

October – November 2004

Barung Pledge provides Support in the Philippines

Gigi Boy
LC Facilitator

The Lantapan Landcare Association, Inc. gets a boost for their main project, the establishment of a Central Office, Nursery and Training Hall in Songco, Lantapan, with the arrival of John Muir, Farmcare Officer of Barung Landcare and Project Officer of the Landcare Project in the Philippines. John turned over the A\$500 pledge from the Barung Landcare Association to assist in the completion of the LLCA's project.

Prior to receiving Barung's pledge, the group had almost 70 percent completed the structure with bamboo and timber cut and collected in Malaybalay.

The turnover was witnessed by LLCA's president, Leo Zambrano. John gave a brief history of Barung Landcare, which has grown from a fledgling group with a small nursery to a respected institution with a A\$1M budget for this year. John challenged the group to continue their efforts in Landcare, toward becoming independent and self-sustaining in their activities and in promoting sustainable NRM initiatives in the area and in nearby localities.

Thanks so much guys!



Bon Voyage, Johnnie, International Man of Chaos!

It is with great sadness that we are saying bon voyage (but not goodbye) to Johnnie Muir who is leaving within days to take up a three year Landcare Project position in the Philippines. We are really happy for John as this is the culmination of his hard work with Barung's International Landcare Project over the past five years. We have watched the growth of his passion for this side of Landcare over this time.

John started with Barung on the Management Committee in 1995 then moved into the Coordinator's hot seat with the NHT-funded 'Barung Landcare Education and Extension on the Blackall Range' project from 1996. He took on the Farmcare-Landcare in Horticulture Project with its international component in the Philippines in 1999, seeing it through to completion in 2004.

John has been a driving force behind Barung's success. He has cajoled, harassed, enthused and inspired staff, committee, volunteers and local landholders over the years and shown us all the bigger Landcare picture. He has brought Africans, Thais, Americans, Filipinos and other overseas visitors through Barung to look at a working model of Landcare. He has kept us on the edge of innovative thought and helped make Landcare an everyday word in the Maleny vocabulary.

Thank you, John, from all of us.

Bridge the Gap

Barung AGM Treeplant to help Bridge the Gap

Barung staff and committee would like to invite all our members and friends to join us on the morning of Sunday 17 October for a treeplant at 794 Curramore Road, Curramore, to be followed by a lantana mulching demonstration and a gourmet BBQ lunch, with the Annual General Meeting in the afternoon.

The treeplant is a great morning of friendship, fun and on-ground activity, while the AGM is a good chance to get to know members of the Barung Management Committee and find out just what has been happening in Landcare over the past year.

The treeplant will kick off at 9 am, and we hope to have 1000 trees in the ground for the health of the upper Walli Creek catchment by 11 am. This is the beginning of an on-going private project to restore the degraded upper reaches of an otherwise well-vegetated catchment. Other benefits from this treeplant include creating shaded habitat for aquatic fauna, improving water quality, and stabilising the creek banks.

If all the small projects like this on private land were combined, you would see a huge amount of vegetation restoration happening in the catchments of the Blackall Range. All contribute to the protection of native vegetation and biodiversity in this unique region of Australia.

So put a reminder on your fridge now and give us a ring at the Barung Office to confirm your support so we can make sure we have enough food!

All treeplanters should bring a mattock or shovel, and wear hat, sunscreen and good shoes.



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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(Compiled by Barry Liddell)

Maleny Manor	Scott Shears & Kathryn Rossi
Alex Skinner	Rossi
Liz Caplin	Darren Mitchell
Kai Nieminen	Geoff & Diana Fowkes
Amber Wilkins	Elizabeth Cummings
Jake Smith-Moloney	Neville Hume & Robyn Carrington
Hannah Smith	Mike Bettega
Helen Bell Arbuthnot	Kris Nyhan
Range Auto & Fuel Injection	Brush Turkey Enterprises
Marjorie & Vic Bussey	Lesley Breton & Michael Hume
Blair O'Connor & family	Hume
David Southern	Gabrielle Latta
Peter Bjorkelund	Beenatree Milling
Barbara Tealby	Martin Da Silva
Sandy Hudd & Tony Richings	Alan Beard
Graeme Humphreys	Sally Hookey
Richard Shapcott	Linda Rea
Melissa & Shayne Hughes	John Wightman
Stephane Cazard	Mr & Mrs Watson

WELCOME BACK

Joan Horgan	S & K Tonnison
J Ferguson & T Whitton	L Pumpa & J Fraser

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

BARUNG MEMBERSHIP RATES

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

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Lin Fairlie

This is the last newsletter before Barung's Annual General Meeting on Sunday 17 October, so please put the date in your diary and come along for a morning treeplant with friends in Curramore. This will be followed by a free lunch for treeplanters and the AGM.

Following James Davidson's resignation from the Management Committee in August, Bridget Sparks has taken his place on the current Management Committee.

We have several nominations for the 2004/2005 Management Committee which will be elected at the AGM. Thank you to retired and retiring MC members, James, Raylee Myers, Helen Rosenbaum and Robert Scopes for your input and assistance with local Landcare over the past year. We hope you will continue to contribute to aspects of Barung.

Re-nominating members (apart from me) are Trish Brunton, Kate Fraser, Heather Spring and Clay Stokoe, and I would like to thank all of you for continuing in this vital role to ensure Barung's survival and growth into the future.

After a busy and successful year at Barung many thanks must go to all members of the Management Committee and the various sub-committees for their contributions.

The challenges for Barung in the short term are numerous. The search for a new site and the building of a new Resource Centre and Nursery that can meet our needs for the future will be high on the agenda from now on.

Our Licence to Occupy the current site expires in 2007 – less than three years away! While this may seem a long time, it will go quickly especially in light of the considerable funds we will need to make the move a reality. Finding the right new home and establishing a new Resource Centre will require more comprehensive skills than are found within the Management Committee alone. If you feel you have expertise which could assist Barung in any area of our relocation, please contact Mim or any member of the Management Committee. Ideas about state-of-the-art building techniques for energy efficiency, fund raising etc are all issues which will need to be addressed during the planning stages as well as the search for a suitable site. This is quite an exciting prospect as we have outgrown our current home and it is an opportunity for local Landcare to raise our profile.

The other good news is that Barung has finally obtained Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status from the federal Government. This means members and the community can make direct tax-deductible donations to Barung. Thanks to Treasurer Trish Brunton for persisting with this drawn out process. We are now in the process of establishing The Barung Environmental Gift Fund in accordance with regulations to oversee expenditure of these DGR funds.

The successful completion of the five year 'Farmcare – Landcare in Horticulture' project, and its international Landcare component with John Muir as Project Officer, has opened the opportunities for Barung to be further involved in Landcare on an international scale. There are skills in our community which could see Barung play an important role in assisting the development of Landcare in overseas countries. Best wishes to John and his family as they leave for three years in the Philippines. We look forward to continued contact with John and thank him for all of his input to Landcare and Barung over the past nine years.

Local Council Support for Wages at Barung Landcare

Caloundra City Council gave the thumbs up to Barung recently with the presentation of \$90,000 to assist with funding wages for the 2004/05 year. This support recognises the importance of Barung's work in protecting and enhancing the natural environment of the Blackall Range and environs.

Division 1 Councillor, Dick Newman, along with other Councillors, was extremely supportive of Barung's presentation to Caloundra City Councillors and staff.

'I think it's great that Barung have been given this boost. Barung have gone from strength to strength in recent years and their achievements are well known in Council. So getting the support from the other Councillors to provide this funding was not difficult.'

'Barung staff have met with Council Officers with an aim that we will all work in unison with common aims and objectives. At this meeting, Barung reiterated their support for other environmental groups in the city and will respond to requests for assistance or guidance.'

'One of the best aspects of putting money into a community group is that we get a high return as voluntary labour multiplies the effect of our investment. Barung have demonstrated that for every \$1 invested the benefit is around \$4.'

'Having said that, this grant is substantial and the only guarantee I can give Barung for next year is that their application will be



Mayor Don Aldous and Councillor Dick Newman congratulate Barung's Mim Coulstock on Council's recognition of Barung's efforts

considered. Because Council works on an annual budget at present, no community group is guaranteed funding each year.'

'Barung must be commended in developing other income generators like their nursery, contracting service and the Maleny Wood Expo, with the aim of becoming more and more self reliant in the future.'

Barung Landcare is a not-for-profit community group dedicated to the environmental protection of the region. Barung is funded by memberships, grants, donations and self-generated funds.

DGR STATUS - Good News!

The Barung Environmental Gift Fund (a Public Fund) has been listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations and endorsed as a DGR - deductible gift recipient.

We are now able to receive tax-deductible gifts.

What types of gifts are deductible?

- Money of \$2 or more
- Property valued by the Tax office at more than \$5000
- Property purchased by the donor during the 12 months before making the gift
- Trading stock of a business.

The purpose of our Public Fund is to further our environmental objectives as stated in our Constitution.

For further information, call our Treasurer, Trish Brunton, on 07 5494 4963 or email Trish at trishbrunton@ozemail.com.au

DEADLINE - Wed 17th November for December 2004 - January 2005 Newsletter contributions

Barung Landcare...



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

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

THANK YOU

THE STATE OF THE REGION

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

Burnett Mary Regional Group update

Tamara Boland

The 2003-2004 National Landcare Program has been underway for almost 3 months now. Minister Truss announced the \$311,440 to be allocated for the Burnett Mary Region in March. In our region 14 Landcare Groups received equal shares of this funding.

Following a BMRG-facilitated workshop earlier this year, a proposal was developed to support a part-time Project Officer for each group (you may all know Jackie Montgomery, Barung's Project Officer) to run education days and develop sub-regional specific information kits. The workshops or field days will work with industry and government to raise awareness of local issues in each Landcare Group's area.

This 2003-2004 project is titled 'Regional Landholders Ownership of Sustainable Land-use Issues and Solutions'. The short title for the Barung project is 'Sustainable Solutions'!

To date, some groups have had huge successes in their kit development, and have had enormous numbers for field days. Many groups that have been struggling for a number of years have used this opportunity to re-engage both members and other relevant industry, local government and groups in the area. All groups are

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2004/05 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*2002/03 Committee Members
standing for re-election*

Trish Brunton

I've been Treasurer of Barung for three years, enjoying the ever-changing, ever-challenging environment. I am committed to remaining until Barung is relocated to new and appropriate premises. Last year my family took the big leap – selling one acre at Witta to buy a 130 acre property at Curramore. This includes 100 acres of forest ranging from dry sclerophyll to rainforest, and is recovering from intensive logging 40 years ago. The property is 'Land for Wildlife' registered and our vision is to rehabilitate the two creek systems and slip areas through staged plantings and fencing off from cattle. My background is in small business so eventually our land will become income-producing, but not from cattle.



Lin Fairlie

As each year passes, we become more and more aware of the challenges facing our local environment. I am prepared to make myself available for another year on the Barung Management Committee to help do what I can to address these issues. I am also keen to help Barung find a new home and pathways to get there. It will be a challenging year. I look forward to the friendships Landcare offers.

Kate Fraser

I have been a member of Barung for over five years, accessing the knowledge of the nursery and reveg staff and volunteers via workshops. Revegetation of the degraded areas of our block is my hobby, leading to an increasing interest in the region's native flora. I support Barung's objectives and believe the organisation plays an important role for many individuals and interested groups in the region. I have been Secretary for the past year and hope to participate further by staying on the Management Committee for another 12 months.



Bridget Sparks

We moved to Maleny from Palm Beach, NSW, in 1999. Since then I have taken an active part in a number of community organisations, the Maleny & District Green Hills Fund, Maleny Tourist Information Centre, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve and BRBTA to name a few. Last year I was the Raffle Coordinator for Barung's Maleny Wood Expo, raising \$8,000. During this time I became very impressed with the dedication and accomplishments of Barung Landcare. My extensive business background includes experience in sales/training, marketing/research and public relations. I hope to make a worthwhile contribution to Barung and thus to Maleny.



Heather Spring

Over the past 20 years in Maleny I have watched the development of the region with interest and concern. I am a strong advocate of sustainable usage and conservation of natural resources. I have qualifications in geology and resource management. I currently coordinate the Maleny Learning Network. I am committed to lifelong learning and making learning opportunities available to everyone, believing that education is the key to changing agricultural practices and promoting community conservation and landcare practices.

Clay Stokoe

This will be my fourth year on the Barung Management Committee. I am involved with Barung Landcare because I believe Landcare is a community responsibility and that I, by being involved, can make a contribution both to our community and our local environment. My interests and focus as a volunteer are directed at the physical repair of our land and for this reason I am also on the Revegetation and Contracting Services sub-committees.



Barung Landcare...



New Committee Members standing for election



Eric Anderson

I have been involved as a Government Agent in Landcare since its inception and am interested in continuing that relationship now I am a free agent. I have a strong NRM background and good working knowledge of the new regional arrangements in Queensland to roll out the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAPSWQ) and Natural Heritage Trust (NHT). Hopefully

this can be of use to Barung as it moves forward in the next 'decade' of Landcare.

Bob Hall

Community recognition for Barung is evidence of the high regard in which its Landcare work is held and this is a tribute to the commitment of the staff and committee. I see Barung providing essential and wide-ranging Landcare services on the Range and over time these activities will assist in enhancing the environment and preserving biodiversity to the benefit of all. As a geologist I have held senior positions in mining and oil and gas companies both in Australia and overseas. I retired in 2003 and moved to Maleny with my wife, Sue, onto land acquired in 1988. I hope to be able to play a role in assisting Barung to meet the many challenges facing Landcare on the Range.



John Wightman

I have lived in Maleny with my family for four years. In that time we have converted a significant hoop pine plantation into a native flower farm supporting 6000 specimens and about 25 species. The farm is designed and run on sustainable crop and pest management practices. Biodiversity strips, mulching and compost figure large. My wife, Waltraud, and I retain our 20-year commitment to advancing sustainable agriculture



in less developed countries. We have worked throughout Africa and Asia (and in NZ and the USA) as agricultural researchers, managers and administrators. This expertise is available to Barung to ensure specifically that Barung Landcare International progresses into reality to sustainability.

Funding for trees from Greenfleet

The Greenfleet tree planting program is looking for land on which to plant 80,000 trees to offset carbon emissions in Queensland.

- Minimum vacant area of 10ha (for 10,000 trees)
- Public or private land
- Landowner contributes ground prep & maintenance
- Planting is permanent and cannot be harvested
- SEQ sites sought for January/February plant (rain permitting)

Ring Barung for Greenfleet contacts.

Splash! It's almost here

**3-8 pm Saturday 16th October
Chambers Island, Maroochydore
only \$2 per adult!**

International guests, enormous sculptures, workshops, displays, information, awesome finale performance, wonderful wacky music, trees, water, Gubbi Gubbi dancers, kids performing, professionals, our community, costumes, magic, feasts, stories, a mystery, and a ritual for the waterways.

Bring family and friends and a blanket to sit on ... eventually.



'Is this where I can join Landcare?'

Insurance for Volunteers

Thanks to the hard work of Qld Water & Land Carers (our peak body), the Qld Dept of Natural Resources & Mines is funding public liability insurance for community-based natural resource groups for 3 years.

If **volunteering** in any capacity at Barung, please make sure you sign on in the Volunteer Registration Book so you are covered by our insurance.

Are You an Endangered Species Buff???

Maroochy Shire Council is seeking community input to assist with identification of Shire significant species for the Maroochy Biodiversity Strategy – Significant Species List. MSC staff are collecting new location records for endangered, vulnerable or rare species. Data is required by **Friday, 15 October 2004**.

Contact Erica Metcalfe at MSC on 5441 8020 or email metcalfee@maroochy.qld.gov.au for more info.



Choosing plants for natural rainfall variability

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN by Joan Dillon

I've recently heard a number of talks/debates on the subject of natural climate variability and also global warming. Western Australia has experienced a significant drop in average annual rainfall for some years now. It is possible this is due primarily to vegetation clearance and that the effects of global warming are yet to kick in. Research is continuing in order to analyse the reasons for higher rainfall on the naturally vegetated side of the rabbit-proof fence. Volatile oils in the air above the native vegetation, the darker colour compared with grain crops, and possibly also the roughness (variations in height and form) may be factors.

What is the relevance of all this to the ornamental garden?

First: Our climate is very variable and the way we think about our gardens should take account of this fact. Second: Diversity is the way to go. Gardens may be small but their importance adds up. It would be hard to prove that our individual efforts are having a long term effect on the climate but at least we're providing corridors, linkages, roughness, a range of colours, and habitat.

On the immediate, practical level, we have certainly had a very dry winter. This is not drought but natural variation. It has sorted out the shrubs which were probably planted in the wrong place and also demonstrated the advantages of shade and protection from the wind. Native ginger, *Alpinia caerulea*, has done very well on an extremely dry slope which is permanently shaded. It still looks lush and green. *Psychotria loniceroides* is struggling along with seriously wilted foliage. It was revived by late rain last year but plants in more exposed situations are not looking good. Fortunately the Lewin honeyeaters love the fruit and have spread it around so I expect some of the seedlings will survive.

Acmena acmenoides on a dry slope may not survive but is looking much better on a protected slope with a fraction more soil moisture. It pays to grow several of the same species in different situations to test the microclimate. Good old *Syzygium australe* grows on regardless and clearly is very deep rooted, hence its value as a windbreak.

A combination of *Austromyrtus inophloia* and trees with a strong surface root system has not proved a good idea as the trees are outcompeting the shrubs for moisture in the top soil horizons. I've probably also over-planted in the interests of rapid canopy closure and can expect natural thinning, which won't matter in revegetation sites.

The main garden, consisting mostly of plants with small, tough or needle leaves, is doing well. These are designed to cope with exposure and low moisture levels. *Banksia robur* has been particularly successful, as have the bottlebrushes which will generally cope with sudden changes in moisture levels. One suspects that the great variety of bottlebrushes and the vast numbers of eucalypts and acacias reflect the ability of these genera to cope with our real climate. It's a tough old country but it's provided us with an absolute treasure trove of plant species. We shouldn't necessarily plant a rainforest. Dry vine forest, wallum and scrub can be just as interesting.

Lost & Found

Pair of gold-framed glasses left at Barung Resource Centre during Landcare Week

Use Dry Times to Plan

CONTRACTING SERVICES by Jolyon Froude

Spring has arrived, promising warmer weather and (hopefully) some much-needed rain to kick off the new growing season. As the low-growth and potential frost period of winter comes to an end, it is time to think about getting some more plants in the ground before the full heat of summer commences. But before you run out and start digging holes, it is worth giving some careful thought to the important processes of planning and site preparation.

Strategic planning and site preparation will greatly improve the success and efficiency of any planting project, whether it be for revegetation, farm forestry or domestic landscaping.

The planning process involves making important decisions relating to how much to plant, which areas to prioritise, and how plantings will integrate with existing vegetation and proposed future works. Factors to consider include fencing, access, desired outcomes, how much time and money can be directed toward implementation and future maintenance, species selection and positioning within the site, and sourcing of required plants.



Site preparation includes removing woody weeds, spraying pasture and herbaceous weeds, providing access, fencing, preparing the ground and mulching. Most of this work should be undertaken well in advance of planting, preferably during dry weather, allowing planting to commence immediately following good rainfall.

Even if a site is only covered in short pasture, it is preferable to spray this at least three or four weeks before planting

commences. In areas that are densely infested with woody weeds, a much longer time period will generally be required for preparation works.

So don't be put off by the current dry weather. Instead, see it as an opportunity to plan and prepare your next planting job to give your young trees the best possible chance.

Barung Contracting Services can help with all aspects of planning and site preparation. You may wish to do all the hard work yourself, but need advice on species selection and planting details. Or perhaps you know exactly what you want to do, but need help implementing it. Either way, we can help you by providing good advice and experienced labour.

BARUNG
CONTRACTING
SERVICES
for landholders

- ✓ reveg, regen & farm forestry
- ✓ project management - planning, site prep, planting, maintenance
- ✓ weed identification & control
- ✓ property planning & consultancy
- ✓ environmental landscaping



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

BARUNG NURSERY at the Coolum Wildflower Show

Cali Salzmann

The Coolum Primary School was a perfect site for the annual Coolum Wildflower Show hosted by the Coolum District Coast Care on Sunday 29 August. The school is adjacent to the wallum section of the Noosa National Park.

Barung Nursery staff attended to promote our nursery on the coast and give local people the opportunity to buy wallum species. We also took advantage of the guided walks through the wallum in full bloom and glory with Deb Voss, coordinator of the show, who shared her passion for protecting and enhancing the natural environment of the Coolum region.

Coolum District Coast Care have rescued thousands of wallum species from the clutches of development, transplanting them into parks and gardens, such as the wallum gardens at Mudjimba.

Barung staff have been invited to seed collect with them this year to increase our wallum species diversity, so keep your eyes out for some real beauties in the nursery this time next year!



Wayne, Jake and Cali at the Coolum Wildflower Show promoting the Barung Nursery

Vollies Clear Area by Creek

NURSERY NOTES by Wayne Webb

Life has been fairly hectic around Barung as usual. In mid August, Landcare Week descended on us once again. This year Cali had the bright idea of clearing behind the Barung office and putting the tent down by the creek. This involved firstly removing a great pile of weeds and old potting mix, which thankfully Peter Brunton was happy to translocate to his vege garden. Then it was on the phone to arrange for Rob Pollock to level out the site (a freebie, thanks Rob). The Cali Gang (Cali and the volunteers) then moved in with mattocks, rakes, etc to weed along the creek and spread mulch over the tent site, before finally putting the tent up. Thanks guys – this provided a very pleasant setting for the workshops, and meant Landcare Week didn't bring nursery operations to a grinding halt. It also helped in cleaning up a very big weed problem for the nursery. Landcare Week proved a great way to get to know people.

Another big thank you goes to Colin Hastie, who organised putting in drainage and road base under the new carport, and also drainage outside the roller door of the lunch room. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped with raking out the road base. In the near future, a concrete spoon drain and underground pipe will be put in across the driveway to complete the job. This should go along way toward solving the drainage problems next time we have heavy rain (?!).

As for the plants, we have been concentrating on weeding and fertilising the nursery stock. Spring is well and truly here, and with a bit extra nutrient our stock is coming on nicely. We have a good range of trees and shrubs in the nursery, the frosts should be well and truly over, and we've actually had a few showers. When better to plant?

October specials in the nursery

In Native Tubes at \$1.50 each:

- *Cryptocarya triplinervis* Three-veined laurel
- *Rhodammia acuminata* Cooloola stringybark (or Cooloola ironwood)

Cryptocarya triplinervis

Three-veined laurel Family: Lauraceae

PLANT PROFILE by Wayne Webb

Cryptocarya triplinervis is one of our local laurels, a group of rainforest trees that provides a valuable food source for our fruit-eating birds. Topknot pigeons have been recorded feeding on Three-veined laurel. It is also a larval food plant of the blue triangle and Macleay's swallowtail butterflies.

The flowers are pale green, slightly fragrant, and attractive to many species of insects, including butterflies. Individual flowers are small (2 mm) and are produced in dense clusters from September to December.

In some years plants flower and fruit heavily; in others flowering is sparse. The fruit are a shiny purplish-black fleshy drupe, oval in shape with slight vertical ribbing. They are about 12 mm long and ripen between February and May. The fruit contain a single hard seed. The thin fleshy covering should be removed before sowing the seeds, which germinate reliably if sown fresh. Germination takes around two months.

Three-veined laurel grows to be a small to medium tree of around 10 m. It has a dense crown of dark green leaves, and can be bushy to near ground if grown in the open. It is relatively slow growing, and makes an attractive small bushy tree for average sized gardens. It can be planted in full sun at a small size, and is a valuable species in revegetation work.

Cryptocarya triplinervis is widespread in our area and found in several vegetation types, including dry vine, littoral, riverine and subtropical rainforests.

Two varieties occur in our area, var. *triplinervis* and var. *pubens*. Var. *pubens* is the more common. Leaves are leathery to stiff, and glossy and smooth on the upper surface. Leaves are dull and pubescent (covered with short soft hairs) below in var. *pubens*, or with scattered hairs in var. *triplinervis*.

Distribution is from the Daintree River in north Queensland to the Macleay River in New South Wales.

THE STATE OF THE REGION

... continued from page 3

Burnett Mary Regional Group cont'.

at a different stage of development, but all have come up with great ideas that are owned and implemented by the group. Groups are putting together kits for the 'new landholder', sustainable irrigation solutions for canegrowers, property management planning workshops and much more, tackling local priority issues.

The Burnett Mary Regional Group recognises the importance of Landcare Groups and is committed to continuing to support them in every way possible. BMRG Landcare members are now in the process of putting together the 2004-2005 National Landcare Program proposal to extend the current round. After consulting with the groups, we feel we need to build on what we have gained from this present round of funding and avoid one-off projects.

Natural Resource Management SEQ

Susie Chapman

Regional Plan update The integrated natural resource management plan for SEQ is available for public comment in October, and a major consultation event is being planned. This will involve sub-regional bus trips converging in Brisbane for a Citizen Senate in early November. (See www.nrmseq.com for details.)

Website The NRM SEQ website is up and running, complete with discussion room. Details of consultation processes, new projects, funding opportunities and more are available at www.nrmseq.com

Sustainable Canelands The regional advisory groups for the distribution of the National Sugar Industry Reform Package have recently been announced, and our CSO (North) Susie Chapman has been invited to be part of the group for the area from the QLD/NSW border to Maryborough. This will ensure close integration is achieved between this program and the Framework for Sustainable Sugar Cane Catchments Study being undertaken by CSIRO for NRM SEQ.

LandPlus! Coordinator NRM SEQ has appointed David Clark as Coordinator for the innovative LandPlus! program. Following funding delays, the project will now become operational.

Commercial Environmental Forestry NRM SEQ convened a seminar on 24th August at the University of the Sunshine Coast on Commercial Environmental Forestry. The presenter was Dr Phil Polglase, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Futures at the CSIRO-Forestry and Forestry Products, Canberra. The Centre's activities include Commercial Environmental Forestry, the role of forests, greenhouse gas balances and climate change, and biomass for energy. Attendees came from research, industry, community and government spheres and an excellent exchange of information, experiences and contacts ensued. CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products have recently established a base in Cooroy.

National Rivercare Award NRM SEQ wishes to acknowledge the tremendous work over many years by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC), and congratulates them for winning the 2004 National Rivercare Award.

Community Groundwater Monitoring Forum On September 7th a meeting was held in Montville of stakeholders of the Upper Mary, Maroochy, Mooloolah and Noosa River catchments toward developing a community groundwater monitoring program for these areas. This followed a year's trial in the Eudlo Creek catch-

ment undertaken by Maroochy Waterwatch (jointly funded by Natural Resources and Mines and the Maroochy Shire Council), the results of which were presented by Andrew Todd. The meeting was the first of a series convened by NRM SEQ to develop community capacity in the northern sub-region in groundwater monitoring as part of the Regional Infrastructure for Community Engagement (RICE) programme. The next meeting in October will look more closely at each local programme and its needs.

SEQ Western Catchments Group

Bruce Lord

The public consultation period for '*Healthy Land – Our Future*', the draft Integrated Regional Natural Resource Management Plan for the Western Catchments region of SEQ, closes on 24 September. Over the past 6 weeks, all SEQWCG Liaison Officers have met with relevant sector groups and interested people to gather feedback on the Plan. Community Open Days have provided opportunities for the public to increase their understanding of the Plan, discuss local issues, and provide comment. People from the Stanley and Upper Brisbane catchments are encouraged to provide feedback as this is vital for refining the plan and attaining accreditation. Feedback forms can be emailed via www.healthylandourfuture.com.au, mailed to the SEQ WCG Office (PO Box 731, Ipswich 4305), or call our toll free number 1800 007 340.

National Landcare Program funding has been granted to build capacity of Landcare and Catchment groups for regional NRM initiatives (\$60,000) and implement a devolved grants program to address priority actions related to soil erosion and weed control identified in the draft NRM Plan (\$300,000). SEQWCG's strategic approach to the \$60,000 regional coordination component will direct support through existing catchment associations, with the Upper Brisbane Catchment Network receiving \$18,000.

Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP) info workshops – SEQWCG and the Moreton Bay Waterways and Catchments Partnership have facilitated local information days to ensure effective two-way communication between the community and the MBWCP regarding the science and methodology of the EHMP and Report Card, communication of local results and reporting outcomes, and implications for future management responses. A workshop for the Upper Brisbane & Stanley catchment communities on 8 September in Toogoolawah had positive outcomes including increased understanding of the EHMP & Report card, discussion of local issues, and community feedback regarding future reporting and communication.

Welcome to **Joadie Hardie** our new regional **WaterWatch Facilitator** based in SEQWCG at Ipswich. This position will facilitate the integration of Waterwatch and community groups programs with local and regional water quality monitoring programs, develop partnerships with key players involved in waterway monitoring, and develop strategies to improve data confidence for community monitoring, supported by regional investments.

SEQWCG has taken an active role in the **SEQ Regional Scenic Amenity Study** to ensure appropriate delivery and effective involvement for the community of the western catchments region. The Scenic Amenity study aims to record the community's visual preferences for various forms of landscapes and development across SEQ as an input to developing a map of scenic amenity for the region and to assist Local and State Government, regional bodies, industry and community groups to help develop context-appropriate guidelines for development in and near open space.

The Frog 'n Toad

Eva Ford

MRCCC's Living with Threatened Species project

So what makes a toad a toad and a frog a frog? In Australia only frogs occur naturally, even though the common names of some include 'toadlet'. We are all familiar with the real toad in our midst: the cane toad *Bufo marinus* that was introduced from South America in 1935.

True frogs, which belong to the family Ranidae, are characterised by:

- bulging eyes
- strong, long, webbed hind feet adapted for leaping and/or swimming
- smooth or slimy skin
- tendency to lay eggs in clusters
- general requirement for wetter habitats than toads.

Toads differ by having

- stubby bodies with short hind legs for walking rather than hopping
- warty, dry skin
- poison glands behind the eyes
- tendency to lay eggs in long chains.

As with all things in nature, the boundaries get blurry. Not all frogs or toads have the features listed, and some have characteristics of the other group.

In our local area people commonly get mixed up between juvenile cane toads and our native tusked frog *Adelotus brevis*, which is listed as

vulnerable under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Act 1996. Unfortunately for *Adelotus brevis* it has a black and white marbled belly, as do young cane toads. It is also a bit warty on its back, like a juvenile cane toad. Juvenile cane toads also don't manifest their poison glands until they are a bit older.

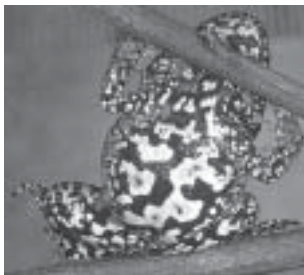
To tell the difference:

- Toads have fully webbed back feet whereas the toes of *Adelotus brevis* have only a small trace of webbing
- *Adelotus brevis* has bright red patches in its groin and thigh area that cane toads don't have.

Keep these differences in mind if you are eradicating toads. Always handle frogs and toads with clean, wet hands, or preferably disposable gloves, to protect the frog's delicate skin and to avoid spreading frog-specific diseases.

Some amphibious trivia: A group of frogs is called an 'army of frogs' and a group of toads is called a 'knot of toads'.

The Living with Threatened Species project carries out many frog-related activities in the Mary River catchment. If you have questions about frogs/toads or managing creeks and riparian vegetation, please call us at the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee on (07) 5482 4766 or email on mrccc@ozwide.net.au



The local vulnerable *Adelotus brevis* looks similar to a juvenile cane toad. (Top: Eve Witney; Bottom: Queensland Museum, 'Wildlife of Greater Brisbane, 1996')

Mary River Catchment Committee wins prestigious National Rivercare Award

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee has achieved national recognition after winning the 2004 National Rivercare Award at the National Landcare Awards in Canberra.

The group's Chairman, Brooweena grazier Harry Jamieson, and Secretary, Maleny Dairy Farmer Margaret Thompson, accepted the award from Warren Truss, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at a gala ceremony at Parliament House, Canberra, on 1 September.

The MRCCC's Rivercare Coordinator, Brad Wedlock, said the Award recognised the success of Queensland's first River Rehabilitation Plan, which the group continues to implement throughout the Mary Catchment, and the high level of community involvement in catchment management in the Mary.

'Over the last decade, our dedicated Committee and staff have forged strong partnerships with a vast range of organisations and individuals and assisted in establishing networks of landholder groups throughout the catchment.

'This has enabled the MRCCC to involve over 3000 landholders in catchment management activities on their land, including riverbank rehabilitation, sustainable land management, effluent recycling, water quality monitoring, and protecting and preserving habitat for the unique aquatic species of the Mary Catchment including the endangered Mary River cod and Mary River turtle.

'We recognise the ongoing financial support of local government in the catchment, without which, the effectiveness of our organisation would have been greatly limited', said Brad.

* In partnership with **Caloundra City Council**, a Community Waterwatch Network, the Friends of Kilcoy Creek and Policemans Spur Rivercare Group have been formed in the upper Mary River catchment. These community-based groups have performed miracles around Conondale, with the assistance of the MRCCC.

* **Maroochy Shire Council** has also assisted the MRCCC to undertake resnagging of creeks to create habitat for the endangered Mary Cod as well as supporting riparian restoration and improved biodiversity targeting rare frogs of the area.



Mary Catchment
FROG FORUM

- role of frogs
- frog decline
- managing land for frogs
- frog ID
- toads
- frog survey techniques

Where: Bellbunya Country Lodge, Belli Park (Kenilworth)
When: 13 November 2004 from 9 am
All day, followed by evening frog search
Cost: FREE (all meals provided)

Contact Eva Ford
Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
Ph: (07) 5482 4766 Mob: 0400 381 727
Email: mrccc@ozwide.net.au

INTRODUCING ...The Sustainable Solutions Project



Jackie Montgomery

My project 'Sustainable Solutions' is about sustainable land use issues and solutions. My first task was to organise Landcare Week! Further workshops and information kits for landholders are next on the list.

I'll be putting together landholders' information kits, and I need to know what landholders think is important. Your ideas for workshops or material to include in the information kits will be much appreciated. Contact me by leaving a message at Barung or emailing JackMont23@aol.com

I believe knowing about the environment is not enough – we all need to work actively and together to ensure that our future generations inherit a healthy environment to live in.

I come from the field of community education for sustainability, and have worked behind the scenes at Barung to develop the education strategy and help coordinate workshops.

I have been funded to work for one day a week at Barung thanks to the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management.

For Oct/Nov workshops/field days, see the calendar of events. If you are interested in attending farm forestry field days, lodge an expression of interest at Barung or barungadmin@big.net.au to be included on our contact list.

Landcare Week Success

Jackie Montgomery

More than 160 people joined in and took advantage of the free activities arranged for Landcare Week. It was great chance to get to know some of our members and catch up with old friends.

Landcare Week is a fantastic opportunity for people in the community to learn about their natural environment, its problems, and possible solutions. With people moving to the Hinterland from all over Australia, and indeed the world, educational programs like Landcare Week are ideal for helping people understand their new environments.

Even those who have lived in Maleny for a lifetime had much to gain from the week, learning new ways of doing things, developing new ideas, and establishing new contacts.

It was wonderful seeing people come back day after day. Most who provided feedback said they felt their expectations had been more than met.

Your feedback is important for ensuring Barung continues to provide the highest quality programs. It also helps us to develop further ideas for workshops.

Thank you to all presenters, sponsors, volunteers and participants for making it a great week.



Bottoms on seats for Eva Ford's frog presentation during Landcare Week

TALES FROM THE TRAINEE



Jake Smith-Moloney

If you have been into Barung Nursery recently you may have noticed a new staff member.

You may have heard I'm extremely good looking, charming and knowledgeable ... however this is all rumour and conjecture. The truth is I am a hard working and friendly eco-nerd and I am Barung Landcare's new trainee.

G'day, my name is Jake Smith-Moloney, and I've been working at Barung for just over a month now. I would like to thank all the Barung committee members and staff who gave me this opportunity to gain practical experience in the environmental industries.

My traineeship will qualify me for a Certificate III in Forestry & Forest Products (Forestry Growing & Management). I am also finishing off my Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Previous to this position, I was a team member in Barung's recent Green Corps project. What is Green Corps? It is a Commonwealth Government youth development program managed by Greening Australia. It offers 17-20 year olds the opportunity to receive quality training while participating in projects that contribute to significant environmental and cultural heritage initiatives (try saying that in one breath).

Our major project was revegetation and restoration work on several sites within the Obi Obi Creek subcatchment. Over six months Maleny Green Corps planted more than 10,549 plants, most on Pacific Plantations macadamia farm. We also orchestrated Barung's 2004 'Bridge the Gap' public treeplant with great success. We were involved in a multitude of activities related to the three pillars of Green Corps: youth, community and the environment.

Now I hope to contribute a youthful perspective on issues in the environmental industry and youth in the environment.

WOODY WEED CONTROL - Cut and Paint your way to Happiness!

Greg Brown
Pest Management Coordinator
Caloundra City Council

Controlling woody weeds – like camphor laurel and large leaf privet – can be a costly and time-consuming exercise. The last thing you need after spending a whole weekend dealing with these invaders is to see them coming back again a month or so later.

Here are some simple suggestions for making woody weed control more effective. Because the topic is so big, I'll just concentrate on the technique most often used – cut and paint (or cut-stumping):

* Make sure that the time between when you cut down the plant and when you apply a herbicide is no longer than 15-20 seconds. Any longer than this and the plant has already started to seal over its sap vessels and you could be wasting your time.

* If you have to cut something down but can't apply the herbicide within 15-20 seconds, then all you need to take with you is a tomahawk. After cutting down each tree, use the back of the tomahawk to bash the rim of the stump and then immediately paint the herbicide mixture around the edge. This re-breaks the sap vessels, allowing the herbicide to be taken in and moved to the roots.

* Notice I said to paint the **edge** of the stump with the herbicide? You only need to put the herbicide on the outer section of the stump because this is where the vessels are that take sap to the roots. Treating the rest of the stump won't make any difference and is a waste of herbicide.

* If you use a chainsaw to do the cutting, you can run into another problem. The chainsaw leaves a thin film of chain oil on the cut surface. Because oil and water don't mix, when you put the herbicide and water mixture on top it may not be able to get into the plant vessels through the oil film. Again to fix this, use the tomahawk to unblock the sap vessels.

* For this reason, it's not a good practice to use a chainsaw to make cuts into the trunk and then painting the cuts as a way of stem injecting. Not only do you get a layer of oil, but also the cut tends to be sloped and the herbicide just runs out and is wasted.

* Don't be tempted to make deep cuts across the stump and fill these with herbicide – it's a total waste of time and money.

* The most commonly used herbicide is one of the glyphosate products. The label gives the recommended mixing rate – so that's the rate to use. Anything stronger is wasted money, anything weaker may not work. And please, don't use diesel or kerosene with glyphosate. They don't mix and you're not going to make any difference. Water is what mixes with glyphosate – that's all.

* Dirt and organic matter are the enemies of glyphosate. They both combine with the herbicide and make it unavailable for the plant to absorb. Make sure you keep the cut surface clean and your equipment free of dirt. If you're using a paintbrush to apply the herbicide mixture, keep the brush off the ground. Make sure the water used in the mixture is clean. Don't use dam water unless you can see the bottom. Don't use bore water if it has a high iron content. Don't use creek or tank water if it has organic matter floating around.

* It's best to cut the stump at about halfway from your knee to the ground. Cutting it too low means you might get dirt on the surface; cutting it too high means the herbicide may not be moved to the roots.

* You can use lots of gadgets to apply the herbicide. I find that a 5-litre spray bottle is good. Use low pressure and a coarse jet spray – not a fine mist. Alternatively, you can use one of those cheap hand-held bottles that cost about \$1, or you can use a paint brush and a tin (make sure you keep dirt away from the tin and the brush). You can even use a clean shoe polish bottle – the kind with the foam applicator on the top (they don't leak and you can clean it off in water).

Follow these simple suggestions and you'll have no problems killing off your woody weeds using the cut and paint technique.

For more information on this and other woody weed control techniques, check out the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy website at http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/pests/environmental_weeds/pdf/generalinfo.pdf or call into Barung Landcare – or contact myself at Caloundra City Council on 1300 650 112 or 5420 8200.

CHAINSAW TRAINING

- at Barung Landcare
- at subsidised rates
- with an accredited instructor

CHAINSAW LEVEL 1 (two days)

Covers: WH&S Act, duty of care, protective equipment, chainsaw components, servicing, hazards id

Where: At the Barung Resource Centre and in the field

When: 11-12 October or 14-15 October

Cost: \$150 (Barung members) \$160 (non-members)
\$125 concession (Pension/Health Care Card holders)

CHAINSAW LEVEL 2 (one day)

Covers: Treefelling

Where: In the field

When: 13 or 16 October

Cost: \$145 (Barung members) \$155 (non-members)
\$120 concession

• Participants must wear their own steel-tipped boots. All other relevant safety equipment will be provided.

• Places are available for both courses. Bookings are essential with 50% deposit to be paid 10 days prior to each course. Ring the Barung Office on 5494 3151 to reserve a place.



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Yellow-spotted Jezebel

Delias nysa nysa

BUTTERFLIES OF THE RANGE

by Bob Miller

Another butterfly more abundant in winter on the Blackall Ranges is the yellow-spotted Jezebel, formerly called Nysa Jezebel.

One thing that makes this butterfly so fascinating is the larvae feed on mistletoe. 'But hang-on a minute, we have read about lots of mistletoe butterflies in the past haven't we?' We sure have, but the mistletoe that this butterfly's larvae feed on is very special, and not very frequently found.

In most books it is called *Korthalsella breviarticulata*, but I have been told it has had a name change. What makes it different from other mistletoes is that it is shaped like *zygocactus*, having erect, flat segments. I have personally observed this mistletoe on only two species of trees, *Scolopia braunii* (also the larval foodplant for the bordered rustic) and *Rhodamnia dumicola*.

The eggs of this butterfly are laid in small clusters of about 15-20. Upon emerging the small larvae begin to feed as a group, but as they mature they feed as individuals.

The larvae are about 34 mm long when fully grown. They are olive-green to brown in colour, with rows of white and yellow spots running along the sides and sparse white hairs, with a black head. When ready to pupate, they will move from the mistletoe and suspend themselves by the tail and central silken girdle to the upperside of a leaf.

The pupae are about 20 mm long and variable in colour. I have seen them range from lime green to dark brown. They have a white lateral line on their sides, a yellow spine on the nose and tail ends, four yellow spines and two black spines and lots of white spots on their back.

The adult butterfly is about 47 mm from wingtip to wingtip. The upperwings are creamy grey with a darker border. The undersides are mainly brown, with the forewings having two rows of white spots on the males and one row on the females. There is also a large white patch strongly suffused with yellow on both sexes. The hindwings have one row of yellow spots, hence the new common name, yellow-spotted Jezebel.

This butterfly seems to be found mainly in the higher altitudes, which makes the Blackall Range area ideal for it to colonise. To



The mistletoe formerly known as *Korthalsella breviarticulata*



Larva of the yellow-spotted Jezebel...



... pupa suspended by silken girdles ...



... taken from the top ...



... and adults starting the cycle all over again.

(Photos courtesy of Bob Miller)

date, the only colony I have seen in this area is at Flaxton, but I will guarantee there are other isolated colonies yet to be discovered.

Scolopia braunii is usually available from the nursery at Barung Landcare, but *Rhodamnia dumicola* is a little bit harder to find. If you are after either of these plants, phone Barung Landcare and they will try to source them for you.

If anyone thinks they may have the mistletoe that looks like a *zygocactus* growing on another tree, I would love to confirm it for you. I can be contacted through Barung Landcare.

For more information on this or any other butterfly, I suggest *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael F. Braby, 2000.



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COLOUR IN THE RANGE

POPULAR NEW BOOK, now available at Barung

Hidden in the hills between Kenilworth and Maleny is the Conondale Range, an area of unparalleled natural beauty.

Walking on the Wilder Side ...in the Conondales describes this absolutely amazing place. The area is well known for its scenic walks, unique flora and fauna and picturesque campgrounds, as well as endless forests and rock pools. Many experts in their fields have contributed on all these aspects of the Conondales, and easy and more adventurous walks and drives are detailed.

'I am a keen bushwalker but did not realise what a unique and amazing place the Conondales is', said a satisfied customer at the recent book launch.

The book, full of spectacular colour photos and wonderful drawings by a number of local photographers and naturalists, was produced by the local Conondale Range Committee.

Historian Stan Tutt, who has been writing about the Conondales since the early 70's said, 'I am delighted to support the Conondale Range Committee in this publication telling the story of an enduring sanctuary won for future human generations and the ancient spirit of our land'.

Next time you are in at Barung picking up some plants, visit our bookshop and collect one of these absolutely delightful books.



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Mulchmakers (Gary Roberts)

THANK YOU TO ...

... *Peter Thomas, Maleny Mowers*, for your generous credit voucher and discount to replace tools lost in the Barung Nursery break-in

... *Patrick Cavanaugh* for donating blank 8 mm video tapes

... *Robert Sticklely* for donating a possum box

... *Phil Brown* for regularly servicing our much used and abused photocopier

... *Peter Erdmann* for 2004 Maleny Wood Expo video footage

... *Patrick, Shannon, Winston, Colin, Jake, Lizzie, Daniel* and *Super Cali* for the huge Landcare Week clean-up

... *Michael Cole-King, Jake Smith-Moloney, Linda Ivezic, Lin Fairlie, Heather Spring* and *Irene Keton* for your assistance with lunches etc during Landcare Week

... *Caloundra City Council, Maleny IGA* and *The Range News* for your Landcare Week sponsorship

... *Cilla Rose* for donating a 'new' projector screen and a microscope for plant identification

... *Valmai & Colin Phillips* and *Helen Harvey*, for the August-September *Barung Newsletter* mailout

... *Valmai & Colin Phillips, Max Smith, Marion Adams* and *Elaine Grant* for the September *CodLine* mailout



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LETTERS

Thanks from the Philippines

Dear President of Barung Landcare Association,

Greetings of peace!

We, the LANTAPAN LANDCARE ASSOCIATION, INC. (LLCA), from the highlands of Lantapan, Bukidnon, Philippines, and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), extend our gratitude for the generous support Barung Landcare Association has extended to our group for the completion of our main project: the establishment of our very own LC Central Office and Information Center, Nursery and Training Hall.

The fund support of A\$500, personally handed over by Mr John Muir, will go a long way and will complement pledges from other agencies and individuals who believe that our grassroots efforts should continue and be sustained for years to come.

We fervently hope that our efforts, including yours and those of other LC group initiatives, will contribute to keeping our environment and agricultural activities sustainable.

Again, our sincerest gratitude for the support you have extended to our group.

Respectfully yours,

LEO ZAMBRANO
President 2003-2006

GERARDO C. BOY
Landcare Coordinator

Lantapan Landcare Ass'n Inc. ICRAF Research Site
Lantapan, Bukidnon, Philippines

Help for Teenagers

Hi, My name is Denise Hoffman. I am the chairperson for the Maleny State High School chaplaincy service, a self-funded organisation who hires our high school chaplain, Mr Chris Davis, for MSHS and Education Qld.

I would like to share with you who and what this service is about and how it is of value to our community.

Chris Davis is a well-recognised part of MSHS and is valued by the students and staff. Some of you may be aware of Chris's involvement in the life of your child, grandchild, or family friends. Chris is the student's 'Chappy' – a fun, motivated, caring guy who is there when things just get too much.

Imagine having a student come to tell you that he/she does not want to live anymore. Why does this occur? There are any number of reasons: being bullied at school, low self-image, peer pressure, and problems at home. Chris is also there for students who are lost and confused about personal stresses at school as well as life issues outside the school: drug use, suicide, depression, family break down, sexual and physical abuse, and the list go on.

You and I may never hear these things – unfortunately these are the things Chris comes to hear too often. But how wonderful to have someone who is there to listen, to direct, and to care. You and I can't be there in person, but by supporting people like Chris you are part of the answer. To help in the life of a hurting teenager or their family, you and I can get behind people like Chris.

We desperately need your support to raise the funds to have Chris go full-time. By becoming a 'Ten for Chappy' supporter, you can become part of the solution. For as little as \$10 per month, you can know you are supporting the youth of tomorrow. If you would like more information on becoming a supporter please contact us by mail: Chaplaincy Service MSHS, PO Box 601, Maleny Qld 4552. If your organisation would like to have a presentation on Chaplaincy, phone Chris at MSHS on 5499 8111.

Barung Input to UQ Training Program

Dear Mim

On behalf of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science, University of Queensland, and the 2005 Henan Delegation, I wish to thank you and the staff from Barung for your input into the recent training program. The group gained a great deal from their visit with you and we referred back to your group's activities during subsequent presentations and site visits.

A wide range of topics are covered with this training program and all members were appreciative of the professional presentations, site visits and contacts made, and gained a great deal from the discussions.

Kind regards

Ray Russell

NRAVS Faculty Training Consultant

Barung donation to High School raffle

Dear Mim

The Maleny State High School Winter Concert held on August 20 was a resounding success. Almost 500 people watched 25 acts featuring over 60 young musicians.

The inspiring musical talents of the students, combined with the professional presentation, wonderful food and refreshments and generous raffle prizes, made it a night to remember. We hope everyone left the concert buoyed by a sense of community and with pride in our local High School.

Barung's generous donation of a native tree voucher added to the success of our raffle, enabling us to raise much-needed funds for the Music Department and the purchase of a new sound system for the High School Activities Hall.

We would like to thank you for your part in our success. It is your support that makes our dreams become a reality.

Sincerely yours

Barbara Nye

President, Maleny State High School P&C

Proteaceae Revisited

I enjoyed reading Spencer Shaw's account of 'Proteaceae in Paradise' but scratched my head when I saw 'Proteas and Leucopogons'. *Leucopogon*, of course, belongs to the Epacridaceae, now lumped in with the Northern Hemisphere's Ericaceae. I checked Morley & Toelken's 'Flowering Plants in Australia' (Rigby, 1988) and found the genus Spencer referred to was *Leucadendron*, and also another version of the origin of the family name: 'The name of the type genus of the family, *Protea*, is derived from that of the Greek sea-god Proteus, who could assume various shapes. Originally the name was given to a few species now placed in another South African genus, *Leucadendron*, and thus referred to the diversity in that group alone. ... Much later the family Proteaceae was based upon it in the usual way a family name is based upon that of its type genus. **Hence the frequent claim that the name Proteaceae was given because of the great range of forms within the family is not correct** [my emphasis]. Indeed the degree of diversity shown by Proteaceae is matched in a number of other substantial families.' It seems to be a bit of 'nit-picking' but taxonomy has its own rules and regulations. Having said that, do not let it distract you from enjoying the beauty of the plants that have been brought together in the Proteaceae family!

Petrus Heyligers

Spencer's Response: Oops!

Shadows of Green

... continued from page 16

Animals such as the long-nosed potoroo don't like open ground (especially the oceans of kikuyu). If a species such as this disappears from a forest fragment due to feral cats, foxes or disease, that's the end of that – they're gone from that forest fragment forever. And not only have we lost a cute and cuddly beast, but that forest fragment has also lost the means of dispersal for mycorrhizal fungi. Which is where things can start to fall apart ...

If the forest fragments of the Sunshine Coast are left as isolated patches their previous diversity will gradually but surely fade away, because as one species drops out of the local ecosystem others follow. Sadly long-nosed potoroos have already disappeared from the coastal area of the Sunshine Coast, and probably the majority of the Blackall Range. Also gone or going is the tiger quoll *Dasyurus maculatus*, Coxen's fig parrot *Cyclopsitta diaphthalma coxeni* and giant barred frog *Mixophyes iteratus*, to name a few.

The disappearance of animal species, due to habitat fragmentation, predators or disease, is only half the picture. The forests themselves hang on for a little longer due to the longer life spans of their plants, but as their health is threatened by weather, disease and weed invasion and their pollinators or seed dispersal agents disappear, forest vegetation diversity will also begin to fade.

Eternal optimist that I am, I believe we can manage our local ecosystems in a positive manner. First of all I don't think there are any excuses for the clearing of any more native vegetation, at least on the Sunshine Coast. When I say 'vegetation clearing' I mean ecosystem destruction; that is, the complete clearance of natural vegetation and the ecosystem it supports and is part of. From 1000 metres up in the air you can quite clearly see we have already cleared enough land of its native vegetation for all our housing, industry and food needs. We just have to use this land better. So no more clearing!

Secondly, we need to be planting local native plants in our gardens, revegetating stream banks, linking up isolated forest fragments with corridors and, even more importantly, learning more about all our local plants, animals and fungi that make up our dynamic and eternally awe-inspiring local ecosystems.

We can't step back 200 years, but we can move forward together with some hard – but fun – work. Our grandchildren then may see the return of some of the animal species that have disappeared from our area, and the ongoing survival of our local forest ecosystems. And not be faced with the grief of watching these forests fade into the shadows forever.

References:

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Shadows of Green

TURKEY TANGENTIAL by *Spencer Shaw, Brush Turkey Enterprises*

I was fortunate enough recently (although it took some convincing at the time) to be treated to a joy flight in a 60-year-old Tiger Moth aeroplane from Caloundra to the Glasshouse mountains.

After saying goodbye to my family (the plane was 60 years old!) we gently ascended over a landscape we are not often fortunate enough to view from above. Kinda scary too... and I'm not talking about the fact that I was 1000 metres up in the air without a parachute. The forested areas of the coast look somewhat larger when viewed from land, even from the elevated views of the front of the range, but when viewed directly from above you realize just how isolated and fragmented our forests are.

Here on the southern end of the Blackall Range plateau the fragmentation and isolation of our forest remnants is clear for all to see. Oceans of kikuyu lap gently around the precious islands of forest that remain. But to look at these fragments as islands is a

mistake. They are the remains of a complex, diverse and, most importantly, linked ecology – which is doomed if we do not re-link these remnants.

'Sounds rather dramatic,' I hear you say. 'Has Spencer forgotten to take his happy pills today?' The fact is many of the creatures and plants of our local forests don't like leaving these forests.

The long-nosed potoroo *Potorous tridactylus* is a small ground-dwelling marsupial, somewhat like a miniature wallaby. It lives in thick vegetation from wallum heaths through to the dense undergrowth of wet sclerophyll and rainforests. A major dietary component for the long-nosed potoroo is the fruiting bodies (truffles) of fungi, many of which are mycorrhizal. Mycorrhizal fungi live on the roots of living plants and do not damage their host but improve their health immeasurably – by improving the plants' access to nutrients in the soil. After the long-nosed potoroo eats these truffles, it disperses the fungi spore (seed) in its scats. This method of dispersal may be crucial to the health of forests by the constant spread and inoculation of vegetation with these mycorrhizal fungi.

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