

DECEMBER 1993

## Threatened Species Network joins Landcare Centre

The new year of 1994 will bring exciting changes to the Barung Landcare Centre as the Queensland branch of the National Threatened Species Network takes up residence in our building.

The TSN has out-grown its present shoe-box office in the Enterprise Centre especially since workers Sandra Griffith and Zoe Gill joined the Network team.

The activities of Landcare and the Threatened Species Network are highly compatible. The aim of the TSN is to raise community awareness about the problems of species extinction and loss of biological diversity and to get people involved in doing something about these problems. The Network has a Statewide responsibility to promote this aim and one way in which it does so is by liaising with Landcare groups throughout Queensland. Jan (TSN Co-ordinator) is keen to increase her understanding of the Landcare issues, since about 90% of the land surface of Queensland

is managed by primary producers. For this reason, any biodiversity conservation strategy which is to succeed must take their needs and interests into account.

From Barung's perspective, conserving biological diversity (the full variety of living things) is one of the objectives of Queensland's Decade of Landcare Plan and having the Network in the building will give us a unique opportunity to maintain this as part of our focus. Some joint projects could evolve from the association of the two groups. One possibility - the Network recently received funding under the National Landcare Program to set up a number of pilot "threatened species action groups".

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## LANDCARE EDUCATION AWARD

The joint efforts of Maleny High School and Barung Land Care resulted in Maleny High receiving Runner-up for Queensland in the Telecom Land Care Education Awards for 1993.

This Award recognises the value of the school and community Waterwatch network that this joint group has initiated along the 305 kilometre length of the Mary River. In 1993 this was established through a four stage process involving a teacher and Land Care member training workshop, a Mary River Catchment Crawl, water quality monitoring work in schools, and the Mary River Congress at Kenilworth.

Emerald High School won the award for Queensland. On 29 November, Luke Searson and Mr Peter Oliver of Maleny High School, were flown to Emerald for a special presentation dinner. The awards were presented by Don Burke of "Burke's Back Yard."

The Queensland Minister for Primary Industries, Mr Ed Casey,

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BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC.,  
17 Bicentenary Lane,  
Maleny Qld. 4552

Phone: 074-943 151  
Fax: 074-943 506

THREATENED SPECIES NETWORK  
from page 1

Local species could be chosen for which the conservation actions required were compatible with the aims of Barung. For example, the Tiger Quoll and the Mary River Cod are two endangered species found in this area. A quoll conservation project would focus on conserving native forest remnants, reforestation and the creation of effective wildlife corridors. A Mary River Cod project, on the other hand, would need to address the water quality in the Obi Obi and other local streams and the uses to which our water ways are being put.

There are also immediate practical advantages to the having the Threatened Species Network in our building. This move will help us to extend our opening hours by sharing workers. As well, the phones of both groups will now be attended on a full-time basis, despite the fact that both coordinators are part-time employees and are often required, by the nature of their work, to be out of the office.

Lexy and Jan are looking forward to discovering what other synergistic benefits may emerge from combining the two offices.



EDUCATION AWARD from page 1

has also recognised the significance of this work in raising community awareness. On 23 November at Gympie, Mr Casey awarded the school students who participated in the "Catchment Crawl" a special plaque in appreciation of their efforts in raising community awareness of catchment management issues along the Mary River system. Mr Casey was at Gympie to launch the Integrated Catchment Management Program work for the Mary River.

## THE MARY RIVER CONGRESS — NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

**THE SECOND MARY RIVER CONGRESS** was held at Kenilworth on October 23, and while attendance was down on last year's Congress (held in Maleny) it was a much more relaxed occasion.

One of the highlights of the day was the student presentations of findings from the "Catchment Crawl" (the students' week-long journey from the source of the Mary River to the sea). Luke Searson and friends wound up the student presentation with an unusual adaptation of an old John Lennon song ("All we are saying, is give creeks a chance..."). The diverse range of workshops were also extremely enjoyable. Jo McLeod from the Commercial Fishermens Organisation gave a totally different perspective on the catchment. It was really enlightening to get an overview of how what we do on the land impacts upon our coastal marine ecosystems.

Barung Landcare would like to thank the Kenilworth State School and all the members of the Kenilworth Landcare Group who helped us out on the day. Also thanks to all our sponsors and a big special THANKS to the organising committee who have put in hours and hours of work to make the whole thing happen - Peter Oliver, John Pedrazzini, Lexy Forbes, Annemarie Watt, Jane

Skrandies and Lindsay Kruger.

Already planning is under way for next year's Congress, with suggested venues so far of Gympie or Maryborough, although this is yet to be fixed and Barung Landcare welcomes any suggestions on venue or format for the congress.

Other possibilities include running the Congress over two days, Friday and Saturday. This would allow more students to attend (on the Friday) and the overnight "camp" would allow more time for discussion and exchange of views and viewpoints between the parties that come together for the Congress; the farmers, the fishers, the "greenies", government officials, academics, the students and their parents... This is after all the strength of the Congress, the bringing together of all these parties on neutral ground help find mutually acceptable solutions to problems in the catchment and maintain or improve its quality for future generations.

*John Page*

## RURAL TRADERS

53 MAPLE STREET, MALENY, QLD. 4552



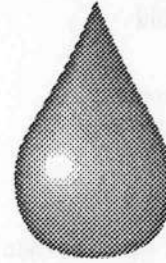
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# ASPECTS OF WATER USE



## ARE YOU USING BORE WATER?

The water table is formed by the percolation of water through the soils to the impervious rock stratum located at different levels below the surface of the ground.

Below this rock stratum is the aquifer layer (the water source for artesian bores). Surface vegetation, especially trees, extend their roots down towards and into this water table to collect the water that they then pump up through their roots, trunk and leaves to be cycled back into the atmosphere (i.e. the hydrological cycle). The effective operation of the hydrological cycle is vital to the functioning of both natural and agricultural systems. Trees need access to the water table to survive the various cycles of dry and wet periods. The depth

and extent of the water table reservoir varies according to the factors such as the rainfall pattern, soil composition and other geological features of the landscape.

The current trends in sinking bores in rural-residential areas has the potential, if not used wisely, to alter the functioning of the hydrological cycle in our local areas and thus the long-term viability of vegetation communities. Whilst farmers have restrictions placed on their use of

our community water resources, no such restrictions are placed on rural-residential dwellers.

We live in an area of extremely high rainfall (>2000mm/year) and storage of water in tanks should provide ample for an average household who have an adequate sized tank and use their water wisely. The use of bore water should be seen as a means of supplementing water supplies during periods of low rainfall, rather than an additional source of

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## How to make your garden much more environmentally up to date? SAVE WATER!

- Group plants according to how much water they need.
- Be aware of how much water each plant needs as some will wilt in a few days, but others really don't need you to water at all.
- Limit your lawn areas. This REALLY makes for big water savings. Even under children's swings you can use soft mulches like fine pinebark, but keep an open grassed area for children to play.
- Replace footworn areas of lawn with gravel or paved paths or courtyards.
- Increase the size of your shrubberies. Join the old ones, or isolated shrubs, together in one mass or group planting. Mulch well under the shrubs until the groundcovers take over.
- Keep mulch 5 to 8mm (2 or 3 inches) thick with any organic matter (straw, newspaper, leaves etc.) or stones. This also increases the organic content of the soil and thus increases water retention and prevents soil surface crusting and runoff.
- Mow your lawn longer. Very short cut lawn dries out quickly and loses vigour.
- Garden irrigation systems must be used carefully. People tend to over use water by setting up automatic timing mechanisms in these systems. The system waters the garden merrily even when the rain is pouring down. We understand that rain sensors are now available.
- Water the garden either very early in the morning (before 9am) or in the evening (after 4 or 5pm) to save on evaporation.
- Water deep, long and not too often. This will encourage the roots to go deep looking for moisture and thus make them stronger.
- Keep major weeds under control as they take a lot of moisture from other plants.
- Pots — best are plastic but terracotta ones can be lined with plastic or even painted on the inside.
- Plant local native gardens — no extra watering needed.

From *The Calliope Land Manager*, newsletter of the Calliope Soil Conservation Assoc. Inc.

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WATER BORES from page 3

water for the household throughout the year.

We often complain about the impact on the landscape in our region resulting from water storage dams to meet the water requirements of coastal regions. After the campaign to stop the dam on the Mary River we all realised that water is a precious resource and should be treated as such. There was also much discussion about alternative methods of solving our water needs that had less impact on the catchment that we all share. Yet how many of us realise that the indiscriminate use of bore water can also effect the catchment dynamics of the Mary River and put at risk others that share this catchment.

**Before using water from your bore, try to keep in mind the following:**

1. Remember you are using a **COMMUNITY** water resource.
2. Pumping water from the water table can affect the vegetation communities in the areas adjoining your block.
3. Remember you are not the only one using a bore in your area; many households now have one.
4. Rely as much as you can on the water in your storage tanks and **ALWAYS** use water wisely.
5. Only use your bore to supplement your water supply during periods of water shortage. We live in a high rainfall area and so bores should be seen as a safeguard against "drought" rather than an additional source of water for your gardens and lawns etc.

*Annemarie Watt*



## **JOBS FOR THE BOYS (AND GIRLS)**

Now that we are open five days a week we need more **volunteers to work in the nursery...** please ring Tuesdays is our "potting-on" day — it's really a fun day where we get heaps done. Denise is nearly always available for a good laugh and is also a hive of information about Rainforest trees. If you want to help and have some fun just drop in when you've got a few hours to spare.

**Seed Collectors** wanted now — now is the best time to collect seed, which we need to keep up our supply of plants. If bringing seed in please make sure you know what it is or bring in a decent branchlet to be identified. A Seed Collecting workshop will be organised if there is enough interest.

Barung is interested in doing a **tree plant** along the northern end of the range we realise that we have neglected our northern neighbours so please let us know if you have any ideas for a good project in your area — Montville, Mapleton.

Almost time for **funding submissions** again... anyone with ideas for a project that we could apply for funding for, please let us know. Also, if you'd like to help with assembling the submissions, you'd be most welcome!

### **A Barung Sub-Committee for Mapleton?**

Barung needs to get more involved in the Montville/Mapleton area, so we are proposing to form a sub-committee of residents of those areas. This is needed so that we can identify areas that need "landcare intervention", and do something about fixing them. Anyone interested in forming a local sub-committee should get in touch with Lexy at the office (943 151).

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Snakes produce their young by two methods. Most venomous species bear live young.

But most non-venomous species lay eggs — long white and with parchment like shell.

Leave snakes alone, don't block their escape route and they usually go away. But always carry a torch at night.

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# CLIPPINGS...

A project to reafforest mountain slopes around the city of Cuzco Inow Qosqol in Peru with native Andean trees has been a huge success. The project, "A Million Trees for Life" is a joint venture of the city council and the 'Inca' association.

The first season of planting began with the rains of September 1990. Within six months 1.2 million trees were planted in and around Qosqo, more than half of them native Andean species. The ultimate goal of the project is to plant 100 million trees.

The involvement of the city council permitted the massive mobilization of local inhabitants, with as many as 5,000 people planting up to 25,000 trees in a single day.

Eight new forests have been created in the outskirts of Qosqo and many birds and flowering plants are now returning to these areas after a long absence.

*Mazan Times, Vol 4, 1993.*

## Green Waste Compost

Brisbane City Council plans to halve the city's \$480 million waste disposal bill, include moves to sell recycled green waste compost to landscaping and gardening industries.

Already they have achieved a 10% reduction on the 1991 figure, despite the fact that in the past 6 years the amount of rubbish

handled has risen because of the sharp growth in population.

Green waste accounted for 30% of the city's total waste stream. Commercial green waste composting could lead to a significant reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill at Council tips.

Around 250,000 householders will receive special recycling bins to be used in a kerbside collection recycling scheme. Already residents have purchased 12,000 bins from the council in 3 months. The new scheme will be operated by private contractors, and will help create jobs.

*Kawana/Caloundra Wastebusters Newsletter.*

## Population Control

Despite the possible growth in the world's population from 5.5 to 8 billion by 2025, developed countries have recently pledged only half the estimated \$9 billion demand population control programs - the world's poorer countries. The World Bank claims that reducing birth rates is the most cost-effective form of development aid. Simply making contraceptives available to women in poor countries will lower the birth rates. Importantly, criticism directed against population control programs in the 70's and 80's has subsided. African nations in particular are enthusiastic about the need for population control. Unfortunately, the avalanche has already been set

in motion and a world population of 8.5 billion will occur no matter what.

*New Scientist - April.*

## Cork Comeback

We pop them enthusiastically from champagne bottles and gently ease them from our wine bottles without giving them a second thought, but the humble brown cork is set to make a come back.

Corks can now be successfully recycled. ACL Comcork has developed technology to granulate and compress used corks so that the recycled product can be re-used on engine gaskets and floor tiles.

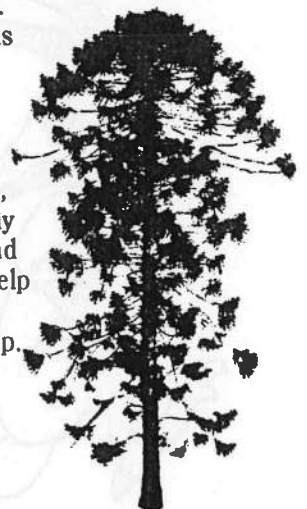
It takes 20 years for cork oak trees, grown only in Spain and Portugal, to mature sufficiently for the cork bark to be processed.

ACL hopes its new plant will mean Australia can cut back in its cork imports, with a big percentage of demand being filled using recycled material. This will also mean more jobs for Australians.

*Kawana/Caloundra Wastebusters Newsletter.*

## TREES FOR BUNYAS... but only if you're a member!

Trees available from the new Barung Landcare Centre can now be swapped for bunyas (LETS-type bunyas, that is!) but to members only. If you're not already a member, here's another good reason to join. Membership is only \$15 per year, and for that meagre sum you get five free trees, this bi-monthly newsletter, and a chance to help your local landcare group.




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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is now a few months since the LAGM and much has happened; Denise and her helpers have been busy setting up the Nursery, planting seeds, and potting up the seedlings. We specialise in local Rain Forest trees and are adding to our range all the time. If you feel you would like to help in the nursery just drop by any Tuesday — don't worry if you have had no experience as you will be trained in the various jobs.

A shaded area has been added to our plot to place seedlings that do not like direct sun. Concrete placed along the back of the shed to provide extra work area. The concrete has been donated by our local Ready Mix operator - thanks.

Barung is a facility that belongs to the area and relies on its friends to collect seed and plants, etc. We plan to run workshops on a number of interesting subjects; this will be advised through the Range News. If you have a subject you are interested in, please advise Lexy and we will do our best to put it on.

Our aim is to make Barung Nursery self sufficient so that we can provide landcare advice and supply trees without having to resort to outside funding.

We now have free leaflets on various subjects; also excellent books on trees are available at reasonable prices.

Remember, Barung is the local **Landcare Centre**. We have just been joined by Jan Tilden, Co-ordinator of the Endangered Species network. Jan has heaps of good information on plants and animals which are endangered.

As Maleny is such an attractive area we would like to establish some walking trails. Of course, this would mean crossing various private properties. The suggestion is that Barung would build and install turnstiles or stiles over fences so that no gates would need to be opened. For this to happen we need permission from many property owners. Can you help?

*Phil Jacobs*

## Blackall Range Landuse Planning Association

We have been active in Maroochy Shire in examining and making submissions on various landuse proposals, however we do have a problem of keeping in touch with what happens in Caloundra Shire. We would welcome new members to support our cause.

Organizationally we are planning to create branches at Mapleton, Montville and Maleny to co-ordinate our activities throughout the area. What we do not have is a person to act as the co-ordinator of the Maleny Branch. Can we please have a volunteer? The role of each branch will be to keep tabs on developments in their areas and advise the Secretary or President when action by the Association seems desirable and make some recommendations on what should be done. Each Branch will have a representative on the Committee.

Our Association has made an impact in Maroochy and in relevant Government Departments and we must build on this. Your help in making our Association a stronger more effective voice is essential to our success. We value your support and would welcome any views you have on the above issues.

*Jill Petersen (Sec) 457890*

## A SONG FOR THE BILBY



Please ring your favourite radio station and request a new CD single called **THE BILBY BEAT**, put out by Polydor. The proceeds of sales go to funding recovery plans for endangered species. This is an initiative of the

Endangered Species Unit of the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (formerly ANPWS).

Success of the venture depends on the CD being played.

Many thanks,

*Jan Tilden,  
Threatened Species  
Network*

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# WEEDS ON YOUR PROPERTY?

I would be interested to find out what landholders consider to be the most serious weed species on their properties.

Weeds in this district can be classified into two types:

1. Agricultural weeds: are woody and herbaceous weeds which affect agricultural productivity.
2. Environmental weeds: are trees, woody shrubs, herbs and vines that pose a threat to native vegetation or a simply a "nuisance" on your property.

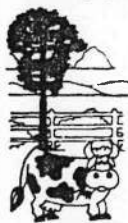
I would be grateful if you could send in a list of the four most serious agricultural and environmental weeds on your property, listed in order of priority. Please feel free to include any additional relevant information on weeds in this district or those that you have listed. If you do not know the common or specific name for the weeds include a detailed description. The more information we can collect on weeds and their distribution in the district the better able we will be to provide relevant information on means of controlling these species. Please ensure that you include the location (street, town, etc) of your property.

Responses can be delivered or sent to me care of Barung House, Bicentennial Lane, Maleny, 4552.

Thankyou for your help.

*Dr Annemarie Watt.*

## THE FARM BARN



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**BARUNG LANDCARE would like to wish everybody a happy holiday season. . . and don't forget to plant some more trees on your days off, the weather has been excellent and this is a fantastic season to get them in the ground!**



### DATE CLAIMERS

JANUARY 11

Barung Committee Meeting, Barung House, 7.30 pm

29

Cabinet Timber Field Day, Kin Kin

Phone Barung Office for more details and information about possible car-pooling.

FEBRUARY 12

Agroforestry Field Day, Federal

Phone Barung Office for more details and information about possible car-pooling.

Please check the "Landcare Update" in the Range News every fortnight for details of other events.



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### BARUNG LANDCARE Management Committee

*President* - Phil Jacobs

*Vice President* - Jan Tilden

*Coordinator* - Lexy Forbes

*Secretary* - Marion Greenfield

*Treasurer* - Trish Jacobs

*Committee Members* -

Denise Irons, Trevor Angel,  
Rob Cork, Mal Thompson

*Advisors* - Ashley Sewell, Sam Brown



17 Bicentennial Lane  
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