



## The Expo Countdown

With only three weeks until we hit the Showgrounds, the Barung Office is a madhouse of people, ideas, problems and solutions on top of the usual 'busyness'.

Despite all of this, the 2002 Expo is looking quite exciting.

Elaine Green has developed a new ecotourist feature with the Eco-tours, which will leave from the Expo daily. Tour prices include an Expo entry ticket. (See brochure in newsletter.)

ArtisTree Coordinator, Penny Smith, has done a fantastic job bringing together the talents of local artists, woodworkers, students and others for what promises to be an exceptional approach to woody weed education. This unique exhibition is a credit to Barung's innovative approach, to Penny's skills, and to our Hinterland artists (see page 5 for more).

Our Raffle Coordinator, Barbara Nye, has more than 20 local businesses across the Range selling tickets for the wonderful prizes donated so generously by the community.

Green Reserve artist, Ted Mulder, has excelled himself with the logo, flyers, Expo and Raffle posters, badges and other PR items to give the 2002 Expo a unified and themed front.

Angie and our office volunteers have been run off their feet by the non-stop phone-calls and Angie especially, has been worth her weight in gold sorting out the endless insurance problems!

But ... the end is in sight!

The Maleny Showgrounds are about to come alive with the sounds of chainsaws and mobile mills, the smells of sawdust and the Bushfood Cafe and the infamous Maleny Players 'bacon butties', the music and poetry of the Entertainment Tent and the inspiring non-stop Speakers' line-up.

Not to mention the broad array of wonderful woodwork which will descend to make up the furniture displays for which the Expo is now famous! Exciting new participants will add diversity and complement the work of our extremely popular exhibitors from past years. The Main Pavilion and SES Pavilion will both house working displays - from rainforest vine basket weaving and dremel carving to more technical tool demonstrations.

The Landcare Paddock is hosting a wide variety of environmental exhibits on the theme of 'Farm Forestry and Biodiversity'.

Inger Green's historical display follows the Hinterland's timber heritage from the days when the Blackall Range was covered with sub-tropical rainforest to the present, when so much energy is being expended to put some forest back. The history display will be in the Main Pavilion this year.

In the traditional woodcrafts area, Frank de Groot will be erecting a permanent post and rail fence near the skatebowl, and Barung member, Peter Marsh, will be operating an old fashioned drag saw.

There will be free children's activities, and a bar for those who just want to sit and watch the passing parade.

The *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture*™ Wood Expo is on from Saturday 4th May to Monday 6th. Admission is only \$5 for adults and free for children, with on-site parking \$2.

See you there.

*Mim Coulstock, 2002 Expo Coordinator*

## BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS



April / May 2002 WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

## Vandalism highlights Barung's standing in local community



*Papers, books, files and software litter the office floor, dusted with toner ink after the break-in.*

Barung staff and Committee Members have been amazed and touched by the number of Blackall Range residents who have expressed concern and regret for the vandalism at Barung over Easter.

Since then, many people have dropped into the Resource Centre to offer their sympathy and help. Others have lent us equipment to tide us over until stolen goods are recovered or replaced.

One local woman even made a \$50 donation to Barung to help cover the insurance excess and/or help pay for repairs. We really appreciate your generosity.

Thank you also to Maleny policeman, Sam Copelin, and the Sunshine Coast Scenes of Crime Unit for your efforts to recover stolen items including computer, printers, computer software and tools. Your quick appearance at Barung after the discovery of the break-in and your efforts to discover the culprits are very much appreciated.

The police and Barung staff located the computer nearby, with one printer and some other equipment hidden among old clothes and piles of weeds in the bush behind Barung. Neighbours found other office equipment abandoned in their gardens.

I am delighted to let everyone know that most of the stolen equipment has now been recovered and seems to be intact.

Thanks to Barung member and security consultant, Tom Woodward of Advanced Alarms, Barung offices are being fitted with a security alarm system at a special rate.

Thank you all for your support.

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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Marilyn Newland	Ayesha Dorbecker
Roger Miller	Russell Kleidon
John & Sue Railton	John & Sandra Shurmer
Steven & Ute Miskin	Peter & Meg Creasy
Marion Adamson	Nicola Scott
Dr. F H & B J Tomlinson	B Matthews
Kevin Bird	Ron Donald
Leigh & Kim Henderson	Kerry Berkelmans
Paul Cusack	Cameron Watson
Drew Mckenzie & Alison Bennett	David & Geraldine Montague
Pamela Harrison	John & Susan Bailey
Simon Woodford	Peter & June Rogers
Ray Findlay	Michael Hapburn
Nicole Smith	Enid & Hilton Selvey
Simon & Brigitte Mclachlan	Debbie Taylor
Joan Horgan	Paritosh
K Becker	Fencepac
Kieren Hoani	USC Environment Collective

Friends Of Maroochy Regional Botanic Gardens Inc.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT



## DEADLINE

FOR JUNE - JULY NEWSLETTER

WED 15TH MAY

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

Please renew your memberships

- your support is very important to Barung.

**THANK YOU**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lin Fairlie

This is the time of year when Barung needs your support in a multitude of ways. Landcare in the Blackall Range region will be relying more than ever on the success of the Expo to finance its operations next year.

Thank you to all those members who have filled in and returned the Expo volunteer forms. If you meant to but have forgotten, please return the form with your choice of activity and time clearly marked. If you have friends who are not Barung members but who might enjoy helping, please include them too. If you have lost your form but would like to help at the Expo, just ring Eve Scopes, our volunteer Expo Volunteer Coordinator, on 5429 6314 and she will "slot you in."

Please do not forget to invite your extended family and friends to visit Maleny during the Expo weekend. The Expo will be larger and even more interesting than in the past and it will take the best part of a day to do it justice, we feel. A variety of refreshments, including the expanded Bushfood Café, will be available to fuel your extended stay.

There is another request I must make. With such activity in the Resource Centre we urgently need help in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays until the Expo. If you cannot spare a whole day, even a few hours would be great. There are phones to answer, people to welcome to the Resource Centre, and a lot of preparation work for the Expo such as photocopying and collating etc. If you have creative skills, your ideas for displays etc. would be useful. Mim and Angie are more than flat out, so please assist them if you possibly can.

The Barung Staff and Management Committee are about to commence a process of identifying future directions for Barung and the means of achieving them. If you, as a Barung member, would like to contribute your ideas, please put them in writing and/or talk to a member of the Management Committee by the middle of April. If you really want to be part of the process, please ring me on 5435 8038, and we can discuss the possibility. Numbers must be limited but we do want your input as Barung is your landcare group. We hope to be able to share the outcomes of these sessions with you in the next newsletter.

Two pieces of good news:

Barung has been successful in obtaining \$4006 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for first aid equipment, mobile phones and protective clothing for working in the field, and our very own Barung spider tent.

Communication with Energex, after a particularly bad example of vegetation destruction below power lines, has produced compensation of \$100 for trees and mulch to replant 25 metres of road edge at the corner of Witta and Maleny-Kenilworth Rd. I hope that local residents and Barung members who live at Witta will help plant the trees after Easter. The day and time will be in the Range News and at the Witta store.

While Barung does not attend to such destruction which is not in a strategic area, I am hopeful that communication will recommence between the Caloundra City Council and Energex. It would be good to see the end of such devastation, and to see native vegetation being used to replace weed trees, instead of the regular Energex haircuts given to unsuitable roadside vegetation.

The Expo is ours - yours and mine - so let's us all work together to further the aims of landcare and gain pleasure from contributing while having fun on the day.

## THE STATE OF THE LAND

### Farms sending 20 million tonnes of dirt down rivers a year

A new report has found that Australian farms are sending almost 20 million tonnes of dirt to the nation's coastal areas annually.

In Queensland, almost 12 million tonnes of sediment is being deposited in and around the Great Barrier Reef annually - three times the natural amount. Almost 19000 tonnes of phosphorous is also exported from farms to the coast.

But Australian farms are becoming more productive and efficient as farmers use better fertilisers.

Compiled as part of the National Land and Water Resources Audit, the report paints an alarming picture of how rivers have become pathways for millions of tonnes of soil, nutrients and sediment.

It found that since European settlement, more than 4.4 billion tonnes of soil has been lost because of erosion from 325,000 km of hills. In some hill areas about 4.4 tonnes of soil per hectare is being lost each year through erosion.

The soil and nutrients are heading straight into rivers and finding the way to the coasts of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

The report said erosion was now a bigger problem than dryland salinity, which has affected much of inland NSW, Victoria and Western Australia.

"Catchment management and industry priorities, particularly in terms of implementing improved practice, are essential," the report found. "Total impacts are likely to be equal to, if not greater than, those of dryland salinity. It is imperative that soil management targets hillslope, gully and river bank erosion."

The report warned that the huge movement of sand in some rivers was a threat to structures such as dams which communities rely upon for water and electricity.

"Sand deposits are significant in the Murray-Darling basin, coastal New South Wales, south-east Queensland and the Glenelg region of Victoria," it said. They "are moving slowly down the low energy river systems causing problems for dams and weirs".

Farmers have substantially increased their use of nitrogen-based fertilisers over the past 10 years, but in many cases they are losing the fertiliser due to erosion. About 141,000 tonnes of nitrogen is being sent down rivers and into oceans every year.

The report said farmers had made major gains in improving their handling of issues such as erosion and nutrient run-off, but more needs to be done.

"Attention needs to continue to be paid at a higher level in Australian agriculture to nutrient status, monitoring and tracking

changes in all farming systems. This needs to be done with dual objectives - maximising yields on-farm and minimising export of nutrients off-farm, with the consequent impacts on the quality of water bodies," it said.



### Natural Resource Management Small Grants Pilot Program

Rural landholders within the Caloundra City area were recently invited to apply for small grants to assist in undertaking natural resource management works on their properties.

Projects such as fencing remnant vegetation, environmental pest control, revegetating degraded areas or installing off-stream watering points were applicable.

The contact for these grants is Council's Land for Wildlife - Conservation Partnerships Officer, Nick Clancy, on 1300 650 112 or 07 5420 8200.

Closing date for applications was 12th April. If this round of grants is successful, Caloundra City Council will consider further rounds to assist with natural resource management within Caloundra City.

Congratulations to CCC for this worthwhile initiative.

### The Australian Natural Resource Atlas

Australia's long-term economic prospects depend on the sustainable use of our natural resources and conservation of our unique biological diversity. The Natural Resource Atlas provides rich resources at our fingertips.

[http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/rural\\_regional/resources/NRAAtlas.html](http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/rural_regional/resources/NRAAtlas.html)

### Australian Government Envirofund Grants


The Australian Government Envirofund is for individuals and community groups to undertake small projects aimed at conserving biodiversity and sustainable resource use. Grants up to \$30,000 are available. Deadline for applications is 5th June 2002.

Application forms are available as a word processor document from the internet at [www.nht.gov.au](http://www.nht.gov.au).

If you have any ideas for projects for Barung, please share them with us. We have an excellent track record with NHT projects and are keen to access some funding for our local area. Member input is always welcome.

When you think about what landcare can do for you.... also think of what YOU can do for landcare.

**Barung is a non-profit community organisation funded by memberships**



# FENCEPAC

"We do it all"

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Ph: (07) 5456 2222 P.O. Box 1097  
Fax: (07) 5477 1991 Buderim, 4556

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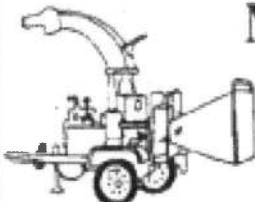
## MULCHMAKERS

Garry Roberts

Mobile: 0417 710 960  
A/H: (07) 5494 7885

### THE ORGANIC RECYCLERS

★ Insured Tree Felling & Pruning ★  
★ Your green cuttings converted to organic mulch ★



## THE COMMON MYNA

from Yvonne Taylor

At a very lively meeting of 74 interested people from all over the Hinterland, Sunshine Coast and beyond, at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve on 23 February, it was unanimous that action be taken to prevent the spread of the introduced Common Myna. A steering committee was set up to plot the immediate plan of action - to do nothing was not an option.

Early action has been taken by CCC Division One's Cr. Pauline Clayton. She promptly presented a motion to the Council Meeting on 7 March and the following motion was adopted by Council:

*'That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to:*

*(a) liaise with the State Government (through SEQROC) to declare the Common/Indian Myna a pest species under the Rural Lands Protection Act;*

*(b) alert the Maroochy and Noosa Shire Councils of this matter with the intent of declaring the Common or Indian Myna a pest species throughout this region; and*

*(c) that Caloundra City Council consider declaring the Common or Indian Myna (Acridotheres tristis) a pest species as part of the review of the Pest Management Plan.'*

Any sightings, including nesting/roosting, should be reported to Keith Hickman, Rhythms of Life, ph. 5493 0068, email [rhythmsoflife@serv.net.au](mailto:rhythmsoflife@serv.net.au).

There is concern that the native Noisy Miner is frequently confused with the introduced Common Myna. If you would like help to tell the difference please phone Alan or Stacey Franks on 5472 3142, or Yvonne Taylor on 5494 4436.

### Addition from Pauline Clayton, Caloundra City Councillor, Division One

The recommendation that I change my original Notice of Motion to include the South East Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (SEQROC), came from the Mayor Cr. Don Aldous, who hit the internet to read up on the Indian or Common Myna.

That there is an urgent need for public education and the name Indian be firmly attached to our pest species, became apparent when Cr. Dell Winkler indicated she believed the native miner to be the common myna and was there another bird?

Jill Chamberlain from the Wildlife Society was called upon to address the council, which she did with dignity and, on the issue of which miner was what myna, with clarity.

## Morning glory

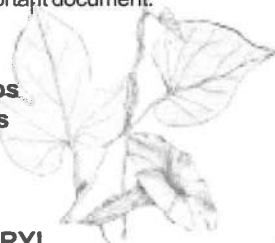


**it's got a hold on the Hinterland ...  
but not for long!**

Hopefully, everyone on the Range now has our Morning Glory flyer and is getting ready to launch into action to eradicate this pest from our landscape.

Thank you to Dow AgroSciences, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, Caloundra Maroochy Water Supply Board, The Range News, Quikspray and Maleny Pump House for helping sponsor and distribute this important document.

**More workshops  
& working bees  
are planned  
to help  
STAMP OUT  
MORNING GLORY!**



**reduce, reuse, recycle,  
invest ethically**

Why bother recycling if your savings pollute? Why conserve energy if your investments waste it? You needn't compromise your principles to earn a competitive return. Invest your savings with Australia's specialist fund manager.

**Save with Australian Ethical Investment**  
phone 1800 021 227 now for a prospectus  
or visit our website [www.austethical.com.au](http://www.austethical.com.au)

Applied as a for-fee fund can only be used on the basis outlined in the current prospectus for 1 month. If successful will engage with AIE. Interest is available from Australian Ethical.

**Help raise money  
to assist  
with Barung's  
running costs**

*by purchasing native plants or books at the Barung Expo Tent or delectable delicious snacks at the Barung Bushfoods Café, you will go in the draw to win this wonderful prize.*

**A one night  
accommodation  
package in the**

**Luxury King Spa  
Bed & Breakfast Suite at  
Art and Wood  
Valley View, Witta.**

*The suite is decorated with Randy's unique sculptured furniture and has a King sized bed, King Spa & lounge overlooking the spectacular Conondale Valley and Ranges.*

*Dinner and breakfast  
will be served in the suite.*

The winner to be drawn at the Expo 3pm, Monday 6th May, in the Main Pavilion after the raffle draw.

MAREE AND RANDY DE GRAW GENEROUSLY DONATED THIS PRIZE AFTER THE BREAK-IN AT BARUNG. THEY HAVE ALSO SUPPORTED THE EXPO SINCE THE BEGINNING BOTH AS EXHIBITORS AND IN OTHER WAYS.

Thanks



**EXPO RAFFLE**

**\$2**

**TWO NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION PACKAGE** - Lyola Pavilions (value \$490)  
Husqvarna Chainsaw # 136 - Husqvarna & Maleny Mowers (value \$449)  
**DINNER FOR 4 WITH 2 BOTTLES OF WINE** - King Ludwigs Restaurant (value \$200)  
"The Chainsaw Man" sculpture by Shirley Marsh (value \$150)  
**ONE NIGHT MIDWEEK ACCOMMODATION** - Maleny Country Cottages (value \$149)  
**DINNER VOUCHER** - The Terrace Seafood Restaurant (value \$100)  
Australian Timbers Vols. 1&2 - Dept Natural Resources & Mines (value 100)  
**FULL DAY THAI COOKING CLASS** - The Tamarind (value \$95)  
Ecosystem Tour for 2 - Cruise Maroochy/Witta Gums (value \$90)  
Midyim Liqueur Gift Pack - 1/23 Limited Edition - Australian Wild Foods

**DRAWN AT THE EXPO**

## EXPO VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

if Eve Scopes

- our volunteer Volunteer Coordinator -  
has not rung you to  
fill a spot in the Expo roster yet,  
and you can help on 4, 5 or 6 May  
please ring her on 5429 6314.

Volunteers are still needed:

- for raffle ticket selling,
- to man (or woman) the bar,
- to help in the ArtisTree Tent,
- to encourage visitors to Sponsor a Tree on the Obi,
- to help in entry ticketing booths and
  - with parking.
  - on Friday 3rd for set-up
  - Tuesday 7th for pull-down & clean-up.

Is Camphor Laurel an environmental insoluble or is it possible to find a solution to the spread of this prolific weed tree?

The ArtisTree Project will not answer this question but it will put the issue up front in a very attractive way while looking seriously at the range of strategies to stall the rate of spread of this weed.

Importantly, it will also link with other studies in the region and interstate that investigate the commercial return from the various products from the tree. This information will be of great benefit to the local community which is now starting to see camphor gain a stranglehold in some areas.

# ArtisTree

A BARUNG WEED TREE PROJECT

More than fifty woodworkers, furniture makers and artists are completing their wonderful pieces of furniture and artworks in time for the Wood Expo 2002.

Penny Smith, the ArtisTree Coordinator, is also delighted with the enthusiastic participation of Art and Manual Arts students and teachers from Maleny State High School who are

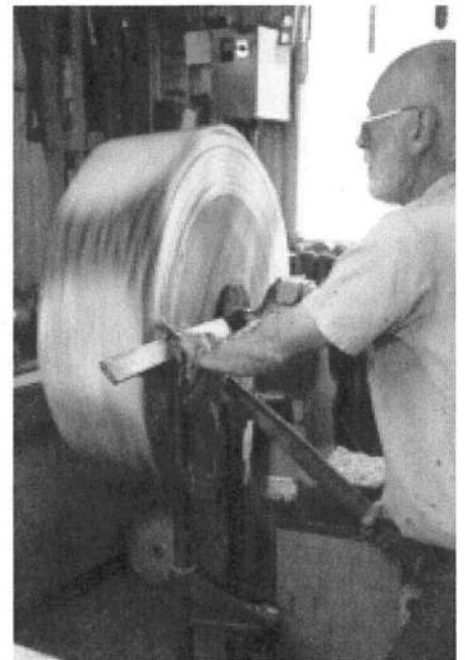
working on ArtisTree art and wood pieces as part of their curriculum.

The ArtisTree Exhibition will be launched at the Expo Preview Party and the exhibition will be open all weekend.

You will be amazed at the variety and standard of these exhibition pieces.

### FARM FORESTRY & BIODIVERSITY SPEAKERS PROGRAM

	Saturday 4th	Sunday 5th	Monday 6th
10:00 am	<b>Dr John Kanowski</b> (Griffith University) Biodiversity of rainforest plantations	<b>Dr John Kanowski</b> (Griffith University) Biodiversity monitoring of rainforest plantations	<b>Nick Clancy</b> (Caloundra City Council) Off-reserve nature conservation
10:45 am	<b>Spencer Shaw</b> (Barung Landcare) Rainforest regeneration	<b>Mrs Maureen O'Brien</b> (Barung Landcare) Privet control	<b>Ms Cath Moran</b> (Griffith University) Seed dispersal for timber and weed species
11:30 am	<b>Jenny Bibo</b> (DPI) Fire ants	<b>Dr Carla Catterall</b> (Griffith University) Re-shrinking the rainforests? Ecological issues in clearing and replanting	<b>Adrian Borsboom</b> (QPWS) Wildlife in eucalypt plantations
12:15 pm	<b>Mr Harry Hines</b> (QPWS) Frogs	<b>Mr Greg Czechura</b> (Queensland Museum) Raptors in changing landscapes	<b>Mr Dave Carr</b> (Greening Australia) Eucalypts for commercial and conservation purposes
1:00 pm	<b>Dr Don Sands</b> (CSIRO) Gardening for butterflies	<b>Dr Les Hall</b> (Uni of Queensland) Bats - night workers in the forest	<b>Mr Marc Russell</b> (Barung Landcare) Corridors for wildlife
1:45 pm	<b>Ashley Sewell</b> (DNR&M) Establishment of rainforest timber species	<b>Mr Glen Bailey</b> (DPI, Qld Forestry Research Institute) Research into tree species	<b>Bob Baldwin</b> (NR&M) Vegetation management plans and legal aspects of farm forestry
2:30 pm	<b>Mr Kevin Wormington</b> (Uni of Queensland) Hollow-bearing trees for wildlife	<b>Mr Douglas Haynes</b> (Barung Landcare) Farm forestry species performance	<b>Mr Ken Matthews</b> (Greening Australia) Financial considerations of farm forestry
3:15 pm	<b>Mr Alan Franks</b> (Hollowlog Homes) Hollow dependant fauna and their use of wildlife boxes	<b>Ms Tanya Pritchard</b> (QPWS) Fire and biodiversity	<b>Eric Vanderduys</b> (Queensland Museum) Reptiles and snakes of the cononadales



Local Maleny sculptor/wood artist, Jim Svensson (above), turning a magnificent camphor laurel bowl for the ArtisTree exhibition. With dimensions approaching one metre diameter by 200mm deep, you can imagine the difficulties in turning this camphor block into a beautiful and generous Feast Bowl.

#### URGENTLY NEEDED FOR EXPO

Burn bags to be used by Expo volunteers taking money at entry booths and other collection points. If you can help please drop named bags into the Barung office a.s.a.p. Many thanks.

# NURSERY NOTES

from Russell Botterell

## Frost Bites

Thought about your winter plantings yet?

Yes, it's just about that time of year again when you need to consider what meteorological mysteries lay ahead over the fast approaching colder months. But don't despair - winter doesn't mean an end to all treeplanting.

If you are lucky enough to be in an area that avoids frost, by all means keep planting.

If frost is something that you do have to contend with, then selecting the right species is essential to avoid damage to plants and your bank balance. It can be terribly disheartening to watch your seedlings thrive pre-winter, only to be reduced to a withered brown stick with the first frost.

There are many local species, rainforest and sclerophyll, trees and shrubs, which can tolerate light to medium frost and pull through winter. Planting suitable species before and during winter allows them to 'settle in', overcome planting stress and be ready to take off with the first signs of warmer Spring weather.

If you are thinking of planting throughout winter and your site is susceptible to frost, talk to the nursery staff about your situation and we will recommend the right species for your site.

### New additions:

New tubestock species making an appearance in the nursery this month are:

- ✓ *Olea paniculata* (Native olive);
- ✓ *Argyrodendron trifoliatum* (White booyong);
- ✓ *Lomatia salifolia* (Crinkle bush);
- ✓ *Caldcluvia paniculosa* (Rose leaf marara); and
- ✓ *Doryphora sassafras* (Sassafras).

### Stock to clear!

There are number of species which will be on special for the month of April. They are *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Flame tree), *Flindersia xanthoxyla* (Yellow wood), *Acmena ingens* (Red apple), *Pittosporum undulatum* (Native daphne / Mock orange), and all eucalypt tubestock.

All of these species will be discounted by 33% making them only \$1.40 each (normally \$2.20).

We also have an excess of Black bean at the moment (*Castanospermum australe*) which will be on special for \$1.65 until sold out. This stock is in supertubes and is approximately 2 to 3 feet tall.

Black beans make awesomely attractive indoor plants which can easily be kept in large pots indoors for long periods of time with little or no maintenance. Their dark green, lush, glossy foliage makes a beautiful dense and rounded small tree in a pot. Although reaching more than 20 metres in the rainforest, Black bean adapt readily to the restrictions of pots, and slow their growth accordingly after an initial period of quite rapid growth.

21 September - Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha

### ANNUAL BUSH REGENERATION FORUM

Focusing on weeds, identifying issues  
& seeking solutions in bush regeneration.

For further info visit [www.theca.asn.au](http://www.theca.asn.au) or phone 07 3878 4581.

Check out the advanced ones at Barung Nursery to see how fantastic they look.

### Volunteer Thanks.

We are constantly in awe of the devotion and ethic of volunteers who so readily donate their time at Barung to help us do what we do. It is inspirational to see people so devoted to the environment and willing to do something to help protect and enhance the fragile local flora and fauna.

To all the people who volunteer their time and skills for Barung Landcare and the Nursery, we thank you for your caring ethics and recognise your value as human beings who respect the beautiful environment in which we live.

Everyone can make a difference.

## Plant Profile *from Spencer Shaw* RED APPLE (*Acmena ingens*)

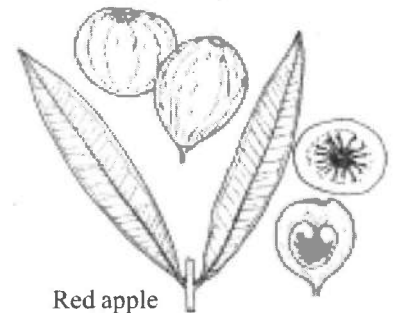
The Red Apple is a truly spectacular medium to large tree. It is fast growing with beautiful flushes of pale pink in the new growth.

In spite of being a rainforest tree it adapts very well to a full sun position, and in fact this makes for a bushier specimen that can be more easily appreciated for the colours in the new growth.

In winter the trees can become covered in clusters of pink turning red fruit ranging from 20-40mm across.

They only tolerate very light frosts when young, but grow to several metres within a few years given suitable conditions.

So if you're looking for a hardy tree with attractive foliage that gives a splash of colour in winter with its fruit, you just can't go past the Red Apple.



Red apple  
*Acmena ingens*

Illustration from Trees & Shrubs in Rainforests of NSW and Southern Queensland published by University of New England.

## Environmental Field Day

Sunday 19th May

Kokoda Barracks, Canungra

Conducted biannually in the Army Training Area, this is a major event for those interested in rainforests and rainforest regeneration. Starting at 8.15am, the day provides an opportunity to view many regeneration sites and to gain advice on regeneration techniques.

Speakers include acknowledged authorities on many subjects related to rainforest flora, fauna etc. Enjoy the company of others who care about the preservation and welfare of our forests.

The Army Training Area is listed on the Register of the National Estate, as Land for Wildlife, and is recognised as an important flora and fauna reserve.

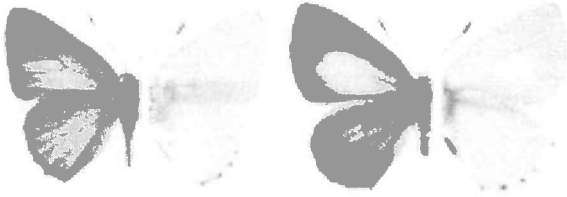
This is an opportunity to gain insight into the natural values of this 6 000 ha military reserve and the measures undertaken by the Army to maintain those values.

For further information call Don Lynch, Land Manager,  
Kokoda Barracks, Canungra on 07 5541 6251.

## Butterflies of the Range

from Bob Miller

### PURPLE MOONBEAM (*Phyliris innotatus*)



If you have a Sandpaper fig (*Ficus coronata*) or know where one is growing, you may have noticed a series of tail-like etchings on the leaves. These markings are formed by the larvae of the Purple Moonbeam butterfly feeding on the underside of the leaves.

Upon closer inspection of the underside of one of the leaves with fresh markings (the trail is still green), you may see a small green larvae with a creamy-yellow line running from front to back through the center of its body.

This larvae will only be from 5 to 10mm long - they do not grow very large. It will normally be found at the end of the feeding trail, or resting along the mid-vein of the leaf, where the creamy-yellow line on its back offers excellent camouflage.

The green pupae are about 11mm long. The lighter patches on their backs help them resemble the mottled fig leaf. They are also found on the underside of the leaf, supported by the tail and a central silken girdle.

The adult male butterfly is approximately 22mm across the wingtips and the female approximately 24mm.

The upperside of the male is mainly purple with a narrow brown-black edge. The tips of the forewings have a broader patch of brown-black.

The upperside of the female is mainly brown-black with a pale blue suffusion which is more prominent on the forewings.

The underside of both the male and female butterflies is predominantly white. There is one small black spot near the bottom of the hindwing toward the body. The bottom edges have four small black spots joined by a faint black line.

These butterflies are very active at the moment and can be seen flying rapidly around most Sandpaper figs.

The main foodplant for the Purple Moonbeam in the Blackall Range area is *Ficus coronata* and this is nearly always available from the Barung Nursery.

Further information can be obtained by reading *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael F. Braby, 2000.

Illustrations from *Butterflies of Australia*, published by CSIRO Publ'g.

## Local Wild & Edible

from Bernard Murawski

### COASTAL WATTLE (*Acacia sophorae*)

Coastal wattle (*Acacia sophorae*) is a dense, sprawling, medium shrub to small tree found in coastal regions from South Australia up the east coast to Queensland and down to Tasmania. The word 'acacia' is from the Greek 'akantha', a thorn or prickle (referring to African species), and 'sophorae' refers to the pods which have physical similarities with the genus *Sophora*.

The plant is quick growing with a relatively short lifespan. It prefers a light, sandy, well-drained soil but will succeed in most good garden soils providing they are not too alkaline. Symbiotic bacteria on acacia roots fix atmospheric nitrogen, which is utilized by the plant and other plants growing nearby. It tolerates frosts, drought, wind and salt, likes a sunny open position and flourishes in high rainfall areas. It is an ideal plant for front row coastal plantings as it can withstand harsh seaside conditions, and for reclamation sites as a pioneer species.

Propagation is from seeds and cuttings. Scarify or soak seeds overnight in very hot water or until they swell, before sowing. If the seeds are sown as soon as they ripen, this preparation may not be necessary. Germination takes around 3 to 4 weeks.

The wattle tick scale, blossom gall fly, acacia spotting bug, gall rust and browsing animals are of particular concern for the Coastal wattle as well as the usual caterpillars, beetles and other sundry pests.

Masses of yellow flowers appear in late winter to spring and the seeds ripen in summer. These seeds are very nutritious, have high protein levels, and are a low glycaemic index food.

However, as not all acacia seeds are edible and some are actually poisonous, be sure that what you're nibbling is a species that can be consumed.

The green *A. sophorae* pods can be eaten after cooking but are fairly uneventful. Best bet are the seeds which are bitter unless dry-roasted (preheated in 160 degree C oven until they begin to pop). Grind the roasted seed then store until needed. To use, toss quickly in a dry pan over medium heat or infuse into a liquid to release the flavours.

Coastal wattle seeds taste similar to peanut butter and can be used as additions to breads, cakes, custards, pancakes, muffins, biscuits, and even as a coffee substitute. The roasted grounds can be used as is, or for a smoother result use wattle seed essence.

To make wattle seed essence, combine 1 cup of water with 3 tablespoons of ground wattle seed. Boil for 5 minutes while stirring occasionally, then strain and cool. Alternatively, just cover a teaspoon of roasted wattle seeds with water in a cup and bring to boil in the microwave. Cool and strain.

For easy wattle seed ice cream, stir the essence through semi-thawed vanilla ice cream and refreeze. For wattle seed coffee take 1/4 cup of wattle seed essence and fill with boiling water.

Illustrations - *Wildflowers of South-eastern Queensland Vol 2*, published by Queensland Dept. of Primary Industries.



Coastal wattle  
*A. sophorae*



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*"Cloverdale"*  
*Aplin Road, Maleny*  
*from*  
*Neil & Gillian MacLeod*

In 1991 we bought an ex-dairy farm at Maleny to run beef cattle. Despite our aversion to the cold winters of the high country we love the old farmhouse with its beautiful mature shrubs and trees, the Obi Obi Creek frontage which assures us of a permanent water supply, and the nice patch of trees on the hill behind the house.

The 'nice patch of trees' turned out to be in excess of forty acres of rainforest. Over 200 flora species have been identified including some very old specimens. One Yellow carabeen (*Sloanea woollsii*), has been estimated by Bill McDonald of the Queensland Herbarium, as between 500 and 1000 years old.

Our first foray into revegetation/regeneration was some seven years ago, before we realised the significance of our remnant patch. We had discovered that koalas sometimes visited the 'gum' trees bordering the rainforest. As there weren't many eucalypts, we decided to plant some additional koala food trees on an adjacent steep area which wasn't much good for grazing because of the poor soil and bladey grass. On the advice of Ashley Sewell, then with the DNR, we planted a mix of Gympie messmate, Flooded gum and Tallowood. Despite very little attention apart from two initial waterings after planting, we had a very high survival rate. From memory we only lost two plants (which were dug out by bandicoots).

As we became more aware of the significance of our remnant we gradually developed a plan to protect it, and to protect and enhance the natural corridors between it and the Obi. Our assumption is that eventually the Obi will become a significant corridor linking our remnant with others in the area.

Our next effort, about three years ago, was to attempt restoration of a degraded section of a small creek running through our main remnant and down to the Obi. With the help of grants we fenced off both sides and replaced a muddy crossing with a proper causeway. The biggest task was the removal of privets including some very large specimens with trunks up to 450 mm in diameter. In one area these were so dominant that, after their removal, there was virtually nothing left! We planted trees immediately, which proved to be a mistake, for as soon as the privets were removed, the weeds flourished.

We learn by our mistakes - we should have controlled the weeds before planting the trees. However, despite major ongoing problems with weed control, we were very encouraged when working there recently to discover that the majority of new trees are growing well underneath the weeds. Many are now over two metres tall and we are hoping for a new growth spurt now that some of the weed competition has been removed. We were also greatly encouraged to find considerable natural regeneration.

Our aspirations have been, realistically, far greater than our physical abilities to handle the ongoing maintenance work, but we haven't stopped there.

Not far from the house there is a swampy area connected to the Obi by a watercourse. Again with the help of grants, we fenced off the swamp and the watercourse, removed most of the privet (fortunately not too much) and slash pine, and planted trees. As this area was mainly pasture, we have not had too much problem

with weeds apart from one section of blackberry. Consequently it looks far better than the earlier site and the trees are looking good.

However, (there is always a downside isn't there?) as this site is low-lying and moist it gets very cold in winter. Although we planted species thought to be frost tolerant, we lost some and others were set back significantly.

The White ash (*Alphitonia petriei*) were killed by frost while some White cedars (*Melia azedarach*), Deep yellow-wood (*Rhodospaera rhodanthema*), Sandpaper figs (*Ficus fraseri*) and Native frangipani (*Hymenoporum flavum*) were burnt (sometimes badly) but seem to be recovering.

Some species which have handled the frost particularly well include Forest she-oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*), Swamp banksia (*Banksia robur*), *Callistemon pachyphyllus* 'red', White cloud tree (*Melaleuca bracteata*), Bacon and eggs (*Pultenaea euchila*), *Acacia oshanesii*, Brisbane wattle (*Acacia fimbriata*) and Green wattle (*Acacia irrorata*).

Our most recent project, with assistance from the World Wide Fund for Nature, has two parts. Firstly we fenced nearly all the way around the main remnant to keep the cattle out. The second part of the project has been to tackle a fairly large area of lantana within the remnant. The very few trees in this area suggest that it was cleared for grazing in the past and subsequently abandoned.

About a third of this lantana has now been killed and brush hooked into cleared strips which have been planted with trees. We actually found it hard to find planting spots as young Black wattle, Bleeding heart etc. are already emerging. Because of the nature of the site, keeping the weeds at bay until the trees get big enough to cope is going to be a big challenge.

We feel that we have made great progress over the last few years and thank the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee and the World Wide Fund for Nature for grants to help fund this work. Our thanks also to Barung and Land For Wildlife for advice and encouragement.

We still run beef cattle and have expanded into alpacas. However, as you can imagine, a lot of our time is now spent on weed eradication, and protecting and expanding our 'nice patch of trees'. So what lessons have we learnt?

- \* Control the weeds on cleared sites before planting trees.
- \* Use quick growing species at close intervals to attain canopy as quickly as possible.
- \* Be careful to plant species that are appropriate for the site (for example frost tolerant species).
- \* Don't tackle any more than can reasonably be maintained until canopy has been achieved.
- \* Don't despair if the weeds get away from you. In our high rainfall and good soil the plants will probably survive anyway.
- \* If there is a good seed bank available (that is, a variety of mature native trees in the vicinity) consider regeneration rather than revegetation.



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## Mary River Cod Community Network

Phillip Trendall  
World Wide Fund for Nature  
Cod Recovery Project

### *New Territories needed for Cod*

There are now numerous sites around the catchment where landholders have implemented better management actions and on-ground works to help with Mary River Cod habitat recovery. Landholders' activities include weed control, stock removal and riparian revegetation. Many of the sites are now used as cod restocking sites as well.

These activities by landholders are aimed at protecting cod habitat, but also provide benefits to the people and properties involved. Are you interested in doing the same?

The Mary River Cod habitat recovery project is now looking at expanding these efforts into new territories. For this to happen, WWF is keen for local landholders interested in protecting their remaining cod habitat or wanting to better manage their riparian zone to contact the cod recovery project. WWF staff can visit to discuss any issues and give advice and relevant information, including assisting with weed identification and the development of site management plans to help with maintenance and the continued protection of the riparian zone. This can lead to possible funding for such items as fencing materials and trees.

In 2002 the project is also focusing on restoring in-stream habitat. Activities will centre on the use of large woody debris (logs) to provide habitat for Mary River Cod. These logs will also help with bank stabilisation and the creation of deep pools from whirlpool effects around the woody debris. Unfortunately, because of the size of the floods along the Mary River, this type of work will be restricted to the creeks and smaller tributaries.

If you own riparian land within these smaller sub-catchments and are interested in this type of work, or know people with sites requiring riparian restoration, please give me a call.

If you are in the area, please feel free to drop into the WWF office located at 53 Tozer Street, Gympie, in the Mary River Catchment Resource Centre.

### *Wanted: Logs, Logs, Logs!!*

A vital component of restoring in-stream habitats are logs or woody debris, but they can't just be old timber lying in a paddock. Wood floats very easily and so it is important that the logs have the root wads still attached to add weight.

Such logs are not easy to find and we would love to hear if suitable logs become available - from roadworks, development or as a result of storm damage.

In the past, this leftover 'rubbish' was often burnt, but with the recognition of the role large woody debris plays in river ecosystems and processes, they are now seen as a valuable resource in restoring our waterways for native fish like the Mary River Cod.

If you have any logs or wish to be involved in riparian work for cod habitat, please contact Phillip Trendell,  
WWF Mary River Cod Habitat Recovery Project  
Ph: (07) 5482 4251 Fax: (07) 5482 5642

### *Madeira Vine*

Travelling around the catchment during February and March I have been dismayed at the amount of Madeira Vine, particularly along waterways, where their sprays of white 'Lamb's Tail' flowers are smothering native vegetation.

The vine makes its way up trees by literally constricting all limbs up the main trunk, limiting the tree's ability to allow photosynthesis.

Outbreaks are clearly visible along Obi Obi Creek, Amamoor Creek and Kandanga Creek, but on closer inspection many other creeks and tributaries have problems as well.

At one site on the Obi Obi Creek, World Wide Fund for Nature and the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee have been trying to control Madeira Vine for nearly two years with varying success.

I have been astounded by the amazing growth rate of Madeira Vine with the slightest bit of wet weather and so it is important to not allow it to become too dominant.

Simple control measures include making sure no tree branches are close enough to the ground to allow the vine to climb and produce aerial tubers.

Control trials underway at present will hopefully give more insight into how to fight this exotic menace. I will give feedback on these trials at a later date.

Why is it important to control Madeira Vine?

In respect to cod habitat recovery, Madeira Vine poses a serious threat to remaining riparian vegetation.

In areas where Madeira Vine has grown for over 20 years, the trees are nothing more than standing skeletons, providing no shade for the waterway or habitat for other wildlife. With the tubers' ability to travel downstream in water (floods) so easily, Madeira Vine can move quickly along creeks, colonising new areas.

This is why it is important to make an effort to control it now, particularly in areas with good remnant riparian vegetation.



If you think you have Madeira Vine or any other exotic weed issue, please contact the World Wide Fund for Nature Mary River Cod Recovery Project (5482 4251) to arrange a property visit, or your local Landcare or Catchment Care Group.

*Madiera vine with its white sprays of "lamb's tail"*

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## Corridors of Green Stage 2 from Marc Russell

Following the success of the *Corridors of Green Project* over the last 3 years, a further 12 months has been funded through Greening Australia from the Natural Heritage Trust.

Barung plays its part, along with a consortium of landcare groups, to conserve and improve habitat in critical areas of the Mary River Catchment. Our objective is to work with landholders, community groups and govern-

ment bodies to initiate protection, enhancement, extension and connection of important rainforest remnants.

Barung's part in the Stage 2 revegetation and regeneration work will be carried out in the Policeman's Spur area to improve links between rainforest pockets. This will in turn improve connectivity for an important regional corridor between the Bellthorpe and Conondale Ranges, and Mapleton State Forest and coastal areas.

Through the RFA process, biodiversity "strongholds" (such as the three mentioned above) have been conserved. To ensure the ongoing health of these precious ecosystems the onus is now on us (landholders, community groups and local government), to extend them to ensure the long term protection of significant vegetation.

Initial work has included ground-truthing and vegetation / fauna surveys, enabling us to determine biodiverse "hot spots", presence of rare and threatened species and location of old growth remnants on which to concentrate our efforts. Chris Allan, Caloundra City Council Senior Conservation Officer for the Hinterland area, has been both active and supportive, and several landholders are already keen to get involved.

One grazier is fencing cattle from a large area of forest adjoining Policeman's Spur Reserve, adding significantly to the area of protected habitat. At the same time he has better control of his cattle and reduces risks of stock poisoning and ticks.

Partnerships such as this, between landholders, landcare and local council, ensures maximum benefit to both the property owner and the ecosystem. Trees can be valuable on farms to: stabilise slips or eroding creek banks; improve water quality; provide timber for fencing and building; and replace weeds in difficult to manage areas.

If you live in the Boorobin / Wootha area and would like to be involved in this positive project, now is the time to ring me on 5494 9608.

### WORTH A VISIT

[www.zeta.org.au/~anbr/](http://www.zeta.org.au/~anbr/) : web site dedicated to Australian native bees

<http://skybusiness.com/landcareconf/speakers.html> - proceedings from the 2001 Landcare Qld Conference in Goondiwindi.

[www.birdobservers.org.au/harrier](http://www.birdobservers.org.au/harrier) - conservation newsletter of The Bird Observers Club of Australia - helping today's birds survive tomorrow.

## Farmcare - Landcare in horticulture John Muir

Forty farmers from the Sunshine Coast Sub-tropical Fruit Growers Association recently held their Annual General Meeting at John Cole's pawpaw and banana farm at North Arm. This meeting included a field tour of the property which is part of the ACIAR Farmcare - Landcare in Horticulture Project. Project facilitator, John Muir, coordinated the discussion on-farm.



*A good workshop followed by a good BBQ & beer!*

Environmental and sustainability issues were observed and discussed at several sites around the property. Topics ranged from chemical use and fertiliser to water management and gully erosion. It was like having an audit on the farm, but in a positive constructive and non-threatening atmosphere.

The feedback was that it was good to have open and frank discussion amongst growers with some technical support staff present to address the various options and thoughts on how to handle such issues on farm.

Hi John,

Just a short note to thank you for last Friday.

I thought it was the best field day for many a long year. I think that from this field day we can progress the SCSTFA along into uncharted areas of possibilities.

I have some ideas about directions we can take with your project that could address a lot of the concerns that growers have with dealing with the environmental and social aspects of our farming operations.

I look forward to your visit in the near future to throw a few ideas around.

Cheers, Michael Rowley

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If you are growing trees for Farm Forestry in this region, please get in touch with the BARUNG FARM FORESTRY SUB-COMMITTEE through Mim at Barung - ph 5494 3151 or Ashley - ph 5451 2267.

The Barung Farm Forestry Sub-committee is developing a database of local growers, to keep you up-to-date with our farm forestry education program & activities.

## TREE TALK *Tony Wootton, Tree Surgeon*

Hello again tree people. I hope you all coped with an unusually dry 'wet season' as the polar ice caps crumble away at an unprecedented rate. Global what?

Anyway, in this issue I'd like to address a situation that I have been encountering more frequently recently, and that is 'changing soil levels around trees'.

I initially encountered this concept in the early stages of my horticultural training, and at first I didn't quite understand what it meant. I thought it was referring to the levels of pH, or the nutrients in the soil around trees, but I soon learnt that it simply meant making changes to the existing depth, or level, of soil around the tree - 'around the tree' meaning from the trunk out to beyond the edge of the root zone.

Previously we have discussed the problems caused by root damage from earthworks, where roots are physically damaged or removed by machinery. In this situation 'changing soil levels' generally means making the soil deeper around the tree. This affects the tree in a more subtle but equally devastating way.

Over the course of its life a tree establishes roots in a precise location, zone and strata of the soil it exists in, to most efficiently meet its water, air and nutrient requirements. When the soil level is changed by having extra soil put above that in which the root zone exists, it doesn't have to be very deep to dramatically affect the amount of moisture, oxygen and nutrient that the existing roots receive.

What usually results is the death of the fine root hairs on the feeder roots, followed by advancing root death as time passes. The result is structural failure in the corresponding above-ground parts of the tree, that is, bits start to fall off or the whole tree fails, all because you wanted to make a nice, flat area under the tree for a barbeque area, using fill from a nearby excavation for example.

Damage to the root hairs occurs after only a few days, but the timeframe for failure in above-ground parts ranges from weeks to years, depending on the age and vigour of the tree.

There are methods available to attempt to remedy the situation, but as always, prevention is much better - and cheaper - than cure, so I urge you all to think very carefully about your trees and their roots before altering the soil levels anywhere near them.

Until next time, Touch Trees.

## Tax Deductions for Nature Refuges

*Queensland Farmers Federation, March 2002*

Landholders who set aside areas of land for nature conservation are eligible for tax deductions following recent amendments to Commonwealth taxation legislation:

- Gifts of property to eligible conservation organisations eg Australian Bush Heritage Fund, can attract income tax deductions;
- Payments received by landholders who enter into a conservation covenant to conserve all or part of their property in perpetuity, attract a zero or reduced tax liability;
- Landholders who enter into an conservation agreement and suffer a reduction in land value greater than \$5 000 are eligible for income tax deductions that can be spread over five years.

There are additional tax deductions available on the costs incurred as a result of tree growing and Landcare activities. For further information and access to the *Easy Deduction Guide* visit [www.forests.qld.gov.au/easytaxtree/printeasytree.html](http://www.forests.qld.gov.au/easytaxtree/printeasytree.html) or contact Greg Sullivan, Nature Refuge Coordinator, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on 07 3006 4625.

## The Eco Fund *Richard de Simone*

It seems one of the most difficult tasks we face in addressing problems of ecological sustainability is in changing our own individual behaviour.

Foresters ANA Friendly Society recognised this difficulty and began seeking ways to empower individuals to make the changes necessary in their own lives as we hopefully move towards a more sustainable planet.

One result is the development of the Eco Fund.

**What is the Eco Fund?** The Eco Fund provides amounts of money (benefits) to contributing fund members to purchase or otherwise bring about ecologically sustainable improvements to that member's home or locality.

**What do we mean by Ecological Sustainability?** Ecological sustainability is defined as a pattern of activity which meets the needs of the present without reducing the opportunities available to future generations. Such activities include:

- Energy efficiency and energy conservation e.g. purchase of solar heating systems;
- Water conservation e.g. water conserving plumbing, grey water recycling; and
- Land rehabilitation.

**How does the Eco Fund operate?** Any interested person may apply to join the fund. Once accepted for membership, the member makes a regular monthly contribution of \$10. A benefit of up to \$2000 will be paid, provided there are sufficient funds available when the member has made regular contributions for a period of 12 months, and is not in arrears, and when the member has demonstrated a need for the benefit as prescribed by these rules.

**Repayments:** Any benefit obtained by a member of the Eco Fund must be repaid within two years, although the sooner a benefit is repaid the better, since other members may also be needing an Eco Fund loan. The regular contribution must also be maintained. The only cost to the member is a small administration fee.

**About Foresters ANA Friendly Society:** Foresters ANA was formed in 1999 as a result of the merging of Foresters Friendly Society and ANA Friendly Society. Both societies were formed in the 19th century to assist ordinary people with benefits such as unemployment and sickness payments, and health insurance. Mutual aid was a key factor, with people helping each other and themselves at the same time. Foresters ANA keeps the tradition of helping to empower people and address areas of human need.

If you would like to know more about the Eco Fund, contact Foresters ANA Friendly Society Ltd, on 07 3260 5075 or 3266 4411.

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# WATER QUALITY part 2

## Nutrients

Phosphorous and nitrogen are nutrients and are naturally found in low concentrations in water and soil.

These nutrients are necessary for plant and animal growth, but if they occur in too large a quantity they cause environmental problems.

Water bodies with too high levels of phosphorous and nitrogen have too much algal growth, causing eutrophication.

## Nitrates

Nitrogen is a fundamental plant nutrient and required by all living plant and animal for protein.

Nitrogen in water occurs in three main forms:

1. Nitrogen
2. Ammonia
3. Organic nitrogen.

Nitrates and ammonia are the forms that are immediately available for plant growth. Organic nitrogen can be converted to either nitrates or ammonia by the decay of plant and animal material. High levels of nitrate and/or ammonia can lead to eutrophication - excess algal growth. This excess algal growth can only occur if all other factors for growth are also available in high levels.

Excessive growth is damaging as it:

- uses up oxygen at night that is required by other organisms.
- depletes the water of oxygen as it dies and decays. The micro-organisms, which decay the algal mass, need the oxygen for the process.
- causes noxious odours as it decays and gives off toxic chemicals.

Nitrogen substances are used on farms to assist crop growth. The nitrates, which are not used eventually, wash into drainage water and into rivers.

Organic matter such as leaves, grass clippings and animal droppings also carry nitrogen substances (ammonia).

Ammonia is a natural waste product of humans and other animals. Treated sewage, animal feedlots and fertilisers are typical non-point sources of ammonia.

## Phosphates

Phosphorous in water comes in three forms:

1. Phosphates - Soluble Reactive Phosphorous
2. Organic phosphorous
3. Phosphorous attached to silt particles.

Only phosphates are readily available for plant growth.

Blue-green algae (or Cyanobacteria) can prove to be especially troublesome if phosphate levels increase, and if there is enough nitrates in the water. They can 'fix' (get) nitrogen from the

air and use the phosphate to 'bloom' and grow in massive amounts. As they produce toxins, a bloom of this kind is extremely serious.

Soil erosion or run-off from soil, particularly after a drought, carries phosphate into rivers and streams.

Fertilisers applied on crops, pastures and even home gardens and lawns add even more phosphorous to this run-off.

Phosphorous also enters waterbodies from point sources of pollutants such as discharges of treated sewage or effluent, detergents and washing powders.

## Dissolved Oxygen

Dissolved oxygen is the small amount of oxygen that is dissolved in the water, which is vital to fish, other aquatic animals, micro-organisms and plants which depend upon it for the process of respiration.

The dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration in a water body is an important indicator of the 'health' of a lake or river.

Aquatic animals, plants and micro-organisms need dissolved oxygen for their respiration. DO levels need to be high to support a high diversity of organisms; at low DO levels only a few hardy species may be able to survive.

Poor land use practices and waste disposal activities can upset the delicate balance between oxygen replenishing and oxygen consuming processes.

Pollutants such as inadequately treated sewage, manure, and crop residues all require oxygen for decomposition, crating an oxygen demand on a water body.

This can lead to the oxygen content of the water falling below what is need to support aquatic life.

## Faecal Coliform

Faecal coliform bacteria are prolific in the intestines of warm-blooded animals (including humans) where faecal wastes are formed.

There are many harmful pathogens in faecal wastes and faecal bacteria can enter water in run-off or seepage from urban areas, feedlots, failing septic systems, and sites of naturally high populations of wild animals.

The main point source of faecal bacteria is poorly disinfected municipal sewage.

## Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

**General meetings are held  
at 7pm on the first Thursday of every month  
and all community members are welcome.**

**Annual membership is \$12.00.  
For information contact  
Sharon Harwood, President,  
at the Catchment Centre, 9 Coral St, Maleny  
phone: 5494 3775**



# OUR WATER

from Kym Stanton

## Flow Reduction

The flow from water outlets in the home often far exceeds what is required. To combat this problem, a new generation of pressure and flow-reducing devices has been developed. These can be used with individual taps and shower roses or can be used on the main line to reduce flow throughout the whole house.

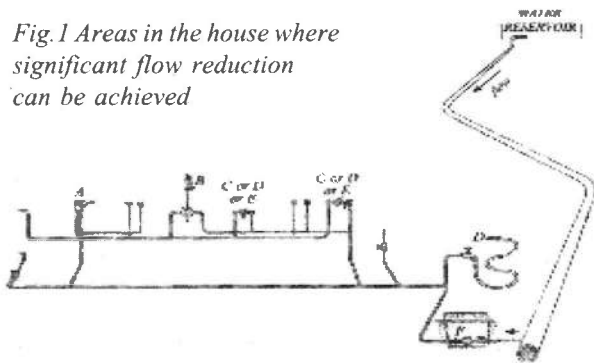
### What are Water Pressure and Flow?

Town water is stored in water reservoirs located at high points in the town. In Maleny the water is stored in the King's Lane reservoir. Water then travels by gravity through pipes to our schools, homes and businesses.

Water pressure varies for several reasons. With town water systems these include: the height of the reservoir above the house; the distance of the house from the reservoir; the condition and diameter of the delivery pipes; and the number of water outlets in the house (and/or neighbourhood) being used at any one time.

When a tap is turned on, the water flows out under pressure. Some water-efficient appliances are designed to deliver low flows at a household pressure of around 350 kPa. Water pressure delivered to homes varies from 200 kPa to 1000 kPa. High pressure results in a high flow rate from taps. For example, a tap that is designed to deliver 20 litres/minute at 200 kPa will deliver more than 40 litres/minute at 1000 kPa.

Fig.1 Areas in the house where significant flow reduction can be achieved



### Single lever tap

- \* Aerator (optional flow control device)
- \* Flow regulators on hot and cold taps

### Water efficient shower system

- \* Shower rose designed for low flows
- \* Flow regulator/flow control disc

### Quarter-turn tap

- \* Ceramic disks

### Meter-Beater tap

- \* Long-life tap seal system
- \* Flow control regulator

### Traditional tap

- \* Flow control device on pipes

### Pressure limiting valve

### Why Install Flow Control Devices?

- They are inexpensive compared to many other water-saving devices.
- They automatically reduce available flow and so are effective even when the user is not conscious of saving water.
- They reduce hot water bills.
- They minimise the annoyance of erratic water pressure when more than one tap is turned on.

**Outlet Flow Control Devices** can be installed in your existing plumbing. Devices include flow regulators and restrictors.

**Flow Regulators** deliver a constant flow rate irrespective of water pressure. Regulators have flow rates varying from 4 to 12 litres per minute, regardless of mains pressure.

Flow regulators are sensitive to the water pressure flowing through them. A rubber ring moves to constrict the flow as pressure increases. If the pressure is high, the rubber ring restricts the flow. As the pressure reduces the ring moves back, allowing greater area for water to flow through. The result is a constant flow of water regardless of pressure. Flow regulators are recommended in cases of high or fluctuating mains pressure.

They are most appropriate in situations where water is used as it flows, for example, in showers, basins and outdoor taps rather than baths, washing machines and dishwashers, and are easily installed in existing plumbing with taps and shower roses.

**Flow Restrictors** are designed to reduce water flow and pressure. At normal household pressure, water-efficient flow rates of 12 litres per minute or less are achievable.

A flow restrictor is a flow-control disc with one or more holes which restricts water flow by reducing the area available for water to flow through. It does not regulate the flow rate, but allows it to increase or decrease according to fluctuating pressure.

Flow restrictors are cheaper but generally not as effective as flow regulators. They can be used in similar situations and can be used in conjunction with taps and shower roses.

**Valves** are another method of controlling pressure and/or flow and are mainly used in the main water line into the home.

1. **Pressure limiting valves** control water pressure to a pre-set maximum. The valve stays open until the water pressure exceeds the pre-set maximum pressure, then gradually closes as the input pressure increases, maintaining a constant outlet pressure.

They are used in areas with high water pressure and are installed on the inlet side of hot water systems and dishwashers, and at the house boundary in conjunction with the water meter.

2. **Pressure reduction valves** deliver a pre-set pressure, thus avoiding pressure fluctuations throughout the home reducing water hammer. They are designed for installation at the property boundary, in conjunction with the water meter and are suitable for use in areas of low water pressure.

### Other devices:

\* **Aerators** are installed at the tap nozzle to restrict the amount of water and mix air with the water stream.

\* **Ceramic disc taps** use ceramic discs instead of conventional washers to give a quick action. They are typically used in single lever or quarter-turn taps. Ceramic washers are more resistant to wear and tear and therefore last longer. They are also less likely to leak, and are unaffected by lime or solids in the water.

\* **Meter-beater taps** use a design which replaces the traditional washer and seal with components that do not require pressure to create a waterproof seal. They prevent over-tightening which can cause damage to handles or spindle wear.

**Installation:** A qualified tradesman is required by law to install flow controlling devices and valves.

**Measuring your flow rates:** Would you like to measure your water flow rate? Calaquia has 'flow cups' available for you to borrow from Barung Landcare. The cup comes with step-by-step instructions and is accurate and very easy to use.



## VOLUNTEER NEWS

### Volunteer Expo Coordinators Excel

There is no doubt that without the huge amount of help from Expo volunteer coordinators in many areas, the show would not go on! *Barbara Nye* - what a great job of organising prizes for the raffle, making money boxes, lining up over twenty businesses to help sell tickets, getting volunteers for Saturday morning ticket sales outside the IGA and even designing raffle displays for the Post Office windows!

*Kevin Wormington* - has done an amazing job lining up the huge array of speakers for the Farm Forestry & Biodiversity Speakers Venue in the Landcare Paddock. Kevin will be present throughout the Expo to ensure that everything goes according to plan.

*Gary Broome* - for redesigning the site layouts and fees for exhibitors in the Main and SES Pavilions at the Expo. This was a big job that will make the setting up of displays much simpler.

*Eve Scopes* - for her hours on the phone filling the countless positions on the volunteer roster over the Expo weekend. This is a huge job requiring good humour and much patience.

*Karen Shaw* - for once again designing and implementing a delectable menu for the Bushfoods Cafe.

*Ted Mulder* - I cannot thank Ted enough for the professional and dedicated effort he has put into all of the artwork for the Expo public relations campaign.  
... and everyone else

### Thank you to...

... *Kieran, Elaine, Jacky & Maddy* for helping with Feb-March newsletter mailout.

... *Alison Bennett* for all your work on the Barung Volunteer Manual.

... *Robert Boag* for carrying out inspections on the Barung building to assess termite damage.

... *Clay, Alan and Green Reserves: Max, Peter, and Cheryl* for helping with the Coxen's Fig Parrot treeplant at Maleny High in March.

... *Alan Ward* from Maleny High School for the carton of beer found in the Barung fridge after the above treeplant! What a pleasant surprise on a very hot day.

... *Silla Rose* for your generous donation after the burglary.

... *Kerrianne & Marc Russell* for loan of printer following the theft of our Nursery printer.

... *Shane Watson* for welding and installing bars on toilet window after the break-in.

... *Russell Botterell* for the morning glory flyer drawings.

... *Glenn Shean, Top of the Range Meats*, for a great deal on the meat for the Clean Up Australia Day BBQ.

... *David Ewin, Above Board Computers*, for sorting out an anti virus glitch on the office computers.

... *Estelle & Douglas Haines* for donating a 3 drawer filing cabinet.

... *Clayton Stokoe* for your donation of 120 tubes for the Obi Library job.

Your feedback is important for us to fulfill our members' needs.

Please use the  
**VOLUNTEER & LETTERS COLUMN**  
to voice your ideas and share your successes.

Your experience may become another's inspiration  
**PLEASE SHARE IT WITH US**

## LETTERS

Dear All,

You may already know about this, but I thought that I should let everybody know anyway. The Department of Primary Industries Fisheries has terminated the Mary River Cod Recovery Program. This means that we now have no-one working on endangered freshwater fish research in the Mary Catchment. All research is going into marine fisheries with a commercial background.

The major ramification of this is that Bob Simpson (who has been the figurehead for the Cod Recovery Team for many years) is no longer working on the Cod program. It also means that the fish hatchery at Lake MacDonald no longer has funds for rearing Mary River Cod fingerlings. The hatchery still receives funds from fishing groups, but this money is used to raise fingerlings of species not endemic to this area, for release in major dams.

Regards  
Brad Wedlock, MRCCC

Dear Barung

We really enjoy your newsletter and visit the nursery whenever we can.

Congratulations on all your achievements and keep up the good work,

Sincerely  
J.M. & J. Peat

Editors note: Many thanks to Mr & Mrs Peat for their kind donation to Barung.



Dear Russell (Botterell),

The Student Guild of the University of the Sunshine Coast wishes to extend its deepest thanks for your kind donation of tubestock and small native trees for our students and Permaculture garden. Your generosity helped to create an extremely successful Orientation Week for 3 500 new and continuing students.

We trust that the advertisements we displayed acknowledging your involvement will provide mutual benefits to your organisation. We look forward to further dealings with you and wish you great success throughout 2002.

Yours Sincerely

Jodie Hardstaff and Steve Doherty  
Promotions Officer and President, USC Student Guild

Dear Marc (Russell),

On behalf of the Student Guild and Environment Collective, thank you very much for coming and speaking at the Community Environment Forum on Tuesday 19th February 2002.

The forum was, in my opinion, a huge success and from the comments made by participants, a much welcomed event in the community.

New students to the university were very appreciative to learn about the various community groups represented and the local projects and state campaigns that have and are currently being undertaken.

These kinds of events are essential at an institution such as this and it is my intention to encourage the University to become more involved with events like this in the future.

Once again, thank you very much for your support and enthusiasm

Yours Sincerely  
Larelle McMillan  
Environment Officer, USC Student Guild

# WEEDS WEEDS WEEDS WEEDS

## Farmers Warned of Toxic Garden Bulbs

The Western Australia Department of Agriculture has issued a warning about poisonous garden bulbs, following a report of stock poisoning near Katanning.

Department Stock Inspector, Eileen O'Neill, said garden magazines were currently promoting spring flowering bulbs, but some had the potential to become weeds and kill stock.

"In particular, farmers should avoid Chincherinchee (*Ornithogalum thyrsoides*), a South African native that has adapted well to Western Australia and can escape from the garden into pastures and poison livestock," said Miss O'Neill.



Chincherinchee  
(*Ornithogalum thyrsoides*)

"Poisoned animals appear drowsy then develop a severe, foetid, watery to slightly haemorrhagic diarrhoea after 24 hours, which can last for up to three weeks," she said.

"Death usually occurs between two and five days after eating the plant, however ingestion of large quantities could

cause the animals to collapse and die suddenly without symptoms.

"Sheep, cattle, horses and rabbits may be affected and cattle often develop blindness 10-14 days after eating the plant."

The department has advised farmers to also avoid other toxic species closely related to Chincherinchee, including Arab's or pheasant's eye, Pregnant onion, and Star of Bethlehem.

Miss O'Neill said farmers should avoid garden plants advertised as 'naturalising freely' or 'looks after itself', as these species obviously have weed potential.

"Farmers with limited access to nurseries may be tempted to purchase plants from the Internet, however what is a good garden plant in another area could be a noxious weed here," she said.

The bulbs are available through mail order catalogues and some sporting clubs and schools use bulb sales as a fund-raiser.

She said although Chincherinchee has not been declared a weed as it is already a common garden plant, farmers need to implement biosecurity to protect their own farms from weeds and other pests.

### HOT TIP FOR MADEIRA VINE CONTROL

Cut vine stem near ground and quickly dip both cut ends into a glyphosate 40% : water 60% solution.

The glyphosate solution travels both up and down and has been known to even kill existing tubers further up the stem.

Any feedback (success / failure) would be gratefully received in our bid to control this devastating weed.

## WEEDBUSTERS NEEDED

on the Obl Boardwalk.  
Adopt-a-spot this month  
and help us keep  
this community garden  
A WEED FREE ZONE.



## Thinking Long Term

cont'd from p 16

Although seed from these species are available to collect now, don't expect to have too much luck in germinating them over the next few months. Their hard seed shells are often difficult to crack, and even if you are successful, you might not have too much luck as they naturally germinate during the hotter months of the year.

The trick with these seeds is to collect now, store them and wait for the hot days of spring to return before you even think about sowing them.

Bolwarra (*Eupomatia laurina*), White bolly gum (*Neolitsea dealbata*), and Black bean (*Castanospermum australe*) are three species at the other end of the spectrum in their needs. Their seeds are very short-lived in exposed sunny conditions, and need the shady moist conditions of undisturbed forest to grow.

In the development of forest from scratch, these species rarely appear in the first stages. They are much more likely to appear after the pioneer species have done their work by creating shade and improving soil conditions through their leaf litter. Bolwarra is a straggly shrub in forest conditions, often enjoying the moist but lighter conditions of wet sclerophyll (eucalypt dominated) forests in our area.

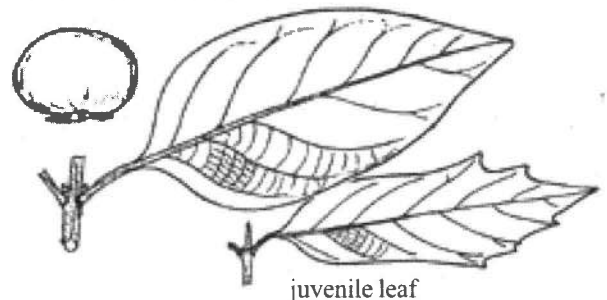
Suprisingly, in the wet sclerophyll forests of the Blackall Range, the understorey is often made up exclusively of rainforest species. Given a long enough period without fire, the rainforest species would eventually become dominant. However, in the event of a bushfire, the rainforest species are often killed. The open conditions following fire allow germination of the sclerophyll species. Bollwarra is also of an ancient lineage, being one of the earliest of the flowering plants to evolve.

White bolly gum matures to be a medium sized tree and like Bolwarra can often be found in the understorey of wet sclerophyll forests. Their black fruit are particularly attractive to our forest pigeons and this ensures that they are spread far and wide.

Black bean, on the other hand, is one of our forest giants whose seed rely solely on gravity and watercourses for dispersal.

Their large seed are, in fact, a giant bean so large and full of toxins that, until man arrived in Australia, there was perhaps no animal or bird assistance in moving these seed around. Aboriginal Australians developed techniques to convert the beans into a food source by leaching the toxins from the seed. The collection of these seed and their transport to processing sites would have inevitably led to dropping some along the way, and this could have lead to a spread of the Black bean!

White beech - *Gmelina leichhardtii*



If you've got a reveg site up and running and the weeds no longer need controlling, try direct-seeding Black bean into any shady area where there is sufficient leaf litter to keep the soil moist - now that's what I call an easy way to plant trees!

Illustrations from *Trees & Shrubs in Rainforests of NSW and Southern Queensland* published by University of New England.

## Rain at Last!

from Spencer Shaw

The rain has returned at last but during dry spells (like the last few months) you wonder if it will ever rain again. Rain is one of those things in life that we really take for granted. Just ponder for a moment what would happen if our average rainfall was halved or ceased to be a regular event altogether ...

It has happened in the past during the ice ages. Rainforests would have retreated onto south-facing slopes and gullies or cloud shrouded hilltops, while eucalypt forests seized the opportunity to spread and diversify. Ecosystems are very resilient however.

When we look at them over a long timeframe, one species group may give way to another species group with changes in temperature or rainfall, and as other conditions change the tables may turn. The key to this resilience is the diversity within the ecosystems - the more diverse the group of species present within an ecosystem, the more likely that ecosystem will be able to adapt to environmental changes.

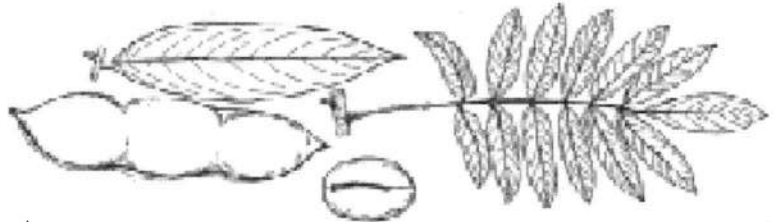
Perhaps we should also be looking to a diverse range of solutions to our present water problems ...

Now, let's discuss a diverse range of plants that are fruiting at the moment, and how they fill a variety of niches in the ecosystem.

White ash (*Alphitonia petriei*), Blueberry ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*) and White beech (*Gmelina leichardtii*) are all very adaptable to a range of conditions. Their fruit and seed are bird attracting so are distributed over a wide area. (*Gmelina leichardtii*, although too large a fruit to be moved by birds in the area today, most likely evolved alongside a cassowary-like creature that has since become extinct.)

Their long-lived seed have shells that protect them until conditions are suitable for germination, which for them means some sort of disturbance, like a fallen tree, that results in a high light level.

Thus these three plants are among the many to take advantage of a landslip, tree fall, storm damage or bush fire, to grow and complete their life cycles. (cont'd page 15)



Black bean - *Castanospermum australe*

### BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC. 2001/2002 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Committee Members

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Karen Shaw  
Elaine Green  
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Chris Allan  
Laurie Capill  
Richard Francis  
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Mim Coulstock  
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Ashley Sewell  
Penny Smith



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE  
17 Bicentenary Lane  
Maleny QLD 4552  
Tel: 07 5494 3151  
Fax: 07 5494 3141  
Email: barung@sun.big.net.au

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