

BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS



February - March 2004

WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

GEARING UP FOR EXPO 2004



The *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* Wood Expo was started in 1996 by Barung members Ashley Sewell, Daryl

Einke and Craig Hosmer to showcase the unique qualities of Australian native timbers while educating people about Landcare and farm forestry as a land repair tool.

Now in its ninth year, the name has evolved and so has the event – far beyond its creators' wildest dreams. Barung Landcare's Maleny Wood Expo, *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* is now considered the major Sunshine Coast event by Caloundra Tourism.

Barung has watched with pride as the Expo has continued to grow steadily each year, attracting not only high quality exhibits but also an increasing audience. Last year more than 10,000 visitors enjoyed the show over the three days and we anticipate the 2004 Expo, to be held at the Maleny Showgrounds on 1, 2 and 3 May, being even bigger and better.

Originally inspired by the number of excellent artisans working with native timbers on the Sunshine Coast, the Expo plays an important role in the region's economy by allowing these artisans the opportunity to display their work to visitors from across South East Queensland. Exhibitors abide by firm ethical guidelines including using timber which has been sustainably harvested or salvaged. This in itself has given rise to an expanding mobile milling industry in the region, as people salvage and mill timber which was previously burned.

The event also allows other tourism ventures to promote themselves to Expo visitors in the Blackall Range Business and Tourism tent.

If you know of any quality woodworkers who may be interested in exhibiting at the Expo, please ask them get in touch with us on 5494 3151. Expressions of interest are being called for now. Preference is given to local artisans.

Due to the boggy conditions that result from millers' trucks getting in and out in the dairy paddock if it rains, all mobile mills will be relocated in 2004, and this vacated space will

make room for many new outdoor exhibitors.

Exciting features for 2004 include the inaugural Wootha Prize Box Exhibition, the Taste Maleny Café (featuring signature dishes from the regions' finest restaurants), and the Taste Maleny Produce Store (which will showcase local produce from wine to coffee to our own Maleny Milk.)

The Expo now contributes substantially to Barung's quest for self-sufficiency. It is our major annual fundraiser with proceeds helping keep the Resource Centre open for the public and assisting with funding non-project based staff while supporting Barung's education and revegetation projects.

Probably the major aspect contributing to the Expo's success is the enormous volunteers effort both before and during Expo. Over 150 volunteer positions need to be filled during the weekend alone to ensure that the event runs smoothly and that visitors leave with a taste of Maleny hospitality.

Please look carefully at the Call for Expo Volunteers sheet in this Newsletter, see how you can help and return it to the office as soon as possible. If you won't be in town for the Expo weekend, maybe you can help in the lead-up.

Let's work together to make 2004 the best Expo yet!

10,000 TREES ON THE OBI IN 2004

An exciting new partnership has been formed over the past six months which will see 10,000 trees on the banks of the Obi Creek.

Project partners include Barung Landcare, Greenfleet, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, Powerlink, Caloundra City Council, Greening Australia and Job Futures (Green Corps), and private landholders in Maleny.

Barung is coordinating and managing the whole project, and sponsoring a Green Corps team for the six months of the project.

Greenfleet (a Victorian-based company who have allocated QFleet funding to plant trees to offset carbon emissions from Queensland State Government vehicles), Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group and Powerlink are jointly funding the site preparation, 10,000 trees and a further 1,000 lomandra.

Caloundra City Council has agreed to fund one year's maintenance with a further two years to be allocated pending the success of the project.

A Natural Resource Management Grant was received from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines for a major community treeplant to plant 2,000 trees during Natural Resources Week in May, and Pacific Plantations are assisting with woody weed removal, slashing and spraying.

In these lean days of no government funding for large on-ground projects, it is more than satisfying to see so many groups joining together to achieve such a worthwhile outcome.

See 'Reveg in Progress' (page 8) for more details.

NEW MEMBERS DAY

Any members who are new to Barung in the past 12 months are invited to visit the Resource Centre between 10am and noon on Saturday 7th February.

This is an opportunity to meet with Barung staff and Management Committee members to find out what Barung does and how we can help you as a landholder in this area. You can also find out how you can contribute to local landcare for the future well-being of our environment. Bring along any weed or other plant species you would like identified.

We gratefully acknowledge
the support of:



Caloundra
CALOUNDRA TOURISM



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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Roslyn Potter	Brenton Dorling
Jennifer Hogan-Brown	Bill Liley & Anne Stephens
Cecil Maddox	Barry Brady
Mary Ann Stent	Phil & Michelle Minns
Jane Longstaff	Dave & Pam Maxwell
Martin Armstrong	Linda Woodfield
Mark Allen	Victor Sealy
David Bull	Darren & Carle Clark
Kate & Norm Taylor	K & E Smith
Trevor & Sauer	Laurel & Bob Wilson
Yolanda Barr	Michael Suomalainen
Keith Long	Lee Sampson
Rod Simpson	G & J Riding
Jim Carseldine	Gary & Sue Uhlmann
Ron & Andrina Hoddinott	Heather & Roy Scott
D Lowry	Peggy & David Hebblethwaite

Dr Brian Shippey & Jo Woodcock

WELCOME BACK

Brett Anderson	Mark Svenson
Jo Ferrier & Ken Taylor	Alan & Claire Wynn

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LANDCARE SUPPORT

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Lin Fairlie

The year ahead

A somewhat belated Happy New Year to you all.

If you are not familiar with our Resource Centre and Nursery (or even if you are), Saturday 7th February is your opportunity to visit Barung from 9.30 to 12 noon, to talk with staff and Management Committee members, have any plants identified (including weeds), look at historical landcare and local weed displays, and discover the Barung library. We plan to hold 'an open morning' twice a year to give members a chance to become more familiar with Barung and its activities (see elsewhere in this newsletter for details.)

If you can suggest how Barung can better meet your needs as members and landholders, please talk with staff or Management Committee, or let us know via phone, fax or email. By being more familiar with Barung's operations, you may also be able to see how your skills and interests may be an asset to your landcare group.

Your support for the 2004 Maleny Wood Expo, *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture*, is vital for its success. Planning and processes are well under way but there are still many jobs to be assigned. So if you want to meet and work with like-minded people, fill in and return the Expo Volunteer sheet included in this newsletter. Supporting Barung in the weeks before Expo is also essential. If you know you cannot assist during the Expo May weekend, maybe you can share your skills in the weeks beforehand.

It is only with members' support that the Expo will be the success it has been in the past. All Expo proceeds are used to further Barung's activities in the fields of education, revegetation, working with landowners, communicating with all three levels of government and working with other local community groups.

As far as Federal funding is concerned, Barung falls under the umbrella of three regional bodies due to our geographical position on the Blackall Range. These regional bodies are catchment based.

As water from the Obi and all its tributaries end up in the Mary River, most of the Barung plateau area falls under the Burnett-Mary Regional Body (BMRG). Streams that run east from the escarpment to the coast fall in the South East Queensland Natural Resource Management region (SEQNRM) which covers catchments from Noosa south to the NSW border. The third region is called the Western Catchments, and we are part of this due to Barung's area encompassing the Upper Stanley and its tributaries running from the southern escarpment of the Range.

The relevance of the three areas is the different funding programs which apply. SEQNRM can only access NHT2 money, while the other two are also eligible for National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) funds.

Each regional body is currently developing a State of the Region Report, and then has to develop a regional Investment Plan by June 2004. These plans must be 'passed' by the many levels of bureaucracy within this new system. When priority actions have been identified in the Investment Plans (for each region), the regional bodies can draw up on-ground projects.

DEADLINE - Fri 14th MARCH for April - May Newsletter contributions

Barung Landcare...



Please let us know of any change of address so we can keep membership data up-to-date.

Please renew your memberships - your support is very important to Barung.

THANKYOU

The time and effort that this has all taken is amazing but still there is NO money on the ground. The current Barung Management Committee and staff are struggling to attend all the meetings in three regions etc and get their heads around these three bodies and their plans. If as a property owner in any of these regions you are concerned about how natural resource management will be coordinated in the future, maybe you can assist Barung by participating (on Barung's behalf) in the regional meeting that concerns your area.

The Barung Management Committee is working hard to establish a Contracting Arm in the hope that we can become independent of government funding unless projects really fit our plans. We aim to have the Contracting Arm up and running in the near future.

The skills required to operate and manage this new area will extend Barung's current staff and committee, so if you have on-ground skills and are looking for paid work, please get in touch and we will put your details on the database for when the Barung Contracting Arm is ready to take on jobs.

SEQ regional arrangements

Susie Chapman
Community Support Officer

Some of you will be aware that natural resource management is now being organised nationally through regional bodies. The new regional body for South East Queensland has now formed and is rapidly getting its act together.

Natural Resource Management South East Queensland Inc (NRMSEQ) manages the area from the Rainbow Beach Rd in the north, south to the border and west to Toowoomba. It notionally encompasses the SEQ Western Catchments Group (upper Brisbane River catchments), although this body has its own organisational structure. The SEQWCG was identified as a priority area under the National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality (NAP region) like the Burnett Mary, and hence has been in existence for some time now.

NRMSEQ has established its head office in Brisbane at Level 2 183 North Quay, and has most of its staff now on board. This enthusiastic team includes an Executive Officer Adrian Volders, Administrative Officer Maryann Bossom, NRM Co-ordinator Amy Russell, Planning Officer Andrew Davidson and six Community Support Officers (CSOs). The CSOs are distributed geographically, and I have been appointed for the northern sub-region. This takes in the Noosa, Maroochy and Mooloolah catchments and a coastal strip of Cooloola up to the Rainbow Beach Rd.

The NRMSEQ Management Committee (the board) is comprised of 22 members from community, industry, government and research. To date there are 72 ordinary members (groups) of NRMSEQ, of which Barung is one.

The current quest is to have a Regional Natural Resource Management Plan and associated Regional Investment Plan prepared by the end of the financial year, which pools funding from federal, state and local governments and industry. Prior to this a State of the Region Report will be prepared based on all the available reports to date. The planning process is based on "adaptive management" which means that we'll keep on doing it until we get it right. The first time around may not be perfect but we need to get the funds flowing to continue the fabulous work on the ground. This review process necessitates targets to be set and monitoring to happen on all projects to gauge progress.

Already this gathering into regions has had some good spin-offs, with more dialogue between groups bringing a broader understanding about where everyone fits in. It has already been instrumental in integrating projects particularly between government departments and levels, which has to be a good thing!

I'll keep you posted as we proceed, and will be attending more Barung meetings.

New Regional Ecosystem Maps released

Vegetation communities

Queensland is divided into 13 bioregions based on broad landscape patterns that reflect the major underlying geology, climate patterns and broad groupings of plants and animals.

New regional ecosystem maps

Updated Regional Ecosystem and remnant maps for all of Queensland are now available. These Version 4 maps replace all existing Regional Ecosystem and remnant maps, and reflect the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) 1999-2001 clearing data. They are accurate to 2001 and include all certified amendments to August 11, 2003.

The new maps are on line for viewing at local NR&M offices and available for purchase as hardcopies from some NR&M offices.

Regional ecosystems

Regional ecosystems, the vegetation communities in a bioregion, classify biodiversity at the landscape level. The Queensland Herbarium, which is part of the Environmental Protection Agency, has mapped regional ecosystems for much of the State using a combination of satellite imagery, aerial photography and on-ground studies. Information on Environmental Protection Agency website how regional ecosystems are classified is available from the Environmental Protection Agency website. A link to a description of each Regional Ecosystem is also available from the Environmental Protection Agency website.

Regional ecosystem maps, which can be viewed at local offices of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines show what remnant vegetation remains in regional ecosystems throughout the State.

The conservation status of each regional ecosystem is based on its current extent in a bioregion.

Regional ecosystems are classified as:

Endangered if less than 10% of the preclearing extent remains, or 10-30% of the pre-clearing extent remains (if the area of remnant vegetation is less than 10 000 ha).

Of concern if 10-30% of the preclearing extent remains, or more than 30% of the preclearing extent remains (if the area of remnant vegetation is less than 10 000 ha).

Not of concern if more than 30% of the preclearing extent remains, and the area of remnant vegetation is more than 10 000 ha.

Further information is available from the Schedule of Vegetation Management Status of Regional Ecosystems. Contact your local Department of Natural Resources and Mines office if you want to see vegetation maps covering your area. We invite your help in keeping these maps up to date. If you think the map for your area is inaccurate, you can request that it be verified and amended if necessary.

How to read a regional ecosystem map

Regional ecosystem maps are at a 1:100 000 scale. Location of precise boundaries at the property level may require field checking. A fact sheet, "Regional Ecosystems" explains the details.

Thresholds

Regional ecosystems (REs), which have been cleared to the extent that future clearing will cause a change in conservation status, are called threshold REs. Care is needed when interpreting RE maps as it is important to recognise that even if for example, an area shown as not of concern (green on the maps), it could still contain a regional ecosystem that has reached the threshold point and for this reason clearing may be refused. This applies to 'not of concern' and 'of concern' (orange) categories shown on the maps at present.

continued page 11

Nature Refuges; transferred duty and land tax reimbursement

Transfer duty reimbursement

Purchasers of land who enter into a Conservation Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect its conservation values are eligible for a reimbursement of the transfer duty paid by the landholder on the purchase of the land.

Eligibility

- The land must be purchased on or after 1 July 2003.
- The land must include vegetation, plants or animals that are considered by the EPA to be of a high conservation value. Potential buyers are urged to consult with their local EPA office for advice on the conservation values of the land.
- The landholder must enter into negotiations with the EPA to establish a Conservation Agreement with the EPA to create a Nature Refuge over part of or all of the land within 12 months of the purchase.

Once the Conservation Agreement is finalised, the EPA will reimburse the landholder for the transfer duty paid on the purchase, or on a pro rata basis if the Conservation Agreement is over part of the land.

(see <http://www.osr.qld.gov.au/taxes/duties/transfer.htm>)

Land tax reimbursement

Landowners who are liable to pay land tax on properties and who enter into Conservation Agreements with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are eligible for a reimbursement of land tax payable on land subject to the agreements.

Eligibility

- Landholder must fulfil the criteria to pay land tax;
- The land must include vegetation, plants or animals that are considered by the EPA to be of a high conservation value. Landholders are urged to consult with their local EPA office for advice on the conservation values of the land;
- The landholder must enter into a Conservation Agreement with the EPA to create a Nature Refuge over part/all of the land.

Once the Conservation Agreement is finalised, the EPA will reimburse the landholder for the land tax payable on the property, or on a pro rata basis if the Conservation Agreement is over part of the land. Also, if after the 30 June, a landowner enters into a Conservation Agreement in respect of land on which land tax has been paid for that year, the landowner will be eligible for a reimbursement of land tax on a pro rata basis for the period from the date the Conservation agreement is finalised to the end of that financial year.

For further information contact Peter Tarrant, Nature Refuge Project Officer, Environmental Protection Agency
Ph. (07) 3225 1740

Land Tax Branch, Office of State Revenue
Ph. (07) 3227 6014
<http://www.osr.qld.gov.au/taxes/land/index.htm>



The Ornamental Garden

Joan Dillon

Summer holidays this year were spent in the Australian Alps with their rich natural gardens of alpine flowers, designer rocks and clear, meandering or rushing streams. Nature is the best landscaper and artist. The dense low growth, brief bursts of massed flowers, and adaptations to every conceivable opportunity to establish any sort of root system, had strong parallels with the equally tough desert environment of central Australia.

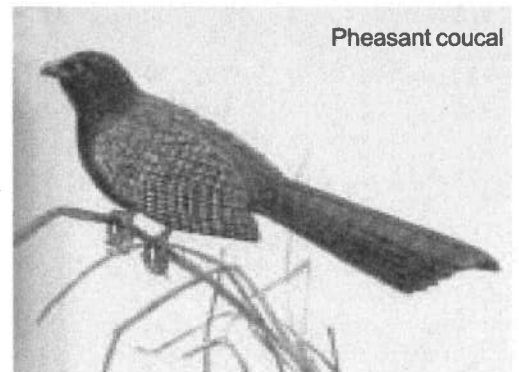
The alpine meadows shared their colours with open woodland vegetation - drifts of flowers contrasting with the soft greens of dwarf grasses. Both reminded me of the beauty of open spaces where there is plenty of light. Try a meadow instead of a lawn! It won't of course cope with traffic as well as standard lawn grass species but could be a great landscaping alternative for less trafficked areas.

Our own rainforest gardens tend to be dominated by trees and mid to understorey shrubs, so we're often unaware of our own little understorey plants and open space gems which open up a whole new range of landscaping opportunities. Fortunately, there are now two books available from Barung that provide a glimpse of the world of the little plants which are easily forgotten because they are literally under our feet. The books are 'Mangroves to Mountains' which has been available for awhile, and the new 'Wild Plants of Greater Brisbane.' Have a look at both of them for new ideas.

The snow gum forest is in its first season of regeneration following last year's disastrous fires and the understorey vegetation will slowly change as the canopy recovers. Shade development obviously affects the garden landscape as well so it's worth retaining some permanent open spaces in which the little plants can flower in all their miniature beauty of colour and form. The standard rockery achieves the same thing but if the usual rockery plants are replaced with our locals, both cultivated forms and species, a whole new gardening opportunity presents itself. Limit the number of species and mass the colour. If rocks don't occur naturally in your environment, substitute pieces of fallen timber. Old wattles often have twisted branches that can be strategically placed for architectural effect. They'll eventually rot away but in the meantime will provide habitat and food.

Open spaces certainly create challenges since weeds also love the light but a good heavy dose of mulch usually solves the problem so long as the original weed/grass layer has been killed. Several members of the pea family have naturally rounded forms and bright closely packed flowers. Try combinations of grasses, low shrubs and *Brachyscome* daisies. The tiny blue flowers of *Scaevola aemula* provide long term soft massed colour in slightly more protected areas and will soften the edges of inground tanks and septic systems. The popular (you might have to wait) *Lomandra confertifolia* is another beauty which likes some shade, or sun with plenty of water. Bright yellow *Helichrysum* daisies are on their way or try emufoot, *Cullen tenax*.

Further away from the garden 'proper', experiment with taller grasses and dwarf shrubs - much like an open forest glade, to attract birds like quail and the Pheasant coucal, which so often adopt dangerous roadside habitats due to the 'manicuring' of their original homes.



We've had good rain so there's plenty of weeding and garden maintenance to keep us out of trouble, but at least the desirable plants are powering along too!

Illustration from *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* by Ken Simpson, Nicholas Day & Peter Trusler, publ'd by Penguin Books Australia Ltd 1999

NURSERY NOTES

Nick Willis

Hello again and welcome to the new year.

If you haven't been into the nursery lately, do yourself a favour and pay us a visit. The racks are overflowing with beautiful quality stock itching to go in the ground. With the wet weather around at the moment, now is the perfect time to give these seedlings new homes.

Thanks to the generosity of our seed donors, the nursery is full with a really diverse species range, and has many more plants ready every week. But come and see for yourself - don't take my word for it.

Due to increased stock levels we have recently constructed a new growing area in the last available bit of space on this site. This new area will be used for growing more sun hardy species and for hardening off plants before they go out into the ground. A huge thankyou goes out to the incredible volunteers who helped construct this new area. Very special thanks go to Colin Hastie for his valuable coordination of the whole project, Rob Pollack from Blackall Range Mini Excavator Hire for earthworks, and Anthony Caffareli who single-handedly moved 12 metres of fill.

Our recent regular Thursday mornings seed collection walks have proven very popular and very successful. If you want to spend a morning walking through some of our local vegetation collecting seed for the nursery, please meet at Barung at 9:30am any Thursday morning. These walks are both informative and entertaining. If nothing else it gives you a chance to pick Marc Russell's hugely knowledgeable brain while walking in the scrub.

However, this does not mean that I will stop hassling members to collect additional seed. We still need all that we can get! I would also like to remind Barung customers that we recycle any pots purchased from Barung, and any Native tubes or 140mm (6") round pots purchased elsewhere.

And while I'm hassling people, we really need a volunteer to take on the relatively small job of keeping the Barung gardens looking good. With the constant propagation, potting and nursery weeding going on, the gardens often get neglected and overrun with weeds - not a good advertisement for the Nursery or Landcare! It would take only a few hours to get under control initially and then just a few hours every fortnight.

As some of you may remember, Barung recently had a plant recall for Koala Bells, *Artanema fimbriatum*. Some seed was donated labelled as 'Koala bells' but when grown to maturity it was identified as an exotic pest. So, not wanting to be responsible for unleashing another environmental weed, Barung dutifully replaced all plants incorrectly sold, with the correct native Koala bells. Here is where it gets messy.

Unfortunately the Koala Bell mother plants that have been in the Barung gardens since the beginning of time, have recently been identified as another exotic plant, *Asystasia travancorica*, a native of India and West Africa. Although not considered a potential weed at this stage, the plants have been known to self seed and come up in gardens.

So once again (rather embarrassingly) we ask that if you have purchased a 'Koala bells' from Barung, please pull it out and bring it in for a suitable replacement. I know that you are all going to tell me that it is your favourite plant, and doing so well, but do you really want to be responsible for another possible Morning glory?

Thanks to the following seed Donors:

Peter & Patricia Brunton	John Martinkovic
Alan Wynn	Greg Smyrell
Barry Beale	Melanie Buschor
Ian McInnely	Kate Fraser
Brad Owens	Davis McDonald
John and Valerie Poulsen	Noela Negus
Ted & Eunice Prickett	Mim Coulstock

& the Thursday morning Seed Collectors

PLANT PROFILE

Nick Willis

White bolly gum *Neolitsea dealbata*

Family: *Lauraceae*

In this edition we feature another of our locally common laurels, *Neolitsea dealbata* or White Bolly Gum.

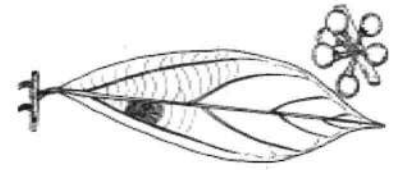
As previously explained, White bolly gum laurels are one of most valuable food sources for our fruit eating birds such as fruit doves, pigeons and green catbirds. These small trees grow to about 12m and bear masses of red-black fruit from April through to June, providing a reliable long fruiting season most years.

Bolly Gum is commonly found in protected sheltered sites as an understorey rainforest tree or in wet sclerophyll forests from Illawarra in New South Wales through to North Queensland and New Guinea. The Genus name derivation is from Greek 'neos' meaning 'new' and 'Litse' which is the Chinese name of '*Litsea chinensis*' the first species described. The species name *dealbata* is derived from Latin 'dealbatus' which means 'white washed', referring to the white undersurface of the leaves. This white undersurface is the simplest identification characteristic for Bolly gum along with the very attractive rusty/pink new foliage.

Bolly gum is another particularly useful revegetation species as it encourages birds when fruiting, which in turn deposit seed from additional species. As a revegetation species it is best included after initial establishment of pioneer species, as it requires some shade to really perform well.


**White bolly gum is on special now at Barung Nursery
for the discounted rate of \$1.50/tube**

Illustrations from: Field Guide to the Birds of Australia by Ken Simpson, Nicholas Day & Peter Trusler, publ'd by Penguin Books Australia Ltd 1999 and Trees & Shrubs in Rainforests of New South Wales & Southern Queensland by Williams, Harden & McDonald, published by Uni of New England



Green
catbird

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woody weed problems? need the Sidewinder?

Ring the office to put your name on the list
for the next training session.

Training is run on demand, so let us know!



Sunshine Coast

branch of wildlife caring, as vaccination against Australia Bat Lyssavirus (ABL) is required.

Bats come into care all through the year, however October through to December is our peak period as it is birthing season for the Grey-headed flying fox and the Black flying fox and we receive their orphaned young. Hand raising an orphan flying fox requires around 16 weeks of bottle-feeding, weaning, crèche and nearby release to a local colony. The procedures are based on observation and research carried out by wildlife organizations and research institutions.

Bat Rescue Inc. organises all training for its carers and provides new carers with all the equipment they require for their first year. Our carers are available 24 hours per day to assist in any emergency. Since the public are advised never to handle bats, our carers must personally attend every call from the public.

The two most significant reasons that flying foxes come into our care are:
1. **Power line rescues:** these are generally orphan rescues whereby the mother is electrocuted and a live baby is rescued off mum. This requires a co-ordinated approach with Energex who assist by retrieving the bat from the powerlines and then handing the bat over to a carer on the ground. The staff at Energex kindly attends these rescues quite promptly.
2. **Barbed wire rescues:** these can be technically very challenging as they involve disentangling bats trapped on barbed wire. In most barbed wire rescues injuries to the wing membrane and mouth (from biting the barbs to attempt to release itself) are prevalent.

The plight of the flying fox is a topic that divides community opinion, and our belief is that only through communication and education can we protect these creatures from extinction. It is only through public awareness campaigns that myths and fears about bats can be eliminated. Bat Rescue Inc. participates in numerous displays, publicity and fundraising events throughout the year. Each opportunity allows us to actively promote bat conservation issues such as loss of habitat, powerlines and a lack of greater protection.

One of Bat Rescue's biggest challenges at the moment is a lack of carers. This baby bat season we had only 13 active carers and had 36 orphaned baby flying foxes come into care, plus rescues of adult and sub adult bats as well. Our main hurdle in acquiring carers is the costs associated with caring for the bats, the vaccination being the most inhibitive cost at just over \$200. If you are interested in becoming a bat carer or assisting Bat Rescue Inc. in any way, please contact Leanne Baird on 5446 6960.

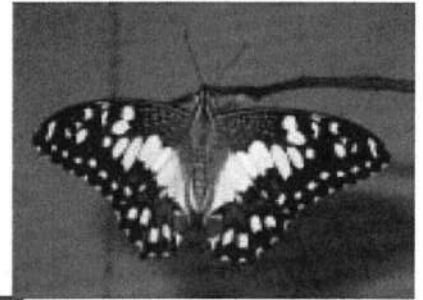
Bat Rescue Inc. is a non-profit Sunshine Coast based volunteer organisation specialising in the rescue, rehabilitation and release of Australian native bats.

We formed to better co-ordinate the efforts of wildlife volunteers specializing in bats. It is a unique

BUTTERFLIES OF THE RANGE Bob Miller

Chequered Swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus sthenelus*)

This is a butterfly that I have previously featured in our newsletter, but because of the overwhelming number of phone calls I have received from our readers, I thought that it warranted another mention.



Photos Bob Miller

Congratulations again to all of those people who rang to tell me of their successful plantings of the groundcover, Emu Foot (*Cullen tenax*), and the arrival of one of our migratory butterflies, the Chequered Swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus sthenelus*).

Everyone who I spoke to told me that they had never seen this butterfly on their properties before, let alone been able to observe the butterfly up-close as they laid their eggs. The resultant larvae also gave everyone the chance to observe the complete lifecycle, from egg to adult.

Planting these little "islands" of food plants provides these migratory butterflies with a previously unavailable breeding site, ensuring the survival of these magnificent insects. This and many other butterfly food plants are available from Barung Landcare's Nursery, which will turn your garden into one with living colour.

The adult Chequered Swallowtail is about 73mm from wingtip to wingtip. It is grey-black with a series of light yellow patches and spots. There is an orange and blue spot on the bottom edges of the hind wings. The undersides of the wings are similar to the uppersides, but appear more yellow with orange patches fringed in blue. It is a very fast flier, flying at about knee height and only stopping to feed or lay eggs.

Like other swallowtails, its wings remain in constant motion even when it stops, ready to move off at the slightest sign of danger.

The early instar larvae closely resemble the early instar larvae of the Dainty Swallowtail (*Papilio anactus*): dark brown with orange stripes. But as they get older they change dramatically, until they are finally a yellow-green colour with lots of small orange spots. The pupae are also very variable in colour, ranging from green to pinkish-brown. They are always found in a head-up attitude, suspended by the tail and a central silken girdle, normally away from the food plant.

The success experienced by everyone involved is another example of planting the right plants in the right place to achieve the required outcome. Further information on this or any other butterfly can be had by reading *Butterflies of Australia* by Michael Braby, 2000.

Join Maleny based poet, writer & educator **LESLEY SINGH** for a full day writing workshop about the natural world



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THE WEED REPORT

Lin Fairlie

On the premise that revegetation is good but natural regeneration is certainly easier, if not better, I thought I'd share some information to simplify your task.

Seedlings in your reveg. areas can come from three seed sources:

- * Seeds in the soil from trees that were there before - seedlings from these can be a major problem following privet removal
- * Seeds that are regurgitated by birds or deposited in their droppings eg Camphor laurel, Duranta, Ochna etc.
- * Seeds that are wind blown. These catch in larger trees and fall to the ground eg *Tabebuia argentea*. This yellow flowered tree is very visible in Maleny in spring. There is one beside the path from the Community Centre carpark. It currently has pendulous seed pods filled with seeds that are easily blown by the wind.

Tabebuia seedlings are not always recognized by their juvenile leaves which are quite different from those of the adult tree. I was carefully nurturing a number of them in one reveg area only to find out that they are a weed species.

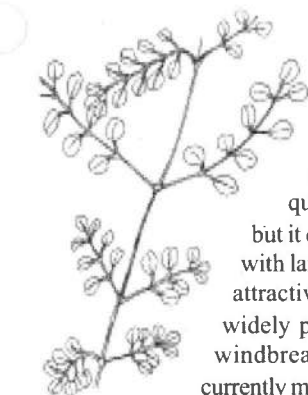
We can all identify Camphor laurel and Cherry guavas by their smell. Privets look like little privets, as do *Celtis sinensis* (Chinese elm). *Tabebuia* is not the only species that bears juvenile leaves which differ from the adult. Another is Himalyan ash, *Fraxinus griffithii*.

The juvenile *Tabebuia* leaf consists of three serrated leaflets. These leaves are opposite on a central stalk, on a seedling about 15cm tall. The arrangement of veins in the leaflets is a little variable as are the shapes of the leaflets. The veins are very prominent even in a small plant and the underside of the leaflets are a paler colour than the top surface. Small hairs are borne predominately on the top surface. Even at this juvenile stage, the plant has a well-developed tap root which makes it increasingly hard to remove as the seedling grows.

On the adult tree, the large leaves consist of five whorled leaflets which generally lack the serrations of the juvenile plants.



Tabebuia argentea



Fraxinus griffithii

The second plant in this article is the Himalyan ash, whose seedling has opposite leaves, each made up of small leaflets with tiny serrations. The adult leaves are much larger and lack serrations. The juvenile form can look quite spindly, almost like a climber at first, but it does strengthen up into an upright form with larger juvenile leaves. The adult is a very attractive small tree and a few years ago was widely planted in this area for screening and windbreaks. The flowers are cream and are currently maturing into masses of wind blown seeds that appear like pale cream 'leaves' all over the tree.

If you have either of these trees in your garden, please do yourself and your neighbours a favour and consider replacing it with using one of the smaller lillypillies (*Syzygium spp*) or another local native such as Silky myrtle (*Decaspermum humille*) etc.

If you have weeds, or any trees for that matter, which you want identified bring them into the Barung Resource Centre in Bicentenary Lane, and we will identify them for you.

Line drawings by Lin Fairlie

A pretty white flower now ... but a Pest in the making

You may recently have noticed masses of small white flowers, obviously borne on vines climbing across and through trees or along fences, around the Blackall Range area. This is Moth vine (*Araujia sericifera*) that may have pretty flowers but.....

Its seeds, which are wind-blown, are borne in green choko-like pods. Locally this plant is a common weeds of gardens and revegetation areas and is on the list of 200 environmental weeds in South East Queensland.

Moth vine seedlings are easily identified, before they start to climb, by their erect stems with pairs of pale green opposite leaves and milky sap. At this stage, they are very easy to handpull. Even mature vines are readily removed by following the stems to the ground and pulling firmly by hand or uprooting with a mattock. The roots do not have a very good grip on the soil.

If mature vines are removed now, thousands of wind blown seeds will be prevented from developing and spreading across the countryside.

Please contribute to weed control in your area by mechanical control of moth vine, as this weed has been identified as having the potential to be a serious threat in regions where conditions are correct - and that is HERE ON THE RANGE.

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Obi Creek Partnership Project welcomes new Green Corps team to Barung

Marc Russell
Reveg & Habitat Officer

In late January, a new Green Corps team, under the supervision of Team Leader, Greg Smyrell, joined the Barung Landcare ranks. This is Barung's eighth Green Corps team

This team of ten young people with a desire to help the local environment have come on board as part of the Obi Creek Partnership Project. This new project will establish 8,000 trees and 1,000 lomandra on the banks of Obi Creek below Pacific Plantations (ex MacFarms) on Stanley River Road, Maleny, and a further 2,000 trees on private property on the opposite bank.

Establishment of this riparian buffer zone will:

- Improve water quality through
 - a. reduction of chemical spray drift entering the waterway from adjacent large scale horticultural enterprise
 - b. reduction of nutrient and sediment loads entering the waterway from horticulture and grazing
 - c. reduction in factors that contribute to big algal blooms in Lake Baroon.
2. Benefit biodiversity through
 - a. the extension and enhancement of a small but strategic rainforest remnant in the center of the project site
 - b. the on-going development of the Obi Creek wildlife corridor to link remnant vegetation at Gardners Falls with other planned and existing riparian revegetation projects, and ultimately with the large strategic remnant below Howells Knob
 - c. improved in-stream habitat for aquatic fauna
 - d. habitat establishment for rare and threatened flora and fauna
 - e. the extension and enhancement of existing riparian plantings on private land, and



f. the reduction of environmental weed seed spread to downstream properties.

Of course there will also be 10,000 new trees to absorb carbon from the atmosphere and help reduce greenhouse gases in the years to come.

Developing the project timeline, planning and implementing the site preparation, planting and mulching of many tubestock, and coordinating the community treeplant in late May will all form the Green Corps team's major project. Minor projects will include time with Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, Mooloolah Waterwatch, the Gubbi Gubbi (Mooloolah) and Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service.

Their six months will also involve training in First Aid, Workplace Health & Safety, Plant Propagation, Tree and Weed Identification and many other aspects of Landcare.

We wish all team members and Greg, a stimulating and busy journey with Barung.

Thankyou to all Project Partners, including Greening Australia and Job Futures who are now running Green Corps.

Watch out for the next Bridge the Gap event in late May when we hope to put 2,000 trees in the ground with the help of the community!



Funding for 04/05 projects for Lake Baroon catchment property owners

Jonathon Waites

Expressions of Interest are currently being sought for applications for funding to enable landholders in the Lake Baroon catchment carry out projects which will enhance water quality, during the 2004/05 year.

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group (LBCCG) is calling for applications now from you (and your friends, neighbours or other landholders who you think may be interested) to support our application for funding from Aquagen (formerly Caloundra/Maroochy Water Supply Board). Our application needs to be lodged in March '04. LBCCG's funding is determined by the number and value of the project applications we receive by mid March, so early applications will be much appreciated.

Past projects have included creek crossings, off-stream watering points, hard surfacing laneways, riparian revegetation and fencing. In September 2002 we provided funding to a group of residents (known as the Tamarind St Group) who were keen to rehabilitate the creek at their 'back doors.'

The Tamarind St Group is made up of a number of residents living (mainly) in Tamarind and Palm streets. Their focus is on the rehabilitation of the small spring fed creeks draining the catchment formed (roughly) by Bridge Creek Rd, Tamarind St, North Maleny Rd and Rosella Dr, that finish up in Bridge Creek under the 'wooden bridge' on Bridge Creek Rd.

Since its formation in September 2002 and with the help of \$2,000 worth of funding from LBCCG and assistance from Barung, the group has:

- * met one morning per month for 2-3 hours. Attendance varies from 15-30 adults and children.
- * volunteered over 350 hours and planted more than 2,000 trees along creeks in the catchment as well as clearing environmental weeds, particularly lantana
- * discovered a way to interact with their neighbours on a regular basis, using the environment as a focus and developed community spirit in the process
- * had Alan and Stacy Franks from Hollow Log Homes out to install nesting boxes along the creek and talk on their function and importance.

Anyone is welcome on the second Sunday of each month for weeding, planting and a yarn (as well as a darn good morning tea).

For details please contact Irene Keton on 5435 2071, email: iketon@caliph.net.au

If you live in the Lake Baroon catchment and want to form a group with some interested neighbours to help protect a riparian area where you live and learn a bit about what makes it tick, please give me a call at LBCCG to see how we can assist you. If you would like funding for projects to enhance water quality in the Lake Baroon catchment, phone 54 94 4375 or email lbccg@serv.net.au

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL LANDHOLDERS

THREATENED SPECIES NETWORK grants - next round will be announced in April - closing date for applications 5 June. For more information visit www.wwf.org.au

LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP - is calling for applications now from residents of the Lake Baroon catchment for on-ground projects that will benefit water quality for 2004/2005. See article this page.

CALOUNDRA CITY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS - applications for these grants (up to \$1,000 per property in 2003) will be due by May. Keep your eye on local papers or ring Nick Clancy (CCC Land for Wildlife) on 5420 8791

FARMCARE - LANDCARE IN HORTICULTURE

Barung Landcare goes to East Africa John Muir

I had the unique opportunity late last year to visit Kenya and Uganda and attend their inaugural National Landcare workshop and associated field trip. This was at the invitation of ICRAF - World Agroforestry Centre, based in Nairobi, Kenya, who is our major counterpart in Barung's Philippines landcare project.

Due to the huge success of our 'Landcare in the Philippines' Project, ICRAF is now promoting similar Landcare initiatives and approaches elsewhere internationally. In East Africa promotion is through an existing program called African Highland Initiative (AHI) and the Agricultural Grassroots Initiative in Livelihoods and Environment (AGILE).

I must admit I was a bit daunted and concerned about what a white western expiate may be able to do to assist with getting a Landcare movement off the ground in East Africa (for the last four years, AUSAID has had a bilateral program with three Aussie consultants supporting a National Landcare Program in South Africa.) I initially felt that we are still trying to get it right, not only in the Philippines/Asian context, but also closer to home here in Australia. But off I went, still with trepidation, only to have one of the most uplifting and rewarding experiences of my life.

This visit confirmed to me that we are all here on this planet together. We have similar issues and problems (just in different contexts and on different scales) that urgently need addressing. By sharing our own knowledge, skills and experiences with each other we can all help each other do our bit in helping heal and sustain the earth and mankind.

I presented the Australian landcare initiative and our Philippines Landcare project experiences at a three day workshop attended by most peak government bodies and Non Government Organisations (NGO's) in the national capital, Kampala, Uganda (near Entebbe airport on Lake Victoria.) This was followed by two days in the field visiting upland organic banana grower groups and NGO's implementing natural resource management (NRM) programs, all of who were interested in Landcare

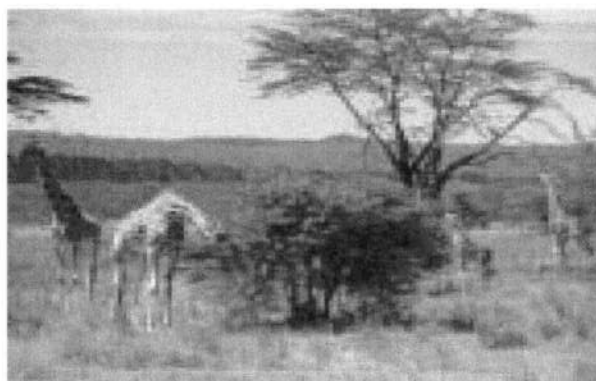


Taking time on the Nile for reflection & hippo watching

Although both Kenya and Uganda are on the equator, they are at about 4,000 ft. Their equatorial rainforest is widely interspersed with drier, open grazing savannah land (of the Masai tribe). Subtropical upland plateaus and mountains have highly productive rainfed agriculture, based on maize, bananas and temperate vegetables (where the Kikuyu tribe and grass come from), not to mention the irrigation and fish from Lake Victoria, which is the source of the (blue) River Nile and the Rift Valley,

running right through the middle.

On a 11/2 day National Park Safari I saw every animal possible - from lions, rhino and zebra to flamingos and hippos. Come along and see my "African Safari and Landcare" photo presentation in March at Barung - see Calendar of Events for details.



On-farm water quality monitoring

Barung's "Farmcare -Landcare in Horticulture" project promotes Best Management Practise (BMP) to address farm management. A second Envirogrant fund has been received to top-up the already up-and-running Sunshine Coast Horticulture Waterwatch monitoring project on several fruit tree farmers' properties. A grant for \$16,000 is available to the Sunshine Coast Sub Tropical Fruit Growers Association (SCSTFGA) to monitor runoff water quality on local macadamia farms. We have especially targeted this industry due to the bare earth policy required under the macadamia canopy to enable efficient nut harvesting off the ground. This results in high potential erosion, and nutrient and sediment loss off farms, especially in late autumn. This project aims to determine nutrient loss loads and subsequent BMP's to address the issue.

This project is being managed and implemented by Maroochy Waterwatch at Nambour with some on-farm sample collection being collected by local horticulture consultant, Dr Henry Drew of "Growing Greener

Growers" on his fortnightly crop check rounds. Samples are frozen for testing at the DPI's Maroochy Horticulture Research Station, Nambour, for Nitrogen and Phosphorous. Portable Horiba water watch equipment is also used in the field to measure simple water characteristics such as dissolved oxygen, salinity, acidity, temperature, turbidity and conductivity.

Results over the last 12 months have shown a wide range of results, due to the different industry cultural practices used, individual farm situations, and storm intensity events. As such on-farm data has not been collected in such detail before, it will help develop local benchmarks and standards once the results have been put through various computer catchment modelling programs. Better on farm BMP will be developed over time to address any nutrient load issues. This will not only reduce the costly loss of surplus inefficient fertiliser applications but also minimise nutrient loads entering the waterways and bays.



Both macadamia and strawberry crops contribute to sediment loss.

Cerran Fawn (MWW) and Henry Drew taking on-farm water samples



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Nick congratulates
& thanks
Anthony Caffareli,
who barrowed 12
cubic metres of fill
(and shed an
equivalent amount
of sweat) to finish
the new full sun
growing-on area
in the nursery.
Well done
Anthony!



Thank you to ...

... Kathryn Nieminen, Lin Fairlie, Claire Wynn, Elaine Grant & Max Smith for your help with the December / January Newsletter mailout
... Colin Hastie, Rob Pollack & Anthony affareli for your great work building the new Nursery full-sun area
... Jill Jordan for your help with the Barung and Contracting Business Planning sessions
... Peter Bell & Greg Brown (CCC) for your help with the Genesis Foundation Envirofund project planning
... Jackie Montgomery for your contribution to Barung's Education Strategy
... Juanita Anderson for your many hours of computer work promoting the Wootha Prize



LETTERS

Dear Lin,

Thankyou so much for coming and speaking with us.

You helped bring our Local History Unit "to life" and provided us with some great "hands-on" opportunities.

Hope you and your family have a lovely Christmas,

Year 8 at Caloundra Christian College & Miss Eugene

Dear Ms Fraser,

We would like to acknowledge the dedication and expertise displayed by your Coordinator (Mim Coulstock) in putting together the Obi Creek Partnership Project.

To have brought together a disparate group of partners in such a short time and secure their commitment to a project of this magnitude is commendable. This project will not only have immediate benefits to catchment care, but its success will establish a precedent for further works in our catchment supported by partnerships between the private and public sectors.

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group is proud to be able to support such a worthwhile project and looks forward to being associated with Barung Landcare in future endeavours of this nature.

Yours faithfully
Peter Stevens

President, Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS VACANT

EXPO PREVIEW PARTY COORDINATOR - if you love a good party and want to help Landcare, this is the job for you. Requires good organisational and communication skills. Ring Angie on 5494 3151 if you'd like to know more.

PRE-EXPO RAFFLE TICKET SELLERS - are you gregarious and outgoing? Would you be available for a 2 hour shift/s to help sell Expo raffle tickets on Easter Saturday, Sunday & Monday, or on Saturday 17th or 24th April? If you can help please ring Brigitte on 5499 9110

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS FILLED

ECOTOUR COORDINATOR - Peter Milton - thank you
& INFORMATION NIGHT COORDINATOR - Peter Milton - thanks

CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Barung is looking for experienced and hard working people, preferably with some local plant knowledge and reveg experience, to join our paid ContractingArm team. Initially part-time work, hopefully developing into full-time work. Call Clayton Stokoe on 5494 2352 or email barung@sun.big.net.au

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New Regional Ecosystem Maps released

continued from page 3

Regional Ecosystems which have reached their threshold

Remnant vegetation

The characteristics of remnant vegetation are that it is:

- 50% of the predominant canopy cover that would exist if the vegetation community were undisturbed
- 70% of the height of the predominant canopy that would exist if the vegetation community were undisturbed
- composed of the same floristic species that would exist if the vegetation community were undisturbed.

Where regional ecosystems have been mapped, remnant vegetation is shown on regional ecosystems maps. For the rest of the State, it is shown on remnant maps. Where no mapping has occurred, vegetation representative of the vegetation community in an undisturbed state is considered to be remnant vegetation.

Regrowth

Native vegetation is dynamic. This means that areas which have been cleared may, given enough time, return to remnant status. Recognising the high degree of variability of capacity to regrow, Queensland's vegetation legislation does not establish arbitrary time limits to define 'regrowth' and 'remnant' vegetation.

Regional ecosystem maps and remnant maps show areas classified as remnant vegetation. Areas of native vegetation outside the areas shown as remnant are considered to be regrowth (that is, the white areas on the maps).

<http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/vegetation/>

<http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au/vegetation/bioregions.html>

EMS Case Studies

Australian farmers can find practical examples of benefits from improved environmental management in a new book *Adoption of Environmental Management Systems in Agriculture*.

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Unwanted wildlife

cont'd from p 12

sure whether turkeys are prone to this level of sarcasm, maybe it's just me). The Brush turkey, like the rest of nature, is living very much in the here and now and seizes opportunity as it arises. It's us who have to think of how we can change our reveg and gardening techniques to better suit our local environment and the turkeys, of course.

The Brush turkey does not differentiate between weeds and natives. In fact, it is thought that lantana may contribute to their survival by giving chicks a prickly pile of stuff to hide in, although our much maligned native raspberries *Rubus sp.* also fill this niche.

The main reason there are turkey chicks roaming around our yard and the local environs is that our local dad Brush turkeys build their nests under the clusters of Camphor and Coral trees down in the gully behind us. It's not as if there are even any clusters of native vegetation to even choose from. So for the turkeys, it's a simple matter of lowering one's standards and moving into an inferior weedy ecosystem or face local extinction.

When we started revegetating we actually argued to be able keep these weed trees while getting funding for native trees to plant. Not only would the cost of removal have been prohibitive, but it would also have effectively rendered the wildlife homeless. Now six years later, over 200 different native species are rocketing away with some trees up to 10-15 metres in height. The privet have all been poisoned - Bam!, the Camphor laurels thinned - Kersplat!, Morning glory annihilated - Kerpow! and the exotic grasses are gone - Wham! (I thought the batman style thumping noises might emphasise the beating of the weeds into submission).

Best of all in my mind however, the Brush turkeys have been with us the whole way through this process, with two nest mounds every year. As have the Satin bower birds - *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* - and their bowers, Whip birds - *Psophodes olivaceus*, Koels - *Eudynamis scolopacea*, Brown Cuckoo Doves - *Macropygia amboinensis*, Southern Boobook Owl - *Ninox novaeseelandiae* and many more. Our philosophy is to have net gains in native habitat before even thinking about removing weedy habitat (this scenario mainly applies if weeds are the only habitat).

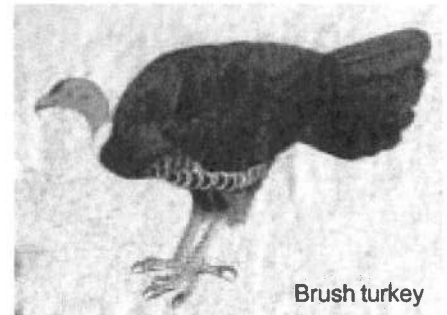
Some tips on Brush turkey friendly gardening:

* Don't go overboard when it comes to tidying up your reveg' patch, leave messy branches all over the place as they fall or are pruned. This will reduce turkey raking in that area.

* Don't feed them. This will inflate their numbers to greater than the local environment can handle.

* Stake your plants, and try mulch mats instead of loose mulch, or even no mulch at all initially.

And remember - give a Brush Turkey a hug today (metaphorically speaking), and revel in our good fortune at having these ancient megapodes as neighbours.



Brush turkey

If you want to learn more about our rainforest flora

... join Marc on his weekly seed collection walks

- meet at Barung at 9.30am Thursdays

... or join the 'out-back crew' on the potting bench &
get first-hand experience in sowing a wide variety of
seeds, potting up, & some ridiculously funny conversations!

Unwanted wildlife

Spencer Shaw

Just recently we have been blessed with the presence of three Brush turkey chicks, *Alectura lathami*, in our rather small town yard in Maleny. "Blessed" I hear you say, "just you wait till they start raking all your well placed mulch and ripping out plants etc. then who'll be blessed!" Well glutton for punishment that I am I'd still think we're blessed, even if they do those things. Fortunately we have never had problems with Brush turkeys (well there was the incident of when I first grew rainforest seedlings, under some banana trees - but let's not talk about that, I'm nearly out of therapy)

Brush turkeys are one of those local species that have adapted to the changes wrought on the landscape, and yet are unfortunately referred to by many as somewhat of a nuisance. However they are not the only successful wildlife that cops the bad press. Our cultural fear and loathing of snakes never fails to surprise me, and yet we have far more of a chance of dying when in the vicinity of a car than from a dreaded snake.

Native Raspberries can thrive in paddocks and on forest edges but are surely a nuisance because of all those prickles, not. *Rubus rosifolius* is

common on the red basalt soils of the Range and crucial wildlife habitat - because of the prickles! If that's not good enough, in my books the fruit is a tasty morsel to nibble on too. The list of successful and yet unpopular native species goes on and on and can include possums, bush rats, stinging trees and wattles - but for now let's get back to the turkeys.

When I read the many horror stories about Brush turkeys devastating treeplants that some intrepid revegetators have been undertaking - I can't help but think that the said writers are under the impression that the turkeys are purposefully targeting them. Or that these feathered little vandals should be more grateful for all the trees being planted. After all, it's for their own good, all that tree planting!

Well that's where we might be wrong. The Brush turkey is just doing what Brush turkeys do (nature is very Zen!) They don't think to themselves "Oh how wonderful, those pale humans are creating a habitat that my descendants may enjoy and frolic in. It's so good of them to see the error of their ways and plant one tree for every 10,000 they cut down when they came here. What I should do is demonstrate how grateful I am, by scratching up the weeds growing around those trees they have planted and rake the mulch into neat and orderly piles around each plant" (I'm not

... cont'd page 11

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