

## BBQ and BALLADS AT LEXY'S FAREWELL

Some of Maleny's hidden talent was well and truly exposed on the evening of 19 November when a chorus of members gathered to make certain that Barung House was full of well wishers keen to farewell Lexy Forbes as she takes leave from her



Someone should tell him he's dropped his harmonica

role as co-ordinator of our landcare group.

The BBQ plate sizzled furiously with everything from tofu to T-bones. The

When I thought people were well and truly "ready", I started playing guitar and singing. People were very polite about this. Some even joined in when they recognised the melody.

I felt good when my three year old son upstaged me by doing a marvellous display of dancing which had the whole



The girls show us why they're not leaving their day jobs...

shed in hysterics. I suppose people deserved to have some fun. Many

people contributed to the night. Thanks especially to Denise, Sammy and Barry for setting up and particularly to Lisa without whom the night would not have been such a success. The group presented Lexy with a beautiful pendant in recognition of her efforts. We also welcomed Lea Harrison, our new Co-ordinator. Lexy worked very hard for our group. I will miss her positive presence at our landcare office.

**Peter Oliver**

fridge door opened more times than I could count as party-goers took turns to check that its liquid contents were cold. After considerable feasting the evening gave way to singing. Tommy Leonard sang superbly. Dixon Hammer was in fine form. Rid, Carmel, and Ruth provided great harmonies. One find for the night was the unearthing of the harmonica talent of Barry Beale. The multi-talented, hard working, easy going Barry is undoubtedly Barung's answer to Larry Adler. This devillish, debonair doyen of the chromatic slide harmonica really strutted his stuff

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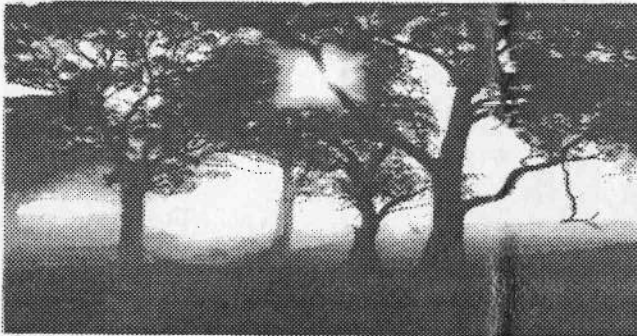
Tuesday - Saturday - Call in or phone on 943 151

# Rare & Threatened Plants & Bushfires

SE Queensland has more known rare and threatened plants than any other region of Australia. This has come about through the high level of biodiversity of the area coupled with rapid urbanisation.

European settlers came into an area rich in flora and fauna and liked it so much they stayed and began to squeeze out the very things which attracted them.

Among the threatened plant communities of the area are subtropical lowland rainforest, Melaleuca woodland, coastal and mountain heaths, dry vine scrubs and wet sclerophyll forest.



People, their buildings and their highways aren't the only threat. Recent fires have ravaged large areas of Melaleuca woodland and coastal heaths in the area between Bells Creek and Lamerough Creek behind Golden Beach and on Bribie Island. As well, all of the Glasshouse Mountains have burned. The heath vegetation on these peaks includes several species of rare or vulnerable plants which are found *nowhere* in the world but the Glasshouse Mountains.

Fortunately all of these species are likely to be highly fire adapted. It is difficult to imagine that any plant could have evolved on these mountains without being fire resistant,

given the topography and the vegetation of the surrounding countryside. In the same way, the heaths and Melaleuca Woodlands of the Bells Creek area also consist, on the whole, of fire adapted species. The main question mark lies over those areas which are normally wet but are currently dry due to extreme weather conditions. Those who are interested in the

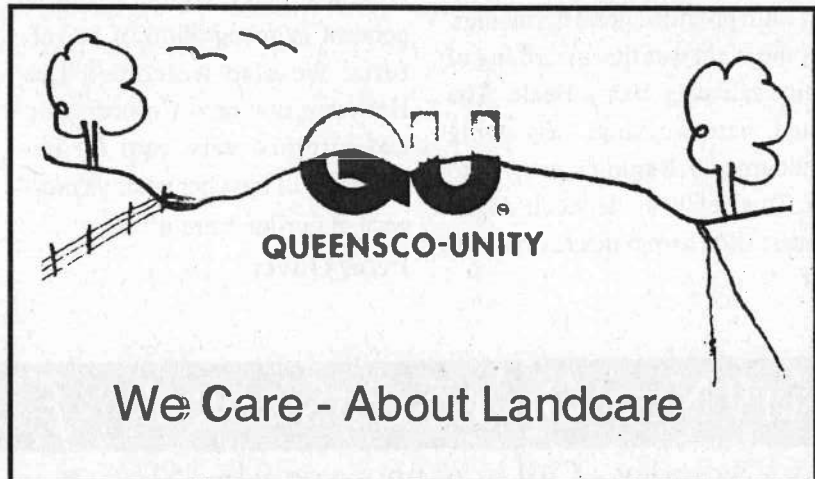
conservation of rare and threatened plants and would like to know more might consider joining the Australian Network for Plant Conservation. Brochures are available from the National Threatened Species Network office in Barung Landcare house.

## The Qld Landcare Council...

The Queensland Land council is attempting to link Landcare and ICM more closely with local government. It was noted that support for landcare by local government is very patchy and QLC will be seeking to raise the profile of landcare to local authorities.



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# Welcome Lea Harrison

Barung welcomes its new co-ordinator, Lea Harrison. Lea has a background in both cattle farming and conservation, making her well suited to represent the diverse land use interests existing in this area. She spent twelve years raising beef cattle (Droughtmasters) in Northern NSW and during this time became involved in local conversation.



Lea Harrison

For the last eight years she has travelled constantly to teach the principles and practice of sustainable agricultural systems.

She has addressed groups ranging from farmers and householders to academics and policy makers in government and business. During this time, Lea was invited to give lectures in Britain, several eastern and western European countries, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand and the United States.

"I believe Australian land management systems are creating so much interest overseas because they are practically based," Lea says.

"They provide a commonsense approach to achieving both production of human needs and conservation of natural resources."

"It is diversity and complexity which gives stability in natural systems," she adds, "And the diversity of people and interests gathered together in the Barung Landcare group provide an opportunity to achieve a stable and productive organisation."

## Germaine Greer on Landcare

*"We may scoff at the settlers who broke their hearts trying to turn this ancient, implacable continent into a granary, and we may execrate their memory for inflicting upon us sparrows and rabbits and blackberries to destroy the native flora and fauna, but at least they did not use the countryside as an entertainment. They did not trifle with it but gave it all they had."*

'Daddy, We Hardly Knew You'  
Germaine Greer. Penguin, 1989

## Let That Log Lie!


We tend to be tidy creatures by habit. The idea of litter laying around *our* backyard (or back 60 acres) goes against the grain. A tree dies and falls down and *out she goes* - into the slow combustion stove or the mulcher or the tip. *Whoa* back there - next time your favorite scrub wattle bites the dust - don't look on it as rubbish - look on it as high density housing for a host of creatures. Lizards, snakes, echidnas and a long list of insects on which some of your favorite creatures feed all need long grass, rocks, dead trees and logs to survive. Dead trees are great biomass, they're shelter, food and even, in their own way, very attractive.

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The following trees are seeding at the moment. Do you have these seeds lying around in your backyard or property? We need seeds urgently. Could you please help us?

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Polyscias elegans                | Celery Wood                                     |
| Eleocarpus grandis               | Blue Quondong                                   |
| Gmelina leichardii               | White Beech                                     |
| Mallotus philippensis & discolor | Red & Yellow Kamalla                            |
| Ehretia acuminata                | Koda  |
| Pararchidendron prinosum         | Snow Wood                                       |
| Pittosporum undulatum            | Mock orange or Native Daphne                    |
| Randia fitzalanii                | Native Gardenia                                 |
| Cryptocarya glaucesens           | Jackwood  |
| Abrophyllum ornans               | Native Hydrangea                                |
| Archidendron grandiflorum        | Lace Flower                                     |
| Acacia melanoxylon               | Blackwood                                       |
| Syzygium australe                | Brush Cherry                                    |
| Sterculia quadrifida             | Peanut Tree                                     |
| Diploglottis australis           | Native Tamarind                                 |
| Syzygium leuhmannii              | Riberry or Small-leaved Lilly Pilly             |
| Dysoxylum rufum                  | Hairy Rosewood                                  |
| Cupaniopsis parvifolia           | Small-leaved Tuckeroo or Green-leaved Tamarind. |
| Argyrodendron trifoliolatum      | White Booyong                                   |
| Flindersia australis             | Australian Teak or Crows Ash                    |
| Malasia scandens                 | Burney Vine                                     |

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## Free Rate Trees

As from the 7th January, 1995 we are able to give free rate trees to rate-payers in

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There are two free trees per rate notice - all native to your area. Pick up is between 9am and 1pm Saturdays. Be quick as we are limited on the number of trees we can give out and this ends May '95. This is part of a Environment program the Caloundra City Council is providing for us. For any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lisa at Barung on 943 151.

## Reflections of a Coordinator

Was it only five years ago that Ashley Sewell (Forestry Extension) mentioned there was a Landcare group formation meeting happening at Montville, while he was inspecting the waterboard plantings around my land in the Baroon Pocket Dam catchment? I thought vaguely of attending, but I wasn't keen to travel the steep access to my place in the evenings. But by some accident - if there are any accidents - I *did* attend and was elected on to the first management committee.

In that first year the co-ordinator, Dean Cameron, put forward a wide range of projects at the meetings where we squashed into the back room of David Wilson's office in Montville. I often had little idea of what was going on and, when I eventually confessed this to some of the

others, I was surprised to find they didn't really have a clue what our aim was and what we were actually involved in either. So, with the intention of achieving good communication, I took on the role of secretary at our first AGM. Little did I know that I was giving my life to Barung!

David was unable to continue with the treasurer's job that second year so I ended up with the responsibility for both the secretary and treasurer's positions. What a year! Dean and I were now working out of CEDA in the Rainforest Plaza and, later, we all moved up to the Enterprise Centre. We had projects coming out of our ears but didn't seem to be getting a lot done - I was learning the skills for both of my jobs as I went along.



Dean and I began sharing the co-ordinator's position. He provided enthusiasm and motivation and I provided follow through and saw projects were finished off. Over the next year it became obvious that we had too many projects on the go for us to be able to complete them all. After much deliberation, Dean decided to resign from his position and I took over the full three day a week co-ordinator's job in March 1992. We continued to be really busy: being open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays.


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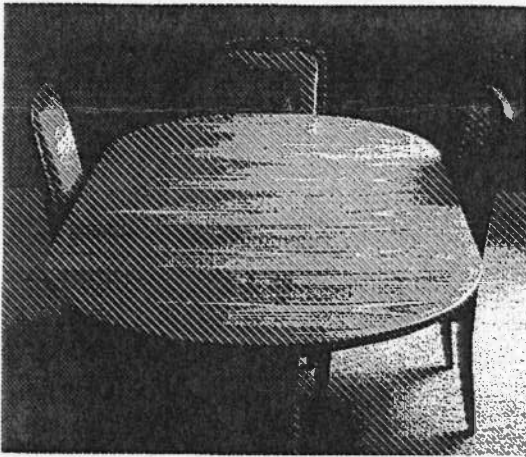
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## One Million People Being Asked - "Where on Earth Does it come from?"

The recent 'Rainforests Are Our Business' Conference, organised by



The World-wide Fund for Nature and the Australian Timber Importers' Federation, confirmed many of our worst fears - a huge increase in timber extracted from forests worldwide, a continued decrease in global forest cover, the continuation of extensive illegal logging of tropical forests, increases in the poverty levels of traditional owners of the globe. Unfortunately, during the course of the conference, it became obvious that solutions are still far away.

On a more positive note, Environment Minister John Faulkner gave a heartening speech which called for a dramatic reduction in the rate and scale of unsustainable logging in native forests, and a halt to the loss of biodiversity.

Elsewhere, UK retail giant B&Q, who service over a million custom-

ers a week, have set up 'Where on earth does it come from?', a timber product labelling system to show customers where B&Q's timber products come from. It would be great to see Australian companies doing the same.

In New Zealand, Green groups, retailers and importers have committed to a round table process to ensure that all timber imported into New Zealand comes from sustainable sources.

The conference made it clear that:

\* If the commercial cut from native temperate and tropical forests is not radically reduced as soon as possible then forests and forest dwellers worldwide are doomed.

\* Continued discussion between importers, retailers and Green groups is essential if an improvement in the situation is to be seen.

\* Increased pressure on consumers is needed at the point of sale of ecologically unsound products.

### MAPPING QUEENSLAND'S OLD GROWTH FORESTS

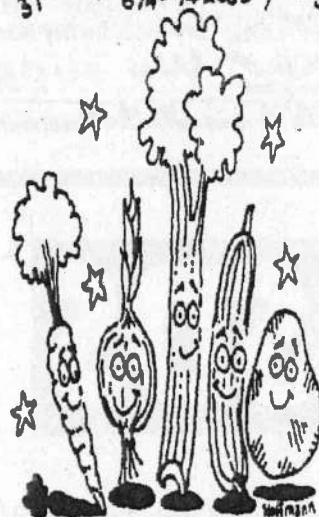
Old growth forests are areas that have remained almost totally undisturbed by humans. They have evolved as the result of a long

chain of ecological processes - and as a consequence contain high levels of biodiversity (that is, the range of flora and fauna species present).

Old growth forests comprise trees of many different growth stages, including very old or dead trees and mature, young pole and regenerating trees. The older, standing trees and dead, fallen trees provide numerous hollows or habitats for a wide range of mammals, birds and insects.

In coastal regions around Australia, any forest areas with good quality timber and accessibility have, in most cases, been logged at some stage. Consequently, old growth forests in the more populated areas of the continent are fairly rare. They are considered to have high conservation value, and, as such, require

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# Build Your Own Frog Pond

The following extract from *Dinkum Gardening*, a book by Tim Low (published by Greening Australia and Comalco Aluminium Ltd) provides you with practical information on how to construct your own frog pond. *Dinkum Gardening* is full of useful information on what to plant, how to build bat and possum boxes and identify potential environmental weeds.

While developed particularly for the Brisbane gardener, the book's philosophy is universal. You can get your copy of *Dinkum Gardening* through Barung Landcare.

Frog numbers in Brisbane and throughout Australia are falling due to the draining of creeks and wetland areas for development. But we can help increase frog numbers by giving them places to breed in our gardens and parks.

Construct a concrete pond, or install a plastic baby bath or toddlers paddling pool (nothing metallic), in partial shade (about 75%). The pond must be very clean, without detergent or other chemical residue - tadpoles are acutely sensitive to toxins. Fill it with rainwater or with tap water that has been left in sunlight for 5

to 7 days to remove chlorine. Stock it with floating vegetation and protruding branches or rocks so young frogs have perches within and escape routes from their watery world. Don't let the vegetation become so dense the tadpoles can't reach the surface to breathe.

A pool raised above ground level will be accessible only to tree frogs - not cane toads.

Unfortunately ground-dwelling marsh frogs will not be able to reach it either.

If you opt for a sunken pool, you will have to listen at night for the breeding call of the cane toad.

Inspect the pool regularly for toad eggs which are laid in long jelly strings, not in masses or

foam like frog eggs. Toad eggs should be removed along with toads and toad tadpoles (these are jet black not brownish or grey like native tadpoles).

If local frogs do not find your pool, obtain tadpoles from a frog support group.

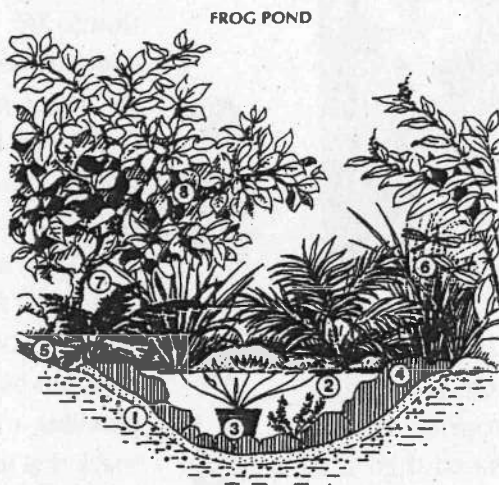
Feed your tadpoles boiled let-

tuce leaves or commercial fish food to hasten their growth. Use dark green outer leaves, washed to remove pesticides, boiled for 15-20 minutes to soften them and stored in plastic bags or ice cube trays in the freezer. Do not over supply lettuce or the water will become polluted.

If your pond becomes a haven for mosquitoes, stock it with insect-eating native blue eye fish, available from pet shops. If the water level drops, add more dechlorinated water.

The garden near the frog pond must be leafy and humid, with thick low vegetation, or baby frogs leaving the pond will not survive. Plant the edges with reeds and tall grasses to attract dragonflies.

Good luck!



1. Lined pool
2. Depth - at least 25cm
3. Water lilies
4. Rocks
5. Hollow logs
6. Vegetation
7. Overhanging branches

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## BARUNG LANDCARE RURAL COMMITTEE

John Birbeck (Environment Officer) and Ian Bryce (Councillor) from the Caloundra City Council attended our last meeting. Quite a good discussion was held on the perceived ramifications of the as-gazetted Tree Preservation Bylaw, the recent amendments to the Water Act in relation to streams, and various interrelated subjects. The meeting was well attended and we hope those present benefited by John's address, by having a better understanding of the current legislation, now. We appreciate Ian and John taking the time to attend the meeting.

Water sampling for the Dairy Effluent Trial has been held up because of the low flow in the local streams. A meeting is to be held with Peter Dart (Centre for Integrated Resource Management) in the near future to discuss funding proposals for next year, work to be completed in this financial year and progress to date.

At our last meeting it was decided to meet on a bimonthly basis. The next meeting being planned for early January.

## Christmas Cards From S.C.E.C.

The Sunshine Coast Environment Council have released a range of locally made and designed Christmas cards entitled "**The Butterfly and Frog Collection**". Printed on recycled



paper, the cards use original drawings from local artists who have donated their artwork.

The cards are available from SCEC, 21 Howard St, Nambour (415 747) or call Lisa at Barung -943 151.

## Lomandra longifolia (Long Leaved Mat Rush)

Lomandra is an amazing versatile plant; it can be used in creek bank stabilisation, as a bird or butterfly attracting garden plant or even in a small landscaped garden to give structure. Lomandra is found right

along the Queensland coast and in some areas extends inland to about 150km. It is in the family Xanthorrhoeaceae (the same as the Grass Tree), it is a grass-like plant which grows in clumps to 1 metre tall; there are separate male and female flowers, these can be distinguished from each other (the female flowers have more and longer spikes than that of the male flower). The raw leaf base can be eaten - it provides a refreshing snack that tastes similar to peas. Aborigines used the leaves to weave dillies and mats.

## Lomandra in the Garden

Lomandra is a great choice if you require a low, bushy, handy landscaping plant. However, it does require a lot of water initially. Other than that Lomandra is adapted to a wide range of conditions, including frost, shade as well as tolerating full sunlight. The seeds can be germinated without pre-sowing treatment but the results can be erratic and somewhat slow.

# Plant of the Month

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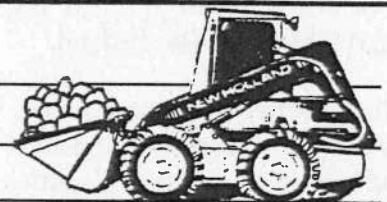
- 14.12.94 3rd Property Planning Workshop
- 18.12.94 Kenilworth & District Landcare-BBQ on the Mary River
- 26-27.12.94 Closed for Xmas
- 31.12.94 Closed for New Year
- 07.01.95 First Rate trees available
- 13-16.01.95 1st Landcare Camp
- 20-23.01.95 2nd Landcare Camp

## New Members

- Welcome to*
- Paul Battle
  - Peter & Majella Jacobson
  - J&P De Viana
  - Beryl Muspratt
  - Neil Cameron & Faridah Whyte & Family
  - John & Tessa Chiarotto
  - Mark Savage
  - Jan Oliver
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## What is Agroforestry?

The term agroforestry is often used to describe combining the growing of trees with agricultural crops, or with pastures for animal production. In many cases this is done by growing the trees at wide spacings to allow good crop or pasture growth between them.

At present, there is a lack of information on what are the optimum combinations and arrangements of species for farmers who would like to try agroforestry in Queensland.

To get better information on the performance of tree and pasture agroforestry systems in south-east Queensland, Dr Gregory Dunn, a scientist with the Queensland Forest Research Institute (QFRI), and his colleagues are studying trials at Warril Biew, near Ipswich, and Tinana Creek, near Gympie.

These experiments investigate the effects of different tree species and tree spacings on pasture productivity and at 5 different spacings ranging from 78 trees per hectare to 1189 trees per hectare. At Tinana Creek,

5 species are being trialled at 17 spacings from 82 to 2273 trees per hectare. The tree species have been selected to demonstrate potentially different benefits including timber, fodder, and shade and shelter for stock.

As well as measuring tree and pasture productivity, Dr Dunn and his colleagues are examining how trees and pastures interact. For example, the effects of tree species and tree spacing on the amount of water available for pasture growth is being measured.

As both of these experiments age, increasingly useful information will emerge. It is hoped that this information will be used to build a computer model to predict the performance of agroforestry systems for a range of tree and pasture combinations in south-east Queensland.

At Palen Creek, south of Beaudesert, a field trial is underway to test a different approach to establishing an agroforestry system. In this case, instead of planting trees at wide spacings, an existing forest has been thinned out and pasture has been planted underneath the re-

maining trees.

This system is being trialled as an alternative to the traditional approach of clearing forest to establish pasture for grazing.

### WHY COMBINE TREES WITH CROPS?

By combining tree crops and other agricultural crops on the same piece of land, agroforestry has the potential to improve the overall productivity of the land. Under the right conditions, trees can be grown for timber or other products such as fodder or honey, while at the same time crops of pastures can continue to provide similar or even improved production.

In addition, the trees can help prevent or rehabilitate land degradation problems such as salinity and can provide ecological benefits such as habitat for native birds or other wildlife.

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# Reflections of a Coordinator

*cont'd...*

We worked at the High School on Thursdays, holding workshops, planting trees, dealing with the community, producing a regular newsletter and hundreds of other landcare related activities. We had shadehouses set up at Denise Irons' and Jean's place and the High School. So Denise and I spent a large percentage of our time shuffling seeds, boxes and trees around. It was always interesting and sometimes it was too busy and therefore confusing.

Meanwhile a whole gamut of other projects were going on. The major one was getting the lease for our current site in Bicentenary Lane, which seemed to take forever. When we did get the 'Licence to Occupy' we had to move on to building our office and workshop, setting up our nursery and moving everything down to the site. Another full on year! Finally, in May 1993, we moved in. The plants being grown for us around the ridges continued to trickle in over the next 12 months.

It hasn't stopped. There is a continuing need for extensions and up grading to both the building and the nursery and there are new landcare and education projects we would like to begin as we have the energy available. We also want to set up further enterprises that will make Barung completely self supporting.

Many people have volunteered their energy over the years. Thank you all for assisting Barung to move forward. There have been too many of you to name you all, but there are a few I must mention. Denise Irons has been here the whole time. She has been a major support - someone we could always rely on.

In the last two years, Barry Beale's dedication and practical skills have been a blessing. I think the silliest thing I've done in my time here was to take on the three positions of secretary, treasurer and co-ordinator at the same time. It meant that I carried the whole responsibility of the organisation on my shoulders during that period. When the committee employed Lisa as assistant coordinator (nearly a year ago now) it meant that we finally had a competent secretary-treasurer to run the office and leave the coordinator free to work on projects. It was a very big step forward.

I started my five years at Barung with a keen interest in sustainable land use and have finished with a good knowledge of landcare in this area. I've learned how to work with a community group, met a very wide range of people and made heaps of friends - and no doubt a few enemies too; but that's life. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and I wish Barung and our new co-ordinator all the best in the coming years.

Lexy Forbes

# Sources

## Alternative Paper

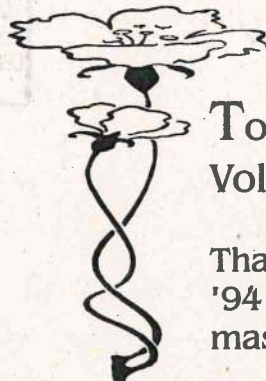
Innovative environmental paper production techniques may put the DPI Forest Service out of business in the future! In Tasmania, Australian Newsprint Mills are sponsoring research into alternative sources of fibre for paper manufacture besides the widely-used native hardwood. The suggested replacement for the humble tree? A specially bred type of cannabis. Hopes are high...

And in America, rag bond paper manufacturer Esleek is churning out Blue Jean Bond, a soft strong paper made entirely from unbleached denim scraps.

## Landcare...



... It's in your hands.



To Our Members,  
Volunteers and Sponsors -

Thank you for your support in '94 and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!





# LANDCARE c a m p s

## Landcare Camps for 8-14 Year Olds

In January '95, Barung will hold the first of its Landcare Camps for children. These four day camps will give participants knowledge, hands-on experience and lots of fun. If you'd like to know more, call Lisa at Barung on **943 151**.



Working for *our* future

## NURSERY

17 Bicentenary Lane, Maleny  
(behind the Rainforest Plaza)

Tubes - \$1.50                      6" pots - \$3.50  
Tubes (over 200) \$1.00 each 8" pots - \$5.50  
Bunyas welcome.

OPEN TUESDAY-FRIDAY 9am to 5pm. Saturday 9am-12pm

Call in or phone us on 943 151

### BARUNG LANDCARE

Management Committee

*President* - Jan Tilden

*Vice Pres.* - Annemarie Watt

*Coordinator* - Lexy Forbes

*Secretary* - Kathy Zaiko

*Treasurer* - Lisa Wood

*Committee Members* -

Denise Irons (*plants*), David

Fraser (*Rural and Enterprise*

*Arm*), Sammy Ringer (*Newslet-*

*ter & Enterprise Arm*) and John

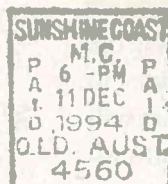
Rea (*Mary River Catchment*)

*Advisors* - Ashley Sewell, Sam

Brown



17 Bicentenary Lane  
Maleny, Qld 4552



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MAPLETON,  
QUEENSLAND

4560

Your Membership is CURRENT till 21/07/1995  
Your continued support would be appreciated.