

BARUNG
LANDCARE
NEWS



August - September 2003

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

Saturday October 11 - Barung's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING with treeplant & BBQ put it in your diary now!

2003/04 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Have YOU thought about being more involved with local landcare. Nominations for 03/03 Management Committee are due 26th September - forms in this newsletter. It is a chance to really make a difference!

BARUNG'S 2003 AWARDS

Barung's second "Land Restoration Award", in recognition of on-ground works in line with landcare principles, and the third Phil Jacobs Farm Forestry Award, will be announced at the Barung Landcare AGM on the 11th October 2003.

Nominees need not be Barung members. Nomination forms (same for both Awards) are included in this newsletter.

Nominations must be at the Barung office by Friday September 12th to be eligible for judging. The judging panel may want to visit nominated sites, so be sure to include contact details, including phone and street address in your application.

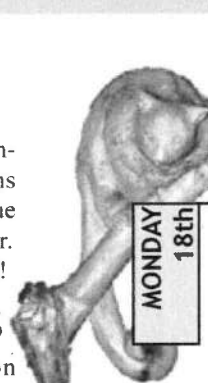
Land Restoration Award

The Land Restoration Award winner will be presented with a trophy, certificate and a voucher redeemable for a free Property Visit or 50 tubes.

Nominate yourself or another local community member who has excelled in their revegetation / habitat management efforts. This is an opportunity to recognise the contribution of someone in the community to restoring our wonderful native vegetation.

Phil Jacobs Farm Forestry Award

The annual Phil Jacobs Farm Forestry Award is presented in recognition of a community member who has made an outstanding contribution to the growth of farm forestry in the area - whether planting on their own land, in farm forestry education, or as a contractor or advisor.



Take a walk on the wildside during
LANDCARE WEEK 2003

MONDAY 18th	8.30am-4pm CHAINSAW LEVEL 1 9-10.30am LAND FOR WILDLIFE ON YOUR PLACE with Nick Clancy (CCC), Erica Metcalf (CSC) & Steph Cumming (MSC) Noon-1pm BBQ lunch & PLANT IDENTIFICATION at Barung 1.15-4pm CONTROLLING WEEDS ON ROADSIDES Field Trip with Greg Brown (CCC Weeds)
TUESDAY 19th	8.30am-4pm CHAINSAW LEVEL 1 (continued) 9-lunch PLANTING FOR LANDSLIPS & EROSION AREAS Field Trip with Laurie Capill & Clayton Stokoe Noon-1pm BBQ lunch & PLANT IDENTIFICATION at Barung 1.15-4pm SAVING THE STINGLESS NATIVE BEE with Bob Raabe 7 - 9pm RAPTORS OF THE RANGE with Greg Czechura
WEDNESDAY 20th	8.30am-4pm CHAINSAW LEVEL 2 (Group 1) 9-10.30am PRUNING NATIVE PLANTS with Tony Wootton, Tree Surgeon Noon-1pm BBQ lunch & PLANT IDENTIFICATION at Barung 1.15-4pm NATURAL GARDENS FOR BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES with Joan Dillon, Don Sands & guest
THURSDAY 21st	8.30am-4pm CHAINSAW LEVEL 2 (Group 2) 9.30am-lunch WHEN 2'S A DYNAMIC DOU, 3'S A CROWD & 4'S AWESOME - INTERPRETING BAT COLONIES NUMBERS with Dr Geoffrey Smith & Alan Franks 9am-lunch WHAT TREE IS THAT? Field Walk with Marc Russell Noon-1pm BBQ lunch & PLANT IDENTIFICATION at Barung 1.15-4pm BUSH REGENERATION & HABITAT Field Trip with Nick Clancy & Marc Russell
FRI 22nd	9am-noon INDIGENOUS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LAND a bushwalk/talk with Bev Hand (limited places)

Ring Barung on 5494 3151 to book for all sessions
All sessions free with exception of Chainsaw Courses
Meet at Barung for all activities

Range News



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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Jacques Gwinner	Susan & Clive Savage
Janet McKeough	D Jones
R & L Wilson	Wayne Edwards
Stephanie Smith	Steven & Ute Miskin
Rick & Alison Rexa	Carolyn Allen
Judy & Doug Castledine	Anne Hayes
Russ & Margaret Siddall	Marcus Bussey
P K & R S Cahill	Ian Hodgins
Joy Muscillo	Daniel Richards
Audrey Hooker	Megan Brady
Jeanne Lang	Ann Flower
Terry & Lindsay Wareham	
Leanne Sommer & John Robertson	

WELCOME BACK

P & A Oliver	Donna Richardson
K & S Lindsay-Ewart	Catherine Simons
Dan Phillips	Paul Beavis
Cedarton Co-Op	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elaine Green

I have been working with various community groups for over twenty years now and it never ceases to amaze me how many good people there are who are prepared to work for nothing for a cause they believe in.

When you think about it, community organisations perform very important functions in society. Everything from looking after needy and disadvantaged people, to lobbying for national parks and clean rivers, revegetating land that should never have been cleared, looking after community halls and putting on community events simply could not happen without a very significant level of volunteerism.

It seems now that the International Year of the Volunteer is over, voluntary organisations are about to be dealt a severe blow by the Federal Government. Apparently a line is to be drawn in the taxation sands which separates environment and "lobby" groups from the more conventional "charitable" groups. The implications would seem to be that tax exempt status and the ability to give donors a tax deductible receipt are to be withdrawn from community groups that do not satisfy the criteria. Exactly what the criteria are remains a mystery at present, but is the work of, say an Op Shop group, more worthy than that of a Landcare group?

Just look at the Murray-Darling scenario and how many billions of dollars are being poured in as an act of desperation by the same Government. It doesn't make a lot of sense when local communities on the ground are prepared to put in the work for nothing to prevent environmental degradation, to make it even harder for them to continue their work.

Along with the bureaucratisation of NHT2, it seems that only the largest of organisations are supposed to survive all this economic rationalisation.

Well, I'm sorry if that sounds political, but it clearly is a major threat to the survival of Barung and many many other extremely worthwhile organisations.

Fortunately, we are well placed with our thriving native plant nursery and our fabulous Wood Expo to weather the storm. What we do need is some more good people to come on board and help us. With the AGM coming up in October, several members of the present Management Committee, including myself, will be standing down.

I know there are some talented and skilled people out there who could help. We have some very professional and dedicated staff at Barung who certainly make the tasks of the Committee easier.

Please consider nominating for the Management Committee. Meetings are held monthly and the Executive meets for one additional meeting. There are Sub-committees for Revegetation, the Nursery, Expo, Farm Forestry, Education and Funding that all require people with suitable interest and expertise.

There's plenty to do and lots of challenges ahead - so contact Angela and come along to meet the crew and see how you can fit in.

There's no time like the present.



THE STATE OF THE LAND

Wentworth Group Releases Water Blueprint

In early August, the Wentworth Group released its Blueprint for a National Water Plan. The Wentworth Group has called on the Council of Australian Governments (CoAG) to commit to three urgently needed water reforms:

1. Protecting river health by:

- √ Ensuring environmental needs of river systems have guaranteed first priority call on water required to keep them healthy;
- √ Establishing comprehensive water accounts and management systems to assess net volumes after allowance is made for return flows to rivers and groundwater;
- √ Bringing over-allocated river and groundwater systems back into balance by recovering water for the environment;
- √ Protecting less developed rivers using an Australia wide classification of rivers including heritage rivers and conservation rivers;
- √ Investing in science required to make better management decisions in the future.

2. Establishing a nationally consistent water entitlement and trading system to provide security to both water users and the environment by:

- √ Defining water entitlements as a perpetual share of the available water resource;
- √ Clearly articulating ways that water can be used in each catchment to protect the environment and other uses;
- √ Linking entitlements and allocations to transparent and balance water accounts;
- √ Removing impediments and simplifying temporary and permanent water trading so that water can be used for the best purpose.

3. Engage local communities and ensure fair transition by:

- √ Supporting community-based catchment, river and estuary management and catchment available;
- √ Establishing environmental water trusts for stressed river systems;
- √ Reduce fresh water use in urban areas;
- √ Ensuring steps to recovering environmental water are fair and efficient.

To initiate these reforms, the Wentworth Group want CoAG to:

- o Fund returning at least 100GL each year to the Murray;
- o Establish an independent inquiry to recommend on a new national water title system;
- o Establish Environmental Water Trusts to acquire and deliver water to the environment particularly in stressed river and groundwater systems. Trusts to be jointly funded by State and Federal Governments.

Other features of the Blueprint are the establishment of properly resourced, statutory, community based catchment management authorities. These authorities are to be backed by State natural resource commissions to develop state standards and targets and catchment strategies. Australian cities are to commit to reducing fresh water use by using it more efficiently and to find ways to use recycled water.

The release of the report is timed to put the maximum pressure on CoAG, which is due to meet in late August 2003.

Please contact Ian Johnson on ianjcon@ozemail.com.au for further information.

Who Pays for the Environment?

Greening Australia Queensland conference for the environment industry at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre (Boondall) 8 September 2003, to consider whether current financial support via government funding, private business and community and landholder action, is the most cost effective method of financially supporting natural resource management in Australia, and whether there is a more efficient way of paying for the environment. Debate and discussion on the following topic areas will be covered at the conference:

- * The environment as a market place eg ecosystem services
- * Socially Responsible Investing
- * Philanthropy
- * The implications for on-ground work
- * What do the current changes in funding mean for community groups, companies, government and landholders?

For further information, please visit www.greeningaustralia.org.au/GA/Qld or contact Alex Cooper on (07) 39024444.

Vic Govt Blasted Over Landcare Funding Cuts

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has urged the Bracks Government to rethink its plans to greatly reduce funding to Victoria's Landcare programs. It was revealed last week that the Victorian Government has reduced Landcare funding by as much as 30pc to some of Victoria's Landcare groups.

"Landcare is one of the most successful natural resource management programs anywhere in the world," VFF president, Paul Weller, says in a letter to the Vic Environment Minister, John Thwaites.

"The funding reductions the State Government appears set to implement will devastate the ability of Landcare to continue much of its good work.

"The impact that these funding reductions will have on weed reduction strategies and on pest control is enormous.

"For the sake of Landcare's future, I urge the government to rethink this decision."

The Economic Value Of Ecological Stability

A recent paper by Armsworth and Roughgarden suggests that seemingly intangible ecosystem characteristics that preoccupy ecologists, like ecosystem stability and the responsiveness of populations to environmental variation, have quantifiable economic values.

They propose a method for deriving these values, and show how consideration of these values could change environmental decision making. To illustrate the concepts, the authors use a simple reserve design model, suggesting that when resource managers choose a particular landscape configuration, their decision affects both the mean abundance of species and the temporal variation in abundances. Population stability and related phenomena have economic value, because management actions affect the variance of ecosystem components. In their example, a larger reserve size is recommended when accounting for the stability of the managed ecosystem. The paper appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (100: 7147-51) and is available from the lead author Paul Armsworth by emailing armsworth@stanford.edu.



ArtisTree at Pine Rivers

Penny Smith

The ArtisTree Touring Exhibition has just returned from an extended stay in the very attractive Pine Rivers Heritage Museum at North Pine Country Park, Petrie.

The display was arranged to coincide with the annual Pine Rivers Heritage Festival, which was held between the 23rd May and 4th June. One of the highlights of the festival is the very popular Heritage Day with thousands of people visiting this dynamic historical village.

As part of Heritage Day, Nathan Kirby, Coordinator of the Pine Rivers Catchment Association, with the assistance of Pine Rivers Shire Council, scheduled a program of educational talks, workshops and woodturning demonstrations on the theme of camphor laurel and other weeds in a venue adjacent to the museum. This proved an opportune and valuable collaboration with maximum exposure in an area with a severe camphor laurel problem.

This wonderful opportunity was made all the more enjoyable by the cheerful cooperation of the staff and volunteers from the Heritage Museum who were extremely supportive of the exhibition and its message. Once again, many of the volunteers had fun challenging visitors to open Richard Newport's 'stack of wood' cabinet.

GEARING UP ALREADY FOR EXPO 2004

Thoughts are turning towards 2004 as we look at funding available to support next year's Wood Expo. Applications have already been submitted for Caloundra Tourism and Queensland Events Regional Development Program support.

2004 will see the Expo reach its ninth year in a row. Expo's growth to become THE major event for the Hinterland area is a testament to the support of Barung members who work so hard to help with the organisation of this important Landcare education weekend.

So I am putting out the call for any Barung members who would be interested in joining the dedicated Expo Sub-committee in brainstorming and planning for an even better show next May!

Please ring Mim or Angie at the Barung Office if you would like to join us over coffee and bun at 9.30am Tuesday 2 September, at Barung, to discuss ideas for the ninth annual *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* Maleny Wood Expo.

Many members from the 2003 Expo Team are keen to stay on board, but we will be needing new Raffle, Landcare Paddock and EcoTour Coordinators among others.

If you would like to support the fundraising and education arm of Barung by donating your time to take on one of these positions, join us in early September. The more we can get rolling before Christmas, the less the pressure afterwards! We'd love to see you there!

Barung Landcare Annual General Meeting

Join us for a morning treeplant & lunch
prior to the AGM (see Range News for venue)

Saturday 11th October 2003

Management Committee nominations due Friday 26th Oct
Farm Forestry & Land Restoration Award Nominations
due in Barung Office by Friday 12th Sept

The Ornamental Garden

Joan Dillon

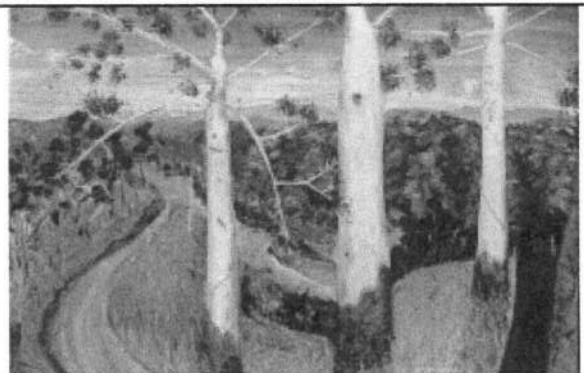
As I've just returned from an 8000 km driving and camping holiday, this issue's column will be something of an endemic garden travelogue. There's no doubt that much of the country I saw was showing the ravages of drought, but elements of extremely varied management practices had also had an effect. The state of the rivers feeding the Murray Darling Basin was really sad.

Where the country had had rain and where grazing was relatively light, or management was for conservation, there was a wealth of small to medium plants, as well as trees, suitable for the ornamental garden. Parts of the Barkley Tableland were carpeted in dwarf wattles, interspersed with the red flowering *Grevillea wickhamii*, plus the blue, yellow or white flowers and rounded forms of an understorey of herbs (forbs nowadays). Everpresent were the wonderful, albeit spiky, clumps of spinifex I fell in love with when I lived in the Northern Territory. These are all survivors which have withstood the erratic cycles of the seasons. Why would anyone out there plant exotics? However, human settlement was marked by dusty oleanders, found I suspect, wherever man has settled in dry continents.

The Alice Springs Desert Park as well as the West Macdonnell Ranges National Park showcased the plants of the region in both a natural and a garden setting. The silvery foliage and yellow flowers of the cassias (*Senna spp.*) showed up wonderfully against the red sandhills and rocky scree slopes as did a wide range of daisies and pea flowers. The beautiful little native bluebell was surprisingly common in slightly more protected areas. There are seven species of this genus in SEQ, including *Wahlenbergia stricta*, found in all states except the N.T. A stunning cultivar 'Blue Mist' is also available and both grow quite happily in my heavy clay. They seem to be behaving as perennials and sprawl delicately across the mulch to a diameter of around 50 cm.

The Arid Lands Botanic Garden in Port Augusta used its planted areas, distinct from the natural sandhills and salt pans, to display a remarkable collection of Eremophila species (emu bushes), in addition to a wide range of other shrubs, trees, forbs and grasses. This garden was absolutely alive with birds, a testament to the value and attraction of using local food species in the garden.

It is of course very tempting to try to create a similarly colourful garden using the same species, which would have little hope of



"BUSH TRACK" donated by Shane Watson

Original landscape painting in oils (1150 x 850 mm)

RAFFLE TICKETS only \$5

from the Barung Office & other outlets
to be drawn at the Barung AGM, 11 Oct 2003



Natural garden - Barkley Highway

surviving in our humid environment. There is, however, no reason why the same forms and colours shouldn't be planted using our own local species to create a SEQ rock or even sand garden in an appropriate setting, for example adjacent to the house, or as part of a courtyard where hard landscaping may be needed. Sand gardens are also great for observing the tracks of birds, reptiles, insects and other animals.

Another point noted on my travels was how highly visible adaptation, within the one species, to a particular habitat can be. It can be hard to tell the difference between the same species of some trees growing for instance around Bundaberg and here, but the common rock fig *Ficus platypoda*, growing in the rock crevices at Uluru is completely different in form and general habit from the same species growing here or on the shores of Sydney Harbour. Endemism is a thorny topic but grow what suits your area best, and that's usually local.

NURSERY NOTES

Nick Willis

Well what happened to winter?? As I write, an unusually wet and relatively frost free (bar the few heavy exceptions) warm winter has meant that the army of ever-keen bush revegetators haven't even stopped for their winter hibernation. The Nursery staff and vollies have been flat out trying to propagate for spring as well as keeping up with the unseasonal demand for new plants to go in the ground. Believe me we could not be happier!!! After a year or so of drought and lack of government project funding we are still increasing both the numbers of plants in the nursery and trees in the ground, so a big thanks to all you dedicated planters.

The funny weather we have been experiencing has also been felt by the local remnant vegetation as record seed crops have been produced in many species on the Blackall Range. Some species we have not had for many years should shortly be available in the Nursery. It seems that my unrelenting hassling of people for seed is paying off, as we have been inundated with many generous seed donations this month. As a regular feature of this column I will include a thank you list of people who have donated seed, and hopefully encourage others to do likewise. In an effort to increase diversity and reliability of seed, we have also begun regular seed collection days where specific species are targeted from our records of previous years seeding times and locations. This enables us to cheaply accumulate large quantities of seed as well as educate and have a fun time with our volunteers.

Another of our great achievements this month has been the installation of permanent, absolute 100% rat-proof germination cages. It seems that our resident Carpet Python cannot keep up with the little blighters. Rats have been continuously getting into our seed trays and eating or destroying hundreds of valuable seeds. Thanks go to Max Smith for the time he generously spent on frame construction and to Ian McInnelly for putting the cages together.

A great thank you also goes to the often unacknowledged but greatly appreciated Saturday vollies. For those unaware, Barung is open from 9am to 12 pm on Saturdays, and is staffed wholly by volunteers. These mornings can be very busy times as many people unable to visit us during the week utilise this opportunity to get their hands dirty. To help our volunteers, orders can be placed during the week and picked up on Saturday, leaving you with more planting time.

As I am writing this there is a distinctly springish feel to the air so come in and take home some trees. Every day the Nursery is getting more and more stock. And remember, if the specific species you are chasing is not in stock, chances are we can source it from our large network of local growers and wholesale nurseries, just ask us. I would also like to encourage people to place forward orders with us to ensure availability of species - the more time we have to get together an order, the greater the chances of required species diversity. Some people have been known to place orders six months or more in advance!!

Seeya in the Nursery

Thanks to June & July Seed Donors:

Marc Russell & the Green Reserve team

Green Corps

Ross Pilarski

David McDonald

Elizabeth Verryet

Clay Stokoe

Gordon Page

Jeanette Nobes

Peter McCudden



Rob and Samantha Outridge

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PLANT PROFILE

Nick Willis

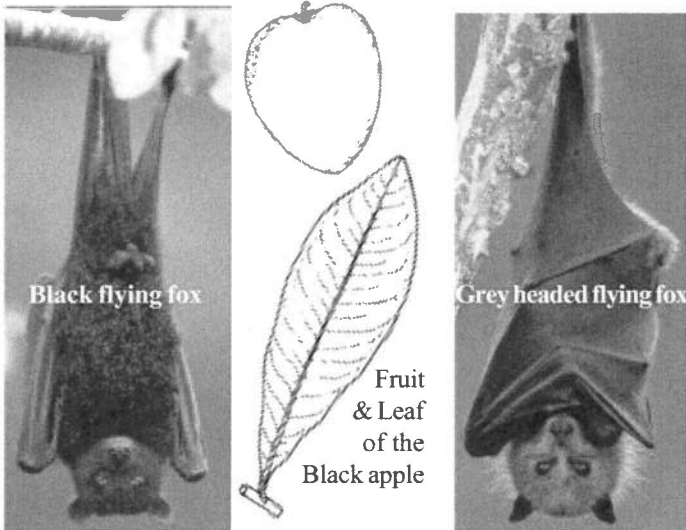
Black Apple

Pouteria australis syn. *Planchonella*

Family: *Sapotaceae*

Black apple is a common canopy tree of our sub-tropical rainforests. Occurring from Illawarra in NSW to Gympie, it can attain a height of 30m and a stem diameter of 120cm. According to Floyd, Black apple is one of our best carving woods but it is probably best known for the abundant large black edible fruit produced from late spring through to summer. Like many of our rainforest trees, heavy fruiting does not occur annually, but most years at least a few trees can be found with fruit.

The seeds of Black apple were reported to be eaten by aborigines, but these days the flesh is more commonly eaten or made into jams etc. Related to the exotic fruits Abiu and Sapodillas, it has possibilities as a commercial bushfood crop but further selection of particular varieties would need to be carried out to determine superior cultivars.



Even if the taste doesn't appeal to you, Black apple is still an important tree to plant for our furry mammal friends. The fruit are a valuable food source for possums, flying foxes and ground dwelling mammals.

On revegetation sites, Black apple is probably best planted as a semi-advanced specimen, about 1-2 years after initial planting of pioneer species. A relatively slow grower at first, it likes a sheltered, protected spot with ample moisture to perform at its best. It could also be considered for inclusion in cabinet timber plots.

For the next few months Barung Nursery has Black apple on special for \$1.50 each.

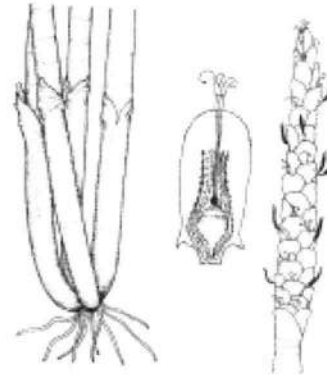
Illustrations from:

1. Trees & Shrubs in Rainforests of New South Wales & Southern Queensland by Williams, Harden & McDonald, pub'd by University of New England (avail from Barung Bookshop)
2. Flying Foxes - Fruit & Blossom Bats of Australia, by Leslie Hall & Greg Richards, pub'd by UNSW Press (avail from Barung Bookshop)

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LOCAL WILD & EDIBLE Bernard Murowski

Water chestnut (*Eleocharis dulcis*)



The water chestnut (*Eleocharis dulcis*) is a tall, grass-like rush that grows along the edges of rivers and streams and in wetlands. While more commonly associated with Asian countries, it is native to many tropical areas from Madagascar and India to Indonesia, Australia and Fiji. Water chestnuts have been cultivated in China for

centuries and have been known in the West since the 1600's.

The water chestnut is a leafless plant with the photosynthetic activity being carried out in the stems of the plant. Two types of rhizomes are produced by the plant. The first start to appear around 6-8 weeks, are horizontal and produce new plants, with the second being produced late in the season and growing down at an angle and terminating in an edible corm (the water chestnut). These corms are white when young and turn a dark brown when mature.

The water chestnut is traditionally grown in flooded fields or paddies that are drained a month before harvest and can also be grown in containers of water. They can be planted around the perimeter of your dam or in your fish pond or water feature. Alternatively, any old container such as a wading pool, baby's bath or rubbish bin can be used. Soil or sand is either placed directly into the container or into pot plant containers which are submerged in the water. Around 100-150 ml of water should cover the plants. When the corms are a dark brown colour and the stems turn brown, the water chestnuts are ready for harvest (usually around autumn). It takes approximately 7-8 months for growth to reach this stage. The plants are then lifted and the corms removed from the roots. Water chestnuts are pretty easy to grow and would be suitable for children to be involved with.

As a food, the water chestnut is fairly well known to many people who probably first tasted them in their Chinese meals. For the Chinese, the vegetable's texture is the most prized aspect as it remains firm and crisp after cooking. It can be included in stir-fries, mixed in with rice, added to soups, or steamed or boiled and served as a vegetable. The fresh corms can be peeled with the fingers and eaten fresh like fruit or sliced and added to salads.

Illustration from - Water Plants in Australia by GR Sainty & SWL Jacobs, pub'd by CSIRO Publ'g (avail from Barung Bookshop)

New book for sale in the Barung Resource Centre

Conservation of Birdwing Butterflies

edited by Don Sands and Sue Scott - **\$22** (incl GST)

Full colour pictures, introduces birdwing community conservation projects, information on many of the world's birdwing butterflies and the conservation efforts towards saving them.

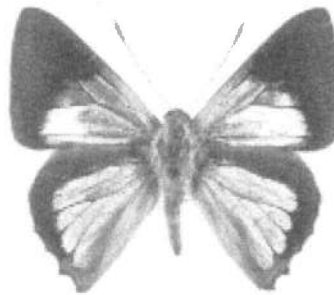
Published in Australia by SciComEd Pty Ltd and THECA (The Hut Environmental and Community Association Inc). Nov 2002

BUTTERFLIES OF THE RANGE

Bob Miller

Moonlight Jewel

(*Hypochrysops delicia delicia*)



I have been an observer of Mother Nature for countless years now, but still she shows me things that leave me looking on in awe. The latest occurred about a month ago now.

I was wandering around my backyard checking on how the different larvae were going on their respective foodplants, when out of a cloud of about ten Plumbago blues (featured in the last article) flew a larger blue butterfly that appeared red underneath.

My immediate thoughts were that it could only be one of the jewel butterflies, but a positive identification could only be made if the insect landed long enough to compare the differences.

Sure enough, after a couple of circuits around my *Acacia spectabilis*, she perched on the very highest of the foliage - a habit the jewel butterflies use to frustrate observers!

As she was too high for identification, I stood there and watched her, just in case she came closer.

She proceeded to walk around the foliage, then onto the branch, moving her antennae up and down all the time, as if she was looking for something special.

What was she doing on this acacia? The larvae feed on different species of acacias, but this was not one of those listed for it.

Was she testing to see if it was one of those known foodplants, or was there still more?

With these thoughts running through my head, I noticed that she was now hanging upside-down, still walking along the branch.

All of a sudden she was gone. She let go of the branch, and with the precision of a trapeze artist, she fell down past three branches, grabbed hold of the fourth and proceeded to do as she did on the top. Walking along, head down, antennae moving up and down. Still looking for something?

After walking along the branch for a minute or two, she once again went onto the underside and let go, this time catching a branch within 30 centimetres of my head.

She was now close enough for a positive i.d. but although at this stage I could narrow it down to two butterflies, I needed her to open her wings so that I could see the colour of the upperside.

She walked along this branch, again going through the same motions. A minute or two passed before I could see the upperside colour - a brilliant metallic blue - with large bright red patches towards the base of the upperside of the hindwing.

This confirmed that she was indeed a Moonlight Jewel.

The underside of the wing can also only be described as spectacular. It has an orange-beige background with numerous bright red spots surrounded by metallic green scales. The description doesn't do justice at all, as they can only truly be appreciated when seen glistening in the sun.

After what seemed to be an eternity to me, she stopped and seemed to go into a trance. She then proceeded to lay her eggs on the upperside of the branch she was standing on.

Three eggs were laid when I noticed an ant looking at the first one. Knowing the incredible ant predation on butterfly eggs, I thought that they were doomed from the start. But it wasn't to be. The ant inspected the egg for a short time, and then went about doing whatever ants do, the eggs were all still intact.

She laid 15 eggs before the rain started to fall, making it to 18 before she was knocked off of the branch. She then flew away to find shelter.

So as to confirm this plant as a foodplant, I decided to take the eggs inside and hatch them under controlled conditions.

The larvae emerged from the eggs in exactly two weeks. They were no larger than a pin prick, but by the time they pupated they were about 25mm. long. They stayed dormant in their pupae until the first butterflies started to emerge as adults 81 days from when the eggs were laid. There has been a steady stream of adults emerging ever since.

Upon talking to other entomologists about the ants not touching the eggs of this particular butterfly, it seems that upon emergence of the larvae from the eggs, the ants will either carry or herd them back to their nest or another suitable shelter near the foliage. This shel-

ter can be as simple as an old seed pod, a piece of bark trapped on the tree, or even a couple of leaves joined together.

They stay in these shelters, attended by the ants, until nightfall. The ants will then herd them out onto the foliage to feed, guarding them all the time. They then herd them back to the relative safety of the shelter until the following night, when they are again herded out to feed.

Watching this symbiotic relationship in progress, it is really hard to believe that these two invertebrates are not deadly enemies; after all, ants eat caterpillars. In return for protection, the ants are treated to a sugary substance, exuded from glands on the rear of the larvae.

As it turns out, what the female butterfly was looking for was evidence of the ant colony before she was willing to lay her eggs.

The ant colonies occur in borer holes in the dead branches. I used to trim all dead branches off of my acacia, but I now know they are an important part of the diversity of my garden.

For those of you familiar with ants, these are *Crematogaster* sp.

For the rest of us who do not know ant species, they are small black ants that walk around with their pointed abdomens raised when they are disturbed.

The adult butterflies are approximately 32-35mm. from wingtip to wingtip, and generally fly too high for identification.

The main foodplant for this butterfly on the Blackall Range is *Acacia melanoxydon* (Black wattle) but a full list of foodplants, along with any other information you may require about this or any other butterfly, can be found by reading *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael Braby, 2000.

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



Bellthorpe
Environmental
Reserve
Marcia Deakin
Secretary
Bellthorpe Progress
Association

For the year 2003 we (the members of the Bellthorpe Progress Association Inc) obtained some Envirofunding from the Commonwealth Government National Heritage Trust.

Our goal is to restore the 3.47 ha Bellthorpe Environmental Reserve to its former glory, whilst hopefully inspiring others to consider restoration on their own properties.

Some areas of the Reserve are still untouched and thick rainforest remains, but wherever disturbance has taken place lantana, tobacco bush, wild passionfruit, wide leaved setaria, broad-leaved rivet and other weeds have moved in.

Firstly we asked Marc Russell to do a survey of the park to identify species present there and we were delighted when he found *Austromyrtus inophloia*, a rare plant, as well as the usual subtropical forest species eg Red apple, Maiden's blush, Flame trees, Cordylines, Tamarinds, Dysoxylum, and Endiandras to name a few. We "kicked off" on Australia Day with an inspection of regeneration taking place at one property in Bellthorpe followed by a barbeque and a slide presentation identifying weeds in Bellthorpe. Now we meet at the Reserve on the first Saturday in the month (everybody welcome!) and work from 8am to 10am, then adjourn to the local hall for a cuppa and whatever instruction necessary to increase our knowledge and skills for our project eg. workplace health & safety, use of the 'Red Book' (Trees and Shrubs in Rainforest of NSW and Qld). We are planning a talk on homes for native birds and animals by Alan and Stacey Franks in September, plus installation of four boxes on the Reserve and a Frog Day with Rick Natrass in November.

Another of our most thrilling activities was a walk through another landholder's forest with Marc and Ed Surman. Here a variety of species, including some rare or endangered, were found. I think we were all gripped by the wonder of the biodiversity, the variety of species, the height of some trees around us.

The response by locals has been enthusiastic. Our working bees continually attract 17-22 workers, and last month we did the "official" thing and asked Mal Brough to plant a tree for us.

The marvel is the regeneration taking place. As we clear the lantana etc we find small natives beneath just waiting for the chance to grow. Each plant we uncover is a delightful and welcome treasure. In large areas of clearing we have planted indigenous species, fertilised, mulched and tagged them.

Besides the great environmental outcomes from our efforts, a real sense of community spirit is being fostered.

We are also most grateful for the support of the Caboolture Shire Council, Darryl Wright their Bushcare Officer, Marc Russell and a special thanks to Ed Surman and his Green Corps team who gave us two days in their busy schedule.

We have a vision of a part of Bellthorpe restored to its former beauty by actions that demonstrate our love and respect for our mountain and the plants and animals that live here.

Green Corps
- & then there were five
W T Wadsworth (Wadzy)



A group of ten young people have been working with Barung Landcare for the past five months on a federally funded project to assist with Landcare work. The project is managed nationally by Greening Australia who works with partner groups such as Barung Landcare. Ten participants start work with each new project.

During the past five months Barung's Green Corps team have worked on a wide variety of projects at many different sites. They have also received propagation and nursery training from Nick Willis, Barung Nursery Manager, and learnt Weed and Tree Identification skills with Marc Russell, Barung's Revegetation and Habitat Officer - a walking tree encyclopaedia.

In the past few weeks, five of the participants have gained employment outside of the project leaving five to complete the rest of the work prior to the end of the project on August 15.

Much of their effort has not been in the public eye, a few notable exceptions being weed control and tree planting at the Maleny State Primary School site on the Obi Creek, maintenance of the Entrance Site below Maleny High School, maintenance work and tree planting on the Obi Boardwalk and designing and manifesting a display Permaculture/Indigenous garden at the Barung Resource Centre.

The last big treeplant for the team was a "mixed species demonstration farm forestry trial planting" at Montville. The five remaining team members, with help from Barung staff and volunteers planted 1,000 plants.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT FUNDING

Landholders within the Lake Baroon catchment area are invited to submit expressions of interest for funding for work to be carried out in the 2003-2004 financial year.

Funding may be provided to applicants wishing to carry out projects to enhance water quality within the catchment. Projects such as the fencing of riparian areas (the area around water bodies) to control stock access, installing off-stream watering points, hard surfacing of lane ways and watering points, cattle crossings, and the revegetation of riparian areas will be considered. Conditions apply.

Please contact Lake Baroon Catchment Care Groups' Project Officer, Jonathan Waites, on (07) 5494 3775 or lbccg@serv.net.au



Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

19 Coral Street, Maleny, Q 4552

'Working with our community, for our waterways'