

# BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS

February~ March 2002



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE



*Let's go for this ...*

## The Local Law - What We Can Do

As discussed in the community, a number of actions need to be undertaken for the proposed Local Law to have a likelihood of success:

◆ Barung, and other concerned community organisations and individuals need to prepare formal submissions to Council, supporting the Local Law in principle, indicating areas where the provisions might be clarified or improved, and recommending other complementary measures Council might initiate to further protect significant natural vegetation (eg incentives measures). Public submissions must be lodged by 28 February.

◆ Concerned citizens and community groups need to undertake a vigorous media campaign, based on letters to the editor, in all newspapers circulating in the City. This needs to focus on emphasising the value of the Local Law as a measure of last resort by Council to stop gross destruction of native vegetation. Recognition should be given to Mayor Aldous and the other Councillors who have supported the development of the Local Law.

◆ Community groups and individuals should lobby individual Councillors. All Councillors, including the Mayor, need to be encouraged to continue to support the introduction of the Local Law itself (which provides the power for Council to make vegetation protection orders at any time), if not the Subordinate Law (the Regulation) containing the specific measures dealing with the riparian corridors.

In the following notes are a number of key points that can be incorporated into formal submissions, and which may be useful to anyone interested in contributing to any of the three activity areas above. It seeks to balance the general community interest in the protection of significant environmental values, with a recognition of the existing property rights of individual landholders and the need for fairness if we are to foster working partnerships with landholders on natural resource management issues.

1. There is general community recognition of the importance of taking steps to conserve native vegetation throughout the local government area, including on private lands. This will result in positive environmental, lifestyle and economic benefits for the whole community, and in the long term will help underpin the sustainability of rural land use. The Local Law initiative by Council is one expression of this recognised need.

2. The intent of the Local Law is to provide Council with a tool to be used as a measure of last resort to prevent gross destruction of significant native vegetation on private lands where this is against general public interest. This, unfortunately, is necessary because some property developers see the existence of native vegetation as being a hindrance to them maximising their returns from property subdivision and development. Too often pre-emptive destruction of native vegetation occurs prior to making application for development projects, and to date Council has been powerless to prevent this.

3. The purpose of the Local Law is not to harrass ordinary landholders in their day-to-day land use activities. It is not to undermine their private property rights to make land management decisions where these do not conflict with the the general community wish to protect the integrity of the Caloundra City environment. Evidence to date shows that Council also holds this opinion. Other tools are also available to Council to encourage landholders to enhance and restore the extent and quality of native vegetation on private lands. Clear indications by Council as to exactly which areas of native vegetation would be protected under the Local Law are essential in addressing the uncertainty and associated fears of many rural landholders about the ways that the Local Law will affect their autonomy and day-to-day land management.

4. The majority of rural landholders, including traditional farmers and lifestylers, are generally sympathetic to the retention of native vegetation on their properties, if not enthusiastic about wanting to regenerate and enhance it.

cont'd page 10

*... not this*



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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

M J Bergann	Kevin Wormington
B Pluthero	Carolyn Willadsen
Heather Brownlie	David Gole
Kay Winter	Jim Walker
Marie Livingstone	S & F Burnell
Coral Croke	Kirstel Lindsay
Paula & Steve Miller	Rick & Cilla Vickers
D J & S M Watson	Bryan Grant
Ted Mulder	John & Pam Walker
M S Smith	M & L Audley-Coote
Sheryl Caston	F Leduc & P Stewart
Peter Van Mil	Sally-Ann Edwards
Jennifer Birbeck	Charmaine Bergann
Linda Clarke	Wanita Bergann-Holz
Danny Costello	G & J Broom
Kathy Davis	Daniel Wilson
Dick & Frances Snell	Natasha Roberts
M & M Husbands	Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT



## DEADLINE

FOR APRIL - MAY NEWSLETTER

**WED 13TH MARCH**

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.

**THANK YOU**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lin Fairlie

Barung has a very busy year ahead but with rather too many unknowns at this stage, I feel.

The application for funding of a 12 month 2001/2002 NHT project, still has not been fully approved and we have been waiting for three months to have our application reconsidered by the Minister in Canberra. In the light of this delay we have decided to accept the \$50 000 which been approved and run with a much reduced project. This will now proceed mainly on public land along Obi Creek and on private land downstream of town.

Early ground work for consideration of a new, enlarged Barung Resource Centre is proceeding. We are waiting to hear from Caloundra City Council about the possibility of changing the land tenure from a 'licence to occupy' to a lease.

The *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* Wood Expo will be larger and even more interesting than last year. More about that elsewhere in the newsletter.

Please give some thought to how you could assist Barung in the organisation and running of this major fund raising activity. If treeplants and/or nursery work are not your scene, you may be able to help with office-type activities involved in the Expo planning, or on the weekend, during the set-up or pull-down phase. Please contact either Mim or Angela at Barung in the office and discuss how you can assist.

Other exciting areas for the year ahead are the opportunities which will be available for Barung members to serve as community members on local subcommittees to assist the elected committees involved in the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

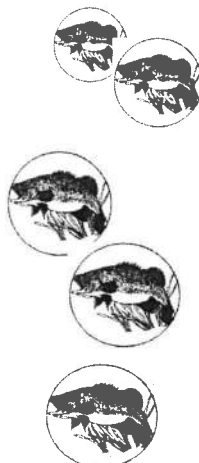
One sub-committee will cover the Upper Brisbane Valley region (including the Stanley River) and the other the Mary River catchment as part of the Burnett-Mary region.

Please let Mim know if you are interested. Professional experience is not required but anyone who is on these subcommittees is assured of experiencing a fast learning curve.

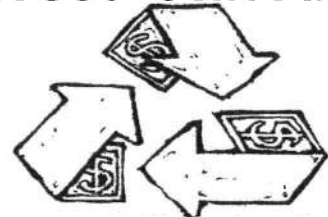
Morning Glory is again easily identified by its purple/blue flowers so if you can contribute to its removal from fences, trees etc. on your own and other land, you will be helping to save native bushland.

Landcare involves us all and it is only by community members working together that we can have a lasting impact.

Thank you, to our many supportive members for your varied contributions last year which helped to keep the Landcare movement growing.



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## THE STATE OF THE LAND

### Ten Qld landholders sign up for conservation - including Barung member Ted McCosker.

Long-time Barung member, Ted McCosker's Braehead Nature Refuge (100ha), is one of 10 new nature refuges declared across Queensland, adding to the growing number of landholders signing up for nature conservation.

Ted's property, 3km west of Mapleton, is adjacent to Mapleton Forest Reserve and Mapleton Falls National Park in the Maroochy Shire. The McCosker family have been protecting this remnant rainforest since 1934. It contains a specimen of Crows Ash measured as being 4.5m in girth. Mr McCosker has suggested it may be one of the few surviving giant specimens of its species in southern Queensland.

Acting Minister for Environment, Robert Swarten, said almost 4600 ha of remnant vegetation, wildlife corridors and threatened ecosystems would be protected under the 10 agreements.

The extra areas include three properties in south-east Queensland's Moreton and Maroochy areas, bringing the total number of declared nature refuges in Queensland to 73, with many more voluntary agreements currently under negotiation.

"Nature refuge agreements made by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) now protect more than 35,000 hectares throughout Queensland, providing significant gains for conservation," Robert Swarten said.

"I wish to personally thank landholders for their commitment to protecting Queensland's natural values for the future."

A nature refuge is created through a voluntary conservation agreement between a landholder and the State Government. It becomes a protected area under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 while remaining the property of the landholder. Under the agreement, QPWS provides landholders with advice on pest plant and animal control, and flora and fauna conservation.

Another new property is Smiths Rainforest Nature Refuge (7.5ha), at Brookfield, 15km west of Brisbane, containing one of the best examples of a vine forest ecosystem, once common throughout southeast Queensland. One hundred and eighty-nine native flora species have been recorded on the property signifying its botanical diversity. The Smith family has owned the land since 1913. Schools and universities have been encouraged by the Smiths to pursue educational and research studies of the block.

### A New Plant Species for Qld

A new plant - a member of the Solanaceae or nightshade family - has been discovered in a patch of rainforest at Kingaroy. The rainforest was donated to the local council some 30 years ago by a Kingaroy dairyfarmer.

The site where the plants were discovered by local mem-

**NEWSFLASH**

**\$50,000**  
**from NHT for water quality**

Barung has been successful in obtaining \$50,000 from Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) to continue our work along the Obi Obi and Walkers Creeks.

The grant is part of the final allocation of NHT funding under the original NHT scheme.

Monies will be used to help secure revegetation sites planted on the Obi Obi and Walkers Creeks as part of our original NHT Project "Revegetation/Remnant Protection in the Upper Mary Catchment". This work will be carried out under the supervision of Alan Wynn, our Reveg Officer.

The balance of the grant will go towards funding new remnant regeneration works identified as strategic during the Corridors of Green Project. Marc Russell will coordinate these works. These five major sites, totalling 10.7 hectares, are in remnant bushland between Gardners Falls and Lake Baroon.

bers of the Society for Growing Australian Plants is one of 33 rainforest remnants in Qld that are part of the World Wide Fund for Nature's Rainforest Recovery program.

The Rainforest Recovery Program provides funding and on ground support for landholders with threatened rainforest ecosystems or species. To apply for assistance or find out more, contact the Rainforest Recovery Program at PO Box 42, Kenmore, phone: 07 3202 0251 or [www.wwf.org.au](http://www.wwf.org.au)

### Two reports released by the Productivity Commission

The Productivity Commission has released a report "A Duty of Care for the Protection of Biodiversity on Land" as well as a research report on "Cost Sharing for Biodiversity Conservation: A Conceptual Framework".

Both reports can be accessed through:

<http://www.pc.gov.au/research/consultancy/docpobol/index.html>


### National Action Plan Website

The reconstructed National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality can be seen on the AFFA website:

[www.affa.gov.au/actionsalinityandwater](http://www.affa.gov.au/actionsalinityandwater)

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**



LANDCARE.

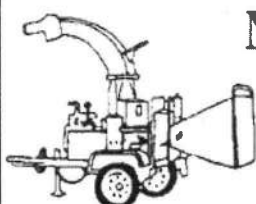
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## MULCHMAKERS

**Garry Roberts**  
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A/H: (07) 5494 7885

### THE ORGANIC RECYCLERS

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## COORDINATION / EDUCATION

*from Mim Coulstock*

One of the biggest issues facing Barung members in the Caloundra City area at the moment is the proposed Local Law - Vegetation Management. There has been a lot of controversy during community consultations with many landholders obviously feeling threatened by the contents of the draft Law.

It is most important to contact Tony O'Keeffe or Kathy Burnett at CCC Environment and Planning Policy Unit on 5420 8943 if you have any queries about the draft law.

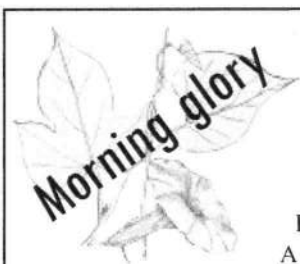
Submissions from landholders are really important if this law is to reflect the feelings of the community. Copies of the Local Law are available from Barung, Maleny Library and CCC in Caloundra. Written submissions are due at CCC by February 28th.

Many thanks to Karen Shaw for organising the Senior First Aid Course for Barung staff, committee and members. This must have been an eye-opener for the instructor - I am sure there has never been such hilarity and socialising at a First Aid Course!

But ... we now have most staff members qualified to administer first aid should an accident occur in the Nursery or out on site.

Thanks also to Karen for a magnificent job in finishing Barung's Workplace Health and Safety Policy. This long overdue document is now in place and will form part of our Volunteer Induction Package currently being finalised.

It is important for all Barung volunteers - whether in the Nursery or out on site - to be familiar with this Policy - we all have duty of care to ensure the safety of others.



Thanks to the persistence of Barung members, David and Alison

MacDonald, the support of Caloundra City Council Weeds Officer, Peter Bell and Committee member, Clayton Stokoe, the rapidly increasing issue of morning glory is back on the education agenda.

David & Alison have been seeking sponsorship to fund publication and distribution in the Range News of a Morning Glory fact sheet for all landholders on the Blackall Range. Thanks to the Range News for helping sponsor the distribution, and to Jenny Fitzgibbon for volunteering to do the leaflet artwork.

The flyer will be followed by workshops on best control methods for morning glory. The rapid spread of morning glory has been observed by many people in the area and it is important that we slow it down NOW!

## ANZ RENEWS LANDCARE SUPPORT



*L to R: Brad Platz (Maleny), yours truly, Peter Dwan (Beerwah), and Jeff Kirk, Brisbane, with the big cheque.*

Barung's education program has once again received tremendous support from the ANZ Staff Foundation. The ANZ Staff Foundation has agreed to again fund wages and some education expenses for the current year.

Thank you to Beerwah and Maleny ANZ Managers, Peter Dwan and Brad Platz for your support of our application.

Landcare education is fundamental if we are to encourage landholders to commit to repairing land degradation - be it from landslips, erosion, weeds or just ignorance. The education program is owned by you - Barung members - so please get in touch if you have issues you would like addressed in 2002.

## DUNG BEETLES COME TO TOWN

Graeme Elphinstone, DPI Extension Officer, will be running a Maleny Landholder Training Day for the Queensland Dung Beetle Project ( a joint DPI/Agforce/Landcare project) with Barung, on Thursday 21st March. This free day will cover ID and sampling of dung beetles, their role in parasite control, and environmental benefits among other topics. There will be a ceiling of 15 family units, so contact Barung a.s.a.p. if you are interested in participating.

## ArtisTree

A BARUNG WEED TREE PROJECT



*ArtisTree Coordinator Penny Smith with local supporters, Rob Outridge from Maleny IGA and Cr Pauline Clayton.*

ArtisTree has received \$4 000 from Caloundra City Council's Regional Arts Development Funding, and a very generous \$1 000 from Maleny IGA. Penny's current focus is on collection of scientific and anecdotal info for the environmental displays to accompany the timber exhibition.

## I got it wrong! Correction for fig article in Dec/Jan Newsletter

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

As the female enters 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 fruit she enters. The female wasps find it difficult to lay her eggs on the long style flower. However, pollen collected when passing the male flowers rubs off on the long styles of the female flowers, with the result that this flower produces fig seed.

The female wasp, however, is able to lay her eggs on the short style flower. She then dies inside the fruit. 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.





*All hands on deck*

*from Mim Coulstock  
2002 Expo Coordinator*

Once again, the fantastic volunteer efforts of Barung's friends are contributing to a bigger and better 2002 Expo.

Thanks to Barung Green Reserver Ted Mulder, the 2002 Wood Expo now has a new logo to theme all of our PR materials. Ted's experience as a graphic artist has resulted in an Expo letterhead, flyer, poster and ad designs ... and the new improved program is underway. This has been a wonderful gift for the Expo and will contribute considerably to our efforts to showcase the event to an even broader market.

Barung member Barbara Nye has taken over organising all aspects of the Raffle. Barbara's enthusiasm and bubbly personality have already resulted in the donation of two nights accomodation at Lyola Pavilions - a fabulous new accommodation venue in Reesville owned by Barung members, Leisa Solomon and John Martinkovic, a dinner/lunch for two from the Terrace Seafood Restaurant and another wonderful heritage sculpture by Barung member and talented potter, Shirley Marsh. A promise of things to come ... Committee member and tireless Barung supporter Karen Shaw has the Bushfoods Cafe in hand again, setting menus, organising cooks and looking for sponsors. At the moment we are seeking a sponsor for a Cappuccino machine so that we can offer top coffee to set off the delicious bushfood cakes and snacks.

This Expo will feature a Landcare paddock with a "Farm Forestry & Biodiversity" theme. Included will be a venue for guest speakers on "Farm Forestry & Biodiversity", an up-market Barung venue (thanks to sponsorship by the Dept. of Natural Resources and Mines), historical timber crafts, recycling, weed and water displays, and much much more.

Ashley Sewell, long time Barung worker, is heading up the team to develop the Farm Forestry aspect, including numerous farm forestry related displays, and the free Farm Forestry bus tours to local properties. We will be featuring other regional groups associated with farm forestry under the umbrella of Private Forestry Southern Queensland.

Of course the Expo would not go ahead without the participation of the many talented woodworkers who live around the Blackall Range. Exhibitor Registration forms will be going out to all past exhibitors within the next few days. Please return these promptly - there is a new registration system with set sites, so it is 'first in, best dressed' (so to speak)!

The actual Expo weekend involves more than 100 volunteers. You will find an Expo volunteer form in this newsletter. If you can help with the Expo in any way, please fill out the form and return to Barung as soon as possible. All volunteers go in the draw for the Volunteer's Prize, to be drawn on the last day of the Expo.

The Expo is Barung's major educational and fundraising event for the year. It is a great way to help YOUR Landcare group.

Barung Landcare Newsletter readers with any knowledge of local birdlife, will know that seeing an Eastern Bristlebird is indeed a rarity. Sadly, the Eastern Bristlebird in the northern part of its distribution has become critically endangered.

*A rare bird for the Conondales*

*from Dr David Stewart*

*Conservation & Management Unit, QPWS*



From its picture, the eastern bristlebird might look like just another little, brown bird. But if you think about where it lives, you realise that the short wings, strong legs, and distinct bristles in front of its eyes are just the adaptations needed for living in dense ground vegetation.

The eastern bristlebird lives a secretive life, foraging and nesting in thick ground foliage. Its elusive nature means that you are unlikely to see it, although you may hear it. This plucky little bird uses a distinctive and loud melodic song to mark its territory and warn other eastern bristlebirds to "back off".

Only three small populations of eastern bristlebirds remain in Australia. The smallest, most northern of these populations is found in an area of the Border Ranges and the Conondales.

For the past three years volunteers from Birds Queensland have been collaborating with scientists from Queensland's Environment Protection Agency to help in the collection of information of the habits and distribution of this bird. The Recovery Team is keen to enrol more volunteers in the Conondale area.

There are vast tracts of suitable habitat - wild sorghum in open woodland, reaching across to Jimna and Kilcoy. You may even own some of this country. Your participation in assessing the whereabouts of these birds would be greatly appreciated. If you are out working or even just walking in suitable habitat, there is always the opportunity to be listening out for bristlebirds.

To learn more about bristlebirds and their habitat and to find out about volunteering to participate in this project a workshop will be held between 2 - 4pm on Saturday the 6th of April at the Conondale Hall.

To register for the workshop please call Mim at Barung Landcare or Sheena Gillman, Coordinator, on 07 3201 1982.

## THE FARM BARN

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**Clean up Australia Day**  
Sunday March 3rd

V meet at Baptist Church at 8.30am  
to CLEAN UP the Entrance site

V meet at the Coral St entrance at 10am  
to CLEAN UP the Boardwalk

## NURSERY NOTES

from Russell Botterell

Nick and I are starting to get a little bit lonely in the Nursery - well, running out of meaningful conversation anyway. What with the lack of rain and all, it seems not many people want to come in and buy plants from us. (Or is it just the fact that our odours precede us?)

It seems that Mother Nature is intent on teasing us some more with hints of rain yet still nothing substantial enough to confidently put more than a few flowers in the garden.

At least it has given us a chance to replenish stocks and species diversity in the Nursery. Numbers of most species are back up with many more coming on line for the first time in a while.

We also have a growing selection (pardon the pun) of semi-advanced bag stock, mainly shrub species perfect for screens and hedges, ready to go at the moment. Species like Silky myrtle (*Decaspermum humile*), Lilly pilly (*Acmena smithii* var. *minor*), *Austromyrtus* "Aurora" and "Blushing Beauty", Aussie Compact, and *Lomandras* combine beautifully to form dense colourful hedges or screens up to about 4 metres.

All of these shrubs can also be pruned successfully to be kept at much lower heights. Check them out next time you are in the Nursery.

Massive thank yous must be awarded to all the generous and invaluable people who give their time and effort to collect seed from their properties for donation to Barung. Without this resource, we wouldn't be able to offer the species diversity or the quantities available of each.

We appreciate the devotion and commitment of these people and applaud your generosity: you really are an integral part in the perpetuation of our unique local species.

And if its adventure that you yearn for, why not come into the Nursery and become part of the rag tag bunch we affectionately call our "Volunteers". We're always looking for enthusiastic folk game enough to work around us, and sometimes even near us, in the Nursery. If nothing else you'll experience some horticultural stuff.

Just pop in or give us a call, we're very flexible with regards to times etc., so you tell us what you want to do. And then I'll probably say no, go away.

Big exciting thing for the next couple of months - we have a suggestion box in the office for our Retail Area Upgrade which we want to start ASAP. We want to pick your brains for any ideas, no matter how crude, on ways we can improve our sales area to be more customer friendly and attractive for people to visit.

Please share your suggestions with us so that we can really improve your Barung Nursery experience.

NEWSFLASH

Plants confess:  
"We're all heavy drinkers"

To say things have grown over summer would be an understatement. If your plants are growing half as fast as the weeds in the Nursery then expect a forest by Easter.

It's amazing what a bit of heat can do, especially when combined with a little bit of rain (stress "little"). Which brings me to my point for today: how much do I water my plants when I bring them home and plant them in the ground?

Well, this depends on variables like soil type, aspect, location, temperatures plant quality, size and species, and of course, rainfall. If you have bought your plants from Barung Nursery, they will already be relatively "drought hardened".

To understand this you first need to understand the plant's history at Barung. All stock that leaves the Barung sales area has had a closely monitored and controlled life. We water on average twice daily, usually at first light and again in the afternoon. We monitor the period in between to ensure plants dry out substantially, but enough to affect their health. This encourages drought hardiness and desensitizes the plant so it can withstand extended periods without water. But you don't have to water your plants in the ground twice a day.

When the plant is put in the ground, the root mass is surrounded by soil instead of a plastic tube which is exposed to heat, drying wind and daylight in the nursery.

Think about the depth of the tube, then imagine this tube in the ground. Now look at the bottom of the hole next time you dig one to plant said tree. You may notice a change in moisture, temperature and of course light, the further into the soil you dig. Add the layer of mulch on top of the soil after your plant has been backfilled and you have an effective moisture trap. The mulch creates an incredibly valuable insulation layer against evaporation and heat, which means soil moisture is held for longer. How long this moisture remains around the plant is governed by soil type, but in general, a newly planted tree should be watered every 3 to 4 days. This routine can be lengthened after the first couple of weeks if allowable (according to local conditions).

Hand waterers aren't going to like this next bit. Give the plants as much water as you can at each watering - at least 4 litres each (pending availability of course). Less frequent heavy watering allows deeper water penetration into the soil beyond the roots, encouraging healthy longitudinal root growth. More moisture available to the roots at a good depth results in more rapid and healthy plant growth and if you're lucky - a forest by Easter.

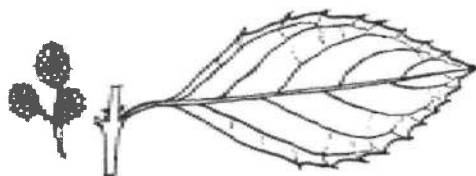
One last tip ... always make sure you cover the potting mix when you plant your tree from its pot or it will act as a fantastic wick.

## Plant Profile

from Spencer Shaw

### Native Mulberry (*Pipturus argenteus*)

From such a tiny little seed do these impressive plants grow. Naturally occurring on some of the poorer nutrient soils of the range and only after disturbance, these plants are a quick-to-establish pioneer that, in full sun, will achieve growth rates of up to several metres per year.



Ideal for reveg sites as long as frost is not a problem, they provide quick shade and a surplus of foliage that can host a variety of insects. Fruit are often produced within two years, a fruit that the birds just love.

*Pipturus* are separate male and female trees so you need several to hopefully get a female. *Pipturus* grow from between 4-8 metres.

Hard to find a better plant for your reveg sites.

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

## Butterflies of the Range

from Bob Miller

### LEMON MIGRANT (*Catopsilia pomona*)



"The mackerel are on the bite!" was the elated call from my next door neighbour, as he

pointed into the air at three medium sized yellow butterflies.

You see, my neighbour is an ex timber-getter from Maleny and the theory is that when the medium sized yellow butterflies are in a migration, the time is right to go mackerel fishing.

The butterflies he was talking about are Lemon Migrants and upon checking, I found his theory to be very accurate.

The butterflies are approximately 58mm from wingtip to wingtip. They are lemon-yellow in colour on both upper and lower wings. The forewings on the male have a very narrow black band on the outer tips whilst on the females, the black band is slightly thicker and extends from the body on the forewings, and almost back to the body on the hindwings.

There are actually two forms of this butterfly - a light form and a dark form. The easiest way of telling them apart is the colour of their antennae. The light form has pink antennae and the dark form has black antennae.

When seen in numbers, they are a spectacular sight flying around flowering cassia trees.

The narrow white eggs are laid singly on both the upper and undersides of the foodplant and suffer a high mortality rate from ants.

The young larvae, also heavily predated by ants, are a yellowish-green colour and blend in extremely well with the mid vein on the foodplant leaves, along which they rest when not feeding.

The more mature larvae are green with a yellow and a dark blue to black stripe running from back to front.

The lime green pupae are suspended by their tail and a central silken girdle in a head-up position, usually on the underside of the foodplant leaf.

The best of the local foodplants I have seen is Brewster's Cassia (*Cassia brewsteri*), and I will guarantee anyone who plants one in their butterfly garden will soon have their own colony of this brightly coloured insect.

*Cassia brewsteri* is regularly available from the Barung Landcare Nursery in Maleny.

If more information on this or any other butterfly is required, reference can be made to *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael Braby, 2000.

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

## Cyber-Snakes

The Queensland Museum recently announced a new source for current information about snakes in Queensland. The website includes details and photographs about our most dangerous snakes and some basic information about snake identification. The site is located at <http://qmuseum.qld.gov.au/features/snakes>

## Local Wild & Edible

from Bernard Murawski

### PIGFACE (*Carpobrotus glaucescens*)



Pigface (*Carpobrotus glaucescens*) would be known to most people who have visited our coastal areas for it is a common plant along our eastern shores. The botanical name is derived from the Greek *carpos*, fruit; *brotos*, edible, and the Latin *glauca*, bluish-green (which refers to the colour of the foliage). The common

name, pigface, may have been adopted because the fruit has two opposing 'tusks', similar to a feral pig's head. Three other species of pigface grow along the southern and Western Australian coasts, as well as Australia's inland areas.

The plant is a perennial, prostrate creeper with triangular, succulent leaves. On sand dunes, the plant can be found in dense clumps that reduce the effects of wind erosion and are thus extremely useful for the control of soil erosion and in disturbed areas.

Pigface is a hardy plant that tolerates salt spray, hot conditions, frosts and droughts, and will grow in most well-drained soils in both partial and full sun.

The seed germinates slowly but propagation can be carried out from cuttings, which readily form roots, or by dividing the stems that naturally grow roots from the leaf nodes whenever they come into contact with the ground.

The flowers are a showy, daisy-like, purple (sometimes yellow) colour, which flower sporadically throughout the year. The fruit produced are a cylindrical, red-purple, edible, fleshy berry with two horns.

Press the ripe fruit between your fingers and thumb and squeeze the juicy pulp directly into your mouth and discard the skin. It has a taste similar to salty strawberries with other authors saying that it tastes like salty apples or even fresh figs.

Early European settlers have made the pigface fruit into jam, pickles and chutneys though I have not experimented with these so cannot tell you how they turn out. The leaves were eaten by some aboriginals as a vegetable with various inland groups using the saline plant as a substitute for salt with their meat. The leaves can be used in stir-fries though I would not rate them highly. Spreading the juice from the leaves onto the skin has been known to relieve the pain of insect bites.

Illustrations from *Native Plants, Queensland*, by K A W Williams, 1979.



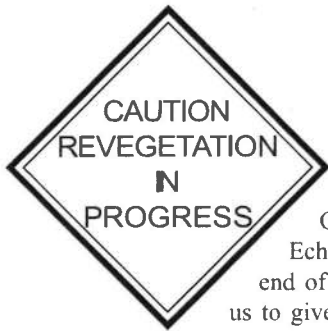
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## Echidna Creek

from  
Craig Hosmer  
& Daryl Reinke

One year since the start of the Echidna Creek Project on the northern end of the Range, Alan Wynn has asked us to give Barung members a report on the

success to date.

Thanks are owed to Mark Savage, a former Barung Management Committee member, and one of the landholders who pursued the possibility of a riparian rehabilitation project with seven landholders in the Dulong Valley, east of the escarpment between Flaxton and Mapleton. These properties feed the Echidna Creek sub-catchment, part of the headwaters of the South Maroochy River. All of the properties exceed 13 hectares, with land use consisting of mixed grazing, rural residential, and bushland owned by Maroochy Shire Council (MSC).

After two landholder meetings, MSC volunteered to prepare the funding application under the South East Queensland Regional Water Quality Management Strategy, describing the area as meeting project criteria because of 'its degrading, but easily reversed, trend with regard to erosion, waterway health and an absence of riparian vegetation'. The length of the stream channel is over 5,000 metres. Our sub-catchment was one of five selected in Southeast Queensland. Mark Savage was appointed to manage the implementation stage of the project. Monitoring by the Griffith University Centre for Catchment and In-Stream Research will continue over a ten-year period.

The primary objectives of the project are:

- to implement a strategically-planned, practical and cost-effective demonstration of riparian rehabilitation;
- to ensure rapid 75% vegetation canopy closure within two years (weather conditions permitting);
- to ensure a 90% plant survival rate after 2 years from planting (the grant covers maintenance for the first two years, after which owners will assume responsibility);
- to monitor the success (or otherwise) in improved ecosystem health and water quality in rehabilitated streams; and
- to identify potential benefits and disadvantages for the immediate area, downstream reaches and receiving water bodies (ie. Wappa Dam).

Work began in 2001, including weed removal and site preparation, constructing creek/cattle crossings, installing off-stream watering points and fencing off the waterway from cattle. Planting and mulching of native riparian species began on our property in March. Five of the seven properties were completed by June and the sixth was planted after winter. One property owner ultimately declined to take part. Fortunately this did not jeopardize the project as his creek frontage was short, rocky and reasonably well vegetated.

Over 16,000 plants, including trees, shrubs and some understorey plants in shadier areas have been put into the ground. The list was based on trees found in the valley, and broken into:

- Fast growing trees (around 65% of mix to ensure rapid canopy closure - 33 species including pioneers and longer-lived species)
- Other trees to provide diversity (around 30% of mix) - 56 species

- Additional slower growing species for limited use - 40 species.
- Before planting we divided the trees into boxes designed for specific zones - creek margin, boggy, edge, shady understorey and general. The old Styrofoam divided boxes were invaluable for this purpose. Plants went into the appropriate area, without the damage that can occur on steep slopes with a half-emptied box of tubestock.

Successes we hope can be repeated elsewhere:

- Thorough site preparation, including sufficient delay between preparation and planting, eased the planting process, minimized losses and helped subsequent maintenance;
- Spraying of dense lantana, yellowberry and glycine was restricted to areas where emergent native regrowth was not evident; many seedlings invisible under the weeds survived the spraying process and were uncovered as the dead lantana was brush-hooked;
- Frequent maintenance has maximized the growth rate, with some trees already well over 2 metres tall; and
- Within a month of fencing cattle away from the creek on our property, the stream had begun to restore itself, changing from muddy puddles and bogs to a steady flow.

Challenges arose because of the landholders' differing goals for their properties. We saw Maroochy Council's help in preparing the grant proposal and initial administration of the grant as invaluable, and the project as totally meshing with our revegetation goals. Some others were concerned that the project should not unduly limit their grazing areas, or in any other way reduce their land use rights. Ultimately these issues were resolved to everyone's satisfaction. Access to the project area on our land requires the agreement of two of our neighbours, both of whom have offered complete cooperation for which we are very grateful.

Monitoring of the water and photo monitoring to record the changing landscape has been ongoing since the project's inception. We eagerly await the day the scientists confirm they have conclusive evidence that revegetation of stream banks truly does improve water quality. Meantime, we've removed lantana on the slopes above the project line to free up native trees, and planted additional trees to create linkages between our earlier plantings and the project. Visit Echidna Creek in 10 years time, and we are confident you'll find a vastly improved environment.

### WANTED ... NEEDED

Reveg Officer is looking for a small house / cottage (1 or 2 bedrooms) on acreage to rent.

I am willing to exchange revegetation, bush regeration or stock work for part of the rent.

Please call me at Barung (5494 3151) if you can help me.

**Alan Wynn**

### WORTH A VISIT

**Land For Wildlife:** [www.env.qld.gov.au/landforwildlife](http://www.env.qld.gov.au/landforwildlife)

**Big Scrub Rainforest:** [www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au](http://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au)

**Australian Ass. of Bush Regenerators:** [www.zip.com.au/~aabr](http://www.zip.com.au/~aabr)

**Men of the Trees:**

[www.ozemail.com.au/~kcd/mottweb/motthomepage.html](http://www.ozemail.com.au/~kcd/mottweb/motthomepage.html)

For information on newly approved and current Fauna and Flora listings: **Environment Australia website:**  
[www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened](http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened)



## Severe Sunburn Strikes

from Spencer Shaw

I've noticed in the past that some recently-planted trees appeared to develop collar rot in the bark around the level of the mulch. At first the plant appears to be drought stressed, then the top of the plants die off. However the soil is usually still moist and the roots are still ok.

In the past I had assumed this must be collar rot due to mulch too close to the stem (in some cases it may still be this).

However this summer the answer became blindingly obvious. I noticed some recently planted specimens of *Citronella mooreii*, Churn Wood, appeared to be suffering in the heat so I watered them. When I went back to check the plants the next day they were still very stressed, and so I checked the soil moisture which was good.

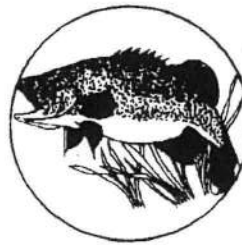
And then I noticed the blackening of the lower part of the stem and the penny dropped - my well-intended straw mulch had become a solar reflector that had intensified the sun's heat and literally cooked the base of the plant!

Lessons learnt are:

1. In summer, be extremely careful when planting very fleshy green stemmed stock e.g. *Macaranga tanarius*, *Omalanthus nutans*, *Elaeocarpus sp.* and of course my poor *Citronella*'s. Also be careful with very small stock that has most of its leaves within 100mm of the mulch.

2. If you must plant in conditions of high heat (sometimes we just can't help ourselves) some sort of stem and/or foliage protection is necessary. Perhaps a light coloured waterbased paint or clay solution could be painted on the lower stem to reflect the heat, or water-based paint could be sprayed on the mulch itself to stop the intense radiation.

As Alan Wynn pointed out, the pineapple farmers are spraying their pineapples with a clay solution at this time of year to prevent sunburn.



Mary River Cod  
Community Network

Phillip Trendall  
WWF Cod Recovery Project

### WWF Cod Recovery Project Update.

The WWF Mary River Cod Recovery project was pleased to receive NHT funding last September to continue work to help protect and rehabilitate Cod habitat in the Mary River Catchment in 2002.

With current on-ground works assisting habitat recovery, the 2002 focus is to protect and restore priority areas of in-stream habitat. In-stream habitat refers to the snags, rock bars and log structures that provide homes for many of our aquatic organisms. For cod, these habitats provide the ideal place from which to ambush food and the hollow logs necessary for breeding.

Protection of the very good in-stream habitat still existing in the catchment is a priority. Six-Mile Creek has some excellent sections with logjams and rocky pools, and Obi Obi Creek has some deep pools with rocky out crops and hidden snags.

Two in-stream methods have been used so far:

1. The use of large woody debris to provide habitat and bank stability. In a collaborative effort between different organisations, logs have been used to restore in-stream habitat on two Lower Obi Obi Creek sites, utilising contrasting styles of log placement suitable to the situations and position along the creek. This directly benefits aquatic life and helps stabilise the banks which can then be revegetated with far greater success. We will expand on such works in other priority areas to help increase the amount of Cod habitat during the year.

2. Removal of built up sediment around a creek crossing and removal of subsequent excess waterweed and plant growth. Diamondfield Creek (Amamoor Creek sub-catchment) historically had shady deep pools along its course. I have been told of a man who used to fish just downstream of the site with a surf rod! Development of this little catchment and removal of riparian vegetation resulted in many pools becoming shallower and open to excess growth of waterweeds, paragrass and other vegetation. This not only limited the available habitat, but provided barriers to fish movement, even in high flows.

With Dept. of Natural Resources & Mines approval, sediment and other clogging vegetation was removed from above and below the crossing, restoring the old creek level and revealing many old logs and in places, a solid rock bottom. This provides ideal habitat for fish and other organisms, and has increased oxygen levels in the water. This site has now been revegetated and with the November rains, showed a good constant flow of water and a far easier passage for fish to use. Hopefully with future restocking, Mary River Cod can now move throughout the system.

For more information on Mary River Cod recovery or how to protect your piece of cod habitat, please don't hesitate to contact the WWF Office based in Gympie.

Ph: 5482 4251 Fax: 54825 642

E-mail: [philtwwf@spiderweb.com.au](mailto:philtwwf@spiderweb.com.au)

Eve Witney has taken back the Editor's job for The Cod Line - the newsletter of the Mary River Cod Community Network.

Past copies are available at Barung.

## Weedadelic Doofatronicus

22 - 24 March, Bellthorpe

If you've ever partied at Bellthorpe, now is your chance to give something back to this sacred site.

On the weekend of the Autumn Equinox, there will be a weed clearing workshop and music festival with the goal of clearing out the obnoxious weeds Devil's Apple and Lantana. The gathering will begin Friday, with weed pulling in the day and a totally acoustic music and percussion night with film screenings. Weed pulling happens from 8am Saturday.

Saturday night brings together a broad selection of local and interstate live acts and Dj's including a host of visual innovators to provide a diverse electronic music experience.

The event will be fully catered with Herbal Highs by Triptonics. ✓ Entry will be \$5 for those who arrive before 10am Saturday and participate in the weed clearing, and \$15 for party goers after that. Entry fee includes camping.

✓ For Planting bring gloves, sunscreen, long sleeve shirts, hats, cutting tools, water.

✓ For Partying bring torch, blankets, lots of water, a bag for your rubbish, a big smile.

✓ For directions and more info:

[www.zonar.net/abad/weedadelica/](http://www.zonar.net/abad/weedadelica/)

## Farmcare John Muir

### Welcome to Australian Landcare, Delia

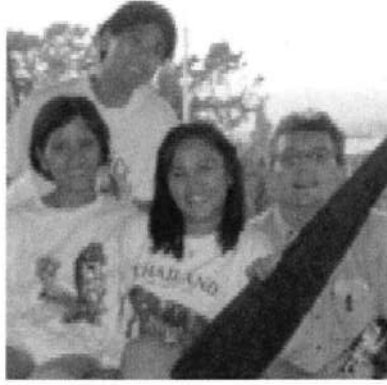
Ms Delia Catacutan from the Philippines Landcare Project, has commenced her PhD at the University of Queensland (UQ). Delia was awarded a 3 year Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Allwright Scholarship to research International Landcare and potential models for scaling International Landcare up more broadly than the Philippines and Australia.

Delia visited Barung Landcare in March 2000 as a member of a larger Asian Landcare delegation to the First International Landcare Conference in Melbourne.

John Muir, ACIAR Landcare project facilitator based at Barung Landcare, has been working closely with Delia. Delia was the project manager for one of two ICRAF (International Centre for Research in AgroForestry) Landcare evaluation sites in the Philippines. Since the ACIAR landcare project commenced just over 3 years ago, more than 400 landcare groups have been formed in the southern Philippine Island of Mindanao.

Delia is based at UQ for the next 5 months, with Rob Cramb as her supervisor. John Muir, Noel Vock (DPI), Chris Rinehart (NRM) and Joan Dillon (Barung Landcare) will be providing back up support for her work on International Landcare. If anyone else is interested or involved in such work, please contact John Muir at Barung or on 0418 158 623 or email - [muirj@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:muirj@dpi.qld.gov.au)

Delia will be visiting Barung soon and joining in some of our activities. I am sure she would be only too pleased to discuss her PhD with anyone interested in such a challenging 'thinking globally' topic.



Delia (centre) with Filipino landcarers, Bebot and Au, and our intrepid Australian Project Officer

## TREE TALK

Tony Wootton  
Tree Surgeon

Hello again, tree people.

As I write this article, bushfires are raging around New South Wales, threatening lives, property and eco-systems, and I've recently been working in fire damaged areas around Reesville.

Both of these situations have brought home to me the awesome destructive power of a Eucalypt-fuelled conflagration.

Fortunately for those of us living on the deep red soil areas of the Blackall Range, I believe that the naturally occurring vegetation types are the generally fire retardant rainforest species. However, the harder soil areas around Reesville and most of the rest of this great land, naturally support Eucalypt forests.

Fire, therefore, is an ever-present and very real danger in these areas.

While my own instincts have always drawn me away from Eucalypts and towards rainforest species as trees of choice, I also felt, somewhat naively I now realise, that any use of fire as a management tool should be avoided. Well, you live and learn!

I now concede that a 'cool burn' at intervals not exceeding three years is probably one of the most practical methods of reducing the build up of a hazardous fuel load in larger Eucalypt and semi-Eucalypt areas. People who know far more about bushfires than I say that if fuel is allowed to build up for seven years you WILL have a bushfire.

My previously-held fears that emergent rainforest seedlings would be damaged or killed by fire were somewhat allayed by my findings at the Reesville fire site. Young *Polyscias elegans*, Celerywood, seedlings survived the fierce fires resulting from a seven year build up of fuel.

In light of this, I would consider that a properly controlled cool burn, timed to allow seedlings to reach a sufficient height, should result in a minimum of damage to a population of emergent rainforest species under a Eucalypt canopy.

The subject of Eucalypts, rainforests and fire is a fascinating and involved one that deserves a far more detailed treatment than space permits, so I'll close on a happier note: the wet season is almost upon us, a perfect time to get out there and plant more trees.

Until next time, Touch Trees.

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.

## The Local Law - What We Can Do

(cont'd from p1)

We note that;

◆ no property owner who is retaining their native vegetation would be affected in any way by the Local Law;

◆ contrary to rumour, the Local Law will not take control of native vegetation on private lands out of the hands of the property owner. It will not equate to a resumption of private property, and landholders will not have to fence off or regenerate their creekbanks or other lands; and

◆ ordinary landholders should have nothing to fear from the proposed Local Law.

5. We assert that the great majority of rural landholders want to look after the natural resources on their properties. In many cases they may have insufficient resources to carry out improvements to the condition of these resources. Furthermore, recognising the extent of existing land degradation and the need for proactive environmental repair, we acknowledge that this can only be achieved through development of good partnerships between the community (via Local and State Governments) and those who live on, are most familiar with and best able to manage the land resource. The basis of such partnerships should be about ensuring that landowners have the technical, financial and moral support they need to look after environmental assets on behalf of the wider community.

6. Therefore, while Barung strongly supports the introduction of the Local Law, we also strongly support Council exploring and adopting other programs and initiatives that will build strong partnerships between the general community and rural landholders to address a wide range of important environmental problems. Barung is very well positioned to facilitate the development of good partnership relationships and projects in this area.

We encourage local landholders and Barung members to make informed submissions to Council for the benefit of all in the long term.

## BOOK REVIEW

Melissa Coyle

Bushland Management Officer, MSC

### "Tracks, Scats and Other Traces - A Field Guide to Australian Mammals"

Written for the average Jo Blow, "Tracks, Scats and Other Traces" is a 340 page sturdy paperback chockers with information, photographs, diagrams and a handy ruler on the back cover. It presents a lot of information in sensible divisions, which, with a bit of practice, is very easy to use. Of course, the more information that you have the more accurate your identification is likely to be. And while you won't always definitely identify to species the tracks you find, you'll get an idea!

The introduction gives a very basic breakdown of the different sub-classes of the mammals in Australia, where to look for tracks and signs, and the difference made by feet structure and gait. Tracks of many Australian mammals, including feral and common domestic animals and some reptiles and birds, are grouped and diagrammed in the first section of the book. Initially starting with a key, based on the characteristics of the tracks, the key directs you to a group of animals with similar tracks. You then compare the size and shape of the tracks with the very accurate drawings and photos.

"A great way to get an idea of the animals using your bit of bush, is to get an understanding of the poos, scratches, tracks, bones and signs they leave behind."

The new section deals with scats - I particularly like the life-size poo photos in glorious colour. I have always wondered how the wombat gets such a perfect cube! Again, starting with a key, based on shape, size and 'ahem' some consideration of texture and location, you are directed to groups of animals with similar scats to compare photographs and information. A handy range of distribution maps in this section for different species can help "eliminate" species wildly outside of range and can be used with all sections of the book.

The last section deals with the other signs animals leave behind, broken into shelters and feeding signs, and skulls and bones.

The way vegetation is chewed, bark cut or piles of shells and bones left on a feeding platform can give a clear indication of the animal who did, especially when tracks or scats are present.

**Written by Barbara Trigg and published by Oxford University Press in Melbourne, this book is now available at the Barung Bookshop for \$35.00 (incl. GST).**

**Handy hint:** On the beach or smooth soft dirt, a copy of this book can keep kids (and big kids) amused for hours. Work out what crossed the campsite/yard last night, or have competitions to see who can make the best kangaroo or goanna track!

#### Tree Hollows and Wildlife Conservation in Australia

Authored by two leading experts in the field, this is the first comprehensive account of the hollow-dependent fauna of Australia. New data on the development of hollows, selection by fauna, pests and introduced species and artificial hollows.

\$59.95 from CSIRO website:

[www.publish.csiro.au/books/bookpage.cfm?PID=3010](http://www.publish.csiro.au/books/bookpage.cfm?PID=3010)

#### Key to the Bats of SEQ and North east NSW

Developed through a cooperative of state agencies, govt departments and research groups, this key can be used to identify bats by descriptions of their distinctive, high frequency calls.

Available through DNR&M on 07 3227 8185.

## New in the Barung Library January 2002

Grow your own Wildlife, Johnston & Don	102.11/12
Helping Communities, Helping Australia, Natural Heritage Trust	107.08
Shaping the Future, RIRDC	107.09
Managing Natural Resources in Rural Australia, Report	107.10
Land & Water Australia, Report	107.12
Global Responsibility, bhpbilliton Report	107.20
Living Corridors, Roland Breckwoldt	201.012
Planning for growing or managing Trees, DNR Qld	402.06
Getting started in Farm Forestry, Aust. Forest Growers	402.14
Giant rats tail grass, DPI Qld	701.01
The remnant native Vegetation Mosaic of Lands within CCC Study	803.07
Remnant Vegetation Info kit Mary River Catchment, DNR Qld	804.17/18
Local Law Vegetation Management Info kit, CCC	807.15
Mary River and tributaries, MRCCC	808.16
SE Qld Healthy Waterways, Lockie & Mummery	810.02
Australian Water resources Assessment 2000, Resources Audit	900.071
Ecological Management & Restoration, Ecological Society of Australia	906.09
Voluntary Riverbank Restoration, Phil Berrill Report	907.40
Crew Members Guide to Health of our Waterways Moreton Bay Catchment	908.14
Qld Water Recycling Strategy, Qld Government	911.03
Australian Dryland Salinity Assessment 2000 Resources Audit	912.04
Trees for the rehabilitation of Saline sites, DPI Qld	912.05
Greening the 2001 Agenda, WWF	1105.12
<i>New Books In Reference Library (not for loan)</i>	
What's Its Name? Proteaceae, Cayzer & Whitbread	2.05
Floradata (Checklist with CD), Mortlock & Lloyd	6.02
Our Vanishing Natural Heritage, Maroochy Council	82.01
The Conservation Status of Qld Bioregional Ecosystem Sattler & Williams	83.01
Wet Forest Frogs of S.E. Qld, Meyer, Hines & Hero	84.01



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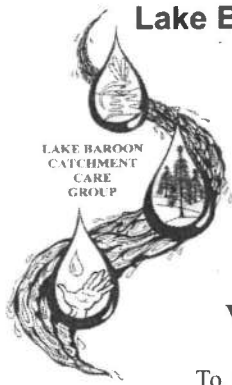
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lbccg@telstra.easymail.com.au



## WATER QUALITY

To monitor water quality means to check the water for conditions which could be harmful to humans, animals, or plants that live in or use the water.

We depend on our water to be clean and healthy and this determines whether we can use it and how we can use it. We want to be able to use it as a water supply, for recreational uses, as a wildlife habitat, a source of irrigation, for industry, and in some cases, for its aesthetic value as a tourist attraction.

Physical, chemical and biological measures are the tools needed to recognise any changes in this water quality.

### Temperature

Many of the physical, biological and chemical characteristics of a waterbody depend upon temperature, including:

- how much oxygen dissolves in water (gases are more soluble in cool water than warm water);
- the rate at which water plants can photosynthesise and add oxygen to the water (it will also affect plant respiration and the rate of its decay);
- the pH of the water;
- metabolic rates (the speed of the internal workings) of aquatic organisms (the higher the temperature, the greater the metabolism and hence the greater the oxygen demand. Metabolism may vary so much as to exceed the animals' tolerance limits and death may occur);
- life cycles of aquatic insects are often more rapid with increased temperatures (this can be disastrous for animals, which depend on these insects at specific times of the year); and
- frequency of parasites and diseases in the water (fish are more vulnerable to these diseases when they are in a weakened state from lack of dissolved oxygen in higher temperature water).

Increase in water temperature in your waterway can be caused by a number of things: removal of shading plants; artificial surfaces such as bitumen allowing run-off water to absorb heat; dumping of industrial cooling water; and increasing the amount of suspended solids, such as soil from erosion, in the water (this allows more heat to be absorbed from the sun).

Water temperature may decrease due to discharge of ground water into the water body it. High temperatures are not necessarily bad, especially if a natural part of the water body's yearly cycle.

### pH

The pH scale goes from 0-14 and is a measure of the hydrogen ion (H<sup>+</sup>) concentration.

Water contains H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> ions. Pure distilled water contains equal numbers of these and is neutral (pH7). If there are more H<sup>+</sup> ions, the water is acidic with a pH less than 7. If there are more OH<sup>-</sup> ions it is alkaline with a pH greater than 7.

The pH of your water depends upon the soil and rocks over which it moves. Soils with a lot of limestone often have a high pH value. Those with a lot of humus have a low pH. Small changes in pH are most important.

At very high or low values the water becomes unsuitable for most organisms. Immature aquatic insects and immature fish are extremely sensitive to low pH. A change in pH can also affect the bacteria and micro-organisms, which help to purify the water, weaken the aquatic organisms and make them more vulnerable to disease.

The pH of the water can be affected by chemicals or by acid rain entering the water. A change of 0.3 in pH can be significant to the organisms present in your waterbody. For every one unit change (e.g. from 5 to 6) on the pH scale there is a ten-fold change in acidity.

### Turbidity

Turbidity measures the amount of solids in your water sample. These can be dissolved or exist as floating (suspended) particles. When solid particles float in the water they make it cloudy - this cloudiness is the turbidity of the waterway.

The effects of increased turbidity are: less light penetrates the water, reducing photosynthesis and hence oxygen levels; more heat is absorbed affecting functioning of organisms and reducing oxygen levels; smothering of eggs or larvae or clogging gills by particles; and decreasing the depth of the waterway through the settling of these particles. Suspended solids can be a result of run-off and erosion from agricultural and urban areas.

Sewage, algal blooms and industrial products such as fat and grease from wool scourers, can also add suspended solids to a waterway.

### Flow

Flow is the volume of water a stream or river discharges over a given amount of time. Natural flows of watercourses will vary during the year and also from year to year.

Animals and plants in and near watercourses depend upon natural flow patterns for growth, reproduction and the replenishment of nutrients in the land. Any changes in flow may impact on ecosystems by interrupting the flow requirements of the animals and the plants.

The natural flow may enable the stream to absorb inputs from the surrounding catchment and so reduce the adverse side effects. Often the natural 'flow' is changed by humans as a result of dam construction to service demands by irrigation, livestock watering, industrial and urban purposes. A reduction in the natural flow will reduce the ability of the stream to absorb inputs.

(source: Ribbons of Blue (nd) Environmental Awareness to Action - A Water Quality Monitoring Program for Primary School Students, Executive Press, WA)

### Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

General meetings are held at 7pm on the first Thursday of every month and all community members are welcome.

Annual membership is \$12.00 if you wish to join.

For information contact Sharon Harwood, President, at the Catchment Centre on 5494 3775.



The Caloundra-Maroochy  
Water Supply Board



# OUR WATER

from Kym Stanton

## Garden Irrigation

Garden watering systems can be timesaving and convenient. Many different systems are available to suit the pocket of just about all home gardeners. Whether a system suits the needs of a particular garden is the key question which prospective buyers have to answer. The following hints will help you save time, money and water.

### WATERING BY HAND

\* Use a watering can to go straight to the roots of a plant - where the moisture is needed. Watering cans are particularly useful for isolated "heavy drinker" plants such as tomatoes etc.

\* Watering with a hand-held hose can help a gardener to relax, but there is a tendency to water too frequently and too lightly. Fewer and heavier applications of water may be more beneficial to some plants.

\* Because tree roots extend outward from the trunk to get their nutrients, it may be better to water around the outside of the tree - at the edge of the leaf canopy - rather than at its base.

### HOSE-END SPRINKLERS

**Ordinary Sprinklers:** are fast and cheap, but have to be moved around and turned on and off. To reach garden corners they may waste water on fences or pathways.

**Travelling Sprinklers:** are sprinklers on wheels. They move on a preset route, powered by the pressure of the water they discharge. Travelling sprinklers are best suited to large, flat, newly cut areas of lawn such as golf courses and parks. An inexpensive mini-model is fitted with a tracking wheel to follow the course of its hose laid out in front. It is suitable for irregularly shaped gardens.

### FIXED WATERING SYSTEMS

**Drip or trickle systems:** are probably the most efficient watering devices, particularly for larger vegetables, fruit trees, bushes, shrubs, hanging baskets and sloping areas. They also reduce water loss from run-off. However, they are not suitable for lawns.

Typical drippers will deliver water at rates of 2, 4 or 8 litres per hour. Thirty drippers at 4 litres per hour give you 120 litres of water an hour exactly where you want it. A sprinkler would spray 1,000 litres in the same time and still not necessarily reach the remote or sheltered areas.

**Micro-sprays:** are available for different patterns and angles of light spray.

**Pop-up Sprinklers:** are generally used for large lawns. They are set flush with the lawn and will pop up under pressure to start watering. They can be controlled by hand - turning on a tap - or preferably by a timer or computerised lawn watering system. Most brands of sprinklers have a range of jets with different spray patterns and angles of spray to suit different sections of a garden.

**Automatic Watering Systems:** may be convenient, but are not necessarily efficient or effective if they turn on whether it is raining or not.

\* To avoid watering in the rain, invest in an override device. This is basically a rain gatherer which is set to operate after a specified amount of rain has fallen. The device trips the power supply and temporarily prevents the watering system from working. Malfunctions can occur in some models when affected by leaves, dust or birds. A tensiometer, a kind of moisture sensor in the ground, is probably more reliable although it won't register in very dry soil.

Fixed sprinkler systems may be convenient but they are not necessarily water savers. They can be heavy water-users de-

pending on how they are used. The Australian Water Resources Council said of automatic sprinkler systems that they "contribute to ineffectual use and misuse of water for garden requirements". Even drip systems can waste water if not properly used.

**Combinations:** you can design a watering system which employs a combination of drippers, micro-sprays and fixed sprinklers where they are best suited.

**Timers:** use a timer at the tap to turn off any sprinkler, drip or micro-spray system even if you don't install a full watering system. For an average yard, a system of garden sprinklers can deliver water at rates up to 3000 litres per hour. A forgotten sprinkler could easily waste thousands of litres of water.

### General

\* Don't buy more sprinkler power than you can use. Some sprinklers are designed for low to medium water pressure areas.

\* High water pressure and small sprinkler jet holes both tend to produce mist. On a windy day, you could lose most of this misty spray.

\* Set up sprinklers or micro sprays to water plants, not paths and fences. Use a broom to clean concrete or paved areas.

\* If you are watering in hot weather, your neighbours are likely to be doing the same. Together, you can reduce water pressure appreciably affecting sprinkler range.

\* Rainfall of 5 to 10 millimetres will penetrate the root zones of most plants. More may be needed to promote deeper, drought-resistant root growth. Allow for mulches holding water, and for run-off from compacted soil.

### Check the Amount of Water Used

\* Place a few ice cream containers near the sprinkler or spray-jet. Measure the water depth after 10 or 20 minutes. Calculate the average depth and adjust watering times accordingly.

### Losing Water By Evaporation

\* On extremely hot, dry and windy days evaporation could take up to half of the sprinkler water applied to a lawn. You'll lose less from evaporation as wind and temperature fall and humidity rises. High, swirling sprinkler jets will lose more from evaporation than those with lower trajectories. Water in small droplets is more prone to evaporation than the same volume of water in fewer and larger droplets.

\* Watering the leaves of trees and shrubs may clean leaf surfaces but you lose water through evaporation and, on hot sunny days, could damage the plant.

\* If in doubt about the kind of watering system you need, consult your local garden nursery. To help, prepare a diagram showing areas of lawn, shrubs etc. with measurements.

### Installing Your Watering System

\* Don't take risks. Pesticides and herbicides can get into low-level or underground systems and be drawn back into your drinking water. Under certain conditions this can contaminate the water supply.

\* Proper installation is the only answer. A licensed plumber or irrigator MUST install sprinkler or spray systems with pipework fixed at or below ground level.

\* You may legally install a system yourself IF the pipework is above ground level and is not subject to ground surface flooding and PROVIDED you connect it only to a garden tap and fit an approved backflow prevention device at the tap.



## VOLUNTEER NEWS

### Barung Volunteer Profile



### Miss Maddy

This edition's volunteer superhero status goes to Madeline Clarke.

Technically she's no longer a volunteer - her official title now goes something like Trainee Maddy "Get lost Rodney" Clarke.

It was a smooth transition for Maddy after an initial period of School work-experience. She climbed the corporate ladder to become a regular volunteer and before long was promoted to become

Barung's first ever horticulture certificate trainee.

All up Maddy has been with us now for well over 12 months, a feat in itself when you consider the incredibly hard working nursery staff and unbelievably strict management regime she has had to endure. And all the time maintaining her cool and not actually hitting Rodney with anything.

Maddy's goal is to have her certificate completed by the time she completes her senior certificate this year and when she does, we will be proud to say that she has learnt all her specialised horticultural knowledge from Barung.

So thanks Maddy, your efforts are much appreciated, and also evaluated, so get back to work.



## LETTERS

Dear Mim,

### Final Report - NHT Project 972549 Barung Landcare Education / Extension on the Blackall Range

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Barung for the Final Report above, which you recently submitted.

The Report's contents were very detailed, well set out and professionally packaged. Barung Landcare Group continues to provide excellent products and services maintaining high standards throughout.

The project, in my opinion, has exceeded original expectations and I believe long-term benefits in sustainable natural resource management in the Blackall Range will result from this project.

Yours sincerely

Damian Miley

Natural Heritage Trust Coordinator (SEQ)

Dear Green Corps

You did a fantastic job at the Beechwoods, planting up the gully as well as remodelling the track. Thank you for all your effort - we really do appreciate it.

Good luck for the future,

kind regards

Jenny Allen

### Thank you to...

... Shirley Marsh for your gift of the Coxens Fig Parrot wall sculpture

... Claire Wynn for designing databases for Barung volunteers, the Expo and ArtisTree.

... Barry Liddell for your donation of "Flowcharting" software and your endless sorting out of the Barung computers!

... the couple who dropped in the box of *Syzygium hodgkinsoniae* seedlings in late January - sorry I do not know your names!

... everyone who has been donating seed to the Nursery. It has been a huge bonus to get such diversity of species and parent plants.

... Clair, Elaine & Julie for doing such an efficient job with The Cod Line mailout.

... Cathy, Barbara, Nora, Elaine, Julie, and Claire for the Barung Newsletter mailout in December.

... Laurie Lowe for donation of overhead projector screen.

... Ashley Sewell for donation of cash box.

... Wynn Boon, QPWS, for toner cartridges and hay.

... R Gunz Photographics, Brisbane for generous donation of a second PC cable for the Barung/LBCCG digital camera.

### Congratulations to...

... Margaret Thomson for being awarded a Gold Medallion for International Year of Volunteers at the Premiers Awards, and being one of seven Queensland finalists for the Energex Community Hero Award.

... Samantha Morris on being the Queensland winner of Young Australian of the Year for the environment sector.

# . CONCRETING .

<p>DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL FORMWORK</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Phillip Vickers</h2> <p>Q.B.S.A. Lic. No. 059 931</p>	<p>STAMPED EXPOSED PLAIN</p>
<p>Ph/Fax: 5494 2109      Mobile: 0418 882 785</p>		

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 US**

## PRIVET - one year down the track..



**SMALL LEAVED** - large shrub to 3m, with light green, 2-5cm leaves - sprays of small white flowers to 10cm long - 5mm black berries. In seed now.

**BROAD LEAVED** - small tree to 10m with 5-13cm dark green leathery leaves in opposite pairs. Small white flowers in large sprays. Blue-black 8mm berries. Just finishing flowering.

Remember privet? How could you forget!!

Privet is one of the delights of revegeters, regenerators, farm foresters and happy gardeners across the Range.

One year ago, Barung ran a series of privet control workshops at Maureen O'Brien's property in Stanley River Rd. Maureen's efforts and enthusiasm resulted in Caloundra City Council sponsoring the 'Sidewinder' for Barung - a backpack tool for injecting trees. Since then, many landholders have undertaken privet poisoning trials with the Sidewinder and compared them with other methods of removal.

On Tuesday 26th February, from 9am to noon, we are running another privet workshop at the same property, to compare the success of the different methods trialled by different people in different locations and aspects, over the past 12 months by Blackall Range Weedbusters.

We are inviting the broad range of participants from the first workshops, but would welcome anyone else who is interested in privet removal.

Meet at the top of Maureen's driveway, just past Mountain View Rd at 9am. There will be a big Barung banner on road.

Morning tea will be provided and there is no charge.

You just have to be willing to share your privet experiences.

### WEEDBUSTERS NEEDED

on the Obi Boardwalk.

Adopt-a-spot this month

and help us keep

the Boardwalk

A WEED FREE ZONE.



### Barung Workplace Health & Safety WISH LIST

For Barung's Workplace Health and Safety Committee to complete our safety upgrades we need:

- ◆ old garden hose for the sharp ends of nursery racks
- ◆ arc-mesh fencing for more nursery racks
- ◆ decent, safe chairs for the staff / lunch / meeting room
- ◆ reinforcement mesh for slab for new chemical storage shed
- ◆ and the skills of a signwriter to make outdoor safety signs.

**CAN YOU HELP WITH ANY OF ABOVE???**

## Thinking Long Term

cont'd from p 16

Bumpy Ash are a very attractive tree that, in spite of the infrequent fruiting, produce masses of white blossoms every year in late spring to early summer. Their timber can have a beautiful light yellow grain, and is surprisingly heavy and durable for such a quick growing tree. In the Barung nursery office is a Bumpy ash shelf that was saved from the hands of tree mulchers!

Collect the fruit when some start to split open on the tree (this sounds a lot easier than it actually is because the fruit are usually held on the higher branches). Place the fruit in a warm place and they should then open and shed the seed.

The seed are easy to germinate as long as they are fresh, so sow them as soon as you get them. Place the flat seed on your seed raising mix and cover with no more than a few millimetres of seed raising mix, then keep them moist but not too wet and in a few weeks the whole surface of the propagation tray should start to lift as the seedlings emerge. Then prick them out, pot them up, plant them out and wait.

And there you have it. Within a few hundred years you'll be responsible for the return of one of our magnificent forest giants to the soils of the Blackall range - that's if you can wait that long!

*Sloanea woolsii* or Yellow Carabeen is another of our forest giants that rarely produces good crops or at least crops that are within reach of us mere mortals.

These are one of our true forest giants of East Coast Australia, members of the up to 55m category! These trees can often be recognised within the forest even if you can't see their leaves by the massive buttresses that support the base of the tree. These buttresses are your classic plank buttresses that are thin and parallel sided, extending to 5m up the trunk.

You can't help but to be touched by the awesome spectacle of the pure 'bigness' of one of these forest giants and the timelessness that they symbolise. The flowers that appear in late spring are white and hang downward in clusters and the trees can often be very impressive in bloom.

The fruit which are a spiky capsule that ripens in late summer turn from green to a yellow-brown and split open to reveal one (or possibly two) seed(s). The black-brown seed are up to 10mm long, and mostly covered in an orange layer of flesh called an aril.

The seed should be collected fresh from the tree or at least recently fallen. The fruit should be removed and then the seeds soaked for a few days to help remove the aril. Sow the seed as soon as it is cleaned and watch it grow.

As with the Bumpy ash, when you plant one of these trees (in the right place of course) you are making one of the greatest bequests any of us can make for the planet and future generations. In our lifetime we will see a beautiful tree grow and thrive, but we should keep in mind that the tree we help establish may live long enough to see the next millennium. Wow!

### Other seed to collect Feb-April

*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* - Picabeen Palm

*Canarium austalasicum* - Mango Bark

*Endiandra pubens* - Hairy Walnut

*Pilidiostigma glabrum* - Plum Myrtle

*Rhodamnia argentea* - Silver Myrtle

*Sloanea australis* - Maidens Blush

## Thinking Long Term

from Spencer Shaw

The human mind is a curious thing when you think about it (especially when you've got to use the human mind to think about the human mind, oops I'm getting dizzy).

Until recently if you saw something really big you either killed it and ate it or chopped it down and broke it into much smaller bits. Now psychologists could probably analyse this as some deep seated insecurity on our behalf, and it probably is.

But I don't think we can hide from our competitive natures and a classic case of this was the 'beating of the bush'. Early settlers often stood in awe of the forest giants they met, especially after they cut them down so they could accurately measure them. The bit I don't think they understood was that once they cut it down to see how big a tree it was, they weren't measuring the tree they were measuring a big dead thing.

Some of our forest giants are fruiting or about to fruit over the next few months.

*Flindersia schottiana* or Bumpy Ash are fruiting at the moment and over the next few weeks, so keep your eyes open for these ones. The pods are about 100mm long, slightly bumpy and green. When ripe the pods open up like five petalled flowers releasing up to 30 seed to be spread by the wind. Bumpy Ash is one of those species that quite often go a few years without fruiting (apart from odd individuals - no offence to odd individuals!) and it has been four years since the last big seeding event on the range.

When the time comes however these trees make up for their infrequent fruiting by covering the ground with seed that, given a bit of rain, will become a carpet of seedlings, each vying for their place in the sun and the chance to one day be a forest giant.

(cont'd page 15)



Seed pods,  
seeds & leaves of  
Bumpy Ash / Cudgerie  
*Flindersia schottiana*

### BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC. 2001/2002 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	<i>Lin Fairlie</i>
Vice President	<i>Karen Shaw</i>
Secretary	<i>Elaine Green</i>
Treasurer	<i>Patricia Brunton</i>
Committee Members	<i>Chris Allan</i>
	<i>Laurie Capill</i>
	<i>Richard Francis</i>
	<i>Clayton Stokoe</i>
	<i>Jo Todd</i>

#### Barung Landcare...



### BARUNG LANDCARE ASSOCIATION INC. STAFF

Coordinator	<i>Mim Coulstock</i>
Nursery Manager	<i>Russell Botterell</i>
Assistant Nurseryman	<i>Nick Willis</i>
Butterfly Guru	<i>Bob Miller</i>
Reveg Officer	<i>Alan Wynn</i>
<i>The Cod Line</i> Editor	<i>Eve Witney</i>
Corridors of Green	<i>Marc Russell</i>
Farmcare Project Officer	<i>John Muir</i>
Education Officer	<i>Mim Coulstock</i>
<i>Barung Newsletter</i> Editor	<i>Mim Coulstock</i>
Administration Officer	<i>Angela Todd</i>
Farm Forestry Advisor	<i>Ashley Sewell</i>
<i>ArtisTree</i> Coordinator	<i>Penny Smith</i>



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