

# BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

## THE IMPORTANCE OF VEGETATION CORRIDORS

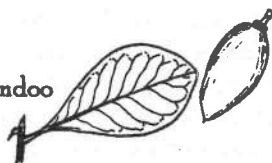
The forests of South-east Queensland  
are recognised as a global "hot spot" for biodiversity.

While this region represents just 0.75% of Australia's area, our forests play  
host to 23% of Australia's vascular plants and 26% of vertebrate fauna.  
49% of Australian ferns and almost 1/3 of the mammals and birds  
occur in South-east Queensland.



The Coxens Fig Parrot

and the Shiny-leaved Condoo  
(*Planchonella eerwah*)



- both under threat from fragmentation.

Fragmentation is the greatest threat to the unique rainforests of SEQ and locally, the Blackall Range. The remaining pockets are subject to many threats as a result of their small size and isolation from other remnants. These threats include:

- increased edge effect - exaggerates problems such as exposure to sun, wind, fire and grazing, and invasion by weeds, feral animals and domestic pets;
- reduction in biodiversity which can reduce an ecosystem's ability to adapt to changes in the environment;
- low populations of individual species (poor genetic diversity) which can reduce the capacity for evolutionary survival and result in inbreeding. This is a danger for both flora and fauna.

Protecting, linking and enhancing these isolated remnants will provide the only hope for a wide range of flora and fauna which is presently facing extinction. The rare and threatened species list will continue to grow at an accelerating rate unless there is immediate action.

The Regional Forests Agreement decision recently handed down is a major boost to rainforest conservation. It will more than double the area of SE Queensland reserves. Much of the rainforest in our local region however, is on private land. **This puts the onus on landholders, community groups and government organisations to work together to find viable solutions.**

The first stage of such a solution is to arrive at a plan which will avoid conflict of interest between land use and corridor establishment/protection. The Sunshine Coast Environment Council has kick-started this process with the Habitat 2000 Project. The aim of this project is to identify key areas for corridor protection, enhancement and establishment on the Sunshine Coast, as well as those most under threat from development. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding, only key areas in Caloundra Shire have been completed to a useable level. While the areas identified will still need extensive ground-truthing, the data collected will provide a great basis for us to focus on priority sites. The findings of this project are soon to be presented to Caloundra City Council, and we hope and urge council to use the information when planning or considering development proposals. cont'd on page 2

December 1999 - January 2000

### BRIDGE THE GAP

### TREEPLANT

Saturday Feb 12th

Help plant 5000 trees, connecting  
120 acres of superb rainforest  
to Bridge Creek  
and other nearby remnants

& JOIN US FOR

### AN AFTERNOON FESTIVAL

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INTERESTING GUEST SPEAKERS,  
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- ◆ Free cold drinks and morning snacks for tree planters
- ◆ All afternoon activities free of charge (except for food).
- ◆ Prizes for treeplanters who find lucky tickets in the tubes.
- ◆ A fantastic opportunity to get together with friends, and achieve something positive for biodiversity in 2000.

**PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS &  
FAMILY - MAKE A DAY OF IT.  
PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!**

# CORRIDORS OF GREEN VEGETATION MAPPING

from Marc Russell

## THE IMPORTANCE OF VEGETATION CORRIDORS

cont'd from page 1

If you feel compelled by the urgency of the current situation, there are many ways you can help with remnant protection and linking:

- ◆ Join a group such as Barung Landcare, Lake Baroon Catchment Care, Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Greening Australia or a threatened species recovery team, all of whom are actively addressing the problem;
- ◆ Write letters to relevant government departments and express your interest in the protection, enhancement and establishment of corridors and nature strips;
- ◆ Take steps on your own property to help improve the situation. One can observe results in a short period of time and each one of us can make a big difference.

| ACTIVITY  | POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS   | POTENTIAL LANDHOLDER BENEFITS  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Fence stock out from existing forest or regenerating areas</b> (especially landslip areas, steep slopes and creek banks). Such areas usually benefit from some reparation (repair) work. | Reduced soil and plant root damage, reduced transportation of weed seed & fertiliser on feet or in manure, less grazing/trampling of understorey, increased biodiversity and improved water quality.   | Healthier self-managing forest (not just a weed source), reduced likelihood of stock poisoning or injury, increased stability on steep sites or creek banks, reduced chance of contracting water/mud carried disease and parasites.  |
| <b>Plant fast growing pioneer species adjacent to remnants</b> (to create a buffer zone between the forest and adjacent land).  | Reduced sun/wind/fire exposure on forest edges, increased natural regeneration (regrowth of native species within the forest from seed brought in by birds and wind etc.), reduced weed invasion, provision of habitat suitable for seed-dispersing birds to introduce genetics from neighbouring remnants                                   | Reduced weeds, fewer management issues, lower maintenance in forested areas.   |
| <b>Plant vegetation corridors between remnants</b> (especially on slips, steep slopes and creek banks).   | Enables wildlife to move from vegetation patch to patch resulting in more cross-breeding and access to wider food source. Seed dispersers and pollinators can create a gene flow between remnants, increasing genetic diversity of flora, greater species diversity, reduced inbreeding, improved water quality and better wildlife habitat. | Greater biodiversity leads to improved biological pest control. Local species planted can double as windbreaks, shade trees, farm forestry, bushfoods and cut flowers, resulting in reduced erosion, improved water quality, creek bank stability and improved aesthetics. |
| <b>Keep dogs and cats in or restrained at night. Fit cats with bell.</b>  | More freedom and safe movement for wildlife resulting in fewer deaths.   | Clear conscience!  |
| <b>Carry out sensitive weed control in your remnant</b> (replacement with local species may be necessary).  | Removal of competition for native species will stop the spread of weed species and lead to greater diversity.  | Reduction of weed seed base that may spread to other parts of the property.  |

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Kel Harding*

There are people in the environmental movement creating awesome outcomes – people who dare to do things “differently”.

Josie Marriott and I recently represented Barung at the Sunshine Coast Environmental Council Annual Awards Presentation - an incredible event. Attendees included: Rod Welford, State Minister for Environment & Energy; Peter Wellington MP, Member for Nicklin; Cr. Don Culley, Mayor, Maroochy Shire; Cr. Vivienne Coleman, Caloundra City; Cr. Alan Kerlin, Maroochy Shire; and Cr. Zrinka Johnson, Maroochy Shire.

Another person known to many, Aila Keto, was awarded for her four year involvement in bringing the RFA (Regional Forestry Agreement) to fruition. She spoke of respect for others and doing things differently - from the heart - and working with all parties to achieve the best possible outcomes for everyone.

Rod McInnes from the Queensland Timber Board echoed this in a very concise and precise speech. This big man was made even bigger by the occasion and his words and emotion came “straight from the heart.”

This award made it clear to me that these people, who could easily have been protagonists, fighting each other every inch of the way (environmentalist versus logger), worked together to get the best result possible for all Queenslanders. They have created a model that may be useful nationally and even globally.

Landcare and environmental repair is fast becoming recognised as one of the cornerstones of the survival of the human species. At the same time our government is funding less to groups dedicated to the protection and clean-up of threatened areas. Often money is spent on research and fact finding ad nauseum when that money is best spent on the ground fixing the problem now!

The English have spent A\$6 billion cleaning up their Mersey river – a river the size of our Maroochy and Mooloola rivers. Unless we change our attitudes and activities around our waterways, we may face the same situation in a few years.

In November, John Muir was invited to address a group of Canberra politicians and bureaucrats. His presentation was based on Barung's history, accomplishments and the enthusiastic community involvement in our projects. In a 1 1/2 hour presentation of visual and hard facts he has altered many beliefs and furthered the Landcare cause.

In my first report I asked for community support for Barung! My own experiences as Barung President all point to the need for community involvement to the max. I ask every one of our members to encourage friends, neighbours, associates and others to join Barung and other environmental groups.

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Martin Storey              | Peter & Linda Holland   |
| Leanie & Bob Anderson      | Geoff Anderson          |
| Andre Hammond              | Elizabeth Kaufmann      |
| Colleen Atkin              | Jim & Sylvia Cain       |
| Graham & Monique Bond      | David & Allison Prior   |
| R & K Flanigan             | David Walton            |
| Alex & Karen Salvaterra    | Peter Van Der Days      |
| Laura Adler & Robin Branch | Bo & Sue Williams       |
| Robbie Warren              | Duncan Gregor           |
| Lindsay Nott               | T & S Harker            |
| Tara White                 | Annie Potter            |
| Jye Potter                 | Karyll Butler           |
| Anson Russ                 | Brian Turner            |
| Robert Eager               | Frank & Kathy Cassells  |
| Marcus Yates               | Brian Patten            |
| Rhett Underwood            | Arthur & Nerelle Powter |
| Becky Walker               | Ross Edwards            |

Sharon Lockman & Gary Phillips

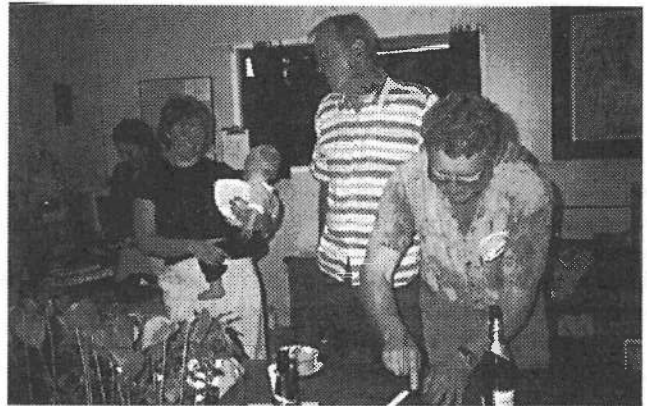
THANKYOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

## EDUCATION IN LANDCARE *from Mim Coulstock*

### *Changing Hats!*

*Taking over the education desk from John has been quite an experience. Coming on top of the AGM, the subsequent change of committee, Barung's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations, the bumper issue of the birthday newsletter and encompassing – by default – the coordination role, it was a manic few weeks.*

*If people really perceive that an organisation the size of Barung does not require a coordinator, they should take another look or at least spend a day or so in “The Office!” My heartfelt thanks to John for the effort and enthusiasm he gave to this position over the last four years.*



*John cuts the cake to celebrate his move to Farmcare.*

*Without him Barung would definitely not be in its present position. John's departure and my slide across the office also left the Admin Officer's desk free. I am really pleased to welcome Angela Todd to this position. Angie comes to Barung with a healthy sense of humor, a seemingly unflappable personality and a wealth of experience. We always talk about the right tree in the right place for optimum growth – well Angie is the right person at the right time – to help ensure Barung's optimum growth - she is a wonderful addition to the team. I'd also like to thank Julie Lehmann for her invaluable contribution during this transition phase. Without her help and thoughtfulness I would have disappeared under the mountains of paper. Thanks Julie.*

A couple of exciting longer term education projects have loomed recently:

- the planning of a series of educational signs for the Obi Boardwalk, stimulated by Barung receiving a \$1000 grant from the Australian Open Gardens Scheme. An on-going project, with further boards to be added as finances permit, we are aiming to make the Boardwalk a truly educational facility. It is hoped that such signage will put the Boardwalk on the tourist map, enabling us to source funding to continue the project across Rotary Bridge, along “Pony Club Ck” to link with the Showgrounds remnant. We would of course love to one day



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## EDUCATION IN LANDCARE *cont'd*

link it around to the library on the other end, now that CCC has acquired the property behind Your Insurance Broker.

There are also plans to one day develop interpretive trails for adults and children.

- Ø The development of a Barung Resource Kit to be presented to all local schools at the beginning of the 2000 school year. We would like Barung to be recognised as a valuable resource to aid in integrating environmental issues into local school curriculums. We will be drawing on expertise from far and wide – from the Barung community and the wider community, as well as from the corporate sector, local and state government level. If you have any areas of environmental interest and would like to be a part of sharing the landcare ethic with our younger generation, please give me a ring at Barung.

I would also appreciate input from Barung members regarding future workshops. Our Saturday workshops are proving extremely popular, but in 2000 we would like to target alternative land-use topics as well as old favorites such as reveg. We hope to run workshops on topics such as "Organic Farming", "Farming Flowers for Profit" and "Landcare for Horse Owners." If you have any special area of interest, we would love to be able to help – get in touch.

*Education should provide, I feel, the on-going impetus for landcare. Many thanks to the education team, especially Lin Fairlie, Jeanette Nobes and Karen Shaw, for their tremendous support and input of hours. Always remember that Barung can only achieve its aims with the energy of our many volunteer helpers.*



### S.E.E.D.S.

and Karen Shaw

What creative youngsters we have in our community! At our last S.E.E.D.S. meeting in November the group made wind-chimes and mobiles from recycled materials and seedpods donated by Clayton Stokoe (thanks Clay). We attached feathers and wooden beads and with them all hanging in the Barung back room it all looked quite magical. A walk along the Boardwalk to the showgrounds and a game of Environmental Scavenger Hunt in the rainforest remnant topped off a great afternoon. Thanks to the older girls in our group for the suggestion of making the wind-chimes and mobiles.

December 7<sup>th</sup> has a big red star marked on my calendar at home because that's when we're having our PARTY. We are all meeting at Mary Cairncross Park with our families for a fun evening and a shared dinner. I hope we'll see all the S.E.E.D.S. members there for our last get-together for 1999. Please remember to bring something for the BBQ and something yummy to share with everyone. Bring a decoration for the Christmas tree because there will be something under it for all our S.E.E.D.S. kids!

Our plans for the S.E.E.D.S. Camp at Moreton Island in January are underway but we need numbers confirmed and a \$10 contribution (for food) to be paid on or before December 7<sup>th</sup> at our Christmas Party. Please see Mim at Barung or Karen at the Party.

Thankyou for a great couple of months as S.E.E.D.S. Coordinator. I'm really looking forward to a fantastic and environmentally exciting year ahead.

## TRIPPING AROUND

### Funnelweb Info Night



Yes they do live on the Range!

If you were one of the eighty or so folk who filled the Mary Thynne Centre on October 21st, you will be treating any black spiders with a healthy respect from now on!

Dr Robert Raven from the Queensland Museum gave a very thorough talk on funnelwebs, covering their nesting habits and love life and dispelling such myths as the male being more poisonous than the female. Not true - the venom of both is highly poisonous! Local Maleny Hospital resident medico, Dr Andrew McKeough, preceded Robert's talk - stressing the need to get immediate medical attention if bitten by any spider suspected of being a funnelweb. If bitten by a black spider, apply a pressure bandage from just below the site of the bite to the top of the limb and move fast!

*"Plan now to achieve your goals in the future"* was the message from Barung's recent property mapping workshop by Bill Steentsma from the Department of Natural Resources.

Judging from responses in the "Your View of the Day" survey, the majority attitude was that this overview of property planning is extremely valuable.

The overlay technique used in property mapping is very beneficial in incorporating different aspects of property management into one overview. This overview offers property owners the chance to prioritise capital works while working with their existing natural resources, thus developing an environmentally sensitive long-term sustainable land-use regime.

The valuable suggestions made by participants will be kept in mind for our next mapping workshop to be held in 2000.

### *& a Bushfood Lunch to boot!*

There was a full house at Barung for the Wild (food) Workshop on Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup>. Guest speakers Dr. Janet Gorst from Gr Uni and Narendra Nand (Post Graduate Studies on Bushfoods, Gritnith Uni), joined with local experts Jenny Allen, Marc Russell and Sammy Ringer (Editor of the *Australian Bushfood Magazine* published here in Maleny and available from Barung) to present the workshop.

Highlights of the day included a delicious light bushfoods lunch of warrigal greens quiche with bush tomatoes and native pepper served with a range of breads - wattleseed, lemon myrtle, native pepper and bush tomato. Scones and lillipilly jam provided a sweet delight to finish.


Few of the people attending were aware of just how many local, edible and readily available bushfood species exist. There was a lot of interest shown in developing a co-operative thresher for thrashing and cleaning wattle seed. More of this later.

Another workshop is planned at Mary Cairncross for 2000.

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## THANKS TO...

... Gillian & Neil MacLeod

for making their lovely property available to participants of the Chainsaw Level 1 Workshop and the Property Mapping Workshop.

... R&T Boyle

for their very generous donation to Barung Landcare.

... Peter & Sue Gould  
& Thriftylink Hardware, Mapleton

for their landcare support. Thriftylink Mapleton would like to remind Barung members that December 31st is the deadline for filling Helping Hands Purchase Cards. Each card is complete after 5 purchases and Barung receives a % donation of sales from each completed card. Many thanks to Peter and Sue and Thriftylink for their generosity.

... Maleny Amcal Chemist

for their donation of two display stands. One of these stands will be used immediately for displaying our plant database sets which will be for sale to the public in the near future.

... Lexy Forbes & Jane Skrandies

for the wonderful concept of a Barung timeline - and the hours they spent researching the first four years of Barung's life.

## BOOK REVIEW

Spencer Shaw

### Wildlife of Greater Brisbane

A Queensland Museum Publication

This little book is fast becoming a classic to all those interested in our local wildlife. It is not only a delight to browse through with photographs of the species covered, but is also an invaluable reference book providing tips on identification, habitat and behavior.

The fauna covered includes worms, snails, spiders, crustaceans, insects, fish, amphibians, lizards, birds, and mammals. The information is detailed enough to include the calls of the various frogs listed, the size and shape of rodent droppings, and snake identification by counting the rows of scales on their bellies (you'd have to be keen).

This book provides an invaluable aid for us all to better understand our local wildlife and as David Bellamy says in the introduction "How can people appreciate and support sustainable use and conservation of our environment if they do not know what is out there?" This book is the 'Actual Reality Timeout Guide' to the wildlife of Greater Brisbane and is available from the Barung Resource Centre for \$20.00 - what a great Christmas present!!

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## Barung to assist Maleny High School with Activity Centre Landscaping



It is great to see that construction of the Maleny State High School Activity Centre is imminent. Realisation of this huge project has come about through the hard work of the fund-raising committee and the generous support of the Maleny community.

Being a non-profit community group, Barung is unable to offer a dollar contribution. However we have offered to undertake the design and construction of the Activity Centre landscaping in support of the project.

In order to do this we are asking for the support of local tradespeople and landscaping/gardening suppliers and local people. We need in-kind contributions of materials and/or time. We have already had pledges of contributions of labour from several local tradespeople. We will need timber for path edging, sleepers and logs for garden bed edging, loads of mulch etc. If you can help in any way, please contact Barung on 5494 3151.

When plans have been finalised and the building is at a suitable stage, we would like to organise a series of weekend working bees to bring the gardens and landscaping to reality. We will be enlisting the help of students, parents, staff, Barung members and anyone else in the community who has a belief in our youth and the future.

This Activity Centre is a true community project and deserves the full support of the whole local community. Such a facility is long overdue for the students at the High School and the completion of such a venue will be of great benefit to people of Maleny and the Blackall Range in general.



### SNAKE CATCHERS - SUNSHINE COAST

John Barry (Caloundra) - 5492 1605 / 0414 643 392

Darren Symons (Beerwah) - 5494 0741

Anthony Gourley (Caboolture) - 5498 3835

John Rudder (Maroochydore) - 5443 5754

\* call only if snake genuinely needs to be removed

\* all catchers charge for their services. Fee should be negotiated before removal.

## WANTED - VOLUNTEER

retired librarian or person with the skills and interest to help organise and maintain Barung's resource library & photo collection.

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## BLUE TRIANGLE (*Graphium Sarpedon Choredon*)

from Bob Miller



This was the first of the butterfly larvae I raised all the way from egg to adult. When we lived in Sydney, we had a 3 metre tall camphor laurel tree which was a habitat for these butterflies.

Ever since I first saw one, I have admired this butterfly known as the 'Blue Triangle'. Its speed is incredible and it keeps its wings in constant motion even when feeding, ready to move on at the

first sign of danger (this constant wing motion is typical of all of our swallowtails.)

The adult butterfly has a wingspan of approximately 55mm. Its wings are a bright sky-blue, with a black border approximately 8mm wide around the outer edge causing the typical 'blue triangle' shape on each side. The lower wings have four blue spots included in their black border. The underneath of the butterfly is the same as the top, but duller, with the addition of some red markings. The male and female look identical, with the main identifying feature being "feathers" visible on the top inner edge of the lower wing when the wings are expanded.

The larvae are smooth and olive-green when young, changing to a beautiful lime-green colour, with one lemon-yellow band running left to right across the upper body. The lime-green pupae have raised ridges running from head to tail, imitating perfectly the venation and colour of the underside of the leaf on which they pupate. The raised projection on the head does not detract from this camouflage.

Since moving to Queensland, I have learnt that many native species can be used as substitutes for camphor laurel. These will serve as food sources for both birds and butterflies, losing none of the habitat features offered by the camphor laurel. Barung nursery has many of these native substitutes.

Further information can be obtained by reading Butterflies of Australia by Common and Waterhouse 1981, or call into Barung and see me sometime.

Do you love and appreciate the wildlife that shares your property?

Many Barung members do and because of this interest, discussions are underway to form an association with a focus on the fauna issues of the Blackall Range. Such an Association would offer social and educational opportunities for us all to learn about and support the immense bio-diversity of the Range.

Just one valuable contribution resulting from such an association is the upcoming Nature Search, to be operated by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Nature Search will require volunteers to assist in long term monitoring and recording of the flora and fauna of the Blackall Range.

To learn more about Nature Search or to register your interest, ring Jeanette Nobes on 5429 6249 or Barung on 5494 3151.

## NURSERY REPORT *Spencer Shaw*

In late October, Reveg Officer Josi Marriot and I met with Scott Osborne, Senior Plant Licensing Officer for the Department of Environment, Central Moreton District. The purpose of our meeting was to gain an understanding of the protected plants legislation.

This legislation is an incredibly complex body of work, with as yet, no easy-to-follow guide. However our meeting proved invaluable as it gave us the necessary information to comply with the legislation and a basic understanding of how the laws work.

We have had to remove some species from sale as they are classed as 'restricted', requiring a costly permit to harvest, grow or sell. But many species we had assumed would need permits to grow or sell, only require permits to collect the seed. We can also still stock endangered species in the nursery as long as the seed has been obtained from a reputable source and plants carry the necessary tags.

While in Brisbane we also visited the Greening Austr. Nursery at The Gap. An inspirational visit to a great little nursery which is a credit to the team who work there. Thanks to Pete Dorney and Co. for extending such a warm welcome to us. I look forward to hosting them on a similar visit to further exchange knowledge and ideas. Some of the ideas noted included:

- a computer program to monitor propagation and stock flow, designed by university students;
- improved propagation facilities;
- propagation of aquatic plants;
- signage and educational facilities.

Barung is now the proud owners of a compost heap. This will help us convert the organic wastes produced by the nursery e.g. old potting mix, weeds and some cardboard, into a soil improver which we can use on our tree plants. The compost heap was very easy to build with a dirt floor and the walls constructed from straw bales stacked two high. The straw bales are ideal as they are cheap, light, provide insulation and can be mixed into the final product.

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### CLOSING FOR XMAS

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**with Josi Marriott,  
Reveg Officer**

The growing season is well and truly upon us, with higher temperatures and consistent rainfall encouraging prolific weed growth.

In our July newsletter I described our trials of green manure cover crops, the primary objective being to provide competition for weeds. Such seasonal green manure crops also reduce erosion and provide nitrogen and mulch when they die back. Of course these factors must be weighed against the ability of the selected groundcovers to compete with the trees for moisture and nutrients.

We have been very pleased with the effectiveness of the tri which have stabilised the ground and reduced maintenance by preventing weed germination. At the Maleny Primary School most of the 300m long riparian revegetation project was sown in May/June with several species of rye grass. Following sowing, the trees were mulched, preventing germination around the stems with

the rye quickly covering the areas between trees. Subsequently, the only weeds on the site were germinating from the mulch and these have been relatively easy to control!

The school site has also been subject to frost and flood, and the cover crop provided some frost protection and reduced velocity of flow during flooding. This resulted in reduced plant loss. Areas not sown required intense maintenance for germinating weeds, as did our blanket mulched areas after the mulch floated away in the floods of February!

The rye is now dying off with the warmer weather as expected, and it will be interesting to see how long the resultant mulch cover lasts. Check out the Entrance Site where the rye has performed similarly. Over the warmer months we shall be trialing a sterile hybrid Japanese millet, to be sown in areas where weed growth requires regular and costly maintenance. The millet has already germinated successfully on the western side of Walkers Creek in front of the pioneer cottage, where it shall remain the dominant groundcover through the revegetation process. The millet will overwinter, and it will be interesting to monitor the duration of its effectiveness. I'll keep you informed on further findings, and will prepare a summary of our monitoring and evaluation results at the end of the project (Feb 2001).

*Happy Christmas & a  
wonderful new century  
to all Barung members.  
Thanks for your support  
thro the decade of  
landcare.  
May there be many more!*

Coming up in 2000  
**NATIVE FOREST  
FIELD DAYS**

- \* Glenwood - 5th Feb 2000
- \* Glenbar - 18th March 2000
- \* To be announced - 6th May 2000
- \* 4th June 2000

Contact **Sean Ryan** on  
**5482 0850 / 0419 715 521**  
or **Mark Warnick**  
on **5441 4557**  
for further information



**THANKS TO**  
Robbie Warren  
Lindsay Nott  
Tara White  
Jye Potter  
Anson Russ  
Robert Eager  
Becky Walker  
& Rhett Underwood

*for all your hard work,  
your humour & of course,  
& your artistic talents!  
Good luck to you all for the  
future & Keep in touch!*

*SAMBO  
LIKE A TIGER!!*



A big thankyou  
to Sam  
'Like a Tiger'  
Pickering,  
who supervised  
our last team so  
professionally.  
Sam will stay with  
Barung to take on  
the new team.



*What a team!*

**WELCOME  
TO OUR NEW TEAM**  
**- our 4th Green Corps!**

This team commenced their 26 week environmental traineeship last week.

They will spend 3 weeks preparing and following up our February 2000 **BRIDGE THE GAP** tree plant, 3 weeks working on Barung revegetation sites including linkage to the showground remnant, and 8 weeks at Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve constructing boardwalks to relieve the effects of pedestrian compaction and provide safer access within the reserve. They will also undertake accredited training in a range of subjects, including weed and native plant ID, and several minor projects including coastal management at Noosa and stabilisation works on the Mary River.

**HAVE FUN!!**



*Graduation Day at Mary Cairncross*



## Mary River Cod Community Network Cod Need Trees - and YOU

Although the Mary River Cod is a protected endangered species, it may one day become a very valuable native recreational fish.

Recreational anglers played a pivotal role at the inception of the now wide-ranging series of projects along the Mary River catchment, including the Mary River Cod Community Network Project, by volunteering time and experience and advising on the best ways to find and catch the cod.

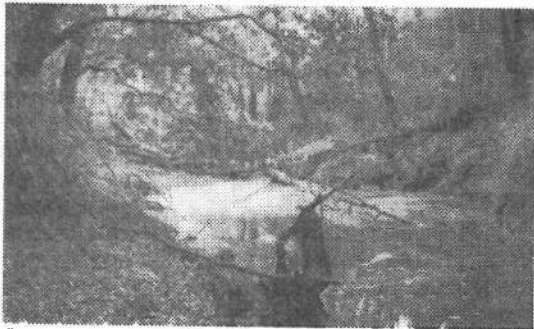
Mary River Cod health is a good indicator of total river health and, all in all, this broad-based partnership provides a good example of how we can work together to protect our waterways.

But why do cod need trees anyway? For a start, older and larger trees along the riverbank are essential to cod spawning since this old growth eventually forms the snags where the female deposits her eggs. Adequate shade over the waterway is then vital in maintaining the optimal temperature for roe maturation. Recent studies show that nutrient levels are higher in shaded waterholes.

More nutrients mean more crustacean plankton, the starter food for newly hatched cod larvae. Less than 70% tree cover may allow increased levels of blue-green algae, disrupting the beginning of the food chain.

Community involvement is essential to making a real difference in caring for our environment: local groups undertake on-ground work, tackling problems at their source, and that's where your efforts can be so valuable. Anglers are in a unique position to identify degraded landscapes in areas that others in the community rarely access.

If you think that you can assist the Mary River Community Network by contributing your knowledge of waterholes along the Mary River, then please contact the Project Officer via Barung on 5494 3151.



*Bushcare is contributing to the survival of the Mary River cod in south-east Queensland.*

Reprinted in part from *Angler Action*, Winter 1999 Vol.18 No.1.

## Management Of Large Woody Debris (Snags) In Streams

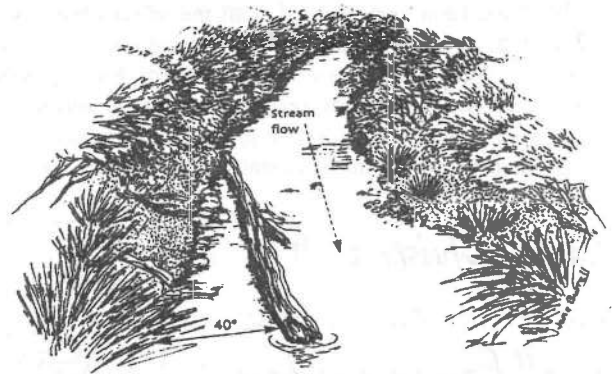
From time to time branches and trees, known as snags or large woody debris, fall into rivers and creeks where they remain or are washed downstream. It is now widely recognised that woody debris is a vital natural component of Australian river systems. Snags create a diverse range of flow conditions, from deep pools to chutes and aerated water - all important for the diversity of plant and animal life in streams and rivers.

Smaller branches trap leaf litter and other organic matter to form

'debris dams' which are high in biological activity and a major source of food for animals. Larger debris provides habitat for aquatic invertebrates and their larvae, and snails, shredding and consuming leaves and fine litter, and in turn becoming food for larger animals such as fish and platypus. Snags provide habitat and shelter, and can provide refuge from predators. They are essential spawning habitat for some native fish, including the Mary River Cod, which require submerged hollow logs in which to lay and nurse their eggs.

In the past all woody debris was removed from river systems, a practice originating from the river navigation needs of early settlers. It was believed snags were a major cause of flooding, however a channel needs to be substantially blocked before it effects the extent of flooding.

Where large snags or snags lying across the direction of water flow cause detrimental local flow variations, modification may be considered. To minimise the effect on flow levels, snags can be rotated from across the flow and placed close together on the stream bed, at an angle of 20-40 degrees to the streambank.



This maintains the total surface area of debris for river plants and animals and increases the availability of low velocity habitat zones, including the zero or near zero velocity zones used by fish for resting and refuge. However, this improvement in flow capacity requires careful planning as it can cause an increase in maximum stream velocity in the centre of the river, mobilising the bed sediment and causing the bed to deepen. If snags are to be modified, the aim should be to arrange large debris so that it is closely spaced and aligned with the direction of the river flow, resulting in less affect on water levels. Removal of relatively small snags will have little or no effect on water levels.

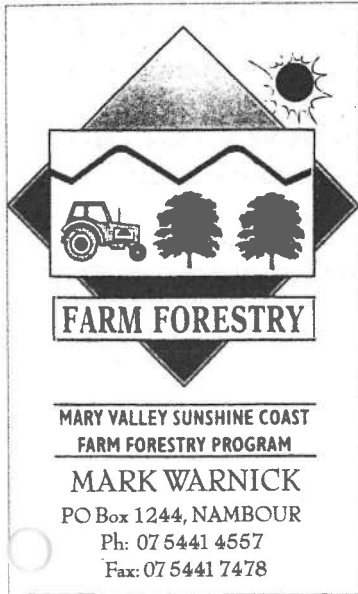
Revegetated streambanks take many decades to generate their own supply of large woody debris. River restoration projects should consider reintroducing woody material in a range of sizes to hasten ecological recovery. For efficiency and stability reintroduced woody debris should be placed in zones of low water velocity along the channel margins or on the inside of meanders. To minimise a rise in water levels a series of closely spaced progressively smaller items should be placed upstream of any large item with a broad trunk or wide root structure, giving the larger item a more streamlined shape.

In summary, always aim to minimise modifications to woody debris in streams. Snag re-alignment, re-introduction and/or removal proposals should be prepared with a clear set of objectives taking into account the effects on water velocity and flow patterns. If the proposed works may affect other properties or agencies they should be invited to participate in the formulation of an action plan. The works should also be monitored and reviewed to ensure the desired outcomes are being achieved. The challenge for waterway managers is to find a balance between any possible adverse changes in water levels caused by large woody debris, and the ecological benefits of leaving snags in rivers and streams.

Information from *Managing Snags in Rivers* published by The Land and Water Resources R & D Corporation, February 1999, as part of the Riparian Management booklet series.

The seven booklet series may be printed from the LWRRDC Home Page at [www.lwrrdc.gov.au](http://www.lwrrdc.gov.au), or by phoning LWRRDC c/o National Mailing and Marketing on (02) 6299 6044.





**Farm Forestry** continues to organise and strive to achieve multiple outcomes for private landholders and best practice. There is now a big push to investigate forming a landholder's farm forestry co-operative in the greater Blackall Range area. To this end, keep in mind a major meeting to be held in Maleny on February 8th next year. This will start the whole ball rolling and see where we can go with a co-operative.

Because the issue is of interest to so many, I'd like to briefly discuss some of the facts re co-operatives.

- **Who can form a primary producer co-operative?** A primary producers' co-operative is a body corporate, formed by at least seven primary producers and registered under the Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act.

- **What can a co-operative do for your farming business?** A co-operative is able to perform virtually any function required of it by its members including:

- buying bulk supplies (seed, fertilisers, chemicals etc) for members;
- establishing manufacturing or processing plant to the economic advantage of members;
- improving marketing of member produce by providing market research and development; producing packing, grading and transport services; centralised pricing, promotion and sales;
- offering other services to members including crop credit to members for farm inputs, technical expertise and advice, harvesting and many others.

**What are the advantages of co-operation?**

- **Service Capital:** the co-operative is an extension of your farming business and should concentrate on providing cost effective services to members.
- **Democratic control:** each member has an equal say in matters confronting the co-operative. One member one vote.
- **Economies of scale:** a co-operative can bring about increased buying/selling power and reduced processing and handling costs.
- **Improved expertise** through acquiring qualified management.

- **Why are co-operatives different from other business structures?** Central to the operation and establishment of co-operatives are seven principles of co-operation. These principles distinguish a co-operative from other forms of business structures:

1. Open and voluntary membership;
2. Democratic member control;
3. Limited interest (if any) paid on shares;
4. Autonomy and independence;
5. Education, training and information;
6. Co-operation between co-operatives;
7. Concern for communities.

I have a lot more information drawn from the operation of forestry co-operatives in South Africa and around Australia, particularly in Tasmania, which I am happy to talk about to any interested land holders.

## TREE TALK

by Tony Wootton

*In this series of articles I'd like to outline what a tree surgeon does, and examine some areas that might be of interest to Barung members.*

*A tree surgeon, or arborist, specializes in arboriculture (Latin root: arbor = tree), a branch of horticulture. The primary focus is the management of trees and shrubs in our built environment.*

*There are many different aspects to arboriculture, including but not limited to:*

- *the assessment of the tree and its environment. This is probably the most important stage of any tree surgery operation, where an arborist relies on their experience and training to determine what, if any, remedial action is required to be performed on a tree or its environment;*
- *pruning - using technically correct pruning methods, for a number of reasons including the removal of dead, diseased, hazardous or crossing limbs, tree shaping/sculpture, height or breadth reduction, etc;*
- *tree climbing, to carry out pruning operations or collect specimens, in order to perform a more thorough assessment of the tree;*
- *tree felling;*
- *pest and disease analysis and treatment;*
- *root treatments to remedy such problems as compaction, water/nutrient deprivation;*
- *root barrier installation to protect building foundations, driveways, footpaths etc.;*
- *plant selection to ensure that the right tree is planted in a suitable spot, and is of good quality plant stock ( a very important, often overlooked area, which can prevent expensive problems downstream);*
- *assessments for litigation e.g. boundary and property disputes involving trees;*
- *designing tree plantings.*

*To conclude this introductory column, I would like to make some general points about trees and people. While tree science has made some great advances in recent times, we have only scratched the surface of the mystery that is a tree. Trees are alive. Trees are massive water pumps and gas exchangers - contemplate this invisible activity next time you find yourself looking at a tree. Trees support a host of other living things, from micro-organisms to birds and large mammals. We cannot survive without trees.*

*Trees are worthy of great respect. A tree can make you feel good. You can get to know a tree. It is time for society - both individuals and authorities - to accept responsibility to care for the trees we plant. Trees are the pillars that hold up the world in which we spend our lives. Touch trees.*

*Until next time,*

*The Tree Surgeon.*

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**FARMCARE -  
LANDCARE IN HORTICULTURE IN  
SEQ (& the Philippines)  
from John Muir**

Take home messages from the "FOOD & ENVIRONMENT TIGHTROPE" Conference at Parliament House, Canberra, November 99.

All speakers at the conference highlighted the need for farmer participation and involvement in solving their own and the world's Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) Issues.

The quote of the day was: "How can third world farmers be environmentalists if they don't even have a square meal every day?" which contains shades of the Landcare catch-cry: "How can you be green if you are in the Red?"

Although researchers once again said that current technical knowledge promises food for the world well into the future despite land degradation trends, the challenge remains: How to get this knowledge base out and implemented by farmers.

It became apparent that these same researchers have jumped on the Landcare Bandwagon which they see as the conduit/vehicle to deliver and solve the present predications of the huge farm science-knowledge gaps. This is a big ask for landcare, both nationally and internationally, and rests on the support of government to back our efforts.

Appropriate governance at all levels is urgently needed to meet the desired requirements and outcomes of major programs such as Landcare and Integrated Catchment Management (ICM). Long term issues such as funding for Natural Resource Management (NRM), and how ICM fits into existing local and state legislation, must be addressed.

Long-term consolidated funding for Landcare and ICM requires urgent resolution. Discussion on catchment waterboard and environmental levies, and GST will ensure that the real cost of food to be realised. The consumer will then be paying farmers for the prevention and repair of NRM degradation e.g. Best Management Practices (BMP) on farms, management of salinity, acid soils, and codes of practice for more sustainable farming systems. Education of consumers is an integral part of this story if consumers are to be prepared to pay the real costs of production - and hence the importance of urban consumer landcare.

We must remember:     ∅     We cannot have indefinite growth in a finite world;  
                                  ∅     We all need food, fibre, fuel and fulfillment.

Summer is right around the corner and now is the time to replace those weeds with local species. Caloundra City Council has advised landholders that if they don't clear declared weeds from vacant properties, the Council will remove them and it probably won't come cheap! The type of weeds Council is concerned with are Broad and Small-leaved Privet, Camphor Laurels, Morning Glory, Wild Tobacco etc.

Range Revegetation is an established revegetation team with a commitment to landcare and catchment care issues. We aim to provide a comprehensive, professional service with the sensitivities of land conservation in mind. Former Green Corps trainees we are keen to continue providing an environmental labour force on the Range.

Range Revegetation is also available for brushcutting and chainsawing and are licenced to spray chemicals.

If you have any enquiries, please contact us on 0418 156 097 or through Barung on 5494 3151



**RANGE  
REVEGETATION**

**WEED OF THE MONTH**  
*from Lin Fairlie*

**MORNING GLORY**  
*Ipomoea indica*

Southern visitors to this area in summer have been known to comment on the beautiful purple flowers visible along sections of the roads from the coast to the Montville-Maleny plateau. We all know this flower as morning glory (*Ipomoea indica* or related species) in the family Convolvulaceae.

**ORIGIN:** Although common morning glory is native to tropical America, it was seen by Sir Joseph Banks in Queensland in 1770, which is not surprising as it is widely distributed through South East Asia. But whether it is introduced, or a native as some researchers suggest, its devastating effect on native bushland is becoming all too obvious.

**DESCRIPTION:** A rambling, vigorous perennial vine, it spreads rapidly up and over the top of any other vegetation forming a tangle



of stems bearing heart-shaped, sometime 5-lobed, alternate leaves. The broad trumpet shaped flowers are between 3-6 cms long as well as wide and can vary in colour from deep purple blue to purplish-white. The new vigorously growing stems are often pinkish and branch occasionally.

The plant spreads rapidly underground, its stolons (underground stems) producing many stems above ground. It does produce occasional papery, spherical capsules, approximately one cm across, containing seeds.



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**PROBLEM:** As stated previously, morning glory can smother other vegetation, cutting off the light so reducing the vigour of the supporting plant so that it eventually dies.

The rapid recent spread of morning glory could be due to its escapee habits as it has been used as an ornamental plant, as have many of our other weeds.

**DECLARATION STATUS:** While not a declared noxious weed by the Department of Natural Resources, the Caloundra City Council or the Maroochy Shire Council, its control is recommended.

**CONTROL:** can be attempted in three ways:

1. hand pulling;
2. spraying with herbicide;
3. cutting stems and painting stump with herbicide.

**Hand pulling:** Following accepted weed control methods, start from the edge of the infestation and move in towards the worst affected parts of the site. It is not necessary to pull the runners out of the branches of the supporting tree or shrub unless the host plant is completely enveloped and so would remain shaded. The stolons should be followed and pulled, remembering that it is very difficult to get all stolons the first time. It will be necessary to return to the area once shooting has occurred and remove, hopefully, the remaining underground stems.

This is obviously very slow but if done periodically will keep an area free of the vines. If the infestation is bad, the opened up area will be subject to infestation from other weeds so these will need to be watched and dealt with.

The advantage of this method is that existing natural species are not affected and usually recover to fill the remaining spaces. Revegetation can speed up this process.

**Herbicide Use:** A trial conducted in 1995 by the Alan Fletcher Research Station overseen by the Lands Department, Nambour with assistance by the Maroochy Shire Council, showed the most successful herbicide to be 2,4-D amine 500gm/L @ 1:125 with the addition of Synetrol oil at 1:500. This formulation caused less adverse effects on other vegetation than other chemicals used in this trial. If the growth of the vine is dense and spraying is from above, layers of morning glory below are not affected and so keep growing.

One recommendation in less dense areas is the removal of the vegetative top growth and then spraying on the ground with the 2,4D formulation.

Personally I have found this effective in areas where the morning glory was running through weeds (which I had hand pulled earlier) and out into the kikuyu. The problem with herbicide use (apart from the use of them at all) is that this herbicide will kill other vegetation,

so leaving exposed bare areas which are then prone to weed infestation.

**Cutting stems and painting cut stump surface.** This is effective with some other vines but I suspect that due to the multistemmed structure of morning glory it may not be as effective. Also some of the interlaced underground stolons may not be part of the treated network, so reducing the overall effectiveness of the treatment.

**NOTE.** All pulled/cut vines must be either removed from the site or left to dry up off the ground e.g. rolled into balls and hung up in the forks of trees. Any stems left on the ground can establish roots and so shoot forming new stems!

#### References:

1. Department of Primary Industries (1998), *DPI Note - Common Morning Glory*, Brisbane.
2. Kleinschmidt, H., Holland, A., Simpson, P. (1996), 'Suburban Weeds', *Blue Morning Glory. Ipomoea indica*. Department of Primary Industries, QLD.
3. Sparkes, E. (1996), *Blue Morning Glory. Ipomoea indica*. Final Report on Herbicide Trials conducted at Montville in February 1996. Alan Fletcher Research Station. Department of Lands, Brisbane, QLD.

Seed to collect Aug/Sept

cont'd

*Alphitonia excelsa* or Red Ash will also be fruiting soon and these are another fantastic pioneer species. They are a very widespread and adaptable tree occurring throughout Australia, SE Asia and the Pacific, from semi-desert conditions to the rainforests. Red Ash are capable of incredible growth rates in our region. I know of some that have grown 4m + in less than two years from seed that was in the ground. As well as providing almost instant shade, the timber is useful for cabinet making and is a good habitat tree for birds.

Red Ash fruit is a crumbly black drupe and contains a woody inner casing surrounding the seeds. The fruit are easy to collect but should be left out in the weather for at least a month so that it cracks and separates from the seed which, like the Black Wattle, require scarification to germinate.

Well this is the last Seed To Collect for the year, and so best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Merry seed collecting and a Happy germination to you all!!!

## WEEDBUSTERS

**& 10AM  
- THE FIRST SAT  
OF EACH MONTH**



Ring Linda  
5494 3491

Want to  
see our  
community  
boardwalk  
platypus?

Following closed door negotiations with Mr Platy, special viewings have been enjoyed by Barung's Weedbusters team at their last few gatherings.

The team is undertaking remnant regeneration on the banks of the Obi Obi Creek within the showgrounds near the Rotary Bridge.

To join them, or to meet Mr Platy, meet on site on the first Saturday of the month from 8-10am, or ring Linda on 5494 3497



### DEADLINE

FOR FEB/MARCH  
NEWSLETTER

**WEDNESDAY 16TH FEB.**

PLEASE LET US KNOW ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS SO WE CAN KEEP MEMBERSHIPS UP-TO-DATE.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR M'SHIPS- YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BARUNG

**THANKYOU**

## Maleny Amcal Chemist

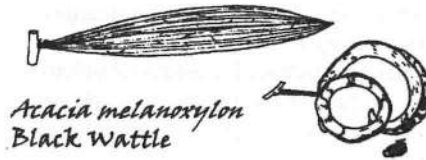
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Some of the many species fruiting over the next two months include many of our very useful pioneers. The seeds of many pioneer species are often very long lived, surviving in the soil for anywhere between one and a hundred years waiting for the right conditions to germinate. They are often opportunistic, thriving on harsh or even bare sites and are capable of incredible growth rates of anywhere between 1-3m per year.

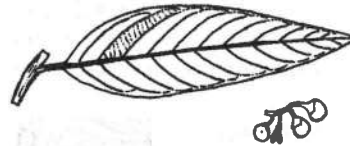
The most common pioneer we have on the range is undoubtedly the Black Wattle (*Acacia melanoxylon*). This acacia thrives in the higher rainfall areas of Australia's east coast and due to a combination of the high rainfall and fertile soils, becomes one of our tallest and long lived acacias. It can produce valuable timber suitable for cabinet work, and is

## Seed to collect in Dec/Jan

by SPENCER SHAW



*Alphitonia excelsa*  
Red Ash



Illustrations from Trees & Shrubs of Rainforests in NSW & Southern Queensland  
published by University of New England.

also useful for firewood. Like all acacias the black wattle is a soil-improving legume and once the tree dies or is harvested the nitrogen stored in the root system is released. These trees can provide windbreaks, soil stability, shade for other trees and valuable habitat for our local wildlife.

The seed of *A. melanoxylon* is hard, black and shiny and is found in the twisted brown woody pods often seen in large numbers on some trees. The pods are easily stripped from the trees but must be threshed to remove the seeds. The seed can be stored indefinitely, but germination requires scarification to break the dormancy. We achieve this by covering the seed with boiling water allowing them to soak overnight. The seed at least doubles in size after this soaking and will germinate readily within a week.

cont'd previous page

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