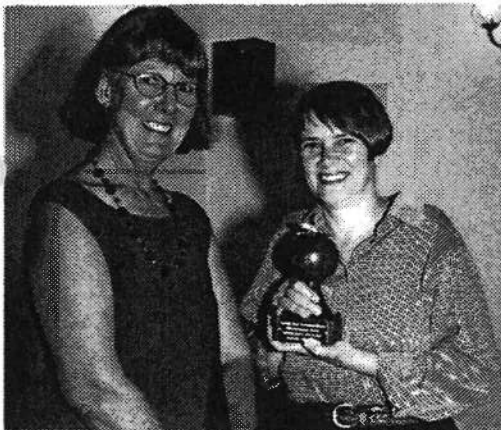




# BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

## BARUNG SCOOPS POOL FOR BIODIVERSITY!



Jan Tilden, on behalf of Barung, receives the 1998 Biodiversity Award from Vivian Griffin, President, Sunshine Coast Environment Council

*understanding the importance of conserving biodiversity.*

*The Sunshine Coast Environment Council has recognised the contribution of Barung Landcare to promoting biodiversity conservation at its 1998 Environment Awards.*

*The awards were initiated by SCEC as a way of recognising the Sunshine Coast's environmental high achievers. The actual award is a pewter replica of the green tree frog created by Mapleton craftsman Adrian Adams, mounted on a base made from salvaged or recycled timber by woodturner Gary O'Neill.*

*One of Barung's main goals has been to promote an increasing diversity and supply of local species, which has led to the planting of thousands of endemic grasses, shrubs and trees both on the Blackall Range and in surrounding areas.*

*Barung's Jan Tilden, who accepted the Award on behalf of Barung at the presentation dinner on 14th November, described Australia as a country of high biological diversity— one of 8 countries in the world classified as 'megadiverse'.*

*Because the Sunshine Coast is a sub-tropical rainforest area it has an extremely high level of biodiversity, even compared to the rest of this country. Combined with the rate of development on the Coast and Hinterland, this means that we have more plant species threatened with extinction than any other part of Australia. Thus Barung's promotion of flora diversity is of utmost importance in stemming this tide of extinction.*

*Barung's Mary River Cod project was cited as an active example of re-establishing biodiversity, and the focus on replanting riparian vegetation as highly beneficial to many species of native fauna. The importance of education and publications was also underlined, all adding up to a wonderful contribution to Well done Barung and all our members. Drop in and see our very own Freddo Award.*

**REPRINTED BELOW IS A FULL COPY OF THE REMARKS MADE BY MICHAEL BERRY IN ANNOUNCING THE AWARD.**

### BARUNG LANDCARE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The term "biological diversity" refers to the variety of all living things and the complex interactions between them which make up a healthy ecosystem. As defined in the Nature Conservation Act, it includes diversity at the level of genes, species, ecological communities and even landscapes. There are many compelling reasons to conserve this rich variety of nature. Not the least of these is the fact that biological diversity is our life support system. It keeps our air and water clean, our soil fertile and our climate within more or less predictable limits.

Indeed, many of our industries, especially agricultural industries, are entirely reliant upon it. Sustainable production and biodiversity conservation go hand in hand. So it is not surprising the concept was given some prominence in the Decade of Landcare Plan, published in the early 1990s to give direction to the burgeoning Landcare movement.

Barung has always been at the forefront of Landcare and often ahead of its time. From the outset when vegetation loss was identified as an important Landcare issue in this area, the founders of Barung recognised the importance of replacing the lost vegetation with as rich as possible a variety of native plants local to the area. In order to meet the need, a group of dedicated volunteers established a nursery specialising in local native plant species to supply plants not only for the revegetation of public lands but also to private landholders. This was the origin of Barung Landcare's long term commitment to biodiversity conservation.

Now the Barung Landcare Nursery is a thriving business and it has been estimated that well over 100,000 plants from this nursery have been replanted on the Blackall Range and in surrounding areas, all supplied by Barung. Of course this does not include the further generations of plants that have sprung naturally from the seed of those planted.

It is the policy of the nursery to supply as wide as possible a variety of local plants. Plants of local "provenance" are strongly preferred - taking seriously the need for biodiversity conservation at the genetic level as well as at the level of the species.

Other aspects of Barung's commitment to conserving biodiversity include education programs - teaching people the importance of planting "locals" as well as practical skills such as how and where to propagate and grow these plants; publications such as the Blackall Range Landholders' Guide and projects focusing on the conservation of rare and threatened species.

For example, Barung Landcare is currently the home of a Natural Heritage Trust project to facilitate community involvement in the recovery from near extinction of the Mary River Cod, a species once plentiful in the Mary River and its tributaries and now classified as critically endangered. This project was originally funded under the Endangered Species Program. Barung was certainly one of the first community groups to receive funding from this source which has traditionally supported scientific research.

CONT'D NEXT PAGE

December 1998 - January 1999

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

from Joan Dillon

I was recently shown a selection of photographs from the Powlett Catchment in Victoria. The rolling hills were not dissimilar to those of the Blackall Range (curving pastures against the sky and corridors of riparian vegetation in the gully lines). What was different, however, was that the original vegetation had been completely cleared and the corridors shown in the photos had been planted.

The Powlett is one of the other BHP supported catchments where farmers, the community and industry have worked together to control erosion, lift productivity, improve water quality and create wildlife habitat. It was recognised that anything we do within a river's catchment will affect the river, its life systems, its inhabitants, the estuaries and the marine environment outside those estuaries. This has naturally been a costly exercise which need not have been undertaken but for past clearing recommended or deemed necessary in the context of the times.

The Blackall Range is a head watershed for more than one river system so each and every one of us needs to be aware of the natural drainage from our land and how our daily activities might impact on the quality and quantity of the water which eventually reaches the local streams either directly or through seepage. We are more fortunate here in that total clearing has not occurred. We do, however, need to be vigilant and as a community avoid unnecessary further vegetation loss which will cost us dearly in the future. We need to ensure that the wishes of the community are respected through the Local Area Plan and as individuals do what we can on our own properties to protect and enhance environmental values.

The Land for Wildlife program is up and running as reported elsewhere in the newsletter and a good response has been received for Barung's *Streams of Trees* initiative. These two programs provide formal opportunities for landholders to participate in extending habitat and rehabilitating or providing further protection for the creeks which feed our river systems.

Many past and present members of Barung have already contributed enormously to the protection of the environment as a whole, and the re-establishment of the endemic vegetation of our region. We would like to hear more about your success stories and the reasons for undertaking the work, which I am sure, would be many and varied.

I am delighted that Barung is constantly welcoming new members and have no doubt that many would love to learn from the experience of others. We have great respect for the knowledge of experts but recognise that wisdom lies also with those who have consulted their neighbours, made mistakes and learned from their experience. We hope to share that wisdom through informal discussion groups so please join us if you can. As a relative newcomer, I for one have plenty of listening and learning to do.

### TO ALL BARUNG MEMBERS,

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE BARUNG TABLE, MALENY STREET FESTIVAL,  
ON FRI DEC 18TH FOR A XMAS DRINK.

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Significantly, the biggest threat to the Mary River Cod is the loss of riparian (streamside) vegetation.

Another focus of Barung's attention is the revegetation of creeks and river banks. Not only does this improve the chances of the Mary River Cod surviving into the next millenium, it has numerous other biodiversity conservation benefits. One of the most important of these is to provide vital corridors for the movement of wildlife and the linking of native forest remnants.

Australia is a country of high biological diversity - one of 8 recognised as "megadiverse". The variety of our native flora and fauna is even celebrated in our national anthem - "our land abounds in nature's gifts of beauty rich and rare". The sub-tropical region of southeast Queensland and northern NSW is one of the most biodiverse parts of this biodiverse continent. Because of the level of development here, we also have more plant species threatened with extinction than any other part of Australia - and most of these are in sub-tropical rainforests such as those which once covered vast areas of the Blackall Ranges.

The conservation of plant and animal biodiversity in this area is certainly a worthy challenge and it is Barung Landcare's contribution to meeting that challenge which is being recognised with this award tonight.

by Jan Tilden



### XMAS GIFT VOUCHERS

FROM BARUNG

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### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

B&R Peters	Judith Hughes
Fiona Wild	N&I Broad
BW Charlton	Pauline Clayton
Vicki Shuley	Elmer
P&K Durham	Kath Zaiko
Patrick Williamson	Carol Adams
Jeanette Nobes	Janette Bell
L&J Tilley	Steven Lang
Rowena Cavanabti	Greg McHale
Angela Boyes	Villiers
Michelle Heath	DL Clement
Dr J Darvas	Jocelyn Leech
Dr P Francis	John & Jan Lewis
Tim Dodd	Marcus Crawford
Wendy Lonie	P&R Thorpe
Leigh Pleasance	Helen Sitcheff
Heather Davidson	P & J Rogers
Kevin Jackson	Colin Smith
Patricia Halligan	Ben Correy

Yelma Fischer & Marina Van Der Lenboe

Thank you for your landcare support

# COORDINATOR'S CHAT

with John Muir

All the best for the festive silly season that is upon us all. Barung members can look forward to being supplied with a questionnaire in the New Year, so that we can determine your educational, information, services and landcare activity requirements. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us and let us know your needs.

We are also in the middle of our Strategic Planning review process, looking to where Barung is going over the next 5 years. So if any members have strong feelings or ideas that they would like to share with us, please do so as soon as possible.

## FUTURE PROFIT FARM FORESTRY WORKSHOPS FOR 1999

Property Management Planning Workshops (now called Future Profit by the Department of Primary Industries) will be run again in 1999 after a very successful and first-ever Farm Forestry focus in 1998.

This series of workshops for commercial timber growers includes a detailed business planning component, as well as covering all the production aspects.

The cost is \$130 for 6 full day sessions. Sessions include discussion groups and field exercises. If you are interested in participating in such a course, contact Barung on 5494 3151, or Mark Warnick, Mary Valley Farm Forestry Project Officer, on 5441 4557.

## WATER WATCH TRAINING WORKSHOP

If you are interested in local community stream "Water Watch" monitoring activities, and would like to attend a Training Workshop, the Mary River Water Watch coordinator, Mark Crawley will be conducting a half day session at Barung in conjunction with the LBCC group on Tuesday, 8th December from 9am-12 noon. Bookings required - please phone Barung on 5494 3151.

## BARUNG LANDCARE - DISCUSSION GROUPS

It has been suggested that a number of discussion groups be formed within Barung Landcare to include members with relatively small areas of land (eg. from 1 to 50 hectares), who would like to learn more about economically viable and environmentally sustainable land management practices.

Property Management Planning (PMP) courses held at Barung have provided a sound theoretical background in a number of disciplines. The content of PMP courses is however, not always relevant to needs and much of it is very basic. Also there is a need for follow up to PMP courses, where individual problems are identified and discussed, preferably on farm, where all of the disciplines covered by PMP courses can be integrated in a whole farm approach.

The purpose of the discussion group would be to provide a venue for individuals to present their own particular problems in land management and land use. Pooling the group's knowledge will assist each member to achieve his/her objectives more effectively, as well as identifying other sources of assistance, and providing an opportunity for social interaction.

The frequency of meetings and topics to be discussed can be determined by the group during an initial get together of interested participants. Meetings could be held once a month, with some of the "class room" type, held at Barung, with an invited guest speaker. Others would be held on group members' properties.

The number of discussion groups depends on individual needs which can be identified at the initial meeting. There are obviously a lot of members interested in agroforestry/revegetation, but other groups

may be more interested in organic food production/permaculture, horticulture or livestock.

Some of the topics for each of the groups could be:

- \*weed prevention and control, including choice of herbicides and spray equipment
- \*fire control and prevention
- \*farm financial management (choice of enterprise, budgeting, farm business plans, taxation)
- \*soil fertility, prevention and control of soil erosion
- \*water harvesting, dam and bore construction and irrigation
- \*federal, state and local government policies and financial incentives

An initial meeting of Landcare members interested in forming discussion groups will be held at Barung on Wednesday January 27th at 11.00am.

## BARUNG ACHIEVEMENTS AS BROUGHT TO LIGHT AT THE STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION IN NOVEMBER

*Barung Management Committee and staff recently spent a day on strategic planning. One of the important steps was to explore our strengths, the challenges we face and what we have achieved. The achievements identified were impressive and good reasons for the association to be quite proud of its record. The following is a partial list of achievements for member's information. Members are encouraged to refer to this when asked what Barung does. Please let the office know if we have missed something you would like to see included.*

- Community relationship - acceptance and respect from the Blackall Range community and other landcare communities
- Nursery functioning as a successful business with links to the education, revegetation and fund-raising programs, and financial contributions to projects
- Expanded revegetation work in quantity and quality, including private lands
- Responsibility for diverse but linked projects with significant budget
- Developing regional linkages
- Significant contribution to biodiversity conservation through revegetation, nursery and education programs
- On-ground works
- Broad membership
- Training for young adults and adolescents

If you, as a Barung Member, have any suggestions for the new edition of

*THE BLACKALL RANGE LANDHOLDER'S GUIDE,*

please let us know at the office, so that we can give them fair consideration.

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# S.E.E.D.S.

with  
Ann Oliver

## SEEDS CAMP

On Saturday 31st October, 10 SEEDS and 3 adults set off for the 1998 SEEDS camp at Beerwah Field Studies Centre.

Even with the forecast of rain enthusiasm was high. Cabins were duly inspected and beds claimed. (Mim was brave enough to bunk down between the girls and boys cabins!)

With initial settling in and discovery of bathrooms and kitchen facilities, a hearty lunch followed.

Saturday afternoons 'get to know you' activities developed into an energetic cricket game complete with 'handicaps' for the better players (poor Michael had to bat one handed!)

A walk through the forestry



*The world of frogs & cane toads with Hilary Boscott*

with the caretaker (Peter) was interesting, with lively discussions about fire breaks and waterways.

Firewood collecting on our way back to camp kept the boys trying to prove how much they could carry - sorry lads, the girls won!

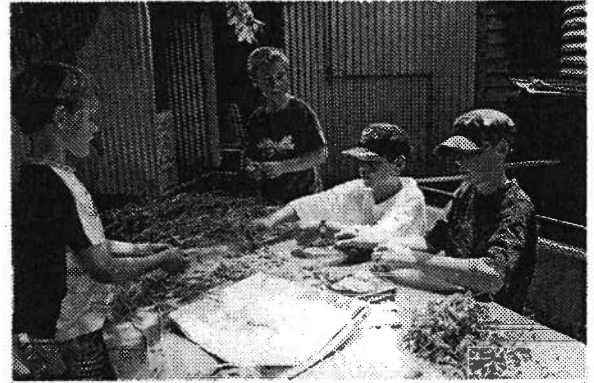
Dinner was wolfed down with great gusto and washing up proved an interesting experience for some who have never done it before! A night walk with Bob Miller through the Wallum scrub was good with the kids finding many toads, some frog fungi that ate insects, sleeping birds and a "Wrinkled Toadlet." Full moon cast eerie shadows through the wallum which added an element of Halloween to the evening.

All in bed by 10.00 and asleep by 10.30 (except for Jake still munching on chips). A giant green tree frog and a huge wolf spider kept a watch for insects outside the cabin for the night.

Activity by 6.00am and breakfast for the hungry troops. Dandelion picking - 100 for a Freddo Frog! Frog expert, Hilary Boscott, arrived Sunday morning and spoke about frogs and what we can do to look after them. It was here that December's activity was planned: TOAD BUSTING - poster/banner painting, sausage sizzle and Christmas breakup.

Another game of cricket started as noises about packing up were made. With a little less enthusiasm than the unpacking stage, packing up cabins and cleaning happened with lunch in-between.

The Reptile Park (Australia Zoo) was our last stop on Sunday - we watched the crocodile display, feeding of the otters and the snakes. It was wonderful.



*A fair trade - 100 dandelions for 1 Freddo Frog.*



*...in the backwoods of Beerwah*

Arriving back in Maleny we discovered that it had rained all weekend - we had had none!

We would like to thank all who made this a very enjoyable camp. Mim, John, Ann and Peter O., Jayne, Katie, Michael, Joe, Michael, Jake, Marco, Elise, Rebel, Katherine, Peter at the Beerwah Field Studies Centre, Landcare Australia patrons for sponsorship, Hilary Boscott for frogs, the Reptile Park for free passes and Bob for the

## TRIPPING AROUND....

### NUTRIENT RUNOFF MONITORING WORKSHOP

from John Muir

During Water Week in November, Cyril Ciesiolka and his team from Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Toowoomba, carried out extensive nutrient runoff monitoring as a result of simulated rainfall applications. This was done at Gavin Muller's dairy farm in the Walkers Creek catchment, using a rainfall simulator designed by Cyril.

These demonstrations are assessing the hydrology of surface and sub-surface base flows of nutrient runoff from small mini catchments. Different fertilizers, rates and rainfall intensities were tested,

to depict the most efficient use of different fertilizers.

Gavin Muller's is one of four sites throughout the district that are monitoring dairy effluent nutrient runoff levels in our catchment. The project was originally funded by the National Landcare Program and is nearing completion. This work will help identify other sources of nutrient runoff (such as septic) that is ending up in our waterways. The Caloundra Maroochy Water Supply Board is doing further waterway monitoring.

A positive outcome from this project has been the environmental auditing of dairy farms in the Mary Valley for effluent disposal systems. Funds are now available for effluent management improvement on farms through DNR, Gympie.



*Cyril Ciesiolka & field day participants*



## THE GREENING AFTER THE GOLD

by Ian Mackay

President, Conondale Range Committee



"Festering sore" was how some had described it..... "lunar landscape" to others. Whatever the earlier descriptions, the rehabilitation of the abandoned Agricola gold mine in the Conondales has been a joint effort of which many different parties should feel justly proud.

That involvement widened even further recently when Barung joined in for a tree planting on a small section of the site. Most of the mine area had been planted early last year and now supports a mix of vigorously growing trees some 3 to 4 metres in height.

One area, however - "the palm pond" - was still to be planted and it was here that Barung, the Conondale Range Committee, National Parks, Forestry and Mines personnel tackled the task of planting several hundred young palms. The plants themselves were a story of co-operation as they were propagated



by Barung from seed collected near the mine by Ross Paterson from the Department of Environment.

The digging was far from easy and proved to be too much for some of the mattocks. Nonetheless the palms went in, were fertilised, mulched and watered and the planters boiled

the billy. Some even rounded off the day with a bit of weeding and (eventually) a well-earned afternoon tea in a Kenilworth coffee establishment.

The next day was overcast with light drizzle..... could a newly planted tree on its first day in terra firma ask for more?

Thanks to the helpers from Barung - not only the energetic planters on the day but also those involved in growing the palms and organising the plant. There is a thought to make it an annual event ..... to check on progress and plant or weed or whatever needs doing. Thanks once again.

## WORKING TOGETHER ON THE BANKS OF THE OBI

from Bronwyn MacIntyre  
Teacher

Maleny State Primary School

In celebration of Arbor Day in October, Barung, with the help of children from many of the classes at Maleny State School undertook a joint tree plant along the section of the Obi which runs around the bottom oval of the Primary School.

The area had previously been slashed and holes dug by members of Work For The Dole scheme, who also helped with the tree plant.

Each class was welcomed by John Muir and Marc Russell and shown the tree planting procedure. Each class then planted a section of the creek bank and the children were able to plant and mulch at least one tree each.

This was a valuable learning experience for the children involved. Planting the trees gives ownership and an interest in maintaining their own tree plant areas.

The regeneration of this section of the creek bank will help prevent further erosion, provide a wildlife corridor, supply bush foods for animals and humans, and further beautify the entrance to Maleny township, linking with existing plantings at Erowal and the BHP Entrance Site.

The area planted will be used for environmental

and scientific studies by the school. There are plans to incorporate a frog habitat, and food vines are already planted for the Richmond Birdwing butterfly.

The children, with Barung's help, will continue to maintain and develop the area, which will provide opportunities for learning experiences in water studies, environmental studies, animal and bird life, creative expression, art, mapping and local area planning. I would like to thank members of Barung for their commitment to the environment, and their willingness to work for the best interests of the community.



*Marc Russell shows Primary students best planting methods*

## WORK FOR THE DOLE LAUNCH

from Elaine Green

At the recent official Work For The Dole launch held at Mary Cairncross Park, speakers included Barung President, Joan Dillon, Federal member, Mal Brough, Collette Kinsella from Centrelink State Office, Adrian Best from DEETYA State Office and Harvey Bryce from the Maleny Historical Preservation and Restoration Society.

The contribution of MENA, the Maleny Scouts and Guides in providing work spaces was acknowledged. Historical displays of Maleny were provided by the Caloundra City Library to highlight the Oral History project being undertaken as part of the Work For The Dole.

The launch ended with a great performance by the Making Music team. Using instruments created in only 10 actual working days (at 2 days a week), the high quality of their

imaginative performance was a tribute to their enthusiasm. Watch out for them at the Christmas Street party on 18th December.

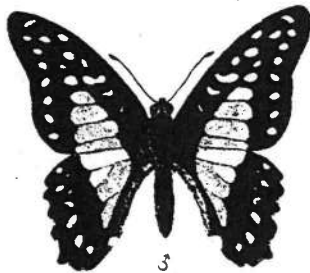
Now 6 weeks into the 26 week program, numbers are approaching the target of 48 participants. I would like to welcome all the above-mentioned participants as well as those in the Revegetation and Walking Track teams. It is great to have you all on board, and I hope the next few months are a creative and rewarding experience for you all.



# THE PALE GREEN TRIANGLE

(*Graphium eurypylus lycaon*)

by Bob Miller



**Pale Green Triangle** *Graphium eurypylus* × .65. Cape York to Sidney. Ranges to India and China. Larva green on custard apple and other Annonaceae. P.

Anybody who owns/has owned a custard apple tree will be very familiar with the larvae of the pale green triangle butterfly, as they are quite commonly found upon the custard apple leaves.

These larvae are very interesting as they change their colour depending on the stage of the lifecycle. The larvae start life as black, slowly turn brown, then bright red and gradually

orange. They then turn green and finally blue just before pupation occurs.

The pupae are always light green and are very hard to detect as they hang upside down under a leaf of the foodplant. Even if you find one, the next time you look it seems to have mysteriously disappeared.

The butterfly is of medium size, approximately 50-60mm from wingtip to wingtip, and as the name implies, the main recognisable feature is a large, pale green triangle on each side of their wings.

There is another similarly marked butterfly in South East Queensland, but instead of the triangles on the wings being green, they are actually a bright blue. The two triangle butterflies are fairly easy to distinguish.

The adult pale green triangles will readily be attracted to any nectar bearing flowers you may have in your garden, their wings continually moving as they drink.

Apart from the previously mentioned custard apple (*Annona reticulata*), the larvae also feed quite readily on sour sop (*Annona muricata*). The best of the native foodplants I have found is the zig-zag vine (*Rauwenhoffia leichhardtii*), mentioned in the last newsletter. If you have any of these plants growing, you will certainly find larvae on them at this time of year.

If you wish to grow the native foodplant, the zig zag vine, it is regularly available from the nursery at Barung.

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

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING...

PROPAGATION WORKSHOPS THE 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 2-4PM AT BARUNG

- LEARN TO
- \* TREAT, PROPAGATE & STORE LOCAL SEED
  - \* PROPAGATE CUTTINGS
  - \* GRAFT STOCK

THANKS  
TO PHIL & ELAINE GREEN

OF FLAXTON FOR THEIR DONATION OF Q'LAND MAPLES  
& YELLOW CARRABEENS TO THE NURSERY

# NURSERY REPORT

from Marc Russell

Because of additional pressure at this time of year, the opening hours for the nursery have changed to 9am to 4pm. I hope this does not inconvenience anyone. We look forward to having a little more time to organise ourselves - I'm sure you'll agree that we need it!

Thank you to all the volunteers and Committee Members who pitched in to clean up the nursery and gardens prior to the *Festival of Colour*. The whole place is looking great. We've completed the large new shadehouse for growing on seedlings and the retail area is well stocked with fresh plants just bursting to go into the ground.

Our diversity of species is increasing all of the time, thanks in large to the many members who bring in seed occurring naturally on their properties. This wonderful service played a big role in Barung receiving the 1999 Biodiversity Award from the Sunshine Coast Environment Council recently.

When collecting seeds, it is best to obtain them from plants with good vigour and form, and without any major pest or disease problems. Timing can be quite important for most rainforest species as many have seed that may only be available for a few days. Some have seed which is quickly eaten by wildlife. If you notice wildlife feeding on the fruits or seeds, please leave a good percentage behind.

To ensure genetic diversity it is important that we collect seed from several local sources where possible, making member contributions even more valuable by giving us a range of genetic characteristics.

If you think that you may have any useful native plants seeding on your place but are unsure about species or when to pick, please bring a sample in to the nursery or give me a call there.

## BARUNG NURSERY HOURS

Tuesday to Friday ~ 9am - 4pm

Saturday ~ 9am - 12 noon

TUBES - \$2.00      6" POTS - \$4.00

4" POTS - \$3.00      8" POTS - \$8.00

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS ON ALL NURSERY STOCK.

### PLEASE NOTE:

**THE NURSERY WILL BE CLOSED  
OVER XMAS/NEW YEAR FROM  
DEC 23RD TO JAN 5TH INCLUSIVE**

**& FROM 12 NOON-2PM ON WED 16TH DEC  
FOR THE STAFF/COMMITTEE XMAS PARTY.**

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## AUSTRALIAN TIMBERS LAUNCH

by Darryl Reinke

An enthusiastic band of timber lovers met at Mary Cairncross Information Centre on 2nd November for the launch of Ashley Sewell's "Australian Timbers: Commercial Timber Species of Eastern Subtropical Australia".



Ashley & Jan Tilden, who worked closely on layout and production.

As most of you already know, Ashley has inspired residents of this area to grow native trees for many years. At the launch, Councillor Ian Bryce acknowledged Ashley's important role in the community, and Joan Dillon, Barung's President, spoke of the key role Ashley has played in advising Barung over the years. His concept of the woodworking exposition, *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture*, is only one of the major contributions he has made to Barung. Rod Welford, State Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, also talked about a vision of native hardwood forests, as extensive as existing pine forests.

Ashley said one of his major goals in writing this book (the first of a series) was to see that the wisdom and knowledge of the early timber-getters about the value of many native species was not lost. He spoke about *Allocasuarina torulosa* (rose she-oak), a beautiful timber used 60 or 70 years ago for architraves, mouldings, furniture and interior panelling. Thirty-five years ago it was called 'baker's wood', cut into cord lengths, and used by bakers to fire their ovens. Recently it has been viewed mistakenly as having little commercial value.

Similarly, *Melaleuca quinquinervia* (broad-leaved tea tree), a wallum species is frequently dozed and burned by developers as having little value. The Mullimbimby (NSW) community hall, circa 1880, was converted to a produce store in 1980. For their centenary, the building was restored to use as a community hall. After one hundred years of use, the original floor

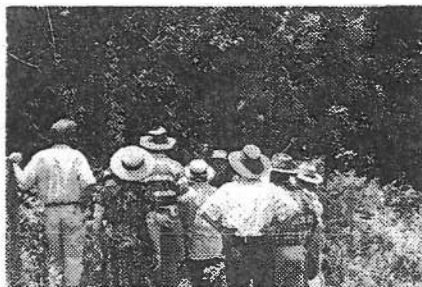
of 10 x 1-1/2 inch *Melaleuca quinquinervia* timber was sanded back, and found to be in perfect (and beautiful) condition except that the original nails had gone rusty. Another frustrating and costly case of lost wisdom.

Ashley's message about sustainable harvesting and productive use of salvaged timbers is beautifully presented in his book - on sale now at Barung Landcare for \$44.95. If you haven't already bought your copy, please come in to have a look at it.

## LAND FOR WILDLIFE LAUNCH

The launch of Maroochy Shire Council's Land For Wildlife scheme at Ted McCosker's property in Mapleton was well attended on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> by more than 50 people.

Past and present Barung Committee members, Daryl Reinke and Craig Hosmer, and Barung President and Vice President, Joan and John Dillon were among 24 landholders from Maroochy Shire who have joined the volunteer scheme to designate their properties as Land for Wildlife. Total land area now designated in the Shire is over 270 hectares. At the launch, all participants of the scheme were presented with Certificates of Registration and Land For Wildlife plaques.



Ted points out his 150 acre remnant

Ted McCosker's 500 acre property encompasses 150 acres of untouched rainforest which is also being considered as a nature refuge by the Department of Environment and Heritage.

## NOISY MINORS - THEIR EFFECT ON OUR ENVIRONMENT

from John Pennie

Over the last 200 years during which time approximately 90% of our temperate woodlands have been cleared, the effect on the remaining tree coverage has been, in many areas, a gradual deterioration in the health of remnant eucalypts. One of the reasons for this is attributed to insect attack by beetles, aphids, lerps and psyllids.

Playing a considerable part in this situation, in perhaps a surprising way, is the seemingly ubiquitous insectivore the NOISY MINER (*Manorina melanocephala*). Their range is from tropical Queensland to Tasmania, covering most of Eastern Australia and including parts of South Australia. There is considerable evidence that both their numbers and range are increasing!

Controlled tests in Northern Victoria from 1994 onwards have highlighted the relationship between the high numbers of this aggressive bird, poor tree health and dieback in some of the remaining woodlands. While this bird has a varied diet which includes insects and invertebrates, its aggressive behaviour ensures that other birds with a similar diet are excluded from their habitats. The behaviour of the noisy miner includes chasing and bullying other birds and, in some cases, actually killing them.

These tests, carried out in approximately similar areas, tree coverage, tree species, bird populations and proximity to larger forest areas, showed that the trapping and relocation of the resident noisy miners allowed other species of small (and even larger birds of more timid nature) to enter the same woodlands to feed on the same food sources. Where a few birds of other species were observed on the outer fringes of the test areas, both the abundance and diversity of these other species increased and were found throughout the entire test area after the removal of the noisy miners.

It seems irrefutable that because of the noisy miners' exclusion of the myriad of smaller birds from feeding on the tree insects (which the noisy miners don't ever eradicate), the trees themselves in time die from the constant insect attack which results.

Keep your eye out in the next issue for further information on noisy miners.

\* \* \* \* \*

**DEADLINE**

FOR FEB/MAR  
NEWSLETTER  
FRIDAY JAN 15TH

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FROM JIM WATSON

It's the month before Christmas  
and all over my desk,  
are notes and figures  
and reports to digest.

Papers and Articles,  
Numbers and Stats,  
Calculation and Computation,  
for an NHT funding match.

It's enough to make me weep  
a solitary tear,  
all this to work out -  
Barung achievements this year.

Since this is the last newsletter for '98, I thought I would report on, and thank all the people concerned with, Barung's first year of NHT funded Revegetation Projects. This year Barung, its partner agencies, volunteers and members, planted 25,951 trees across 17 different sites, ranging from Gympie to Maleny. A great effort!

To achieve this we had cooperation from 16 different agencies including:

- ◆ Greening Australia
- ◆ Department of Natural Resources
- ◆ Department of Mines and Energy
- ◆ Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs
- ◆ National Parks and Wildlife Service
- ◆ B.H.P. - The Big Australian
- ◆ Gympie and Noosa Landcare Associations
- ◆ Maroochy Shire Council
- ◆ Caloundra City Council
- ◆ Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group
- ◆ Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers
- ◆ Conondale Range Committee, and many others.

Thanks to the representatives of all these organisations.

It took over 1200 volunteer hours to get these trees in the ground, not including the community hours given to the Range to Coast tree plant in March. Thanks to all of those who have helped in the field in 1998. A special thanks to the Work For The Dole teams who are still out there adding to the tally, and to Range Revegetation who help me out constantly.

Next year our target is 40,000 plus trees in the ground - so if you missed out on planting this year, come and help out with next year's trees. I'll be glad you did!

P.S. Dear Santa, As you can see, I've been real good this year and for Xmas I'd like some help from members with the maintenance of 26,000 trees!! Oh yeah - and a pony!

### STILL WANTED/NEEDED

~ a LOCKABLE CUPBOARD  
for the reveg shed for chemical storage  
in line with workplace health & safety regs.

## IMPACT OF WORK FOR THE DOLE ON RIPARIAN REVEG

WITH PETER BRUNTON

How grand it is to be a part of the dawning of the age of reason. Till now we seemed to have winked at the value of our most precious of resources in the economic equation, our human resource.

Thanks to the committed staff at Barung Landcare and the Blackall Range Work For the Dole Committee, and funding from the Department of Employment Education Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA), we have every reason for hope. The Work For the Dole (WFD) is now underway as a community-based project.

Among the many facets of the project, two teams of 'reveg pioneers' have now boldly taken the opportunity that shines, to mobilise their initiative and resolve to be a part of this fledgling industry.

Under the auspices of Barung, work is to commence at a number of sites, and is presently ongoing at King's Weir, Upper Obi. Essentially the task is riparian revegetation. The commitment to this simple discipline of planting trees and maximising their survival, not only harmonises with the *Streams of Trees* concept and the ramifications of that to water quality, habitat ecology, and the sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub>; but also the robust development in health of the plant, the planter and the planet as well.

Through the experience of work practice, relationship dynamics and team cohesion, participants learn and develop more profoundly their individual characters and social identities. They are also drawing from a broader knowledge base, such as accessing information on species identification and site selection criteria etc., which inevitably triggers self initiated education in plant biology, soil morphology, ecology, catchment care and so on.



While the program is still in its initial stage, it bears all the hallmarks of success - for

the quality of the environment; for the long-term economic viability of the community, and for the empowerment of individual participants.

NOTE: Peter Brunton is now supervising 2 reveg teams for 4 days a week and carrying out a large scale planting at King's Weir. Peter was astonished to learn that the real difference between men and women is that his female workers manage to talk and work at the same time whilst the guys it seems can only do one at once!



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## THE WALKING TRACK

WITH SPENCER SHAW

My group has been blessed with a spectacular work place - the area below Baroon Pocket Dam known as 'the Narrows'. Towering Blackbutt, Turpentine, and Box soar overhead, keeping us shaded on the hottest of days, but are not without their own hazards as the 'widow makers' tumble down on windy days.

Our mission is to complete the track started by the previous Montville Work For The Dole group - a track that will eventually provide access to a lookout over one of the many waterfalls cascading into the gorge. The work involves the movement of very large quantities of both sleepers (treated hardwood) and gravel. The result should be a walking track of the highest standard to cater for the increasing tourism in the area.

Besides all the hard work we'll be learning some plant identification, replanting access tracks and problem solving (one member of our group has even built the trolley we need to move the sleepers along the length of the track, approx 1km).

The group are all enthusiastic, hard workers, and are tackling the job much quicker than expected. As a result we've had spare time to paint the Obi Obi boardwalk, help out with the weeding at Barung, and help clean up the mess made by some vandals at the Community Centre - what a team!

And the next time you're enjoying a stroll through one of our local forests, look down at the track below your feet and think of those hard workers who made it all possible.



### Mary River Cod Community Network

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COORDINATOR: Sandy Jones has recently taken up our Coordinator's position and will be focussing on education and promotion of our activities in the schools throughout the Mary River Catchment. We wish Wendy Gillespie all the best for the future and thank her for all of her good work in saving the endangered Mary River Cod in our area.

HATCHERY NEWS: With the recent cod spawnings in the Lake MacDonald Hatchery, the season is going well with 5 pond spawnings producing 29000 larvae and an additional 8,000 from hormone inducement. Planning is underway to identify 6 sites for fingerling restocking at the end of this year including sites in the Upper Mary and the Obi Creek.

MARY RIVER COD HABITAT MAPPING: A copy of the final report for the Project 'Conserving and Rehabilitating Mary River Cod Habitat: Mapping and Extension' is now available through the Barung Landcare Office. The data illustrated in the final report is available on the ArcView GIS database at the DNR Office at Gympie.

This twelve month World Wide Fund project to map cod habitat in the Mary River Catchment was funded by the National Fishcare Program of the Dept of Primary Industries and Energy and coordinated through the Threatened Species Network. Features included: working with landholders, fishing groups and interested community members to map known areas where Mary River Cod still survive; identifying areas which may be suitable for restocking in the future; identifying areas which require remedial works to protect or restore cod habitat; providing extension services to landholders interested in remedial works on their property.

By field surveying, this WWF project has quantified some of the extent of riparian vegetation degradation in the Mary Catchment and draws to the attention of the community the urgent need for vegetation protection and rehabilitation, riparian weed control and extent of instream degradation due to excessive water plant growth.

All problems need to be worked on to improve water quality in the area.

Cod habitat data for about 300 km of stream has been recorded on a GIS database and is available to the 5 relevant councils, Landcare Groups, Department of Natural Resources/Dept of Primary Industries, and members of the community.

Those having the greatest impact on the cod's future are riparian landholders, who are able to recognise that, with different management, their riparian areas can be used to jointly benefit the cod, improve property management and increase capital value.

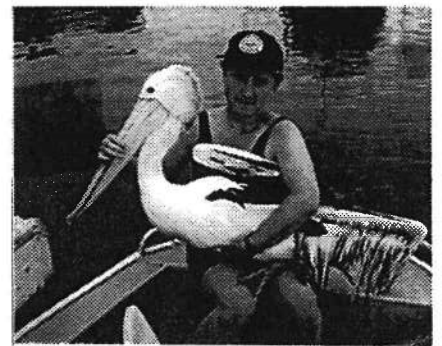
Advantages for the landholder include reduced bank erosion, improved water quality, opportunity for farming diversity eg: farm forestry, bush tucker, providing wind breaks and improving aesthetics. There are also challenges such as weed control, vegetation protection and planting, fencing and providing off-stream watering points.

Landholders are not out on their own with this. Resources are available in terms of advice (Landcare groups, DNR, DPI, WWF), funding (Volunteer Riverbank Restoration Grants Scheme, Streams of Trees), and labour (a number of community and volunteer groups are interested in participating in this sort of work). It is important to remember that the whole community benefits from better quality water resulting from better management of riparian zones.

To recover the endangered Mary River Cod requires increasing the amount of cod habitat by safeguarding existing native riparian vegetation and rehabilitating degraded riparian areas.

The cod's future depends on the commitment and activities of people in the Mary River catchment.

This project has been extended for a further two years and funds are available for riparian projects. Anyone interested in becoming involved in protecting or revegetating along their stream, contact Glenda on 5484 3150 or John Muir at Barung on 5494 3151.



Pelican Aunt - Wendy G - with one of her new charges - good luck.



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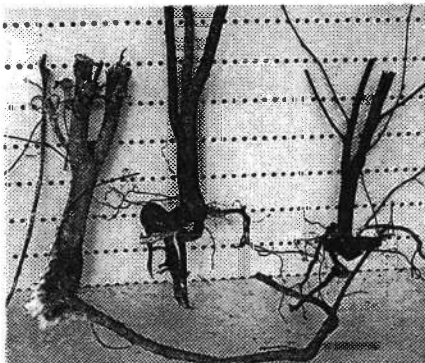
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## PRIVATE FORESTRY INDUSTRY URGES QUALITY IN TREE STOCK

Barung Nursery Manager Marc Russell, Department of Natural Resources Tree Extension Officer Ashley Sewell and I have combined to urge greater professionalism in the nursery industry and greater grower awareness of what is good growing stock. We have urged growers to seek out accredited and proven nurseries for their seedling stock after a bad case of deformed seedlings has come to light on the Blackall Range.

The case involved a farm forester in Maleny experiencing some heavy losses in his mixed rainforest and Eucalypt plantation from 'J rooting' of stock. The grower planted out 2700 rainforest and Eucalypt trees on two hectares eighteen months ago and is now finding several species dying out. On inspection, these were found to have severe root problems.

The stock all came from one Brisbane



Samples of 'J rooted stock'

supplier. Although the problem is not widespread in the Mary Valley/Sunshine Coast region, it does highlight the need for all growers to follow nursery best practice.

Ashley visited the Maleny grower to advise on which trees to leave and what pruning to undertake in order to save part of his plantation.

The property has also been inspected by

myself and members of Barung Farm Forestry Subcommittee. The grower brought in some of the ruined stock to show Marc and Barung nursery propagators. Marc had actually rejected the same stock earlier due to perceived root problems.

An obvious reason for 'J rooting' is bad nursery practice, but fortunately many nurseries around are aware of this. If the young seedling's roots are bent upwards in a too-shallow planting hole in the container after dibbling, it causes retarded growth, poor root architecture and instability of the plant in the nursery and later in the field.

Other factors that may contribute to poor root architecture in the nursery include insufficient nutrients in the potting mix; diseased potting mix; lack of beneficial fungi for the seedlings; too wet or too dry potting mixes; seedlings being kept in pots too long before being planted out or potted up.

In addition, the grower must ensure the site is adequately prepared with no soil compaction. He must ensure the seedling is planted out correctly with descending roots pointed downwards and lateral roots arranged as evenly as possible with the depth of planting only one or two cm greater than the nursery but the hole itself three times greater than the container. Soil mixture must be correct; fertilizer should be the right strength and mix, and must be placed correctly in relation to the seedling. Weeds must be controlled for proper root formation.

Growers can test seedling roots to see if the stem is loose in the pot. If movement occurs, it indicates poor root architecture and seedling should be discarded.

Barung and Noosa Landcare nurseries are currently looking into accreditation with the Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme, Australia (NIASA). A copy of the "NIASA Best Practice Guidelines", will be at Barung or Noosa if you are interested. DPI Forestry's Beerburrum nursery is accredited with NIASA so growers can also contact them with best practice queries.

Ashley and I attended the second "Managing and Growing Trees" conference at Beaudesert in October. There was an enormous amount of information presented and shared, and growers are welcome to peruse it. Topics covered included vegetation management; nature conservation, farm forestry extension, planning decision support, forestry industry directions, forest health, species for special purposes, seed management and propagation, economics and incentives, processing and value-adding, and local government. Field trips included visits to veneer

## Interested in Private Forestry? Want to help promote the growing of timber trees as a viable local industry?

Any Barung Landcare members are welcome to join the Farm Forestry Subcommittee which meets monthly to plan activities.

Contact Barung staff  
or Mark Savage  
a/h 5441 6423 b/h 5494 2000

and plywood mills and the Army reforestation at Canungra base.

The Governor of Queensland presented Arbor Day awards at the conference dinner. Barung was a finalist in the Group Planting Award - congrats and well done.

Coming events include an 'improved stock tour' on Dec 9th, visiting DPI Forestry Beerburrum to look at improved cuttings for hardwoods and rainforest and Australian Farm Forestry's operations in the Obi and Palmwoods to look at their improved stock. Bookings are essential - through Barung or myself.

Next year's activities include a number of field days, bus tours of farm forestry properties, discussion groups on weeds, mulching, use of herbicides, and financial planning, Barung's From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Expo and another 'Future Profit' course. Please book your place for Future Profit with Barung or myself by Dec 18th. The course will start in March 1999 and I will let you know further details.

I have also developed a background briefing paper on Paulownia species. Please contact me for further information.

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# WEED OF THE MONTH

with LINDA IVEZIC

This month's weed to note is the BROAD-LEAF PEPPER TREE, *Schinus terebinthifolius raddi*, family Anacardiaceae.

**WHAT MAKES IT A PROBLEM?** It can crowd out vast areas of native vegetation and has already done so in Florida, the Bahamas and all of the Hawaiian islands.

**ORIGINS:** *S. terebinthifolius* comes from the coast of Brazil and is grown as a garden ornamental in many countries around the world.

**PREFERRED HABITAT:** It primarily invades degraded sites and loves water logged and poorly drained soils. It rapidly colonizes disturbed bushland and may replace various grasses, sedges and other ground plants. There are naturalized populations thro'out SE Qld, NE NSW and parts of WA.

**IDENTIFICATION:** It is a small spreading tree to 10m with up to 8 stems. The leaves consist of 5-9 dark green leaflets. At the end of the branches are small whitish flowers which then develop into bunches of glossy round red fruits, 6mm across. Plants are male or female, so not all trees will bear fruit.

**SPREAD:** Seeds spread by birds, hence this tree is often seen under powerlines and along fences. Seeds germinate readily if dropped directly from the trees.

**CONTROL:** Hand pull small seedlings (seedlings have serrated leaves until about 30cm).

Bigger trees are difficult to control as regrowth occurs after cutting and trees send out root suckers after chemical treatment.

Barung has some interesting research information from the Alan Fletcher Research Station about chemical control. In their trials, all of the chemicals worked well and they put their success down to:

1. chemicals being applied literally within seconds of the tree being cut - one person cut and another applied the chemical.

2. the trials being carried out during early June. It appears that winter is better for control than summer, although this needs further research.

Contact Barung or the Dept of Natural Resources, Nambour, for detailed information on suitable chemicals and dilutions. Keep in mind that a plant that can only be control-

led by chemical treatment becomes a very expensive problem if allowed to multiply.

In my reading about broad-leaf pepper tree control, I found some interesting literature about a chemical control system called the "Sidewinder Tree Injector", marketed by Sidewinder Injection Technology Pty Ltd at Noosaville. This system uses a battery powered drill to bore a 6mm hole into the stem's xylem tissue. A special nozzle is screwed into this hole and a hydrolic pump delivers 2-20ml of herbicide solution under pressure into the vascular tissue of the plant. When the injector is removed, none of the chemical runs out of the hole.

The advantages of such a system are many including:

1. safety and environmental soundness - the herbicide is not in contact with rain, wind, people or the external environment. This lessens the impact on soil, water, air, animals and non-target plants.

2. cost - the Sidewinder uses a fraction of chemical required for foliar spraying (around 2% in the trial I read about).

## FEEDBACK...

As an interested, but distant member of Barung I am always looking forward to the Landcare news arriving here in Melbourne. And I am always impressed to note how professional and prominent Barung has become in Maleny. The latest edition was a good example again. *Streams of Trees* is not only an excellent, catchy headline, it also is a very good and worthwhile idea.

As a property owner on the headwaters of Walkers Creek at 77 Treehaven Way, my acre seems to be the only one left along Treehaven Way with a decent size patch of rainforest trees on the creek. And I always thought that it would be an excellent idea to join the different properties by creating a green rainforest corridor along this stretch of the creek. This would benefit all, the flow of the stream, the wildlife and the general appearance of the valley. I would be, therefore, interested to know if you had more enquiries from this area for your repair package.

While my small patch of rainforest consists mainly of mature trees (most of whom Mark was kind enough to identify for me last year), regrowth of young rainforest trees has been beautifully enhanced after I managed to fight back the undergrowth of privets, which threatened to take over, and additional planting using stock from your nursery.

I wish Barung success with this special project and hope to hear from you.

Kind regards,

Michael Tykocinski. Elsternwick, Vic PS, I noticed a large increase in the appearance of what I was told was 'native passionfruit'. Is there anything you can advise me to do, besides hand-weeding, which can be done to get rid of it? And is that a general problem in Maleny?

If it has a dry seed with no juicy flesh inside a green skin, it is probably the weed. If it has a very small black seed with flesh around seed, it is probably the rare native passionfruit. (M,R.)

# WEEDBUSTERS'

REPORT with MAL NICOLL

Hi. Just a short message to let you know of our progress so far.

The weeding of the Obi creekbank along the boardwalk is almost completed - as much as the painting of the Sydney Harbour Bridge is ever completed!! However we do need the assistance of Barung members or other Weedbusters to help with the mulching before we are hit with the summer weed invasion. A special thanks to Des Coogrove for his efforts on this section.

A start has been made on the top side of the boardwalk along Coral St and at the bridge on the Showgrounds end.

Remember that many hands make light work, so all volunteers are welcome at the midweek Weedbusting session, every Wednesday from 7am to around 10am, and the monthly Weedbusting session on the first Saturday of each month from 8am till 10. (Due to other commitments, the December Saturday morning session was held on the last Saturday in Nov, and due to Xmas, the January session will be held on Jan 31st, then it's back to normal.)

**WEEDBUSTERS** 8-10AM  
- THE FIRST SAT  
OF EACH MONTH  
& EVERY  
WED MORNING  
FROM 7AM ONWARDS.



See you  
at the Boardwalk.

SEED TO COLLECT *cont'd*

Bolly gum fruits are also loved by rainforest pigeons.

Seeds can be treated as with Brown bolly gum. The fruits look similar and are purple/black when ripe.

While the fruits are similar, the leaves are quite different, as *Litsea reticulata* does not have a downy undersurface and is quite glossy.

If you think you have either of these two species (or any other) fruiting on your property, please give me a ring or drop in a sample. If you bring in some seeds or fruits, please include a sprig of several leaves if possible, to aid correct identification.

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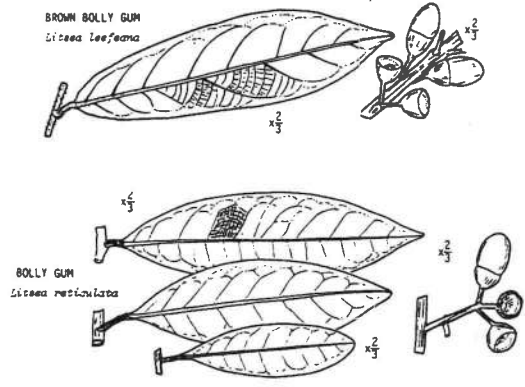
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I've decided to list 2 species this newsletter because they are shaped and held in an egg-cup like arrangement on the plant. There is both very important trees for both revegetation and wildlife fodder, and both will be fruiting over the December/January period.

*Litsea leefeana* - Brown bolly gum/Brown bollywood. Distribution is from Fraser Island in the north to Forster, NSW, mainly in littoral or sub-tropical rainforest. This is a very attractive small to medium sized tree, usually growing to 9-10m, although it may attain 15-20m given time in a rainforest situation.

The fruits are a favourite of the superb fruit dove, rose crowned fruit dove, topknot pigeon, wompoo fruit dove and most likely several other fruit eating pigeons. The leaves are simple with soft fur-like hairs on the underside. The fruit is a black drupe when ripe, egg

**Seed to collect Dec / Jan**  
by Marc Russell  
***Litsea Leefeana* / Brown bolly gum**  
***Litsea reticulata* / Bolly gum**



one large oval seed in each fruit, which will germinate readily when sowed fresh.

If you are planting seeds, remove the flesh, soak seed for 24 hours, then plant to a depth of approximately 1cm in well drained seed raising mix. Keep seed trays or young seedlings in part shade and ensure they are kept moist. These plants can be hardened off before planting out.

*Litsea reticulata* - Bolly gum/ Bollywood. Grows naturally in sub-tropical rainforests of the area and is generally not as common as *Litsea Leefeana*. While the timber of the two species is similar, only *Litsea reticulata* is generally considered to be of use. This tree may grow to 40m (20m in an open site) and yields timber which is soft and easy to work, making it suitable for furniture making, joinery, turnery and carving.

*cont'd previous page*

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