

# BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

August - September 2001



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

## *An Extraordinary Farm Forestry Person*

Phil Jacobs, of 55 Gardners Lane, Maleny, had the unique opportunity in his later working life in Maleny, to provide guidance and vision to our local farm forestry growers.

Phil's commitment and achievements in the community were not publicised.

His life contributions to Barung Landcare as president, committee member and tree planter, and his provision of skills, labour and knowledge to construct the main building of the Barung Landcare office in Bicentenary Lane will be remembered for a long time. He has left his mark in our community and his efforts will always be greatly appreciated.

Barung Landcare owes a great deal to this kind gentleman who played such a part in developing a community-based organization which is possibly one of the best landcare community groups within the state of Queensland.



*Phil Jacobs (left) and Barry Beale (centre) are presented with their life memberships of Barung in 1993.*

*Phil and Barry were instrumental in constructing the building which is now known as the Barung Resource Centre*

Phil showed a keen interest in participating in the broader community as well, with membership of the Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, U3A and the Maleny Information Centre to name a few.

With his partner in life, Patricia, he extended the envelope of life to encourage us all to have a better view of the world we live in. His legacy to Farm Forestry will be ongoing, as his plantation of rainforest cabinet timber trees is a living testimony to his passion and commitment.

## BARUNG HOSTS NATIONAL LAUNCH OF GREEN RESERVE PROGRAM

The conservation efforts of the Barung's Green Reserve team were highlighted on Thursday, 19 July at the National launch of the Green Reserve Program by Federal Minister for Employment Services, Mal Brough.

Members of the Barung Landcare Green Reserve team joined with students from Maleny State High School and guests for a symbolic tree planting ceremony, under the theme "Seeding the Future," in recognition of the benefits for future generations of today's efforts by the Green Reserve.

The launch, held at Barung Landcare Resource Centre, was also attended by Caloundra City Council Mayor, Don Aldous, local Councillor, Pauline Clayton, Maleny High School Principal, Paul Tarbuck, representatives from Conservation Volunteers Australia, local environment groups, and Barung's Green Corp team.

The six month Green Reserve program is one of 31 new conservation projects running Australia-wide for volunteers over 40 years of age.

Each project is funded by the Commonwealth Government's Work for the Dole program, and utilises the skills and experience of jobseekers over 40 who are receiving the full Newstart Allowance. Participation in Green Reserves is voluntary.

"Green Reserve gives older job seekers the opportunity to volunteer for something that will have a positive effect for both the environment and themselves," Mr Brough said.

The Maleny Green Reserve team has been working on revegetation and environmental weed control projects in the local region for the past three months. They have been utilising their skills in maintenance of plantings at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve and on Obi and Walkers Creeks, control of Japanese sunflowers on roadsides and at McCarthy's Lookout, control of morning glory on the Obi Boardwalk, and maintenance work on the remnant at the Maleny Showgrounds. (cont'd page 10)

*Maleny High  
students help  
Mal Brough  
plant a tree in  
recognition of  
the Green  
Reserve's work  
for the future*



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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

|                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Denis Byrne & Sandra Ridolfi | Lois Miles             |
| Audrey Flierman              | Aileen Fidler          |
| Ben Lawrance                 | Stephen & Fiona Hunter |
| Ron & Judy Van Hooff         | Bob Walpole            |
| Don & Helen & Callan Wood    | Paul & Clare Russell   |
| William Box                  | Mike & Val Haddrell    |
| Shirley Sommer               | Rob Lamont             |
| Kevin & Rana Bartlett        | Paula & Phil Weddell   |
| Stella & David Wiggins       | Tanya Wolfe            |
| J & S Rayner                 | Al Freemantle          |
| Michelle Heath               | Mark & Eva King        |
| Juliette Greenway            | John Mcguire           |
| Barbara & Bill Nye           | M Beenders             |

Qld Parks & Wildlife Service

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT



**DEADLINE**  
FOR OCT - NOV NEWSLETTER  
**WEDNESDAY 19TH 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**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Lin Fairlie*

The past two months have been very busy at Barung. As well as hosting the Green Corps, we are now host to one of the first Green Reserve teams in Australia. The Australian launch of this program was held at Barung in July by local member and the Minister responsible for the program, Mal Brough, and we welcome these willing, mature age workers for their two days work each week for Barung and the region.

Last month Mim, John Muir and I attended the State Landcare Conference at Goondiwindi and came away inspired by the contributions, particularly those of Rick Farley and Andrew Campbell who is now Executive Director of Land and Water Australia. Both Rick and Andrew were among the founders of Landcare - see elsewhere for conference report. Landcare will only continue to be successful if members play an active part.

Barung's Annual General Meeting, at 1pm on Saturday 22nd September, is fast approaching and this is the time to consider being part of the Management Committee. One way to get a feel for what is involved is to attend the August Management Committee meeting on the 22nd August at 6pm at Barung. There are at least two committee members standing down, including our treasurer of three years, who will leave a large gap. The treasurer's position is now less arduous as many of the hiccups (including GST) have been ironed out and Angie, our Barung Admin Officer, is full time. The future of landcare in this area will depend on what we can manage to achieve.

Another exciting major change coming up for Barung is the proposed extension of the Resource Centre building. The work environment for the staff (and our many volunteers) has, for quite some time, been inadequate. From a Workplace Health and Safety point of view there are a number of changes which must be made. This will obviously require some funding from an outside source and we hope we are successful in our application. Any assistance for this project will be welcomed. We will keep you up-to-date on the progress.

We would like to remind members that Barung receives no regular government funding of any kind, and has, in the past, relied on specific project funding for which we have competed successfully. There seems to be a misconception in the community that Barung is government funded (including the Management Committee).

I would like you, if the opportunity arises, to gently squash these ideas if you hear them and entreat people to play a more active role in maintaining this beautiful area. Only if we all work together can we achieve the best outcome for people and the environment, that is the aim of sustainability through landcare.

P.S. Just because I haven't mentioned weeds does not mean that they are under control. If you have a weed eradication program on your property, keep up the good work.

## . CONCRETING .

DOMESTIC  
COMMERCIAL  
FORMWORK

**Phillip Vickers**  
Q.B.S.A. Lic. No. 059 931

STAMPED  
EXPOSED  
PLAIN

Ph/Fax: 5494 2109

Mobile: 0418 882 785

# EDUCATION NEWS

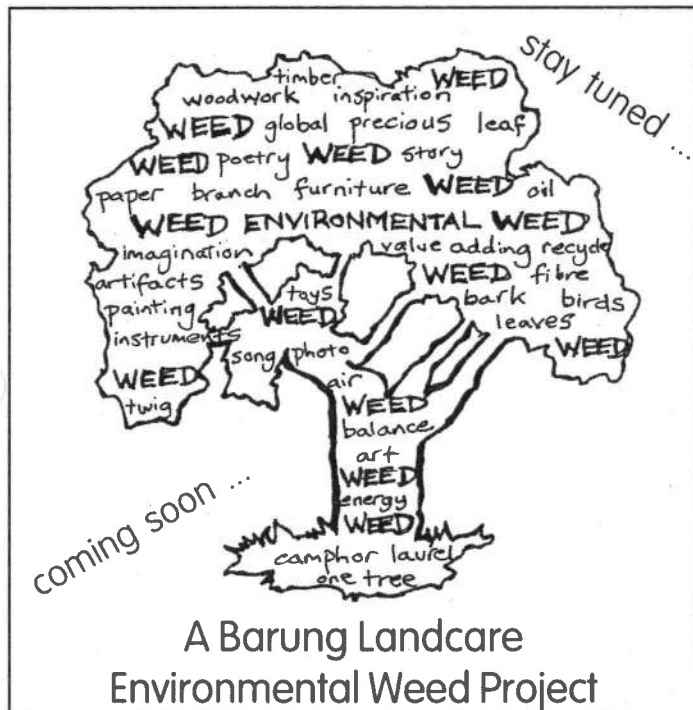
from Mim Coulstock

Congratulations to Lyn Browne from Gympie Landcare who works tirelessly waging war on cats claw creeper in SE Queensland. Lyn won a \$2000 grant from Dow AgroSciences at the State Landcare Awards - keep up the good work. Lyn was also highly commended in the Individual Landcarer section.

Barung was also fortunate to win a \$2000 Dow AgroSciences grant for environmental weed control. We will put this money towards morning glory and madeira vine control. It is great to see money available for environmental weeds work - this will undoubtedly be a huge area of all projects in the future, as more weeds are recognised and begin to threaten our unique flora.

More than 45 local people have attended the Chainsaw Level 1 courses run in the past two months. This is great - not only for control of woody weeds - but also from a landholder safety perspective. I am currently trying to organise another Level 1 and 2 course. Unfortunately it does not seem as though these will be subsidised to the same degree, although some reduction in price will still apply.

The Barung website is finally almost ready to go - word has it that we will be up and running in the few next weeks. The web address is [my.entrypoint.to/barung\\_landcare](http://my.entrypoint.to/barung_landcare). There are still a few problems but check it out - we are looking for any and all feedback.



Thank you to...

- ... Neil & Gillian MacLeod for the loan of a 'fill-in' fridge.
- ... Ray Gray of Crystal Clear Commercial Cleaning for the excellent cleaning and window washing service provided to Barung.
- ... Ken Bragg, electrical contractor/appliance repairman for rewiring the fridge after the rat attack!
- ... Maleny Amcal Pharmacy & Sigma Pharmaceuticals for their % donations to landcare for products sold.
- ... William Howlett, St John's Ambulance for donation of "Australian First Aid" to Barung Library.



NatureSearch  
is on for platypus!  
from Peter Sparshott

Much is unknown about this elusive and remarkable mammal that shares many of our east Australian waters. In Spring 2001, NatureSearch (a Queensland Parks & Wildlife program), will launch 'PlatySearch.' Volunteers will be invited to team up and record sightings of platypus in local waters.

NatureSearch is looking for platypus sightings or potential survey sites to expand our knowledge of platypus in Maleny and surrounding districts. Such data will help us know whether local platypus numbers are on the increase or decline.

It will also help us to learn more about this species and their habitat. New sightings and the upkeep of valuable records, will enable us to conserve existing platypus populations.

### Do you know where platypus are near you?

Leading up to PlatySearch, we want to start a PlatySearch database of local platypus sites and abundance. This information will assist us in selecting locations for our regional PlatySearch. If you know of platypus in your area and could help by providing site details/or more, please fill out a NatureSearch record sheet or get the details to Russell or Mim at Barung. NatureSearch record sheets are available at the Barung office. Your name and number, date of observation, and location details are all that is required...

### Do you want to know more about platypus?

If you would like to learn more about platypus and their preferred habitat, or perhaps, like to brush up on your identification skills ... contact Barung for a fact sheet or call in and see the platypus poster which shows other native fauna which may be confused with platypus. If there is enough local interest, an information day coupled with platypus spotting or spotlighting can be organised later in the year.

### More to come...

Keep watch for future news about PlatySearch. If you want a NatureSearch record sheet, have any queries, ideas or information to share, please contact Barung.

**SEEDS.**  
from  
Karen Shaw



### SPECIAL SEEDS ASTRONOMY NIGHT

The SEEDS group joined with Alan from Wappa Falls Observatory for a night of astronomical wonder in early August - to view the night sky. Alan brought his slides, telescopes and fantastic knowledge to share with everyone.

The astronomy night, held at the Old Witta School, started with a shared BBQ dinner and progressed to an amazing slide presentation as the sky became dark enough to view the stars and planets.



## *"Breaking Down the Barriers" The 2001 State Landcare Conference*

John Muir, Mim Coulstock and Lin Fairlie all headed to the 2001 State Landcare Conference in Goondiwindi in late July. Held on the banks of the Border River, this was a real eye-opener to the symptoms of ill health in our River ecosystems - with the competing demands from towns, irrigation and industry.

The Conference was interesting from many aspects. Of major importance was the networking - being able to talk with people from other landcare groups and from the Departments of Natural Resources and Mines, Primary Industry and many others. Another important aspect was the variety, and mostly high quality, of the speakers. Finally there were the extremely thought provoking workshops and exchange of ideas.

Rick Farley - one of the 'fathers' of Landcare - was part of a panel discussion with Jock Douglas (also involved in Landcare from its beginning and now promoting a National Landcare Environment Management System), and Larry Acton from Ag Force, on the topic of lobbying. The increasing importance of partnerships / alliances was stressed. Also highlighted was the need to offer politicians solutions to problems rather than just asking for money. It would seem that the most needed partnership for Barung is with Caloundra City Council. Progress has certainly been made over the last 12 months but there is much room for improvement.

Another aspect of lobbying mentioned by Rick Farley was the perception by bureaucrats that if a message comes from fifteen different directions then it must be right! This is where Barung's 600+ members could be of great assistance.

Barung has been trying to show Caloundra City Council, how a relatively small investment, for example \$20 000 per year, will bring the council considerable value in the long term. Such a partnership between CCC and Barung would seem a logical way to go. We have spent a substantial amount of time already working towards such a partnership and are prepared to spend more if necessary. Similar partnerships with Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, CalAqua and Caloundra Maroochy Water Supply Board present other such opportunities.

The old idea of acting locally while thinking globally was brought to the attention of Landcarers. With all of our good intentions of landcare acting locally, we must remember the wider global contexts within which we are working. For example: carbon credits and free trade programs impact on us all at a local level. Landcare must take a stand on such issues which affect landcare outcomes right up through all the channels, from local on-ground to global, if we are to make a difference. Our international landcare project in the Philippines is a good example of thinking and acting globally!

We met the new Queensland delegate to the Australian Landcare Council - Bobby Brazil - in Goondiwindi. The Australian Landcare Council is a national advisory body set up to facilitate leadership in Natural Resource Management by supplying information to and from the Federal Government. Also at the conference was the new SEQ representative to the Queensland Landcare Catchment Management Committee (LCMC) - Mary Lou Gittons - from our neighbouring Upper Brisbane River landcare group. Mary Lou is a Kilcoy dairy farmer who has replaced Margaret Thompson as the Queensland Landcare Representative on LCMC. Also on this committee are representatives from groups such as the National Farmers Federation (NFF), Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), and local government. Barung will need to keep in contact with all of these representatives to ensure that our ideas are represented.

The new director of Land and Water Australia Inc., Andrew Campbell (the inaugural National Landcare facilitator), spoke about the National Action Plan for Water Quality and Salinity. Andrew addressed the idea of a re-designed landscape focus, which involves the meeting of natural, cultural and economic capital, and the management of this interaction.

Triple bottom line i.e. social, environmental and economic issues must be all considered. The drivers of change include: unacceptable levels of environmental degradation; community expectations; insufficient rewards for those who farm well and weak signals for those who farm badly (and similarly for govern-

ment and industry); and the valuing of environmental resources. Landcare has the role to play in a new extension service which could develop. Andrew explained that it is important that extension be re-invented, and the importance of halting the loss of corporate memory. This loss, he suggested, has resulted in the recycling, over and over, of the same government policies under new names.

John Williams from CSIRO's 'Redesigning the Landscapes' project presented an in-depth paper on the development of new systems of "Farming without Harming." This will mean a huge paradigm shift and cultural change from the norm of Best Management Practices today, and landcare has a huge role to play in that process.

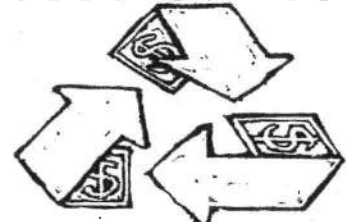
What is the Future of Landcare? This question was asked by a number of speakers. Voluntary groups cannot change the countryside, change laws or reach all landholders. Consensus around Natural Resource Management should be sought nationally across all sectors, including consumers, for the long term. It must be signed off by everyone. Landcare now is fundamental to Australia.

The Take Home message: Sustainability (Triple Bottom Line issues - social, environmental and economic) will be a long journey, not a destination. In Australia we have just begun the journey. There is no choice but to become more sustainable as a nation.

Some of the papers from the conference are available from Barung, and the rest will be available on the web soon. Please ring Barung for details.



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## *2001 Qld Landcare Award Winners*

### **INDIVIDUAL LANDCARER AWARD**

**Winner:** Max Middleton - for sustainable agricultural practices in the Brigalow region and commitment to Landcare.

**Equal Runners Up:** Alby Wooler - for Landcare commitment, raising Landcare awareness with local primary school students and advising farmers on best practice land use; and Jim Flesser, Central Downs Landcare Group, for his work with weeds, grasses and endangered species.

### **LANDCARE CATCHMENT AWARD**

**Equal Winners:** Fitzroy Basin Association - the leading, community-driven organisation for natural resource management across the Fitzroy Basin; and Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee - implementation of the Mary River and Tributaries Catchment Plan.

### **RURAL PRESS LANDCARE PRIMARY PRODUCER AWARD**

**Winner:** Sturgess Family Partnership - for environmentally sustainable melon production on the Brigalow Floodplain, allowing cropping land to be returned to native pasture.

### **OPEN OUTDOOR MEDIA GROUP LANDCARE**

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD**

**Winner:** Noosa Shire Council - for commitment to ecological sustainability in planning processes.

#### **SIGMA LANDCARE MEDIA AWARD**

**Equal Winners:** Duncan Patterson - for commitment to promoting Landcare and environment issues in The Cairns Post and the Rural Post; and Channel 7's "Creek to Coast" - for ability to entertain while raising viewers' awareness of how leisure activities impact on the environment.

#### **WESTPAC LANDCARE EDUCATION AWARD**

**Winner:** Capricorn Coast Landcare Group - for Central Queensland Arbor Day Program.

**Runner Up:** Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands Inc. - for commitment to educating primary school students about native rainforest trees.

#### **BHP LANDCARE RESEARCH AWARD**

**Winner:** Bernie Shelton, Taroom Shire Landcare Group, for research and promotion of the environmental benefits of dung beetles since 1997.

#### **NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST RIVERCARE AWARD**

**Winner:** The Gympie & District Landcare Group - for rehabilitation of problem sections of the Mary River and minor tributaries along the town reach.

**Equal Runners Up:** Greening Australia Qld. Inc.'s Riverbank Rehabilitation Demonstration Project on the Tiaro reach of the lower Mary River which concentrates on four kms of riverbank.

#### **BUSHCARE NATURE CONSERVATION AWARD**

**Winner:** Steve Cupitt, Russell Asplund and Lincoln Turvey for 'Accelerated On Farm Nature Conservation Project' with Greening Australia.

**Runner Up:** The Wide Bay-Burnett Land for Wildlife - for nature conservation and protecting threatened regional ecosystems.

#### **ALCOA LANDCARE COMMUNITY GROUP AWARD**

**Winner:** Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee Incorporated (B4C) - for repair of degraded lands and prevention of further degradation.

**Runner Up:** Bremer Creek Catchment Association - for program to rehabilitate 65 kilometres of stream bank and prevent further degradation area.

## *From A Green Reserve Perspective Speech of the Day* *by Ted Mulder*

My name is Ted Mulder and I would like to explain on behalf of my fellow Green Reserve members - Max, John, Jenny, Sheryl, Danny and Simon, what it means to be a volunteer with the Green Reserve.



*Ted's words from the heart said much about the Green Reserve program.*

To be unemployed can be extremely difficult for many people, especially if you are of mature age yet willing and capable to accept any kind of work. The experience of applying for jobs time and time again without positive results leads to feelings of near uselessness, an increasing loss of self-worth and respect, a fracturing of confidence and pride. All you have to live on is the dole payments and, in my case - and I am sure that of many thousands of others - this just isn't enough to cover even the most basic food requirements, let alone fuel, power, phone, medical, car repair, rent and other bills.

After close to 30 years as a graphic designer in constant work, I moved from Gippsland, Victoria to the Sunshine Coast in September 1999. I wanted a chance to build a new life, and came here with the highest hopes and confidence of finding work in my chosen profession. Centrelink's information - that their unemployment statistics rated the Coast well below 10% as opposed to double that in Gippsland - eliminated my doubts re attaining a healthy working life and restoring inner peace.

After 18 months of disappointing attempts to find work I had reached that moment of total disillusionment shared by so many unemployed. Not only could I not find employment within my industry, but any alternative work was also beyond my reach. Enthusiastic responses to my job applications and submitted resumes ended with rejection as soon as the colour of my hair and other signs of mature age became evident during interviews.

Others in my Green Reserve team have experienced the same. All of us have felt that totally demoralising notion that we were good for nothing after all these years of having been gainfully employed with a wealth of experience, knowledge, maturity and professionalism.

When I received a brochure in the mail inviting me to volunteer for the newly created Work for the Dole Green Reserve program, I grabbed the opportunity with both hands. Although it would not earn me much needed income, I realised this was a chance to try and regain some self-respect, and get a foothold in the struggle to find employment.

(cont'd page 10)

# NURSERY NOTES

from Russell Botterell

Well the results of the nursery survey are in and I must say there has been a lot of thought put into some of your responses. We were overwhelmed at the amount of feedback (and somewhat relieved at its politeness) from everyone and are grateful for all of it. As a result of your suggestions, Barung Nursery will be endeavouring to create an even more customer friendly service.

\* Keep an eye out for a new noticeboard at the Nursery entrance, on which we will be posting all of our new plant arrivals weekly along with any other workshop info, important dates, feature plant information and other nursery newsflashes.

\* New areas will be constructed to display bush tucker and timber species, shrubs, water plants and wetland species, and other plant categories - EVEN WEEDS!

\* We will be offering propagation kits for sale so you can grow your own seed. Ask Russell or Nick about these next time you're in.

\* Barung Nursery will try to run more regular workshops.

\* We have also developed a plant identification register to catalogue plant samples that you bring in for I.D.

\* We are working towards a standard equivalent to that of Queensland Nursery accreditation so that you can be assured of the best quality product and service

Other feedback from the survey indicated that the majority of people were comfortable with our prices and satisfied with our service. It was great to receive so much positive encouragement. This will only act as a motivation tool to ensure that we continue to improve on our current standards, focussing on plant quality and diversity.

PS. If you didn't get a shot at the survey but still have some feedback to offer, please feel free to share it with the nursery staff so that we can continue to give you, the customer, what you need.

The call still goes out to all observant tree watchers to alert Barung Nursery of any seed you may have spotted while out and about. Even if you cannot recognise it, it could still be a very important species which may be beneficial to local revegetation. If it's on your property, bring it into Barung and we'll identify it for you free of charge. (Be aware however that it is both illegal and downright dan-

gerous to go pinching seed from any other property other than your own without permission).

Just a reminder to people looking for trees. If we don't have the species you want in stock, just ask, because chances are we can probably get it/them for you through one of our many contacts. Species and quantities vary greatly throughout the year, mainly due to seed availability, so new species come on line almost weekly, and sometimes sell out just as fast. The new noticeboard will display all new arrivals with descriptions and pictures so you won't have to go searching through the whole nursery every week.

Massive thanks to all the tireless volunteers for their endless devotion to Barung Nursery. Special praise must go to Paul Byerlee, the development engineer and all round genius of the Nursery over the past months. Check out his latest creation with the official unveiling of the new noticeboard, hopefully by mid August.

See you in the Nursery.

## Plant Profile

Spencer Shaw

### PLUM MYRTLE

*Ptilidostigma glabrum*

The Plum Myrtle is named for the rich plum colour of this plant's new leaf and stem growth. This colour can be used to great effect in the garden, as in full sun they can display this attractive new growth all year round. But wait there's more ... not only is it one of our most striking local foliage plants, it has beautiful white flowers that are followed by a shiny black fruit that attracts birds. They can grow to a height of between 2-8 metres depending on conditions.



In Reveg' Plum Myrtle is the per-

## The Fridge Broke!!

We are in need of a 'new' second hand fridge for the meeting / lunch / volunteer room.

The old one has given up the ghost.  
If you have an old fridge you don't want - please give Russ a ring at the Nursery.

Donor receives 5 years of free coffees!!

fect edge plant, its dense foliage extending all the way to the ground. This dense foliage helps to create a humid microclimate within a forest and also prevents the penetration of weeds into your developing reveg'. Plum Myrtle produce fruit from approximately 3 years onwards, attracting birds to your reveg site that will inturn deposit local rainforest seed - and not privet, hopefully!

Basically Plum Myrtles are one of the great all rounders of our local forests and it may be extreme to say you haven't fulfilled your potential as a human being if you haven't planted a Plum Myrtle ... but it would be close!

## RAINFOREST LIQUEURS

John & Mary King

Many people on the Range have seen my Liqueurs in the shops and restaurants now that they have finally hit the market. But my many Barung fans have helped me with market research (sampling) over the years .

The next stage to expanding my business is trying to ensure a supply of bushfoods. I would like to form a 'register' of people on the Range who are willing to harvest their bushfoods to sell to me, or are willing to let me harvest from their plants. I would also like to list plantings, large or small, which could give future harvests for myself or others.

The main fruits I am interested in are: *Syzygium luehmannii* (Lilly Pilly), *\*Ficus coronata* (Sandpaper Fig), *Elaeocarpus grandis* (Blue Quandong), *Eupomatia laurina* (Native Guava), *Podocarpus elatus* (Brown Plum Pine, Illawarra plum), *Austromyrtus dulcis* (Midyim), *\*Acronychia oblongifolia* (White Aspen), *Acacia macradenia* (Zigzag Wattle), *\*Rubus rosifolius* (Wild Raspberry), *Pouteria (Planchonella) australis* (Black Apple).

\* Found near our creek at Conondale.

A lot of other plants being propagated and planted have potential as herbs, essential oils and processed fruit, including the Backhousias (*\*anisata* and *\*myrtifolia*), Strawberry Eucalyptus, Strawberry Tea-tree, *\*Mentha dimenica* and *\*M. australis* (our local mints). These include local and non-local plants which have economic potential, and can be used in cooking. There are also many local fruits that can add flavours to your cooking.

We look forward to hearing from anyone interested. Our email is [jrmrk@bytesite.com.au](mailto:jrmrk@bytesite.com.au), our phone is 3284 2202 (ah), or at the farm 5435 0074.

## Butterflies of the Range from Bob Miller

### THE CLEARWING SWALLOWTAIL

(*Cressida cressida*)  
Formerly 'Big Greasy'



The last, but definitely not the least, of the South East Queensland swallowtail butterflies is the Clearwing Swallowtail

One feature that makes this such a fascinating insect is that after the male and female have mated, the male leaves what is called a 'sphragis' attached to the abdomen of the female. This prevents other males from mating with her, actively ensuring the success of his gene pool.

The male Clearwing looks like the Dainty Swallowtail (*Papilio anactus*). The female, though similar in design, appears to have no wing scales giving her a 'greasy' look, hence the former name "Big Greasy."

The male has a wingspan of approximately 80mm., making it slightly larger than the female who has a wingspan of approximately 70mm. He has a transparent gray forewing with a small, black area close to the body and two black spots. The hind wing is black with a broad white band running through the centre and five red spots around the outer edge. His black body has a red tip on the abdomen. The underside is identical except for the red spots, which are brighter on the underside.

The female is a transparent pale brown. She has one black spot on the forewing and a darker brown margin on the hind wing, with five pale brown spots. The underside is very similar to the upperside.

Eggs are orange and are laid mainly on the underside of the leaves of the foodplant, *Aristolochia pubera*, a low growing vine found usually in dryer, hilly areas with a large amount of small, rocky rubble on the surface.

Larvae are a reddish-brown with creamy markings and rounded spines. Quite often you will find them well away from the foodplant as the *Aristolochia* is generally so small that the larvae quickly devour it and must go in search of more food.

The pupae is always suspended by the tail and a silken girdle around the waist to an almost vertical object - a branch or even a blade of grass - metres away from the foodplant. The pupae is an overall caramel colour with cream markings

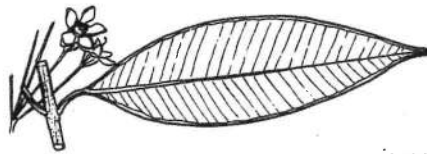
This butterfly has a slow gliding flight habit, staying fairly close to the ground. This is especially the case for the females as they search out the vine on which to lay eggs.

Obtaining this vine will take a bit of searching as it is only stocked by specialist nurseries.

Further information about this butterfly can be had by reading *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael F. Braby, 2000.

## Local Wild & Edible Bernard Murawski

### LEMON MYRTLE (*Backhousia citriodora*)



The lemon myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*) is a Queensland native, occurring naturally as a large shrub (3m) to a medium-sized tree (30m). It

is popular as an ornamental with masses

of white flowers and lemon-scented leaves and is also grown commercially for its lemon-scented oil.

Two close relatives of lemon myrtle also grown to produce essential oils are: the Aniseed Myrtle (*Backhousia anisata*) for its strong aniseed fragrance, and the Grey Myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*) for a cinnamon/nutmeg scent.

The genus *Backhousia*, was named after James Backhouse (1794-1869), an early Quaker missionary amongst Australia's convicts and keen botanical collector. The species name *citriodora*, is derived from the Latin for lemon (citrus) and smell (odor).

Lemon myrtles prefer well-drained medium to heavy textured soils and will also grow in rich, organic sandy soils. These should be pH neutral to slightly acid. The plant can show sensitivity to full sun when young but when mature will grow in full sun to semi-shade positions. It is frost tender, wind hardy and intolerant of drought so will need watering during hot, dry weather.

Pests include leaf rollers, leafhoppers, caterpillars and psyllids. Psyllids are only a problem if the plant and planting area suffers from neglect. Fertilize with organic fertilizers such as dynamic lifter or your favourite compost mix.

Lemon myrtle seeds vary in germination rates. It is a better bet to use cuttings, though these can take as long as a year to establish. Easier still, buy your plants from a nursery. Although there are no, or only basic, clonal selection procedures, the strength of the lemon flavour may vary between plants. If using cuttings be sure to obtain material from a highly scented plant.

The sensory qualities of the lemon myrtle reveal an odour that is more 'lemon' than the real thing. This is probably due to the essential oils containing 90 to 95% of the lemon scent component - citral - while the essential oils obtained from actual lemons only contain 3-10% citral. This gives lemon myrtle an intensive, aromatic, refreshing, and very lemon-like fragrance with a warm and pleasant taste.

Lemon myrtle leaves can be used fresh or dried. As the flavour tends to intensify during the drying process, leaves are best used dry and incorporate into recipes more easily if ground in a coffee grinder or with a pestle and mortar. Shred fresh leaves very finely. Lemon Myrtle can be used in a variety of dishes including Asian-style dishes where many cooks use the lemon myrtle leaf instead of kaffir lime leaves, though it does not go too well with the pungent fish pastes and sauces of Thailand.

One or two lemon myrtle leaves give a special touch to baked chicken, or place a leaf into the cavity of a fish, such as snapper, before baking or throwing on the barbeque. It makes a lovely dressing or sauce to pour over fish or other seafood, chicken, veal and pork. Lemon myrtle can also be used in mayonnaise, herbed vinegar, rice dishes, béarnaise sauce (substitute the tarragon with the lemon myrtle), cheesecakes, sorbets, and pickles. I particularly like it incorporated into a hollandaise sauce and served over steamed, freshly picked asparagus.

If you have a cold or are looking for a quick pick-me-up, try lemon myrtle tea - place half a leaf into a cup and pour in boiling water.

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



As I write this Clay is packing T-shirts and shorts, and checking his passport and tickets to go surfing in Indonesia. That's right - he has swapped brush cutter and spray pack for surfboard and sarong for the next couple of months.

So I've stepped into his steel toe boots and taken on the role of ensuring the success of the multitude of Barung revegetation projects.



the living tissue. Leaves may be burnt off but will re-shoot once the warmer weather returns.

**Nursery Crops** - establish a canopy crop of frost hardy pioneers prior to planting more frost sensitive species. The nurse crop could be established by direct seeding (more about direct seeding next issue) or by utilising existing vegetation such as Wild Tobacco thus cutting down on costs. Frost hardy pioneer species such as *Acacia melanoxylon* are ideally suited to this role. *Acacia fimbriata*, though not endemic to this area, also does well as nurse crop due to its fast growth rate. It is also a very attractive shrub lending a splash of colour to revegetation sites. The 'nurse' crop should be removed once the other plants have become established.

Protection of individual plants can be achieved by using several methods. Tree tubes are basically tubes of plastic sheeting about 1 metre in height, which encircle the tree held in place by 3 to 4 stakes. A chemical protectant such as Envy(r) may be sprayed on to the foliage of plants which need a little extra protection, but needs to be reapplied every 4-6 weeks. A cheaper more labour intensive alternative, is to bare the soil for approximately 50 cms from the stem of the plant. This allows the warmth from the earth to slightly raise the temperature of the air around the plant.

Frost tolerant plant species lists are available from Barung, and the Nursery staff can give advice on which plants are the most suitable for your site.

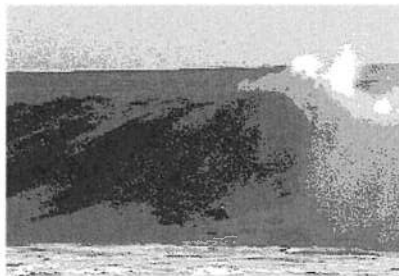
Pats on the back to the Green Reserve and Green Corps teams who have both been doing a great job in several revegetation sites around Maleny.

The Green Reserves have also been tackling some of the Japanese sunflower infestations around Maleny. This import has recently been quite noticeable due to its bright yellow flowers - pretty as it is we don't want it here.

Green Corps have been busy with several projects: Walkers Creek Remnant, Bridge Creek and Stanley River Park. The crew have been enjoying a change of scenery at Stanley River Park where they have been putting in a pathway.

## Winter options from Alan Wynn

As I write this Clay is packing T-shirts and shorts, and checking his passport and tickets to



Clay charging out of the  
(digitally enhanced) green room

For the rest of us who are sticking out winter on the Range, frost is the bane of bare toes and young green shoots. It has been one of the challenges for me as a new arrival to Maleny. The recent heavy frosts have been great for tobogganing down hillsides but bad news for recently established rainforest plants particularly those in low areas where cold air pools at night.

We should not be discouraged from planting areas that receive frost during these winter months, as there are many things we can do to ensure the success of a planting:

**Species selection** - frost tolerance of rainforest plants varies greatly so only the hardiest should be planted in areas subject to frost.

**Timing** - by planting in early spring, plants have time to develop thick woody stems, which protect

### Sidewinder Training Sessions will be held at Barung at 9am on the first Thursday of each month.

The Sidewinder, donated to Barung by Caloundra City Council to assist with woody weed removal, is available for use by local landholders.

#### All landholders wanting to use the Sidewinder will be asked to:

- \* complete trial / result data sheets (so that we can obtain a true & broad picture of best control methods)
- \* sign a Landholder's Sidewinder Agreement
- \* complete a training session
- \* contribute a small daily fee so that funds are available for replacement of battery etc.
- \* comply with other conditions of use.

Please ring Barung if you wish to book for a training session, or want to reserve the Sidewinder for specific dates.

### Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

are hosting their annual Qld Seminar and Workshop  
at Ferny Grove Highschool

on the 29 September 2000, from 8.30am-4.30pm.

Key note speaker is Robin Buchanan  
(author of Bush Regeneration), also Ric  
Natrass and our very own Spencer Shaw.

Cost is \$25 incl. lunch. To book please send

\$25 to Po Box 272 Samford 4520.

Contact is Robyn Becket 3289 1267

### The 2001 Southern Queensland Biodiversity Recovery Conference

will be hosted by Crow's Nest Shire Council  
from 29 Oct - 2 Nov 2001  
Full details including conference program  
and registration form will be available on  
[www.Cnnet.com.au](http://www.Cnnet.com.au) from mid-May

#### FORUM:

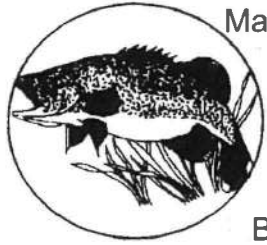
#### MANAGING PLANT/ANIMAL INTERACTIONS: STRATEGIES FOR BUSH REGENERATION

Conducted by THECA (The Hut Environmental &  
Community Ass.)

& the Brisbane Botanic Gardens  
on SATURDAY 3rd NOVEMBER  
at the Auditorium, Brisbane Notanic Gardens

For more information contact  
The Hut - Ph/Fax 3878 4581





Mary River Cod  
Community  
Network

Bob Simpson  
DPI Fisheries Biologist

*New fishway for  
the Mary River  
tidal barrage*

In a move that is sure to please the fish that call the lower Mary River home, work has commenced on upgrading the fishway on the Mary River tidal barrage. The Beattie Government has provided \$1 million in the 2001-02 State Budget for the project, expected to be completed by the end of October.

The Mary River tidal barrage, located 59.3 km upstream of the Mary River mouth, was constructed in 1982. The original fishway was designed with the best information available at the time, but recent monitoring indicated a limited capacity to allow most native fish species to pass.

So what does it matter if fish can't move between the estuary and freshwater parts of the Mary River? For some estuary species like bream and flathead, it probably isn't really a problem. Although these species regularly move up towards the freshwater reaches of coastal streams, neither their breeding nor feeding patterns appear to require a freshwater phase. However, their exclusion certainly reduces the diversity of those areas of the Mary upstream of the tidal barrage, and may affect the ecology in ways not yet understood.

Sea mullet, Australian bass and barramundi all breed in estuarine or marine waters, but typically spend part of their lives in the upper freshwater reaches of coastal streams. Individuals of all these species can certainly survive if confined to brackish or salt water, but populations are likely to seriously decline if freshwater areas are not accessible. Bass, in particular, have become rare in some coastal streams in NSW where weirs prevent them from returning to their summer freshwater habitats.

Purely freshwater species like Mary River cod and Queensland lungfish will sometimes swim or be washed into the estuarine parts of the Mary River during a flood. If, as floodwaters recede, they cannot return upstream past the tidal barrage, there is a good chance they will die.

Lungfish in particular are very sensitive to salinity changes, and cannot live long in estuarine conditions.

Given that there are good reasons for fish to move between the estuary and freshwater, what are the chances that a new fishway will be any better than the old one? Thankfully, the chances are very good. The 'vertical-slot' style of fishway to be used has been tested and proven for a range of Australian species including Australian bass and barramundi. This same design has been very successful on the tidal barrages on the Burnett River at Bundaberg, the Fitzroy River at Rockhampton, and on Tinana Creek near Maryborough.

The new vertical-slot fishway will comprise a series of 30 concrete pools (cells) interconnected by 200 mm wide slots that extend the full depth of each cell. At a quick glance, the design is not all that different to many older style fishways, including the original one on the Mary barrage. However, a simple system of baffles and deflectors in each cell will slow water velocity and create resting areas for moving fish, while specific cell dimensions and slot widths will help reduce the turbulence that so often confuses fish in older style fishways.

The new fishway on the Mary barrage will facilitate travel for any fish wanting to journey from salt to freshwater, or vice versa. It will accommodate a wider range of species and sizes of fish than the old fishway, and in particular, provide access for juvenile Australian bass and barramundi to move up into their freshwater habitats. This can only be a step back towards normality for the ecology of the lower Mary.

*The Cod Line moves on  
from Eve Witney*

Greetings all.

I am handing over production of The Cod Line (newsletter of the Mary River Cod Community Network) to Jan Tilden shortly, as I head off to have another baby. I've enjoyed doing this newsletter so much that it feels a bit like swapping one baby for another!

Thank you all for your collaboration and contributions to the Cod Line. I trust that with your continuing quality of input and Jan's expertise the newsletter will continue to hit the spot, spreading the news about catchment care, the cod, and how people are making a difference throughout the Mary catchment.

Jan brings formidable expertise to the newsletter! In addition to running a desktop publishing business with her partner here in Maleny, she is a previous Qld coordinator for the Threatened Species Network and long-time member of the Barung Landcare Management Committee. She was instrumental in setting up Barung's project of the Mary River Cod Community Network and was on the Steering Committee for this project for the first few years.

Jan's contact details are as follows:

Ms Jan Tilden  
Editor, The Cod Line  
10 Centenary Drive  
MALENY QLD 4552  
Ph: 07 5494 3811  
Fax: 07 5494 2344  
email: [dbltake@squirrel.com.au](mailto:dbltake@squirrel.com.au)

*Cold hard Cod facts  
from Phillip Trendall*

# Mary River Cod was once so abundant in SE Qld rivers that it was boiled down for stock feed.

# Today, this beautifully patterned brown and golden yellow fish survives in only small, isolated groups in the Mary River Catchment.

# It is one of the most endangered freshwater native fish in Queensland.

This smaller cousin of the Murray Cod:

# feeds on a diet of freshwater shrimps, fish and crayfish and has been known to eat water rats and even small waterfowl;

# is a cunning predator, hiding under the cover of sunken logs, darting out to ambush passing prey and generally swallowing them whole with its huge mouth;

# can weigh up to 23 kg, although there

are plenty of old stories in the catchment of fish weighing over 40 kg;

# was caught early in the century with a stick of dynamite and not a fishing line.

**Today it is illegal to catch and keep a Mary River Cod.**

Development along the Mary River is a major cause of the Cod's decline. The resulting soil erosion silts up deep river pools, the loss of old trees and snags to improve water flow reduces available habitat. Removal of shady trees along the river banks raises water temperatures, which affects breeding and water quality. Weirs and dams have changed the stream flow and temperature, creating barriers and restricting movement.

The latest danger is from competition from introduced fish brought in for recreational fishing and pollution.

## BARUNG HOSTS NATIONAL LAUNCH OF GREEN RESERVE PROGRAM (cont'd from page 1)

Members of this team have formed a close bond and gained the respect of Barung staff, Management Committee and the community for their work to date.

Green Reserve is managed on behalf of the Commonwealth by Australia's leading conservation organisation, Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Anyone interested in being involved in Green Reserve should contact Barung on 5494 3151 or drop into the Resource Centre in Bicentenary Lane, Maleny.

### A GREEN RESERVE PERSPECTIVE- SPEECH OF THE DAY

(cont'd from page 5)

#### GREEN Reserve

It was a chance to do something worthwhile with my time, to perhaps learn a new trade, perhaps open a door to an alternative career. Not only that, but a chance to meet and work with others who could relate to my situation and share my attempts to regain a life and some self-respect. And we do that.

All of us have volunteered for the Green Reserve in the hope that it might lead to a better appreciation by the business community that even mature-aged are worth employing, and that it might give us alternative possibilities for employment, new training and skills to facilitate and improve our chances to find work.



Joining the Green Reserve is not the final solution for any of us. It doesn't help pay the bills. But it does help to us to face a new day, to keep going in times of adversity, to keep alive our hopes for a better and more dignified lifestyle.

On behalf of my Green Reserve friends I would like to sincerely thank Barung Landcare for facilitating the Green Reserve project in Maleny and for the valuable guidance and assistance provided to us and Conservation Volunteers Australia by Mim, Russell, Nick, Clayton, Alan, Angie and Julie. Your invaluable hospitality and willingness to put up with us newcomers to the business is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Conservation Volunteers Australia, particularly Damian, for their wonderful effort in creating Green Reserve, and specifically our small group as pioneers in this new program. Your dedication and understanding approach to bring about a new start for many of us is to be applauded. It should be remembered by representatives of all levels of government and the business community, as one of the worthiest efforts and be supported for as long as possible. Thankyou.



## TREE TALK

by Tony Wootton,  
Tree Surgeon

Hello again tree people. Winter is well and truly upon us. What a fantastic time of year to get out and about in our gardens and forest plots. Vegetative growth is at a minimum with perfect conditions for weeding, pruning, mulching, clearing and thinning.

It's a great time to weed as the harsh, dry wintery conditions ensure a maximum kill rate on the removed weeds, and make re-shooting even more difficult. I particularly like locating out-breaks of noxious vines such as Madiera vine (*Anredera cordifolia*) and Morning Glory getting away in forests, finding the primary root, pulling it out and simply hanging it up over the nearest branch to let the whole vine mass hang and dry in the tree (not suitable for Madeira vine).

Mulching is also particularly beneficial at this time of year, helping to conserve soil moisture in the dry conditions and moderating the daily temperature extremes, acting like a blanket over the soil to benefit the soil-dwelling micro-organisms so essential for soil health.

In winter, the internal activity of a tree slows to a minimum, so that you can actually transplant some species without any soil around the roots, a practice known as 'bare-root transplanting.' August is also an excellent time to carry out major pruning work, with the approaching growing season (September) ensuring a fast recovery from the wounding.

Late winter and early spring are also good times to consider fertilizing trees and shrubs whose growth you want to encourage, so that when the demands of the growing season kick in, the nutrients are already in the soil ready to be taken up by the hungry plants.

On a less seasonal note I'd like to briefly stress the importance of neatly pruning up wounds caused by storm damage. I recently witnessed the demise of a 20 metre high flame tree which, fortunately for the home owner, fell away from the house. About three years ago I observed a broken, jagged stub about three metres above ground level on this tree, where it had lost a lateral limb during a wind storm. I watched over time as decay set in and the wound never healed properly. The infection made its way from the wound site into the main trunk of the tree, which still retained quite a healthy external appearance. However, when the wind force became strong enough, the main trunk failed at that point and the entire tree came crashing down.

Certainly a lesson there for tree owners. Most of the cases I have inspected where trees have failed along their main trunk show evidence of previous untidy wound sites at the failure point, usually several years old.

So care for your trees, maintain them properly, and they will respond and give you years of pleasure.

Until next time, Touch Trees.

If you are growing trees for Farm Forestry in this region please get in touch with Mim at Barung - ph 5494 3151.

The Barung Farm Forestry Sub-committee wants to develop a data-base of local growers, so that we can keep you up-to-date with our farm forestry education program and activities.

## FARMCARE – LANDCARE IN HORTICULTURE in SEQ & the Philippines

*Stepping outside the comfort zone  
from Mollie Whitehorn.*

In February I deserted the comfortable life in Australia to spend two years as a volunteer with Australian Volunteers International in the Philippines, a nation of 80 million people on 7000 islands just north of the equator. My placement is with ICRAF (International Centre for Research in Agroforestry) at their site office in Claveria.

Claveria is an agricultural municipality, 42 kilometres northeast of Cagayan de Oro City located in the north of Mindanao, the large southern island. It is an upland volcanic plateau with elevation ranging from 450 to 1200 m and a complex topography from almost flat to undulating, dissected by steep valleys.

In a process that characterised most of the upland ecosystems in the entire Philippine archipelago, foreign loggers harvested substantial portions of the primary growth timber reducing the natural forest to only 14% of the land area by 1949. Further clearing for agriculture by a steady influx of new settlers saw this reduced to only 1% by 1988.

There are about 44,000 people living in Claveria (112,000 ha) and approximately 80% rely on agriculture for their livelihood and main source of income. Farm sizes average 3 ha per household which usually supports 6 to 8 people. The majority of people in Claveria are poor with about 60% of total number of households earning less than 3,000 Pesos per month (Aus\$120).

The increasing population of the nation, the dwindling of agricultural crops in the lowlands and the migration of lowland farmers into the uplands have created great pressure on the land. Farming families are forced to convert hilly areas (some slopes

greater than 30%) into agricultural land to grow annual crops for subsistence.

The Landcare movement in the Philippines began in Claveria in 1996. 384 groups have now formed in Claveria as well as in central and southern Mindanao.

I have 2 main roles in my work.

The first is managing the Landcare Trust Fund.

This trust fund originates from the donation of US\$200,000 by the Spanish Government. My role as manager is to: facilitate group brainstorming to develop innovative projects; approve suitable projects (as part of the management committee); and develop contracts, and monitoring and evaluation for approved projects.

Secondly, I am involved in developing a training program in response to the increasing interest in the Landcare approach in upland communities, shown by the NRM (Natural Resource Management) institutions and agencies in the Philippines and SE Asia. The program is aimed at the orientation and training of candidate landcare facilitators within these organizations

Life as a Volunteer has many rewarding and challenging moments. I receive a local wage of P11,000 (Aus\$440) per month, and pay P2,500 month for rent. This leaves me with adequate money to live Filipino style, but does not allow for foreign luxuries such as cheese and wine.

My accommodation is comfortable except that water doesn't come out of the taps very often (hot water systems don't exist), and blackouts are almost a daily event (sometimes lasting for 24 hrs). I do have a fridge and fan (when there's electricity) and I read plenty of books.

Learning the local language, Cebuano, is hard going but will eventually be worth the effort. Most people have some words of English but misunderstandings are a daily event causing me many frustrations.

This is just a brief taste of my experiences. Email correspondence would be gladly received (and hopefully answered between blackouts) - [Mollewh@cdo.webling.com](mailto:Mollewh@cdo.webling.com)

See you in 2 years, Mollie.



*Landcare Filipino style.  
Mollie works with new friends to address  
sustainability issues in the Philippines*

### Calling for nominations for the inaugural Phil Jacobs Farm Forestry Award

The Barung Farm Forestry Sub-committee is calling for nominations for the inaugural Phil Jacobs Farm Forestry Award to be presented at the Barung AGM on September 22nd. The recipient of this award will be chosen by the Sub-committee for their contribution to farm forestry in the Barung region.

Nominees must be resident in the Barung area, and be involved in local activity for the benefit of farm forestry in the Barung area. They can be either working as consultants, volunteers, contractors, education or as on-ground farm foresters.

This award will become an annual award in memory of one of Barung's "fathers" - Phil Jacobs - who has contributed so much to farm forestry and landcare on the Blackall Range over the years.

Please contact Mim at the Office if you would like to make a nomination. Nominations close on 31st August.

### Update on the AAA - FarmBis program

Over 60,000 Australian primary producers have now attended learning activities under the AAA - FarmBis program.

Due to the program's success, the Commonwealth Government has committed funds to extend the program until 30 June 2004. This initiative will be jointly funded with the State and Northern Territory Governments.

The FarmBis program will continue to focus on business management training for primary producers, and will now be extended to allow land managers to attend natural resources management training. The focus of FarmBis is to support producers to undertake learning activities to develop their management skills.

Details on eligibility are currently being finalised with the State and Northern Territory Governments. For more information please contact your State FarmBis Coordinator or link to State websites via [www.affa.gov.au/farmbis](http://www.affa.gov.au/farmbis).



## Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

lbccg@telstra.easymail.com.au

PO Box 567  
Maleny Qld 4552  
Ph: 07 5494 3775



### *Up your catchment & in your ear* Gordon Agnew, LBCCG Catchment Coordinator



*Our new addition, Gordon Agnew*

Being the new Catchment Coordinator for the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group (LBCCG), I thought it necessary to have a brief chat about the catchment and the group.

The overall objective of the LBCCG is to work with the community in an on-going effort to re-

duce all pollutants (particularly nitrogen and phosphorous) entering Baroon Pocket Dam. The successful achievement of this objective requires the development and adoption of sound policies and strategies by the community, industry groups and government departments, and the implementation of on-ground projects.

However, increased stakeholder representation is needed on the committee to ensure that all organisations and individuals within the Maleny environs are adequately and fairly represented when discussing and endorsing plans of action and policies. Respect is achieved not only by getting 'runs on the board,' but also by strength in numbers and diversity in stakeholder groups. A group such as this, working co-operatively toward a common goal (improved water quality), can be a force to be reckoned with (sounds like an ICM philosophy).

Increased co-operation between existing organisations is also needed to ensure ongoing and increased funding, utilisation and sharing of existing skills and resources, increased information dissemination and transfer, and demonstrated co-operative partnerships, to name a few.

If you continue to do what you've always done, then you'll always get what you've always got.

On a green note, "yours implanting a few seeds," Gordon.

### *Catchment Capers* by Mandy Botterell

The 2000/2001 Financial Year has ended on a high note for our group. As Education Officer I am stoked, because we have approval to carry out a number of exciting catchment education projects during 2001 (plus - I still have a job!).

From the Catchment Care Group viewpoint, we are buzzing about increased funding from the Caloundra Maroochy Water Supply Board, enabling us to improve our activity level in the catchment. To top it all off we scored Mr Gordon Agnew, as our new Catchment Coordinator - an exciting new addition for the group and the catchment. All of which are putting us in good stead for the next 12 months.

Those of you who didn't climb aboard the Lake Baroon Catchment 'Mystery Tour' bus really missed an informative and fun day in the sun, cruising through our 'big backyard.' Our full busload visited Ray Daley's dairy farm, found out about the on-

ground improvements our landholders are undertaking to improve catchment health, chatted with Kym Stanton from CalAqua about the urban water cycle process, checked out the 'critters' living in the Obi and what they can tell us about the creek health, walked'n'talked with Nick Willis from the Barung Nursery along the Obi Obi Boardwalk, and learnt to test water quality with Phil Trendell from Mary River Waterwatch.

We then fell in a heap at the dam and attempted a soothing game of 'Celebrity Head' - for which our winner, Caroline (who was a Mary River Cod), received a \$40 meal voucher donated by Graatz Mexican Restaurant, and runner-up, Bernie (who was a Cow), received a \$20 gift voucher from Barung Nursery. A wonderful day was had and feedback suggested that such a worthwhile activity should definitely be repeated sometime.

### *Chatting with some of Ray's girls on the Mystery Tour.*



### *What's Your Creek?* *Gardners Falls on Obi Obi Creek*

*by Phil & Paula Wedell & family*



Our first view of Gardner's Falls was in the summer of 1985, standing 30m above them on a steep slope in the middle of a rainforest.

The concept of living in such an environment was humbling. We can hear the falls from many points on the block, even when we

can't see them. After heavy rain we wake up to a muted rumble - a reminder that this peaceful spot also has power.

As parents, we appreciate that our children will grow up in a safe area. Safe in the fact that they can learn so much - by experience rather than having to look up a book. The play of sunlight in the forest, the variety of animals, birds, insects and snakes make every walk down to the Obi and the Falls different. Even the temperature varies from the time of day and the season.

Our children look forward to their walks and experiences in 'their backyard.' The area isn't exclusively 'ours' as we share the Falls with visitors using the carpark, path and amenities put in by Caloundra City Council. We have noted that since the erection of vehicle barriers, the level of refuse at the Falls has decreased.

Our children can't understand why visitors would want to leave behind any rubbish and spoil the area for others. Our only real fear is that we might take the area we are fortunate enough to live in for granted. In all honesty, our fears are groundless.



The Caloundra-Maroochy Water Supply Board

## OUR WATER

*from Kym Stanton*

*Where it comes from .....*

### How water gets to our taps

People in Australia get their water in three main ways. Some have rainwater tanks, some use groundwater or bore water, and some are connected to the town or reticulated water supply. Some people use a combination of two or three of these methods depending on where they live, the prevailing weather conditions, and the resources they have available.

Fresh, clean water is an incredibly high value resource so it should never be wasted. Unfortunately some people who are connected to the town water supply are unaware of where their water comes from or how much they use. All they need to do is turn on a tap in their home to receive what seems like an inexhaustible supply. Providing drinking quality water at the turn of a tap to schools, homes and businesses is an expensive and complex process.

### Town water

If you live within the Maleny township or close by, your home will be connected to the Town Water system. This system uses two weirs across the Obi Obi Creek: one at King's Lane and the other just up-stream from the showgrounds. There is an intake tower at the weir near the showgrounds which draws water from behind the weir. From here it is pumped to the water treatment plant located right next door.

Once the water is cleaned at the treatment plant it is pumped through a pipeline to a 2 megalitre (2 Olympic swimming pools) reservoir at King's Lane. From the reservoir the water is gravity fed through a system of pipes to houses, schools and businesses. Although all of the water is clean enough to drink, at least half is used outside the house, and less than 1% is actually consumed.

With consumption-based pricing, people connected to the town water supply pay for every drop that flows through their pipes, even the 20% of water, which on average is wasted by inefficient water appliances and wasteful habits. Before the weirs and Baroon Pocket Dam were built this water flowed unimpeded into the Mary River.

If your water comes from the town water supply, you can help to save water, save money and save our environment by finding your water meter and learning how to read it. Find out how much water you are using and take action to cut wastage and consumption. Contact your local council for assistance.

*and where it goes .....*

### Wastewater

Wastewater is all the water that goes down the drain inside our homes, schools and workplaces. It comes from baths, showers, sinks, dishwashers, washing machines and toilets. Wastewater usually consists of more than 99% water. Less than

1% is made up of human waste, food scraps, soap, detergent and anything else that is disposed of through the wastewater system.

When wastewater leaves buildings that are connected to the reticulated system, it flows through pipes to a water pollution control centre where it is cleaned. The treatment processes used to clean the water use helpful bacteria. Cotton buds, paints, thinners, solvent and corrosive cleaners, drugs (in particular antibiotics), oil, chlorine bleach, and chemicals including pesticides and herbicides should never be placed down any sink, toilet or drain either inside or outside the house.

The Maleny Water Pollution Control Plant is located to the east of the Maleny township, on the northern side of the Maleny-Landsborough Road. The treatment plant treats the water and disinfects it before using it for irrigation at the neighbouring farm.

In rural areas where blocks of land are larger and not connected to the wastewater system, treatment can take place on site either with a septic tank or a Household Sewage Treatment Plant (HSTP).

If a septic tank is to be used, check with your council about their requirements. Some councils have regulations about grease traps (that are used to prevent grease and oil entering the tank from kitchen wastewater) and there are usually regulations about absorption trenches. Some require all the household wastewater to go through the septic tank and absorption trench and others prefer grey water (water from the kitchen, laundry and bathroom) to go directly to a separate trench. Grey water from the laundry and bathroom (but not from the kitchen) can be used for irrigation.

If you decide on an HSTP, all your wastewater will be treated to a standard where it is safe to use for irrigation. Below ground effluent irrigation systems are preferable.

You are responsible for the maintenance of your system. Your septic tank should be checked annually for sludge build up (and pumped out as necessary) and you should check your absorption trenches. Your HSTP will also require regular maintenance. The local council will check your HSTP annually.



*Maleny residents taking an active interest. Community members find out about water quality testing procedures for the town water supply.*



## Environmental House Tour

**Saturday 8th September from 11am - 3pm**

Visit at least 3 award-winning Hinterland houses with a wide variety of alternative technologies & owners who are happy to answer questions & share experiences.

Tickets (\$5 per adult, children free)  
on sale in Maleny, from 9am on the 8th.

This is a Greens fundraiser.

For more info phone Eve or Rob on 5429 6314,  
or watch The Range News.

### Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

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

Annual membership is \$12.00 if you wish to join.

For information contact Gordon Agnew or Mandy Botterell at the Catchment Centre on 5494 3775.

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

### Barung Volunteer Profile - Paul

#### My fix-it or Make-it



Barung sure does get its fair share of characters looking on our doorstep looking to lend a hand. One of our more recent volunteers, Paul Byerlee, is by no means an exception to this description.

Paul has become Barung Nursery's chief development engineer, enthusiastically immersing himself in all manner of construction and Nursery improvement projects. Armed with an uncanny knowledge of physics, mathematics, engineering, electronics, and in fact just about anything (including a devious sense of humour), Paul has hand crafted in his seemingly long Barung Nursery career: our pot sterilisation station; a work bench; a greenhouse; a rat proof germination unit; various irrigation improvements; and the grand poobah of all notice boards which will soon be installed and unveiled at Barung Nursery.

Although a hard man to shut up, we appreciate all of his efforts greatly and thank him immensely for all of his unorthodox ways and the 'diversity' that he adds to the Barung team.

Thanks Paul, Barung wouldn't be the same without you.



## LETTERS

Hi,

It's me Pia. After 3 months I luckily found a few minutes for writing emails. I arrived in Perth four weeks ago and look forward now to continue my travelling in Western Australia. I really have had an incredible time on the east coast! After I left you, I worked in different places along the coast. From Maleny I travelled to Rockhampton and worked for the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, where I had the opportunity to accompany various projects: radio tracking and spotlighting wallabies; assisting with work for the education centre on North Keppel Island; and revegetating a riverside.

I spent almost a month in Townsville and assisted with dolphin research being done by the James Cook University. I also worked for Marine Parks in Townsville and Cardwell which gave me the opportunity to visit various islands and sections of the Great Barrier Reef.

I finally ended up at Cape Tribulation, where I assisted the Rangers in their day work. The rainforest and the wildlife is unbelievably impressive.

Hello to Angie! How was your trip to Germany with your Mom? I hope you have found all the different places there! Hello to Clay and Jenny! Hope you are doing well. Unfortunately, I do not have your email address.

Greetings to Spencer and his family, Russell, Edwin and Paul!!!

I just wanted to say hello and thanks for the perfect time in Maleny!

Cheers Pia

Dear Russell and Clayton,

Thank you so much for having us all at Barung and for the fabulous workshop.

Your ears must be burning often - that would be us talking about all that we learnt and how wonderfully knowledgeable you both are.

It was an absolute delight to spend time and to talk about what is obviously as much a passion for you as it is for us.

I would love to come back sometime to help you prick out some plants as repayment for your time, your knowledge, your experience and of course for the beautiful *Viminaria juncea*. They are all planted here on the coast and are looking green and happy. Bringing them home just made a fabulous experience even better. I would love you to come and see them one day - just let me know when you will be in the area.

Thanks also Clayton for the seed list. I truly appreciate all you have done.

Deb Voss, Coolum District Coast Care Inc.

### BARUNG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1 pm, Saturday September, 2001

Join landcare friends, committee & staff  
for a celebration of the last 12 months

of landcare achievements  
on the Blackall Range

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# WEEDBUSTERS' LAMENT

Going, Going, Gone ...

cont'd from p 16

Poem by David Berman, recited on *Australia All Over* in the past.  
Thanks Macca and Dave.



## WEEDS

I love this sunburnt country, this land of rubbervine  
Smothered rainforest. In the desert athel pine.  
I'd love to see the far horizon but I can't because of these  
Thick an' prickly, African, acacia trees.

In Africa the antelope, rhinos and giraffe  
Keep them trimmed by eating both the top and bottom half  
Australia nothing eats them, at least not fast enough  
To stop our country being covered with the stuff.

The sunlit plains extended are now weed infested flats.  
No feed for the cattle, full of feral mice and cats  
And down by Kosciusko where the pine clad ridges were  
There's blackberry covered rabbit holes and some noogoora burr.

The man from Snowy River swung his whip and gave a yell  
As his mountain pony stumbled through a tangled thorny hell.

And out around the overflow where the reed beds used to sway  
Clancy's great, grand daughter Nancy is working hard each day  
Poisoning weeds with poison, dragging them with chains,  
Chipping out the seedling weeds that sprout each time it rains.

She'll spray them single handed 'til they've wilted brown and dead  
She'll probably seek out every tiny seed  
'til she's replaced her weeds with pasture and the cattle look well fed  
And the native plants and animals can breed.

I'd love this sunburnt country to be a land that's free of weeds  
Kept for natives, wattles, gum trees and galahs  
Creeks and billabongs, shorts, tshirt, thongs  
Bilbies, spinifex, Toyota cars.

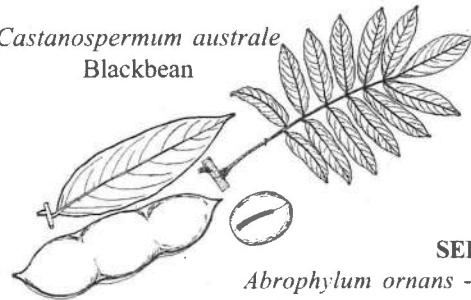
D. McK. Berman, October 1999

where we can appreciate them, and even more importantly, allow them to move between forest fragments and thus ensure their survival.

Recently I was fortunate enough to collect some *Galbulimima belgraveana* (sorry don't have a common name on this one) fruit from a spectacular remnant at Reesville. The tree that I collected fruit from was also in flower, the flowers appeared to be about 2cm in diameter and the fruit are a glossy red ball also about 2cm. This amazing tree (one of the oldest flowering plants) is very uncommon in our local forests, but we were fortunate enough to collect and germinate a few seed several years back. This plant was probably uncommon before the clearing of our forests took place but now that it is isolated in small fragments its survival could be in doubt. Even though the trees may produce a few thousand fruit every 2-3 years, most of these fruit unfortunately contain no viable seed (perhaps an insect that took care of pollination is no longer common due to habitat fragmentation). My estimate would be that the tree I collected from would only produce a few hundred viable seed every few years and being isolated within this forest fragment also reduces the capacity of those seed to germinate and continue the species.

The future existence for so many species like *Galbulimima* is in our hands. The forest fragments that we currently are fortunate enough to live with, are but a shadow of their former splendor and even that shadow may fade if we all, as a community, do not act to ensure not only the survival but also expansion of our local plant communities.

*Castanospermum australe*  
Blackbean



### SEED TO COLLECT:

- Abrophyllum ornans* - Native hydrangea
- Castanospermum australe* - Blackbean
- Citriobatus pauciflorus* - Orange box thorn
- Dysoxylum rufrum* - Hairy rosewood
- Elastostachys nervosa* - Beetroot tree
- Harpullia pendula* - Tulipwood



*Elastostachys nervosa*  
Beetroot tree



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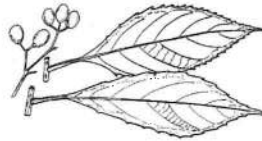
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I mean, can't it be possible to have too many plants and animals going around cluttering the place up?

Southeast Queensland is just loaded with species and with over three and a half thousand plant species alone, surely it wouldn't be too bad to lose just a few of them. Just think - plant I.D books would be shorter for starters, the 'bush' would look more uniform and less cluttered, we'd need less Botanists because there would be less plants to argue about and a seedcollector's work could be so much easier without having to chase this and that rare, endangered or vulnerable plant. After all isn't evolution about survival of the fittest and if some of these plants can't cut it the game of life then why should we waste any time on them?

*Going, Going, Gone ...  
or do we really need that many species anyway?  
(seed to collect in August - September)  
by Spencer Shaw*

*Abrophyllum ornans*  
Native hydrangea



*Citriobatus pauciflorus*  
Orange box thorn



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

OK now I've got your attention!

Over the last decade we have seen a growing awareness of local environmental issues. The 'environment' isn't somewhere else, hidden in the middle of some distant rainforest.

The 'environment' starts here folks and your garden is the front line. Every local plant that goes back in your garden is a step in the right direction. Plant life is a fundamental building block in any ecological system and if we are to ensure the survival of the fragments of forest dotted around the range we must cultivate the same species in our gardens.

The habitat value of these local plantings will bring back the birds, butterflies and frogs to our gardens

cont'd page 15

**BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| President         | <i>Lin Fairlie</i>   |
| Vice President    | <i>Spencer Shaw</i>  |
| Secretary         | <i>Elaine Green</i>  |
| Treasurer         | <i>Neil MacLeod</i>  |
| Committee Members | <i>Chris Allen</i>   |
|                   | <i>Laurie Capill</i> |
|                   | <i>Noah Gordon</i>   |
|                   | <i>Julie Lehmann</i> |
|                   | <i>Martin Storey</i> |

**Barung Landcare...**



**BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION  
STAFF**

|                                                        |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nursery Manager                                        | <i>Russell Botterell</i> |
| Nursery Guru                                           | <i>Denise Irons</i>      |
| Assistant Nurseryman                                   | <i>Nick Willis</i>       |
| Butterfly Guru                                         | <i>Bob Miller</i>        |
| Coordinator                                            | <i>Mim Coulstock</i>     |
| Reveg Officer                                          | <i>Clayton Stokoe</i>    |
| <i>The Cod Line</i> Editor                             | <i>Jan Tilden</i>        |
| COG Remnant Mapping                                    | <i>Marc Russell</i>      |
| Farmcare Project Officer                               | <i>John Muir</i>         |
| Education Officer &<br><i>Barung Newsletter</i> Editor | <i>Mim Coulstock</i>     |
| Administration Officer                                 | <i>Angela Todd</i>       |
| Farm Forestry Advisor                                  | <i>Ashley Sewell</i>     |



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