

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS



April - May 2000

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

GEARING UP FOR EXPO 2000

Please mark it on your calendars - 10, 11 & 12 JUNE, 2000 - the Queen's Birthday long weekend.

The *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Expo* was started in 1996 as a way of showcasing the unique qualities of Australian native timbers while educating people about landcare and farm forestry.

It was inspired by the number of excellent artisans working in wood on the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Firm ethical guidelines which we ask exhibitors to abide by include using timber which has been sustainably harvested or salvaged. Preference is given to local woodworkers and businesses. Barung has watched with pride as the Expo has continued to steadily grow each year, attracting not only high quality exhibits, but also an increasing audience. Last year more than 5,000 people enjoyed the show over three days.

We are confident that the 2000 Expo will be bigger and better than ever. The new venue at the Maleny High School offers a brand new hall which is larger than previous spaces at the Showgrounds and keeps all major exhibitors under one roof.

Covered walkways connect other aspects of the show and offer new opportunities and better "rain insurance"!

The chainsaw and portable mill working exhibits will be complimented by a program of demonstrations of various aspects of woodworking. Speakers - including Roger Holloway,

talking each day on "Carbon Credits - what's in it for me?" and Stephen Alexander, talking about "Farm Forestry On-line" - will keep the speaker's venue moving. There will be historical displays, free activities for children, food, drink, music and lots, lots more.



Randy De Graw - one of the Expo's master craftsmen - working on a 200 year old Bluegum stump taken from Woodford by Forestry Permit. Randy sources his timber Australia wide, using only sustainably harvested materials.

Many of you will know that long-time Barung volunteers Daryl Reinke and Craig Hosmer, who have coordinated the Expo so well since it started 5 years ago, are acting in an advisory rather than a coordinating capacity this year.

Last year Elaine Green agreed to coordinate the 2000 Expo, thinking that it was just a matter of plugging in to a well-established format at the Showgrounds. However, having a new venue and a new date means a lot of extra work and Elaine

is appealing to Barung members for help. Please contact her if you can assist in any way.

EXPO HELPERS WANTED no pay but plenty of job satisfaction!!

HISTORICAL DISPLAY

will be coordinated by Inga Green with the help of volunteers to person it during the Expo. Inga may need help with transport of items. Do you know of or have any items of interest for the historical displays?

TICKET SELLERS

We need lots of people to sell entrance & raffle tickets - at least 8 people per day for a 3 hour shift each!!.

PROGRAM

The high quality program listing exhibitors & sponsors has been a great feature of past Expos. Needs attention to all details through to printing stage. Some scope to make this more cost effective with advertisements.

PROMOTION

a key area for the success of the Expo. Can you pump out editorial and meet deadlines? You would need to liaise closely with Elaine and pay attention to detail.

CAR PARKING

will be a real challenge! We will need 3 parking attendants - one person at each end of the street and one at the crossing - all day for 3 days. We need volunteers and they need a "boss".

ENTERTAINMENT

We would like to use a music program to draw people. We need someone who understands PA systems and can organise musos? Perhaps some strolling minstrels?

**We need carpet to protect the new floor in the hall,
people all weekend for odd jobs & people to help with setting up on Friday June 9th**

Please consider putting in one 3 hour shift to show your Landcare support. This is Barung's main fundraiser and we need as much member support as possible. Waiting to hear from you.

Elaine Green, Expo Coordinator Ph: 5499 9363

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

R & E Eastmure	Karen & Richard Barnett
Glen Sharp	Warren & Georgina Groves
Kristin Butler	JR Lee & MS Tuck
Mrs BA Pike	David Hopkins
Ella Liawood	Peter Van Geyzel
Franz Loors	Deb Miles & Ted Vicary
R Wavell	Graeme McIntosh
Anat & Daniel Donahay	Linda Garrett-Tosh
John Nutley	M Forbes-Simpson
Fiona Cristante	M Dunphy
Stuart Marquart	Montville State School
Allyson Williams	Baraka Australia
Peter & Judy Wilkes	Helen McCulloch & Ian Steele
Penny Smith	R Heskes
C M & R Witsen	Don & Mary-Lou Cole
Peter & Isabella Harris	David & Geraldine Montague

THANKYOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

in this issue

		page
From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture	Elaine Green	1
New Members	Barry Liddell	2
From the Vice-Presidents	Lin Fairlie & David Daugaard	2
GST & Barung Membership Fees	Angela Todd	2
Education Report	Mim Coulstock	3
The Search for an Alternative	Des Harries	4
Small Machinery Maintenance	Linda Ivezic	4
Nursery Notes	Spencer Shaw	5
Conservation Agreements - What Are They All About?	Josie Marriott	6
Habitat 2000 - SCEC's Wildlife Corridor Project,	Krister Waern	7
Green Corps Report	Elise Barry	7
Mary River Cod - Education Overview for 2000	Leisa Riggs	8
Mary River Cod Radiotracking Project	Bob Simpson	8
Barung Goes International - Acting Globally & Locally	John Muir	9
Email from the Philippines	Au-au	9
Book Review - "Field Guide to the Birds of Australia"	Spencer Shaw	9
Growing Trees - Secrets Of the Rainforest	George Whitlam	10
Treetalk	Tony Wootton	10
Weedbusters - Where We're At	Linda Ivezic	11
Seed to Collect April-May	Spencer Shaw	12

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FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

Lin Fairlie & David Daugaard

The Barung Management wishes to thank Kel Harding for the hard work he has put into the presidency of Barung. It is with regret that we accept his resignation from the position which he took on after the last AGM, although new to the committee.

We trust that Kel will find time to continue to support Barung's activities and that he will be involved in our next major event, the *From Chainsaw To Fine Furniture Expo* to be held on the weekend of June 10-12 in the new Activities Centre at the Maleny High School. Please note the change of date and venue from previous years.

In the last two months the staff have prepared excellent applications for NHT grants and Centenary of Federation funding for projects in 2000-2001. An application to Jupiter's Gaming Fund for a new computer has been successful so the purchase will be made shortly. The computer will be able to handle accounting packages necessary for GST calculations as well as data bases and information systems such as GIS.

Member support to ensure the success of Expo is essential as this is Barung's major fundraising event of the year. NHT funding for community projects has been substantially reduced and application guidelines have been changed for projects in 2001-2002. Profits from the Expo will be essential to support much of Barung's landcare activities in future years. Please respond with offers of help to the request elsewhere in this newsletter.

The State Landcare Conference to be held at Caloundra on July 22-23 is being organised by a regional committee. All landcare members are invited to attend. An excellent program has been prepared, the details of which will be included in our June newsletter. As this conference is so close, please take the opportunity to hear the latest on landcare and our future. Remember that Barung is a community organisation which requires community input if it is to achieve its goals.

GST & Barung Membership Fees

As you are aware, GST comes into effect on July 1st 2000. This will mean that any membership renewals from that date will be \$16.50 (\$15.00 membership plus \$1.50 GST).

However Barung will also be required to pay proportional GST on memberships paid before July 1st if the period covered by the membership extends beyond that date (eg. membership which was due for renewal in January 2000 will be liable for GST for 6 months).

To avoid Barung being out of pocket by several hundred dollars we are asking that all members voluntarily pay us an additional dollar. Please pay this the next time you are in Maleny.

Plants paid for but not collected by 1st July will attract GST e.g. prepaid orders, orders on hold, and plants for landholders participating in Land for Wildlife and Corridors of Green programs.

If you fall within one of these categories, we recommend that you collect your plants prior to this date.

HELP NEEDED

If you have skills or experience in the areas of
Funding Grant Application writing

or Workplace Health & Safety

and have some time to offer your Landcare Group, please drop into the office one day when in town. Any help with either of these would be gratefully received.

EDUCATION IN LANDCARE

from Mim Coulstock

THE 2000 INTERNATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE

I would like to thank the Barung Management Committee, staff and all members who encouraged me to attend the first International Landcare Conference, held in Melbourne in early March. It was truly inspiring to be one grain of sand on a beach of 1200 people from 20 countries gathered together through their concern for the land.

Coming at the end of the Decade of Landcare, the conference celebrated the achievements of the last ten years and looked way into the future. Any use of land degrades both water and land, so the aim of landcare is to raise awareness of sustainable land use for future generations. The success of Landcare - a community-driven grassroots movement - is apparent when one sees Federal, State and local government beginning to take note of the tremendous on-ground works happening through the hands of landholders.

As Peter Bridgewater, speaking on "Caring for Land and Water - a United Nations Perspective" said: "Land management is for food security, water security, environmental security, health security and poverty alleviation. Land is a resource to be developed for economic purposes, but also it is an asset to be maintained and improved, it is an essential part of our political, social and cultural fabric and it is the key to ensuring ecological balance."

On a local level we need to make addressing any threats to our most valuable remaining land resources top priority, taking precedence even over rehabilitation efforts; we need clear transparent information; and we need to develop complimentary relationships with other agencies.

On a global level we need monitoring, information exchange and a bio-regional approach. If we cannot achieve these then we risk the loss of essential ecosystem services, resilience and stability.

The Conference ran for three days, with concurrent sessions each day on the themes of: Sustainable Agriculture and Greenhouse: Issues and Directions; Structures, Partnerships and Planning in Natural Resource Management; Community Participation in Natural Resource Management - People, Patterns and Practice; Scientific, Technical and Educational approaches to Natural Resource Management; and Managing for Biodiversity Conservation. The difficulty was how to pick and chose between sessions, trying to relate topics back to those most pertinent to Barung and the future of landcare in Maleny!

Conference papers are available at Barung if anyone is interested in following up on any of these themes. There is a huge amount of information and inspiration to be gleaned. This then needs to be transformed into methods for increasing Barung's efficiency and outreach into the local community on landcare issues which are relevant to all. Please come into the office and see me if you are interested in looking at these transcripts.

Congratulations to Landcare Australia Limited for hosting the Oscars of the landcare achievers, the National Landcare Awards. It was inspiring and gratifying to see local communities being acknowledged on a national level for their environmental achievements.

At a local level, the State Landcare Conference, with the

theme "Doing it Differently", is coming up in Caloundra in July. This is a great opportunity for all Barung members to further educate themselves about landcare issues and solutions and we encourage all members to mark July 22-25th in their diaries. A full Conference program will be included in the next newsletter.

The Expo is nearly upon us again - Committee Member Elaine Green is overseeing all details and is calling for help from members when possible. This is a great way to support landcare locally - it is Barung's main fundraiser and a tremendous landcare education tool for locals and visitors alike. Keep those diaries open and mark June 10, 11 and 12 down as Barung time. Bring your friends and visitors and help us to make it a great success once again.

Josi and I recently spent a morning in Kenilworth at a DPI workshop for training people to educate others in removal strategies for giant rats tail grass. The seed of this grass is transported by stock movement, in hay and bulk seed, and on machinery/vehicles etc. It has the potential to be as big or bigger a threat than/as groundsel or lantana, and quickly establishes on degraded land. Once established it is extremely time consuming and difficult to remove.

We urge any landholder who suspects they may have it on their property to keep an eye on The Range News for dates of identification field days and removal strategies workshops we are planning. These will be announced in advance. We need properties with giant rats tails grass infestations for the field days, so if you have this menace on your property, please let me know if you would be willing to help educate other local landholders by holding a morning field day on your place.

The Rivers of the Range Congress scheduled for April has been postponed until Saturday, October 21st to tie in with National Water Week. This will enable organising bodies, of which Barung is one, to assist local teachers with facilitating student presentations. Please contact me if you would like help with ideas for involving your students/children in Rivers of the Range. More news on this exciting congress closer to the date.


If any members are interested in attending Level 1 or 2 Chainsaw courses, or another small machinery maintenance course, get in touch. The chainsaw courses are aimed at training landholders to become more competent in working with chainsaws while helping to raise awareness of safety issues. Level 1 is compulsory before Level 2 (the tree felling arm) can be undertaken. These courses are organised on demand, so let me know if the demand is there.

Our next Fauna Information Night will be held on Thursday May 4th at Mary Cairncross. The theme is Endangered Species with Ian Gynther speaking on the Coxen's Fig Parrot, and Harry Hines talking about the Gastric Breeding Frog. All audience members will be given a free native fig tree (if space in their garden allows) to encourage the return of the Coxen's Fig Parrot.

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The Search for an Alternative

from Des Harris

Self-sufficiency can be fun - remember Richard Briers, Felicity Kendall and Penelope Keith in "The Good Life"! But it is hard to escape the need to earn a dollar from the land without a cultural change which few in our society would wish to contemplate.

Barung's workshop of February 19th provided a venue in which participants could explore 'new' options for land use in our area, based upon the experience of several members who had already developed innovative ideas.

Concentrating upon the environment of the Maleny plateau is an interesting exercise in redirecting land use from an overwhelming focus on dairy farming. A land use study conducted some years ago by the Catchment Care Group showed that dairying was still, after some decades of decline in numbers of operators, the major land use in terms of area used. This is still most likely the case, but who knows where deregulation will lead.

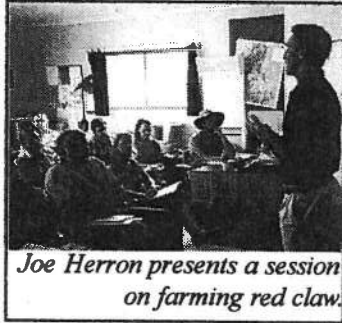
Can any form of non-intensive animal husbandry compete with other pursuits? Can the Green Hills survive?

We cannot pretend that the gathering of some 40 participants on 19th February did much to solve or even address problems of this magnitude, but it was a beginning.

Most participants were interested to explore cropping land use ventures which would provide a secure source of income and be an environmentally sustainable enterprise. "Suitability" may be a key word, if not well defined.

One would have to say that probably 50% of discussion centred on personal philosophy. This ranged from stern enthusiasm for 'organic' food production to the intensive business practices of orchard cropping. Good land care practice with minimal resource loss or degradation was an underlying concept in all presentations.

This workshop was an interesting introduction to a series of on-site discussions proposed as a follow-up during the coming months.



Joe Herron presents a session on farming red clay.

Small Machinery Maintenance Course: An Excellent Day!

by Linda Ivezić

This was a great workshop arranged by Mim Coulstock, our Education Project Officer. The topics offered on Barung's Member/Public Education Program cover a wide range of interests and needs. I was so thankful when I heard that Barung was running a small machinery maintenance course - it was something I'd wanted to do for some time and I wouldn't have to leave Maleny to do it!

Tony Cassimaty came to the workshop with many years of working experience with small motors. His highlighting of points with real-life scenarios made him easy to listen to and to absorb the information. I learnt lots about the end result of not maintaining a small motor! It horrifies me how we may have shortened the life of our motors by not looking after them in a simple routine way. I hope I can catch them all in time to make a difference.

The small motor maintenance course is a must for anyone who owns basic machinery from mowers and brushcutters to pumps, generators and compressors.

Tony has also presented Level 1 & 2 chainsaw courses through Barung. My husband has done these with Tony and says they were great.

Please let the office know if you would be interested in doing either the small machinery maintenance or either chainsaw level course in the near future - these workshops are organised according to demand!



Chainsaw Level 1 - get rid of those camphors!

THANKS TO...

... John Toshach (& Kaye)

from Beerwah, for taking on the mammoth task of cataloguing the Baru library!

... Jeanette Nobes

for offering to sort out and catalogue the Barung photos!

... Krister Waern

for the Habitat 2000 Presentation to the Barung Management Committee.

... Elaine Green

for donating a slide projector to Barung.

... Lin & David Fairlie, Glenys Ayling & John Seebeck, Chris Allen, Ian Smith and Jeanette Nobes
for helping with Fauna Info Nites at Mary Cairncross.

... Alan Atkinson

for his help in organising the Alternate Horticulture Workshop.

'Weeding Bee' and Maintenance - Agricola

Saturday May 13, 2000

Meet Kenilworth Forestry Office
8am - 1pm

Morning Tea and sausage sizzle provided.
Bring maddock or cane knife and gloves

Ring Josi at Barung (07) 5494 3151 or
Cheryl at CRC (07) 5446 0350

Please RSVP for catering



Late in 1998 Barung Landcare and CRC organised a tree plant at Palm Gully on the Agricola site which was rehabilitated 3 years ago (some trees are now 5 m tall). We also did some weeding and now after eighteen months and lots of rain, it's time for follow up maintenance.

NEEDED

AN OVERHEAD PROJECTOR

for Barung education nights, workshops & presentations

Please contact Mim or Angela on 5494 3151 - if you can help!

Legumes

Native legumes such as our Acacias, Pultenaeas and Hoveas etc are great tools to improve our land management practices.

Being pioneer species for many vegetation types, legumes often grow very quickly. Their ability to fix nitrogen through a symbiotic relationship with bacteria in their roots gives them "the edge." We can use their ability to grow quickly and improve soil life to our advantage in agriculture and horticulture.

Too often many people see Acacias as problem trees but the benefits they provide for soil improvement, firewood production, windbreaks, habitat enhancement and timber are often overlooked.

I would suggest that planting some of our smaller legumes such as Hoveas, Pultenaeas, Oxylobiums and Dillwynia etc could provide many benefits in the orchard and vegie patch. Not only do they provide colour with their flowers, but diverse planting of native shrubs will increase insect predators and reduce damage by pest species. I believe this idea has much potential and is a great way of incorporating more local species into our land management instead of just admiring them from afar in "the bush."

Ponds

We have established our first ponds at Barung and will soon be able to provide waterplants and perhaps frogs and local small fish. A volunteer who has experience rearing tadpoles/native fish and who could be of assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Bees

Do we have any members out there with knowledge/experience of our local native bees? I am interested in establishing a hive at the nursery for display and educational purposes.

APRIL NURSERY SPECIALS

Acacia melanoxylon *Acacia irrorata*
Pultenaea villosa *Pultenaea retusa*

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BEWARE

Imagine surfing the Net & finding a site which offers to mail you seeds from all over the World. You place your order not realising that you might have taken a big step in the destruction of Australia's flora & fauna, agriculture & horticulture industries.

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1. check <http://www.agis.gov.au/icon> for import conditions
2. Obtain import permit for risk species from <http://www.agis.gov.au/docs/border/icinstruct.htm>

THE RED BOPPLE NUT

Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia

by Bernard Murawski



The red bopple nut (*Hicksbeachia pinnatifolia*) belongs to the Proteaceae family that is endemic to the subtropical rainforests of south-east Queensland and north-east NSW. It is a close relative to the macadamia (*Macadamia spp.*) and was named after Sir Michael Edward Hicks-Beach who was Secretary of State for NSW, 1878-80.

The usual method of propagation is by sowing the seed. It is important to use fresh seed (as stale seed will give low and unpredictable levels of germination), with most standard potting mixtures producing good results. It is slow growing especially in the early stages, with the young plants being sensitive to frost and wind.

It needs to be stressed that the plant can be difficult to grow and has displayed a trait that is also exhibited in the macadamia. Plants older than 10 years develop a general decline that may lead to their eventual death.

Use a fertilizer with a low phosphorous content. Slow-release Osmocote (native plant formula) granules have proved effective for nursery stock. A few growers have found that it is more prudent not to apply fertilizers to the mature tree - the use of an organic mulch to supply the nutrients is more effective.

The flowers are maroon on the outside of the petals and cream to pink on the inside. They are self-compatible and in south-east Queensland the main flowering period is between September and October, but may begin as early as July. The flowers are born mostly on the mature wood of the trunk, or older branches, and can even appear on the trunk at ground level.

The scarlet fruit is ovoid, approximately 3 x 5cm and ripens about 3 months after pollination. The edible nut is obtained by removing the fibrous outer layer with the aid of a knife. It is important that the nut is eaten fresh as freshness decides the taste of the nut, with stale nuts having an insipid taste. Once out of the shell the nut will oxidize rapidly with taste deterioration and a drying-out of the nut. The nut has a similar texture to coconut flesh and tastes like a cross between a macadamia nut and a coconut. The taste is enhanced with roasting.

Known pests and diseases include the bananaspotted bug, macadamia fruitspotting bug, macadamia leaf miner, nut stemborer, macadamia white scale, slugs, the common garden snail, and phytophthora root-rot. Vertebrate pests such as cockatoos, possums, rats, and mice, have all proved to be a problem by eating the nuts.

SNAKE CATCHERS - SUNSHINE COAST

John Barry (Caloundra) - 5492 1605 / 0414 643 392

Darren Symons (Beerwah) - 5494 0741

Anthony Gourley (Caboolture) - 5498 3835

John Rudder (Maroochydore) - 5443 5754

* call only if snake genuinely needs to be removed

* all catchers charge for their services. Fee should be negotiated before removal.



with Josi Marriott,
Reveg Officer

Conservation Agreements

- what are they all about ?

Some of the questions regularly asked about conservation agreements include:

- What is a conservation agreement?
- What is the difference between the types of agreements such as Land for Wildlife (LFW), Nature Refuge Agreement (NRA) & Voluntary Conservation Agreements (VCA's)?
- What type of assistance is available through a conservation agreement?
- Is there a rate rebate?
- Are they title binding?
- Are they compulsory?
- And can my land be taken away?

There are three main types of conservation agreements:

1. Land for Wildlife is the easiest to join and the most flexible, facilitated through local government and available throughout most of south-east Queensland. It offers technical advice, workshops and field days, publishes a newsletter for its members and provides a member network for LFW members to contact each other if they desire;

2. Local council Voluntary Conservation Agreements offer different categories of agreements, some binding and some non-title binding. These often include assistance through rate rebates, technical advice and on-ground assistance. Currently VCA's are available through a few local councils e.g. Ipswich City Council, but several other council's are either investigating or are establishing their VCA's;

3. The State Government Environmental Protection Agency's Nature Refuge Agreement, which is currently the most broadly offered, highest level of conservation protection landholders can put on their property. NRA's offer technical advice with the main advantage being that landholders may protect their property for conservation in perpetuity. The NRA scheme is currently being upgraded to provided more assistance to landholders.

We will feature Land for Wildlife in this issue, so to become clearer about conservation agreements read on...

Conservation Agreement Profile: Land for Wildlife

Queensland's Land for Wildlife (LFW) is a very successful free, voluntary, non title-binding form of conservation agreement, and was based on the very successful Victorian Land for Wildlife model, established in the 1980's. More than 70% of habitat in South East Queensland is privately owned and managed. Private landholders hold the key to the survival of many species of wildlife.

LFW's popularity with landholders is due to it being easy to join, assessment and approval procedures are relatively quick and easy, and it is flexible. LFW participants may leave the program at any time, or if they wish they may 'upgrade' to other types of conservation agreements to gain further conservation protection for their lands, e.g. some landholders have moved up the scale of conservation protection from LFW to a VCA (which offers non-

binding and binding agreements) or NRA (which are title-binding).

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary scheme aiming to encourage and assist private landholders to provide habitat for wildlife on their property, even though the property may be managed primarily for other purposes. If you wish to create or protect wildlife habitat on your property, then the Land for Wildlife scheme can offer you advice and assistance, whether you manage a farm, a bush block or a small property. Land for Wildlife status will not change the legal status of the property in any way.

The Land for Wildlife scheme welcomes and encourages landholders who are committed to managing all or part of their property in a way which:

- clearly pursues the maintenance and enhancement of native habitation;
- and attempts to integrate nature conservation with other land management objectives.

The Land for Wildlife status of the property will be retained so long as these objectives continue to be upheld. If the property changes ownership, the new owners need to re-apply for registration under the scheme. Land for Wildlife is responsive to the needs of the landholders and recognises that each landholder will have a different capacity to participate in the scheme.

How do I join Land for Wildlife?

Application forms are available from participating councils in SE Queensland. A Land for Wildlife officer will contact you and arrange a meeting to discuss your plans. Subject to a favourable assessment, your property will be entered on the Land for Wildlife register.

Next issue features Nature Refuge Agreements.

For Further Information contact your participating Council:

- Caboolture Shire Council - (07) 5495 0100
PO Box 159, Caboolture Q 4551
- Caloundra City Council - (07) 5491 0861
PO Box 117, Caloundra Q 4551
- Maroochy Shire - (07) 5441 8170
PO Box 76, Nambour Q 4560
- Noosa Shire Council - (07) 5449 5331
PO Box 141, Tewantin Q 4565

HABITAT 2000 - SCEC'S WILDLIFE CORRIDOR PROJECT *a brief outline by Krister Waern*

The Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC) have established the Habitat 2000 Wildlife Corridor Project in order to constitute a more pro-active approach towards ecological sustainability on the Sunshine Coast. At the current rate of vegetation clearing and fragmentation of the landscape by roads, agriculture and development, our unique wildlife is under threat.

Wildlife corridors aid in the conservation of our wildlife by:

- linking wildlife populations and helping to maintain immigration and recolonisation between otherwise isolated habitat paths;
- reducing genetic isolation;
- providing refuge for plants and animals;
- provision of increased nesting, feeding and breeding sites.

The Habitat 2000 project has two stages: firstly, the habitat identification stage and secondly, the implementation stage to reconnect valuable wildlife corridors. It is envisaged that all of

the Sunshine Coast will be assessed working on a shire by shire basis.

The wildlife corridors for Caloundra City have been identified and the results presented to Council on 23rd November 1999. The project was very well received by both Council and community. The project is now working on Maroochy Shire to identify the wildlife corridors.

One of the positive 'spin-offs' of the project is a shire-wide strategic approach toward revegetation. The project outlines strategic areas of concern that need to be rehabilitated in order to maintain the connectivity of vegetation. Targeting these strategic areas foremost will help maintain biological diversity for both flora and fauna.



Green Corps Report by Elise Barry

Our team of 10 Green Corps commenced traineeship with Barung Landcare in late November '99. Our team members, led by Sambo, have all come from different parts of Australia and backgrounds ranging from environmental students to musicians. Now three months into our time, we have been given the opportunity to work on a diverse range of projects around the Blackall Range.

Our time so far has proven to be a big commitment with a lot of hard work laced with much fun and laughter, creating a unique experience for us all to share, time also in which each of us have gained many a nickname!! We have built strong friendships within the team and have learnt a lot from each other.

Our smaller projects in the last three months have been diverse. They include maintenance and revegetation along the Obi Obi Creek in Maleny, Walkers Creek and Kondalilla Falls, plant rescue and transplanting, and the dreaded morning glory removal, revegetation at Bridge Creek prior to the *Bridge the Gap* treeplant and also assistance as part of the supervisory team on the day of the treeplant.

With only 11 weeks left, we will be working on our major project - construction of a boardwalk at Mary Cairncross to protect the ancient Strangler Fig from soil compaction, and to protect the habitat of the rare and endangered crayfish.

The high level of support and friendliness we have received from the team of experts at Barung has been a huge benefit for us all while providing Barung with 11 extra pairs of helping hands to carry out their projects. It has been good to have the opportunity for hands-on practical work in the land conservation industry, gaining the experience to lead us into paths we wish to follow after graduation.

It is great to know that the government supports such a national program for youth and the welfare of the Australian environment. I'm happy to say we all agree that we couldn't ask for a better job or industry into which to put our energies!!



Work worth doing - the Green Corps team at work on the boardwalk to save the old fig

WILDLIFE BOXES - OUT WITH THE POISON, IN WITH THE OWLS

Holes, hollows and cavities provide roosting, refuge and nesting areas for species as diverse as barn owls, parrots, insectivorous bats and geckos. The importance of such nesting spaces is evident when one realises that 17% of Australia's birds are known to use tree hollows for nesting, compared with 9% in South Africa and 10% in North America. Australia lacks animals that excavate holes in healthy trees, requiring from 100-400 years for suitable holes to develop by rotting or termite action.

In SE Queensland a total of 70 vertebrate animals might use wildlife boxes, comprising 12 species of bats, 39 birds, seven possums and gliders and 12 reptiles. Erecting nesting boxes and hunting perches around your property and along remnant forested corridors is rewarding, and an element of surprise is always present. The erection in a Brisbane suburb of a box designed for kookaburras attracted a pair of kestrels - not seen in the area for many years.

Cane growers in north Queensland are embracing a natural approach to pest control by encouraging owls onto their properties with nesting boxes, and reducing rat habitat through revegetation. Rats gnaw on the stems of sugarcane, leading to crop diseases and costly losses. Many growers rely on rodenticides to control rats but research indicates that owls are also killed as a result of eating the poisoned rats.

Education programs have included growers attending an evening spotlighting trip where they watched Barn Owls and Grass Owls taking many rats in freshly harvested fields. This resulted in Mossman canegrowers obtaining funding through the Natural Heritage Trust to build and install 60 nesting boxes. The program was funded to increase awareness of the need for integrated management for pest control.

Revegetation works have also proved an effective component of the integrated management approach. In trials with forest trees planted in grassland areas by landholders and conservation groups, up to 75% fewer rats were captured only one year after planting. Within two years the closed canopy and resultant shade made the area unsuitable for rats by reducing grassy harbouring areas.

Barung has nesting boxes on display at the nursery in a range of sizes and suitable for a range of species. We are also currently stocking a very useful book by Pat Comben: "Wildlife Boxes for Brisbane and South-east Queensland." It shows easy-to-follow construction details for a number of designs, and lists the habits and requirements of particular species including mounting height above ground, entrance hole diameter and depth. As Greg Czeczura of the Queensland Museum says in the preface "...it may take some time for your boxes to work but you will gain immense satisfaction when the first possum or parrot takes possession ..."

From *Natural Heritage - The Journal of the Natural Heritage Trust No.5*
(<http://www.nht.gov.au>),

and *Wildlife Boxes for Brisbane and South-east Queensland* by Pat Comben.

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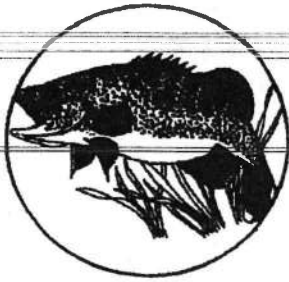
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MALENY-KENILWORTH ROAD, CONONDALE



Mary River Cod Community Network

Education overview for 2000 By Leisa Riggs.

This year will see the implementation of an exciting new program into schools in the Mary catchment.

The "Adopt a Riverbank" program involves landholders and schools working in cooperation to ensure a future for the Mary River Cod.

The program will initially involve four groups from Conondale to Tiaro. These have been selected after consultation with Glenda Pickersgill, who has carried out extensive mapping of the Mary and its tributaries through World Wide Fund for Nature.

The students from these local schools will collect appropriate seed, propagate it and plant out seedling trees on their adopted riverbank.

But it doesn't end there! They will also learn plant and weed ID and be visited by such groups as Landcare and Waterwatch, as well as participating in fun activities and assignments based on the new SOSE curriculum.

The landholders will, for their part, act as mentors to the students, passing on their knowledge and experience, and will in turn benefit from the schools energy and support.

A Mary River Cod Community Network website is being set up through "Widebay 2020." Each school/landholder group will have their own home page with the view to sharing knowledge and experience while fostering an awareness of the Mary River catchment as a whole.

All in all it's going to be an exciting year, with benefits not only for the Mary River Cod but for all who are a part of "Adopt a Riverbank."

Footnote: I would like to sincerely thank Glenda Pickersgill for her help over the last few months.

MARY RIVER COD RADIOTRACKING PROJECT from Bob Simpson, DPI Fisheries

A major research project to investigate the movements and habitat requirements of the endangered Mary River cod came to an end in late 1999.

The two year project involved implanting small radio-transmitters into adult cod, and then tracking the movements of the fish. Environment Australia and Queensland Department of Primary Industries provided funding for the project.

Radiotracking of freshwater fish has been used widely in the United States and Europe, but has only recently become a popular research tool in Australia. Native fish that have now been radiotracked in Australia include barramundi, Murray cod, trout cod, golden perch, and Queensland lungfish. These sorts of studies can provide some very detailed information



Bob Simpson inserts a radio-transmitter into an adult cod

on a fish's behaviour patterns.

Nine adult Mary River cod, ranging in weight from 1.5 - 5.5kg, were tracked for up to two years. The main findings of this study were:

- ~ cod became very active and mobile during rises in water level following rain. Some fish travelled upwards of 35km in less than two weeks.
- ~ cod tended to move upstream in summer (especially in February), and downstream as winter approached (especially in May).
- ~ despite these trends, each cod behaved individually. Some cod would stay within the one area, while others travelled long distances.
- ~ cod had a strong homing ability, and would sometimes return to a favourite log after an absence of many months.
- ~ when not in migration mode, cod established distinct 'home ranges' which they regularly patrolled. Home ranges averaged about 200m in length along a creek.
- ~ within the home range, each cod had 2-3 favourite spots where it would hide most of the time. These favourite spots were usually large logs or logpiles.
- ~ cod were most active in patrolling the home range around dusk.
- ~ cod would sometimes move into very shallow water after presumably to hunt fish and crustaceans.
- ~ logpiles and large individual logs were the most favoured habitats. These habitats accounted for around 93% of all observations on the tagged cod.

The importance of instream cover for cod, particularly logs, was reasonably well known prior to this study, but the extent and timing of cod movements was not. Longer movements didn't appear to be directly related to breeding, as they occurred at any time of the year when river levels rose. However, they are likely to be an important way of ensuring that the cod gene pools stays well mixed. With a proportion of the population being regular migrators, and other cod being stay-at-homes, the potential for outbreeding (as opposed to inbreeding, which can cause all sorts of problems) is high. Long-distance travelling cod will come into contact with, and mate with, other cod that they aren't even remotely related to. This is important for the long term health of a species.

It may also be that long movements are a way for cod to access seasonal food resources, or to spread the population out when times get tough in a particular area. Whatever the exact reasons, it's a part of the innate behaviour of the species, and it is good reason to make sure that these movements aren't blocked by weirs, dams, culverts, or road crossings. If these structures have to be built across a stream, then they should take into account the needs of cod and other mobile aquatic species. Effective fishways (fish-ladders) can be incorporated into new weirs and dams, while culverts and crossings can be built in such a way that they have only minimal impact on fish movements. DPI-Fisheries can provide information and design criteria for 'fish-friendly' instream works.



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BARUNG GOES INTERNATIONAL

- ACTING BOTH GLOBALLY & LOCALLY!!

Ten years ago, when Barung was first formed, the chosen logo included a germinating quandong seed representing a map of the World, with SE Asia and the Philippines apparent on it.

Barung Landcare has now, through its new Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) funded "Farmcare - Landcare in Horticulture" project for South East Queensland, really taken off and gone global.

As a result of this new project, (which has an Philippines component employing three local landcare facilitators), a delegation of more than 35 representatives from many Asian countries participated in a South East Queensland tour prior to the first International Landcare Conference held in Melbourne in March. International partners of the project include the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the South East Asian Centre for Agriculture (SEARCA).

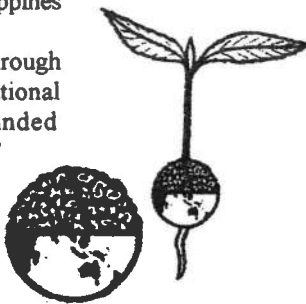
This pre-conference tour was organised by myself in conjunction with Barung Landcare staff and committee members, Dept. of Primary Industries, Dept. of Natural Resources, the Secretariat for International Landcare Co. (SILC) and various other sponsors. Special thanks must go to Ashley Sewell, Chris Rinehart, Noel Vock, Kel Harding, Margaret Thompson, Joe Herron, Mick McGinnis, Peter Oliver and Joan Dillon, who all contributed special time to make the tour such a huge success.

The large Asian landcare delegation resulted from my recent trip to the landcare project sites in Mindanao, the largest, most southern island of the Philippines. Already more than 250 village landcare groups have been formed, and an "appropriate-technology, participatory-action learning-landcare fire" has certainly been lit.

Barung is ideally suited to being involved in such a project. We not only have the natural advantage of a similar subtropical climate and topic content, but also the advantage of a wealth of on-ground experience and diverse people experiences for technical matters, project management and landcare facilitation process.

The Australian component of this four year project is to work with leading SE Queensland horticultural industry and landcare groups (to be called farmcare groups). Co-partners include the DPI, the DNR and Barung Landcare.

These farmcare groups will contribute to addressing the natural resource management issues in their individual industries, and work towards developing more sustainable horticultural farming systems. This will be done in close collaboration with the



Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers (QFVG) industry group, which has recently released its "Farmcare - Codes of Best Management Practice" guidelines.

If anyone wants further information or has thoughts, contacts or ideas for this new Barung Landcare initiative on either the global or local scene, please feel free to contact me at the numbers above. There may also be opportunities through the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV) to be involved in landcare project work at these new sites in the Philippines.

EMAIL from the Philippines.....

I just want to say thank you very much for the warm and generous hospitality, the delicious hot lunch, the quick but very inspiring facilitator's training and for allowing us to have a "glimpse" of what permaculture is all about. For me it was one of the most fascinating "moments" of my life. I shall never forget it and the kindness that you have shown.

Things have settled down a bit now after that "bloody Aussie tour." It was just exciting and educational. Now I'm back to my work and to the challenge of facilitating a truly participative landcare in Misamis Oriental. I also have most weekends busy reading my permaculture book and learning its philosophy. Hope that soon, I can become a permaculturalist like you.

Again, a lot of thanks and regards, Aman

BOOK REVIEW

Spencer Shaw

Field Guide to the Birds of Australia

by Simpson and Day, Published by Penguin Books Australia Ltd. (440 pages) \$35.00

For all you bird lovers, and yet-to-be bird lovers out there, this is a "must-have" book!

Available from Barung, this is our first bird book and will certainly be a worthwhile addition to any nature lover's library. This highly informative book contains detailed information on more than 750 species of birds native to, or naturalized in, Australia.

The colour illustrations feature birds in their natural habitats, both males, females, and juvenile forms of each species. An individual map for each species shows distribution, and additional information on habitat, size, calls, abundance and movement is also provided.

This field guide comes with a plastic cover to provide extra protection in the field (or forest!) or wherever you wish to go bird watching.

Here's to becoming more familiar with our Aussie avifauna !!

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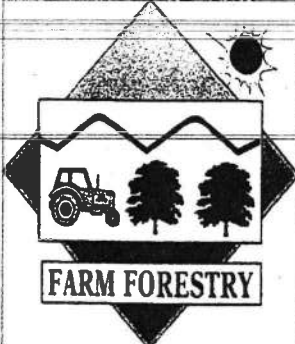
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GROWING TREES: *Secrets of the Rainforest* from George Whitlam

What's the best place to learn about growing rainforest trees? DPI Tree Notes? Perhaps not.

The best place is the rainforest itself. It should come as no surprise that recent research into the best ways of growing trees for cabinet timber production confirms what rainforests do naturally. Research

results reported in the latest Subtropical Farm Forestry Newsletter (Issue 31) show that mixed plantings of rainforest trees are better than a monoculture and that mulched trees grow faster than unmulched trees. By mimicking the way in which natural rainforests grow we can increase our chances of converting degraded windblown pastures into thriving commercial woodlots.

Natural rainforests, consisting of many plant species fed by decaying forest litter, have flourished for millions of years. The way in which rainforests repair storm damage is most instructive. Large gaps in the rainforest canopy caused by storm damage lead to soil exposure and humus loss until fast-growing, short-lived pioneer species germinate from dormant seed reserves. Pioneers create the conditions conducive for rapid succession by long-lived timber species. In particular, pioneers produce leaf mulch so essential for feeding shallow-rooted timber species and suppressing competition from weeds and grasses. The natural process of succession from pioneers to rainforest takes a long time, however.

In commercial rainforestry, one option for speeding up the natural process is to skip the pioneer phase. Instead of interplanting pioneers with timber trees, only timber trees are planted. Rows of slow-growing timber trees (such as rosewood, black bean, white beech and coachwood) are alternated with rows of fast-growing timber trees (such as quondongs, bumpy ash, white cedar and silky oak).

Fast-growing trees are typically light demanders while slow-growing trees are shade tolerant. By combining fast-growing and slow-growing trees in this way a multi-layered canopy characteristic of a natural rainforest is created. Tree growth is maximized and harvesting facilitated.

The success of this approach, however, depends on the provision of organic mulch. Buying and spreading hay mulch is much too expensive and soil conditions often limit the response of trees to chemical fertilizers. Interplanting timber trees with a perennial legume to produce a living green mulch appears to be the answer.

A first step in growing a rainforest woodlot is therefore not planting the trees, but in establishing a green mulch crop along future tree rows. Trees are then planted directly into the living mulch. A green mulch, such as pinto peanut (*Arachis pintoi*), should be regularly slashed to improve nutrient and water retention in the soil, encourage favorable soil microbial activity and worms, and consequently improve tree resistance to pests and diseases. In this way woodlots can be managed to mimic natural rainforests.

TREE TALK *by Tony Wootton*

Hello again tree people. If you've been following this series of arboricultural articles, you will know that we've already talked about what arboriculture is, and also, the most important part of any arboricultural operation, the "tree assessment."

In this article I'd like to look at one of my favorite areas, tree pruning. Because space is at a premium in this wonderful publication, I will briefly cover the main points of a very in-depth subject.

Firstly, why prune? We prune trees for many reasons, including but not limited to: removing dead, diseased, damaged or hazardous limbs; to allow light in; to encourage a bushy growth habit; to lift the canopy; to create viewing windows; for tree sculpture; to bring timber trees back to a single leader; to encourage fruiting/flowering; and to decrease wind sail area.

Secondly, how to prune? To remove a limb you must identify the collar at the base of that limb. The collar is the swelling around the limb where it attaches to the main trunk. On some species this is quite pronounced, like a doughnut, and on other species it is inconspicuous and only detectable by touch. This collar contains hormones which trigger the tree's response to the removal of the limb, and it is important not to damage the collar during the pruning operation.

Having identified the collar, we can then ascertain the placement of the pruning cut. The cut should be precisely where the limb meets the collar, neither leaving a branch stub, or breaching the collar. This is known as "target pruning."

Now that we know where the final cut will be, we can remove the bulk of the limb, leaving a short stub beyond the collar, so that there isn't a lot of weight present when the final cut is made. The final cut can now be performed, preferably cutting upwards. A sharp knife can be used to tidy up any ragged edges, and, providing everything has been done correctly, the tree can now be left to respond to the wound.

This leads us to another subject - wound response - which we can look at in a later issue.

Other points to consider when pruning include: time of year; ensuring sharp equipment; and the amount of material you are removing from a tree.

Pruning allows us to set in train events that have a time-frame of years or even decades, which I find exciting. While this article has been a little drier and more technical, I hope it has given some insight into the world of pruning. It is a subject I'd like to talk more about in order to raise community awareness about proper pruning practices to increase the health and beauty of our surrounding vegetative environment.

Until next time, Touch Trees,

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WEEDBUSTERS - where we're at... from Linda Ivezic

I haven't selected a Weed Of The Month for April/May, instead I thought I'd update you on Weedbuster activities. Four of us have been together for three years now, we all started at the beginning of the group. Des Cosgrove is a tireless Weedbuster who works on his own throughout most weeks, and Greg Jendra and Robbie Hammer rarely miss a session no matter how late the night before has been! I'm the fourth member, the organiser, who relies on the enthusiasm of the team to keep going.

We worked primarily on the Boardwalk for our first two years. With our group consisting of four to six volunteers we felt overwhelmed by the immensity of the work there and never had the satisfaction of getting on top of anything. Last year we welcomed on board Josi Marriott, Barung's new Revegetation Officer. She took us under her wing and came up with a great idea for us, to regenerate a riparian remnant.

If you go to the far end of the Showgrounds, our site is the bank of the Obi Obi Creek beside the Pony Club field. When we began we could see local pioneer and rainforest seedlings trying to rise above the choking canopy of weeds. Since then we've weeded, cut and mulched the whole strip and have finished off by

planting about 80 plants selected by Barung's nursery manager, Spencer Shaw.

We'll have to maintain our little patch of regeneration but that's what Weedbusters are good at. If you'd like to give us a hand for a couple hours once or twice a year contact me, Linda Ivezic, at home in the evenings on 5494 3497.

We're currently looking at a couple of difficult sites around Maleny with lantana and Japanese sunflower problems, and some extra help with these would be appreciated if we go ahead.

Seed to collect April - May
cont'd from back page

Keep your eyes open during the coming months for the following seed:

Eleocarpus reticulatis - Blueberry Ash

An unmistakable shrub or small tree many people would be familiar with. The spectacular white flowers and showy blue fruit have made this a popular garden plant. The fruit are just beginning to color now after taking several months to develop and will remain on the plants for 4 - 6 weeks until either gravity or birds get the better of them.

You are most likely to find this species in the understorey of wet sclerophyll forests common throughout the range.

The fruit are ready to harvest when blue, but before collecting too many, cut through the fruit and its hard seed shell to check that an embryo is actually present. These fruit are notorious for being completely empty so it is worth checking.

Elaeocarpus species are all tricky to germinate and this one is no exception. One thing you can be sure of is the more seed you have, the more chance there is of some germinating.

Eupomatia bennettii - Small bolwarra

A very small shrub to only one metre or less, found as an understorey species in wet sclerophyll or rainforest.

This species would usually be completely unnoticed but for the spectacular flower it produces for less than a few hours each year. Only one flower per bush is usual, but their creamy white colour and perfume make them stand out.

The perfume attracts a beetle that allows pollination of this ancient species - perhaps one of the earliest flowering plants. The fruit is a soft yellow fleshy berry with numerous seeds that germinate quite readily when sown fresh.

Happy seed collecting to you all over the next few months. The fate of our forests is in all our hands!

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Ring Linda
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Want to
see our
community
boardwalk
platypus?

Following closed door negotiations with Mr Platy, special viewings have been enjoyed by Barung's Weedbusters team while working on our remnant regeneration site near the Rotary Bridge. See Calendar of Events for weedbusting dates or ring Linda on 5494 3497.

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and well that's where you come in.

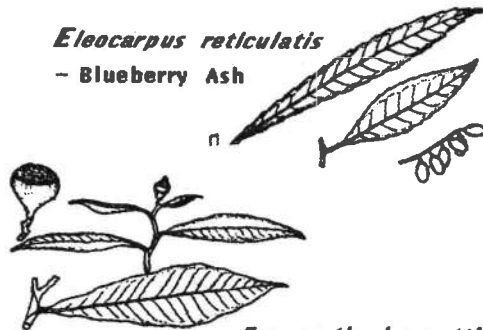
Collecting seed from our remnant vegetation throughout the range is the most crucial action we can all take to ensure the future survival and reestablishment of our unique forests.

To ensure genetic diversity in revegetation it is recommended that seed be collected from at least six parent trees. This ensures vigor and diversity in a new planting for its future generations. Ideally, tubestock for the purpose of revegetation should be locally sourced, as many species have evolved traits that have improved their ability to survive within a

Seed to collect in April - May

by SPENCER SHAW

***Eleocarpus reticulatis* &
*Eupomatia bennettii***



Eleocarpus reticulatis
- Blueberry Ash

Eupomatia bennettii
- Small bolwarra

Illustrations from Trees & Shrubs of
Rainforests in NSW & Southern Queensland
pub'd by Uni of New England.

particular area

For local tubestock we need local seed. And where is all of our local seed you ask? Well chances are, if you're living on acreage with existing trees other than camphor laurel or privet, it could be found on your place! So what I'd like to encourage you all to do is grab that bunch of fruit and a small branch and bring them in to Barung for identification if necessary. Chances are that if it's local, we desperately need it to either make that species available in tubestock or increase the gene pool of the species we already have available.

The vegetation remnants of the range are just that - remnants! Precious fragments of one of the most unique and diverse forest types of Earth. We must choose to educate ourselves about them, act for our forests, or watch them fade away....

cont'd previous page

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