

# BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS



Dec 2000 ~ Jan 2001

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

## BARUNG SCOOPS THE POOL FOR BIODIVERSITY - AGAIN!!

The Blackall Range featured very strongly among the winners of the 6th Annual Sunshine Coast Environment Awards.

Several of the award trophies - a silver frog perched atop a globe of rainforest timber - made the journey back up the Range at the end of the evening.

Barung was again presented with the Environment Award for Biodiversity Initiative - having won this award for the first time in 1998. Lin Fairlie, President, and Marc Russell, Corridors of Green Project Officer, were there to accept the award on behalf of Barung.

Although all of Barung's work has retention of biodiversity through protection of our natural resources as its bottom line, Marc's project is specifically aimed at linking rainforest remnants to sustain genetic diversity of both flora and fauna.

Barung would like to congratulate our members who were also award winners: Alan and Stacey Franks, Hollow Log Homes, and Cedar Hills Flowers and Foliage - joint winners of the Clean Industry Initiative Award; Eve and Robert Scopes, winners of the Ecologically Sustainable Building Award; and Leela Timbers, winners of the Farm Forestry Award.

Congratulations also to Barung members Phil and Larney Grove, and Norm and Marlyn Walsh, who received commendations for the Farm Forestry Award.

We would like to congratulate all winners for the evening and also those people who were nominated but who did not receive an award, for their on-going contributions to the health and future of our unique environment from the range to the coast.

The Sunshine Coast Environment Council must be congratulated for highlighting, through these awards, the breadth and depth of environmental dedication among the Sunshine Coast community.

# Bridge the Gap



Saturday 24th February 2001

## Community Treeplant

If you were unlucky enough to miss the *Bridge the Gap 2000* Treeplant ... DON'T WORRY ...

YOU CAN COME TO *BRIDGE THE GAP 2001*.

*Bridge the Gap 2001* will again take place on the banks of Bridge Creek — with treeplanting in the morning

& an afternoon of relaxation, music and biodiversity education activities.

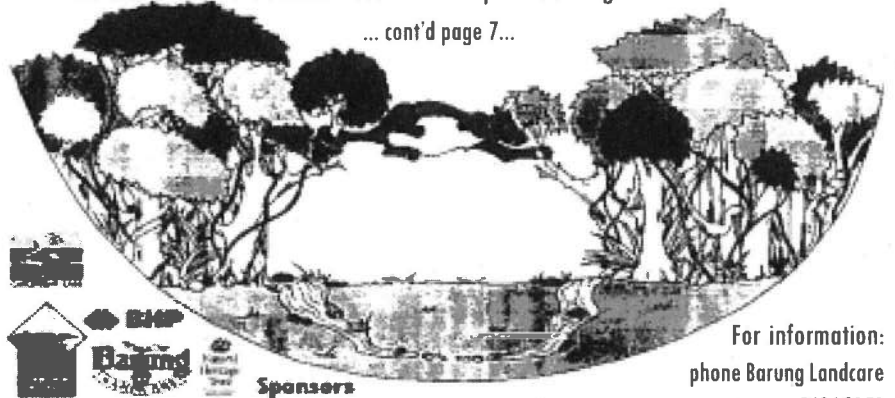
*Bridge the Gap 2001* boasts a great line-up for afternoon entertainment.

The music will start earlier and several excellent local bands and performers have already committed themselves to entertain the tree planters.

In 2000, more than 400 volunteers turned up to successfully plant 5000 trees by lunchtime (that's only 12.5 trees each!!).

In 2001, we hope to attract even more people to lighten the workload so we can all begin celebrations earlier. Free refreshments and a tasty morning tea will be provided for treeplanters & lunches will be available at reasonable prices throughout the afternoon.

... cont'd page 7...



For information:  
phone Barung Landcare  
on 5494 3151

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

J & S MacIntyre	G.M.A.N. Inc
Ann Fitton & Max Lampo	Nita Owen
Pepita Merrill-Bisshop	Wendy Lonie
Craig Ferguson	Donna Richardson
Vivienne Coleman	Peter Leary
Muriel Loveday	Bronwyn & Greg Fuller
Carolyn Male	Carbon Sinks Plantations P/L
Leigh Anderson	Lynette Baker
Mr & Mrs Day	Jinty Stockings
Mrs C Bloxham	Robert & Liz Shearer
Greg & Elizabeth Sek-Reid	L & R Heathcote
Larelle McMillan	Margaret Rutherford
John Morris	Keith Paxton
Peter Stevens	J Young & D Gallagher
Steve & Marg Lowe	Alan & Claire Wynn
Gwen Malcolm	Margaret Gollodge
Liz Illingworth	Tim & Toni Ferris
Felix & Julie Anderson	Lea Durie

Neil Cameron, Faridah Whyte & family

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT**

### *in this issue*

		page
Barung scoops the pool for biodiversity - again!	<i>Mim Coulstock</i>	1
Bridge the Gap 2001	<i>Marc Russell</i>	1
New members	<i>Barry Liddell</i>	2
From the President	<i>Lin Fairlie</i>	2
ANZ for Landcare Education	<i>Mim Coulstock</i>	3
Wildlife rescue	<i>Joy Maylor</i>	3
S.E.E.D.S.	<i>Karen Shaw</i>	4
Butterflies of the Range	<i>Bob Miller</i>	4
Barung nursery in new hands	<i>Mim Coulstock</i>	5
Nursery notes	<i>Russell Botterell</i>	5
Local Wild & Edible - Davidson's Plum	<i>Bernard Murawski</i>	6
Fire and biodiversity	<i>Clayton Stokoe</i>	6
<i>Laughing Waters</i> wins landslide prize	<i>Clayton Stokoe</i>	7
Bridge the Gap 2001 (cont'd)	<i>Marc Russell</i>	7
Barung landowners and farm foresters participate in national farm forestry scheme	<i>Mark Warnick</i>	8
Treetalk	<i>Tony Wootton</i>	8
Arts & the environment - a strange marriage or is it?	<i>Leisa Riggs</i>	9
Too much sun a killer for local fresh waterways	<i>Phillip Trendall</i>	9
Farmcare at home & in the Philippines	<i>John Muir</i>	10
Weed of the month - Wandering Jew	<i>Linda Ivezic</i>	10
Adopt-a-Spot is working on the Obi Boardwalk	<i>Clayton Stokoe</i>	11
Seed to collect - December & January	<i>Spencer Shaw</i>	12



**DEADLINE**  
FOR FEB - MARCH NEWSLETTER  
**WEDNESDAY 17TH JANUARY**

Please let us know of any change of address so we can keep membership data up-to-date. Please renew your memberships - your support is very important to Barung.

**THANKYOU**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Lin Fairlie*

I am sure that all landholders were as pleased as I was to see the rain return.

Lengthy periods of dry weather are good reminders of the need to use water retention techniques such as mulching and the development of swales wherever possible in order to reduce run off and so increase the water held in the soil.

Barung members and the community will be pleased to hear that Barung has been successful in securing a \$25,836 ANZ Staff Foundation gift which we will use to partly fund the Coordinator/Education Officer's position now that the NHT project has been completed.

You may also have seen that Barung was awarded \$1000 in the National Bank Community Link Awards. We thank those two institutions for their vital financial support. These banks have also expressed interest in bringing teams of volunteers for the *Bridge the Gap, 2001* treeplant in February. Both banks see this as an opportunity for team building.

Barung was also awarded the Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC) Award for Biodiversity in November. Recognition by such a variety of organisations of our achievements is very pleasing.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the Queensland Government has also supported us with a \$3000 grant for workshops in Alternative Agriculture for local landholders. Please contact Barung if you can contribute expertise or have any innovative ideas which we could help you explore. It is good that our ability to organize such events as well as carry out revegetation projects has been recognized by at least one section of the Q'land government.

The year ahead promises to be an "interesting" one as landcare groups come to terms with the virtual end of NHT funding and other sources of financial support are developed.

For Barung, 2001 will be busy with *Bridge the Gap*, the *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* Expo in May at the Showgrounds, and many other activities still in the planning stages.

Best wishes for the festive season.

Trees make lasting presents so drop into Barung and solve

at least some of your present problems. Don't forget that Lillipillies, Bunyas and Hoop Pines make great Christmas trees!



*Barry Liddell, Mim Coulstock & Lin Fairlie proudly show off the National Bank Award.*



## Country Stores

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- \* FENCING MATERIALS
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- \* FERTILISERS & GENERAL HARDWARE
- \* ALL DAIRY FARMERS PRODUCTS
- \* SHELL FUEL - Super, Unleaded, Diesel
- 24 Hour Service - 7 Days for Card Holders

# EDUCATION NEWS

## ANZ for Landcare Education

It was with great pleasure that Barung representatives met with ANZ managers, Mr Peter Dwan, Beerwah, and Mr Brad Platz, Maleny, in October to accept a cheque for Landcare Education from the ANZ Staff Foundation.

Established in 1988, the Staff Foundation was set up to help meet the needs of communities throughout Australia, by supporting a range of charitable organisations through a grant-making program and direct staff involvement.

The Foundation is funded by contributions from ANZ and staff. Staff at all levels are actively encouraged to support the work of the Foundation by giving time to some of the projects it funds.

This ANZ support for landcare is very timely as our NHT Education funding ended in September. Barung has always considered landholder education to be a critical part of landcare. We believe that far more can be achieved to address local natural resource problems if landholders are empowered through education to address the problems on their own properties.

Landholder education leads to greater ownership of environmental problems and rewards and who better to take responsibility for our land than its present custodians.

Barung Landcare looks forward to working with regional ANZ staff on local landcare projects, including community treeplants, in the coming years. Welcome aboard the Starship Barung and many many thanks for your generous landcare support.



Peter Dwan presents Mim with ANZ Staff Foundation cheque

# Wildlife Rescue

from Joy Maylor

As a wildlife carer I see many injured native animals. Cats, dogs and loss of natural habitat are the main culprits, forcing our native fauna to go into areas where they are more vulnerable.

Random deforestation is causing enormous stress for our wildlife and therefore it is important not to continue this trend in our own backyards. We must become more aware of our environment and its importance to both the human race and our native flora and fauna. Once it's gone, it's gone!! We must not be complacent in thinking that it will last forever.

There are several different ways that we can all help with the survival of our precious native fauna species including:

1. keeping cats and dogs indoors or locked up at nightfall and not letting them out until daylight, as the majority of our native mammals are nocturnal. As a wildlife carer I see many animals with horrific injuries caused by cat and dog attacks.

Unfortunately, in the majority of cases there is virtually nothing the carers or vets can do with these injuries as infection sets in too rapidly and severely. Invariably the animal or bird has to be euthanased.

2. provide adequate nesting sites in your backyard trees.

Many people are not aware that the older a tree is, the more it is likely to have nesting hollows. This is especially important if you have to cut a tree down as it may already be home to any number of species. Please do not cut down old trees unless it is absolutely necessary. If you have no choice, replace its hollows with the correct nesting boxes and reap the rewards of seeing the different species come and use them.

Make sure you get professional advice on how and where to hang the boxes. Location is extremely important for the best results. Keep in mind that the further away from the house or other traffic areas the better. Specially made nesting boxes - to suit a wide variety of mammal and bird species - and advice on their use, may be obtained from Alan and Stacey Franks of Hollow Log Homes (ph 5472 3142).

It's not difficult to do this with a bit of forethought and consideration for the wildlife with which we share the environment. After all, they were here first!

If you need help or advice on wildlife issues, or find an injured animal, you can ring me on 5442 9177 or 0401 434 901, or call the WILVO 24 Hour Hotline on 5441 6200.

## COFFEE PROVES TO BE A REAL LOCAL OPTION

Local coffee growers, local landholders and industry were all represented at the well-attended Coffee Growers meeting held at Barung in October.



If you are interested in growing coffee, please contact Des Harries on 5494 2022.

Time for a coffee break!



Guest speaker: Lachlan Hosking from Merlos

## NEEDED

### FOR BARUNG'S EDUCATION PROGRAM

Please contact Mim at Barung if you have an old TV &/or VIDEO you could donate to the Resource Centre. We also need a guillotine for production of display materials if you have one lying unused in the shed!!

## WILVO INFO NIGHT



Tiny squirrel glider found clinging to its mutilated mother by a passing motorcyclist - now thriving in kind WILVO hands.

Come and learn what to do & what not to do with injured birds/animals. Learn how you can support our loving wildlife carers.

Guest Speaker: Joy Maylor, Vice Pres, WILVOS

7 - 9PM, THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER AT MARY CAIRCROSS SCENIC RESERVE

## SEEDS.



from  
Karen Shaw

Congratulations to our fantastic little environmentalists and their great Frog Garden display for the *Rivers of the Range*. They provided an interesting presentation and answered many questions from participants eager to make their own garden environment a great place for frogs. S.E.E.D.S. won an award on the day in recognition for the "Best Child-run Workshop". Well done!

Our October S.E.E.D.S. afternoon was devoted to developing the frog display - finalising the banner and making informative posters. We also brainstormed details for the information booklets to be presented to workshop participants. These booklets contained ideas for frog ponds, plant requirements, places/people to talk to, and features to include to make sure the garden is frog friendly. We still have some copies if you'd like one.

November S.E.E.D.S. meant wet feet and muddy legs! We sampled the reeds in the little creek behind Barung and scooped up all sorts of organisms for investigation of the "Micro-world". Marc and Ian from Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group were marvelous guides into this world of dragonfly larvae and flatworms. The contents of our buckets were carefully examined with magnifying glasses and microscopes to introduce us to many unknown creatures.

Marc and Ian explained that, as with all natural environments, the more diversity the healthier it is. Unfortunately we were surprised to only identify about 10 species and the creek lacked many of the species seen in healthier water systems. We decided that this may be due to factors such as heavy rains causing high nutrient levels. We would like to take water samples from the creek again next year to see if water quality has improved.

Marc suggested we also collect samples from the Obi Obi Creek and compare the species found. An excellent idea! Thanks to Marc and Ian for their time, knowledge and inspiration. We learnt lots and really enjoyed using the microscope.

On Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, Jeanette Nobes took our photo for the Maleny 2000 Centenary of Federation Project. Thanks Jeanette for supporting us and helping to promote the group.

Our December S.E.E.D.S. will be a Christmas Party - yahoo! We all love parties. Come and join us for a fun afternoon - games, presents, pinata. We'll celebrate at Bicentenary Park, next to Barung and then go to Graatz Mexican Restaurant over the road for dinner. Please phone Barung if you'd like to join us for dinner - so we can book a big enough table!

The kids were keen to discuss ideas for a Christmas Holiday holiday - well, you know what we mean!! We've thought about going to some local Environmental Education Camps in the region for a camping/bushwalking holiday. Any other suggestions would be gratefully accepted on the Christmas Party afternoon.

## Congratulations to ...

... *Josi & Owen* on the birth of beautiful Hannah Alice. We've put her name down for S.E.E.D.S. 2005!

## Thank you to ...

... *Pauline Clayton* for your donation of water bottles for thirsty reveg workers!

## Butterflies of the Range

from Bob Miller

### DAINTY SWALLOWTAIL

(*Papilio anactus*)  
formerly *Dingy Swallowtail*

Another of the so-called "citrus butterflies" is the Dainty Swallowtail. As can be seen by the heading, this butterfly has had a name change which more accurately describes it as there is nothing dingy about it.



The dainty swallowtail actually looks very similar to the small female orchard swallowtail. Male and female dainty swallowtails are very hard to tell apart, with size being the main difference. From wingtip to wingtip, males measure approximately 67mm and females approximately 72mm.

The larvae are approximately 38mm long when fully grown. Larval colour is an overall khaki with minute blue spots. They also have rows of larger yellow-orange spots running from front to back along the body. The larvae have short, fleshy spines which will not sting or irritate you if they are handled.

The pupae is approximately 31mm long, and is brown to grey with splashes of green. It is much narrower and straighter than the pupae of the orchard swallowtail. The pupae suspends itself, head upwards, by its tail and a central silken girdle to a branch or the main stem of the foodplant. It takes about ten days (in summer) to transform from this inanimate looking object into a dainty little swallowtail.

Once emergence is complete and the adult wings are spread and dry, it flies off to mate with another of its kind. Eggs will again be laid singly under the new shoots of your citrus trees and the whole cycle begins again.

The best of the native plants I have found for dainty swallowtail larvae is Native Lime (*Microcitrus australis*) but Finger Lime (*Microcitrus australasica*) should be just as successful as a larval foodplant.

Apart from the native foodplants any of the introduced citrus trees will prove very attractive to this welcome garden visitor.

Both of the native citrus mentioned above are periodically available from the Barung Landcare Nursery in Maleny.

Further information about this butterfly and its lifecycle can be had by reading Butterflies of Australia by Common and Waterhouse, 1981, or Butterflies of Australia by Michael Braby, 2000.

Illustration from *Butterflies of Australia Vol. One*, by Michael E Braby



# Cockatoo Hill

**ITMOTS**  
*(Interesting Things Made Out of Timber)*  
**Portable Sawmilling and Chainsaw Service**  
*Linda and Norman*  
**07 5494 3497      0412 515 184**

## Barung Nursery In New Hands

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Russell Botterell to the Barung team! Russell comes to us from a farm forestry nursery background with a passion for expanding his knowledge of rainforest species and local biodiversity.

Although only here for a brief time he feels like a part of the team - a sure sign of the 'right man for the job'. (He also has a wicked sense of humour, so watch out!)



*Spencer passes the Barung 'torch' to Russell Botterell,  
Barung's new Nursery Manager*

Spencer has retired to build up his seed collecting business and spend quality time with his young son Angus while Karen goes out to work!!

We're delighted that Spencer will have ongoing input into Barung via his roles on the Management Committee, as Convenor of the Nursery Sub-committee, and as education support with his *Seed To Collect* column in the newsletter and continuing Tree ID Walks.

If you haven't had the occasion to meet Russell yet, please drop into the Nursery and introduce yourselves.

**DON'T FORGET YOU CAN RECYCLE YOUR USED PLASTIC BAGS THROUGH THE NURSERY.**

**FOR SALE**  
**EMPTY NATIVE TUBES**  
only \$2.20 per box  
(approx 200/box)  
Phone Russell At Nursery  
on 54943151  
Tuesday to Friday

## NURSERY NOTES

*from Russell Botterell*

What's going on?

If you haven't already heard, there's been a slight change in the Barung Nursery team. For those of you who have been in the Nursery lately and wondered if Spencer had been ingesting too much Osmocote and sprouted an extra 6 inches, then wonder no longer!

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Russell Botterell and I'm the new fearless Nursery manager. But don't panic! Spencer hasn't left the country - in fact Spencer has not even left Maleny. He can still be seen wandering the streets, secateurs in hand with his trusty offside Angus leading the way.

So hello to all of you and welcome to a new era in Barung history.

And what about that rain! After the recent dry spell it was "not bad" (understatement?) to see a little bit of moisture back in the ground. That consensus was reflected in the number of trees being collected by customers who had been waiting patiently for a bit of that wet stuff from the sky.

Don't despair all ye who enter the Nursery area. Stocks *are* low at the moment, but it is really hard to keep stock up with the weather conditions being so tree-planting friendly.

We are restocking with a vengeance and hoping to be brimming with species diversity again as soon as possible.

Barung's volunteer workforce deserves even more praise for their consistent devotion to the Nursery. It's always good to see fresh faces, so if you are interested in allocating a little of your time to becoming part of the team, we would love to hear from you.

Christmas is upon us *AGAIN* and now is the time (if you haven't already) to consider your Christmas tree. So what about a "living local" instead of a "withering weed" (sorry to all those pine tree growers out there).

There are some amazing Australian Christmas tree alternatives and Barung has a great selection of advanced stock that will really catch Santa's eye and be a great pot plant in between Christmases.

And if you're stuck for ideas for pressies, why not kill two birds with one stone (please don't try that at home). Barung has beautiful plants ready for that special gift for a friend or rellie. If you find it too hard to choose, why not give them a Barung gift voucher so they can select their own favourite trees or a 12 month Barung membership.

Have a great Christmas and remember: THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY.

**NURSERY CLOSED DECEMBER 24TH TO JANUARY 1ST INCLUSIVE**

★ What better gift than a beautiful, inexpensive rainforest tree...



... a gift to that special person,  
to their grandchildren  
and to the planet

*Available for Christmas*

- \* Advanced trees - perfect for gifts
- \* Books about native plants, fauna & wild places
- \* Gift vouchers
- \* 12 month Barung membership voucher

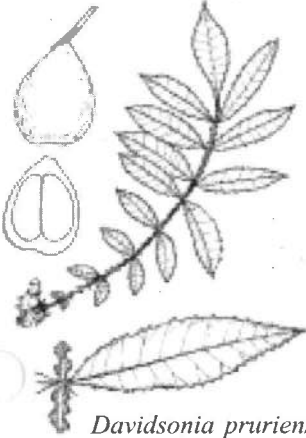
Hours: Tues - Fri, 9am - 4pm; Sat, 9am - noon

## Local Wild & Edible

from Bernard Murawski

### DAVIDSON'S PLUM (*Davidsonia pruriens*)

*Davidsonia pruriens*



*Davidsonia pruriens*  
var. *jerseyana*

If I had a love/hate relationship with a fruit, it would have to be the Davidsons Plum (*Davidsonia pruriens*). I love the deep blue/purple skin and the rich red flesh that I am drawn to devour, but the sour taste limits me to small nibbles at regular intervals.

The Davidsons Plum was named after J. Davidson who was a pioneer sugar grower at Rockingham Bay, North Queensland. The species name, *pruriens*, means itching or irritation and refers to the fine golden hairs that cover the leaves, fruit and

shoots. There are two varieties (var. *jerseyana* and var. *pruriens*) as well as the Smooth Davidsons Plum (an unnamed species).

The tree has evolved on basaltic soils though is adaptable to many soil types. It likes well-drained sites, but will cope with less-than-perfect drainage. Although preferring a moist soil, a mature plant can withstand 4-5 months of no rain. Young plants will die if the soil is allowed to dry out. The young plant can be sensitive to full sunlight if not properly hardened-off. The mature tree will grow successfully in full sun to dappled light, preferably with an eastern aspect.

Propagation is usually only by seed, but as this plant is fairly rare it is advised not to take seeds (fruit) from the natural environment. Only obtain seed from cultivated trees or buy a nursery-grown plant. The fruit posses two seeds with one seed sometimes being sterile. The Smooth Davidsons Plum seed is usually sterile so propagation is by cuttings only. None of the variations are particularly sensitive to phosphorous and Dynamic Lifter, Agriform tree tablets, and animal manures have been used successfully to fertilize.

Davidsons Plum has few pests and diseases though it can suffer from leaf mites and an unidentified insect that will leave small dead patches on the leaves. An unidentified predator (possibly a bird) has been found to eat through the flesh of the fruit to get to the seed which it consumes.

Davidsons Plum usually grows as a single stem tree to a height of around 6-10 meters with a crown of large, stiff leaves. Fruit form on the trunk or the upper axils and begin to appear at about 4-5 years of age. Flowering and fruiting times can be sporadic though fruit is generally harvested in the early part of the year.

The fruit makes the best jam of any native fruit and also produces a nice, dry red wine. In cooking, treat the Davidson Plum as you would a blood plum with the stronger flavour equalling about 2-3 blood plums. It makes a wonderful sweet sauce that you can pour over ice-cream, pancakes or other deserts as well as a savoury sauce that particularly suits pork, duck or chicken. Also try substituting the the juice of the fruit for vinegar in salad dressings.



## Fire and Biodiversity

from Clayton Stokoe

Fire has been an integral part of Australian vegetation patterning for thousands of years. So much so that Australian plants take on many diverse and varying adaptations to cope with a particular fire regime. Listening to Tim Flannary in a lecture in 1999 brought home to me the impact of Aboriginal fire management and the effect it had on ecosystem dynamics in this country.

I recently attended a "Fire and Biodiversity" conference at the Mt Cootha Herbarium. Topics included: fire in the Cooloola heathlands; fire regimes and biodiversity; fire monitoring on the grassy balds of the Bunya Mountains; impact of fire on reptiles; fire management for heterogeneity (the state of not being homogeneous); the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service fire management system; and management of fire in urban environments.

Listening to the various speakers brought made me realise how little we actually know, on a collective basis, about fire management to maximise biodiversity. One speaker brought home the point that "we seem to manage fire to favour one area of biodiversity, rather than encompassing the whole successional development of that ecosystem". Even though at a certain stage of successional development, that overall "whole" means low biodiversity in the immediate context.

What became apparent when considering a fire management strategy is that it needs to be designed around holistic considerations. This means research. Each ecosystem has an upper and lower threshold that is unique within that system, and a fire regime outside those boundaries may immeasurably alter that balance.

Russell Fairfax spoke about the management practices on the "grassy balds" in the Bunya Mountains. For those who don't know about these "grassy balds", they are grasslands surrounded by rainforest and Eucalypt forest, that exist through the fire management practices of the Aboriginals. These grassy fields are now slowly disappearing due to encroaching forest through the change in the fire regime.

What I found interesting was these herbaceous ecosystems have closer floristic affinities to the Monaro High Plains south of Canberra, than to the grassy plains of the Darling Downs only 20 kms away. That indicates to me that these "balds" have been managed at a particular regime for around 12,000 years, and that what remain are relics of colder times. This raises particular managerial complications when considering a fire strategy, due to those "balds" being human induced.

So back to Tim Flannary. The question is ultimately "what ecosystem are we trying to maintain?" This must be the highest priority when considering/developing a fire management strategy.

So, this all boils down to the fact that fire is a very complex issue, and when management strategies are being considered, very thoughtful, long term and close observations need to take place. This means accurate record keeping of plant, animal and bird species lists, and a basic understanding of their biology before planning can incorporate a holistic approach.

## **BUSH REGENERATION WORKSHOP**

Considerable interest has been generated by my article in the September-October Newsletter concerning the possibility of a workshop on bush regeneration.

I am pleased to say that Barung will be running a full day **Bush Regeneration Workshop** on **Saturday 10th February 2001**. There will be a cost involved, but this is yet to be decided.

Most of the day will be spent out on site - looking at and comparing strategies adopted for effective regeneration, what has worked and what has not. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please ring Barung and gister your name.



... cont'd from page 1...

Everyone involved in *Bridge the Gap* 2000 found the experience very uplifting.

In a world where people seem to have trouble getting on with one another, it is inspiring to see so many people from all walks of life working together as friends to achieve important environmental outcomes.

The community is a powerful force when we focus our energy on such worthwhile positive projects. It makes me feel hopeful for the ture of this planet and the life found upon it.

As part of the festivities we will be releasing several fingerlings of the critically endangered Mary River Cod, once abundant in the Obi Obi Creek but now facing extinction.

*Bridge the Gap* is all about identifying the best patches of old growth rainforest we have left and creating vegetation linkages to allow genetic flow between these remnants.

Fragmentation is the biggest threat to the flora and fauna within these forests, where small populations are prone to poor genetic diversity and even inbreeding. By creating these corridors, wildlife can move between the 'islands' of forest, enabling them to interbreed and carry pollen and seeds of many plant species. The greater the genetic variation of a species, the greater the chances of long-term survival and adaption to climatic change.

Many species will become extinct unless we act now to conserve our planet's biodiversity - essential for all life including that of man.

If you would like to be part of a positive solution, please join us for a free day of fun, friends and frivolity as we bridge yet another gap between some of our magnificent local rainforest remnants.

contact Marc Russell - ph 07 5494 9608

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **"LAUGHING WATERS" wins \$2000 Landslip Prize**

Barung is pleased to announce that Dennis Wood and Jane Abercrombie of "Laughing Waters" at Flaxton, are the winners of the *Focus on Landslips* prize - \$2000 worth of assistance in plants, mulch and fertilizer and a week's labour by Barung's current Green Corps team.

The "Laughing Waters" landslip, which occurred in December 1999, will allow good photographic documentation resulting in a high educational component that goes beyond just rehabilitation. Dennis and Jane are happy for it to be used as a demonstration site for people wanting to achieve similar outcomes.

Although the site has many complications to achieving stability, Dennis and Jane will be undertaking engineering works to address this before the revegetation work begins.

The site can be accessed in wet weather which also means it can meet the time parameters of the competition. The slip has devastated a large tract of brushbox regrowth forest and continues to send large quantities of silt into the creek below.

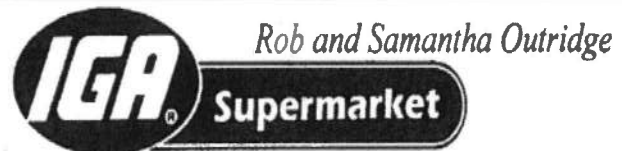
Dennis and Jane have been members of Barung for a long time and are very committed to their landcare work. At present they are establishing a 3000 tree rehabilitation project adjacent to their creek. Congratulations Dennis and Jane!

Applications were measured against certain criteria to give the best outcome from the available resources. A rating system was used when assessing prize sites. Criteria included: size of project; the need for fencing; 4WD accessibility; likely outcomes; time restraints; preparational work required; landcare commitment shown to date; educational aspects; and photographic potential for monitoring purposes.

Assessing the competition sites was an interesting though arduous job with some of the slips being almost vertical, some still moving, and some not even visible for weed growth. The number and variety of slip sites made us even more aware of the potential for further slippage on our steep cleared country, especially in very wet years. It also accentuated the need for urgent revegetation/stabilization of potential sites before the slips occur.

Many thanks to all landholders who took the time to submit an application.

Barung staff would be happy to answer any questions about slips.



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*Barung landowners and farm foresters  
participate in national farm forestry scheme  
from Mark Warnick*

This is a call for anyone with plantations big or small to participate in a national farm forestry inventory being conducted by the Bureau of Social Sciences in Canberra.

It is a great opportunity for every region in the country to compile basic figures of how much private forest estate exists in Australia. This information will be invaluable in allowing private growers to assess the overall strength of the timber market and see where the big demand and supply opportunities lie. It is also a great chance for private landowners to acquire some basic inventory skills and natural resource management expertise to help them with their farm forestry.

The collation of plantation resource information is very important for the development of farm forestry. It provides a clear picture of species, areas and distribution of the estate which is essential for informed regional planning, marketing and advice to growers, industry and government.

The first national report on Australia's plantations will be published in March 2001 and will provide a detailed account of the extent of commercial plantations nationally. This will be the first time it will include the farm forestry component.

Critical information required is: location of your planting (geographical coordinates); AGM references or latitudes and longitudes, or at very least the postcode and nearest town; area of plantation or farm planting; species planted and provenience details if available; and year of planting. Growers can, if desired, have full confidentiality of their name and details.

Please get involved. We – as private growers, as a region, and as a Landcare group – will see great benefits. We will receive a complimentary copy of the March 2001 report providing maps and tables of species, age and area information for all plantations by regions in Australia; establishment of a framework and capacity for ongoing inventory activities; and high level recognition of resources for regional planning and marketing purposes and for national farm forestry initiatives.

The March report will also include a summary regional profile to showcase regions from a farm forestry perspective.

Please send details by mid December to Mark Warnick, PO Box 1244, Nambour Q 4560, Ashley Sewell, DNR, Nambour or drop into Barung Landcare.

For further information, call me on 5446 8996 or Ashley on 5451 2267. Thanks for your help. You can be assured that you are taking a very worthwhile step for the progress of farm forestry in our region.

## Local folk among Healthy Waterways Awards finalists

Congratulations to Mick and Margaret McGinnis of Woombye, and Shane and MaryLou Gittins from Kilcoy who were among the State Government finalists for the Rural Award of the Healthy Waterways Awards, designed to recognise efforts to improve the health of south-east Queensland's waterways.

The overall winner will be selected from the winners of the six categories: Industry; Government; Community; School; Rural; and Media. and will be presented with a \$10,000 prize by the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Rod Welford, on December 4.

## TREE TALK

by Tony Wootton

Hello again tree people. Haven't we been treated to a glorious spring floral display by the trees of the Blackall Range? I'm sure this period in history will be remembered as 2000 AD - Year of the *Brachychiton*. The intense dry period has resulted in an equally intense floral display by both endemic and non-endemic local trees.

The big names in the native floral stakes have been: Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*); Native Frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*); Tree Waratah (*Alloxylon flameum*); and I'm told, Blueberry Ash (*Eleaocarpus reticulatus*). One specimen in particular, the flame tree in the grounds of the Catholic church at the Western end of Maleny township, has me wondering if it's not secretly hooked up to mains power. And it just *keeps* hanging on to its flowers, which are quite cute little individuals if you take the time, or have the opportunity, to look at them.

The aforementioned visual feast triggered several thoughts in my mind. Firstly, we as a community or bio-region, could use these trees more extensively in our streetscapes for dramatic affect in series plantings, perhaps using species with striking foliage as an interplant.

This could really add to the signature of our region in terms of public perception/tourism, as well as enriching our own lives and enhancing our awareness of the passing of the seasons while reminding us of the incredible beauty that exists around us. So anyone with an eye for color, and some empty road frontage, get planting! Bear mind, of course, the proximity to power lines, buildings, and eventual size of the species concerned.

I was also reminded of a fantasy I've had for several years now - the fantasy of planting out several hectares in a design incorporating various native tree species selected for their floral or foliar attributes. These would be planted in patterns so that when viewed from the air, different universal symbols are revealed as the seasons bring changing floral or foliar displays. For example, we could have a bright red peace sign fading into a light green yin-yang symbol as spring turns to summer. A similar concept was employed by a NSW canola farmer who celebrated the Sydney Olympics by pattern planting his crop, the obvious difference being that canola only flowers once, briefly, whereas using a forest would be far more intricate, awe-inspiring and enduring - our tribute to the future.

This fantasy is then extended to include a thousand square kilometre planting of eucalypts that could be structured to display the symbol of your choice - Barung Landcare perhaps - when viewed by orbiting satellites and space stations.

Returning now from deep space I feel that the time is once again drawing near when, alas, I must say "farewell." I trust that you have been provided with a brief insight into another fascinating area of arboriculture ie. designing treescapes.

### **WATERWATCH COORDINATOR -Brisbane Valley - Kilcoy Landcare**

Part-time (Jan - Sept 2000) funded by NHT, community and local govt.

Successful applicant will: maintain & extend network of community water quality monitoring thro'out the Upper Brisbane & Stanley River catchment; be self-starter with excellent communication skills & planning & coordinating experience; have experience in water quality monitoring.

**Closing date for applications - Friday 8th December 2000.**

CONTACT: Secretary MaryLou Gittins, Ph: 54971018, Fax: 54971909 or Email: [gcows@caliph.net.au](mailto:gcows@caliph.net.au) for job description and selection criteria.





## Mary River Cod Community Network from Leisa Riggs

### Arts and the Environment A strange marriage - or is it?

Coming from a Community Arts background it was a natural progression for me to include an arts-based component into my position as project officer for the Mary River Cod Community Network.

How, you might ask, do the Arts fit into the environment? Let me give you an example: picture a five metre Cod drifting down Mary St. in Gympie. No it's not flood time again but the recent Gympie Goldrush procession. And a crowd of more than five thousand spectators is lining the streets.



Four people are inside this giant creature, and he is perusing a variety of equally large insects, myself included (as a two metre frog). There's amazement, laughter but most importantly discussion. The loud speaker introduces the Mary River Cod and tells of his plight. The majority of these people had probably never heard of the Cod before. How else do you get a message like this out into the streets?

*"The Cod"  
lies finished & waiting  
for the Gympie  
Goldrush*



*Gympie High arts  
students working on the giant Cod*

But where did this giant fish come from?

It was the culmination of six weeks of workshops held at Gympie High. Sixteen Year 11 Applied Art students and their teacher undertook to construct the giant creatures as part of their art program. They learnt new skills, heard of opportunities for their futures and learnt a lot about the Cod through casual discussions, not lectures. They learnt subliminally and they had a heap of fun!

The media also took up the cause with a page two article in the Gympie Times (?) and later on a comic.

We are all so busy, children and adults alike. There is so much written word about the Cod and so little time to read it: strategies, reports, flyers, posters, pamphlets, websites etc, etc. All are important and all equally serious.

We never have enough time to laugh let alone reflect on all the positive changes that are happening in our precious environment.

So whether it be through song, performance or public art, we are reaching many people in a non confronting way and planting a different kind of seed.

### Too much sun a killer for local fresh waterways

from Phillip Trendall

Mary River Cod Habitat Extension Officer, ph 5482 4251

In times of dry weather and low water flows, the role of riparian vegetation is even more vital for freshwater ecosystems to be able to function. Our local climate historically experiences these drought conditions when many creeks are reduced to nothing more than small pools with a trickle of water flowing between them. This causes oxygen levels to drop in the water, especially when all flow into the pools stops.

One problem that occurs is caused by the large build up of decaying vegetation such as leaves at the bottom of such pools. The breakdown of this vegetation takes more dissolved oxygen from the water. If the pool is in shade from

the surrounding riparian vegetation, this decay occurs slowly and there is still oxygen available for animals and plants to survive. If the pool is in direct sunlight however, the decay process is accelerated and oxygen levels can decrease to lethal levels. This is combined with the fact that the warmer the water, the less oxygen is available.

These pools often also trap excess nutrients from surrounding land uses. Without the shade from vegetation, the sunlight combined with these nutrients will cause sudden increases in waterweeds and algae to the point where they can even become dominant along the waterway. As these weeds grow, they use oxygen from the water, and if levels are already low from the dry conditions, this again can cause dissolved oxygen to drop to a lethal level. When these waterweeds and algae finally die off from lack of nutrients or oxygen, they join the decaying vegetation at the bottom of the pools, creating an environment in which fish and other river creatures cannot survive. Even recreational activities like swimming have to be stopped.

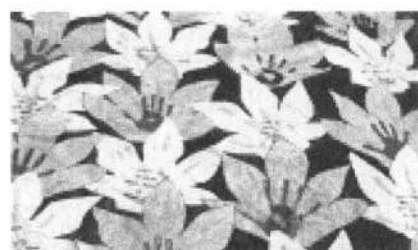
To maintain a functioning ecosystem, the standard for dissolved oxygen levels in freshwater streams is 4 mg/L. Our native flora and fauna have adapted to conditions with levels as low as 2 mg/L in dry times, but at the recent fish kill dissolved oxygen levels were measured at 0.68 mg/L.

This catchment is the last natural refuge for the protected Mary River Cod. Riparian Vegetation is very important to the Mary River Cod habitat recovery process of as it provides snags, food and protection. Just as we, in such dry conditions as recently experienced, like shade, the Mary River Cod need shade. Cod like cool water and plenty of oxygen (because of their size). The shade provided by riparian vegetation controls the water temperature, the rate of vegetation decay and the amount of waterweeds present. Let's maintain the riparian vegetation that will provide better water quality for everyone in the catchment while preventing suffocation of our own endangered native fish.

**Congratulations Barung  
& students of Landsborough Primary**

**FINALIST**

Gold Tree Icon Competition  
Olympic Landcare 2000 Project  
for Peace Park Gold Tree



## FARMCARE – LANDCARE IN HORTICULTURE IN SEQ (& the Philippines)

from John Muir, DPI Horticultural Research Station, Nambour  
Ph: 5444 9611 / 0418 158 623

### Farmcare project update at home...

The Farmcare project has reached an interesting stage after its first year.

We are presently working with three existing horticultural industry grower groups: in pineapples, with Sunshine Coast Sub Tropical Fruit growers and the Family Banana marketing group. In our discussions over the year with these groups, we have identified major environmental (and other) issues and challenges that they will have to face in the future.

One of the outcomes has been the agreement of growers to be more pro-active in the development of auditable Environmental Management Systems, or EMS. An EMS is similar to food safety or QA (Quality Assurance) systems that have been widely adopted by industry, but in this case has an emphasis on managing environmental impacts. The benefits of adopting an EMS can be significant. Opportunities include: reduced input cost through improved environmental efficiencies (eg. fertilizer and pesticides); improved market access; and differentiation of product through the use of an eco-label and provision of proof of environmental responsibility, negating the need for prescriptive government regulation.

We believe that such outcomes, using the EMS process, would go well in meeting the objectives of the project - to improve the adoption of conservation practices on farms. This EMS process would be a means to an end using the different grower groups we are already working with and others, as possible EMS case studies and pilot groups. Growers want to cut straight to the core of the many environmental issues confronting them, and EMS may be the vehicle to address that request. In other words, growers have said "just tell me what I need to do and I will do it".

The next phase of this project would then be to work with the grower groups to identify and develop the many different EMS for each product or horticultural farming system.

### ... and in the Philippines



John Muir and Chris Rinehart presenting certificates at the August 'Landcare Facilitators' Training Workshop, at the Uni of Philippines Los Banos campus. The venue was SEARCA (South

East Asian Centre for Research and Graduate Study in Agriculture) and participants were Landcare facilitator counterparts of Barung's International Landcare in the Philippines project, funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

Already over 400 Landcare groups have been formed and interest in the Landcare concept is spreading widely.

## WEED OF THE MONTH

from Linda Ivezic

### WANDERING JEW (*Tradescantia fluminensis*)

*Tradescantia fluminensis* is the botanical name for Wandering Jew and as this month's weed, has proven to be the most difficult of all so far as finding written information. Ironically, it's probably the most common weed ever I've come across!

Wandering Jew is very common in older suburban gardens but is also surprisingly well established in Maleny eg on the boardwalk and in local gardens. If you're the sort of gardener who limits themselves to one annual cleanup, you'll be aware that pulling it out as a once-off has no lasting effect. It comes back very quickly and vigorously.

A few Barung members have experimented with *chook therapy* with some good results. They've put temporary fencing (electric or otherwise) around the affected area, put the chooks in and they've cleaned up the problem really well. The process has had to be repeated up to six times but after that there has been no return of the weed. It's an interesting and innovative form of chemical free weed control and the chooks really appreciate it!

For areas such as public sites (where chook therapy isn't possible!), Barung is in the early stages of looking at alternative solutions. Traditionally, we've been told that Starane 200 is the only chemical which has an effect. (Starane is the current registered control). We're working on an interesting alternative. If you'd like more information, please contact Barung directly. For legal reasons we cannot put anecdotal chemical methods into print.

In areas where chemicals are inappropriate and manual options are limited, use of a "weed burner" to "wilt" the plants is reported to have potential, with light dew in early morning treatment increasing the cooking effect and minimising the risk of wildfire.

Wandering Jew is a perennial and thrives in shaded areas. It can actually grow in water only. It is a very weak procumbent herb that only becomes erect at the end of its straggling stems or in positions where it can find support, such as on adjacent erect weeds and plants. No fruiting body is produced but it can root at each node. This explains why it is so hard to completely remove when hand-weeding but why chooks can eradicate it. They never leave tasty morsels untouched! Wandering Jew has a white flower at the end of each stem and is flowering at the moment.

Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) has a 'near look-alike' native equivalent - Native Wandering Jew (*Commelina cyanea*) - which has a blue flower and finer, slightly hairy leaves. Native Wandering Jew fits in exactly the same ecological niche as the exotic Wandering Jew, although it stays closer to the ground.

Another native alternative is *Pollia macrophylla* which has the capacity to suppress Wandering Jew due to its height of one metre. On native regeneration sites, *Pollia* has a competitive edge after 3 to 5 years. The good news is that chooks won't eat *Pollia*!

One last piece of advice: if clearing *Tradescantia* from waterways, do it in stages as large scale removal can lead to significant scouring and streambed erosion.



Native Wandering Jew  
- *Commelina cyanea*

## ADOPT-A-SPOT is working on the Obi Boardwalk

Thank you to those who responded to the "Adopt A Spot" program advertised in the Range News and our last Barung newsletter. The objective of this program is to get help for the ongoing maintenance of our public revegetation sites, starting with the Boardwalk in town.

As we are heading to the close of the NHT Revegetation and Remnant Protection Project in late January, maintenance of public sites in particular will be an on going issue.

Basically we need help from Barung members and non-members alike big time.

The four people who have taken on a spot to date attended a brief weed ID workshop at Barung. We then visited the Boardwalk select sites which they saw as manageable within their available time.

This program is designed to suit you and your life - however large or small the site you choose is dependent on what you can effectively manage at times convenient to you.

All assistance will be greatly appreciated and all serves to help us keep these sites under control during the "battle against the weeds" season.

If you can offer any time at all to this project, please contact Barung and register your name. I will be in touch when we have the next small pool of supporters. It will be immensely satisfying, educational and fun looking after this award winning community garden!

Thanks, Clayton Stokoe, Reveg Officer

**Thank you to** Leigh Findlay - our very first member to Adopt-A-Spot! Leigh volunteered to take on a site in thanks for the pleasure gained while walking her dog along the Boardwalk. Thanks Leigh. Many hands make light work!!

**And thank you** to Des Cosgrove for all of his hard and dedicated work on the Boardwalk over the years. Des has worked alone and tirelessly - combating weeds, chasing cows and repairing fences - Boardwalk Watchdog!.

## Seed To Collect

cont'd from p 12

challenge as Creek Lillypilly seed are produced in the depths of winter and standing up to your unmentionables in the chilly waters of the Obi on a winter's morning makes even the deepest of baritones utter notes that could shatter glass!

This form of *Acmena smithii* is very common in our wider, sunnier and rocky river stretches. It is amazingly flood resistant due to its small multi-branched form and clings to the riverbank with roots of steel, while other plants are torn and washed away. After the severe floods of summer have left the river banks scoured and bare, the Lillypilly seeds are spread by the river in winter and established during spring, resprouting from rocky crevices to make their mark in the riparian zone.

Weeping Lillypilly (*Waterhousea floribunda*) takes over from the Creek Lillypilly downstream on the Blackall Range, at altitudes below about 250 metres. An unusual feature of the Weeping Lillypilly is that it is one of the few local native trees to form monocultures. Regular flooding can make our riparian habitats extremely hostile and only riverbank specialists like the *Waterhousea* can survive these extreme conditions.

Riverbanks dominated by *Waterhousea* can be extremely stable environments. Deep roots anchor the trees and their surface roots form a mat over the riverbank and can even cover the stream bed in shallow streams - the ultimate in erosion control. These guardians of our riverbanks are often bruised and battered and their trunks thick with suckers and regrowth and yet they require the river for their very survival.

*Waterhousea* fruit need to fall into the river - requiring the flowing water to leach germination-inhibiting chemicals from the fruit. I've heard that one way for the home propagator to simulate these conditions is to suspend a mesh bag of fruit in a toilet cistern and the regular change of water in the cistern leaches the chemicals away. I imagine however that those who prefer their porcelain to retain its pearly gleam shouldn't try this.

Giant water gum (*Syzygium francisii*) is another member of the lillypilly group which thrives along our watercourses. It has developed a fruit that, like styrofoam, is as much air as solid matter. These fruit can float for at least a day and be carried far away from the parent tree by a flowing stream or river. The lucky ones may eventually be washed up on to the riverbank and given a chance to grow.

The floatability of *Syzygium francisii* seed can make them very easy to collect with a small net by the opportunistic seed collector - all you need to do is scoop the floating fruit from the water's surface. This can be a rather civilized occupation on a hot summer's day, unlike the situation with the *Acmena smithii*!

Next time you're strolling along the riverbank, give some thought to how the vegetation has helped to shape the river and how the plants themselves have in turn been shaped by the river.

### SEED TO COLLECT DECEMBER-JANUARY

Tamarind - <i>Diploglottis cunninghamii</i>	Riberry - <i>Syzygium luehmannii</i>
Giant water gum - <i>Syzygium francisii</i>	Brown laurel - <i>Cryptocarya triplinervis</i>
Brown tamarind - <i>Castanospora alphanthii</i>	Scrub cherry - <i>Syzygium australe</i>
Blue quandong - <i>Elaeocarpus grandis</i>	Peanut tree - <i>Sterculia quadrifida</i>
Pepperberry - <i>Cryptocarya obovata</i>	
Picabeen palm - <i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>	

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to bust weeds

Bring your own gloves and your favourite weeding tools for a most satisfying social experience.

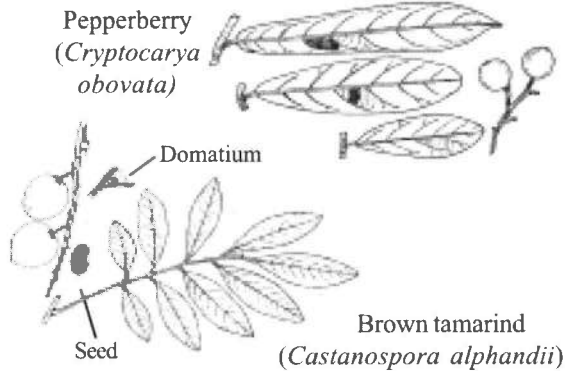
Rain, rain and more rain please!

That's what we were all saying just a month or so back and gee its good to have the old 'gravity challenged' H2O doing its stuff again.

While on the subject of water have you ever pondered its ability to spread seed?

Many stream and riverside plants use not only wildlife or wind but also flowing water to disperse their seed. Waterways have many advantages as agents of seed dispersal, the most obvious of course being that they are permanently moist! However seed dispersed by water also has the advantage of the relatively high levels of available nutrients which assist seedling growth. Species such as River Sheoak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) benefit from the

**Seed To Collect Dec - Jan  
by Spencer Shaw  
Fruits, Nuts, Seeds  
& other things...**



Illustrations from Trees & Shrubs in Rainforests of NSW and Southern Queensland publ'd by Uni of New England

regular disturbance of floods creating ideal germination conditions. Others such as Water Gum (*Waterhousea floribunda*) benefit from leaching of chemicals that inhibit germination, while Blue Quandong (*Elaeocarpus grandis*) benefit from water weathering their hard seed cases. Last but not least, waterways carry seed far from the parent tree to assist the colonization of new areas - 'to boldly go where no seed has gone before'.

Creek Lillypilly (*Acmena smithii* - fine leaf), is a classic example of a plant which produces many more seed when close to water, and the closer the better. Branches which overhang the water are often dripping with fruit while others over dry land, even on the same plant, carry little fruit. This can provide the seed collector with an uncomfortable cont'd page 11

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