

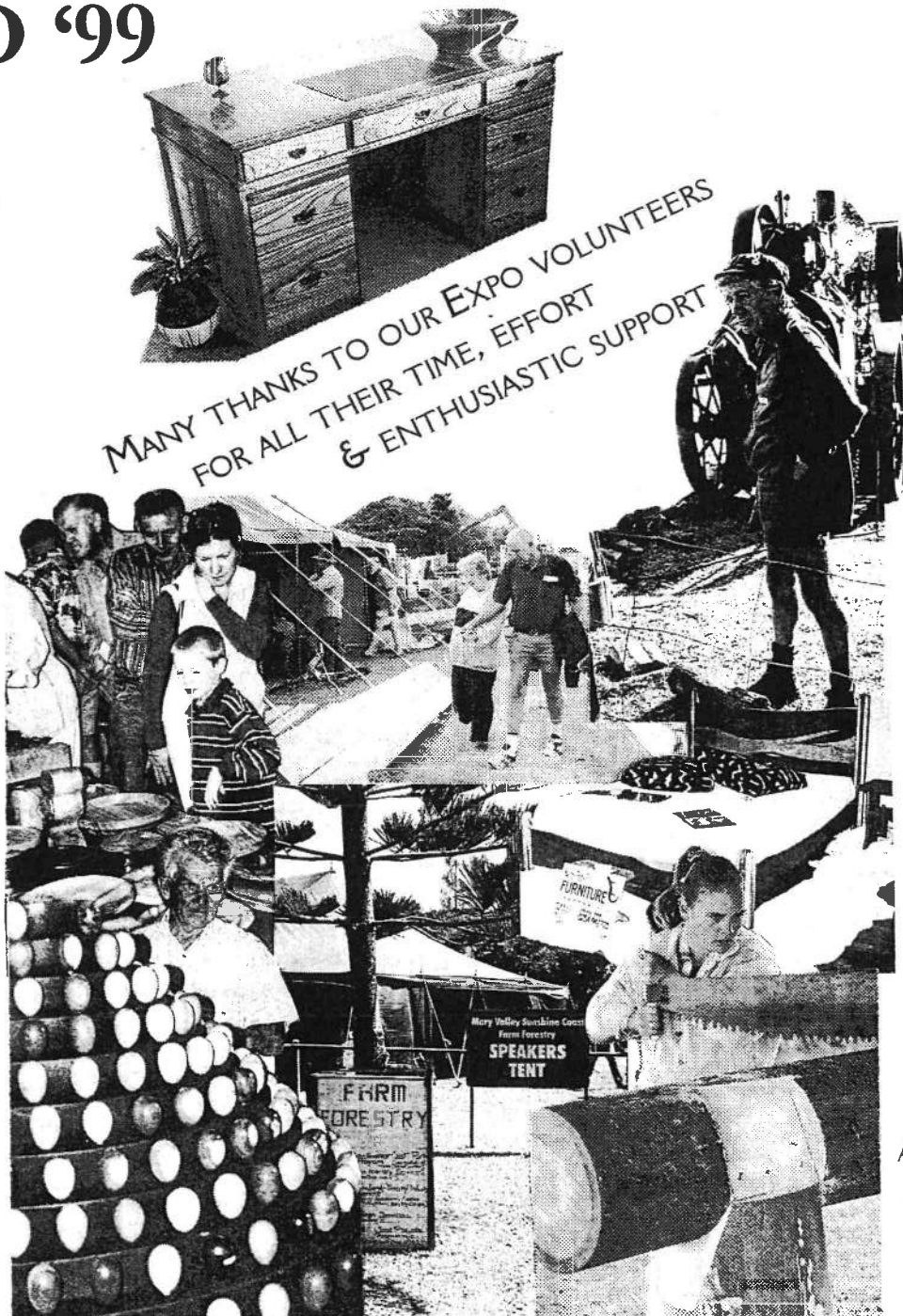
BARUNG LANDCARE NEWS



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE

EXPO '99

Phil Jacobs
Trish Jacobs
June Hammond
Stephanie McLennan
Pauline Clayton
Kath Zaiko
Joanne Boon
Mark Boon
Joan Dillon
John Dillon
Ashley Sewell
Spencer Shaw
John Martinkovic
Kerry McIntyre
Elaine Green
Inger Green
Ben Green
John Muir
Neil Halpin
Ron Smith
Peter Brunton
Jake Austin
Mark Savage
Brandan Savage
Daryl Reinke
Craig Hosmer
Joe Herron
Glenys Ayling
Jenny Webber
Robert Webber
Ward Brisick
Dixon Hammer
Inga Fountain
Mim Coulstock
Al Walker
Pam Walker
Julie Lehmann
Jan Tilden
Helen Cunningham
Kathryn Blackburn
Robyn Jones
Mark Warnick
Norman Austin



Marc Russell
Denise Irons
Rob Tap
Linda Dodd
Colin Dodd
Craig Medson
Faith Baigent
Joan Benson
Jonathon Waites
Janet Lutje
Eric Minger
Pam Cockshaw
Paul Cockshaw
Peter Erdmann
Mike Lorry
Lindsay Nott
Julie Brown
Ronnie Wildman
John Wildman
Gary Swanson
Greg Jendra
Eve Scopes
Lynn Fairlie
Noel Law
Jenny Law
Zoe Walker
Douglas Bailey
Ann Oliver
Erin Trunks
Olivia Suossari
Barry Liddell
Neal Gordon
Bob Miller
Rod Phillips
Marek Malter
Henry Hurst
Tom Bradbury
Andrew Kier
Alister McCormick
Tom Coulstock
The Green Corps
Sam Pickering
Shirley Marst
Peter Marst

CONGRATULATIONS BARUNG

June - July 1999

PRESIDENT'S REPORT WITH JOAN DILLON

Congratulations to the organisers and volunteers who contributed to making this year's *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* Expo such a success. It's a large undertaking for a community organisation and brings many visitors to Maleny. We have willingly created an on-going challenge for ourselves as conversations with visitors demonstrated that the first weekend in May is an eagerly anticipated event for the diary.

The decision to create Expo and showcase the beauty of timber as a crafted product demonstrates a willingness to be innovative in our efforts to spread the landcare message. It attracts a broad range of people and we hope that many of those who are not directly involved in landcare will see and take note of the connection between standing timber and its potential value as furniture rather than chips. We also hope that many of our visitors will have become more aware of the importance of vegetation for a myriad of other reasons such as habitat, shade, windbreaks, soil protection and aesthetic value. *From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture* is also, of course, an extremely important fundraiser which gives Barung some measure of independence from government funding sources.

A report in this newsletter on the recent Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) Researchers' Forum in Gympie issues another challenge to the landcare community. Are we "doing the right thing" in concentrating our revegetation effort in the riparian zones of degraded creeks? Does raising the level of awareness in the wider community with well publicised plantings in public areas actually deliver the best result for the environment?

In a sense, it is easy to concentrate on difficult but obvious areas of degradation. The techniques for dealing with these situations are constantly improving but are nevertheless well known. The analogy is the application of an expensive engineering solution to a problem which might be dealt with more sensitively and cheaply by considering a multi-disciplinary approach to the cause.

The new Consortium project being undertaken by Barung in conjunction with Greening Australia and other landcare groups in the Mary catchment will provide us with an opportunity to develop a very strategic approach to our future effort in landcare. I hope that many individual landholders will become involved with this project. Together we can concentrate on protecting, linking and managing for future generations those really important areas of the catchment which are still in relatively good condition but not necessarily visible or accessible to the public.

An outline of this project will shortly be available to members who might be interested in learning more about it. It is a real attempt to collate existing data, add to our detailed knowledge with a multi-disciplinary approach and take another innovative step towards looking after our environment.

BARUNG LANDCARE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS
ARE HELD ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.
COMING UP - JUNE 16TH & JULY 21ST
If you have any issue you would like to see addressed,
please contact the office/Joan Dillon.



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COORDINATOR'S CHAT WITH JOHN MUIR

WAMPS - for those who still do not know what it is all about, the acronym WAMPS stands for Water Allocation Management Plans. This Dept Natural Resources initiative is presently being conducted in the Mary River Catchment. The consultation period over the next two years aims to provide a community forum by which to improve the allocation and planning of the limited resource - WATER.

This will occur through a community reference panel, with other technical input such as a hydrological flow study model of the catchment. Concerns to be addressed include environmental impact, production, economics and social assessments of the situation.

Barung has already conducted one WAMPS information night, and Scott Buchanan from DNR Gympie is willing to organise more for any other group or organisation. If you have a dam, irrigation licence, riparian allocation, stock or domestic pump, or an interest in environmental flows, and want to find out more about the WAMP process that could effect you in the future, contact Barung or Scott on 07 5482 2555.

For people interested in revegetation on their properties, Barung will again be holding a series of Property Management Planning Workshops. Over the next few months one day workshops will be conducted covering Revegetation, Weeds, and Resource Management, and Mapping/Planning. They will be run from 9am-3pm and one will be on a Saturday for those folk who are busy during the week.

The price is only \$3 for members and \$5 for non members, and will include both theory and practice - in the field components.

Information nights have been planned over the next few months on Household Effluent Management, the Mary River Cod and participation in the Local Birds Survey. A gold coin to cover supper is requested only. See attached Calendar of Events for further information or contact Barung.

A Small Machinery Maintenance Workshop is also coming up with Tony Cassimaty, who ran our very successful Chainsaw workshop. As this workshop will not be subsidised, the real cost will have to be covered by up to 15 participants. Let us know if you would be interested in learning to maintain your small machines and prevent problems.

A second edition of the Barung Landcare's "Landholders Guide to the Blackall Range" will soon be published. We have sold out of our first five hundred print run. The second edition will be enlarged and updated, so put your orders in now. It will only cost about \$10.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

June & Fred Tornabene	Alan & Beryl Parker
Jeanette & John Isaacs-Young	Greg Downes
Barbara London	Paul Williamson
Les Hall	John Ambrose
Rosaline Brookman	Noel Vock
Barry Burgum	Adam Morton
W&K Boon	Douglas Harding
A Goodall & M Krueger	D Maskell & M Honey
Verle-Ann Attwood	John Ambrose
Peter Boundy	Sue Connors
B Brown	John Roberts
Richard Gould	AV Atkinson
David Adams	Chris Berndsen
Phil McIntyre	Mike Taylor
Anthony Morton	P Russell & D Davis

& NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS

Montville Holiday Apartments

Thank you for your landcare support



S.E.E.D.S.

with
Ann Oliver

May S.E.E.D.S. saw the skies clear for an eventful afternoon of orienteering at the showgrounds. Two courses were set - one short introductory run involving teams and a longer course run in pairs. Joe and Marco were the quickest around the course followed closely by Katie and Elise. Everyone had a wonderful, if not wet underfoot, time.

June S.E.E.D.S. meeting was about caring for domestic pets and how to stop them turning feral. Leigh Hansen led activities aimed at discovering the friend in your pet. Rid Kennedy and Carmel Givens, who are Wil.VOS, brought along a young ring-tailed possum to illustrate the happy friendships you can foster with the native animals that live in your backyard.

July S.E.E.D.S. will be on the Tuesday straight after the holidays. Sandy Jones will be continuing her Mary River Cod activities with the children. A fun filled afternoon is in store as Sandy is a very colourful and active personality who gets everyone totally immersed in the Cod and its habitat.

Memberships are now due, so please get a form from Barung, fill it in, then come and join us in learning about enjoying and looking after our wonderful environment.

Till next time happy S.E.E.D.ing

TRIPPING AROUND.....

SLIP-SLIDING AWAY

On March 20th more than 30 keen people spend over four hours in the field and at Barung's Resource Centre talking Landslips.

Following the heavy and prolonged rain in February/March, quite a few landslips had been reported. Enquires on how to repair or prevent them were running hot at Barung. Several property visits and many tree sales resulted.

Due to the keen interest in the causes, prevention and repair of landslips, we decided to conduct a field day and call in experts in the field. These included Ashley Sewell (DNR Tree Care Advisory Officer), Peter Parnell (Parnell Consulting Engineers) and Laurie Cappill (DPI Forestry Nambour).

After discussion prompted by the Gympie Landcare Landslip video participants proceeded on an inspection tour of several sites. These included recent active slips, old slips repaired by earthworks and trees, and important geological sites. Thanks to all involved for a very beneficial workshop, especially the Norman's and Henry Hurst, whose properties we visited.

A Landslip Revegetation Workshop has been planned to assist landowners further address the problems of repairing existing slips. Topics to be covered include species suitable for slip planting. The workshop will be run on a Saturday (date to be announced) by Rob Tap from *Forest Farmer*.



Examining a slip at Henry Hurst's property

EARLIER MALENY TREEPLANTINGS

FROM SUE SMITH

"1986 The Year of Peace" we read as we made our way to the Walkers Creek Tree Plant in March 1999.



The 1986 Year of Peace plaque

We slipped away from the column of people at the fuel depot. We had been there 1 years ago and there was a small stone commemorative plaque somewhere among the lines of native trees. Scratching away some ground cover and some weeds, there it was - John Achilles hand carved stone

which the 20 odd tree planters and members of the Maleny Peace Group had chosen as their way to record the Year of Peace.

Many of these tree planters went on to plant out the approach road to the old Refuse Transfer Site at Reesville, led by Jill Jordan and Richard Newport. Not all of the trees made it, but many are still surviving today. We discovered that planting trees was popular, but not so the follow up maintenance.

A grant for the 1986 "Year of Peace" had provided many of the trees for the early tree plantings. The well established gardens by the side of the Community Centre were also a project of the group. Council supplied money for the trees and generally assisted with much needed mulch and on occasions, topsoil.

"The Maleny Tree Planters" grew out of these early planting days. As one of the Directors of the Maple Street Co-op and holder of the environment portfolio, it was my job to involve members in tree plantings. The Girl Guides offered their assistance to prepare a site at the top of Maple Street alongside Cedar St. This was really helpful.

About half a dozen faithful tree planters turned out to plant this small area. Fetching and carrying water during the dry spell proved to be a problem until Olive Vogel, whose house overlooked the project offered to water the young native shrubs by hose from her house. Olive had already shown a keen interest in the planting and used to bring lemonade on a tray for the thirsty workers. Olive's young grandson, Brock Harden, then about 8, was seconded to us. Brock watered and weeded and proved a keen worker. It was not uncommon for us to turn up to find Brock, supervised by Granny, weeding the area. It soon became known as "Olive's Garden" and Olive helped us almost up to the time of her death.

In time the Council decided to take over the garden and sadly many of our carefully tended natives made way for a more colourful display.

By way of compensation, this removed the responsibility for maintaining an always neat garden in the prominent top of the town area.

.....then along came Barung.



Sue Smith (on right) with hidden Peace plaque

BARUNG SITE CHOSEN FOR BIRDS - AUSTRALIA ATLAS SURVEY

A section of Obi Obi Creek replanted and maintained by Barung and other community groups has been chosen by local birder Russ Lamb, partner of Barung member Maria Dam, as a habitat site in the nationwide *Atlas of Australian Birds* project being managed by Birds Australia. The site (approx 2ha), from the footbridge to the end of the boardwalk at Coral St, includes the creek, replanted area, and parts of the adjacent flat paddock. It will be surveyed a minimum of four times annually (at least once a season) over the next three years. Each survey will count the number of different bird species in the survey area over a twenty minute period.

The second *Atlas of Australian Birds* will describe the distribution and abundance of all bird species throughout Australia for the period 1998 to 2002. The first Atlas was conducted between 1977 and 1981. Comparisons between the two periods will provide an insight into the impact land management practices have had on our native birds in the past twenty years. At the end of the current Atlas, a book will be published showing distribution and abundance data for every bird species. It will also comment on the impact on particular bird groups such as woodland birds, where concerns are held by many birders regarding rapid declines in population.

Funded by Environment Australia's Bushcare and Wetlands Program, the project relies entirely on volunteers, and has registered over 2,300 people since August last year.

THE BROAD AIMS OF THE ATLAS are:

- * to collect information on the distribution and abundance of Australia's bird species
- * involve the community in the conservation and monitoring of birds
- * identify important bird areas

THE DATA COLLECTED will be used to:


- * compare current and previous (1977-1981) bird distribution and abundance.
- * assess the value of tree planting and revegetation programs to birds
- * monitor long-term habitat changes and their effect on local birds
- * help to establish sustainable land use systems

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WHO CAN BE INVOLVED?

Anyone with an interest in birds, a pair of binoculars, a field guide, and a willingness to complete an Atlas Record Form.

There are three ways to compile a bird list for the Atlas: the two hectare search; an area search; and an incidental search.

The two hectare search involves searching a two hectare area for twenty minutes. You can choose any two hectare site, but try to choose sites that are representative of a particular habitat (eg. all rainforest, all grazed). If you wish to do repeat seasonal surveys, you can also complete an Atlas habitat form, as has been done by Russ for the Obi Obi Creek site.

The second easier and more flexible method involves listing birds seen around a central point. The search area can be small (within 500m - your garden, street, property) or large (within 5km - your valley, ridge etc), and of any shape. Searches must be between twenty minutes, and one week, unless you wish to submit calendar monthly lists. (Maria and Russ see, on average, over sixty-five species a month in Bridge Creek valley and have seen over 110 species in the valley in the past four years.)

The third method, incidental search, is used to record rare, uncommon or unusual sightings, and to survey specific groups of birds, such as wetland birds and waders. You can also complete Unusual Record Report Forms to provide more details of your unusual sighting.


HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Birds Australia have developed an Atlas Kit and a series of Regional Organisers throughout Australia to assist volunteers in conducting counts. An Atlas Kit contains an easy to read brochure which provides general information as well as instructions on how to survey, how to complete a record form etc., as well as a registration form, blank record forms, etc.

Our local Regional Organiser is Clive Allen of Mapleton. (ph 5445 7501). Clive can forward you the Atlas Kit, answer your queries, and is also the person to whom you send your completed record forms.

Russ Lamb (ph 5499 9497) is also willing to assist Barung members to get Atlasing a great way to learn more about birds, and will add to our knowledge of just how valuable native habitat is to their continued existence.





DEADLINE


FOR AUGUST/SEPT NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY JULY 16TH

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CHANGE ADDRESS SO THAT WE CAN
KEEP MEMBERSHIPS UP-TO-DATE. PLEASE RENEW YOUR M'SHIPS
- YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BARUNG.

THANKYOU

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NURSERY REPORT

from Marc Russell

Working with Barung in the Nursery and on Revegetation and Education activities for the last three or so years, has been an immensely pleasurable experience for me.

While I look forward to my new position with Barung Landcare and Greening Australia as the Remnant Vegetation Mapping Officer for the Consortium Project, I will greatly miss the staff, committee, volunteers and members with whom I have worked so closely. My love and respect for them can only be rivalled by the support and friendship they have shown me.

My work in the Nursery has always been fulfilling and inspiring and I am very grateful for the opportunities I have been given both as Nursery Manager and in my new position. I will fill you in on my new project in the next newsletter.

In the meantime I am handing the reins over to the very capable and enthusiastic Spencer Shaw who will, I am sure, meet your every need in the Nursery.

Thanks everyone and keep planting those forests.

A BIG THANKS TO MARC

The Barung Committee and staff would like to wish Marc all the best in his new position as Remnant Vegetation Mapping Officer. It will be a great chance for him to get back out in the bush and increase his knowledge of local species.

Marc has been a pleasure to work with. He has put a tremendous amount of work into building all facets of the nursery - and has been so calm and collected in busy and stressful times! During his time as Manager, the turnover has increased consistently and is set to continue on that path.

Thank you Marc for a job well done!

& A WARM WELCOME TO SPENCER

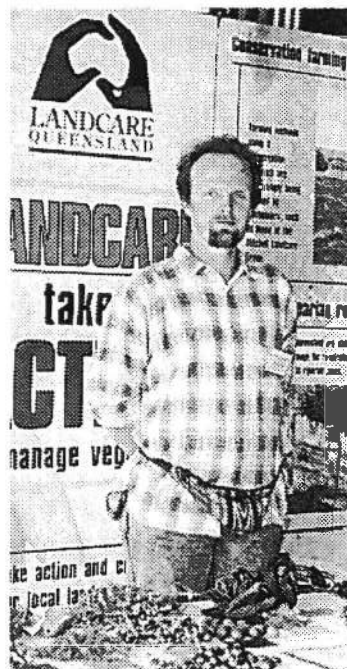
With Marc moving on to seek new horizons, we set about finding a new Nursery Manager during May.

There were many applications for the position and we are pleased to announce the appointment of Spencer Shaw as the new Barung Nursery Manager. Spencer will take over the nursery reins very soon.

Spencer was a clear choice for the job, having wide experience in working in landcare projects around Maleny for some eight years, operating a rainforest plant seed business and running his own nursery. He is passionate about working with rainforest plants and will bring to Barung a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm.

From the Barung staff and Committee - it's great to have you on board the Starship Barung Spencer - may the nursery fly to even greater heights with you at the controls!

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO VISIT SPENCER AND GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME.



Spencer at the Expo with his beautiful r'forest seed display

WANTED FOR NURSERY- 2nd hand concrete mixer, pref. electric - in working order for potting mix preparation.

BOOK REVIEW

by Spencer Shaw

FRAGMENTS OF GREEN (SECOND EDITION)

- AN IDENTIFICATION FIELD GUIDE FOR RAINFOREST PLANTS OF THE GREAT BRISBANE REGION TO THE BORDER RANGES.

BY JANET HAUSER & JAN BLOK

FRAGMENTS OF GREEN is a must for those of you wishing to learn more about the rainforest flora of our region. This publication is a little on the large side for a field guide, but is an invaluable addition to my home library. It has approx 400 species listed and a full A4 page of information per species.

Species are grouped according to leaf type. It is a relatively simple process (once a few of the descriptive terms are learnt) to identify leaf and stem sample using the key system in the book. The great line drawings of each species display detailed information relating to leaf and stem, and in most cases fruit and flowers. Other valuable information listed includes flowering and fruiting times and information on propagation.

The comments section for each species is yet another great feature, with information relating to cultivation, outstanding features of flowers, foliage, edibility and other uses, and attractions for our local wildlife.

My only criticism would be the lack of vines - the book concentrates mainly on shrubs and trees. Hopefully a volume, of equal quality, on vines and understorey is on the way!

Do yourself a favour..... get this book now!!!

Newly available from Barung Resource Centre.

Propagation Workshops

Do you want to find out for yourself what is growing on your block? Do you know the difference between a panicle and a petiole? Do you know how to use "the red book"?

Come along on the third Wednesday of each month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm and join Joan Dillon in investigating some of the "mysteries" of botany as well as learning some practical propagation techniques. Bring plant material from your own block and share information about growth habits, growing conditions and all plant related topics.

Spencer Shaw shares his very considerable local knowledge with you on the first Wednesday of the month to help you learn about potting mixes and different ways to prepare seeds of various fruits for sowing. Potting up seedlings could also be on the menu. It's even fun!

BARUNG NURSERY HOURS

Tuesday to Friday ~ 9am - 4pm

Saturday ~ 9am - 12 noon

TUBES - \$2.00 6" POTS - \$4.50

4" POTS - \$3.00 8" POTS - \$9.00

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LOCAL - WILD - & EDIBLE

by Sammy Ringer, Editor, Australian Bushfoods Magazine

I have become a purist. If it's not edible and not native, take it out. Rows of recently planted exotics bring out the latent 'chainsaw evangelist' in me and I have seriously considered making up little signs to hang on these E.Ps (exotic plants) - 'Wot's this doing here???'

On my own block, I have further reason to cull out the thoughtlessly planted foreigners - I need every square metre for bushfood species.

With our climate and soil here on the range, we're able to grow nearly all of the subtropical rainforest species and many of the tropical as well, but for now, I'll look at the local species only.

I'll begin with the smaller plants and build up to such giants as the bunya and blue quandong.

I have an enduring passion for the delicate Midyim (*Austromyrtus dulcis*). This prostrate shrub or tall ground cover will grow to around 500mm high and a metre or more across. Its drooping habit makes it ideal for the coppery sheen of its leaves places it in the feature plant category. Best of all, the berries are the nicest bush snacks to be found.

The midyim berry is an unusual looking fruit, being light grey with purple specks. When ripe, it is soft, with a creamy translucent flesh. The taste is a cross between apple, cinnamon and apricot, with a touch of pine! The seeds are very small and (having eaten literally thousands of them) I presume they're edible. In the warmth and sandy soils of Fraser Island, the berries can grow to close to cherry size but in the hinterland, they're more likely to stay pea-sized. Given a good location, the plants can bear in the second year and certainly by the third.

For good fruiting, they prefer a very sunny location and a light soil. I believe the addition of a little lime (I actually use chicken grit) is beneficial. I didn't water mine once they were established and the plants with adequate moisture have done best. Those in drier spots have seemed quite happy but slower to fruit. Certainly, plants located in heavier soils have struggled. Most of the established plants are heavy bearers - or perhaps I should say prolific bearers, as you'd be lucky to get a kilo of fruit from even the best performing plant.

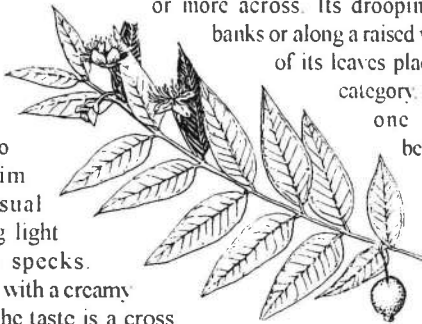
On the down-side - harvesting's a pain. Once ripe, the berries will fall at the slightest touch. Once fallen, you've got a task to retrieve them. I experimented with a cardboard 'skirt' which I pushed under the bush - it didn't work. I then tried a circular net in a wire frame but found that the manoeuvring to get it in place made it impractical.

I am now trying out a number of different collars on young plants to encourage them to grow up off the ground. This has been reasonably successful but I am yet to find the ideal material for the collar, which has to be enlarged as the plant grows.

Midyim berries can be eaten fresh (these are best but they deteriorate quite quickly after harvesting), dried (they look like small dark currents and taste less appley than the fresh fruit) or processed (to date, my only processing has been to preserve them in syrup - the taste's nice but they don't maintain their shape too well!)

I'm sure the Midyim berry is also good tucker for some of our native fauna, though to be honest I've seen neither bird nor four footed friends dining on them. Perhaps some reader might know of some native species which shares my delight in this local, wild fruit.

In the next article, I'll look at our native pepper.
Happy growing.



THANKS & CONGRATULATIONS TO:

OUR FOREST GALLERY
DESIGNER & EXHIBITORS

Annie Oliver

Peter Hudson Penny Smith Shane Watson
Randy DeGraw Gus Dreaver George Gavaric
John Gerritson Tony Greaves Gordon Halliday
Jack Wilms Jim Svensson John Whan
Barry Parker

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Elaine Green & Inga Fountain for all their
work for the Historical Display

& DARRYL AND CRAIG
FOR EVERYTHING!

Shirley & Peter Marsh
for their wonderful
steam engine



YOUNG AUSTRALIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

A month and a half has already passed since the commencement of the third Barung Green Corps project and so far it's been smooth sailing.

For those of you who don't know, Green Corps is a government initiative to employ and train young Australians in the Lands Conservation and Restoration industry. The project runs for six months during which the trainees are trained in First Aid, Occupational Health and Safety, plant and weed identification and a multitude of other skills relevant to the conservation industry. These skills are learned and then applied to the various projects Green Corps has taken on.



The new Green Corps at work on the Showgrounds remnant

Our first project, the Maleny showground rainforest remnant was a complete success. Weeds such as small and large leaved privet, wandering dew, camphor laurel and morning glory were eradicated from the site and approx. 300 natives planted on the north, west and southern borders of the remnant. All that remains is to blanket mulch the area between the newly planted trees.

Currently we are working with National Parks and Wildlife on a border enhancement revegetation project at Kondalilla National Park. To date, a lot of lantana and other weeds have been removed and 600 trees planted, particularly around the carpark area, but due to bad weather, progress has been delayed.

Other projects in the pipeline for Green Corp include: the construction of 80m of walking track at Mary Cairncross Park to reduce soil compaction; and revegetation of the banks of the Obi Obi Creek near the boardwalk bridge off Coral St.

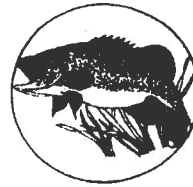
With four and a half months remaining and weather permitting, the Green Corps project should be a very productive one.

FROM BARUNG:

A big welcome to our new Green Corps team and supervisor, Sam Pickering.

Sam has had experience working for the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers in the Territory and Queensland, but this is his first Green Corps team and his first foray into Landcare. This Green Corps team come to Barung from Maleny, the Coast and as far away as Brisbane.

The addition of our third Green Corps team is a great help to Barung in achieving on-ground work on public lands. We are pleased to be able to introduce these enthusiastic participants to the ethics of landcare through their involvement in our "green" projects. We wish them all the best for their time with Barung, and hope we can plant the seeds of ongoing care for our Australian environment.



Mary River Cod
Community Network

from Sandy Jones

The Research-Reachout-Restore Mary River Catchment Researcher's Forum conducted on May 6-7 provided an opportunity for researchers & community members to communicate about catchment management, restoration & land management initiatives. Twenty-five speakers covered a wide range of topics relating to industry best management practices and river health. DNR are in the process of compiling notes & contact lists from the forum should anyone require specific information.

Glenda Pickersgill, the Mary River Cod Habitat Mapping Officer (World Wildlife Fund), presented information regarding the identification of intact and degraded habitat areas for remaining Mary River Cod populations within the Mary River system. Important work as habitat changes are cited as primary reasons for reduction in Mary River Cod numbers.

Working closely with landholders, Glenda identifies areas which, if rehabilitated, could have significant impact on the recovery of the Mary River Cod. In view of the recent floods, reference to direct seeding revegetation techniques utilising somewhat flood resistant pioneer species such as *Casuarina* spp. (she-oak), for bank stabilisation, gave a very practical focus to aspects of Ms Pickersgill's presentation and field talk.

Stewart Bunn from Griffith University presented research data in which he identified key processes by which riparian lands influence the way streams work as ecosystems. The four main areas Dr. Bunn addressed were: the influence of riparian vegetation on instream processes; the food chain; instream wildlife; and wildlife habitat. The fate of organic carbon produced by riparian vegetation is reflected in the food web structure. Creatures in the food web will take on carbon and nitrogen isotopes of what they eat. Invertebrates which have isotopes in the same range as organic material produced within the riparian zone, indicate that riparian vegetation is the source of energy in the system.

What happens when we take riparian vegetation away from our streams? According to Dr. Bunn, we allow in lots of light, which in turn contributes to the growth of blue green algae in explosive proportions. Water quality then presents problems as the blue-green algae smothers the aquatic habitat and an alteration/reduction in biodiversity occurs. 70% minimum vegetation cover is required to maintain the light and shade necessary for healthy in-stream metabolism and maintenance of preferred fauna and flora.

The type of vegetation constituting this cover is also important. Endemic species are preferred for riparian restoration. Woody weeds and introduced species may alter the food web metabolic reactions with undesirable outcomes for biodiversity and water quality. For example, camphor laurel leaf litter has been shown to reduce dissolved oxygen levels in streams which have thick camphor cover.

Dr Ian Rutherford from Monash University and project leader of the waterway management division of the Cooperative Research Centre for Catchment Hydrology, outlined priorities for rehabilitation based on diversity of natural organisms and communities that can be saved:

1. Rare before common
2. Condition. If equal rarity spend on streams in good condition before bad.
3. Trajectory. Spend on streams which are degrading before streams which are repairing by themselves
4. Ease.

Our pristine riparian sites can be protected by: being kept free from weeds such as camphor laurel, privet and cats claw; planting further back from the water way on the flood plain to give a 20-50 metre riparian zone; and maintaining the stream bank with suitable endemic vegetation.

Controlling grazing pressure within the riparian zone with off-site watering points is another extremely important method for protection and rehabilitation of riparian vegetation.

Ian goes on to explain that "sometimes we have to restore the worst upstream sections first, in order to protect the healthy reach further down." If, as a community, we can adopt stream rehabilitation as core business, and to always evaluate, evaluate, evaluate (as we are often uncertain of stream rehabilitation procedures), then perhaps we may "create the revolution where we stop streams from deteriorating and create environments for organisms, not always the cute and cuddly." Most definitely a category for the elusive and camouflaged Mary River Cod.

[For assistance with Riverbank Restoration Grants in 1999 - 2000, contact: Brad Wedlock, Riverbank Grants Coordinator, PO Box 1027, Gympie, Qld. or Ph (07) 4121 6912, Fax (07) 4121 4701, Mob 0408 745 840, Email: bwedlock@bigpond.com.au]

Interested in more information?

Please contact : Sandy Jones
Mary River Cod Community Network Coordinator
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Email: sjones@spiderweb.com.au

LEARNING FROM RESEARCH - MARY RIVER CATCHMENT RESEARCHER'S FORUM BY JOHN DILLON

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee held a Researcher's Forum on 6-7 May 1999. This involved a bus tour through the catchment and a full day forum with leading researchers in a wide range of relevant fields. The following is a summary of some of the highlights and what they may mean for landcare.

UNDERSTANDING CATCHMENT PROCESSES:

During an inspection of the flood damage to the Conondale bridge a number of very important processes were explained. The bridge is probably being outflanked by a meander which is moving upstream. This is a natural phenomenon with wide-reaching implications, not the least of which is the way it has taken a large amount of land and equipment from Joe Herron's dairy farm and the need for major road works to reposition and rebuild the bridge. From a landcare perspective, the community tree planting along the western bank which took place some years ago will be of limited benefit in preventing bank failure. So how do we plan riparian rehabilitation?

With the benefit of hindsight it would have been better to plant further up the bank so that large roots would hold together the bank shearing area, but the real message is to plan with an understanding of the processes going on. The major processes driving the damage at the bridge are stream bed changes, not bank or adjacent slope changes. The kind of riparian revegetation action required at any given site should

match the process. If sediment is entering from eroding slopes which connect directly with the stream, then the predominant action required is trapping. Where stream bed processes dominate, a stabilisation approach is called for. Walking around the sub catchment area during rain observing what is happening, which we often avoid for personal comfort, can reveal a lot about which situation is dominant.

SHADING STREAMS:

We know that Mary River Cod and other fish prefer shaded areas, but what is the broader importance of shade? Forestry is developing a code of practice for logging which sets distances from streams for cutting of trees, but is this the right approach? Cattle are fenced out of the riparian strip and denied the shade, so we have to get the balance correct. It turns out that the shading of streams and how we approach riparian revegetation has a fundamental impact on aquatic life.

Recent work has shown that in a healthy stream local aquatic plants and animals live and grow best as light intensity falls to about 80% shaded. Their growth and respiration are less than in streams elsewhere in the world, but this is because our land is old and our healthy streams are lower in nutrients. As light intensity increases the plants change to filamentous algae instead of simple algae and a build up develops, because our local aquatic animals and decomposers are not adapted to use them in the quantities which grow.

From a landcare perspective the width of the riparian strip not the key factor as it is the shade created which is the most important. At some sites a narrow strip may be all that is needed to achieve 75-80% shade, although to stabilise banks and to filter sediment a wider strip may be required which might even include grasses and not just trees. In a forestry situation of either planted or managed natural vegetation, the stream shading may be generated by larger trees some distance from the bed and the strip to be retained for shade may be quite wide. The present draft code does not take this into account.

HOW DO WE SET PRIORITIES:

The majority of funding for stream management, and to a fair extent for landcare, is directed to trying to restore degraded areas. Politicians respond to public pressure about erosion, flood damage and salinisation of land and presumably feel that present funding is well directed, but is it? Barung could ask the same question about how it spends its funds.

Ian Rutherford from Monash University, a respected authority in the field of hydrology and stream engineering, maintains that we have our priorities upside down and he has turned his skills around + - the protection and preservation of streams which are still in good condition as the most pressing need. The rationale for this approach is that restoration is more costly to undertake, less likely to succeed, often unstable, and does not fully mimic or deliver the same environmental services as the natural environment. When funding is limited, which it always is, the payoff does not match the dividends which can be achieved by protection of what we have.


From a landcare perspective adopting the Rutherford approach would mean stepping away from degraded land, vegetation and streams, except where these threaten areas in good condition, and concentrating on projects which are often largely invisible to the public. Some examples are easier to follow.



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For landscape the scars will remain and the emphasis needs to be on stopping them from getting bigger. Fencing off of remnant areas will be more important than revegetation of degraded forest. Remnants will also need to be protected by edge planting and effective weed invasion control. Bare riparian strips are generally lost and we should concentrate on linking those which are still basically intact. Corridors and enhancement plantings should be evaluated from the perspective of their protective, not their restorative value. The benefits of Barung's projects would be harder to sell, but their value would be greater. A whole new approach to public relations would be needed. We could be on the double edged sword of being seen to be setting our priorities from an economic rationalist point of view, although we would be achieving, over the longer term, the best results for landcare. The gamble is that funds will continue to be available, landholders will be willing to reserve land for conservation, and government expenditure for reserves and national parks will be increased to meet the need.



WITH MARK WARNICK

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THE POTENTIAL PRODUCTIVITY OF A SITE FOR TREE GROWING.

Due to the constant feedback DNR Forest Extension Officer Ashley Sewell and I receive on the many aspects of successfully revegetating areas and growing trees for profit, the positive feedback from Barung staff and committee members, particularly newsletter editor Mim and MVSCFFP members, I have decided to regularly write a series of technical articles addressing these issues.

The articles will focus on trees and their place in our rural landscape and agricultural production cycles.

Reader feedback is very welcome and called for, as there is a great deal of knowledge and expertise in landcare member ranks and general grower circles and, of course, there is the underlying love of trees and forests held by most Australians. All of us, in our own capacities, are still on steep learning curves.

There are many reasons for growing trees. Survey after survey shows that landowners in the Mary Valley/Sunshine Coast area want multiple benefits from their tree growing and native forest management/stewardship.

These reasons will be touched on in nearly all articles. For now, I would like to concentrate on why and how you would decide on a particular site, and how you would make species selections and other management decisions.

I'm grateful to the CSIRO for much of this information.

The potential productivity of a site reflects the net effect of the solar radiation, temperature, carbon dioxide, rainfall and nutrients that the site receives. All of these are used by trees to assimilate carbon and nutrients to create a root system for food supply, stability and a woody stem on which to support a photosynthetic canopy.

The factors that determine the maximum productivity of the site can be modified by the soil in which the trees grow and the position of the site in the landscape.

Solar radiation provides the light necessary for photosynthesis and heat. The potential productivity of the site as set by

solar radiation is modified by both high or low temperatures.

Temperatures are also affected by changes in altitude and the occurrence of frost in low-lying parts of the landscape. Present concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere do not limit plant growth, but global increases in carbon dioxide concentrations due to man's activities are expected to result in changes in climate and site productivity.

Water availability is generally the main factor limiting increased productivity of sites in Australia. This is largely due to high rates of evaporation and the unpredictability and seasonal variability of rainfall throughout the year. Water supplied as rainfall is modified greatly by the texture and structure of the soil. Compared with fine-textured soils, coarse-textured soils such as sand store little water but the water held in these soils is more readily available to plants after relatively short showers.

Our Australian landscape is comprised of surfaces more than 200 million years old with small, relatively recent surfaces of volcanic origin, such as in many areas of the Blackall Range. The majority of Australia's surfaces are highly weathered and low in essential plant nutrients such as phosphorous. A potential forest or plantation site must be considered in the context of the landscape as a whole. This involves the integration of site factors such as parent rock, the development of soils on slopes, site position in the landscape with respect to water supply and drainage, and site position with respect to sunlight received and exposure to wind.

The full potential productivity of the site as set by sunlight, carbon dioxide and rainfall cannot be measured precisely. However, identification of factors that can further limit this potential productivity will allow the farmer or landholder to select, improve and manage sites for growing trees.

As stated, trees require solar radiation and carbon dioxide for photosynthesis to fix carbon and build a structure. Indeed, 90% of the dry weight of a tree is comprised of carbon-containing compounds, the carbohydrates. The sun supplies radiation to the leaf surfaces of tree but the tree uses radiation for photosynthesis only in the visible wavelengths of 400-700 nm. About half of the total radiation reaching the earth's surface is these wavelengths. I will go into further very useful aspects of solar radiation in my next article.

Recapping: it is advisable for the farmer or landowner to examine each of the main factors affecting tree growth in order to see how deficiencies may reduce the potential growth of trees on any particular site. We can then also see how deficiencies in any one factor may be alleviated by the tree grower in order to raise the productivity of the site towards its full potential.

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BLOWING IN THE WIND

BY GEORGE WHITLAM

Recent heavy rain and strong winds have combined to blow down many trees in farm forestry plots. After getting over the trauma of tree loss on my farm, I set about seeking information on how to avoid this problem in the future.

This is what I found out:

Maleny is a particularly windy spot, but this fact is often overlooked in planting trees. Obviously rainforest species grow best in protected gullies. Plantings on exposed southerly facing ridges and slopes can with proper planning be made less vulnerable to the destructive and growth-depressing effects of wind. Mitigating wind effects involves incorporating windbreaks, selecting only windfast tree species, rejecting spiral-rooted or J-rooted planting material, deep ripping planting spots, thinning plot density to increase growth in trunk diameter, and harvesting trees from the leeward edge. Most importantly, the mitigation of wind effects has to be taken into account at the planning stage; not much can be done after the trees are in the ground.

Designing a farm forestry plot to incorporate windbreaks is a case in point. Windbreaks are essential on the external southeast and southwest facing edges of the plot. On slopes, some consideration could also be given to locating chevron-shaped windbreaks strategically within the plot to extend the area of wind shadows.

Internal windbreaks of fast-growing trees and shrubs (including watties and lilly pillies) could be designed as pioneer structures for early thinning when the slower-growing timber trees are well established.

Species selection is most relevant. Some species appear to be more prone than others to blow down or at least blow out of the growth tip. Of course, quality of planting material, method of planting, type of soil and method of pruning have something to do with it as well. Nonetheless, I have not had as much luck in exposed areas with bumpy ash, Queensland maple, kauri pine and rose butternut, as I have had with quandongs, silky oak, red apple and bunya pine.

Whatever the species, the quality of planting material counts. Rootbound planting material should be avoided at all costs. Plants with spiral or J-roots will not produce a strong supporting infrastructure. Only material with a healthy mass of lateral roots should be planted. While all misshapen roots can be pruned off, it makes better sense when buying plants, to check the root systems of all those that are more than twice the height of the pot. The development

Continued next page

WEED OF THE MONTH

WITH LINDA IVEZIC

This month's weed story comes from a completely different perspective to the other weeds I've written about before. I set out to learn about a tree called Cadaghi but also found plenty of references to the Umbrella tree. Why they're so different to any weed I've discussed before is that they're both Australian natives.

When does a native species become a weed? Answer: when it leaves its region of origin. These two are from North Queensland - not very far away really - but South East Queensland offers them such wonderful growing conditions that they've become problems.

Cadaghi, *Eucalyptus torelliana*, is not a typical looking eucalypt - with broad 15-20cm long leaves which are often hairy. The trunk has rough, flaky bark at the very base, becoming smooth and green slate coloured on the larger part of the trunk and branches.

Flowers - in large clusters at the end of branches. Gumnuts - globular shaped, about 9-13mm long. Cadaghi's a fast growing eucalypt to about 30m, and this fast growth is what makes them so popular.



Eucalyptus torelliana - Cadaghi

The Umbrella tree, *Schefflera actinophylla*, has several trunks, each with many big, glossy compound leaves arranged in an open umbrella shape. The red seeds grow on long stems developing on terminal arms which protrude from the top of the tree.

It is an attractive ornamental - we like it in our gardens and birds do too - lorikeets adore those lovely red seeds. The seed of course is then deposited by those birds in bushland and waterways.

This scenario crops up repeatedly in these weed stories. We all love to attract birds to our gardens but it's so important to use the right attractant.

Why are these natives a problem? Both have become naturalised in

bushland, beach sand dunes (more so the Umbrella at the beach) and gullies on the Sunshine coast. Although not categorised under the legislative control of Declared Plants, both are recognised as weeds by several councils. Cadaghi is listed by Logan, Brisbane, Caloundra and Cooloola councils as an Environmental Weed - "weeds that have formed wild populations outside their natural range".

The Cadaghi frequently develops a sooty mould which falls onto cars parked below them and makes a mess of the duco. That's a very good reason for city and suburban people to avoid planting it. Around the Sunshine Coast I most often see it planted in very neat rows along fence-lines. It reproduces heavily simply by seed drop onto the ground below. That nice neat row will eventually become a mass of sprouting seedlings.

I rang the Alan Fletcher Research Station for information on the problem I most often hear about with cadaghis but could find nothing in writing. There is some thought that our local native bees are detrimentally affected by a sticky substance from cadaghi flowers. The research station has heard of this anecdotally too, but has not carried out any specific studies. They see enough problem in its naturalisation to recommend it not be planted.

The lush foliage of the Cadaghi provides an excellent breeding site for insects such as the *Monolepta australis*, the Red Shouldered Leaf Beetle. These beetles can become a major pest in spring and summer and can cause considerable harm to a wide range of plants including avocado, macadamia, peach and nectarine trees so Cadaghi planted near them will invite invasion and damage.

The Umbrella tree is known as an invader of drains and waterways and its roots are known to break down concrete with great vigour. As I've discussed before waterway invaders choke the flow of water, compete with local natives for growing space and habitat provision for wildlife.

CONTROL: First rule....DON'T PLANT THEM!


If the deed's already been done, hand pull seedlings. Chemical control is necessary for more advanced specimens, either by the chipping method or stem injection. Success is harder to come by with the Umbrella tree because it exudes a milky sap when cut. Barung can direct you to information on the types & strengths of chemicals to use but if there is any mechanical option as opposed to chemical, our policy is always to use the former.

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BLOWING IN THE WIND
 Continued from previous page.

of strong root systems also requires that the planting hole be at least twice the size of the pot. Deep ripping of planting lines may also encourage root development.

In sum, the main overall lesson that I draw from my inquiries is that the mitigation of wind damage begins at the planning stage of a farm forestry plot. Organizing planting well in advance ensures that only the best quality planting material of preferred species is available to be put in properly prepared planting holes. If trees do blow down after heavy rain, it is important to stand them up before the soil dries out. If roots have been broken, prune branches and shorten stem height to bring about better balance between the super and infrastructure of the tree. In this way the trees will be better able to reshoot and reroot.

Wind is not all bad, though. The swaying of the trunk produces ripple effects in the wood grain. The value of cabinet timbers derives in large part as a result of their figured character. So for cabinet timber production as against that of construction timbers a little bit of wind goes a long way.



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found per fruit and germination rates are very low, so plenty of fruits are required to produce a decent batch of seedlings.

SEED TO COLLECT cont'd

Citrus australis or Native Lime (until recently *Microcitrus*) is now a fully-fledged member of the citrus genus. This large shrub or small tree has pinkish scented citrus flowers, followed by limes about 4-5cm across. They can be picked from the tree while still green but some will get a tinge of yellow if ripened a little longer.

These limes are very tart, yet delicious. They can be used for flavouring as would ordinary limes or lemons, however they are a good deal dryer. While not good for juicing, this dryness allows us to sprinkle the juice sacs over our salads or into our sauces, jams or jellies that burst flavour when we eat them. The leaves can also be used for flavouring in curries etc.

Native citrus trees are quite prickly, offering a perfect nesting place for birds within your garden or revegetation plot. They are also host for three species of swallowtail butterfly.

Grafted native limes (including finger limes) are also available from some nurseries, giving us a select fruit, quicker harvest and resistant rootstock. Barung will have some grafted plants ready next spring and has seedlings at present. The white lemon-like seeds are best sown fresh.

The last group of plants, the *Flindersia* species, are large trees. They have been used for many years as a timber source and large specimens are extremely hard to find. Crows Ash or Australian Teak is incredibly hard, strong and durable, yet is easily worked. It is sought after for such uses as dance floors, decking, cabinet making and shipbuilding. The other *Flindersias* have similar properties and all are suitable for farm forestry in this area.

Flindersias are moderate to quick growing, have attractive snowy white flowers and are butterfly hosts. The seed capsules (especially *F. australis*) are often used in dried flower arrangements. They open up like a spiky starfish to release the papery seeds that are spread by the wind. This makes collection tricky unless timed perfectly. If you notice fruit on a *Flindersia* and it looks like it may nearly be ready, pick one pod and place in a warm dry place (e.g. on car dash). Within 2 hours the capsule will open up releasing the seed. This seed should be brown and dry, with no sign of green and have a firm, swollen embryo on a papery wing. If the seeds seem ripe, pick much of the fruit on the tree and open the pods in the same fashion. The seed of most *Flindersias* can last for up to one year if kept in a cool dry place (best well sealed in the fridge). Do not leave seed in a warm spot once pods have opened or deterioration will occur.

Species	Common name	Fruit ripe
<i>Acronychia oblongifolia</i>	Common Acronychia	May - September
<i>A. pubescens</i>	Hairy Acronychia	January - March
<i>A. Wilcoxiana</i>	Silver Aspen	March - May
<i>Citrus australis</i>	Native Lime	March - May
<i>Flindersia australis</i>	Crows Ash/Australian Teak	April - November
<i>F. bennettiana</i>	Bennet's Ash	November - January
<i>F. schottiana</i>	Bumpy or Silver Ash	January - February
<i>F. xanthoxyla</i>	Yellow Wood	June - September

If you are interested in learning more about identifying local flora, plant uses or seed collection please keep an eye on our Calendar of Events for appropriate workshops.

TAX INCENTIVES FOR LANDCARE

The Federal Government has recently announced details of its new tax rebates for expenditure on Landcare works. The Govt. has set aside \$80 million from NHT to fund tax rebate for Landcare works effective this financial year.

The Landcare Rebate is available to taxpayers who use land in the business of primary production or who carry out a business on rural land, where those taxpayers have incurred expenditure on either 'landcare operations' or 'facilities to conserve or convey water'. The rebate is 34 cents in the dollar and is a carry forward non-refundable rebate.

The Landcare Rebate represents an additional incentive for primary producers to undertake much needed on-farm conservation works.

Ring the Australian Tax Office (free call) on 1800 060 425 for information or assistance. Barung now has copies of the 'A Guide To Tax Incentives For Landcare' booklet in stock.

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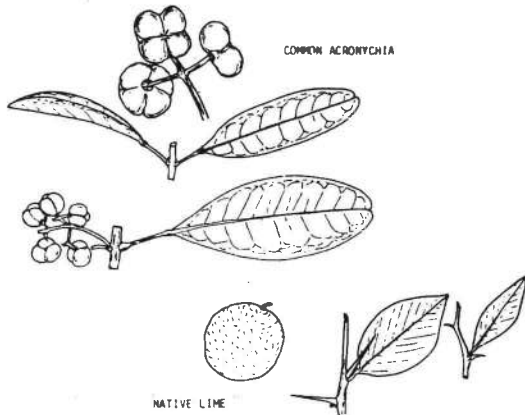
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Each and every one of you has had an association with plants from the family Rutaceae, even if you don't know it. The most common these are trees from the Citrus genus - oranges, mandarins, lemons and grapefruit. These wonderful immigrants have hundreds of native relatives and more than 20 of these species are native to the Blackall Range.

Listed further on are a few of the most useful plants within this family and the usual fruiting period expected for this area. If you do find any local plants fruiting and are not sure what to do, bring a sample into Barung for correct I.D., advice on when to pick, or how to treat the seed. (Your sample must contain a sprig with several leaves and a fruit if possible).

Members who collect seed from their own properties provide a tremendous service for the landcare

Seed to collect June/July
 by Marc Kussell
 Family RUTACEAE ~ *Acronychia* spp.,
Citrus & *Flindersia* spp.



Illustrations from "Trees & Shrubs of Rainforests in NSW & Southern Queensland" published by Unit of New England.

throughout the area. They also boost Barung's fundraising efforts.

Acronychias or Aspens - generally small trees with very attractive foliage; most with aromatic leaves (citrus smelling). The 3 listed below have white, edible, juicy fruits with a tart citrus flavour and slightly resinous aftertaste. While they can be eaten fresh, they would be best used for delicious sauces or perhaps flavouring in liqueur.

Several bird species feed on Acronychia fruits, including the Wompee Fruit dove, Top Knot Pigeon, Regent Bower Bird, Satin Bower Bird, Currawong and Green Catbird.

The small blackish seed need to be sown fresh after separation from the flesh. Usually only one or two seed is found per fruit and germination rates
Continued previous page

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