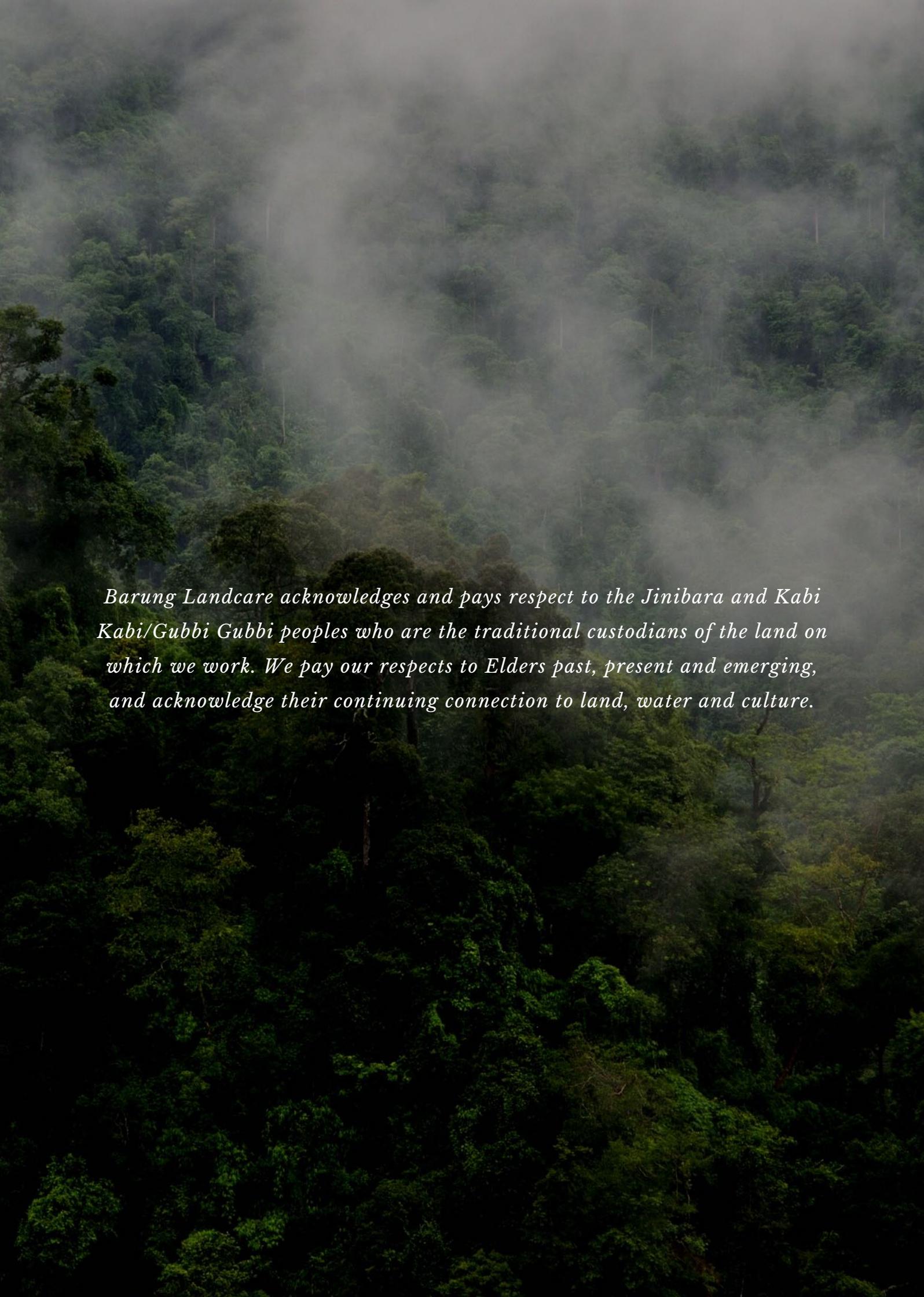




WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

www.barunglandcare.org.au



Barung Landcare acknowledges and pays respect to the Jinibara and Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi peoples who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we work. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, water and culture.



Image: Cam Burton

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Barung Skilling QLD Crew



Image: Cam Burton

ABOUT

The Blackall Range and Sunshine Coast Hinterland is a significantly beautiful and ecologically important region.

For over 30 years, Barung Landcare has brought together people committed to sustaining and caring for the magnificent natural environment along the Blackall Range and surrounds.

The Sunshine Coast is home to over 10% of Australia's native plant species, 20% of Australia's mammals and over 50% of Australia's birds, but also has one of the fastest growing human populations of any region in Australia. And in the midst of a Climate Emergency, now more than ever, it is incredibly important that we work together to protect and regenerate our natural areas, sustain and enhance the natural beauty of this region, and protect the unique flora and fauna that call this place home.

By supplying locally sourced native plants through our well established native nursery, connecting people through our diverse education and engagement programs, and providing essential bush regeneration services to protect and regenerate our landscape, Barung Landcare is dedicated to working for our future.



Community tree planting day, April 2021 - Cam Burton



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

OUR VISION

A healthy, resilient landscape and community that is supportive of all life into the future

OUR MISSION

We inspire, connect, educate and support the community to restore, protect and regenerate the natural environment

WE DO THIS BY

Connecting people with nature in meaningful ways that contribute to a rich understanding of the natural world, as well as individual and community wellbeing

Collaborating with First Nations leaders to embrace and integrate traditional knowledge in the way we look after Country

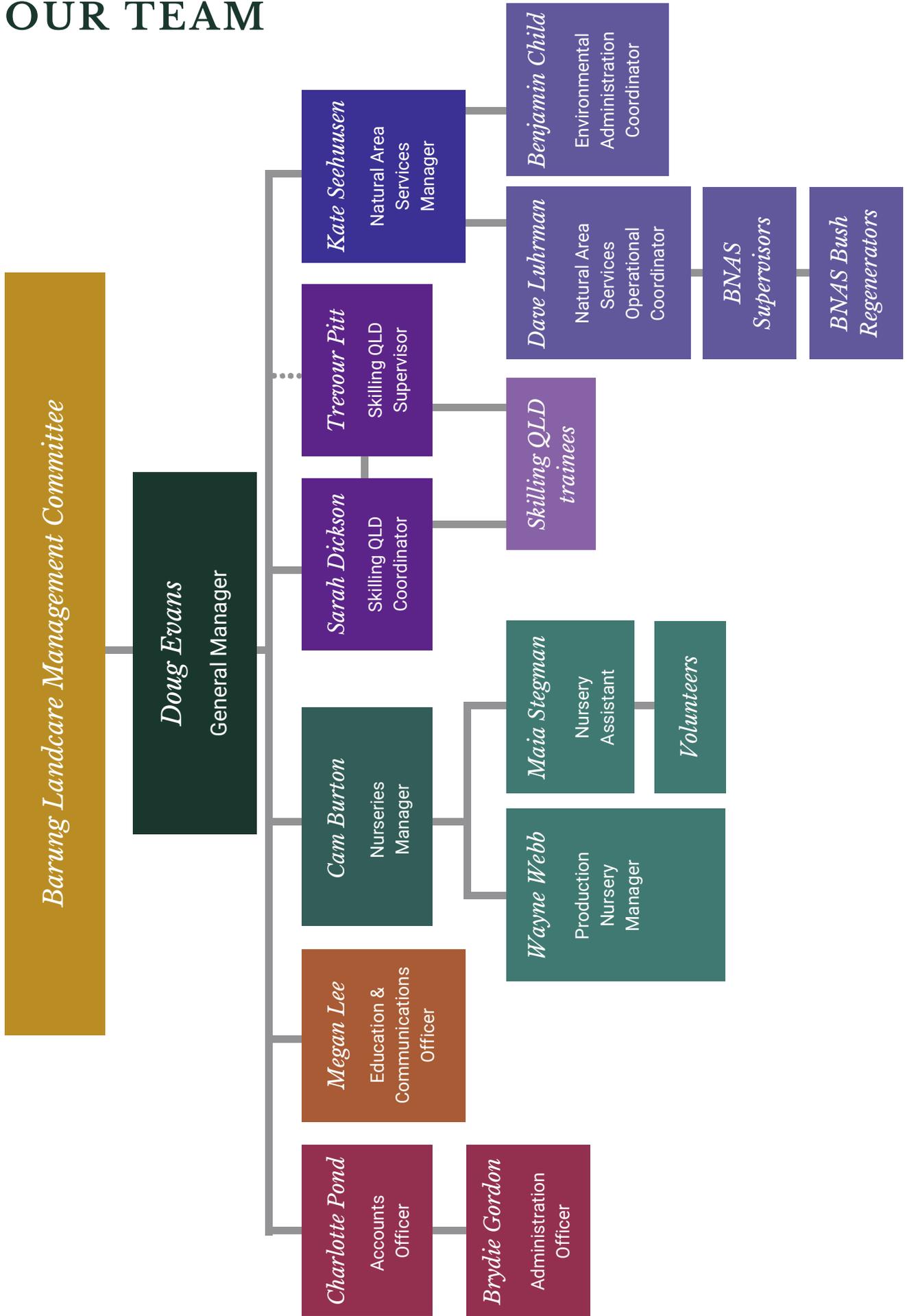
Providing a range of education and training opportunities that support the community to take on custodian roles that instil values of respect, responsibility and reciprocity with nature and our natural resources

Sharing stories that inspire and educate the broader community on ways to look after and care for nature

Supplying a diverse range of quality local native plants to Barung members and the local community, and supporting large regional revegetation projects

Offering quality on-ground natural area services that regenerate and restore the natural environment integrating best practice and innovative techniques backed by the latest and emerging scientific and practitioner knowledge

OUR TEAM



OUR TEAM

BARUNG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President - Ian McMaster
Secretary - Sue Brieschke
Treasurer - Alan Harrington
Committee Members
Fiona McGill
Stephanie Hicks
Geoff Holmes

BARUNG NATURAL AREA SERVICES MANAGEMENT & ADMIN

David Luhrman
Katherine Seehuusen
Ben Child

BARUNG NATURAL AREA SERVICES SUPERVISORS

Wendy Conway
Stephen Bond
Simon Peters
Roger Lodsman
Neal Rolley
Donna Morgan
Darshana Soundararajah
Angus Frazer

BARUNG NURSERIES

Cameron Burton
Wayne Webb
Maia Stegman

SKILLING QUEENSLANDERS FOR WORK

Sarah Dickson
Trevour Pitt

ADMIN

Charlotte Pond
Brydie Gordon

MANAGEMENT

Doug Evans

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Megan Lee

MALENY WOOD EXPO

Steve McLeish

BARUNG NATURAL AREA SERVICES BUSH REGENERATION CREW

Ashleigh Shipman
Ben Symons
Casey Southam-Marsh
Dylan Pearce
Evan Millwood
Harry Smith
Iain Neil
Jason Gillard
Jem Gibbs
Joseph Rosenberg
Lucas Reid
Madeleine Chapman
Matthew Christensen
Noah Luhrman
Sari Arrowsmith-Van Klaveren
Tarci Carey
Tayla Montague
Tigerlily Boyce

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ian McMaster

Barung's 2021 financial year has been another challenging one, which, thanks to the excellent work of our staff, has been remarkably successful. Our experience of operating under COVID restrictions in 2020 stood us in good stead, our income remained steady, and in the latter part of the year we were able to reinstate a full program of member activities, including our "Barung Connects" environmental lecture series, and a re-invigorated workshop program.

Financial Results

Our commercial operations continued to hold up well in the last year, despite the pandemic. Fortunately our environmental contracting work does not require close interpersonal contact, and our key clients have continued to maintain their environmental programs. The current year is already looking stronger than the same period last year, and we are looking forward to continuing growth in both our contracting and nursery operations.

The succession of cash surpluses over recent years has given us the confidence to lift our game in a couple of other important areas, resulting in an organisation restructure in June of this year.

Restructure

For a number of years now, Barung has been managed by its volunteer committee of management, with each of our key staff reporting to the Committee. As our operations have grown,



with turnover doubling in recent years, the management task has become too complex for a volunteer part-time committee. The Committee has had a desire for a couple of years now to appoint a General Manager to take on this role, but were concerned about our ability to fund that position consistently. With the stronger results this year, we decided that it was the right time to make the move, and appointed Doug Evans as GM in June. As a result, our key managers - Kate at Barung Natural Area Services (BNAS); Cam at nurseries; Sarah who looks after our traineeship program; Megan in Education; and Charlotte and Brydie in the office - all report to Doug. This gives the committee the time and space to think more clearly about long term directions for Barung, without the day to day operations to manage.

At the same time, we wanted to significantly lift our education and communications program, and decided to appoint a full-time person in that role.

We were delighted to welcome Megan Lee to Barung in June, as Education and Communications Officer. Our intent was to expand our program of workshops and lectures, while building stronger links to other like-minded organisations so that we could collaborate more effectively and open up a more robust and well-informed discussion about conservation in our region.

Our People

It has been yet another year of significant change for our staff. Katrina left us early this year to become a mother, and Charlotte has taken on her accounts role in the office, while Brydie has joined us as an office administrative assistant. Danielle left after several years as admin assistant to Kate, to be replaced by Ben Child.

We have also lost a couple of long term staff. As a result of the restructure, the role of Office Manager became redundant, and Theresa left our employment in June. Jono, who as Project Officer had managed our education program for many years, decided he did not want full-time employment, and so did not apply for the Education Officer role. Theresa and Jono have been the first faces people saw at the office for a long time, and we thank them both for their contribution to making Barung the organisation it is today.

Maleny Wood Expo

We again cancelled the Maleny Wood Expo in 2021. While it would technically have been possible to hold the event under COVID rules, we were concerned about the risk of cancellation at short notice, as lockdowns had occurred in several key feeder areas during the planning period. Most of the expenses in holding such an event are incurred prior to opening, and we felt Barung was not in a position to risk another significant loss. I am pleased to say that with the planned easing of restrictions at the end of this year, Steve McLeish is back on board, and we are now planning for a renewed and revitalised Expo next year.

Barung Nature Centre

We have continued to make steady progress on the new Precinct site. Earthworks were completed early in the financial year, and since then, much of the display gardens in the upper half of the site have been planted by Barung staff and volunteers.

We have appointed Ross Doherty as project manager and builder for stage one of the project. We have sufficient funds in hand to complete this stage, however progress remains slow.

The consequence of federal government efforts to stimulate the economy through the building sector is that there is a big backlog of work, and getting competent trades people is difficult; while the port delays due to COVID constraints mean that materials are often on long leadtimes. We remain hopeful that construction will commence in early 2022.



Sunset over the Barung Seed Forest - Maleny Community Precinct



Artist impression of new Barung Nature Centre

Education Program

As I mentioned earlier, one of our key objectives in the past year has been to re-ignite our environmental education program. However we wanted to make it something more than just a series of lectures. Right at the end of the financial year, through Megan's hard work and initiative, we managed to get funding through the Federal Landcare-led Bushfire Recovery program, that will enable us to deliver a series of workshops to help people better conserve threatened lowland subtropical rainforest ecosystems on their properties. We have coupled this with a joint program with Natura Pacific to assist in the recovery of iconic species - in this case the Southern Pink Underwing Moth (*Phyllodes imperialis smithersi*).

It is our hope and intention that these programs will be the start of a series of partnerships and projects to build resilience in our local forests, and help threatened species to find a more sustainable existence.



Phylodes imperialis smithersi larvae – Todd Burrows



Phylodes imperialis smithersi adult – Mark Graham

Gardens for Wildlife

Barung's Gardens for Wildlife (GfW) program has been designed to provide education and encouragement to people who are enthusiastic and committed to wildlife conservation, but do not have the acreage of habitat necessary to qualify for the Council's Land for Wildlife program. For a number of years, the GfW program has consisted of a pack of educational material, a sign, and an occasional newsletter. We believe there is much more scope for this program to grow, and so have elevated it to a stream you can select as part of Barung membership. Our vision is to provide much more access to education and support for GfW members, while helping to grow Barung's overall membership base.

Management Committee Changes

We are also seeing significant changes to our management committee this year. First, Sue Brieschke is stepping down from the committee after more years than I remember, several as Secretary. Sue will be sorely missed. She is always organised, seemingly nothing flusters her, and she can be relied on to deliver sensible and well thought out comments on a wide range of issues. Her contribution to Barung's success in recent years is huge.

Also leaving the committee is Fiona McGill, who has served double duty in the last year as chair of the Expo subcommittee, and also the Fundraising subcommittee. Between Fiona and Sue, there will be big holes to fill.

Alan Harrington is also stepping down as treasurer after this AGM. And of course, this is my last year as President, however we both intend to remain on the committee to provide some continuity, if re-elected.

Joan Dillon has also finally relinquished her role as Barung's newspaper correspondent. Joan's enormous knowledge base, and commitment to the GfW program in particular, has been an inspiration, and we thank her sincerely for her service.

There are many other enthusiastic people with great skills and capacity for hard work, who ensure that Barung keeps working for its members. Let me thank all of you for your contributions to making Barung the outstanding organisation that it is.

Ian McMaster
President



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Doug Evans

Joining Barung at the very end of the financial year in June, I was only part of the team for the last three weeks of the year we are reporting on. However, everything I am focusing on now is influenced by, or is a continuation of the endeavours and performance of our amazing team throughout the past year. As I work with my Barung colleagues and partners to build for the future I have of course looked back at our results, successes, and challenges of 2020/21 and the preceding years. So in doing this, I am pleased to offer an observational perspective rather than a traditional experiential viewpoint as part of this report.

As everyone well knows the last few years have been difficult in so many ways for us all. It has been a time of unprecedented disruption and change that has tested us in both our private lives and in the way we work. I love the old quote “adversity doesn’t build character, it reveals it.” I see examples of strength of character and resilience everywhere in this organisation. I notice the commitment in the unheralded quiet corners of our Barung community and I appreciate the efforts at the busy frontlines of what we do. We have had our share of problems and missteps, who hasn’t? But I am impressed by the absence of excuses. Our team just gets on with the job at hand.



As mentioned by our outgoing President Ian McMaster, our Management Committee is undergoing several changes at this year’s AGM. Outgoing committee members Sue and Fiona will be missed, but we are happy to be retaining the involvement of a number of current committee members who hold a wealth of knowledge and experience about the organisation, landscape and the broader community, which is incredibly valuable for succession and future planning.

Over the last year the committee has had to navigate some significant challenges and make tough decisions during these trying times. The cancellation of two consecutive Wood Expos would have been an incredibly hard call to make but was the prudent one. Structural changes and staff decisions normally made by management fell to the Committee in the absence of someone in my role. Responsible financial management and pragmatic risk management was undertaken very seriously. Planning for the future was still effectively conducted by our committee when that future was far more uncertain than ever before. I thank the outgoing members for the foundation they have built, and I look forward to collaborating with the new committee.

Similarly, our staff and volunteers have all contributed to a particularly good result for the year. A nett profit of more than double the previous year is a tremendous achievement, they should be proud of this result. We had an especially strong finish to the second half of the last financial year and now we can confidently look forward to expanding the work we do to sustain and protect the natural environment in our beautiful region. I would like to acknowledge the dedication and efforts of all of our team but particularly those with leadership and functional responsibilities.

Kate and her Natural Area Services leadership team of Dave, Ben and the supervisors consistently delivered outstanding results in a hectic, fast-paced, deadline-driven work environment where they often have to deal with demanding timelines and locations. Most of us would be unaware of the pressure and workload that Kate admirably deals with on a daily basis.

Cam leads our Nursery operations across two locations, our public facing community retail nursery and the commercial nursery tasked with producing the quality and quantity of plants required to support our vision and purpose. Cam combines his considerable technical knowledge and highly regarded people skills to successfully juggle his broad range of responsibilities and focuses. He is well supported by Wayne, Maia and our wonderful volunteers.

Our administration division has probably seen the most change over the last year with three experienced staff members leaving Barung. Charlotte and Brydie now handle the day to day finance and admin functions smoothly and accurately after going through all the changes which included a mid-year transfer to a completely new accounting system. They have been on a steep learning curve and I must mention the generous support from our Treasurer, Alan who has helped them with direction and advice during the transition. A special shout out to Charlotte from me. She has proved to be an invaluable source of

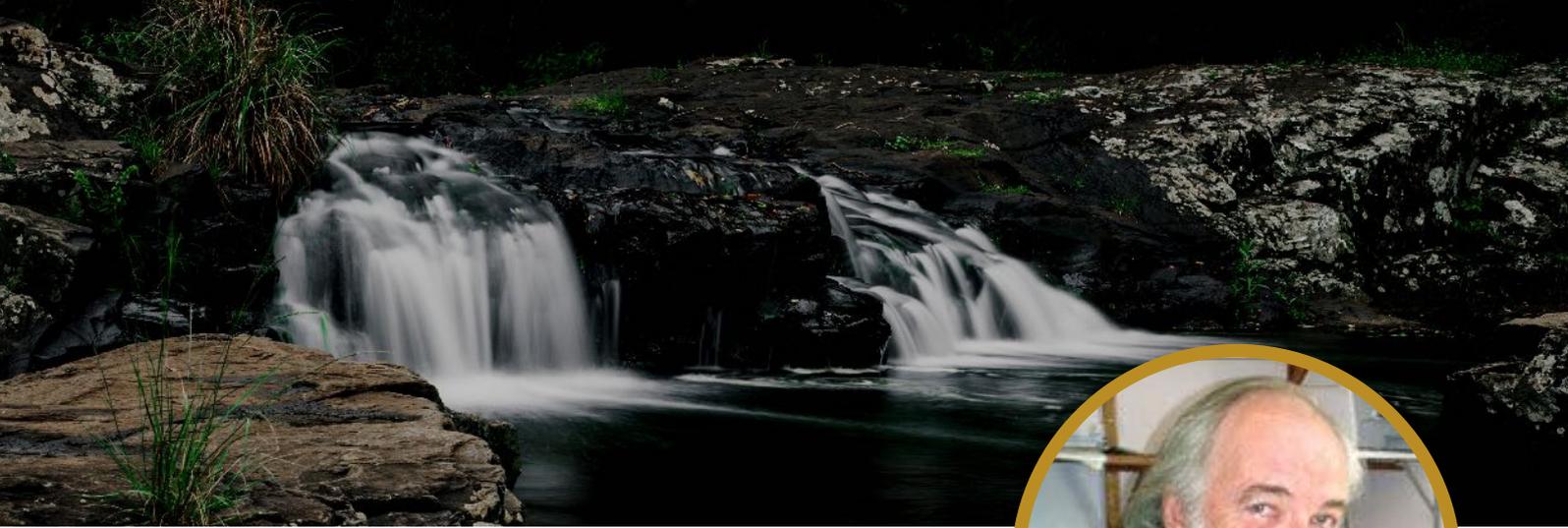
knowledge and information that belies her short tenure in the role.

Sarah and Trevour manage the government funded 'Skilling Queenslanders for Work' program which Barung has supported for a number of years. The work and life skills that the participants develop during each 24 week program are testament to the passion and energy Sarah and Trevour bring to the stewardship of each new group of trainees.

Finally I must mention our members. We thank you for your support. The community and our members are our number one beneficiaries but you are also our benefactors. We exist for you but couldn't do it without you.

There is so much to look forward to for Barung. We are very pleased to be holding the Wood Expo again next year after a two year hiatus because of the pandemic. We have commenced stage 1 of the Barung Nature Centre at the new site in the Maleny precinct and we will be moving the retail nursery there in the New Year. Cam is expanding the work he does in design and advising landowners. Our Gardens for Wildlife program is poised for growth. The production Nursery has been extended with a new pad constructed to enable us to produce the increased volume of plants that some exciting new projects need. The BNAS division has secured new business and is already incredibly busy and they are building their capability and implementing new systems and tools. Megan, who many of you have already met, has organised and run a large number of education programs, lectures and workshops across a variety of interesting topics in her first few months here and has considerably lifted the standard and frequency of our communications and she has so much more planned for this year. Once the Barung Nature Centre is completed it will become the featured home of our Education and Communications Program.

We have great plans for our future and I am excited about our potential. I look forward to sharing that journey with you and the Barung team over the coming year ahead and beyond.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Alan Harrington

Although impacted by the pandemic, particularly with the cancellation of the Maleny Wood Expo, Barung has had a relatively busy and successful year. In summary, the surplus was \$126,875 and Barung's net assets are now \$938,841.

During the year a significant and far reaching organisational and operational review was completed. One outcome of the review has been the great surplus that was achieved in the last financial year. The full benefits of the review are expected in the 2022 year and onwards although it is already evident in the year to date!

During the year a new Xero accounting system was implemented. This system is providing relevant and pertinent information to both management and the Management Committee, thus enabling more informed decisions to be made. A review of Barung's IT systems was also carried out to ensure that our technology was up to date, relevant and that it was operating efficiently and cost effectively.

Items of interest during the financial year include the receipt of \$5,599 from the IGA Community Chest program and more than \$39,000 invested in equipment such as an additional work vehicle for BNAS, advanced computer systems and a sophisticated solar pump. In addition, as of 30 June, 2021 our investment in the Barung Nature Centre totals \$48,794.

Barung received \$54,000 from Sunshine Coast Council's annual Environment Levy Partnerships Funding Program. This funding covers Barung's education, community engagement and communications activities. Despite the significant impact of the pandemic on this area of our operations, Barung spent \$60,846 to deliver these outcomes in the 2020/21 financial year.

Barung now has a streamlined organisational structure that will be more focused and therefore contribute significantly to Barung achieving its goals, both for our members and the community at large. I think these benefits are already becoming evident to our members and the community.

From a personal point of view, I would like to thank all of my fellow Committee members (particularly retiring President Ian, retiring Secretary Sue and retiring committee person Fiona), our operational managers Kate, Cam and Wayne and the office staff who I have been dealing with on a daily basis for the last seven years. My special thanks to Charlotte Pond for providing me with instant information on request (read 'I may have been a bit demanding at times'), for handling the switch to Xero so well, her work on the audit, her dedication and her unwavering work ethic.

Alan Harrington
Treasurer



BARUNG NATURAL AREA SERVICES REPORT

Kate Seehuusen

2021, it sure did feel a lot like 2020, lockdowns, mask wearing, social distancing, vaccines and of course climate change. However, through all those twists and turns BNAS managed to enjoy another successful year assisting an array of organisations and private landowners to rehabilitate and restore green spaces across the region. Special thanks to our BNAS crew who made this year the success it was, and to the committee and Barung staff who supported our efforts throughout this time.

We planted 20,000 native plants throughout the Sunshine Coast, Hinterland and Moreton Bay regions in 2020/21. It really is wonderful returning to these plantings over time and seeing the growth, seeing the wildlife returning and watching it function the way it should. In conjunction with appropriate weed control measures, we will see these areas continue to flourish in many more years to come thanks to the hard work and dedication of our crews.

Our major projects for the year included:

- Sunshine Coast Council – Zone G – Year 2 (Highlights – Maleny Community Precinct and Annie Hehir)
- Moreton Bay Regional Council – The Mill
- Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group – Bunya Block and Landslip recovery
- Healthy Land and Water - Stanley River Cats Claw Project
- Hinterland Bush Links – Eradicating Weeds of National Significance in the Upper Mary Catchment
- Mary River Catchment Coordination Committee – Charles St Park planting and Watson’s

Barung Landcare 2021 Annual Report

Our staff training continued on from last year with all levels of certificates maintained. We received ongoing training in CPR, First Aid and completed various contractor site inductions as required by councils and other organisations we work with. We are also branching out into other areas such as fauna spotter catching and drone monitoring.



BNAS crew member Sari releasing native turtle

Our ISO accreditations in Quality, Environment and Health & Safety standards have been maintained with a great result from the audit conducted in March 2021. Our attention will now be focused on the new standards coming out in February where we will need to meet these standards to keep our accreditation.

Barung Natural Area Services would like to thank all of the passionate people we are privileged to work with, from private landholders to local businesses and the councils who push us to continually improve our practices and create a more sustainable and brighter ecological future. We would like to also acknowledge the hard work of other like-minded organisations who continually support us in our common goal of making our region a better place to live.

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Image: Skilling QLD Crew

SKILLING QUEENSLANDERS FOR WORK

Sarah Dickson & Trevour Pitt

'Skilling Queenslanders for Work' is a program funded by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training. The aim of the program is to provide participants with the necessary skills, experience and inspiration to go on to further employment or training. Each group completes a 24 week program. They obtain a Certificate I in Conservation and Land management, White Card, Senior First Aid certificate, ACDC licence and Level One Chainsaw Certificate. All aspects of nursery operations and ecological restoration work are covered during their on-the-job training with Barung. Of particular benefit to the last two groups, has been the opportunity to work on their own revegetation project at Barung's new home in the Maleny Community Precinct.

During the 2020/21 financial year, 15 participants successfully completed their traineeship in Conservation and Land Management. All have gone on to further employment or training, some of whom are currently employed at Barung. However, the benefits for the participants go far beyond simply gaining further employment. The confidence gained, the sense of achievement and pride, the friendships made and the life skills learned, all combine to make this a life changing experience for many of them. We feel that running these programs is very much aligned with our mission to inspire, connect, educate and support our community, and hope to welcome many more into the Barung family in the future.

Feedback from the field

"The best experience I have ever had was a Skilling QLD Traineeship with Barung. The training and variety of work performed and organised by Trevour and Sarah was amazing. Very knowledgeable, passionate, understanding, fun and committed to the task, did I forget patient!. Trevour and Sarah have the most amazing skills to deal with a group of seven people from all different backgrounds and should be commended on how they deliver this course and promote the important work Barung performs for the community and environment. This was also supported by the staff at Barung - Cam, Wayne, Maya, Ian, Neil, Kate, Ben, Tigerlily to name a few. What a team!

Thank you all for the best experience I have ever had. This will be hard to top. I have substantiated my passion for native plants, fauna, flora and ecosystems."

- Skilling QLD participant 2021



Skilling QLD Crew on the Obi Obi Creek



NURSERIES REPORT

Cam Burton

The Barung Nurseries had another positive year. The basic measure of success for the nursery is to grow healthy plants, a diverse range of species, and produce good volumes to supply member and regional revegetation projects. This year I think we did that in spades! In fact we grew the largest volume of tubes Barung has grown in a financial year.

The Landsborough team produced close to 140,000 tubes. It was a great effort by a small team of staff and a hard working group of volunteers. Of course we also had help from the wonderful 'Skilling Queenslanders for Work' trainees and supervisors Sarah and Trev. Michelle Smith who started Barung life as a trainee became a valued staff member and completed her Certificate III with the nursery team. Unfortunately Michelle has moved on to greener (or maybe browner) pastures as she resets her life around the Laidley area. Thank you Michelle for your great contribution to the nursery.

A vital part of the process to grow the species we do, is seed collecting. A big thanks to Diana and Eric for consistently bringing in so many interesting seeds.

The Community Nursery Team is a hard working group too. Providing information to customers, preparing the kiosk plants each week and the Montville markets each month, growing our Gardens for Wildlife plants and very importantly Cal keeping the lawns schmick.

Everyone's contribution adds to the service the nursery provides to the members and wider community. Thanks to all the volunteers and staff.

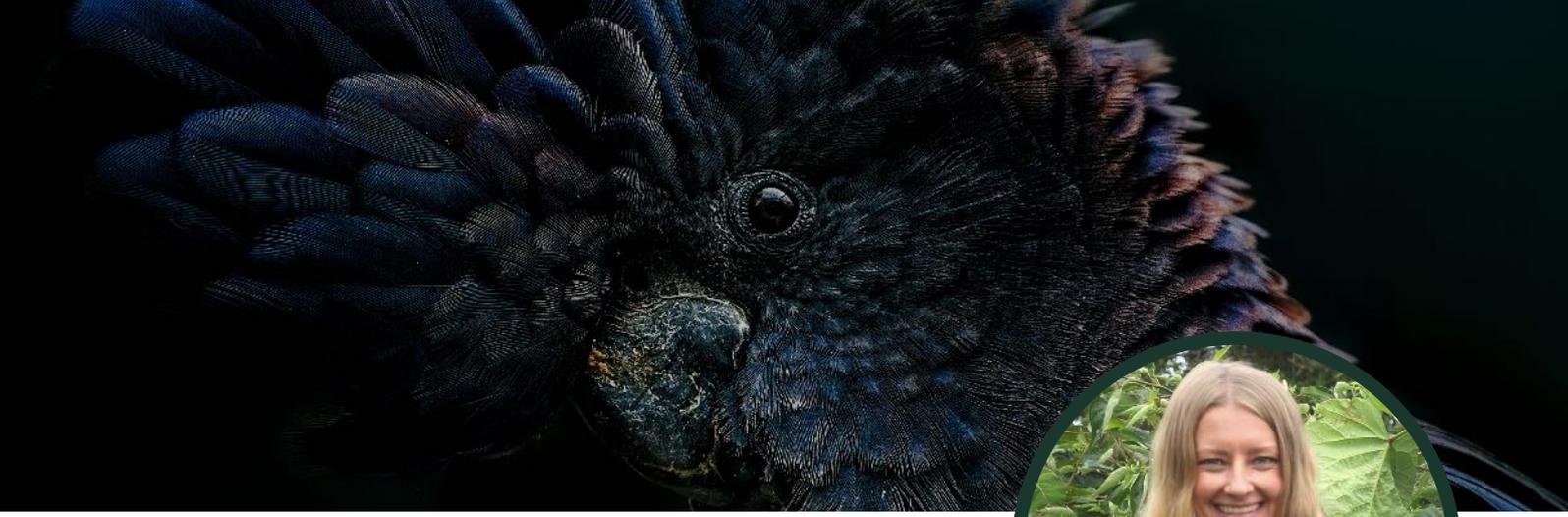
Where the plants went

The largest volume of tubes went to our wholesale customers. We grew thousands of wetland groundcovers for waterways in the Moreton Bay region and we also supplied thousands of tubes to revegetation projects run by Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group. Thanks to the LBCCG team for their support over the year.

We continued to support the Barung Natural Areas Services team supplying 20,000 tubes for projects including a large private revegetation in Montville (4,500 tubes) and a Mary River project (9,000 tubes). As with the previous few years close to 40,000 tubes made their way from Landsborough nursery to Maleny to supply the Community nursery and our Land For Wildlife members. We also supplied many plants to the Sunshine Coast Council Bushcare program.

Barung Nature Centre Garden

Since presenting the 'Barung Nature Centre' garden design at the last AGM there has been a lot of planting activity on the site. A very generous donation was received by 'Earth Benefits' which helped establish some rock features and Trev and his Skilling Teams have been planting out the 'Barung Seed Forest' with a great diversity of species. We also had a weed whacking day organised by Sue Brieshke and a community planting day both in April 21. It feels positive having the community active on the site and it is a joy to visit the garden after work and find people enjoying time in the 'Yarning Circle'.



EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Megan Lee

Similar to Doug, I arrived at Barung in the final weeks of the 2020/21 financial year, and while I had not much to do with the planning and delivery of Barung’s education and community engagement activities through 2020/21, I am also pleased to offer some observations as I report on the work and achievements of our previous Project Officer Jono.

As all have mentioned in their reports, the last few years have been challenging not only due to the pandemic, but extreme drought and a horrific bushfire season. I don’t believe any of us remained untouched by the stress of such times, and this makes things particularly difficult for people working in community engagement and education roles where the majority of outputs are by-and-large dependent on people gathering in person to learn and grow, and accessing the motivation and energy to show up to learn and take action. I believe 2020 challenged both these abilities in our frontline staff and in our community. And despite this, I believe Barung performed beautifully, the team showing up the best they could with the resources they had (mentally, physically and socially), and the same goes for our membership and community.

I would like to acknowledge Jono who has been part of the Barung Landcare family for over 15

years who in June 2021 decided to move on to a new chapter in his life. Through his time with Barung, Jono has delivered a significant number of programs across the Blackall Range targeting a range of environmental issues. The below achievements for the 2020/21 financial year represents the work Jono delivered prior to his leaving.

Community engagement and education

Barung ran 10 events, engaging over 390 people, offering a range of topics and information to members. Many of these events exceeded expectation in interest, and resulted in waiting lists for a number of these events.

Our monthly “Barung Connects” lectures, which invite guest speakers to share knowledge and information with the broader community have been growing in popularity, with evenings regularly attracting over 60 people per talk.



The Barung Landcare Yarning Circle

Topics included; Paralysis ticks, Essential pollinators, Platypus whispers, and a Yarn around the yarning circle with Kabi Kabi elder, Aunty Bev Hand. We are excited to continue to grow this program into the new year inviting more speakers to share knowledge that is of interest and relevance to the protection and restoration of the local environment across the Sunshine Coast Hinterland and Blackall Range.

Of the very few workshops and field days that we were able to deliver in person, these were still well attended, and included Cane Toad Trap making, Agroecology in action at Belvedere farm, Garden Design with Cam Burton, and an open garden field day with Joan Dillon as part of our Gardens for Wildlife program. Barung Landcare also supported a Climate Emergency Declaration community evening that was well attended.

Barung continued to provide information and advice covering a range of topics to our members and the public via the office in Coral St (housed within the Hinterland Business Centre), the Community Nursery at Porter's Lane, the Production Nursery in Landsborough and Barung Natural Area Services.

As lockdowns eased, our stand at the monthly Montville Markets stall resumed due to the dedication of two of our great volunteers, Judith Sinnamon and Frith Duggan. And long-term volunteer, Antonio Bruhe, has continued to run the weekly Barung stall in the Maple St kiosk in Maple St, selling a small selection of plants and a range of books, spreading good cheer and promoting Barung Landcare to passers by.

Unfortunately the Bunya Dreaming Festival and the Maleny Wood Expo were cancelled, having a big impact on the wonderful outcomes these events offer the broader community.

But we are planning for the return of these events in the future, with the Maleny Wood Expo confirmed to be back in 2022, and we look forward to what these programs will bring in terms of good vibes, and continued learning and connection around our shared history, culture, environment and ever-changing community.

Funding

This financial year Barung Landcare completed the fourth year of its Environment Levy Partnership Funding Program (ELP): Community Landcare in Action agreement with Sunshine Coast Council. Due to the disruption caused by the pandemic to some groups, Sunshine Coast Council graciously extended the agreement for all organisations with ELP funding for an extra year (until mid-2021).

The ELP funding rounds were available for community groups to help offset their operational expenses and provide a way for council to 'work in partnership with the community to achieve council's priorities'. We are enormously grateful for this funding which enables us to deliver the range of education and communications services to our membership and the broader community.

As Ian mentioned in his report, I made use of the first few weeks of my time with Barung in June to sink straight in and apply for a Landcare-led Bushfire Recovery grant. Learning about the landscape, the history of Barung, and its capacity as an impressive community-led responder to regional environmental issues, it was obvious to me that we were well placed to grow our partnerships and work with our current membership of landholders to refine the way we work together to build resilience in our local rainforest ecosystems, and better coordinate our approaches to threatened species recovery.



We were thrilled to be awarded \$46, 650 for our project 'On the path to resilience - restoring rainforest and bringing back the Southern Pink Underwing Moth', and look forward to collaborating with a range of organisations, landholders and the broader community on this exciting project! I especially want to thank Cam Burton who was instrumental in supporting me to get this application together in such a short amount of time.

Gardens for Wildlife (GfW)

The ELP funding has also enabled us to continue to deliver our Gardens for Wildlife (GfW) program.

Although we were restricted with our movements through this last year, this did not deter dedicated volunteers Tigerlily and Sarah from keeping the communications alive by reinvigorating the GfW newsletter and content to go out to the GfW membership. Joan Dillon also contributed monthly GfW articles to the Hinterland Times with a reach of over 360 000 readers through this time. Joan has since handed the role of newspaper correspondent on to me to continue due to other pressing commitments (not due to a lack of passion though!) which I am excited to take on.

We thank Joan for her significant contribution to the GfW program over the years and anticipate she will remain a great mentor for the next generation of GfW volunteers and staff driving this program forward into the future. Thank you Joan!

Looking forward

Although I have only been with Barung for a very short amount of time, I wish to thank all of the staff, committee and Barung members for extending such a warm welcome as a new member of the community.

I look forward to delivering a valuable community engagement and education program that supports the best outcomes possible for our community and environment across the Blackall Range and Sunshine Coast Hinterland.



Images: Various landholder workshops and training events on natural area restoration



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