

BARUNG
LANDCARE
NEWS



December 2001 - January 2002

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

EXPO WINS SUSTAINABLE ECOTOURISM AWARD

Over 100 guests attended the Sunshine Coast Environment Awards Celebration Dinner at Nambour on November 17. The Environment Award categories are intended to cover the enormous range of efforts in the areas on conservation and environmental protection made by individuals, groups and businesses across the Sunshine Coast.

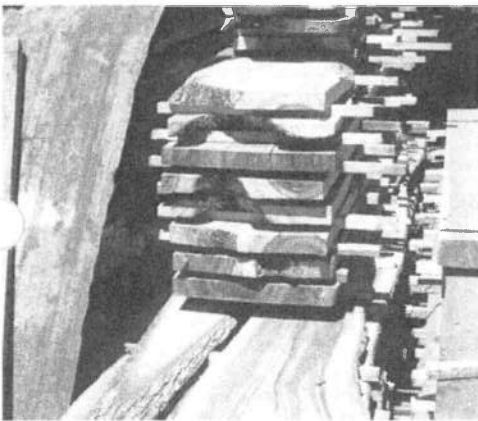
Barung was delighted to be awarded the Sustainable Ecotourism Award for our *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* Expo.

To quote from the SCEC press release: "Barung Landcare is one of the most dynamic and innovative member groups in Queensland. Apart from their contribution to environmental education in land management, they are at the forefront of on-the-ground, coalface campaigning and restoration of the landscape."

"The Fine Furniture Expo wins because: It is a successful commercial venture. It promotes sustainable use of timber resources. It establishes a sound commercial argument for retention and planting of native species, to back up the obvious environmental benefits. It has established itself on the tourist calendar."

Congratulations to all Barung volunteers over the years who have contributed time, energy and so many wonderful ideas to bring the Expo to the stage where it is gaining such regional recognition. It is because of these many volunteers and the Maleny community that the Expo has evolved into such a widely recognised event since its inception in 1996.

Congratulations also to all other winners including: Patricia and the late Phil Jacobs - winners of the Sustainable Farm Forestry Award; Global Ecovillage Network (Oceania/Asia) Inc. - winners of the Ecological Sustainable Building Award for the "Eco Centre" at Crystal Waters; Jillian Rossiter, winner of the inaugural Environmental Volunteer of the Year Award; and Chenrezig Institute - winner of the Biodiversity Initiative Award.



By late October, Dave had milled the bulk of the timber into the specified dimensions so that by the start of 2002, the pieces will be dried and ready for distribution.

ArtisTree

A BARUNG WEED TREE PROJECT

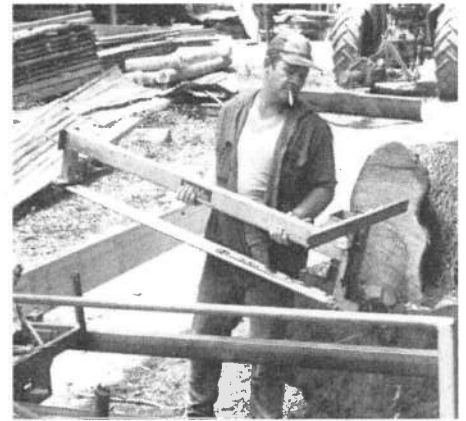
As we celebrate the festive season, 6.7 cubic metres of sawn Camphor Laurel timber boards are slowly and steadily drying in Dave Kirby's solar wood drying kiln in Palmwoods.

We are grateful to the Department of Natural Resources & Mines for their generous support of this preparatory stage of the project.

Importantly, ArtisTree will also provide a focal point for the gathering and dissemination of current research into the effects of the spread of Camphor Laurel and into the best strategies for woody weed removal and revegetation. To implement this, a survey has commenced asking landcare groups as well as weed, water and wildlife experts throughout Queensland to contribute both research and anecdotal data on the prevalence and effects of Camphor Laurel in different areas, as well as the strategies presently being undertaken to remove and replace Camphor. Survey forms are available from the office for interested Barung and community members.

This information will form the nucleus of the environmental component of the ArtisTree exhibiton at the Expo and later.

Although much of the milled timber is already earmarked for distribution, it is still not too late to put your name down for slabs etc if you would like to participate in the project. If you would like more information or wish to be involved as a woodworker, artist, sculptor or volunteer contact Barung Landcare on 5494 3151 or Penny on 0500 502 375.



Using his portable bandsaw, Gary Bochow skillfully cut the largest of the trunks into immense slabs. These beautiful slabs are certain to arouse interest in their final forms.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Tim & Julia Knight	Leigh Hubner
Dan Phillips	Wil Sprake
L & M Hiddle	Kiernan
Bob Potter	Noel Huskopf
David & Sheryn Gollodge	Graham Gillies
Cecily Molloy	Elizabeth Ferguson
Pamela Marsden	A Holmes
Sue & Trevor McCleary	& E Craig-Holmes
Elaine Grant	Robyn Edward & David
Peter & Merylyn Milton	Simmons
Nikki Moore	John & Marg Young
James McCormack	L R Cronin

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT



DEADLINE

FOR FEB - MARCH NEWSLETTER

WED 16TH 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

When you think about what landcare can do for you.... also think of what YOU can do for landcare.

Barung is a non-profit community organisation funded by memberships



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lin Fairlie

Landcare has certainly been the winner from the gentle rain which ended the long dry period which was not very encouraging for the establishment of new trees. At least the weed growth had slowed down but now we are all having to make up for that.

Barung staff and some committee members have been busy taking part in NRM (Department of Natural Resources & Mines) workshop consultations aimed at developing the Queensland Landcare Support Strategy. It is to be hoped that the result will be some financial support towards the running of the larger groups, even if the salaries of coordinators are not funded.

Another landcare development was the election of the Burnett-Mary Regional Body for the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. The membership of this body will be officially announced in mid December by the Minister for the Environment, Dean Wells. This body will depend on appropriate information supplied to it by sub-regional committees which are yet to be formed. The regional body will then develop its action plan, budget etc. to adequately cover these two catchments.

It will be to Barung's advantage if we have members on these advisory groups who will represent the Mary catchment. If any Barung members feel they would like to be involved and contribute to the longterm health of the rivers (you do not have to be a committee member) please let Mim know. It is hoped that some expenses for these committee members will be covered from the federal NAP money.

A similar but different group is being established to inform the South East Queensland regional body for devolvement of NHT Mark 2 funds. This group will include the Stanley and Mooloolah Rivers in their investment plans. More about those in the next newsletter.

Barung has had representatives at monthly meetings of the Community Forum, a loose grouping of four community groups - Green Hills, the Neighborhood Centre, RSL and Barung - and a number of individuals who are concerned about the future of Maleny and the need to address aspects of sustainability before it is too late. Some Barung members were present at the Maleny Summit held on Sunday 18th November to discuss the sort of future for Maleny residents would like to see. Ideas were brainstormed and discussed in small groups. Representatives from each group will now investigate further the key points raised. The next Forum will be held in three months time. Watch the Range News for the date.

At the recent SCEC Awards night Barung received the Sustainable Ecotourism Award for the From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Expo. Thanks to Daryl Reinke and Craig Hosmer who initiated the Expo idea and were involved in the development of it six years ago. SCEC, the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, should themselves be the recipients of an award for the excellent work they do over the whole of the Sunshine Coast area.

As this is the last newsletter for the year I will take the opportunity to wish you all best wishes for the festive season. Hopefully Barung's work in 2002 will continue to contribute to a sustainable environment over the whole of the Blackall Range.

The Barung Resource Library is finally catalogued thanks to a wonderful volunteer. Members welcome to browse and borrow.

THE STATE OF THE LAND

CCC New Vegetation Management Law

Caloundra City Council is in the process of preparing a new local law for vegetation management.

Our local bushland plays a crucial role in protecting soils, waterways and air quality and maintaining wildlife habitat. Council is actively committed to vegetation protection and management on a number of fronts through land acquisition, the successful Land for Wildlife program, setting responsible conditions on development projects and by supporting local environment groups. The proposed local law is intended to round out this useful "toolkit" of vegetation management mechanisms.

Council understands that many rural properties and areas with development potential encompass forested hillsides and waterways. The proposed local law is not intended to stifle normal rural or development activities where they are being responsibly conducted. However it does set up a framework to enable Council to respond where unnecessary destruction of significant bushland may be occurring.

The community consultation period will occur throughout December 2001 and January 2002. Copies of relevant documents for review will be available free of charge from:

- Council's Administration Building - Customer Service Center (1 Omrah Avenue, Caloundra)
- Council's Libraries (Caloundra, Kawana, Beerwah, Maleny and the mobile library);
- On the internet at www.caloundra.qld.gov.au/caloundracityplan/rcs/veglocallaw

Please contact Council's Environment and Planning Policy Unit on 5420 8943 if you would like to know more about the proposed local law.

NRM (Natural Resource & Mines) Facts - Land Series

New and upgraded fact sheets are available from NR&M. New topics include ponded pastures, gully erosion, soil conservation planning in cropping lands and erosion control in grazing lands. To view the factsheets, visit www.dnr.qld.gov.au or phone the Freefaxback Line on 1800 240 691.

Initiatives for protection of land and native vegetation in Victoria and WA

Two state governments have recently introduced initiatives to assist with protection of the Australian landscape and biodiversity. The Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment has received more than 150 expressions of interest to date for the upcoming Bush Tender Trial, under which farmers would be paid to protect the native vegetation on their land. The conservation of the million plus hectares of native vegetation on private land in Victoria is considered vital for salinity control, water quality, land protection, and flora and fauna habitat. Under the trial, farmers bid for the management services they are prepared to offer to improve their native vegetation.

In WA, the state and federal governments have jointly funded a program called Bush Bank, a revolving fund to provide a mechanism for the purchase, protection and on-selling of areas of land in WA with significant wildlife and habitat conservation values. Land purchased by Bush Bank will have a conservation cov-

enant placed on it and will then be resold to a purchaser aware of the conservation values involved and prepared to manage the land accordingly.

(from LAWNInfo, 17 September 2001)

Australia: hot, wet and heavy

Australia has one of the world's 'hottest, heaviest and wettest' economies, according to a leading environmentalist.

Australians are amongst the most profligate users of water and energy, and amongst the highest emitters of carbon dioxide per capita. We also rank in the top five for our ongoing rate of destruction of native vegetation and natural environment.

Dr Wellings, CSIRO Deputy Chief Executive, says if we are to leave our children a rich quality of life we need to work together to make the necessary changes to ensure a sustainable future. He adds that business, scientists, policy makers, and Australia's citizens must all work together if Australia is to have a sustainable future.

Further information is available from CSIRO on 02) 6246 4551.

Concern over environment drops to new low

CANBERRA, Nov 22 AAP - People's concerns about the environment have dropped to a new low, with more people saying they don't have time to do anything about it, new figures show.


Concern about environmental problems among households has dropped to its lowest level since recording by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) started in 1992. Just 62% of households reported being concerned about the environment in 2001 compared with 75% in 1992, an ABS report said.

"Increasingly, more people stated 'no time' as the main reason for not being involved in any environmental action," according to the ABS.

But the news is not all bad, with only 4% of people saying they didn't care or were not interested in the environmental problems.


People in the ACT, SA and WA are more concerned about the environment, at 71%, 70% and 69% respectively. NSW, the most populous state, reported the lowest level of concern, at 59%, compared to 73% in 1998. South Australians and West Australians are more likely to donate time and money to environmental protection (both 25%) and Northern Territorians are the least likely to do so, at 14%.

On a more concerning front, less than half of Australian households are practising water conservation inside the home. An estimated 56% of households did not adopt any behavioural practice to conserve water inside the home, up from 54% in 1994 and 53% in 1998, the ABS said.



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15 Maple St
MALENY
Ph 0754 942000



COORDINATION / EDUCATION

from Mim Coulstock

Two exciting workshops have been held over the past month.

The first was the Greenhouse Challenge workshop conducted by Marty Harris and Guy Knox from Landcare Australia Limited (LAL), and Gus Sharpe from the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO).

LAL and the AGO have teamed up to look at ways to reduce greenhouse emissions in the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector produces 20% of Australia's Greenhouse emissions. Having worked with other sectors such as industry on greenhouse reductions, this is the first time that the agriculture sector has been approached.

This exciting workshop was quite poorly attended unfortunately. The landholders who did make the effort to come were impressed by the relationship that emerged between planning for greenhouse reductions and improved productivity and sustainable management practices on their farms.

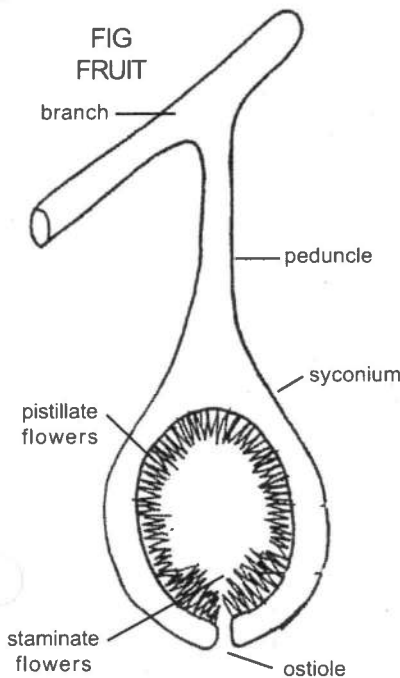
This 12 month LAL project requires the help of three willing farmers/landholders (over 100 acres) to be part of a trial to audit existing greenhouse emissions, plan for reductions and re-audit after 12 months to test effectiveness.

Participation is purely voluntary and non-invasive. If you are interested in participating in this extremely worthwhile project, please contact me at Barung.

Our other exciting workshop was the great Fig Marcotting Day in late November. We were joined by Wayne Harris from the Queensland Herbarium, who talked about the botany and biology of figs, Jeff Sanger, who talked about and demonstrated marcotting techniques and Dr. Ian Gynther, Head of the Coxen's Fig Parrot Recovery team.

One of the wonderful facts to emerge was the symbiotic relationship between figs and wasps. Each of the 11 fig species in SEQld (out of the 60 species in Queensland) depends for pollination on a particular fig wasp (agaonid of the Family Agaonidae). In return, each wasp depends on its specific fig species for reproduction. There are only a few SEQ species which can have more than one species of wasp as a pollinator.

The female wasp (only approx 2mm long!) enters the ostiole (opening) of the fig to lay her eggs inside the fruit. (She damages herself so badly during the entry that she dies after depositing her eggs.) When the eggs hatch, the males impregnate the females and subsequently die without ever leaving the fig fruit. The females exit the fruit and somehow find their way to the next tree.

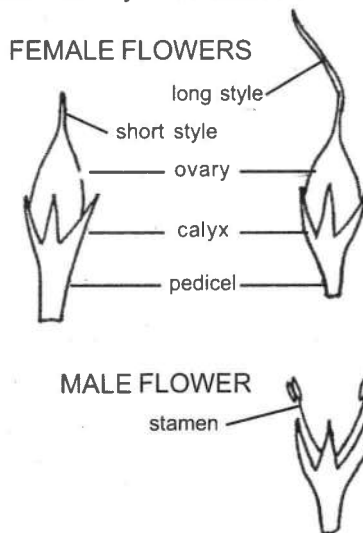


The fig flowers actually occur inside the fruit. There are two types of flower (see diagram), with long and short styles.

As the female leaves the ostiole of the fig fruit she passes the male flowers near the opening and harvests their pollen, depositing this on the long style female flowers of the next fruit she enters. The female wasps find it difficult to enter the ostiole of the long style flower with the result that this flower is used for fig seed production.

The female wasp is able to enter the ostiole of the short style flower, and dies in the flower after laying her eggs. This flower is thus essential for the wasp reproduction.

What an amazing story! This has real implications as to where and what species of figs we plant.



S.E.E.D.S.



Junior Landcare with Karen Shaw

The final S.E.E.D.S. meeting for the year took advantage of the Conondale Pool to beat the heat on Tuesday 4th, with a BBQ and fun day.

S.E.E.D.S. (Small Eager Environmentalists Doing Something) is inviting new members for 2002.

Members are primary school age (5-12 years) and meet monthly for wide range of activities aimed at increasing environmental/landcare awareness. These activities include learning about biodiversity, propagation and tree planting, caring for native plants and animals, the mysteries of water quality, field trips and lots of FUN!

There is even an annual low-cost landcare camp for members, siblings, friends and parents!

Membership is \$25/year for one child, \$20/child/year for families with more than one child or \$4 per session.

Drop into Barung or give the office a ring (5494 3151) if you would like a membership form.

Ring Karen on 5494 3642 if you would like to find out more about how your child can learn about caring for our environment by being a Small Eager Environmentalist.

WANTED NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Are there any Barung members who would be interested in writing regular articles on:

1. SIMILAR SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA; and
2. OUR LOCAL NATIVE BIRDS

I would love to further explore these relationships to give a true picture of the importance of our unique biodiversity.

Please ring Mim at Barung if you would like to contribute.

**From Chainsaw
to Fine Furniture**
WOODWORKING EXPO

from Mim Coulstock

Planning for Expo 2002 is underway following the initial meeting at Barung last week. The Expo will be held on the traditional Labour Day long weekend, falling on 4 - 6th May for 2002, and will be held at the Maleny Showgrounds.

As Education person for Barung, I will be coordinating the event next year. Elaine Green's extremely successful 2001 Expo will be a hard act to follow, and I will need the help of many Barung volunteers.

I would like to thank Barung members who have already put their hands up to coordinate various areas:

- Claire Wynn** - volunteers
- Inga Green** - history display
- Ted Mulder** - Advertising & PR
- Angie Todd** - Preview party & catering
- Toni Hyde** - raffle & prizes
- Jo Todd/Tricia Brunton** - finance
- Ted Mulder/Jo Todd** - sponsorship
- Penny Smith** - ArtisTree
- Karen Shaw** - Bushfoods Cafe
- Tom & Tom** - Crosscut Saw
- Ashley Sewell/B FF Sub-comm** - Farm Forestry

However, many more people will be needed to help out both before and during the Expo.

On the Expo weekend alone we rely on the help of more than 120 volunteers on different shifts.

Prior to the Expo, there are many small jobs to be done within major areas, and we still need coordinators for the following: parking, outdoor & SES set-up & pull-down, tourism package, entertainment, and coordination of the overall landcare venue.

I will be putting a member's volunteer insert in the February newsletter, asking for help both before and during the Expo. Please look carefully and see how you can help landcare and Barung.

Money raised at the Expo funds our Admin Officer position, so the success of the Expo is absolutely vital for the organisation.

This is a great chance to show your support for landcare and for Barung's ideals and work. It is a chance for members who cannot be involved at other events throughout the year to be involved. The help of our members is essential for the success of the event, so have a look and try to match your skills to the jobs to be done.

If you would like to offer any assistance before the February newsletter, please ring me at the office.

Your feedback is important for us to fulfill our members' needs.

Please use the
VOLUNTEER & LETTERS COLUMN
to voice your ideas
and share your successes.

Your experience may become
another's inspiration
PLEASE SHARE IT WITH
OTHER MEMBERS

*Saving Australia's
Bird Populations*

from Australian Landcare, March 2001

This comprehensive new report, commissioned by Environment Australia (EA) and funded by the Natural Heritage Trust, is the latest in an ongoing EA series of Action Plans for different taxonomic groups. The first Bird Action Plan was published in 1992.

"The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2000", written by Stephen T. Garnett and Gabriel M. Crowley of Birds Australia, reviews the conservation status of all 1375 species and subspecies of Australian birds and recommends suitable conservation actions to protect them. The plan identifies 155 birds as nationally threatened.

The action plan aims to:

- provide a national overview of the conservation status of all birds occurring in Australian territories against IUCN categories;
- identify threats and recommend actions to minimise these threats;
- identify habitat or areas of particular importance for bird conservation including key areas or habitats for threatened taxa;
- identify processes that threaten birds, and identify areas where these processes are a problem; and
- recommend conservation priorities including research and management actions.

For general information about threatened species, or to ask about obtaining the Bird Action Plan 2000 (free), contact EA's Community Information Unit, free call 1800 803 772, email: <ciu@ea.gov.au



Dear All
the big Barung Xmas party/BBQ

When: Friday 14th December
from 1pm

Where: Bicentenary Park next to
Barung (weather permitting)

For: all Barung volunteers,
members, friends & staff
BYO drinks & a plate

Then - follow on party at
the Maleny Street (Xmas) Festival
from 6pm if anyone wishes.

Keep in touch for up-date.



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

NURSERY OPEN: 8.30am - 4pm Monday - Friday, 9am - noon Saturday

NURSERY NOTES

from Russell Botterell

Well it has finally happened. At the time of writing this, over 5 inches of rain has fallen on most of the Range and aren't the plants happy about it? To say they have responded favourably would be an understatement, with flushes of new foliage and growth spurts everywhere. The warm weather has helped immensely in the Nursery with the plants really getting a wriggle on, growing before our very eyes. Lots of new stock is coming on line since winter so come on down and check out the 'almost full racks.'

We have introduced a new size to our pot range - a 2.8 litre bag. This black plastic bag is 230mm deep, almost twice the depth of tubes and 140mm pots, yet still only about 100mm diameter. The theory is that this will allow for much healthier and straighter root development longitudinally and radially, enabling us to offer mature plants to a height of about 900mm without jeopardising root structure. I feel this is most important, especially for larger tree species, to allow for straighter and longer taproot development which is sometimes restricted in the shallower round pots.

At present we have only selected a few species to advance on from Native tube to these bags but your feedback and suggestions for possible demand would be greatly received. Even though these containers will be larger in volume and the plants much taller in size, we are happy to announce that they will be priced equivalent to a 140mm pot. Bargain!

Another late November development in the Nursery is the unveiling of our new Local Bushfood plants section. Advanced edible and medicinal local rainforest species will have their own section now, making the arduous task of searching through the whole nursery a thing of the past. We are also hoping to set up a water and wetland display in the near future.

The month of December will see a change in the Nursery opening hours. As of December 1st, we will be adding an extra trading day to our week - Monday. So our official hours will then be Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4pm, and Saturday 9am - 12.00pm. We hope this will be more convenient for customers and allow us to get even more work done and continue to enhance stock production.

December is also EUCALYPT CLEARANCE MONTH with all eucalypt tubestock being discounted to \$1.40 each. This is more than 30% off the regular price. The stock is beautiful, young and ready to plant, so if you are looking for great fast growing windbreak, revegetation, koala habitat or just beautiful big paddock trees, December will be the time to grab your gum trees.

Yikes! Christmas is upon us again and in this time of chaos, it can be quite easy to forget about what the heck to do for a Christmas tree. What about a beautiful living tree in a pot to serve you for many years and add a really unique touch to your Christmas decorating.

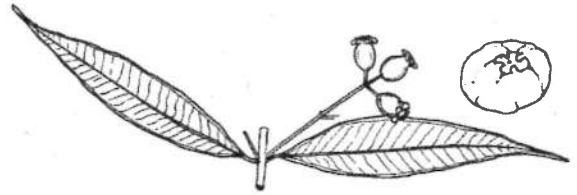
Barung has a great selection of advanced trees just perfect to hang your decorations on and what's more is that they are beautiful native Australian plants. Come and check them out in early December as well.

Stuck for presents for friends or family? How about a Barung Gift voucher, a great plant book or even a plant or two. Your friends will love you and so will the environment. You'll be supporting Barung Landcare, making someone's day and ultimately helping put more trees back into the ground even if it is only the back yard. Food for thought.

Plant Profile

Spencer Shaw

BLUE LILLYPILLY



Just another lillypilly I hear you say? Never!

The Blue lillypilly is a fast growing shrub to small tree that averages anywhere between 3-9 metres. It is a fairly open shrub compared to many other lillypillies, but quicker growing than the norm and can develop a graceful weeping habit as the shrub matures.

The foliage is pleasantly aromatic and oily if you rub it between your fingers (hence the genus name). The white pompom flowers can be scattered or enmasse depending on the season and develop into a purple-blue fruit that is quite refreshing.

Blue lillypilly can make a great edge plant for sealing your rainforest plantings but is also versatile as a garden specimen, coping well with pruning, full sun, wind and even low nutrient soils.

So pop into Barung and grab some and you too will be saying Ole' for *Sygium oleosum*.

NEW NURSERY HOURS

8.30am - 4pm Monday to Friday
9am - Noon Saturday

DECEMBER IS ...

EUCALYPT CLEARANCE MONTH
all eucalypt tubestock discounted to \$1.40

BARUNG XMAS BREAK

We will be closed from 24th Dec - 1st Jan incl.
reopening for business on 2nd Jan 2002
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ATTENTION PLANT RECALL

Have you purchased a plant called
Tapeinosperma pseudojambosa
(who could forget that?) from Barung in the last 18 months?

The plants were initially identified by the Qld Herbarium - however as they have grown my doubts also began to grow. The plant has recently been re-identified by Bill McDonald of the Qld Herbarium

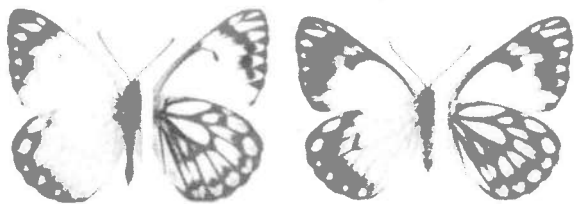
as "*Ardisia solanacea* Roxb., a native of India", which has been used extensively as a garden plant.

This plant has weed potential so please rip it out and we will replace with a similar sized plant to that originally purchased.

Butterflies of the Range

from Bob Miller

CAPER WHITE (*Belenois java teutonia*)



One of the most common questions I am asked around this time of year is "What sort of butterfly are those white ones we are observing flying over in the thousands?"

Well, the answer is: "The Caper White butterfly, *Belenois java teutonia*"

They are actually part of one of our migratory butterflies. They can often be seen at this time of year in their thousands and all seem to be flying in the same direction. These migrations can last for several weeks at a time.

I have observed the white eggs (which later turn yellow or orange) being laid on the young foliage of the foodplant in the hundreds.

The larvae that emerge from these eggs are an olive-green to chocolate-brown colour, with yellow spots and sparse white hairs. They feed in large groups and if enough are present, will easily defoliate the foodplant.

When ready to pupate, they move to the underside of a leaf if any are still present, or if not, to the tree trunk or a branch. Here they spin a small pad of silk onto which they attach their abdomen and a silken girdle to support their thorax. They then split their larval skins, slipping them slowly down the body, eventually dropping them to the ground, exposing the naked pupae.

The pupae can be white, pink or even almost black, with brown mottling. They have a raised projection on their back and a point on their front end. As mentioned earlier they always hang upside down, supported by their tail and a central silken girdle.

The male adult, about 55cm from wingtip to wingtip, is mainly white. The upperside has an outer edge of black with white spots. The underside is the same as the top with the addition of darker markings following the vein lines. The spots on the hindwings, underside, and a small area close to the body, contain splashes of yellow.

The females are about the same size as the males and very variable in colouration. Sometimes the upperside is the same as on the males, while on other females the white areas are replaced by an orange-pink colour with more extensive black areas. The underside is darker than the male with the white areas are replaced with yellow, even under the forewing.

The main larval foodplant for the Blackall Range area is *Capparis arborea* and I guarantee that if one is planted, the butterflies will soon find it. Barung Landcare stocks this plant whenever available, so why not purchase one to include in your butterfly gardens?

Further information on this or other butterflies can be found in *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael Braby, 2000. Barung Nursery has a copy of this very informative and up-to-date edition, and I am sure the staff would be only too pleased to help you access it.

Illustrations from Butterflies of Australia, published by CSIRO Publ'g

Local Wild & Edible

from Bernard Murawski

NATIVE TAMARIND (*Diploglottis australis*)



The native tamarind (*Diploglottis australis* syn. *cunninghamii*) is not related to the introduced tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), which is a vital ingredient in many Asian

cuisines, but to the lychee with which it shares a slight resemblance within the fruit. The botanical name, 'diploglottis', is derived from the Greek words 'diploos' meaning double and 'glotta' the tongue, which is in reference to the two tongue like glands situated at the base of each petal. 'Australis' is from the Latin 'austra-' meaning southern. Other common names are tamarind and broad-leaved tamarind.

The native tamarind is a rainforest tree that grows from the Illawarra district in NSW to Proserpine, Queensland and on the Sunshine Coast, it grows as far west as the Bunya Mts. It can grow to around 35 metres in height but in cultivation, this may be limited to around 6-15 metres. It is a tall, slender and handsome tree with huge pinnate leaves that spread out from the top of the plant, similar to palm fronds, and these are covered with small brown hairs - most probably a defensive mechanism against insect attack.

The plant is propagated by seed, use your favourite seed raising mixture or a loam mix, and transplant when at the tube/pot size, preferably during autumn. It requires medium shading when young and when mature it will tolerate semi-shade to full sun. It is tolerant of frosts and is drought tender so keep the watering up during drier periods. The plant's growth can be enhanced with plentiful supplies of sun, water, and mulch. It does best in a well-drained, medium textured soil and is suitable for rocky sites. Growers use organic fertilizers such as chicken manure, seaweed extract, and dynamic lifter, as well as commercial inorganic blends.

The creamy brown flowers develop into two- or three lobed yellow-orange coloured fruit. These ripen in spring to early summer and the outer casing of the fruit splits to reveal an orange-yellow pulp. The fruit will be nearly impossible to harvest directly from the tree as the tree matures because it will be contained high up within the canopy where they will be thoroughly enjoyed by fruit bats and a number of birds including the crimson rosella and figbird. As a result fruit may be limited though do not despair as larger, more mature trees will produce heaps of fruit, which will litter the ground below upon ripening.

The fruit of the native tamarind are juicy, sour (though pleasant) with a taste that is slightly reminiscent of mandarins. They are refreshing to eat au natural and can be utilised to enhance the enjoyment of other foods. The cleaned fruit are quite small so a number will be needed for a decent culinary attempt though in contradiction to this the flavour can be intense so do not overdo it.

Historically, the fruit have been used to make jams and cordials and the colour of the jams are superb. I enjoy the jam spread on toasted sourdough bread. It makes a nice sauce that is well suited to duck and other meats, though beef is probably not appropriate, and seafood. Throw liberal amounts of chili into the sauce if you like things that are hot.

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



from Alan Wynn

The rains have finally arrived and it is so good to see the trees in revegetation areas all over the range responding with new growth.

The downside of this is that the weeds respond with equal or greater vigour, so my sites seem to transform from being seemingly weed free to weed jungle almost overnight. As a result most of my time is spent attached to brushcutter or spray pack battling the green invaders of revegetation sites.

I have a few allies in my battle; the Green Reserve have been doing an excellent job in maintaining the Obi Creek Boardwalk. This is in addition to assisting the Corridors of Green and Threatened Species Network programs. This team makes such a significant contribution I wish we could have them for more than just two days a week. I'd like to welcome Linda Clarke, a new addition to the Green Reserve crew.

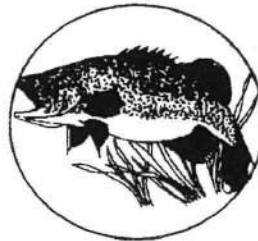
Thanks also to Clayton, Claire and Jenny for volunteering your time to help me keep our sites looking good. While I'm thanking people I'd also like to mention Glenn Cook for his generous donation of a shed and Spencer Shaw for his equally generous donation of plants.

Work is just beginning on five new sites. Over the next seven months we will be planting trees and encouraging natural regeneration in a new partnership arrangement between Caloundra City Council and Barung.

These sites are:

- ◆ Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve
- ◆ Policeman's Spur Road Reserve
- ◆ MacDonald's Road Reserve
- ◆ Obi Obi Creek (Boardwalk Reserve)
- ◆ Gardner's Falls

Of course I will continue to maintain our existing sites with the assistance of Green Reserves and any enthusiastic volunteers that I can muster. If you have any free time and would like to contribute to the protection and enhancement of our environment please get in touch with me at Barung Landcare. Join me in the field for an opportunity to learn some new skills, some hard work and lively conversation.



Mary River Cod
Community Network

Bob Simpson
DPI Fisheries Biologist

Mary River Cod Stocking Program - 2001

2001 looks like being another good year for the Mary River cod stocking program. The Lake Macdonald Fish Hatchery at Cooroy has tens of thousands of little cod on hand, and they are growing quickly on their diet of blackworms and fresh and frozen plankton. It is a little early to predict exactly what the final number will be, but we are expecting to get up around the 50,000 mark.

The first few thousand cod for the season were released into the Mary River between Tuchekeoi and Gympie on November 22nd. These fish were about 8 weeks old and between 35 and 40 mm long. Some of the cod fingerlings remaining in the hatchery are still only 15 mm long, so it will take a few more weeks of growing before they can be set loose. As in past years, we will probably be releasing little cod right up to Christmas Eve.

The main target areas for stocking this year include the main-stem of the Mary from the tidal barrage to the Conondale area, and tributaries including Obi Obi, Little Yabba, Booloumba, Yabba, Belli, Amamoor, Diamondfield, Kandanga, Widgee, Glastonbury, Six Mile and North Deep Creeks. We usually also manage to sneak a few cod into other little out-of-the-way tributaries with suitable habitats.

As usual, some of the cod will be transported outside the Mary for release into large dams like Somerset and Wivenhoe, and into riverine habitats in the Logan and Stanley Rivers. Over the next few years we aim to increase the cod numbers going into these other river systems in a concerted effort to kick-start new breeding populations. Historically, cod once occurred in the Brisbane-Stanley and Albert-Logan Rivers, and possibly also the Coomera.

WORTH A VISIT:

Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld:
<http://www.wildlife.org.au/>
website dedicated to Australian native bees:
<http://www.zeta.org.au/~anbr/>

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Threatened Species Network project comes to an end

from Marc Russell

Our aim with this project was to create important corridors linking remnants in the upper Stanley River catchment and raise awareness of the threatened species found in the area. Thanks to the landholder and community dedication the project was a great success.

Two areas were targeted for on-ground work. The first was a link from Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve to the State Forest to the south. Many rare and threatened plants and animals occur in these two remnants and we hope to improve genetic flow, by reconnecting the park to nearby rainforest and sclerophyll forest. The landholders fenced the site and slashed it in preparation for a public tree plant. 75 tree planters (about half of these Cairncross Park volunteers) turned up to plant 1000 trees. It was a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and the work was completed in only 2 hours. Despite the drought we have achieved at least 95% survival and the recent rains have ensured good growth.

The second corridor is along London Creek and the junction with the Stanley River. Our main focus was to improve linkage and habitat for several threatened flora and fauna species with a particular focus on two endangered frogs. The Giant Barred Frog has been found on both ends of the corridor, but is not present in degraded sites in between. The Cascade Tree Frog has only been identified on one end of the corridor and we hope to encourage it to expand into new areas. Two species of rainforest frogs seem to have disappeared in this region over the last couple of decades, so it vital we work towards preserving and enhancing habitat for those frogs presently under threat.

About 20 landholders (mostly adjoining) have been involved by fencing stock from the creek, removing serious weed infestations (mainly Privet) and planting trees to increase diversity and extend rainforest habitat. By working together in this way, we are able to make a significant impact to the unique natural ecosystems found in our area.

Our Green Reserve team has made a vital contribution to the success of this project, erecting fences, removing weeds and planting trees. This assistance to many landholders has helped make the workload much less daunting.

The only downside to this project is the fact that funding is only for a 12 month period. To ensure longterm survival for these threatened species, we must find a way to continue this valuable work.

We hope landholders will continue to monitor the frogs and other wildlife on their properties. If you would like to be involved in monitoring wildlife yourself, please contact me on 5494 9608.

One of the classes from Peaches School involved in threatened species / habitat education with the emphasis on our local endangered frogs. The whole



school helped to construct a frog pond, plant local rainforest species (replacing weeds) and establish suitable habitat with logs, rocks, leaf litter, etc. The day included several displays & speakers discussing the threats to and needs of our rare local species.

POWERPLANT TREE PLANTING FESTIVAL

- SATURDAY DECEMBER 8.

@BARNOVARTS, Yandina-Coolum Rd. Yandina

The Project:

PowerPlant is a community-based tree planting festival combining practical environmentalism with entertainment. PowerPlant will be an easy, fun opportunity to put something back into the land that sustains us, and to learn about land revegetation. This will be the second in a series of events.

This ex-farmland site is on the Maroochy River. Some revegetation has previously been undertaken by the landowner, but PowerPlant is a community effort to achieve big results in a single weekend. With operating farms nearby, any revegetated riverbank means essential fauna habitat and increased anti-erosion stability.

The previous event in April (Scleromorph) was possible entirely through the efforts of many dedicated volunteers and the support of Barung Landcare. Scleromorph attracted over 500 volunteers. 3000 trees were planted, followed by a showcase of local musicians and DJ's which continued into the night as a celebration of the day's planting efforts. Moneys raised were used to maintain the young trees and provide some funds to the Wilderness Society's Wilderness Action Group (WAG). (WAG is a group of conservation minded volunteers who help the Wilderness Society with grass roots community education and action).

Project Aims:

- ✓ To contribute to the unique Maroochy River system, with a hands-on community approach, combining practical solutions with education and awareness.
- ✓ To provide a platform for local musicians / artists in beautiful surroundings with a positive purpose behind the event.
- ✓ To broaden the skills of community members into different fields and sharing existing skills with others.
- ✓ To celebrate the lifestyle and cultural diversity we enjoy.

POWERPLANT is a DOOF with a difference.

POWERPLANT aims to plant 3000 trees, raise much-needed funds for the Wilderness Society and celebrate with a damn good boogie. The finest underground DJs and Live Acts from the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane will provide tribal digitronics to infinitely expand your aural sphere. So far we have: Spiral Munk; Synapse; Indigo Rythmn (live percussion); Spatial Anomaly; Hexidecimal (live); Groove Tribe (Matt-Tribal Trance, Shannon-AfroDizziAct); Mustaphaa; Wave; Paul Abad; PsyDruid; SanFranDisco; Rufus; Cin Maya; Fluromancer (live); and Bum Crak. Visuals are by the incredible Travelling Kaleidoscopic Candle Bonanza and other installation artists. There will be a chill out space to rest your dancing feet, soak up some downbeat grooves and sample some fine fodder and drinks.

This second in a Sunshine Coast series of events, follows the success of Scleromorph. Come and touch the Earth and dance your way into a greener future! Check the flyers for details.

WEB SITE: www.elven.com.au/powerplant

Contact: Scott Large - 5446 7470 or sconnexion@inorbit.com

Barung's role in promoting Farm Forestry from Laurie Cappill

What is needed for farm forestry to become an important part of our rural landscape?

Recent years have seen many retirees, lifestylers and professionals with other sources of income invest personal time and energy in tree-planting. Often they are motivated by wanting to create a pleasant living environment, enjoy the satisfaction of tending trees and regenerating bushland, and consider that one day the trees may contribute to their retirement capital. Many appreciate the positive role trees play in the environment.

However, uptake of farm forestry by conventional rural landholders is low. Many consider that the current low value of logs and the decades-long timeframes make forestry projects uneconomic. Others have problems finding the several thousand dollars per hectare required to establish and tend plantation forests. Or they are concerned that green-influenced governments will ultimately prevent them from harvesting the trees. These concerns, and more, are matters that must be addressed before we see widespread interest in reforestation of the landscape, or in investing in the long-term management of existing native forests.

These issues are not, however, insurmountable. In fact there are good underlying reasons for confidence that forestry has a bright and profitable future:

- Global greenhouse requires us to dramatically reduce our use of and dependence on fossil fuels - and forests provide one of the most environmentally sound and practicable alternative sources of energy;
- Increasing global populations and standards of living are putting pressure on existing forest resources, with the likelihood of global wood shortages and increased timber prices;
- Australia is faced with huge and increasing salinity and land degradation problems that scientists acknowledge can be largely addressed by widespread deployment of commercially based sustainable farm forestry systems;
- Australia has a tremendous diversity of timber species with excellent wood properties suited to a wide range of end-uses;
- As a long-term crop with considerable flexibility in management requirements, harvesting options and market niches, forestry offers important diversification options to many farmers whose current operations are highly susceptible to the vagaries of weather and markets.

The Southern Queensland Farm Forestry Development Association (SQFFDA) has been established to help address the development and coordination of issues faced by the farm forestry sector. The association inputs into policies that will affect farm foresters, promotes the benefits and opportunities offered by farm forestry, fosters networking between farm foresters and

allied groups, and provides information and advice to farm foresters. In these ways, SQFFDA can help create an attitudinal and policy environment more conducive to investments in forest growing and management.

In a recent review of its operations, SQFFDA recognised the value of building stronger links with farm forestry support groups throughout the region, and of forging much stronger links with the landcare movement. As a result, Barung Landcare has been invited to become a member of SQFFDA.

Barung's strong focus on forestry opportunities can make valuable contributions to the work of SQFFDA:

- Barung's Farm Forestry Subcommittee has actively promoted farm forestry amongst Blackall Range landholders for many years.
- The Barung nursery, presently managed by an ex-forestry nurseryman, specialises in the supply of rainforest species, including many high quality cabinet timbers especially suited to our district.
- Barung's annual *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* Expo is founded on a recognition of the huge role that forestry has historically played in our district and the potential for forestry to once again contribute greatly to our thriving economy.
- Barung's on-ground programs, including Corridors of Green and our bush revegetation work, appreciate the important role of commercially focussed farm forestry in protecting our soils and waterways.

By collaborating with other groups with interests in farm forestry under the umbrella of SQFFDA, Barung will benefit from the opportunity to participate in regional farm forestry development projects funded under the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. We will be part of a more concerted voice calling for conducive regulatory policies at State and Local Government level and appropriate incentives programs. We will benefit from the exchange of ideas and information with other groups in the region sharing similar visions of the potential for farm forests to both protect the landscape and underpin thriving regional economies.

Any Barung members who are interested in taking a more active role in building the farm forestry sector, locally and regionally, are invited to join our Farm Forestry Subcommittee. Please contact Mim for more details.

(As well as being part of Barung's Farm Forestry Subcommittee, Laurie is full-time coordinator of SQFFDA)

If you are growing trees for Farm Forestry in this region please get in touch with Mim at Barung - ph 5494 3151.

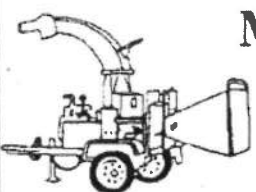
The Barung Farm Forestry Sub-committee is developing a database of local growers, so that we can keep you up-to-date with our farm forestry education program and activities.



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FARMCARE – Landcare in Horticulture in SEQ & the Philippines

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

“No person is an island - we are all connected”

Despite unfortunate recent events internationally, Barung Landcare, through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Landcare project in the Philippines, is helping to connect us all at the global as well as local level.

With all the TV footage we often tend to become removed and isolated from the events that surround us. I believe that an International Landcare project such as ours helps us all to bond with other people around the globe, and conversely with others involved locally in such projects.

This is necessary because the challenge to sustainably feed the world's estimated additional 4 billion people by the year 2050 is huge (this requires a 40% production increase from the same land area). I believe International Landcare can be part of the many initiatives and programs to help meet this challenge. I call it the new “GREENER - Green Revolution” - and it is indeed needed both ‘out there’ and here.

Having Aurora, Gerardo and Eldon, the three Filipino Landcare facilitators, stay in our home during their recent 15 day visit to Brisbane, Maleny, Toowoomba, Canberra and Sydney, brought the whole project team closer with a more comfortable personal and professional relationship. These facilitators have already helped develop over 200 Landcare groups in the Philippines, nurturing them to self-sustainability. Although out of their own comfort zones in their new Landcare role, they accept the challenge head on.

By acting locally and globally with this project we can become more in touch with the real world out there. It confirms that we are not just an island, that we are all connected in some way or another.

It is certainly an honour and a privilege to be able to work with and develop such close personal relationships with others around the world, who like us, are dedicating their efforts towards a more sustainable future for the new generations. Filipino culture has a strong religious and family basis, and we can learn much from them about community development and people power issues of advocacy and empowerment. In Australia we are more often trying to find community from our fragmented society, whereas they have community in a more impacted-upon society.

Without this project I feel Barung would be less in touch with the real and bigger world out there. As a result we can benefit and grow with that learning. I certainly am. Many thanks again for all the Barung members and friends who made the second Filipino Landcare visit to Australia such a great success.

“We can have the landscape we want, or we can endure the landscape we let happen.”

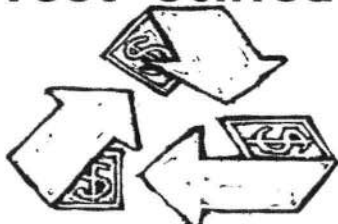


Living Landcare in the Philippines

Towards a National Framework for Development of EMS in Agriculture

Comment is called for by 31 March 2002 on this discussion paper on the AFFA web site dealing with Environmental Management Systems (EMS).
Site: www.affa.gov.au/ems_framework

reduce, reuse, recycle, invest ethically



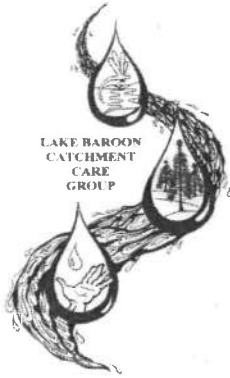
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Thank you to...

- ... Phil Giles, Goldlink BP Nambour for ongoing fuel sponsorship
- ... Jeff Sanger, Des Cosgrove & Pauline Clayton for your generous donations of trees for the Maleny High School Coxens Fig Parrot Foodplant Project.
- ... Daryl Reinke & Craig Hosmer for writing the nomination that won From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture the 2002 Sunshine Coast Environment Council Sustainable Eco-tourism Award.
- ... Clay Stokoe for \$100 donation towards reference books for the nursery.
- ... Max Smith for making bags to store the Cod tents.
- ... Ted Mulder for your invaluable Pagemaker tutorials.
- ... Caloundra Maroochy Water Supply Board for sponsoring a ticket to “Water for the Future.”
- ... Cr. Pauline Clayton for sponsoring two tickets to “Water for the Future.”
- ... Maleny Print & Copy for colour photocopy discounting.
- ... Dingo Hire for tree hole preparation work discounting.
- ... Wayne Harris, Jeff Sanger & Ian Gyntner for their contributions to the great Fig Marcotting Workshop.
- ... Tom Crothers, NR&M Bundaberg, for donation of OHP to Barung.



National Water Week 2001 COMPETITION



For National Water Week 2001,
the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group and Barung Landcare
are holding a competition to create a 2002 Catchment Calendar.

There are two categories for calendar entries:
schools and community.

Primary & Secondary Schools Category:

Submit an A4 size poster / picture representing catchment care activities
OR what a healthy catchment looks like.

There are no limits to the resources or mediums that you can use to create your poster/picture
(i.e. pencil, charcoal, coloured pencils, felt pens, crayons, paint, leaves, twigs, etc.)

BUT your entry must be A4 size.

We will choose:

- * 4 entries from the lower primary school levels (Yr 1-3),
- * 4 entries from the upper primary school levels (Yr 4-7), and
- * 4 entries from the secondary school levels (Yr 8-12).

WINNERS

Overall winner from each of these three levels will receive a small prize pack for themselves,
PLUS a catchment education resource pack for their school.

Each of the 12 selected entries will receive a copy of the 2002 Catchment Calendar.

Entries MUST attach the following details: name, year level, school and school address.

Community Category

Lake Baroon catchment community members (people who work, live or play here)
are invited to submit a photograph that captures
a favourite place, animal, plant or some other aspect of the Lake Baroon catchment.

The 12 best photographs will be selected for a 2002 Catchment Calendar.

WINNERS

First, second and third place-getters will receive prizes.

Each of the 12 selected entries will receive a copy of the calendar in 2002.

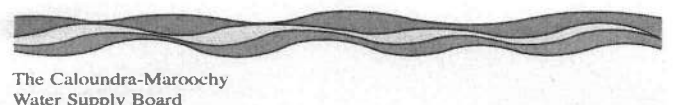
Entries must attach the following details: name, address and contact number.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: 4 pm on Friday December 14th, 2001

Entries can be submitted any time prior to this by posting to:

- # Mandy Botterell, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, PO Box 567, Maleny, 4552,
- # or by placing in the box provided in Barung Landcare Office.

Winners will be notified before the end of the year
and published in The Range News before Xmas.
Prizes will be presented in January 2002.



OUR WATER

from Kym Stanton

Saving water inside the home

Research shows that most people have no idea how much water they use and that large quantities can be saved simply by stopping wastage. This does not mean we have to make major lifestyle changes; it means that with a little common sense we can all take action to re-think our water usage habits, repair faulty water appliances and replace inefficient ones. Together we can reduce consumption providing long-term ecological and economic benefits to the whole community.

The average tap flows at a rate of 20-30 litres/minute, depending on how far it is turned on. This information has been applied to water usage information inside the average home to provide the following daily figures. These figures vary due to personal habits and the design of household appliances. We require much less than this to comfortably meet our needs and can all take action to easily reduce these amounts.

In the Bathroom

Brushing teeth	5 litres
Shaving	8 litres
Flushing toilet	12 litres
Shower	40 - 250 litres
Bath	50-150 litres

We can all rethink, repair and replace in the bathroom by:

- * taking shorter showers. Limit showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rise off. Remember that shorter showers also save on hot water costs. If you really must have a long soak it is better to take a bath - better yet to share it with a friend!

- * using the plug and a little warm water for rinsing razors. This will save water and power.

- * turning off the tap while brushing your teeth. You can wet the brush and fill a glass for rinsing at the same time.

- * installing an inexpensive water-saving shower head. Many showers put out 20 litres of water per minute, however, 10 litres is enough for a refreshing, cleansing shower.

- * installing a dual flush toilet. Modern toilets with the option to flush either half or all the cistern's water, use around 3 - 6 litres respectively. Traditional toilets can often be converted to dual flush.

In the laundry

Washing machine	40 - 170 litres
-----------------	-----------------

You can save water in the laundry by:

- * utilising suds-save options where available and if appropriate.

- * making sure the machine load adjustment is correct. If there is no load adjustment for the water level, wait till you have a full load.

- * purchasing new water efficient appliances. When you replace appliances, look for adjustable water levels, suds-save options and carry a water efficient (AAA) rating. While Australians traditionally prefer top loading machines, front-loaders that are more popular overseas, generally use less water.

In the Kitchen

Drinking, cooking and cleaning	8 litres
Dish washing by hand	18 litres
Dishwasher	20-50 litres
Garbage disposal unit	30 litres per day

Here are a few tips for saving water and money in the kitchen:-

- * If washing dishes by hand, don't rinse them under running water. If you have dual sinks, fill the second with rinsing water or rinse with a pot of water after dishes are stacked in the dish rack.

- * Do not run automatic dishwashers until you have a full load.

- * Use the plug in the sink when washing vegetables.

- * Keep bottled drinking water in the fridge and save water wasted allowing for the temperature change to flow through the pipes.

- * Aerating taps and flow restrictors are inexpensive and can reduce water flow by 50%.

- * When cooking use only the water required. Reduce power usage and evaporation by using a well fitting lid.

- * Garbage disposal units use about 30 litres of water / day and send extra rubbish and nutrients down the drain where they don't belong. Worm farming and composting are a better use for these resources.

- * When buying a new appliance that uses water, be sure that it has a high water conservation (AAA) rating.

Checking for leaks

If you are connected to the town water supply your home will be equipped with a water meter. Information about how to read this meter is printed on the back of the blue Calacqua water consumption card that is left in the letterbox when a meter reading takes place. You can use your meter to monitor your water consumption for decreases and check for leaks as well.

To check for leaks turn off all taps and take a meter reading before retiring for the evening. Check the meter again first thing in the morning. If the meter has advanced, recording consumption when no one has used any water during the night, you may have a leaking pipe. Locate and repair the problem, and save both money and water.

Leaking taps and toilets are also big water wasters but are easier to identify than leaking pipes. A dripping tap can waste 30-200 litres / day. Turn taps off properly and check washers for wear. Replace with washers that are more resistant to over tightening. A continuously flushing toilet can waste more than 16 000 litres of water / year. To check for leaks, put a small amount of food colouring in the cistern tank. If the colour appears in the bowl without the toilet being flushed you could have a leaking toilet.

Hot water pipes and systems

You can save a lot of water and power by utilising your hot water system more efficiently. Check for the following to make savings:

- * Are your hot water pipes insulated to avoid wasting power and water while waiting for hot water to flow through the pipes?

- * Is your hot water system thermostat set at too high a temperature? Besides scalding skin in a much shorter time, it can also need more cold water added to it.

A reduction in demand for water will defer, perhaps even avert, the need for new dams and reduce expenditure on storing, treating and distributing water. So it makes economic and environmental sense to ensure water conservation becomes a habit for us all. Together we can make a big difference, without making major lifestyle changes. The benefits to the whole community will be long-term and far-reaching.



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Barung Volunteer Profile

*Direct from the potting bench ...
The Potteruperers!*

Our Volunteer of the Month was so hard to select that I decided to choose them all. Selecting just one from the motley crew we have here throughout the week was just too damn hard.

Worthy praise is to be plastered all over Nichelle Vasey, Bruce Wilson, Rowena Cavanagh and Irene. These people have devoted lots of time and energy to helping us out here at the Barung Nursery and would you believe without even the slightest whimper of discontent.

Nichelle is a long term resident here now, regularly appearing after bouts of intellectual bombardment from her studies. Perhaps potting up could be considered a form of therapy for Nichelle, if nothing else it offers opportunity to get an education of a different kind whilst sharing stories and jokes with her fellow potteruperers. Nichelle's sharp wit and contagious giggle can often be overheard from the back room, a welcome addition to any workplace.

Bruce is our 'one-man weeding machine.' Never have I ever met anyone with such a fantastic acceptance of such a menial yet important job as weeding. This is a rare quality in anyone, even paid labour. Perhaps weeding is therapeutic as well, or is it just the simple fact that in essence, weeding can actually be a matter of life or death for tiny little plants in tubes? Bruce, you're doing a great job, and I am sure the plants appreciate it as much as we do (well, maybe not the weeds!)

Rowena is our weekend saviour. She regularly devotes her Saturday mornings to help our other weekend vols to, in turn, help you our customers when you come to buy plants. It's great to be around Rowena because her enthusiasm and keenness to learn is really positive. It is also great just to have someone else there when you are working of a Saturday, Thanks Rowena.

Irene is another of our star potteruperers. She appears regularly, bringing with her contagious conversation and a life experience which is incredibly distracting yet captivating. She is a true character with a fantastic environmental and life ethic and also a great plant rehabilitator, having saved numerous Barung basket cases and nursed them back to full health.

I suppose, in summary, that it would be fair to say that each and every one of our volunteers, from both now and the past are invaluable components of Barung Landcare and individually, bring uniqueness and diversity to our team. And besides, if it were not for them I'd have a truck load of weeding to do.



Dear Barung Landcare,

At a recent meeting the (Caloundra/Maroochy Water Supply) Board's Manager, Mr Phil Aldridge, presented the video "A Snapshot of the Lake Baroon Catchment" created by yourselves and Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group.

I have been asked to extend to you the Board's congratulations on the video and also on winning the Waterwatch Award.

Craig Harrison,
Administration Officer,
Caloundra/Maroochy Water Supply Board

Dear Elaine (Green)

re: Sustainable Ecotourism Award for
From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Expo.

On behalf of the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, I would like to congratulate Barung Landcare Group on winning the Sustainable Ecotourism Award at the Sunshine Coast Environment Council Annual Environmental awards ceremony on Saturday 17th November.

The *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* Expo is an excellent example of a productive and successful outcome from the power of collaboration among community and industry groups and I commend Barung Landcare for this excellent initiative.

Congratulations once again and all the best for your future projects.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thompson
Secretary, MRCCC

Dear Alan (Wynn)

Thank you for your email of 31 October regarding the "Adopt-a-spot" scheme.

Your proposal was discussed at our Board meeting and it was resolved that if we could get sufficient volunteers from amongst our members, then we would be happy to assume responsibility for maintenance of a section of the Obi Boardwalk.

I am pleased to inform you that five of our members subsequently volunteered so we are able to be involved. Please contact our President to arrange details - which part of the Boardwalk - appropriate signage - exactly what needs to be done - etc.

Rotary has long recognised the importance of environmental concerns and we have a program in place throughout the world called "Preserve Planet Earth" whose aim is to initiate community awareness programs to preserve our planet's resources.

Regards
W M (Mike) Gregory
Club Secretary, The Rotary Club of Maleny

Congratulations

to ex- Barung Treasurer

Neil MacLeod and his wife Gillian

whose Maleny property featured recently

on a "Totally Wild" segment on rainforest restoration



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THE FLYING CANE TOAD IS HERE!
Indian Mynah (Acridotheres Tristris)

from Alan Franks



Common or Indian Mynah

This bird is also unfortunately known as the "Common Mynah". For Sunshine Coasters this usually means the Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanoccephala*) and here begins the confusion. The Noisy Miner is a native Australian honeyeater, mainly grey in colour.

The Common or Indian Mynah is 230mm -250mm length, with a dark chocolate brown head, neck and throat. The rest of upper body are deep faun with darker brown wings and large white oval in-flight feathers. It has a yellow eye and bill, and pale yellow feet, and is conspicuous in flight.

It was first introduced to the Melbourne area in 1862, then to the Townsville cane fields in 1883 to eat cane beetles - sound familiar?

"So what?" you say. Well here is the problem

The Indian Mynah builds its nest in tree hollows or other available cavities. It also builds dummy nests in nearby tree hollows to prevent other birds from nesting, evicting (killing) any baby birds that happen to be in these hollows or open nests nearby. The "nest" is actually a mixture of leaves, plastic bags, lolly wrappers and any other available rubbish.

Between 1968-1971 110 of these birds were introduced to Canberra and it is estimated (Pell A.S.& Tideman C.R.) that by 1994 there were 118per km. These birds have recently arrived on the Sunshine Coast; Beerwah, Landsborough, Nambour, Conondale, Caloundra and Bokarina have all had positive sightings.

Barung Landcare, Wildlife Preservation Society (Caloundra branch) and the Noosa Park Association are planning a forum on this bird early next year. More details will be available soon, but in the meantime you can help by reporting sightings of this bird to Alan/Stacey Franks (5472 3142), Valda McLain (5476 2123), Yvonne Taylor (5494 4436) or Jill Chamberlain (5444 2707).

For further information on look on:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/srmes/wildlife/myna/mynadistrib.html>

WEEDBUSTERS' NEWS

Dear Weedos,

Several months ago my book "Feral Future: The Untold Story of Australia's Exotic Invaders" sold out. Penguin have just re-released it in a smaller paperback format with a white cover. It has a new foreword talking about fire ants and new weed incursions, and should be readily available in stores for \$22.

Tim Lowe

(Editor's note: "Feral Future" will be available soon from Barung)

Envioweeds Email Discussion Group

The 'Envioweeds' email discussion group is managed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Weed Management Systems (Weeds CRC), and hosted by the Vic. Dept of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE). Anyone is welcome to join in the discussions and use the network to access weed information.

Contact: envioweeds@majordomo.nre.vic.gov.au

The Maleny Strangler Strikes Again

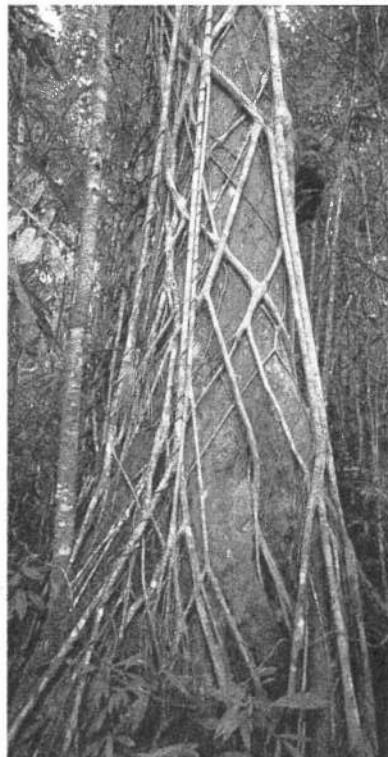
cont'd from p 16

process. The survival of the fig depends on its roots reaching the forest floor and finding permanent water.

Once that connection of root to soil is made, the days of the host tree are numbered (well the decades anyway - time moves bit slower in the plant world). Soil contact and permanent water allows the fig to rapidly accelerate its growth and send more roots down, these roots eventually surround host tree giving it an unintentional hug of death! *

Mature Ficus sp. that apparently start life in such a gruesome manner go on to become fountains of life within forests, through the massive quantities of fruit they produce. The fruit themselves are unique in that the flowers are born internally within the 'fruit' and are pollinated by remarkable mini-wasps that in turn complete their lifecycle within the 'fruit'. The fruit provide a life sustaining supply of food to numerous birds and animals and are sometimes born in quantities that could possibly be estimated not by the kilo but by the ton.

However before you race in to Barung and buy a fig to plant in your backyard, consider the amazing root system that these plants have and what they may do to your/your neighbour's drains or foundations. Their root systems can be expansive and are great at holding landscape together, but putting one in your backyard is like trying to keep an emu in a budgie cage - sooner or later something is going to give!



Acreage is best for these guys and they are one of those amazing plants that once established are incredibly hardy and will live on for centuries. Help make the future a better place and find a place in your world for a fig.

* Gosh it's easy to slip into the 'nature's battlefield' descriptions of natural processes. After watching yet another Crocodile Hunter episode, I imagine myself as an intrepid - if somewhat hyped botanist - battling through deep dark jungle, dodging flailing tendrils of lawyer cane, wrestling dangerous strangler figs and advising the viewers at home to never, ever try anything like this with their petunias.

WEEDBUSTERS NEEDED

**on the Obl Boardwalk.
 Adopt-a-spot this month
 and help us keep
 the Boardwalk
 A WEED FREE ZONE.**



The Maleny Strangler Strikes Again
An over dramatic report from Spencer Shaw

Deep in the forests of the Blackall Range is lurking a silent killer. The victims are often taken by surprise and their death is slow and drawn out.

But don't worry too much. Unless you do a Rip van Winkle and fall asleep for a few decades in the forest, these guys won't get a grip on you because these stranglers are Figs.

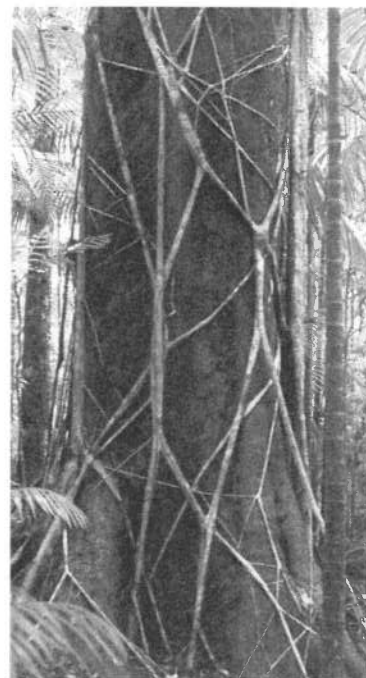
The main 'strangler figs' include Watkins fig (*Ficus watkinsiana*), Morteon bay fig (*F. macrophylla*), Small-leafed fig (*Ficus obliqua*) and also to a lesser extent White fig (*Ficus virens*), Deciduous fig (*Ficus superba*) and the Rock fig (*Ficus platypoda*).

What a superb evolutionary step these guys have taken in the competition for life in the forest. While all other trees start their life on the forest floor this particular group of trees has figured out a short cut to the canopy. They have the amazing ability to germinate not just in soil but in moist patches of humus high in the forks of branches on existing trees.

You can imagine that life in the tree tops must become very dry after months without rain like we have seen recently, but somehow fig seedlings survive on what little moisture is taken from the air or that collects on the trunk of their host. This ability also makes them one of the few plants that can strike on rocky outcrops where moisture collects in fissures - *Ficus virens*, the White fig, can commonly be seen on rocky outcrops beside waterfalls throughout the Range.

The next task for the fig to complete after germinating high in an existing canopy tree, is to send roots down to the ground. Just enough leaf is produced to provide the energy for this

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