

**BARUNG  
LANDCARE  
NEWS**



Feb - March 2000

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

# Bridge the Gap

**First Treeplant for the New Millennium  
Saturday morning February 12**

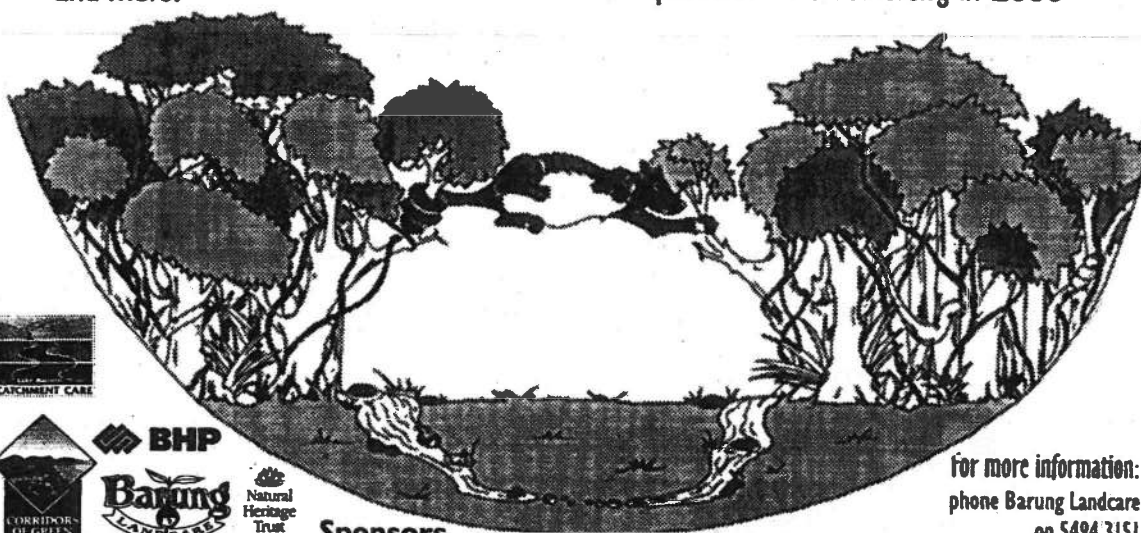
8am – 12 noon treeplant; 12.30pm – 4.30pm music & entertainment

Buses will be running all morning between Maleny High School  
and the site – a 5 minute bus trip. The first bus leaves for the planting site at 8am.

**Help plant 5,000 trees, connecting 120 acres of superb rainforest  
to other nearby remnants and to Bridge Creek, a link to the Mary River System.**

**... then join us for an afternoon festival for treeplanters featuring:**

- ▶ a great range of local music
- ▶ bushfood walks with Ann Moran
- ▶ bird ID walk with Russell Lamb
- ▶ children's activities with the Mary River Cod team and their amazing cod dragon
- ▶ interesting guest speakers, displays and more!
- ▶ free cold drinks and morning snacks
- ▶ all afternoon activities free of charge (except for food)
- ▶ prizes for treeplanters who find lucky tickets in the tubes
- ▶ a fantastic opportunity to get together with friends and achieve something positive for biodiversity in 2000



**Sponsors**

For more information:  
phone Barung Landcare  
on 5494 3151

**CORRIDORS OF GREEN  
- BRIDGE THE GAP**

*from Marc Russell*



*Some of the 35 adjacent landholders who are doing corridor revegetation works on their properties as part of the project!!*

Our NHT (Natural Heritage Trust) Corridors of Green Project is well on track with on-ground work gaining momentum in the Bridge Creek area.

Many participating landholders have already been planting trees and many others are preparing to plant soon. Their efforts in planting, mulching, fertilising, watering and maintaining will play a crucial role in the success of the overall corridor. Each of the 35 properties involved is like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle and the work they are doing fits together to create a link between 3 important rainforest remnants. Much of the work will be on creek banks (over 5 km being planted).

On Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 10 000 trees will be planted by the community and Green Corps at our Bridge the Gap Treeplant, and over the next few months another 10 000 will be planted by the Bridge Ck. landholders.

The Bridge the Gap treeplant is the third and final stage of our Range To Coast project sponsored by BHP. The first two stages saw the big community treeplants on the Entrance Site (below Maleny High School) in 1998 and the Walkers Creek near Erowal in 1999.

Barung will be working in conjunction with several local groups on the COG project at Bridge Ck. including;

- Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group - constructing 2 important cattle crossings;
- Caloundra/Maroochy Water Supply Board - donating workers and machinery towards crossings;
- Mary River Catchment Care Riverbank Restoration Scheme - fencing stock from a remnant and supplying 1000 trees for the creek bank;
- Maleny & District Credit Union - funding towards trees;
- and Caloundra City Council who have been very supportive of the project. Deputy Mayor Ian Bryce is presently trying to

source adequate funding to purchase approximately 100ac rainforest to be set aside as an environmental reserve. The long-term conservation of this relatively undisturbed patch of forest is of high priority, as it is one of the healthiest seed banks in the region. Rare and threatened species occur on the site and it is a major breeding ground for the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly.

Our new Green Corps team have completed their first 2 days of tree planting on the property of Eddie Oemichen. 800 plants were put in on the banks of Bridge Ck., followed by a well deserved celebration (this was Corridors of Green's first tree plant as well!!!) At his own expense Eddie has fenced 350m of creek (completely excluding cattle) and he has offered to do another acre in a frail part of the corridor to further strengthen the work we are doing. Thanks Eddie.

The next important phase is our "Bridge the Gap Treeplant" on the property of Robin and Jenice McLachlan and this is where we need your help. Turning up on the day and enlisting friends to join us will ensure success for what is turning out to be a fantastic event.

The quality musical line-up includes The Paul Clement Band, Tommy Leonard, Noel Gardener and the unforgettable Peter Oliver. Other interesting activities include guided bushfood and bird walks along the rainforest edge with Ann Moran and Russell Lamb and an opening with Bev Hand, a local Murri. Rainforest guru Rob Kooyman and bushfood/historical authors Pat and Sim Symons will also give short presentations.

Tree planters will have the opportunity to win prizes of books and plants if the tree they plant has a lucky token in the pot. Children's activities will be on throughout the morning and celebrations begin at 12.30 pm.

The overall theme of this event is to get together and enjoy ourselves, we'll just happen to plant a forest while we're at it (5 000 trees). Please make the effort to support this exciting project - the rewards will be felt for generations. See you there!!!

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Kel Harding*

Lately I've been reading "The Water Wizard" by Viktor Schauberg. This scientist's interest in water began in the earlier part of last century. He noticed water in nature "naturalistic" and observed behaviour and characteristics of "the earth's blood". It occurred to me how valuable his works are because if we wanted to repeat any of his studies, where would you go to find waterways that haven't been influenced by man.

As we know, wherever man goes, degradation of nature follows. "The only pure truth is the wilderness," said Tom Brown Jr who was influenced by an Apache Indian.

So this makes Schauberg's works so valuable - it confirms for me the importance of riparian corridors; to let water be what it needs to be - water has its own intelligence and consciousness. We have immature water and we have mature water - healthy water - diseased water.

Compelling reading - I would urge people interested in landcare to read his works - it not only confirms what we know and believe but also engenders a greater understanding of the lifeblood of nature. Not to be missed! Get your copy from the Maple Street Coop.

## EDUCATION IN LANDCARE

*from Mim Coulstock*

The Education Desk has been extremely busy since our well-earned Christmas break.

The 2000 highlight to date is the recent S.E.E.D.S. trip to Moreton Island for three days. We lucked out by being at the beach for the heat-wave at the end of January. The kids lucked out by 'swimming with the dolphins' on the last day. I would like to announce that Karen Shaw and I are now qualified to drive anywhere at anytime as long as there is at least 30cm of sand underfoot! Heartfelt thanks to Karen for organising this wonderful trip.

We are developing several interesting lines of Workshops and Information Nights for 2000 centred around the themes of Fauna, Water and Alternative Land-uses. Revegetation and Property Management streams will continue throughout the year.

The Fauna Info Nights have been launched with tremendous support from both Barung members and non-members with our Funnelweb

and Snakes nights. Next on the agenda is a night on Ticks, Leeches and their Forest Floor Friends which will bring us to the end of bites and make way for frogs, mammals and birds. We thought that the funnelwebs, snakes and ticks and leeches were pertinent coming into summer's heat and that education about these creatures will be of benefit to both them and us.

Our Water line will include workshops and information nights on Groundwater, Instream Works and Building Farm Dams.

The Alternative Land-use series will kick off with a full-day workshop on

Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup>. This day will be an introduction and brainstorming day for different land ventures with economic potential. It will give a brief introduction to bio-dynamic farming, aquaculture, organic growing, bushfoods and others and will hopefully point the way to a more specialized series of workshops on individual topics with specialists from each field.

Keep your eye on the Calendar of Events for news on all of these. It is looking as though Barung will be on the net within the next few months. I would like to hear from any Barung members with local environmentally friendly businesses who would be interested in internet advertising at an extremely good rate. As well as supporting landcare, you would get 12 months of great exposure and advertising for not much more than a decent sized ad in The Sunshine Coast Daily (and fully tax deductible!) Get in touch with Angela or myself. Barung's Resource Kit is being sent out to all staff at Maleny State School and one copy to all other local schools when school begins. We would like Barung to be included more in local environmental education and hope to build stronger bridges with the children in our catchment. They are the land-carers of the future so we must start educating them now.

Coming up on April 16<sup>th</sup> is the *Rivers of the Range* Congress. This will be open to students from all local schools as well as the public and will be focussing on caring for our waterways.

Thankyou to Kerry McIntyre for his help on the Education Subcommittee over the last few years. Unfortunately Kerry has to step down due to work commitments out of the country. If any Barung members would like to be involved with the Education Subcommittee, please come in and see me.

I am going down to Melbourne for the International Landcare Conference in early March to wave the Education Flag. If any members have items they would like to see raised - if the opportunity arises - please let me know.

Landcare Education is for everyone, so keep in touch.

## Host of the Century

Mim Coulstock

presented by the

S.C.H.E.P.A.

(Sunshine Coast Hinterland  
External Parasites Assoc  
Bush Tick Sub Group)

*As you can see I am well  
qualified to host the Tick  
nite!! Thanks Kel!*

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr & Mrs K Nieminen	Eliza Burfein
Tony & Caroline Levings	K. S. Fizelle
Jillian Crick	Karen Puckering
Wayne Reid	L Wray & A Obrien
Paula & Phil Weddell	Paul Belci
Darren & Brooke Lightbody	Don & Sharon Woolard
Steve Swayne	Geoff Lennard
Glen & Gerry Ferguson	Ross Smith
Matthew Smith	Tanya & Steve Wheeler
Nicholas Mansergh	Robert Schmidt
David Brown	Kim Hinckfuss
Michelle Sail	John & Denise Elkins
Steve & Rhonda Budden	Andrew Thorburn
Cath & Paul Blain	Paul O'Callaghan
Norm Bourguignon	Ted & Eunice Prickett
Volkmar Salmen	Jennifer Hardy & Stephen Tooley

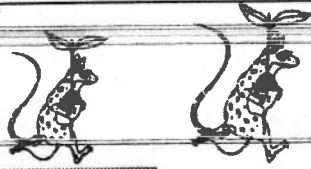
THANKYOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

## from Chainsaw to Fine Furniture

TO BE HELD AT THE NEW ACTIVITIES CENTRE  
AT MALENY HIGH SCHOOL ~ JUNE 10TH, 11TH & 12TH.

Exhibitors are being sought now, so don't miss out -  
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*new date & new venue & better than ever!*



# SEEDS by the sea

from Karen Shaw



In the early hours of Thursday 20th January, a group of small eager environmentalists set off on a 3 day camping journey to Moreton Island.

The kids were absolutely fantastic and made the whole experience a joy for everyone. Thanks, Indigo, Samuel, Breannon, Elise, Adric, Catherine & Jake.



These SEEDS kids and a handful of lucky adults explored this wonderful island and enjoyed many exciting activities such as sand tabogganing, bush-walking, swimming, 4-wheel driving, watching the sea-life from Cape Moreton and meeting a pod of friendly dolphins.



We all enjoyed meeting Ranger Norm, who explained the formation of the island & shared information about the fauna and flo. Ranger Mike provided us with many suggestions for our explorations (usually starting with - "this will tire the kids out...." He didn't say anything about how exhausted the adults would be!)



Driving the Patrol on soft sand was a stomach-clenching experience for myself (and I'm sure my passengers) but we survived. Mim was already a veteran at this and sailed around places where I would r stuck !



Moreton Island is a beautiful place to go on a camping expedition - we enjoyed lovely weather, full-moon-lit walks along the sands and fantastic beaches.

I'm looking forward to the next one !

Special thanks for the support from Mim, Clay, Linda, Penny, Sam and Viv, who came to share the fun.



**February SEEDS will be on the 8th** - as the first Tuesday is too close to School starting. We will be remembering our trip, making posters with our photos, designing a new SEEDS mural and learning more about our precious sea-life. **March SEEDS, (on the 7th)** will be good gooey fun with Paper Making. So bring along any interesting petals, coloured paper, feathers, etc that we can use. Does anyone have a spare OLD blender that we could use? Please bring it in to Barung and we'll send you some beautiful SEEDS paper in return.  
**Keep caring for your environment**

## TRIPPING AROUND

### Snakes of The Blackall Range

Well done to local folk who remembered Barung's Snake Info Night in early January - apologies for the late advertising!

Once again more than 70 people packed the Thynne Education Centre at Mary Cairncross to listen to Darren Symons, Reptile Keeper from the Australia Zoo share his knowledge and love of snakes. Despite having all of his slides stolen, Darren improvised and everyone present was enthralled by his tall but true tales, heeding his advice on identification of local snakes, how to live to them, when to remove them, snake safety, and snakebite avoidance and treatment.

If bitten by any snake, apply a pressure bandage from the site of the bite to the top of the limb and down again if possible, and seek hospital attention without panicking or rushing! Do not wash or suck the bite - any trace of venom is necessary for snake ID. (Doctor's surgeries do not have the means to identify species from venom samples, so go to the nearest hospital.)

Both beautiful and misunderstood, snakes and other reptiles are an intrinsic part of the biodiversity of the Blackall Range. In fact the diversity of snakes found on the Range is a reflection of the overall health of our ecosystem.

CHECK FOR  
TICKS  
REGULARY

WEAR YOUR  
ANTI TICK  
P.P.E



IF YOU FEEL TIRED, NAUSEOUS  
OR ARE EXPERIENCING HEAD  
ACHES, YOU MAY HAVE A TICK.

Our next Info Night will be on  
*Ticks, Leeches & their  
Forest Floor Friends*  
at 7 pm Tuesday Feb 22nd  
at Mary Cairncross.



### Chainsaw Level 1 Course

Barung will be hosting its third Level 1 Chainsaw Course on Feb 17 & 18th. Although almost booked out, there are a few places left. If you are interested in getting your Level 1 ticket (which you need for working on other people's property or public land), please ring the office and reserve a place.

We will be hosting a Level 2 Workshop in March. This is the tree felling arm of the Course, but you must have completed Level 1 to participate. Please book in for Level 2 as soon as possible. Places will be available for graduates of the February Level 1 Course.

### Alternate Horticulture

This one day workshop on Saturday Feb 19th, is designed to give local landholders - small or large - an introduction to alternate horticultural land-use. Topics to be covered include biodynamic and organic farming, aquaculture, fruit production and bushfoods. Depending on the level of interest generated, we will follow up with full day workshops on individual topics. Please book early for this workshop day, as we are anticipating a lot of interest.

### SNAKE CATCHERS - SUNSHINE COAST

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

Darren Symons (Beerwah) - 5494 0741

Anthony Gourley (Caboolture) - 5498 3835

John Rudder (Maroochydore) - 5443 5754

\* call only if snake genuinely needs to be removed

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

## NURSERY REPORT

Spencer Shaw

  
last days for free rates trees  
Fri 4th & Sat 5th February

Happy New Year to you all. What a fantastic time for growing things - fruit are dropping, seed germinating and our nursery is full of tubes ready for planting!

We carried out a mid-year stocktake on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December and I'm proud to announce, on behalf of all the nursery team, that we are now stocking 50 000 + tubes, the majority of which we have grown ourselves. This translates into more local genetics for our plantings and a greater financial surplus to help ensure a healthy future for Barung.

We have new benches in our full sun retail area and have doubled the size of our vine section. There are many specials in these areas with Acacias, *Pultenaea villosa*, *Hardenbergia violacea* and others available for \$1.50 each. Also available are *Lomandra hystrix* in 50mm tubes for only \$1.00 - ideal for erosion control and riverbank restoration.

Our long awaited Data Base Species Lists will be in stock from February. These cover the basic forest types for our area and will provide a fantastic resource for all of you interested in revegetating your block with its original forest type. The lists are available at a minimal cost in the nursery shop.

In closing, I'd like to extend a special thanks to our dynamic Green Corps team and the fantastic job of weeding the nursery and planting our gardens they performed in early December. Keep up the great work!

### BULK DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FROM NURSERY

If you are a Barung member and are purchasing \$200 or more of plant stock, or if you wish to pay in advance for large numbers of plants, a 25% discount is available.

**JUST ASK AT THE OFFICE NEXT TIME YOU ARE IN.**

### THANKS TO...

... Rod & Nick from Range Reveg

for noticing the Tawny Frogmouth family in the macaranga in the nursery and to

... Jan Tilden

for so quickly responding to our call for a camera!

... David & Alison MacDonald

for their donation of a Victor lawnmower. Also for their landcare thoughts in passing on footage of David Suzuki's Riparian Reveg and Corridors programs for the Barung library.

... R&T Boyle

for their generous donation to Landcare.

... Kay & Joe Herron

for playing host to the Barung Xmas Party.

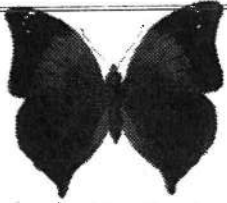


LANDCARE.

## LEAFWING

(*Doleschallia bisaltide australis*)

from Bob Miller



As the name implies, this butterfly is the perfect image of a dead leaf when at rest. This enables it to be completely camouflaged in its natural rainforest environment.

The undersides of the wings are light brown, with a line running down the center not unlike the mid-vein on a leaf. The upperside is orange-brown with a black outer edge.

The larvae of the Leafwing is one of the most stunning I have seen. It is black with many branched spines, rising from orange-red and iridescent blue spots, which literally sparkle in the sunlight.

The pupae is just as spectacular, not because of its colouration, (they are usually only light grey or caramel-brown) but because of its geometrical shapes. The pupae is always found hanging upside down, usually not on its food plant. This is because the larvae are very voracious, often eating all of the food in the immediate area. If the pupae were on its food plant it would fall to the ground to most definitely die.

The only native food plant I have found the larvae on is 'love-flower' or *Pseuderanthemum variabile*. This low-growing herbaceous plant has flowers varying from pure white to dark purple. Some of the most beautiful are white with a red speckled throat. The leaves of the love-flower are green, with the underside of some being green and some purple-maroon.

Barung usually has this plant in stock, but be warned, if you intend on raising this larvae you will need a lot of plants. One good thing is that they seed very freely when given the right conditions.

Further information can be obtained by reading Butterflies of Australia by Common and Waterhouse, 1981.

### Blackall Range Rainforest Walks



It was with great pleasure that I began the Blackall Range Rainforest Walks in January.

With 20 years of experience in Interpretation and Tourism at Lamington and Dorrigo National Parks and more recently at Mary Cairncross Reserve, I have seen for a long time a strong need for such a service for visitors.

Through sensitive and accurate interpretation of the Ecology, and sharing such Secrets of the Rainforest as birds and reptiles, one can successfully increase public awareness. This in turn improves the sustainability of all our rainforests and assists restoration of degraded remnants.

My walks are an introduction for visitors to experience the magic of Rainforest. Two special walks are 8am Bird Walks every day at Mary Cairncross Reserve and Spotlighting twice weekly at Kondalilla. The walks last two to three hours and range from easy to more strenuous e.g. Kondalilla.

I am also happy to tailor personalised walks, give talks and take walks on private properties with cottages etc. Sharing my knowledge is a labour of love, and non is more special than to help develop a child's love of the natural environment. All children who come on a walk receive a Certificate as a Junior Rainforest Caretaker.

Brochures with full details are available at Barung.

## LOCAL, WILD & EDIBLE

### THE PEANUT TREE

*Sterculia quadrifolia* by Bernard Murawski

This genera was named after Sterculius, the Roman god of dung and privies, as the flowers of some species have an offensive odour.

Habitat - mainly coastal including sand dunes, monsoon and drier vine-thickets, rocky sites, and also monsoon, dry and riverine rainforests.

Distribution - from NW Australia and the Northern Territory (common around Darwin) to the east coast as far south as Coraki in Northern NSW. It is also a native of New Guinea.

Habit - a medium to tall tree to 20 m in rainforest environment, or to 5-10 m in an open situation - a good shade tree. Deciduous, losing its leaves in July-August with new growth appearing in October-November.

Flowers - small, inconspicuous, and greenish-yellow. The sepals remain joined at their tips giving the flowers a rounded, cage-like effect. In south-east Queensland they appear around November-December.



Fruit - matures 12 months after flowering. An ovoid capsule (approx. 5 x 3 cm) with a smooth, leathery skin turning scarlet red when ripe. Upon ripening the pod splits open to reveal up to eight, shiny black seeds, up to 1 cm long - about the same size as peanuts.

Uses - peeled seeds can be eaten raw or roasted and taste like a cross between a macadamia and a peanut. They are high in protein with a low fat content. The black, outer coating needs to be peeled away before the seed is consumed. Heating in an oven or dry saucepan will make seeds burst the outer coating, making it easier to remove. The seeds could be used to replace peanuts in recipes such as biscuits, slices or maybe even satay sauce (Aussie style).

Aboriginal people use different parts of the tree to treat stings, sooth sore or infected eyes, and make string.

Propagation -germinates easily from fresh seed sown directly into pots or the ground. Will grow on a variety of soils including sands, well-drained clays, and rocky areas. It is frost tender, drought tolerant, enjoys a sunny position, and is suitable for exposed coastal areas. Maintain a regular supply of water and fertilize twice a year with an organic fertilizer.

Pests -mainly a range of leaf eating caterpillars causing substantial defoliation if unchecked. Can be controlled chemically with dimethoate or by the use of natural predators such as assassin bugs that have been found to inhabit the tree. Leaf eating beetles (*Paropsis* sp.) have also been noted feeding on the leaves.

Its close relative, the kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*), could be used as a guide to the problems that may also affect the peanut tree. This tree is afflicted with fungal diseases such as leaf spot (*Phyllosticta sterculia*) and tar spot (*Phyllochora* spp.), armillaria root rot (*Armillaria luteobubalina*) and phytophthora (*Phytophthora palmivora*). Insect pests include psyllids (*Protyora sterculiae* and *Aconopsylla sterculiae*), gall wasps (*Megastigmus*), weevils (*Tepperia sterculiae* and *Axionicus insignis*), and numerous caterpillars.



with Josi Marriott,  
Reveg Officer

## BUSH REGENERATION

While highly disturbed sites or those devoid of naturally occurring trees are in need of revegetation works, other less disturbed areas may only need regeneration work. Such areas may contain a good percentage of native cover, some seed producing trees and emerging seedlings, but may be weed infested. Part of the regen. work may mean fencing out stock and undertaking sensitive weed removal to allow the natural processes to take their course.

It is not unusual to stand on the edges of remnant vegetation and note the many regenerating native seedlings amongst the weeds. Have you noticed the native seedlings germinating under your remnants?

It is usually a lot easier to identify the numerous invasive weed species than to identify all of the natives! Often just the removal of one or two weed species will reveal the native seedlings awaiting their opportunity. Gradual sensitive removal of weeds allows the natives to dominate, creates limited light conditions unsuitable for weed growth or competition for resources, and lets nature do most of the work.

Bush regeneration is defined as "the rehabilitation of bush from a weed infested or otherwise degraded plant community to a healthy community composed of native plants" (Buchanan 1989) and aims to "restore and maintain an ecosystem in which natural regeneration can occur." (National Trust (NSW) 1986).

The promotion of bush regeneration began in Sydney in 1971 with Joan and Eileen Bradley. The Bradley method was described as "Weeding a little from the bush towards the weeds to take the pressure off the natives under favourable conditions. Native seeds and spores are ready in the ground, and the natural environment favours the plants that evolved in it. The balance is tipped back towards the regeneration." (Bringing Back the Bush J. Bradley 1988).

So regeneration is a vital component of revegetation and may be combined with planting, direct seeding and hydromulching.

Weed control techniques may include mechanical weed control (may result in high level soil disturbance and rapid germination of weed seeds), the use of herbicides, burning, mulching and hand weeding. Hand removal of weeds is an effective technique and is undertaken to provide minimum soil disturbance, however the propagation, growth and rooting habits of specific weeds must be understood for effective long term control.

There are four main types of root systems in plants:

1. a taproot (deep taproot in proportion to the shoot size, with few lateral roots, very difficult to pull out);
2. a root with tap and lateral roots;
3. adventitious roots (roots grow from stems and leaves in contact with the ground e.g. kikuyu);
4. and fibrous roots (shallow mat of numerous roots of similar thickness, good soil binders).

Once you recognise these four root types and know the standard methods of weed removal, you can quickly select the correct manual method for the target weed e.g. if a small leaved privet with a dense mat of feeder roots is pulled, it is likely that a huge wad of soil will also come out and, perhaps, that precious nearby native tree as well.

The following hand weeding techniques follow the Bradley

method of minimum disturbance and chemical free removal:

# Hand Pulling - pull at ground level, or for larger plants rock the plant back and forward and pull;

# Weeding Herbaceous Perennials

1. Crowning (useful for plants with rhizomes, corms or crowns close below the surface): push a knife or lever into the ground close to the base of the plant at an angle, circle around and under the base (cone shape), and lift entire plant and base out;
2. Digging out entire plant (plants with bulbs and tubers need to be completely removed, which is slow and tedious): dig down to first tuber and excavate around it, remove all secondary tubers and keep checking for regrowth.

The two methods of plant reproduction are:

1. sexual - takes place in the flower;
2. and asexual or vegetative, which occurs when a piece is divided from or breaks off the plant and starts growing independently. Plants which reproduce this way include those with bulbs, corms, tubers, rhizomes and stolons (all modified roots). Also included are those that produce plantlets from leaves or from coppicing and suckering roots e.g. privet or camphor laurel which coppice from the trunk and develop a ring of suckers on the spreading lateral roots after cutting. Suckers can develop an independent root system, resulting in a problem worse than that which existed before the original weed was cut down. Madeira vine produces aerial tubers on the stems which fall to the ground and sprout. All of these tubers must be removed and all fleshy underground tubers/roots wholly removed.

You probably have a top 10 problem species list to get to know, and the less common ones can be learnt as they arise. So get to know those weeds - there is plenty of info available.

## REGENERATION - DON'T WORK HARD, WORK SMART!

Reference: Bush Regeneration - Recovering Australian Landscapes, Robin A Buchanan, 1989, TAFE NSW.



### DEFINE YOUR GOALS

At the fork in the road, Alice asked the Cheshire Cat which road to take.

The Cheshire Cat asked, "Where do you want to go?"

To which Alice replied, "I don't know".

"Then," said the cat, "it doesn't much matter which way you go".

Lewis Carol, Alice in Wonderland

# RIGHTMIX

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MALENY-KENILWORTH ROAD, CONONDALE



**Mary River Cod  
Community Network**

**1999 RELEASES OF  
MARY RIVER COD FINGERLINGS  
from Bob Simpson, DPI Fisheries**

The 1999 Mary River cod breeding season was the most successful to date for the Lake Macdonald Fish Hatchery at Cooroy. Under the supervision of the hatchery manager, Darren Knowles, nearly 52 000 little cod were harvested



*40 mm cod fingerlings ready for release at 8 weeks old*

from hatchery ponds and tanks for stocking. This tops the previous production record of just under 40 000 set in 1998.

The cod fingerlings were released into the wild during November and December, when their length reached 35-45 mm (about 8-12 weeks of age). In the Mary River system, release sites included Widgee, Station, Amamoor, Kandanga, Yabba, Little Yabba, Belli, Coonoon Gibber, Elaman, Gheerulla, Kilcoy, Six Mile and Obi Obi Creeks, and twenty sites in the main river between Conondale and the Mary River tidal barrage. Just over 11 000 of the fingerlings were transported outside the Mary catchment for release into the Brisbane and Logan Rivers, and Somerset, Wivenhoe, Cressbrook, Hinze and several smaller dams.

DPI Fisheries tagged 2 250 of the fingerlings with a special coloured marker so that their progress can be monitored. It is hoped that this research will give an indication of growth and survival rates of the cod.

**IMBIL YEAR 8'S PAINT  
TO SAVE THE COD**

**from Leisa Riggs**

The last week of school for 1999 saw the Year 8 Imbil students close their books and pick up brushes in aid of the Mary River Cod.

Twenty-five students eagerly donned paint shirts and spent 4 days creating three wonderful new resources for the Cod Project.



These included a banner featuring the Mary River Cod, a huge (4m x 4m!) board game (it just needs some finishing touches, then it's shoes off, hop on, and roll the dice as we "Race Up The Yabba"- with the Mary River Cod), and painting of the Cod Trunk.

The Cod Trunk has been designed and constructed to house all of the Mary River Cod activities and resource materials to tour schools in 2000 and beyond. The top of the box now has a very realistic picture of a full size cod hiding in snags. One of the side panels deals with cod issues in bubbles and it's environmental needs for the future. Another side shows the local weir and will deal with the need for fish ladders.

On the last day all journeyed down to the local water hole below the weir, for a first hand look and a dip, and as a fitting end to the day and the week, Bob Simpson from DPI Fisheries arrived to release a few hundred Mary River Cod fingerlings.

I must say that I really enjoyed my week with the Imbil students. We all had a great time creating resources that will travel around the community for many years to come.

**WANTED - COORDINATORS**

for WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY Festival - June 11th  
& for the S'SHINE COAST WILDFLOWER SHOW in August.

These coordinators roles are to look at the big picture and tie up all the loose ends - must have managerial skills - lots of help available.

If you are interested in coordinating or just having fun as a volunteer, please give Barbara a call on 5441 5747. The first Planning meeting for World Environment Day Festival 2000 is scheduled for Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> February at 10 am at SCEC.



**WANTED - VOLUNTEERS**

for World Environment Day Festival  
- artists, caterers & catering assistants, sales assistants, bar & stall attendants, raffle ticket sellers, photographers, construction workers, washer-uppers, "go-fors", offsidars and lackies, people with organisational skills, children's activities, media liaison, waste management etc.

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

from John Muir  
DPI Nambour  
Ph: 5444 9611 / 0418 158 623

The project is now well on its way, with most initial formalities, procedures and administration systems devised and sorted out with stakeholders.

Our Australian Project Management team now includes Mick McGinnis and Joe Herron as the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers and Barung representatives respectively.

The formation of the 3 pilot Farmcare groups has begun, with the likelihood of the following groups being on board by March:

- ~ Sunshine Coast Sub-Tropical Fruit Growers - Mike McGinnis;
- ~ Pineapple – Soil Health Action Group (and mulching machine project) - Eric Sinclair of Golden Circle;
- ~ Gympie Bean Growers – Gympie Packers - Mark Langton & Peter Buchanan.

There has also been a lot of interest from other groups such as the Lockyer Valley ABC Landcare Group.

At the time of printing, our first overseas familiarisation and training trip to the Philippines is underway. Noel Vock (DPI Nambour) and I will be providing some training in Landcare and the new project management get-together.

After our return, our Philippine ACIAR counterparts (and other international landcare representatives with the Secretariat of International Landcare) will join us for a tour of SE Queensland Landcare. Thanks to Noel Vock, Joe Herron, Mick McGinnis, Joan Dillon, Ashley Sewell, Chris Rinehart, Peter Oliver and others for their help in organizing this. We will then proceed to Melbourne for the 1<sup>st</sup> International Landcare Conference in early March.

Any Barung members who are interested in interacting with our ACIAR project team members from both Australia and the Philippines, are welcome to join in our activities in Maleny in late February, especially the BBQ. Please contact me for details.

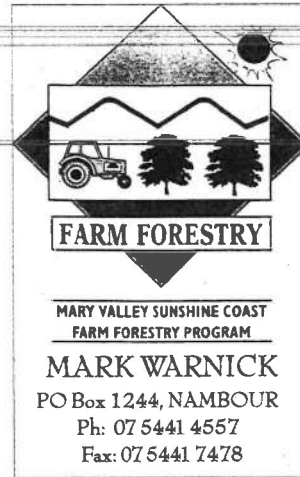
I believe that Barung's new international and local horticultural industry Landcare initiative will be both challenging and ground-breaking for us all. I thank everybody for their involvement, support and input.

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



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## TREE MENSURATION

~ WHAT IS IT?

~ WHY DO IT?

Basically, tree mensuration is the mathematics of forest wood production. It includes such basics as what trees you have got in quantity and volumes, spacing, height, diameter breast height (dbh), how fast they are growing, whether they are growing in competitive mode or are 'locked up' (basically

remaining stagnant as a forest and individual trees.)

A mensuration program also involves other aspects of silviculture (active forest management) such as plantation or native forest overall health, forest insect populations and effects, soil conservation and enrichment, and whether seed and habitat trees are present in sufficient or insufficient numbers and vigour.

Ideally, the private forest manager is mensurating on a regular basis, say every three years, and at key times in the forest cycle e.g. after a major wind or fire event, at pre- and post-harvest inventory time and pre and post-thinning times.

Nearly all mensuration (even in major commercial forestry) uses a sampling method in which representative samples are measured and then extrapolated over the entire area.

It is worthwhile for all farm foresters to be familiar with mensuration and to be able to do it themselves. After all, it forms the basis of what you should be entering in your business and tax forms every year. Measurements such as mean annual increment, basal area (sq. m/ha) and dbh incremental growth records should be second nature to forest growers.

Mensuration can run very deep within scientific and mathematical disciplines. At times the eventual cutting pattern for every log in extensive forestry stands has to be worked out in advance of harvest, but even so farm foresters can skill themselves up to do this. For average private forestry, the processes are attainable and achievable with training.

To this end, I am going to conduct a mensuration workshop later this year on the Blackall Range, date to be announced, and all are welcome. Forestry Extension Officers, Neil Halpin and Ashley Sewell, and the Barung Farm Forestry Sub-committee will also be involved so it will be a wonderful opportunity to skill up.

The other exciting thing is that the whole science of mensuration is now being swung over to the question of carbon sequestration with trees being planted in the 1990s' being eligible to offset Australia's carbon emissions.

Australia is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol which sets individual country's limits as to on-going and new carbon emissions and their offset requirements.

As a result, individual growers, community groups, and their group plantings will be eligible to be counted for offsets and to be included in carbon trading operations on Australian share and futures markets in the near future.

I am also involved with Barung in proposing a carbon offset and tree-planting project, so keep an eye open for this. Register your interest with Barung or myself to become involved in tree planting on private and public land so that we can start offsetting emissions. This project will also commence monitoring annual carbon increments

## TREE MENSURATION CONT'D

including the carbon in trees, roots, soil, other vegetation, the litter pool and wood products. This will interface with the corporate sector in gaining recognition for such work.

Please keep in mind the meeting at the Maleny Community Centre at 7.00 p.m., Tuesday February 8<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the formation of a timber growers' co-op for the Blackall Range and greater Sunshine Coast area. Queries should be directed to myself, Bob Burns or Ashley Sewell.

Enjoy your year and your involvement with trees, forestry and landcare. Cheers....

## BOOK REVIEW

Spencer Shaw

### The Peoples Forest

#### - A living History of the Australian Bush

by Gregg Borschmann

'A Bush Dreaming - for millions of years forests and bushlands - as much as golden sands and red deserts - have painted themselves boldly across the canvas of Australia. The people, both black and white, have created heroes and legends to explain and lay claim to these landscapes. What stories do we tell now and wish to pass on to our children and their children? What is our Bush Dreaming?'

The Peoples Forest contains the stories of many ordinary and extraordinary Australians who have loved, lived, and worked with the Australian Bush.

Gregg Borschmann is a master of the portrait, his photographs and interviews capture the spirit of the people featured. This is a truly inspiring work recommended to all.

## NATIVE FOREST FIELD DAYS

Glenwood - 5th Feb Glenbar - 18th March

Venues to be announced - 6th May & 4th June

Contact SEAN RYAN on 5482 0850 / 0419 715 521  
or MARK WARNICK on 5441 4557 for info.

## NOOSA LANDCARE FARM FORESTRY DAYS

SAT FEB 26<sup>TH</sup> - MANAGEMENT OF TREES, DISEASE & FAUNA

SAT APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> - THINNING, PRUNING & MEASURING W'SHOP

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## TREE TALK

by Tony Wootton

Hello again tree people. In the last issue I presented you with an overview of the major aspects of an arborist's work. 'Now I'd like to look at one of these areas in more detail.'

The tree assessment is easily the most important aspect of any tree operation. When approaching a site I try to get a feel for the surrounding environment, looking at such things as soil type, predominant vegetation types and the health of same, moisture levels, prevailing winds, aspect etc. This puts me in an especially attentive frame of mind, gives a good background against which to view the tree or trees in question, and may reveal clues as to the cause of the problems.

At the site, it's time to assess the tree. The first thing to bear in mind is that a large proportion of the tree's activity is carried out under the ground, which makes it essentially invisible to us. Using direct and indirect observation we can ascertain if subterranean factors are causing stress to the tree. These factors commonly include compaction due to foot or vehicle traffic, root damage or changes in soil levels from earth works, waterlogging or nutrient deficiency among other things.

Above the ground I look at the overall health of bark and foliage, evidence of wounding by machinery etc, broken branches, improper pruning cuts, dead, diseased, crossing and dying branches, evidence of pest attack, as well as the proximity and effect of any surrounding competing vegetation.

Having considered these and other factors I'm then in a position to decide whether remedial action is required, or whether the tree is in a phase through which it can happily grow.

I hope this insight into tree assessment has illustrated the holistic nature of tree care - that a tree, like a person, contributes to and is a product of its surrounding environment, and cannot be treated as an isolated and separate entity.

Trees, in fact, evolved as part of a greater organism - the forest - where the roots of different species grew together, and nutrients were shared and transferred throughout the entire forest as needed. For me this was an amazing realisation, and one necessary to bear in mind when considering how a specimen tree is coping in someone's garden.

Next issue, we'll look at remedial activities in more detail. Until then, enjoy our precious trees. Touch Trees.

The Tree Surgeon

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# WEED OF THE MONTH

from Lin Fairlie

## WILD TOBACCO

### *Solanum mauritanum*

The weed for this newsletter is wild tobacco (*Solanum mauritanum*) which originated in South America. It is most commonly found on exposed edges of rainforest and under trees in paddocks, gardens and revegetation areas.

There are two, vegetatively similar, native species in South-east Queensland which can be distinguished by their lack of the somewhat acrid smell of the weed species. The native species have either white flowers (*Nicotiana spp.*) or yellow flowers (*N. glauca*).



**DESCRIPTION:** a large shrub or a small tree to 4 metres with large leaves (up to 30 cm long and 10cm wide). At the base of each leaf is a characteristic ear-shaped stipule (a little curled leaf). The dense hairs covering the pale green leaves can cause skin irritations for some people. Flowers are lavender-blue, borne in bunches on the end of the branch. The 1 cm. round fruit are yellow when ripe, and are attractive to native birds, hence their wide distribution pattern. The fruit are not eaten when immature as they are toxic.

**MANAGEMENT:** Before discussing control, it is worthwhile considering the positive side of this plant. Its main usefulness is due to its frost tolerance which leads to its shading role of younger and more delicate plants in a revegetation site. While it is a hungry feeder and therefore should not be left to compete in a reveg site, it feeds at a deeper level than rainforest plants but in the same zone as eucalypts. As eucs. are hardier when small than most rainforest species, the role of wild tobacco is of more significance for these rainforest trees. The jury is still out on its role in the food supply for native birds. Wild tobacco growth slows down once the surrounding trees exceed them in height and shade reduces seed germination. But birds will still spread the seeds, so once the use of wild tobacco for shade/frost protection is over there are probably more reasons for removing it from reveg areas than for leaving it. **CONTROL:** The lush leaves of this weed can provide useful mulch and will not regrow if left

on the ground. This returns nutrients to the soil, as well as providing protection of the exposed soil. If slashed, wild tobacco will reshoot next season so it must either be dug out or treated in some other way.

Cutting the stems and treating quickly with glyphosate is effective for control. Some success is reported pouring power kerosene or dieselene on the cut stumps. A less toxic method than either of these could be to wrap the cut stump in black plastic, so excluding any light and increasing the temperature (especially in the weather we have recently experienced).

**CONCLUSION:** Wild tobacco can be a tool but should be removed once its useful period is over..

If you have had any success with any of these methods for the control of wild tobacco or success using control methods for other weeds other than the ones we have included in the past, please contact Barung.

#### References

1. Brown, G. ( Personal communication)
2. Everist, S.L. (1957), Common Weeds of Farm & Pasture. Department of Agriculture & Stock Qld.
3. Kleindschmidt, H., Holland, A., Simpson, P., (1996), Suburban Weeds. Department of Primary Industry Qld.
4. Woodrow, M. (1999) The Growing Idea – Summer 1999. Greening Australia, Qld.

Seed to collect Feb-March

cont'd

prickly enough not to be nibbled by cattle and thanks to their majestic appearance, bunyas have become "the Maleny icon" for our present day culture.

The bunya fruit is a large pinecone weighing 3-5 kg. The cones can be found whole on the ground but more often break up during their fall or upon impact!

Bunyas are easy to grow. Remove the seed from the cone, plant in a deep pot (at least 200mm) and keep moist. Prevent rats and bandicoots interfering by placing a fine mesh over the top. Bunyas develop a large taproot before leaf growth occurs so pot depth is crucial.

The bunya seed can also make a tasty meal. I recommend boiling the seed whole in its shell for 20 minutes, then cutting it in half with a very sharp knife. Remove the seed from the shell and dice finely. Now saute the diced bunya with your choice of herbs, garlic and butter, adding just enough water to keep the mixture moist - dry fried bunya is about as dangerous to your teeth as the falling cones are to your head! Serve as an entree or side dish to your main meal and enjoy.

So this Feb., when the thump of falling cones commences, grow them, eat them, hug them and truly appreciate one of the natural wonders of our region.

And if you have any extra seeds, bring them into Barung so we can once again give birth to the mighty bunya forests of the Blackall Range!

# WEEDBUSTERS

8.10AM  
- THE FIRST SAT  
OF EACH MONTH

Ring Linda  
5494 3497

Want to  
see our  
community  
boardwalk  
platypus?

Following closed door negotiations with Mr Platy, special viewings have been enjoyed by Barung's Weedbusters team while working on our remnant regeneration site near the Rotary Bridge. See Calendar of Events for Weedbusting dates or ring Linda on 5494 3497.

## Maleny Amcal Chemist

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## DEADLINE

FOR APRIL/MAY  
NEWSLETTER  
WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH.

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

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

## THANKYOU

## BEWARE OF FALLING FRUIT!!

One of the more spectacular seeds endemic to the range is about to start dropping in a rather dramatic fashion.

The nuts of *Araucaria bidwillii*, our local Bunya Pine and Australia's largest fruit, are about to start falling so be careful because one of these fruit could cause more than a headache!!!

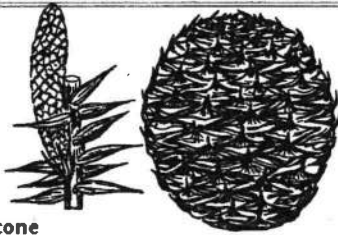
The bunya is a truly ancient element of our forests. The great Araucarian forests of Gondwana land and the age of the dinosaurs are now reduced to scattered pockets of forest in South America, the Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea and Australia.

The awe-inspiring bunya is found only in South East Queensland and was once a dominant feature of the forests of the Blackall Range. The banyas which remain on the Range are regrowth and mere babes in

## Seed to collect in Feb/March

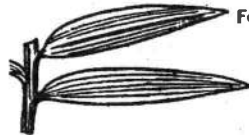
by SPENCER SHAW

### *Araucaria bidwillii* - The Bunya Pine



Male cone

Female cone



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

comparison to some of the forest giants of the Bunya Mountains.

Bunya trees provided an important cultural and food resource for the indigenous people who once called the Range home. They provided an abundant food supply for the Aborigines of SE Queensland, playing a major part in local tribal culture. Recognizing the value of banyas to the Aboriginal people, the early colonial government declared them Australia's first protected forest in 1842. This reprieve was only brief however, as the protection was repealed when Queensland became a state in 1859.

Our forests then disappeared under the timber-getters' axes as the pressure for land and settlement grew. However, as one of nature's truly great survivors, the bunya arose again to play a major part in our landscape. As one of the only local tree. cont'd previous page

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Barung Landcare...



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