

BARUNG
LANDCARE
NEWS



August - Sept 2000 WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Olympic Landcare 2000

Community Tree Planting Day

SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST

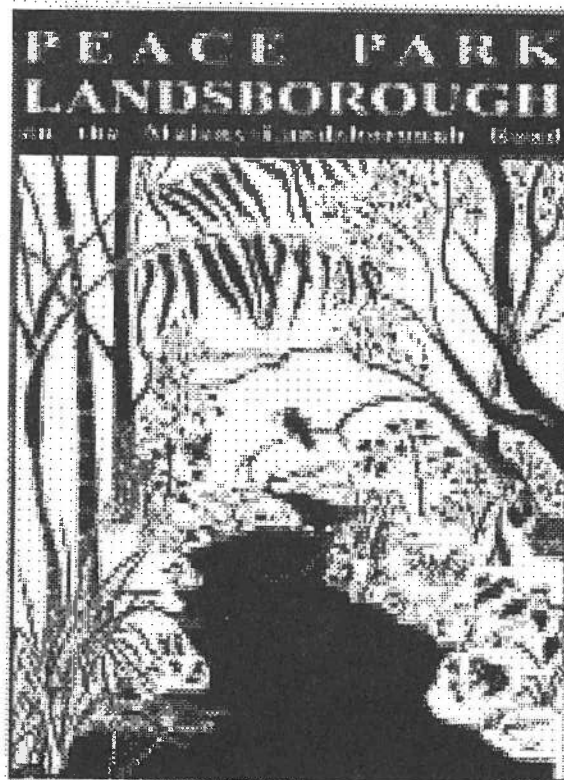
*Help plant 2000 trees
in this valuable sub-tropical rainforest remnant*

Programme

- 8am - 12 noon: treeplant
- 12 noon: dedication of site to Olympian Gayle Mayes
- 12.30 - 3pm: an afternoon of music, entertainment & displays for treeplanters

Olympic Landcare 2000

is a community initiative of the Natural Heritage Trust, Team Millenium Olympic Partners Fuji Xerox, BHP, Westpac (with Challenge Bank & Bank of Melbourne), Telstra and Network Seven and Official Olympic Provider Visy Industries



Bring: hat, sunscreen, drinking water, mattock & gloves (some tools available on site)

FOR INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER
PLEASE PHONE BARUNG ON 5494 3151
OR PENNY SMITH ON 0500 502 375

*Dedication to
Australian Olympian
Gayle Mayes*

*Interpretive
Rainforest Walks*

*The 'Gold Tree'
created by the children
of Landsborough*

*Free morning tea
& cold drinks
for treeplanters*

Butterfly display

*Botanical papers
made from
local weeds & plants*

Tree Surgery

Display of Native Timbers

*Free music
& entertainment*

*Bush Food
'To the Plate'*

*Rare Plants
of the
Glasshouse Mountains*

BBQ lunch available

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Rebecca Ray	Rod & Yvonne Richards
Carmen Muldoon	K&G Brewer
Glenn Hamilton .	Theresa Gabriel
Glenn & Mandy Bauer	Frank Duthler
Amber Davies	Emrys Pratt
Paul Anderson	Paula Lollyer
Martin Lack	Maureen Cooper
Linda Rea	Boris & Patricia Kovacevic

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

NOTICE OF AGM

When: 1pm, Saturday 30th September, 2000
Where: Barung Landcare Resource Centre
Why: to elect the 2001 Barung Landcare Management Committee & to meet other members.

This is your chance to have input into the management of **your** land-care group. Barung is only as strong and influential as its members make it.

We are seeking nominations from Barung members to fill vacant positions on the Management Committee. Some current members will be standing for re-election but others have indicated that they will not be available. New members bring new skills, backgrounds and energy and these are all essential in a voluntary organisation. Please consider sharing your skills and interests with us.

A position on the Management Committee does not mean that you have to have great knowledge of landcare or on-ground experience, but it does mean that you have a commitment to trying to spread the landcare message. It also means that you will learn very rapidly from your fellow committee members and Barung staff.

You can make a contribution to Landcare in a positive way by nominating to become a committee member or by nominating an interested friend. The range of skills required cannot be found in any one individual but as the committee works by consensus, providing there is a wide range of people, the requisite skills will be available. A member of the dairy or horticultural industry would broaden the committee as Joe Herron resigned some months ago due to dairy deregulation pressures.

What other skills could contribute to a strong committee? Financial, business, biological, writers for the newsletter, grant application etc, fund raisers, educators, artists the list is endless. At the moment the committee meets twice monthly, once for planning and once for business but this is open for discussion. Subcommittees are an essential part of Barung as they handle matters directly involved with particular aspects of the organisation e.g. the nursery, revegetation, and education to name but a few.

All nominations for the Management Committee are to be in writing and signed by the member and/or his/her proposer and seconder. Forms must be lodged with the Secretary (Linda Ivezic) at Barung by 9th September. Nominations and proxy forms are included in this newsletter or are available from Barung. The list of candidates will be posted in the Barung office.

Barung has had a number of successful years, backed by the certainty of NHT funding, as well as the nursery and the Expo. With NHT restrictions and the reduced funding available, much time lately has been spent in sourcing funding and this will need to continue.

Are you happy with the services provided by Barung? Can you contribute to any of our activities, if not as a committee member then as a volunteer in a particular area? We need your help.

Barung is a **community** organisation and every little bit helps. Please come to the AGM - 1pm, Saturday, September 30th at Barung.

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Nick & Christie

WEDDING BELLS AT BARUNG

Josi & Owen



GREEN MOVIE NIGHT

ERIN BROCKOVIC

Saturday 19th August, 7.15pm

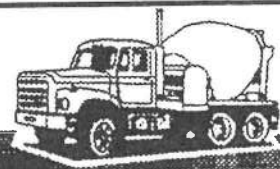
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PROCEEDS TO GO TOWARDS GREEN CAMPAIGNS

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BARUNG COMMITTEE MEMBERS STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION AT THE AGM

David Daugaard - I have work experience in the building, nursery and finance industries. I enjoy working with native timbers and am excited to see a developing sustainable respect for these resources. I am currently using the "Shaw method" to revegetate a 12 hectare property back to rainforest with a long term interest in protecting and expanding my local environment, possibly encouraging threatened/rare species back to corridors remnants. Do I get the briquettes?

Lin Fairlie - I have been interested in Landcare issues for many years, coming from a background in agriculture, environmental studies and teaching. My last 12 months on the Management Committee has been very stimulating and challenging, especially the last few months as President.

Landcare everywhere is facing new challenges as well as the old, especially in this region where the pressure on land, which may result from dairy deregulation, is something about which we will all need to be aware. I feel that I still have things to contribute to Barung and would be willing to stand again for the Management Committee.

Elaine Green - I have been on the Barung Committee for one year and coordinated the From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Expo this year.

With a background in organisational psychology, I am interested in working to make groups like Barung sustainable and am motivated by a deep love of the natural environment. I have worked with the Sunshine Coast Environment Council for the past thirteen years and work as a project consultant. Recently, I completed a hectic stint as Interim Coordinator at the Queensland Conservation Council and would like to help Barung become more self sufficient with funding.

Julie Lehmann - I grew up on a farm outside Sydney and have since lived on the northern beaches, in the Northern Territory and NW Australia. I completed my Certificate of Horticulture in 1994. I joined Barung when I moved to Maleny four years ago, and became a volunteer soon after as a way to contribute to the local community. I believe that Barung is a wonderful organisation achieving things for the community.

My volunteer work at Barung has included nursery work, Saturday morning Nursery sales, Weeding, and helping with treeplants and the Expo. I have been working as a volunteer in the office for two days a week since August 1999.

Neil MacLeod - I bought my 134 acre ex-dairy farm in Maleny in 1991. Prior to that I worked in accountancy and administration. My wife and I are deeply committed to preserving our 40 acres of old regrowth rainforest and to establishing/maintaining a sustainable balance between this area and the rest of the farming property. Through our own experience and observations, I consider two of the

highest priority landcare issues to be environmental weed eradication and establishing harmony between natural bushland and farming/residential land. We both feel that the Landcare movement is an important tool in improving stewardship of the land we all live in and to preserve it into the future. In light of that view, I have served two years on the Barung Management Committee as Treasurer and am willing to continue in that position for a further 12 months.

Martin Storey - I went bush in late 1970s, leaving my job as photographic lab assistant. Since then I have worked around Australia as a nursery assistant, market gardener, painter, handyman and environmental manager/scientist. I have a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management with post-graduate studies in agricultural soil science and mining land rehabilitation, focussing on mycorrhizal fungi.

I enjoy learning how Landcare works and seeing behind the scenes of the "super landcare group" as Barung was called at the recent State Landcare Conference. I have a few plans for promoting Landcare in general and Barung specifically, and look forward to developing these over the next few months.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lin Fairlie

A quick reminder that the AGM is planned for 1pm, Saturday September 30th, and the need to consider whether you could contribute to Barung by nominating for the Management Committee or working as a volunteer.

In the last 2 months a considerable amount of time and energy has been expended seeking funding from a variety of sources. At the time of writing we have not heard of the success or otherwise of any of our applications.

Spencer Shaw, our nursery manager, is leaving Barung to spend more time with his young son and to build up his seed collecting business. Thank you Spencer, for your efforts in the nursery, and thank you for offering to come in and help train volunteers in the future. Our new nursery manager will be on board soon.

Last month Linda Ivezic, Anni Philp (one of our regular volunteers) and I attended the Queensland Weed Society's community weed day at Caloundra. This was very worthwhile and raised many issues relevant to us in Landcare.

It showed how careful we should all be with our choice of garden plants, particularly those with fluffy seeds or with seeds eaten by birds. Correct disposal of garden waste is another important issue as are the spread of camphor laurels and privets.

The State Landcare Conference with the theme of 'Doing it Differently' was held at Caloundra late July and was an important opportunity for everyone interested in landcare to exchange ideas. The 'Decade of Landcare' is drawing to a close and unless funding from all levels of government can be guaranteed and increased, all landcare groups will find it increasingly difficult to continue their work with the same intensity.

I hope that many of you will join us for light refreshments after the AGM. We have a common interest and it is good to share ideas.



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DEADLINE

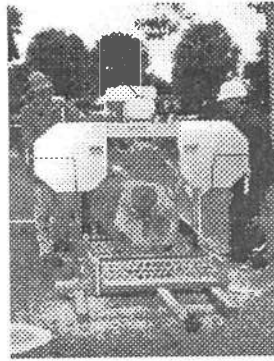
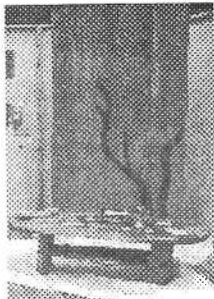
FOR OCT - NOV NEWSLETTER
THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

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.

THANKYOU

EXPO 2000



THANK YOU TO ALL EXPO VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS - WITHOUT YOU ALL THERE WOULD BE NO EXPO

Stephen Alexander
 Jake & Norman Austin
 Glenis Ayling
 Faith Baigent
 Nathan Barker
 Elise Barry
 Kathryn Blackburn
 Tom Bradbury
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 John Lee
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 Ben & Andrea Risby-Jones
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 Andrew Thorburn
 Angela Todd
 Michelle Tuck
 Elizabeth Verreyt
 Iain Waddell
 Alan & Pam Walker
 Jim Watson
 Jenny & Rob Webber
 Nick & Christy Willis
 Dennis Wood

NURSERY NOTES

Spencer Shaw

New Large Pot Area Complete

Over the past few weeks the nursery team has been busy putting the finishing touches on our new growing-on area giving us another 100m² for producing our larger stock.

G.S.T.

The G.S.T. transition seems to have happened rather smoothly for us apart from the confusion of all the new bookwork and membership discounts on stock plus G.S.T. (minus 10% plus 10%!!!). Somewhere along the line, I'm sure all will be clear although I think we might all have to work 10% longer and think 10% harder to figure it all out. We just need the plants to grow 10% quicker!

Wetlands

You may have noticed that the swampy area next to the nursery (wetlands to be politically correct!) has steadily been cleared of weeds over the last 3 months. Thanks to Nick for getting the ball rolling and to Anni and the guys from TAFE for continuing the job. Privet, camphor, blackberry, lantana and morning glory have been removed and the stream has been cleared intermittently to improve the flow of water.

The next phase, once the weeds are completely cleared, will be to plant the area with very water tolerant plants to help absorb the excess moisture, and more importantly, to utilise any excess nutrient leaching from the fertilisers used in potting mix.

Least disturbance possible to existing wildlife is a priority in the development of this area. Great barred frogs live in the stream, brimsticks nest in the dead tree and waterbirds make the area home. We intend enhancing their habitat, while achieving our objective of reducing possible nutrient pollution from the nursery and town stormwater that passes through the site.

Stonewalled !

Volunteers Noel Dugdale and Shane Muller have been working on the retaining walls around the nursery for the last 8 months and their work is almost complete. Thanks guys for the great job you've both done. These guys are true masters of rock walling. How they make uneven, odd sized rocks into such smooth, even, solid walls never fails to amaze me.

Weed fest

Thanks also to all the volunteers who got stuck into the weeding while I was away on holiday. It was fantastic coming back to such lovely weather and the nursery looking absolutely spotless. Thanks all.

Butterflies of the Range

from Bob Miller



THE CHEQUERED SWALLOWTAIL (*Papilio demoleus sthenelus*)

One of the more recent additions to my butterfly garden, the chequered swallowtail is also one of the more active.

It always seemed to want to be somewhere else, pausing only momentarily to feed on one of the nectar producing plants in flower at the time.

I had to find the larval foodplant, so that this butterfly could become more permanent, but this was not an easy task. No-one seemed to know anything about the foodplant - what it looks like or where it grows. It wasn't until a friend of mine in Brisbane obtained some seeds that any of us had seen what the foodplant looked like. It is a low growing, scrambling

plant which self seeds very readily, forming a nice little clump fairly quickly. It has a five pointed leaf and hence gained the common name 'emu foot' (*Cullen tenax* formerly *Psoralea tenax*). I have now had this plant growing in my garden for several years, and every year the chequered swallowtail and its offspring have been permanent residents.

The larvae are very variable in colour, changing from black with orange stripes to yellow or green, with lots of almost metallic, orange spots.

The pupae can be either brown or green and hangs upside-down, attached to the underside of a leaf or branch by its tail and a central silken girdle. The pupae actually reminds me of the dainty swallowtail (*Papilio anactus*) pupae, that we sometimes find on the citrus trees.

The adult butterfly is brown-black, with large areas of yellow. The outer edges of the wings have a series of yellow spots and there is one red spot on the base of the hindwings. The undersides of the wings are also brown-black, with the yellow areas being more prominent, especially on the hindwing. The hindwing has a pale orange band running from top to bottom and a series of dull yellow spots edged in blue and black. One orange spot is located on the bottom of the hindwings.

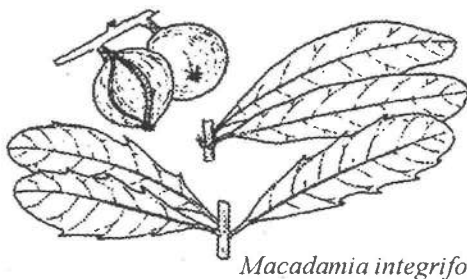
The chequered swallowtail usually only flies about a metre above the ground, and, as mentioned earlier, is very fast. The first impression on seeing it, is of a medium sized, very fast, yellow spotted butterfly.

Cullen tenax is now readily available at Barung Landcare Nursery, for anybody who wishes to attract this beautiful insect to their garden.

Further information about this butterfly can be had by reading Butterflies of Australia, by Common and Waterhouse 1981.

Local Wild & Edible

from Bernard Murawski



Macadamia integrifolia

THE MACADAMIA NUT

Often overlooked as a bushfood due its commercial success, the macadamia nut is worthy of consideration for the garden as it produces plentiful supplies of wonderful tasting nuts. The macadamia (*Macadamia* spp.) was named after John Macadam (1827-1865), a chemist, lecturer and

medical man who was once the president of the Philosophical Society of Victoria. The plant is indigenous to the rainforests of south-east Queensland and north-east New South Wales. If grown from seed (nut), the plant will probably be of inferior quality and take around 10 years to bear its first crop of nuts. It is advisable to purchase either a grafted or cutting grown tree from a reputable nursery. Cutting grown plants begin to produce nuts at around 2-3 years of age while grafted trees start to bear after 4-5 years.

The most suitable cultivars for this area are A4, A16, 344, and 741. The A4 cultivar - a heavy bearer with a more spreading form - requires a larger area in which to grow, but will

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give more shade. The other cultivars have a more upright form and require a smaller area in which to grow. The A16 cultivar is a semi-dwarf tree while the 344 and 741 cultivars have an excellent tree shape. It is preferable to plant more than one cultivar in your garden, as cross-pollination is beneficial for improving nut yield. If you only want one macadamia tree in your garden, buy a different cultivar as a gift for your neighbour.

The macadamia tree does not need supplementary waterings, though additional water applied when the nuts are filling (growing) will be beneficial for yields. In sandy soils the plant profits from added water.

Fertilize just before flowers begin to form (around May-June) and ease-off around harvest time. In the first year apply 100g, the second - 200g, the third - 300g, and the fourth - 400 g of N:P:K (15:4:11) fertilizer per tree every two months. Continue the 400g per tree thereafter. Alternatively use your favorite organic fertilizer but allow a period of around three months for the organic material to break down and release nutrients.

The plant tolerates heavier soils better than, say avocados, but prefers more free draining clay soils. It preferable that the soil pH does not increase above 5.5. The tree can also be sensitive to frosts when young.

The major pests and diseases of the macadamia tree include the macadamia nut borer, macadamia flower caterpillar, fruitspotting bug, husk spot and trunk canker.

Thank you ...

... *Jeanette Nobes* for your fantastic kitchen renovations;

... *Anni, Jeanette, Rod, Martin, Rod, Jai* and the fairy bread boys - *Mal & Gordon* - for all of your help with the Barung State Landcare Conference delegates' tour;

... *National Parks & Wildlife Service, Maleny* for your donation of two 'boardroom' tables and chairs for the Barung meeting space;

... *Julie Lehmann & Martin Storey* for filling vacant Management Committee positions.

HOLLOW LOG HOMES

from Alan & Stacy Franks

Dead trees! Why are they so important?

In Australia we have approximately 92 species of birds, 55 species of mammals and at least 35 reptiles and amphibians that either live, roost or nest in tree hollows. This phenomenon is made even more remarkable by the fact that we do not have primary excavators such as woodpeckers like other continents.

To have such a wide variety of animals relying on hollows is in itself remarkable, especially considering that it takes between 150-200 years for many of our native trees to develop suitable hollows.

In the past our forests were full of dead and dying trees alongside the new healthy trees. We had trees with limbs broken and decaying, and our animals learnt to utilize these trees for shelter, protection from predators and the elements.

Unfortunately this type of tree does not suit our modern life. Many hollow trees or limbs are removed from parks and gardens for public safety, and many of our forests are too young to produce these hollows. But all is not lost.

Many species that use tree hollows will readily adapt to artificial hollows. Research shows that, even after years of absence, many species will return to areas if suitable hollows are provided.

It is well documented that our birds live for an extraordinary length of time, up to 50 years in the case of the larger cockatoos. By providing them with suitable nest sites, we are ensuring that they will continue to breed.



Alan installs a kookaburra box high in a eucalypt.

Alan and Stacey Franks of Hollow Log Homes, Kenilworth, have been researching artificial nesting boxes for the past few years. They have found that if you place suitable nesting boxes appropriately, they will be used by everything from velvet geckos to greater gliders and black cockatoos.

Hollow Log Homes

wildlife boxes are made using Australian eco ply, waste timber products and recycled materials.

Because of their environmentally responsible ethos, Hollow Log Homes are now used by the Environment Protection Agency, National Parks and Wildlife, Greening Australia, Maroochy Shire Council, The Woodford Folk Festival and Barung Landcare. Installation and monitoring of the boxes is an important part of the success of these wildlife boxes. Much of the information on artificial hollows is anecdotal and needs to be documented and collated as new research comes to hand.

Alan and Stacey hope to develop boxes that help with such problems as mosquito control by encouraging the growth of insectivorous bat populations.

As we humans have caused havoc in the environment, so we must help to restore it.

Hollow Log Homes are available from the Barung Nursery.

Alan and Stacey would like to hear from anyone with anecdotes about artificial nesting boxes. They would also appreciate any donations of old springs, shade cloth scraps and old garden hose.

They can be contacted by phoning 5472 3142.

Barung has just received notification from the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund of a successful grant which will enable us to put Hollow Log Homes out on many of our revegetation sites.

Thanks to Alan & Stacey for your help with this.

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with Josi Marriott

Barung's three year Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funded project titled "Revegetation/ Remnant Protection in the Upper Mary Catchment" is now in its final year.

Key objectives of the project include the protection of isolated

remnant vegetation through removal of woody weeds and revegetation works, and the creation of remnant buffers and linkages. Through streambank rehabilitation of other sites in the Lake Baroon Catchment, the project aims to reduce soil erosion and run-off, assist in the arrest of nutrient flow, improve in-stream habitat and increase species diversity.

The project has rated highly during annual assessments and has contributed to landcare education on the range, providing funding for trees and works to strategic sites on private land and assisting other local groups achieve landcare aims.

Project sites close to Maleny offer Barung members and residents the opportunity to view our successes and challenges and to learn different methods of achieving revegetation/regeneration in a range of conditions. The Obi Boardwalk and showground sites are open to the public, but other sites should only be viewed from adjacent roadways as they are on land that requires prior permission to access.

The map shows the location of several project sites, planted and maintained by members and volunteers, some established before the project started but maintained and enhanced throughout the project. A brief description of each follows:

1. The Obi Boardwalk - established by Barung prior to NHT funding. Removal of large dense camphor laurel trees and construction of the timber boardwalk and pathway, created a pedestrian link from Coral Street, along the creek and over the Rotary Bridge, to the showgrounds. The bank opposite the boardwalk on the showgrounds side has been regenerated by our valued monthly Weedbusters over the last year.

The floods of early 1999 took out many trees, and some in-stream works are required to stabilize an eroding bank, but the site is now maturing to allow planting of understorey species and increase species diversity. Council intends to extend the Boardwalk following the creek from the library to the start of our boardwalk. Observing nesting finches, platypus frolicking in the creek and the growth of this natural asset are a rewarding experience;

2. Maleny Showgrounds rainforest remnant protection and corridor establishment - a fantastic aged stand of trees in the showgrounds hosting a number of rare plants. Cleared of debris and weeds, with a vegetation buffer edge installed by several Green Corps teams, the remnant is currently being connected via a vegetation corridor around the eastern boundary to the Obi Creek, reducing its genetic isolation;

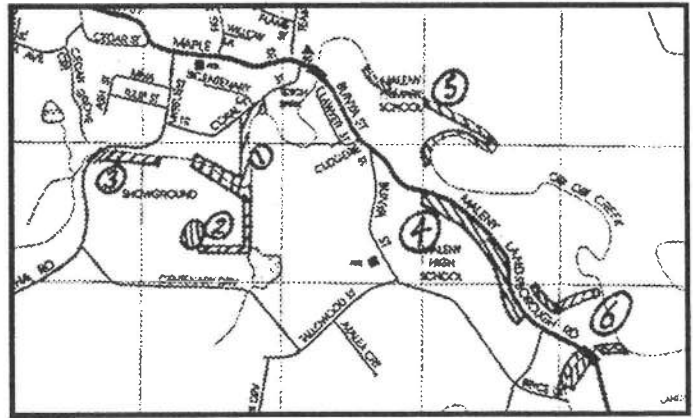
3. Maleny Showgrounds Creek Bank - this site, from Stanley River Rd. past the swimming hole, was planted around 10 years ago by Barung, locals and people attending the Maleny Folk Festival. Only one small stretch of the Obi along the entire length of the showgrounds remains to be done!

4. The Entrance to Maleny is enhanced by this 1998 planting on the roadside and within the High School grounds. It is establishing well, catching stormwater from the steep catchment above, creating a further corridor and habitat linkage to nearby revegetation sites;


5. Maleny Primary School Obi Creek frontage - following the removal of extensive weeds, students have participated in several planting events. Winning the 1999 Queensland Arbor Day School Planter Award, this community project was assisted by several Green Corps teams. Site maintenance is coordinated by Barung. With one small stretch to go the Obi Creek, along the entire length of the school grounds, will be done!

6. Walkers Creek - bank rehabilitation and revegetation works involving removal of privet and planting to protect and reduce isolation of the remnant rainforest trees. The section opposite McCarthy Rd. and the planting on the old Erowal cottage side undertaken in 1999 have been hit by heavy frosts and floods, but are establishing gradually. As part of Olympic Landcare celebrations a volunteer team will plant the remaining section on the other side of the road in August, connecting it to the Obi.

Watch these sites thrive over the next few years, knowing they have minimal funding and rely on volunteers, labour sources, and innovative techniques for their success.





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Bush Regeneration

by Robyn Becket,

S.E.Q. Representative AABR
(Australian Association of Bush Regenerators)

"Bush Regeneration" is an Australian term. 'Bush' refers to our natural uncultivated vegetation and 'Regeneration' means the regrowth or renewal of something which exists.

"Bush Regeneration" therefore means the regrowth of our natural vegetation i.e. of existing vegetation that has been damaged or degraded. Bush Regeneration is the natural process of recovery after damage. The bush has the capacity to heal itself and that natural capacity has evolved to aid recovery from storms and bush-fires without human intervention.

Our bushland is now suffering from far greater pressures than ever before – the results of our deliberate and accidental mismanagement. Bush Regeneration skills are developed to manage bushland, to utilize its natural capacity to recover or regenerate, and to prevent us from swamping our bush with over-enthusiastic but unseeing efforts. First we need to develop assessment skills - to be able to assess the health of the bushland, and to be able to recognise which threats are very serious and which have mixed blessings. These skills also help us recognise the bush's own efforts at recovery and this ability to recognise the potential for self-help is very important.

Bush regeneration skills are primarily used in areas suffering from the burden of weed invasion. Weeds are always somehow a result of human activity, mainly plants escaping from garden situations. Other weed causes are changed fire regimes, changed watercourses, and agricultural influences. Sometimes we can do something about the cause of weeds, sometimes we can't.

A Regenerator needs to know many of our environmental weeds. Knowledge and understanding of life cycles and of which weeds will cause most damage are essential for weed management. Then we can set priorities and write plans.

To combat the tremendous pressures on our bush from clearing and weed invasion, we need to work thoughtfully with nature to maximise regeneration of the existing vegetation. That includes recognition of those seed and plant parts already on site, those falling from existing plants, and those introduced from adjacent bushland by wind, birds, possums or flying foxes.

We must first develop the skills to recognise the existence of these tiny inch-high native plants. Then we learn to identify them and to anticipate, through experience, the likelihood of a particular suite of regenerating plants and their order of arrival. We plan our weed clearing order and methods to suit each particular site as every site is different. This is a huge and wonderful subject and one where those involved will never know everything.

The subject of weeds in natural areas can trigger many emotions in people, but we can learn to deal with them and humbly look at the damage. Nature's own efforts then work in tandem with us for a better natural world on our own locality.

The management plan for a bush regeneration site being managed by volunteers prescribes 'target weeding' i.e. removal of the most damaging weeds first, often vines or those about to set seed. Target weeding is usually part of the first sweep through to remove all weeds and is called 'Primary Weeding'.

After that we have 'Secondary Weeding' which is often more difficult and requires greater skills. Secondary weeding may involve more than one sweep through and the 'workers' need to be able to identify returning weeds (they will return!), regenerating indigenous seedlings and even new weed species. This is when you need to enjoy weeding for its own sake - the dirt digging and back stretching, and the

company and conversation of fellow workers. Some people become discouraged at this stage, and it is probably best that people realise that discouragement is likely before we get to the final 'Maintenance' phase.

Most sites will need a maintenance program involving a sweep through of all weed species. Frequency of the maintenance program varies, depending on the size of the site and outside influences. Maintenance programs vary from once every 3 months to every three to five years for large national parks.

Many Regenerators say that if you cannot commit to bringing a site to Maintenance phase, it is not worth starting. Sometimes though, we have to take the risk, and hope and push for further funding or volunteer help to maintain the work. Even a Primary Weeding will be of great benefit to a site – the removal of threatening weeds allowing a little breathing time for seedlings. But don't forget – the weeds will return!

Involvement in a regeneration project is very fulfilling. We are really working as facilitators and sometimes, our prime work (weed management), triggers growth or regeneration much faster or with much greater diversity than we expected and we experience great joy. Then it is hard to leave the site.



from Marc Russell
Ph: 07 5494 9608

Maleny Credit Union grants boost corridor establishment

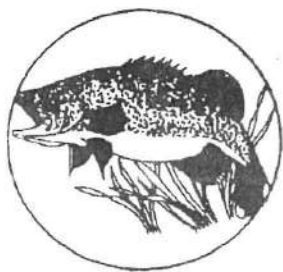
As part of their community grants programme, Maleny and District Community Credit Union have allotted \$500 per year for three years to the COG project. The first round will be spent in conjunction with Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group funding (\$300 - also from MCU grants) on 500 trees to be planted at Dilkusha community on the banks of the Obi Obi Creek.

The residents of Dilkusha have protected the rainforest on their property by entering into a Nature Refuge Agreement. This title binding agreement (through EPA) ensures long-term protection for a large portion of their property. Protection of our disjunct rainforest remnants and the flora and fauna found within them is our greatest priority if we consider their long term integrity and survival. No matter how hard we try we cannot replace diverse ecosystems such as these, so it is vital we conserve the old growth areas that remain and make efforts to link them with vegetation corridors.

Residents of Dilkusha have removed a large area of privet (growing as a monoculture) on the banks of the Obi and will be replacing it with local species. These works will increase biodiversity and allow natural regrowth to expand from adjacent healthy areas. The project will be part of the important corridor linking remnants along Obi Creek with large expanses of forest around Lake Baroon, Kondallilla National Park and Mapleton State Forest.

The community has a long-term rehabilitation and maintenance plan ensuring ongoing success for the project. Australian Conservation Trust Volunteers (ACTV) will hopefully send 10 volunteers for a week to assist with planting and clearing new sites at minimal expense to the landholder. Congratulations Dilkusha!!! Keep up the good work.

If you are interested in Conservation Agreements or would like to be involved in rehabilitation work on Obi Creek, please give me a ring on 07 5494 9608.



Mary River Cod Community Network

from Leisa Riggs

When is a fishing trip not a fishing trip?

Well, we had the fishing nets and waders but instead of a fishing rod, the 'fishermen' donned a battery backpack electro fisher and electric fishing rod. And yours truly was given a data collection folder, pencil and strict instructions not to go in the water. No problem!

*Bob Simpson and
Amos Mapleston
from the DPI -
electro Cod
fisherman*



*Length and condition
recorded - the fingerlings are
released back into the creek.*



The 'fishermen' were Bob Simpson and Amos Mapleston from Department of Primary Industries (DPI) fisheries and the trip was actually to check the progress of the 500 dye-tagged cod fingerlings released into Station Creek at Widgee in December '99.

The fingerlings were released at 35mm and my job was to record the data of length and condition using such technical terms as "fat

Ten cod were caught with the catch of the day being 165mm - a significant increase in just six months. The largest Cod recorded at the same site in March was 60mm, showing that this section of the Mary River is sustaining the Cod.

Apparently, the next day a 300mm Cod was caught at a different site, believed to be from the 1998 released stock.

Prior to this trip I had been given some concerns about the effect this method of 'fishing' has on the instream inhabitants, particularly the crustaceans. However my fear was allayed with the first catch as they were the first to recover. Everything we caught recovered quickly and was closely monitored until it could swim away.

Other catches included eel tail catfish, spotted gudgeon and some huuge eels.

Although only ten fish were caught on the day, many more 'got away'. The estimated success rate on this site is 5% (being higher than the 1-2% as believed in the past.)

We were all really encouraged by the results of this trip and the tale has since been told to many school children.

Were there any exaggerations? No way!

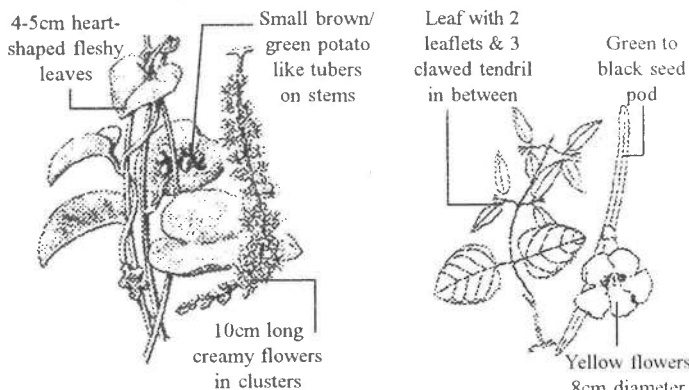
After all - it was a fishing trip.

The Summer Invasion

from Phillip Trendall

As the warmer months approach, it is time to be on the look out for many of our more invasive weeds. The two most visible along our waterways during this time are Cat's Claw Creeper and Madeira Vine.

Cat's Claw is recognised by the bright yellow flowers covering the surrounding vegetation - including new regrowth, small understorey bushes, large trees and even telegraph poles.



Madeira Vine

Cat's Claw Creeper

Madeira vine produces white flowers similar in appearance to lamb's tails (another common name), and has tubers all along the stem.

These weeds were commonly used in the past along fence lines and to cover outhouses and chook sheds. They have escaped into the surrounding environment and now have the potential to cover and destroy large sections of our native vegetation.

Along the riparian zone in the Mary catchment, these weeds are already smothering trees which provide shade, food and protection for the endangered Mary River Cod.

The control of such weeds is one way by which you can participate in saving cod habitat within the catchment, so be on the lookout this summer for the invasive nasties flowering on your property.

For information on how to control these particular weeds or other species of concern, please contact me on 5482 4251 or Barung Landcare on 5494 3151.

If you are lucky enough not to have these weeds, there are many other ways you can help save cod habitat if you are interested.

**" We must be very lucky that this fish
only lives here.
Will this be forever?"**

Quote of the week -

from a primary school boy to Phil Trendall

The World Wide Fund For Nature now has an office in Gympie located in the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee Building/Resource Centre at 53 Tozer St, (PO Box 1027) Gympie Qld 4570.

The Catchment Resource Centre is open 9.30am - 1.30pm Monday to Friday, and I will most likely be there on Tuesdays, so don't hesitate to drop in.

Ph: 5482 4251 (MRCCC - 5482 4766)

Fax: 5482 5642

E-mail: philtwwf@spiderweb.com.au or mreccc@qldwide.net.au

FARMCARE – LANDCARE IN HORTICULTURE IN SEQ (& the Philippines)

from John Muir

DPI Horticultural Research Station,
Nambour
Ph: 5444 9611 / 0418 158 623

Repairing the Country - A Five Point Plan

Much that we love about Australia is under serious threat from salinity, poor river health and loss of biodiversity, stemming from inappropriate land uses, poorly conceived government policies, and markets which fail to value soils, water and vegetation.

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and the National Farmers Federation (NFF) are working together to find solutions to this threat.

It is clear from the Decade of Landcare that the grants-based project approach and limited accountability falls short of the scale and type of investment that is needed.

We can and must learn from the past if we are to repair our country.

A 5-POINT REPAIR PLAN

- 1. A 10 year bipartisan commitment** - because short term fixes, caught in electoral cycles, only deliver political fights;
- 2. National leadership** - national targets (covering land, soils, rivers, vegetation and biodiversity) to achieve outcomes in a defined timeframe; a national policy framework for catchment and regional strategies; more emphasis on accountability in providing C'wealth funds to state governments; more strategic investment directed to strategy implementation, based on outcome-driven contracts etc.
- 3. A new scale of strategic investment** - a total annual investment of \$6 billion with on-going annual maintenance program of \$0.5 billion is required to meet targets. The report estimates that the Govt. will need to budget to invest \$3.7 billion of this per year over 10 years;
- 4. Strong private sector engagement** - over \$3 billion per year of targeted private sector investment required to provide sustainable regional economic growth;
- 5. Active involvement of all Australians** - rural communities cannot and should not be expected to meet the challenge alone. The benefits from this investment will be many and varied and we will all share them.

For further information:

ACF (03) 9416 1166 - www.acfonline.org.au
NFF (02) 6273 3855 - www.nff.org.au

TREE TALK

by Tony Wootton

Hello again tree people.

On a recent road trip south I was struck by the vastness of the Eucalypt forests, where only the species names have been changed to protect the innocent. As beautiful as it was, it really brought home to me the diversity, beauty, and uniqueness of our range-top plant community, and the importance of Barung's work in promoting our rare, endangered, and valuable local floral population.

I was also struck by other things, not the least a speeding snow-boarder, but that as they say, is another story. On with the article!

INCLUDED BARK

'Included bark' is right up there with epicormic shoots (see last issue) as an important factor in assessing a tree for structural integrity i.e. Will it, or a part of it, fall on me or my house?

The concept is fairly simple but the results can be dire.

Included bark occurs when two vertical stems grow upwards with the inner sides of their bark surfaces touching, instead of growing upwards separately from a well formed crotch or fork. As the girth of each stem increases, the area of contact between them increases, and this is the area of included bark, the effects of which are many. It is common to find, upon opening a section of included bark, deposits of soil, ants and their nests, tree roots as the tree is tricked into sending roots into the area, slugs, beetles, and a host of other decay causing micro-organisms.

Externally, an area of included bark can appear as two folds of skin pressed together where the two stems meet, or as an extended bark ridge between the two trunks. Often there is no indication of the problems within, although with advanced decay some weeping from the area may occur.

I have attended several instances where large trees have failed structurally at the point where the included bark occurred and have had the opportunity to photograph, dissect, and otherwise examine these areas in some detail.

Cutting open the timber in the included bark area reveals extensive staining as the tree sets up defensive zone after defensive zone in an attempt to resist the forces of decay emanating from the included bark. The cross-section form of the trunk at that point is also deformed as the proximity of the other trunk prevents proper development, better able to withstand wind forces and support foliage weight.

If one side of an area of included bark fails,

STAMP OUT

Giant rats tail grass


8TH AUGUST

IDENTIFICATION FIELD DAY

If you live in the northern Range & want to learn to identify this potentially disastrous weed, come to the Barung / DPI Field Day at Mapleton from 9.30am till lunch.
Ring Barung for details

WEEDBUSTERS

8-10AM
- THE FIRST SAT
OF EACH MONTH



Ring Linda on
5494 3497 for
cates & details
or to find out just
what they do to make
weeding such fun
- it she'll tell you!!

the remaining trunk is generally unsafe because of imperfect development; the open wound caused by the failure; and the loss of support of the fallen trunk. It should be assessed by an arborist.

Included bark is more of a tree problem, and is not a serious issue for shrubs.

Cabinet timber growers and amenity horticulturalists take note: the best way to avoid an included bark situation is to clip out twin or multiple leaders at sapling stage, and to properly prune any storm-damaged liri to prevent multiple shoots occurring.

Included bark areas in existing trees may be assessed and remedied by an arborist, however, removal of either the section or the entire tree may be the only safe option. On the other hand, the presence of included bark does not guarantee structural failure.

Recognise that the presence of included bark does represent a weakness, and that if failure due to wind or other pressures is to occur, it is one site at which the tree could fail.

So that is the included bark story - an insight into the darker side of the nature of trees, whereby they carry the seeds of their own destruction within themselves. This is not a bad thing. I have merely tried to give a more complete view of the life of a tree, and illustrate that these magnificent organisms also have a dangerous aspect.

Until next issue, touch trees, know trees, and be dazzled by their intricate beauty.

WEED OF THE MONTH

from Lin Fairlie

Seed To Collect

cont'd from p 12

In place of the usual weed of the month I will share with you a little of the valuable information gained at the Queensland Weed Society's Annual Symposium public information day held in Caloundra in July.

Topics were very varied but some were particularly applicable to us in the Hinterland – especially garden escapees and the camphor laurel/privet problems.

Plants with the potential to become weeds are usually those with:

- (i) fluffy seeds dispersed by wind e.g. moth vine (*Araujia hotorum/sericofera*);
- (ii) fleshy seeds which are attractive to birds e.g. ochna (*Ochna serrulata*), umbrella trees (*Schefflera actinophylla*);
- (iii) long runners which will shoot if even small sections are left after weeding e.g. wandering jew (*Cymbalaria muralis*), morning glory (*Ipomoea indica*);
- (iv) sticky seeds e.g. silver leafed desmodium (*Desmodium uncinatum*).

One figure given was that **67% of our weed species are garden escapees**. The remaining ones were deliberately introduced or came in accidentally. We should all examine our own gardens and try to assess which plants are likely to cause problems in the future.

At least from the many declared weeds (e.g. groundsel, mistweed etc. of which we are all aware) there are many others with weed potential in our gardens. These include the African tulip tree (*Spathodea campanulata*), the north Q'land umbrella tree (*Schefflera actinophylla*), and the common asparagus fern (*Protasparagus spp.*), to name but three. Some prolific garden plants you may wish you had never planted will remain 'your own' problem provided you dispose of them carefully and not onto surrounding land. I have found this with a type of blue salvia and with Japanese honeysuckle, both of which produced vigorous suckers.

Of more serious concern are camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) and both broad and small leaved privet (*Ligustrum spp.*). Driving along the roads on the Range, it can be hard to pick these two major tree types from other rainforest trees until one gets one's eye in. Now I, and I hope others, see them everywhere.

What is the problem? They are big trees, doing the good 'things' trees do for our environment.

But are they?

You may remember seeing camphor laurel as a lovely shade tree in your school grounds. Its other positive attribute is its timber - widely sought by woodworkers. Local mobile millers are willing to help you deal with your large trees as a large camphor laurel does have some commercial value.

But camphor laurel has become a major pest in northern NSW, and is becoming more and more so in SE Qld.

What can we do to reduce its spread? Trees reach maximum seed production at about 30 years of age and can each produce about 100,000 seeds per year. Hand-pull any seedlings and cut and paint small and large trees with Roundup/Glyphosphate.

It was thought that camphors were good for stabilising the creekbanks but this is not true. Their shallow roots do not hold the banks adequately. Their presence suppresses any understorey growth, due either to the dense shade or the "allelopathic" effects from the chemicals in the leaf and root exudates. This contributes further to creekbank erosion. The oil from the leaves contains a carcinogen and is recorded as causing sterility in poultry. It is thought to also taint cows' milk and affect native birds.

Not much work has been done with privets. We are all aware of the many privet seedlings found under other trees. These can be easily hand weeded but larger saplings or trees must be dug out or cut and painted.

Both camphor laurel and privets are good host trees for strangler figs. Come to the next strangling fig workshop at Barung (the last one was highly successful and great fun!) and find out how to help nature deal with some of these large tree weeds.

There are many equally attractive trees at the Barung nursery which you can plant to replace those you cut out.

A good book to read on the topic of plants as weeds is Tim Lowe's Feral Future.

The flowers are produced inside the receptacle and small native wasps enter a hole in the end of the fig and allow pollination to occur, almost like an "inside out" strawberry! As the fig tree produces masses of figs, so too does each fig contain many seeds. Each tree must produce millions and millions of seed over the 3 months plus that they fruit each year – masses of seed to balance their one in a million chance of finding a suitable host and conditions to germinate and grow. Figs are certainly easy to collect. As mentioned, they produce a huge quantity of fruit which is easily found on the ground.

To germinate the seed easily however, it needs to be separated from the pulp of the fig. This is done by drying split fruit for a day, and then scraping the seed free. Another method is to pulp fruit in water by soaking for several days, then pour the fruit away whilst the heavy seed remains.

The easiest way to collect seed is in the form of fresh bat spit. Fruit bats chew figs for their sticky pulp and then spit out balls of pure seed below the tree – all you need to do with these is collect fresh ones and crumble and sow the seed in trays ready to grow (gloves are recommended when handling bat spit).

An article on figs would be incomplete without mentioning the two local sandpaper figs – *Ficus coronata* and *Ficus fraserii*. These much smaller trees (only 6-12 m tall) are forest pioneers. Fast growing and early fruiting (often within 2-3 years) these two trees are great for starting forest systems from scratch.

**Collect figs, grow figs, eat figs
& enjoy their shade!**

Other seed to collect:

- Acronychia oblongifolia* - Common aspen
- Jagera pseudorhus* - Foam bark
- Pilidiostigma glabrum* - Plum myrtle
- Euodia elleryana* - Pink euodia
- Harpullia pendula* - Tulipwood
- Flindersia australis* - Crows ash



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Figs, figs – my kingdom for a fig!

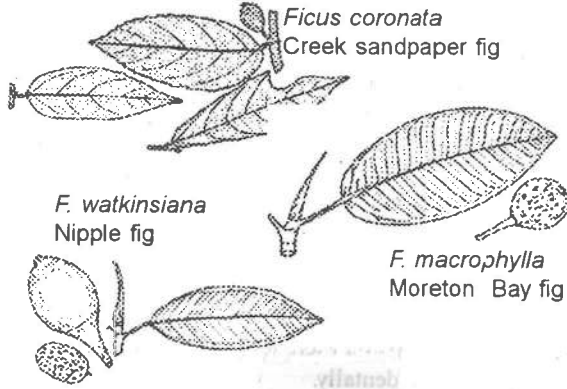
Towering above the forest canopy strangler figs emerge. These colossal trees - elders of the forest - are a symbol of the development of our forests – these are “old growth”. Figs need existing forest to become established and once established they stand as guardians of the forest for hundreds of years.

Five strangler figs exist naturally in our area: *Ficus watkinsiana* (Nipple Fig); *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig); *Ficus obliqua* (Small leaved Fig); *Ficus platypoda* (Rock Fig); and *Ficus virens* (White Fig).

These figs do occasionally establish like other trees – seed germinating on the ground and then growing into trees. However strangler figs are famous (or perhaps infamous amongst other trees!) for their ability to germinate high on the

**Seed To Collect Aug - Sept
by Spencer Shaw**

***Ficus spp* - figs, figs, figs!**



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

trunks of existing trees. Only then do they send their roots groundward, surviving purely on water from the atmosphere. When their roots find the ground and unlimited water, they surround their host tree in a web of roots that eventually becomes the trunk. The host tree is strangled and rots away.

Figs are the “supermarket” or “fast food joint” of the forest, producing huge quantities of fruit and leaf litter throughout the year. Possums, rats, flying foxes, fig birds, parrots and many more creatures are provided with an overabundance of food thanks to the fig. These guys generate huge amounts of energy into our forest that allow for the development of incredibly diverse ecosystems.

The fig fruit is not actually a single fruit but rather a receptacle containing many fruit. cont'd previous page

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