contacted on (07) 3225 8815 and, for those of you who are do not have internet capabilities, you can write to GPO Box 2771, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001.

Reproduced from The Management of Erosion and Sedimentation in Pineapple Growing with the kind permission of the Pumicestone Region Catchment Coordination Association Inc.

Plants and Fungi Poisonous to People in Queensland

\$4.50

This booklet has been put together by the Queensland Government and will be available from Barung. It includes duranta (Sheena's gold), oleander, caladium, philodendron and others, with coloured photos and descriptions.



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

Myrsine variabilis

(syn *Rapanea variabilis*)

Muttonwood Family: Myrsinaceae

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Muttonwood is generally seen as an attractive glossy-leaved understorey shrub growing three to five metres tall, and is often prevalent in the seedling-to-1.5 metre understorey component. It may, however, be found growing to 15 metres in mature rainforest. In the open, it can form a dense rounded shrub, bushy to ground level. Under dry conditions it may drop inner foliage but usually maintains an attractive appearance. Foliage is stiff and glossy, with leaves 3-9 cm long, simple, alternate and generally obovate, (sometimes oblanceolate or elliptic). Leaves of young plants are toothed, whereas older plants have leaves with attractive wavy margins and the occasional tooth, rarely with the odd leaf showing some lobing. The shape, number of teeth, and degree of waviness can be quite variable, hence the species name *variabilis*.



Muttonwood at the Barung Nursery. [Photo by Wayne Webb]

Small, creamy-white bell-shaped flowers are clustered along the branchlets in late winter. These are followed by small purple fruit, 4 to 5 mm in diameter, which ripen in November and December. The fruit are a drupe, with a layer of flesh around a single hard seed. The fruit are eaten by birds such as the rose-crowned fruit-dove and Lewin's honeyeater. Muttonwood is also the larval food plant for the white line blue butterfly.

Myrsine variabilis occurs from the Shoalhaven area on the south coast of New South Wales to the tropical rainforests of McIlwraith Range on Cape York Peninsula. It grows in riparian zones, in the understorey of eucalypt forests surrounding rainforest, and in all rainforest types. Locally, muttonwood is very widespread, from the sub-tropical rainforest of Mary Cairncross Park to the drier vine forests of the Conondale area. It can be found growing on all our local soil types, and is often seen regenerating naturally under paddock trees if there is some protection from grazing cattle.

The dense glossy foliage makes muttonwood a very attractive shrub for garden use, where it can be used to good effect in a mixed screen planting. It is relatively slow growing, and prefers some protection when young. It is best planted where it receives at least some shading from nearby trees and shrubs, and appreciates mulching (though this must not be mounded up around the stem). If planted in heavy shade, muttonwood will stay looking good as a small shrub but put on little growth, making it suitable for that shaded corner where not much will grow.

Myrsine variabilis is easily propagated by seed, though patience is sometimes required. Fruit should be picked when purple. Remove the flesh by squishing through your fingers or rubbing

through a sieve, then float the flesh off in water, in which the good seeds will sink to the bottom. Sow over a tray of propagation mix and lightly cover. Germination can be sporadic, with some seedlings in a month or two, but germination may continue over a couple of years. I have had success with seed that was cleaned and stored in a container at room temperature (ie. I put it aside and forgot about it!) for about a month. It had not been fully dried and went mouldy – generally a disaster, but in this case the seed had started germinating. I rinsed it well and sowed it just in case it would still grow – it came up like ‘hairs on a cat’s back’. Worth further investigation!

NURSERY SPECIALS -

Muttonwood will be on sale in the Barung Nursery at \$1.75 each as native tubestock in February and March.

Volunteering is good for your health!

VOLLIE'S VIEW by Val Phillips

The importance of a volunteer – especially to a not-for-profit organisation – can mean the life or death of many a community group. Volunteers are a very important ingredient in the mix of the organisation, whether you're filing, collecting seeds or whatever. Volunteers breathe fire and life into your extended family in the organisation, freeing up the paid staff to carry out duties that make the engine room function.

But volunteer work is also important to the well-being and peace of mind of the volunteers themselves. Many a person given a redundancy package or just burnt out in the hectic paid world may feel they've been thrown onto the scrap heap, too old in the eyes of employers to hire. Even if you are semi-retired, you may find yourself wanting to be useful somewhere. *Must keep that brain ticking over!*

So much knowledge has been lost. Maybe many volunteers don't think like the young of today but volunteers have stamped their mark in the workforce, and have taken pride in what they have done. There are a lot of very capable people with a great wealth of knowledge and experience that are only too willing to pass it on.

So to all of you who are thinking of becoming a volunteer out there: Get off your butts, dust off the cobwebs, and re-visit the good old days of feeling young and vital again. Just a few hours a day on a couple of days a week can add ten years to your life, and any help is a huge benefit to many worthy organisations.

Go all you volunteers and make this world a better place. *Volunteers rule!*

For Barung Members

Nursery Plant Credit Program

Do you know that, as a Barung member, you can pay \$250 to set up a Plant Credit that gives you a discount of 25% on tubestock, megatubes and some more advanced stock?

You don't have to pick up all the plants at once – you can take them as needed in whatever quantity you require, subject to availability.

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

Thank You to ...

... *Rainforest Rescue Byron Bay* (a great big thank you) for a very generous donation of \$500 towards the IGA Treeplant

... *all* who have contributed to the IGA Treeplant

... *Kate & Paul Fraser* for hosting the wonderful Barung Christmas Party

... *all the Management Committee members* for organising such a fun night

... *Maleny Neighbourhood Centre* and *Top Notch Secretarial Service* for the Expo Office poster holder

... *Fuschia Collard* for Expo Office fan – phew!

... *Melissa Chaddock* for all her work with Reveg Species lists

... *Barry Liddell & Kyle Ebenezer* for setting up new Barung Office computers

... *Denis Lalor* for his help with MYOB

... *Max Smith, Madee Sommers, David Long, Alan Beard, Col & Val Phillips* for the Dec/Jan *Barung News* mailout

... *Max Smith, Madee Sommers, David Long, Marion Adamson, Col & Val Phillips* for the Dec05 *CodLine* mailout

... *all* who helped with the *Barung News* and *CodLine* mailouts during 2005

... *Father Christmas* for bestowing his presence on Barung staff and volunteers!



NRM Bus Trip thanks

A special thanks once again to our Catering Queen *Val Phillips* for organising the very successful Bush Tucker morning tea for the NRM bus trip last month.

We would also like to thank all the businesses who supplied the goodies:

... A HUGE THANK YOU to *John & Mary King* from *Rainforest Liquors* for their most generous donations of such delicacies as lillypilly chutneys and jams, strawberry gum and lemon euclyptus iced teas and herb butters and the delicious olida syrup for the cake. (For more info, email rainforest272@bytefite.com.au)

Thank you also to ...

... *Maleny IGA* for the Emu Sausages (enquiries to 5494 2257)

... *Eco Vision Australia* for the disposable plates made from palm fronds (ecovision@optusnet.com.au)

... *BD Kemp Trading* for the wooden cutlery (beatrice@bdkemp.com)

... *Woodfire Bakery Maleny* for the yummy dampers, buttercake and scones (5494 3711).

And of course, thanks to *all the Barung staff* who participated in the event.

Letters

Thanks from Michael and Faith

Dear Mim and Lin,

I want to thank all those at Barung Landcare who contributed to the New Year's Eve 'Legless in Maleny' event. I really appreciate your support, and I must say it has helped me stay positive and determined to get up on my new prosthetic legs later in the month.

Please pass on my thanks to the Barung 'family' and I shall keep in touch to let you know of my progress.

Kind regards,
Michael and Faith

Gandhi School Internship success

Dear Mim,

Thank you for having taken part in the Gandhi School Internship Program. The program was a great success, thanks to you and all the people that helped make it work. We hope that you had as much fun as the students.

It was the first of its kind for The Gandhi School Australia, but certainly not the last. We hope to continue a similar program in 2006. The Gandhi School hope that you will consider participating again.

At the end of the program, we surveyed all the students asking them for feedback regarding 'the internship experience'. It was mostly very positive and informative. We hope to also gather feedback from all the mentors. We would appreciate your honest feedback. This will inevitably help us to modify and improve the program.

Have a happy and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to working with you again.

Sincerely, on behalf of all at the Gandhi School, Australia and Korea,

Lisa McDonald
(Curriculum Coordinator/Teacher)



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The essential guide to living on the Blackall Range

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DEADLINE - Wed 15th March

for April-May 2006
Newsletter contributions

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Spreading the Seed ...

... continued from page 16

spade, a bale of mulch and a tray of plants to help reinstate the ecological processes we have disrupted.

It's not only native trees that make use of the wind to move their seed across the landscape. A wide range of native plants use the wind to send forth their potential progeny and there's also a whole suite of newcomers that we have transported from around the globe, now also now calling Australia home! These include anything from relatively harmless weeds such as milk thistles *Sonchus spp*, fleabane *Conzysa spp* and thickhead *Crassocephalum crepidioides* to whole range of declared and environmental weeds such as mist weed *Ageratina riparia* and groundsel *Baccharis halimifolia*.

One extremely nasty customer that has popped up locally is cats claw creeper *Macfadyena unguis-cati*. Cats claw is a 'super' plant (unfortunately a super-villain). In spite of its wind-borne seed being light and low in food reserves, it can germinate in undisturbed rainforest. Cats claw creeper grows slowly at first as a rambling groundcover, all the while building up an energy store in its underground tubers. When sufficient energy has been stored the tubers send forth exploratory shoots that race skywards up the nearest tree trunk. The creepers then destroy the canopy of the trees they climb with the weight of their foliage. Thus the creepers gain even more access to light and the damage gets worse. All this from a beautiful yellow flowering vine that people thought they could tame and confine to their gardens!

Let's get back to some of our locals. The locally familiar hoop pine *Araucaria cunninghamii* is one of our most ancient forest trees with a lineage that spans back to the age of dinosaurs and to the ancient great southern continent of Gondwana. A few years ago I was treated to a truly magnificent sight as a grove of hoop pine released their seed into the swirling wind that buffeted their crowns. Hoop pine cones are about 100 mm x 100 mm and break apart into their individual segments when ripe. On this day, as the warm summer afternoon winds hit these trees, the last bit of moisture that had been holding them together evaporated and their seed swirled upwards in its thousands to make a brief cloud of hoop pine seed that would rain down further up the valley. You could say I was blown away ...

Some local rainforest trees with wind-dispersed seed:

Black booyong	<i>Argyrodendron actinophyllum</i>
Bumpy ash	<i>Flindersia schottiana</i>
Crows ash	<i>Flindersia australis</i>
Hoop pine	<i>Araucaria cunninghamiana</i>
Red cedar	<i>Toona ciliata</i>
Sassafras	<i>Doryphora sassafras</i>
Tulip oak	<i>Argyrodendron trifoliatum</i>
Wheel of fire	<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTORS

Mark Fentiman Dental Surgery Mulchmakers
Lilyponds Holiday Park Maleny Motor Trimmers
Taman Sari James & Suzanne Davidson

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

Spreading the Seed - Part 2

TURKEY TANGENTIAL by Spencer Shaw

When Bob Dylan sang, 'the answer is blowing in the wind', I'll admit he quite probably didn't have the seed dispersal methods of some of our local rainforest trees in mind, but it perfectly describes how some of our rainforest trees move their seed about.

In my last article, we discussed the larger seeds of our local rainforests and the problems they have moving around the landscape, due to a lack of large animals to disperse them and to the forest fragmentation that has resulted from European settlement. Wind, however, is free and always present, and so many plants have evolved to make use of this free ride for their seed.

Red cedar *Toona ciliata* is familiar to most of us as a majestic rainforest giant and source of valuable timber. However red cedar seeds are a mere 10 mm long and most of that is a flattened wing designed to catch the wind in the forest canopy. If they're lucky, they may be blown to a patch of open ground suitable for the seed to germinate and grow, but most won't. This is one of the great

gambles of wind-borne seed dispersal. Red cedar seed may germinate but will certainly not grow in undisturbed rainforest as there is too little light and too much competition for such a small seed to survive. Each red cedar may produce many millions of seed in a good fruiting season but few, if any, of these may germinate and grow in undisturbed rainforest. Larger numbers will germinate and grow in disturbed rainforest edges and in wet sclerophyll (eucalypt) forest adjacent to rainforest, and that's all it takes to maintain and increase their population. Large scale seed production, in comparison to low rates of seedling germination and survival (in natural situations) is typical of plants that opt for the free ride of wind dispersal.

Trees that produce wind-borne seed are great for the revegetator *because* they produce such large quantities of seed. These seed are often very easy to collect and then to germinate under nursery condition. This is just as well, because when these trees are cleared from the landscape, their ability to spread billions of seed throughout their range and thus saturate the landscape is severely reduced. Only a few will find suitable conditions to germinate and grow. So it's yet again that we must turn to the mattock or

... continued on page 15

The Barung Family

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And our many Volunteers, Labour Team Participants, and Members

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ph 07 5494 3151
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barung@sun.big.net.au
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