



BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

BARUNG'S OBI BOARDWALK - A HISTORICAL REMINDER

The re-establishment of native vegetation along the section of the Obi Obi Creek which runs through the township of Maleny is becoming a reality under the guidance of Barung Landcare with help from local community groups, business people and the Caloundra City Council.

To date, thanks to sponsorship from many local businesses and the council, and many hours of voluntary labour, thousands of local native trees and shrubs have been planted and maintained along the creek bank.

A feature of the project is the Obi Obi boardwalk and path which winds from the centre of town along the creek to the Maleny Showgrounds. The construction of the boardwalk necessitated the removal of some well established camphor laurels which were individually chopped, leaving their extensive roots to hold the soil in place, while smaller branches and logs were chipped to provide mulch for the new trees. Larger logs were milled into slabs for woodworking. All work was done on-site as an educational tool for passers-by.

There are many benefits to this Obi project: water quality improvement; aesthetic enhancement of the town centre; provision of wildlife habitats; and a raising of community awareness that our water-course is an environmental asset and potential beauty spot, not a drain. There has also been a great drawing together of the community as people from many diverse walks of life are reminded of the rewards of working together for a worthwhile result.

Both locals and visitors to Maleny use the boardwalk regularly as a walking track, a place for quiet contemplation and lunchtime breaks, and a preferred route from the town centre to the showgrounds.

Those who take regular strolls along the boardwalk are commenting already on the growth and development of the young trees, and are beginning to see the forms which will emerge along the creek in the next few years. Water dragons, moor hens, black ducks, firetails, cormorants and echidnas are just a few of the regular wildlife tenants of the rainforest as it regenerates. Less frequently a kingfisher or a bar-shouldered kite may be seen on an overhanging branch waiting for a meal. Depending on the season there are also flowering plants with heady scents - native frangipani, mat rush and cunjevoi - for the keen walker to enjoy.

As anyone who has worked as a volunteer on the Boardwalk is aware, there is much satisfaction to be reaped in having helped re-establish this section of riparian revegetation in the Mary River Catchment.

August - September 1998

THE BARUNG LANDCARE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH AT BARUNG RESOURCE CENTRE

Nominations sought!

Every year at this time, all members are invited to submit nominations of people to serve on Barung's Management Committee. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday September 26th, from 1 - 3 pm and elections will be conducted at that meeting. All positions are vacated at that time and members have the opportunity to decide which of the nominees will best represent them and Landcare for the coming year.

It is my hope that as many of you as possible will fix that date on your calendar and make a point of coming and participating in the meeting. Come as early as 12 noon and have a look around your Landcare Centre and nursery at the many improvements that have been made in the past year. We will have drinks and finger foods before the meeting and the opportunity to talk with each other.

Nominations and proxy forms are included on the back of the Calendar of Events page and all nominations shall be in writing and signed by the member and/or his/her proposer and seconder, and lodged with the Secretary (John Dillon) at Barung by September 5th. The list of candidates will be posted in the Barung Office.

While we expect that at least some of our existing members will stand for re-election, others have indicated that they will be standing down. An infusion of new committee members is important, as they bring new skills, backgrounds and energy to your landcare organisation which has continued to grow in strength over the years.

As you consider whether you might like to serve Landcare in this particular way, remember that we need all kinds of skills: knowledge of agricultural and water catchment issues are obvious needs as is botanical expertise; but we also need people with financial and administrative skills; writers for the newsletter, grant proposals and publicity; educators; fund raisers; artists to help with educational and promotional materials; and the list goes on. We would particularly welcome a committee member from the horticultural industry. The only essential requirements are that committee members care about the land, are willing to work cooperatively with other members whose views may sometimes differ from theirs, and have time and energy to devote to Barung.

The Management Committee meets for about three hours on a regular monthly basis. Subcommittees handle matters that do not require the attention of the full committee and meet when needed. Most committee members work on at least two portfolios of their choice.

If you think that you can help in this way, or know of someone who would be a good candidate for the committee, please consider submitting a nomination.

Barung Landcare has had another very successful year and many excellent projects are underway with the hope of renewed funding and continuing progress.

We will give you a complete update on the year at the AGM on the 26th and I look forward to seeing you there.

Joan Dillon

Thanks to

**Mr & Mrs Terry Boyle, Mr & Mrs Copland,
Marek Malter, Craig Hosmer & Daryl Reinke**

for their very generous Landcare donations.
These funds are very much appreciated and will go towards
Barung's continuing revegetation work
on the Blackall Range.



~ Log, Stump, Burl, Bandsaw & Circular Saw
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THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

Maleny Stationery	D Pakstun & Co.
Maple St Coop	Maleny AutoTrimmers
Cedarton Foresters Coop	Bold In Gold
Graatz Mexican Restaurant	Frasers Selection
Maleny Motor Trimmers	The Booroobin School
Maleny Travel	The Cedar Gallery
Maleny & District Credit Union	

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Dawne Reardon	L & T Taylor
Wendy Gillespie	P Mc Cready
Moya Thomson	Ross Pilarski
G & B Diefenbach	Ensoll & Holley
Mr Hurlimann	K & C Becht
E & J Charlton	Gretchen Evans
Doug Wright	Peter Jacobson
Peter Bare	Gary Cowan
Raylee Myers	Sheppard Family
P & P Cockshaw	J & J Drewe
Morag Gamble	Evan Raymond
Orchard	G & L Newton
Maureen Lowe	L Hillbrick
Mal Somerville	Ray Seddon
Meg Weymark	Christine Francis
S & R Hetzel	A & A Wilson

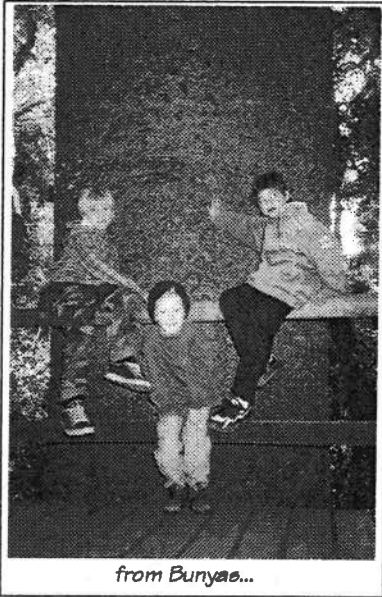
Thank you for your landcare support

TRIPPING AROUND.....

THE BUNYA MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP

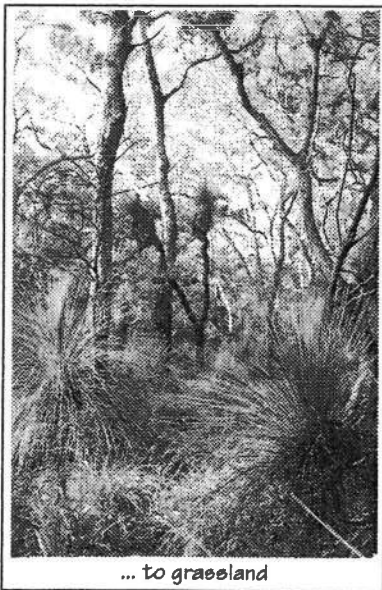
by John Muir

In early June, twenty-six Barung members ventured out into the wild west of the Darling Downs for a social weekend at the Bunya Mountains National Park.



from Bunyas...

The Park has a wide diversity of vegetation types: rainforest; unique open grasslands; dry sclerophyll; and Brigalow scrub to name a few.



... to grassland

I found the rapid and distinct change from one vegetation type to the next somewhat hard to comprehend. One minute we were in rainforest and the next into grasslands and Grass Trees, all within 50m. The Bunyas were magnificent and the aboriginal climbing steps carved into their trunks still quite obvious. I'd be interested to know if there are any around here on the Blackall Range?

The Park is only 2.5 hours west of Maleny and well worth the trip. The Maleny crew preferred the log cabin type accommodation, more rustic, communal and open air in style with log fires, than the modern alternative. There are also camping facilities available.

The weather was fine, sunny and cool, with long walks the order of the day. Thanks to Bill McDonald from the Qld Herbarium who took everyone for a great tree ID walk on the first day. Having worked out the layout of the tracks on Bill's walk, Marc Russell took another tree ID walk the next day. Even the NPWS rangers and local environmentalists joined in when they heard what we were up to.

I thank everybody for contributing to a great weekend away. We are already planning our next one - to Fraser Island World Heritage - so keep an eye open in the newsletter. Any other ideas are welcomed. See you next time maybe.

NIGHT FAUNA ID WALK

with Tony Bright

The Barung Night Fauna ID Walk held at Mary Cairncross Park on Saturday, April 25th, brought out a large and interested group of participants.

Eight species of frogs from three genera were found that night, and the introduced cane toad (*Bufo*) was common, especially around the pond area at the entrance to the Park.

A large and rare rainforest crayfish was also encountered on the tracks around the creek area as well as the Giant Cricket. Both sightings were the first record of the occurrence of both species in the Park.

All of the frogs encountered that night are considered common on the Blackall Range, however considering the weather on the night (not really conducive to frog movement), the number and variety encountered was better than anticipated. A similar walk on a humid wet night in Summer would produce other species not seen on our walk and possibly double the current frog list.

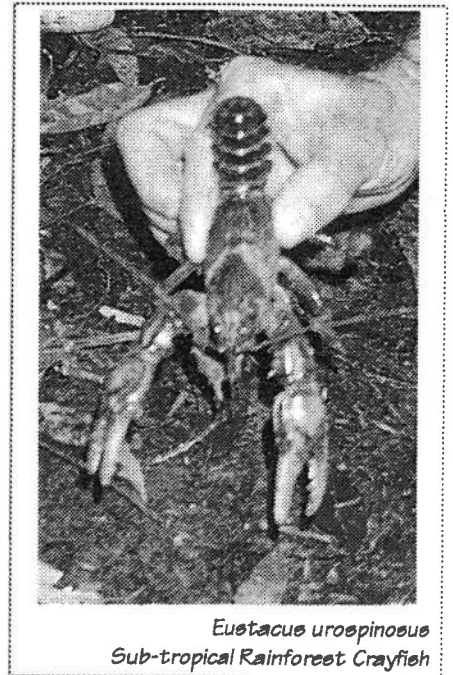
Thanks to all who came along - happy frog spotting!

FROG LIST for MARY CAIRNCROSS PARK:

Striped Marsh Frog	<i>Limnodynastes peronii</i>
Great Barred Frog	<i>Mixophyes fasciolatus</i>
Dwarf Tree Frog	<i>Litoria fallax</i>
Broad Palmed Frog	<i>Litoria latopalmata</i>
Lesueur's Frog	<i>Litoria lesueuri</i>
Rocket Frog	<i>Litoria nasuta</i>
Emerald Spotted Tree Frog	<i>Litoria peronii</i>
Dainty Tree Frog	<i>Litoria gracilentia</i>
CANE TOAD	<i>Bufo marinus</i>

NEWS FROM MARY CAIRNCROSS SCENIC RESERVE

with Jeanette Nobes



Eustacus urospinosus
Sub-tropical Rainforest Crayfish

Within the remnant pockets of sub-tropical rainforests of the Blackall and Conondale Ranges live a very special crayfish - *Eustacus urospinosus*, the sub-tropical rainforest crayfish. This beautiful little crayfish is classed as 'rare'. We have a colony in Mary Cairncross Reserve and are currently putting in place strategies to protect their habitat. We hope to undertake a full study of our colony in the near future, to ensure their survival.

A recent study released by Adrian Borsboom, Senior Ecologist with the Dept of Natural Resources, gives us a wonderful insight into the full picture of this mountain crayfish.

The crayfish has red/orange legs and body, with blue tips to their claws and can measure up to 20cm. Their distinguishing feature is that they live in burrows. Winter months are spent wholly in the burrow following mating in April/May. Brooding is over a long period with incubation taking 4-5 months. These rainforest crayfish are nocturnal and will be found out of their burrows only when feeding after heavy rain. The only time spent in water is from hatching through to the juvenile stage. After this they will establish their own burrows as adults.

Do you have a stream through rainforest, at 450-550 mts altitude, with burrows in the banks? If you do, you may just have this amazing little crayfish as a resident. In Adrian's study report (held at the Thynne Natural History Education Centre at the Park) is a colour photo to help with identification of the crayfish. We would love to hear from any landholders who think they may have a colony of this rare rainforest crayfish.

NURSERY REPORT

with Marc Russell

I would like to thank everyone who has helped in every way in the nursery over the last year. The end result of everyone's efforts is a great step forward for the nursery in more ways than one.

My thanks go to all of the volunteers who have put in so much time - often in difficult circumstances due to renovations - to keep cleaning and planting seeds, potting seedlings, weeding, and endlessly moving stock from one place to another. The nursery now has a more diverse range of species available than ever before and this is due largely to the efforts of our volunteers. These volunteers are the backbone of the nursery and it could not have progressed without you.

Thank you also to everyone who has helped with the reorganization and building works. The task of putting weedmatting under the full sun area was huge - heaps of weeding, carting barrowloads of blue metal and shunting pots - but now that it is completed, the weed problem will be much easier to keep under control next summer. New seed beds behind the propagation house with proper pathways, weedmatting the drain around the hothouse, the new concrete pathways to the upper shadehouses - all of these projects make our lives so much easier and more efficient.

The new nursery office and front verandah have already made customer service more friendly and workable - and we don't have to bring umbrellas and wet plants into the office! The new extension on the potting area is almost completed and will make potting much more efficient.

Thank you also to the Nursery Subcommittee. Your efforts behind the scenes have made most of the above possible in terms of finding the dollars to finance it all. Your help with planning, your forward thinking and isolating of problem areas have resulted in a much better sales area with improved signage. I appreciate the help you all have given.

Replacement of the 60% shadecloth in the main shadehouse with 30% cloth has already improved the appearance of much of the stock, and will mean a big reduction in plant losses when planting out in summer. A lot of the stock previously stored in the sun is now under cover leaving us more room for sun loving plants. Stock sales of larger pots has increased since the move around.

Most of the above improvements have been possible because of the tremendous increase in sales over the last 12 months. This increase is the result of several factors: Barung being one of the main suppliers for Riverbank Restoration Grants in the Upper Mary Catchment; our ever-increasing membership; the success of Barung's drive to educate local people about the benefits of planting local species; our venturing into the wholesale realm; and our community revegetation projects.

THANKS TO:

Pioneer Building Products

Maroochdore Rd, Kunda Park via Buderim 4556
Tel: 07 5445 1999 Fax: 07 5445 1277

for their donations of concrete besser blocks over the last few years for nursery rack supports.

... to Hinterland Mobile Mill for their donation of timber slabs for the new nursery office desk

... to Trish and Phil Jacobs for their donation of a microwave oven for use of staff and volunteers

... to Rob and Ann Cork for their donation of a blender for scarifying seeds in the nursery.

In the last financial year nursery sales have more than doubled with a gross take of more than \$100,000. Of course there are many hidden costs within this figure, but the nett profit has allowed the above improvements, the option of employing Bob Miller at least one day per week and a surplus which will be distributed for revegetation works around the Range, Landcare Education, Farm Forestry and Mary River Cod projects. It is very inspiring to see the nursery in a position to be able to help fund these other aspects of Barung's activities.

The next and last major nursery project is the replacement of the two upper shadehouses with one large shadehouse. This will further decrease stock losses and utilize space better. This project is planned for late August and when completed will see the nursery functioning efficiently and as I have dreamt.

With all of these changes we hope for a similar turnover in the nursery for the next financial year, but will be in a position to grow and provide more of the plants from local seed than we have to date.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has contributed to making the last year such a success. It has been a pleasure to have so many volunteers in the nursery and to see so many new faces coming into landcare.

BUTTERFLIES & ANT ASSOCIATION

by Bob Miller

As there are not many butterflies around at this time of year because of the cooler weather, I would like to write about a subject that not a lot of people would know about: ant association.

These words "ant association" refer to the phenomenon of ants actually looking after the larvae of some of our butterflies. These butterflies belong to the family *LYCAENIDAE*, which means 'the blue butterflies'.

"Why would ants look after caterpillars?" I almost heard you say. Well, the answer is that the association is beneficial to both parties.

The obvious benefit to the larvae is protection - the ants will give their lives to protect them - and in return the ants get a sweet substance from glands on the larvae, which is essential for the survival of the ants. These substances are amino acids - the 'building blocks of life'.

Some ants will actually form a bivouac at the base of a tree containing the larval foodplant. They will then travel considerable distances to other trees which host the same foodplants, gather all of the eggs of the same butterfly, and take them back to the bivouac.

When the larvae emerge from the eggs, the ants carry the larvae, after dark, up the tree to the foodplant. They actually stay with the larvae guarding them until almost sunrise, when they pick them up again and carry them back to the bivouac at the base of the tree.

As the larvae grow they become too heavy for the ants to carry. The ants then herd the larvae up the tree to the foodplants and again guard them with their lives. It is said that at times there are so many larvae on one tree that they actually make a track on the trunk of the tree. This behaviour continues until the larvae pupate in the bivouac.

Further information on this subject can be obtained by reading *Butterflies of Australia* by Common and Waterhouse, 1981

Are you
KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS?
Could you help when our irrigation system
works less than perfectly?

Please talk to Marc if this is you!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

from Joan Dillon

Despite the cooler weather and reduced rates of vegetation growth, there has not been a matching reduction in Barung's level of activity. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers and particularly staff members, plus donations of fittings, the physical environment of the Landcare Centre is becoming more welcoming and its resources more accessible to members. Working conditions for staff are also improving. Dedication and enthusiasm remain, however, high priority survival characteristics, a feature of most community organisations.

"Range Revegetation", a new business established by a group of ex Green Corps members is up and running and I'm sure you will have noticed the weed control activity on the Maleny entrance site. The issue of weeds is one all of us deal with on a daily basis particularly in an area such as this with its high rainfall and comparatively fertile soils.

John Muir, John Dillon and I attended the inaugural Landcare and Catchment Management Conference in Cairns at the end of June and a brief report appears elsewhere in this edition. We decided to drive and take the opportunity to do some additional sightseeing from a landcare perspective. The most obvious issue along the roadsides related to weeds and it is not surprising that there's a considerable push to have significant funding for weed control programs at a national level. Weed infestation of bush, pasture and water courses is such that we may be able to initiate control measures but the problem has gone beyond eradication in many cases.

Whilst the problem is huge, we can at least reduce it on our own properties by being careful with choices of garden exotics, among other measures. I noticed a recent newspaper article extolling the beauty of the tree chrysanthemum (also called Japanese or Mexican sunflower). Those who drive up towards the Dulong Lookout or venture into Hunchy will have noticed the monocultures of these large invasive yellow daisies on the hillsides. There's a white one too.

Up on the Atherton Tableland we were saddened to see pockets of *Salvinia* in the pools above waterfalls in national parks and down on the coast *Hymenachne* was choking streams. I was told that that particular species took eleven weeks to change its status from valuable introduced pasture species to weed, apparently a record. Trees, shrubs, vines, legumes, grasses and water plants all featured in the "weeds noted" list.

Some of the pasture legumes depend on grazing to control them and this is likely to become an issue in the management of fenced riparian vegetation at least until complete canopy closure is achieved. Many small block holders will be familiar with the problem of legumes climbing up and smothering native vegetation; lantana is a minor problem by comparison! Barung would be interested to hear from anyone who feels that they have worked out a satisfactory control measure, other than napalm, for those who don't keep grazing animals. Those who do will hopefully manage them for weed control as well as for production or recreation.

Re-establishment of a more natural ecosystem on former grazing or horticultural land is a considerable challenge and requires time and money plus innovative approaches. Some have successfully travelled that road already, others are part of the way there and those new to the challenge could well be looking in horror at the problem and wondering where to start. Many of the problems and solutions can be site specific but general principles usually apply and I'd like to hear from anyone who feels that they can make a contribution towards helping others facing the weed invasion on the Range. We need to encourage our neighbours to plant non-invasive species (really successful free seeding or spreading horticultural plants have a good chance of becoming weeds), to dispose of garden refuse appropriately and to join us in controlling weeds we have in common.

Barung will be keeping records of all activities undertaken and progress made on all of its revegetation sites and I would encourage individuals to do the same so that the information and experience gained can be shared. In the long run it will serve the interests of all landholders as well as the environment of the Blackall Range.

INAUGURAL ANNUAL LANDCARE AND INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 1998

from John Dillon

This was the first year for the two streams of community based resource management to hold a combined Conference in line with the new joint framework of the Queensland Landcare and Catchment Management Council (LCMC). Held in Cairns at the end of June, it was intended to focus on strengthening the linkages between the people and their complementary activities.

Field trips during the Conference made it clear that many people in the tropical north are devoting major efforts to land and catchment management and environment conservation. The Conference sessions, in contrast, generated an unfortunate emphasis on government agency machinery, the cane industry and politics. Several speakers overcame these hurdles and made worthwhile contributions which will help to foster the Conference goal of Forging the Links. In general, however, it fell to individual delegates to achieve this without the assistance of thought provoking input from the speakers.

Some highlights from presentations were:

- the experiences of Joe Baker as the ACT Commissioner for the Environment and his hopes for the future;
- the spirited presentation by Rod Keenan and Erroll Wiles on reforestation in the context of landcare and ICM (the theory and the hands-on aspects);
- Laurel Hohn's outline of the broad opportunities for learning in relevant fields and the extent of the information kits already available;
- the timely reminder from Ian McPhail about the need for caution in what we allow to move from the land through our catchments to the sea (and the Barrier Reef) and in interpreting what is happening within the context of natural changes in the environment which also occur; and
- Elissa Van Ossterhout's experiences and her messages about involving people, particularly aboriginals, in land and catchment management.

The Conference tours generated significant interest in activities in the region. It was interesting to see green cane harvesting and the use of trash blankets for soil protection. This contrasted with the cane fires of the local industry, but the technology is not yet sufficiently developed for the southern areas. Landcare and revegetation also pays off for cane farmers by helping to control rats by shading out and suppressing grass, the seeds of which are their normal food together with cane.

From a revegetation point of view, the strong presence of *Alphitonia petrei* in rainforest and remnants so far north was a surprise. The special Wet Tropics status of much of the area means that a broader range of funding sources are available than those Barung can access. There was little to suggest, however, that southern Queensland groups were achieving less than their northern associates.

The final session considered 17 resolutions and carried all but a few. Significant amongst those adopted were:

- the push to fund weed control from NHT;
- recognition of the need for future land and water development for irrigation to fit the principles of sustainable development;
- a request for government assistance in disposal of chemicals;
- a call for consultation to clarify landcare and catchment management functions and responsibilities;
- preferential voting for membership of LCMC; and
- securing sales tax exemptions.

Next year's conference will be in Mt Isa. A consortium of local groups is being considered to make a bid to hold the conference on the Sunshine Coast in 2000.

COORDINATOR'S CHAT

with John Muir

"FORGING THE LINKS"

- THE INAUGURAL LANDCARE & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT (LCMC) CONFERENCE, CAIRNS

This was my first venture north of Gympie to the wet tropics and Barrier Reef World Heritage Areas - where the "rainforest meets the reef", as the brochures say. They just forgot to mention the large areas of sugarcane and grazing country in between!

It was a great eye-opener and well worthwhile travelling by car to have a good look around with my wife, Trudi, and daughter, Ambrosia. And yes - it is further to Cairns than it is from Brisbane to Melbourne! This once again highlights the diversity and expanse of Qld, especially in regard to Land and Catchment Care issues.

The Atherton Tablelands (the conference field trip I took) looks somewhat similar to Maleny, but produces a much broader range of crops under irrigation, including sugarcane, with a new mill opening near Mareeba the day we were there. Part of this area used to be a rice growing district but rice production has ceased due to the low market price and low yield resulting from salinity problems which now affect the area. I hope that good healthy crop rotation (not evident at all in the general sugarcane industry) can provide a future in their sustainable production methods.

The revegetation projects we visited were very similar to ours although they achieve full canopy closure in less than 18 months. They have the added advantage of a government-funded revegetation labour force, resulting from the World Heritage listing of the area, and aimed at retraining people who were put out of work with the partial closure of the timber industry.

The papers from the Conference will be available in the next few weeks if anyone wishes to borrow them from our library. (See separate detailed article on conference for further information.)

Congratulations to Margaret Thompson, local inaugural and life-member of Barung and dairy farmer from Witta, who was voted in as our local S.E. Qld Regional Representative on the State Land & Catchment Management Committee (LCMC). We will be able to present local issues to the LCMC through Margaret, such as our suggestion for DNR to review the definition of a 'designated waterway'.

I believe that one of the major conference outcomes is recognition of the great opportunities existing for a closer working relationship between Land and Catchment Care.

Congratulations to the newly appointed LBCC Coordinator, Marcelle Holdaway. We look forward to working closely with you and the catchment group in the future.

The Maleny and Environs Local Area Plans have been

PLEASE NOTE:

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group
has a new Coordinator, Marcelle Holdaway,
and a new office at 19 Coral St, Maleny.

Phone: 07 5494 3775.

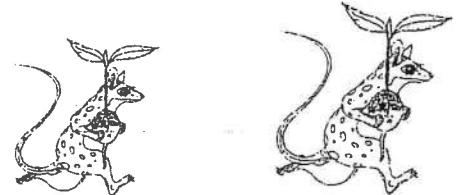
The office will be open 9am - 1pm
on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays.

on display at the Maleny Library and a copy is at Barung together with all the handouts and the questionnaire. Information nights have been held with more coming up. Keep an eye on The Range News for these dates and venues. I urge all members to have your say, to comment on the future of Maleny. Deadline for comment has now been extended to at least September.

A Property Management Workshop Series for Smaller Landholders has just commenced at Barung. If you know anyone who may be interested in some, or all of, the one day sessions covering such subjects as weeds, revegetation, soils, permaculture, farm forestry etc, please let them know and contact us ASAP. The course will run over the next 6 months.

S.E.E.D.S.

with
Ann Oliver



The trip to Baroon Pocket Dam was a lot of fun even though we did not find many water animals. We discovered little water beetles, some grasshoppers and birds, and the algae and water weeds were great to wander through. It seemed that with the cold weather, most wildlife was sensible and staying in a warm spot!

Orienteering through Barung and the neighbourhood in July was a huge success, with S.E.E.D.S. running in all directions. Cunning running, treasure hunting, map reading and observation were all part of a fun-filled afternoon.

In August, S.E.E.D.S. will be working on their rainforest plot at the Showgrounds, preparing it for a treeplant in the near future. All S.E.E.D.S. are to meet at Barung on the 4th of August at 3.15pm to band up with Jim Watson for an afternoon of fun work in their own special place.

For September, S.E.E.D.S. will be working on a tree plant and more info will be available at a later date and in October we will be going to a Wild Flower Farm out at Curramore.

November will be huge with a S.E.E.D.'s Camp being organised at the Beerwah Field Study Centre. Activities will include astronomy, frog finding, butterfly identification, campfire games and songs, hot marshmallows and more! If you (or your parents) are keen about this activity, please contact Mim at Barung for more information.

December will be our Christmas break-up party with a difference! More about that later on.

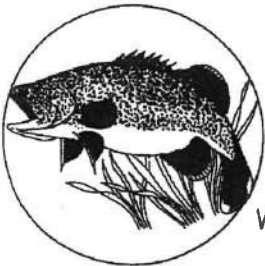
If there is any activity above that you would like to know more about, contact John or Mim at Barung (5494 3151) or Ann on 5494 2793.

Till next time, Happy SEEDING.



Dairy Farmers Country Stores

for all of your
rural merchandise
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CORAL ST, MALENY



Mary River Cod Community Network with Wendy Gillespie

Mobile: 015 758 402
Phone/Fax: 07 5474 1423
PO Box 604
TEWANTIN Q 4565

Hosted by: Barung Landcare
Supported by: Environment Australia,
Threatened Species & Communities Section

HATCHERY HAPPENINGS & RIPARIAN RESTORATION

The Lake MacDonald Hatchery is gearing up for another frantic breeding season with the arrival of more Cod brood stock. For the season to be productive, good quality feed such as yabbies are required.

To this end, the *Meals On Wheels For Cod* program, which involves farm dam owners offering their yabbies to the hatchery, is underway. As Cod will eat yabbies fresh or frozen, a freezer has been left at Barung so that yabbies from the upper catchment can be more efficiently handled. So a call is out for anyone in the upper catchment who want the Cod to "thrive not just survive".

For the past 2 weeks I have been collecting an average of 20 yabbies per night from my own starter dam. To collect, use either a small shrimp trap or a bucket with holes in the bottom, some cover such as

sticks or leaves for the yabbies and a piece of meat secured in amongst it all. Assistance is available to get underway and is also offered for the collection phase..

Financial assistance is available from the Mary River Cod Community Network for riparian (riverbank) restoration works in the upper catchment. Incentives will prioritize properties which have identifiable Cod habitat ie. deep holes, overhanging rock ledges and lots of snags. The types of restoration works which will be available for assistance include: planting of riparian trees; streambank stabilization projects including fencing off to restrict cattle access; the provision of off-stream watering points; the protection of remnant vegetation stands; and woody weed control.

Not only will the environmental aspects of your property be improved, with resulting contributions to land and catchment care, but productivity can also be

substantially increased. Documented benefits in productivity include: increased carrying capacity of paddocks through time controlled grazing after fencing; ability to set aside pasture for hay making; improvements in cattle health - reduced tick and worm infestation; improved soil health with consequent dramatic increase in pasture vigour and volume.

Please contact me if you would like to help the Cod "thrive not just survive" by becoming involved in the *Meals on Wheels* and/or riverbank restoration programs. If you wish to become a member of the Community Network which entitles you to a copy of the quarterly "Cod Catch Up", please phone me on 5474 1423 or via email: wjilles@coastnet.net.au.



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with CATH MORAN

Is there bushland on your property?
Do you have a dam on your property?
Does wildlife use your property?
**LAND FOR WILDLIFE
MAY BE FOR YOU**

Land for Wildlife is a scheme supported by Natural Heritage Trust funding and local councils which aims to promote the protection of plants and animals on private lands.

Land for Wildlife provides a free information service to landholders who are interested in integrating conservation into the management of their property. Interested

landholders are visited at their property - an opportunity to discuss management issues on site.

Land for Wildlife will increase awareness of the efforts being made to protect and restore natural areas. Signs are provided free of charge to registered landholders in recognition of their work.

Field days and workshops will be organised. These will provide an opportunity to view, discuss and evaluate different property management techniques with a network of like-minded people.

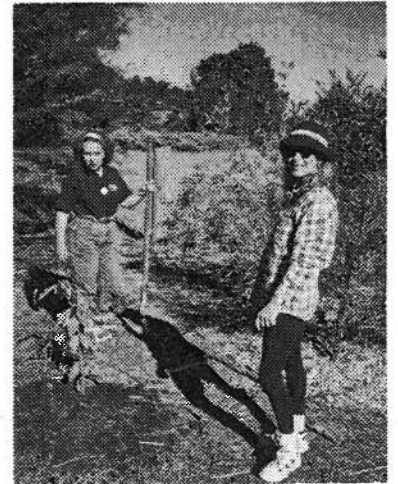
People registered in Land for Wildlife will receive regular Newsletters which update the progress and development of Land for Wildlife in South East Queensland. Management Notes will also be sent out which address a specific management issue in each edition.

For further information and to arrange a property visit, contact the LFW Extension Officer, Cath Moran, at your local council:

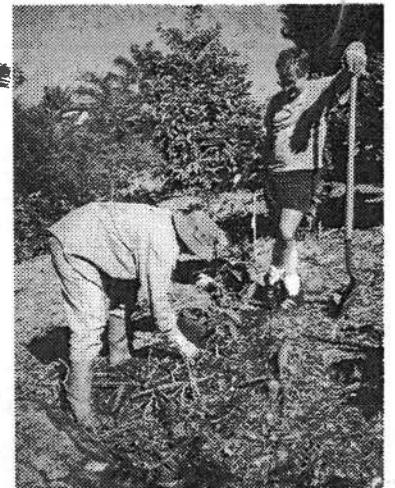
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Caloundra: 5491 0861
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WEEDBUSTERS' REPORT

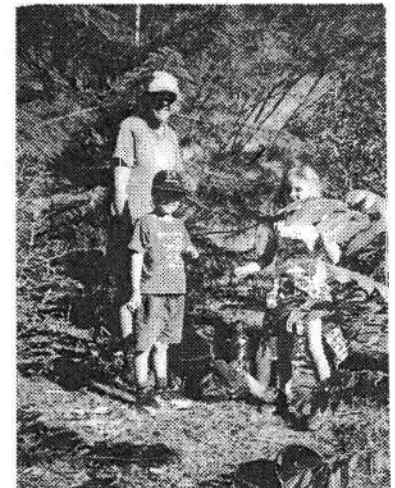
with LINDA IVEZIC



You may recall from the last newsletter that Barung held a Friends of the Boardwalk Treeplant on Saturday June 6th instead of our usual 'Weedbusting' session. We had a great turnout with 32 people - Weedbusters and other volunteers - planting 504 trees, shrubs and grasses in 3 1/2 hours!



The event was organised 'down to a T' by Jim Watson, Barung's Revegetation Officer, with species selection by Marc Russell, our Nursery Manager.



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR SMALL LANDHOLDERS

Barung is again holding our ever popular Property Management Planning Workshop series, targeting small landholders and hobby-type farmers.

If you are new or old to the area, are on a 1 to 50 ha block and want to develop an overall long term management plan, this is the course for you.

Combining your local knowledge and that of other landholders, specialists from Council, State Government and local community groups, we can provide a learning environment which is diverse, unique and interesting for all.

Topics usually covered by P.M.P. Workshops include Aerial Photo interpretation (with discounted photo prices from DNR), mapping, soils, weeds, permaculture,

farm forestry, revegetation, landscaping, and food production, including bushfoods.

Monthly half-day workshops incorporate both theory and outdoor practical sessions.

The price is \$12 for Barung members and \$15 for non members per session.

For further information and discussion please contact John Muir at Barung.



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with Jim Watson

STREAMS OF TREES

Over the last two months I have hinted that Barung will release its private lands assistance package in September. Everyone here at Barung is diligently working together to complete the strategy in time for the September launch of what will be known as "Streams of Trees".

To date, Barung's riparian revegetation efforts have been focused on public lands such as the Boardwalk, Maleny Showgrounds, Sewerage Farm and the Entrance Site. We are pleased to be in a position to now complement this with assistance for works on private lands. Such works will lead to the linking of larger areas of existing vegetation, with all of the associated benefits of fauna habitat, water quality improvement, weed reduction and erosion control etc which result from the establishment of large corridor links.

The springboard for *Streams of Trees* was the Revegetation Prize offered by Barung earlier in the year. This Prize was hugely successful and from the information collected we were able to develop a private land strategy that is desirable, effective and helpful to everybody. It is hoped that we will now be able to assist many of the unsuccessful Prize applicants.

One of the main aims of *Streams of Trees* is to provide a thorough education program which will assist landholders by making their riparian works easier, more effective and hopefully more fun. Short courses will be run by Barung covering such aspects of revegetating as: planning; rainforest seed propagation; site preparation; clearing, planting and maintenance techniques; safe, minimal use of herbicides and the alternatives. It is hoped that such an educational program will increase community awareness of the importance and function of our local creeks.

Streams of Trees would like to see cooperation between adjacent landholders so that larger riparian buffers may be installed. By encouraging landholders to work together we believe we will be able to make a huge impact on creekbank repair within the three years of the program.

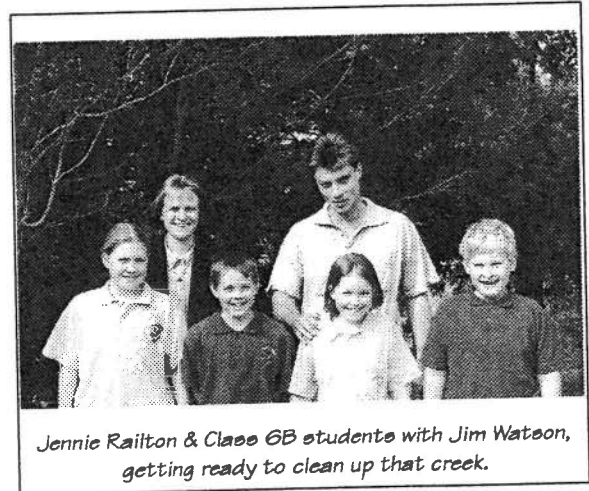
In order to provide trees of local provenance (ie. grown from seed or cuttings of plants which are already genetically adapted to this area) the Barung Nursery will step up propagation of riparian species to meet the demand for the *Streams of Trees* program.

Streams of Trees will be officially announced at a public launch in September and a pamphlet will be available explaining the details of the program. Private landholders within the Upper Mary River Catchment will then be able to apply for financial and technical assistance for the repair of their sections of our waterways. All of us here at Barung hope that as many members as possible will contact us with a view to participating in this crucial environmental program.

Kids Go Crazy For Creek Repair

As some of you may have read in *The Range News* lately, Maleny State School staff and students have responded with great enthusiasm to a suggestion from Barung Landcare that primary school children and landcare pull together to achieve great results on the school section of the Obi Obi Creek. This is the initial phase of a whole school grounds leamcape plan which the Primary School is undertaking and in which Barung has been invited to be involved.

Following a meeting between staff from the Primary School and Barung in recent weeks, the teachers are working out the best ways in which students at all levels can participate in this environmental education project to clean up and revegetate their Obi. This will complete works begun on the creekbanks by Ruth Tailly, Shiralee Cooper and students several years ago.



Jennie Railton & Class 6B students with Jim Watson, getting ready to clean up that creek.

It is hoped that with the help of the children, the whole of the creek bank below the school ovals will be revegetated. This will ultimately link up with the BHP sponsored Maleny Entrance Site planted by Barung and the community in March earlier this year, past work done on the creek below Erowal and work in progress at the Caloundra City Council Sewerage Farm.

To repair this 650 metre stretch of the Obi, students will be involved in the removal of woody and invasive weeds and the planting of over 1200 native trees. By being involved in this project students will have the opportunity to learn about the importance of looking after our waterways and local plants, and providing food and habitat for native animals, and will experience the pleasures of hands-on environmental learning.

Much of the work on the creek will be supported by a group of year 11 and 12 Geography and Science students from Maleny High School, who will be involved in water studies and reporting on man's impact on the environment as well as helping out with on-ground works. It is also hoped that parents of Primary School children will choose to become involved in the project.

Funding for the project will come from Barung Landcare's National Heritage Trust Funding Grant for Revegetation. Barung will help with the clearing of larger woody weeds, advise on species selection, supply all of the trees and coordinate the on-ground works. Planning for the project is currently underway and it is anticipated that the site will be ready to begin planting on Arbor Day in October.

A progressive video report will be made of all facets of the project and Barung will be submitting this footage for the 1999 Queensland Arbor Day Awards, Schools Section.

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RANGE REVEGETATION

Over the past 12 months a group of young people participated in two Green Corps projects in Maleny. Working in conjunction with Barung Landcare, Green Corps were trained in many aspects of Landcare and carried out works to improve land and water quality. Since the completion of Green Corps, a new era in conservation has begun with the establishment of Range Revegetation.

This team consists of four dedicated members who are passionate about continuing the successful works achieved by the forerunners of youth for landcare, Green Corps. We are all past members and possess the skills and experience required to successfully attain restoration of the fragile ecosystem.

Sharing the philosophies of catchment care and native corridor issues, Range Revegetation provides a paid labour force which will help to fill the gap in industry for these works on private and public lands.

Range Revegetation services include creek and river bank (Riparian) repair, remnant rainforest restoration, erosion prevention, identification and removal of pest species and replacement with native, indigenous plants. These services combined with attention to detail will lead to the improvement of land and water quality, provide habitat for native wildlife and protect the diversity of our native flora and fauna. We also encourage continuing maintenance to ensure the survival rate of young trees. We now voluntarily maintain the trees planted during our time as Green Corps trainees.

In conjunction with Barung Landcare, whose ongoing encouragement and support provide us with a stable workbase, we are able to help you, the community, help the environment. Range Revegetation understands that Barung is held in high regard throughout the district and we will maintain this high level of professionalism.

If you have any questions regarding Range Revegetation feel free to drop into Barung and speak to Erin, Nick, Dave or Rod or give us a call and a leaflet can be sent to you.



site assessment

species selection

spraying

maintenance

clearing

weed eradication

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site preparation

species listing

planting

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soil evaluation



FARM FORESTRY

MARY VALLEY SUNSHINE COAST
FARM FORESTRY PROGRAM

with Mark Warnick

Farm forestry on the Blackall Range and across the southern Mary Valley has again been busy and productive.

More than 120 people turned up in June for a field day at Steve Harrison's property outside Maleny and got a great insight into his joint venture arrangement with Qld DPI Forestry. Thanks very much to Barung, DPI, DNR and Mary Valley/Sunshine Coast Farm Forestry Program.

The 'FutureProfit' series of property management planning days is progressing well from Nambour. Landowners are quietly working away at producing their own property and business plans and are learning a great deal about trees, silviculture, timber, marketing etc.

Keep an eye out for DNR Forestry Extension Officer, Ashley Sewell's new book, *Commercial Timber Trees of Eastern Subtropical Australia*. This will be a great read and reference book and will be available from Barung Landcare.

Farm forestry focused recently in Lismore and the northern NSW region with the bi-annual Australian Forest Growers Conference. More than 500 people from around Australia attended this tremendous learning and networking

occasion. It was attended by the AFG national councillor and Mary Valley/Sunshine Coast Farm Forestry Southern Coordinator as well as AFG State Secretary, Mark Warnick.

At the conference, Ashley and I attended the "small scale forestry business integrated with other enterprises" field trip. This brought up some real food for thought as to what could be instituted on the Blackall Range. A farm forestry/ecotourism/timber value adding venture, with cabinet making and furniture retailing, with restaurant/lodges/nature walks etc would seem to be a must at some point up here.

Themes for papers presented at the session included regrowth silviculture; rainforest establishment and site preparation; plantation regrowth economics; farm forestry policy and economic issues; rainforest ecology and sustainability issues, and private forestry education, research and social issues.

If anyone has any ideas about the above or wants to catch up with specific timber inquiries, please contact either Ashley or myself and we would be happy to help.

The other big thing to be kicked off and built up in the next two years is the formation of a landowner support group and a timber-grower and marketing cooperative support group. There is already a solid core of landowners wanting to be involved and we plan an initial meeting at the end of August or early September. So if you are interested, please contact Mark Warnick, Bob Burns or Barung Landcare.

There have also been a number of plantings recently:

Bob Burns has planted out Desley Sandidae's place at Witta and this planting, though small, promises to be an excellent model. The Queensland Folk Federation have put 20,000 trees in the ground according to Des Ritchie and they are looking at undertaking major riparian corridor plantings next. Des also says that many of their plantings are future timber resources.

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HELPING YOU HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

If you recall Jim's article in our last newsletter, he wrote about "the four steps to successful revegetation of your property".

These four steps are:

Planning Preparation
Planting Maintenance

Jim's "planning" and "preparation" followed by our volunteers' "planting" was textbook stuff and all went very smoothly.

Referring back to Jim's article again, Step 4. Maintenance, quote: "maintenance is everything plus", and this is where Weedbusters come in.

As the Coordinator of Weedbusters I am feeling rather despondent about Step 4. A small band of trusty regulars has been getting together once a month for 18 months now, but understandably, circumstances change and the same people cannot keep coming year after year. We are down to very few regulars - three, including me, turned up for July's Weedbusting session. Unfortunately, if numbers remain so poor, the seeds are guaranteed to win the battle. We are desperate for NEW BLOOD. If Saturdays mornings don't suit, an hour or two at a time more convenient to yourself is always possible. Speak to Jim about it, he can loan you any tools you might need and direct you to a patch with a specific weed problem. A regular hour or two really does have an impact!!

Thinking back to why Weedbusters was created - it was in response to two issues: direct criticism of Barung by the general public for "letting the weeds on the Boardwalk get out of hand after the initial plantings" and public opinion that chemicals should not be used to control weeds. (This included some direct threats to staff and Barung itself should chemicals be employed!)

THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO CHEMICALS IS "PEOPLE POWER"!!

Think of China - Chairman Mao decreed that there be no more flies in China - so the people killed any flies they saw until they saw no more!

There are new improved low toxicity sprays available now, but they're not effective against many of the weeds growing along the Boardwalk. If we cannot use "people power" to deal with these nasties, the only effective alternative is chemical - 2 4D - and none of us want that hanging around our waterways do we?

I'm keeping my fingers crossed for a good turnout on Saturday, August 1st. See you there!

WEEDBUSTERS

8 - 10am - Saturday August 1st
Saturday September 5th

HELP BUST THOSE WEEDS

WEED OF THE MONTH

with LINDA IVEZIC

Many readers might be surprised to read about this month's weed - palms. Our interest has been inspired by an article in the July newsletter of the Maroochy Shire's Department of Planning and Development. They are concerned about the degree of use of palms, particularly Cocos/Queen Palms, as a dominant landscape design feature.

Palms are not a dominant feature of Australian vegetation with two possible exceptions - fan palm colonies in northern tropical Queensland and stands of bangalow palms in sub-tropical and temperate areas on the east coast. These occur in isolated communities and do not form extensive stands as do palms in tropical countries.

Palms carry their own image - they symbolize resort living, a lifestyle of indulgent leisure - the ultimate exotic garden. So many of us have moved to Queensland from the temperate southern states with preconceived ideas of living amidst a palm-dominated landscape. Developers love to use palms because of the images they convey, and the ease of landscaping with them: their future size and shape can be easily predicted; they do well in lawns as the turf can grow right to the base of the trunks; and they have compact root balls which mean they can be transplanted as mature plants.

Development on the Sunshine Coast has caused the palm to become a dominant landscaping feature rather than an emergent feature. This approach ignores the wide diversity of landscapes occurring naturally in sub-tropical SE Qld such as Wallum, wetlands, paperbark woodlands, wet and dry sclerophyll forests and temperate/sub-tropical rainforest.

Where do you see palms occurring naturally on the Sunshine Coast? They are found primarily along gullies within a tree dominated landscape. This pattern is quite distinct, even to the untrained eye. Take note when you next walk in any local National Park or private land. The Picabeen/Bangalow Palm, the Cabbage Tree and the Alexandra Palm are our local endemic species. They require protected locations and are not salt tolerant.

Unfortunately, the dominant landscapers' choice has been the Cocos/Queen Palm - not a local species - and this palm is now showing signs of becoming an environmental weed ie. a plant which has formed wild

Seed To Collect

(cont'd from back

string or nets, and the latex from some species was used as a herbal remedy for warts and small sores. Sandpaper Fig leaves were used for light sanding of spears and instruments.

Most figs grow into very large trees with invasive roots, so are best kept away from footings and pipes. If you only have a small space, I would consider planting *Ficus coronata*, which grows to a height of 6m. If you intend growing figs from seed, cut fruit in halves and leave them to seed up on a tray to dry in the sun for about 1/2 a day (no longer). Now you can scrape out the semi-dry seed. I mix coarse sand with my seed and sprinkle onto an even base of seed raising mix. Don't cover with anything else as the small seeds will not germinate if too deeply buried. Alternately we have a good variety of fig trees in the nursery ready to plant out. If you have an excess of fruit or seed, please bring it into Barung and we'll make sure it is planted.

populations outside of its naturally occurring range. Birds and flying foxes love Cocos seeds, which they then spread far and wide in their droppings. Colonies are establishing along waterway around the Coast and Hinterland. Palms seed prolifically - just look on the ground below any species and you will see a thick carpet of sprouting seedlings.

Maroochy Council's idea is not to completely discourage the planting of palms, but rather to encourage their use to reflect their natural occurrence. Of course they would like to discourage the continuation of the current trend to mono-culture of non-native species, particularly the Cocos Palm. Interesting food for thought.

Acknowledgements: July 1998 "Note Padd" - Newsletter of the Dept of Planning and Development, Maroochy Shire Council.
References: *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants* - by Rodger Elliot & David L Jones
The Sub-tropical Garden - by Jacqueline Walker



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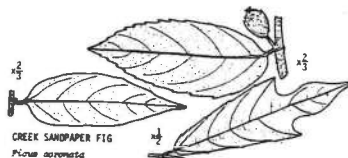
This genus would have to be the most valuable of all taking into consideration wildlife, food supply and habitat. Many creatures make use of the buttressed roots, hollow trunks, spreading branches and abundance of epiphytes to provide a home.

On the Sunshine Coast region we have 8 species of ficus occurring naturally in a variety of habitats eg. dry rainforest, rainforest and coastal.

Figs often have a long fruiting period with different species bearing ripe fruit at different times of the year. As a result, wildlife in the area should always be able to gorge themselves on at least one species of this sought after fruit.

Species	Common Name	Fruit Ripens
<i>Ficus coronata</i>	Creek Sandpaper Fig	Jan - June
<i>Ficus fraseri</i>	Sandpaper Fig	May - Feb
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay Fig	Feb - May
<i>Ficus obliqua</i>	Small Leaved Fig	April - June
<i>Ficus platypoda</i>	Rock Fig	Mar - Oct
<i>Ficus superba</i>	Deciduous Fig	Jan - July
<i>Ficus virens</i>	White Fig	June - Aug
<i>Ficus watkinsiana</i>	Nipple Fig	Sept - April

**Seed to collect August/Sept
Native Figs (*Ficus* spp.)**



This table is only a guide, as fig trees can be very sporadic in their fruit crops. A variety of species planted on your place will help to feed a diversity of wildlife including: green catbird, wompoo pigeon, figbird, lewins, honeyeaters, currawong, olive-backed oriole, regent bowerbird, top-knot pigeon, yellow-eyed cuckoo shrike, rose crowned fruit dove, common koel, black faced cuckoo shrike, brown pigeon, satin bower bird, torresian crow, wonga pigeon, silver eye, white headed pigeon, grey headed fruit bat,

possums and even wallabies and paddy melons have been known to have a browse. All native figs are related to European figs and all fig fruits are non-toxic to humans. All native figs are edible and some are very dry and mealy, making them only suitable for cooking. The best eating of all our local figs are *Ficus coronata* and *F fraseri*. If you avoid the hairy skin and eat them when they are large, soft and juicy, it is very like eating introduced figs. I suggest freezing or drying them while they are plentiful as they do not last long and do not handle well when fresh. Some selection of better varieties would improve fruit quality as very little work has been done as yet.

Fibre from some figs was used by aboriginal people to make

(cont'd previous page)

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Barung Landcare...



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